Letters of appeal against the bishop of Norwich. The king says he is not bound to receive W. de Ralegh, bishop of Norwich, as bishop of Winchester by reason of a rescript of Pope Innocent offered to the king, or by reason of a postulation made of him for that church and confirmed by the pope, for this reason, that appeal was made on behalf of the king against the said postulation at the Apostolic See, and the proctors sent for that purpose before Gregory IX proffered many exceptions and proceeded in many other ways, of which appeal of process no mention is made in the said rescript, but on the contrary, suppressing these things, it states that the bishop is a friend of the king and devoted to him, whereas the king reputes the bishop to be his strongest enemy, and long ago ordained that, by reason of the rancour which he conceived against the bishop, the latter should not appear before the king's majesty; also because the said Innocent in the ordination and translation which he is said to have made of the said bishop, or of the said confirmation as the king presumes, the king was not fully certified of the fact, contrary to his royal privileges, his true proctors being ignorant thereof and absent, and even certain of them dismissed by some of the cardinals (fratribus apostolice solis) as there was no expectation of the creation of a pope and they were not recalled afterwards, nor the king cited, nor anyone present to defend the king's right; also because certain canons of Lincoln, who as the king is informed declared themselves to be the king's proctors when they had no mandate in the present matter, and certain other persons, asserted that it would please the king if the bishop of Norwich were translated to the church of Winchester, whereby they believed that the bishop was reconciled with the king, which was false, and on the contrary the king, as soon as he knew that a pope was created, incontinently by his messengers sent letters to him announcing that he would send his proctors to the Apostolic See in this matter, and duplicated them lest the pope should proceed before the arrival of the said proctors, and he says that they proceeded without full knowledge (ignorantiter).

Wherefore, if this is so, or rather, as it clearly is the fact that the pope was deceived in the matter of the said ordination, or translation or confirmation, and whatever was obtained from the pope on behalf of the said bishop, was obtained by falsity and stealth, and especially as at the time when the pope proceeded finally in the premises, being moved, as most likely, by the report of the said reconciliation, the said bishop was under sentence of excommunication by the church of Canterbury during the voidance of the see, as he afterwards acknowledged by obtaining letters from the Apostolic See about it, of which excommunication the pope was at the time entirely ignorant; and because such deeds of Roman pontiffs, as their laws (jura) testify, are not prohibited, on the contrary are allowed to be reformed, and none but the pope can take cognisance of such, the king offers to stand by the judgment of the pope, and prohibits the bishop from entering the bishopric of Winchester, or from administering anything as bishop by himself or another to the prejudice of the king's right or dignity, until judgment has been passed by the pope on the premisses and a second order (jussio) has gone forth, whether it be just. And if the bishop refuse to acquiesce in this writing, offer or prohibition, the king [will proceed] as well against him as against those who act with him, if any, because of the said reasons, any one being sufficient of itself for that purpose.

And because, before he had presented the said rescript to the king, and had published it to the metropolitan and other neighbouring churches, or awaited the king's answer upon this at a fitting time, and before he had authority of the elect of Canterbury admitted by