Membrane 10d—cont.

Having read all these things before him, the said guardians shall cause to be placed after the seal of these presents the seals of those witnessing the reading and the above offers, and the bishop's reply, and the day and year of the reading, and they shall then publish all these things to the clergy and people of Winchester, and keeping a copy, send the said letters to the king.

Further, although the king expects that his appeal will be approved by the masters of Paris, nevertheless the king will hear the judgment of the pope upon his appeal and he will do whatever the pope adjudges. But if the bishop refuse everything and by his excessive ambition in thus remaining in the bishopric and administering it against God and justice, elect to offend, they shall once more appeal to the Apostolic See touching these new grievances, and to the elect of Canterbury for protection.

To the said guardians, the sheriffs of Southampton and Surrey and all the king's bailiffs of the said bishopric. The king has lately heard that the said bishop, after his lawful appeals to the pope concerning his many injuries and great grievances, has denounced Master Henry de Secusia, king's special clerk, and proctor in this matter, and certain monks of St. Swithun's, Winchester, adherents of the king, and has placed others under sentence of excommunication, which the king revokes as a grievous error committed in his court. He therefore commands them, that if the bishop, against the king's appeals lawfully made at the Apostolic See, enter the bishopric of Winchester to exercise the episcopal office, neither to lodge him nor permit him to be lodged by any lay person, nor any of his clerks, nor any of those who bear themselves as his officials; and to prohibit all lay persons of their bailiwicks from making contracts or having commerce with these, and they are to take and keep until further order all persons doing so; especially as the bishop made the above attempts after the publication of the king's appeals, and when the official of the elect of Canterbury, to whose protection the king had appealed, approved the causes of the said appeals; and pronounced whatever was attempted against them as void and of no effect; and the king, his clerks and adherents to be in the same state as at the time of the said appeal. These pains are to be exercised against the bishop and his so long as they are in the bishopric of Winchester and not without, and they are first to have four days' notice to quit the bishopric.

To the pope. Be it known to the pope that the king appealed against the said bishop. Afterwards, however, as the said guardians could not find the bishop in the parts of Winchester, on 8 January the said letters were read in the presence of W. de Ralegh, the bishop, and in the presence of the abbots of Westminster and Tichesfeld, Walter prior of the Friars Preachers, London, Master Alexander le Secular, John de Gatesden and others, religious and lay, at Sauwerk, to which the bishop answered and to his answer the king made replication thus, although the king asked nothing of W. de Ralegh the bishop, but offered him with all courtesy and humility divers means whereby he was prepared to do whatever he ought, saving his appeal, nevertheless he gave an insufficient and unjust answer, as follows:—

'Whereas he received letters of the pope containing that he absolved him from the cure of the church of Norwich and with the consent of the cardinals preferred him to the church of Winchester, supplying by his plenary power (plenitudine) any defect of postulation, by virtue of which letters he enjoined upon him to enter the church