the counsel of the masters of Paris as set forth in his answer, for this new grievance, the king appeals to the Apostolic See, and to the protection of the elect of Canterbury and renews his old appeal, as is contained in his letters. He adds also that his offer of the masters of Paris proceeded from the utmost humility and equity, and in order that the pertinacious and ambitious will of the bishop should appear clearer than light, for, when the bishop has refused the counsel or cognisance of the men of the realm learned in the law, anyone would believe that he was moved by just and probable reasons, as suggesting that no one in the realm shall dare to speak against the king's will; and it was therefore that the king offered the full cognisance of the masters of that city which he hates above cities as the one which his chief enemies rule and frequent, and the king would not have offered this so boldly, had his right not been most clear. Wherefore, as the bishop has refused the full cognisance of subjects and non-subjects, of friends and enemies, he has sufficiently shown by what spirit he is led.

Against the fourth point, the tenor of which is as follows:—

'Whereas the king by his letters containing the causes of his appeal seems to suggest that the bishop proceeds as one being stronger than himself in the realm, the bishop replies that he never proposed to resist the king's will by secular or other power, but is always anxious to obey in all things congruous to the king's dignity and if he have attempted anything against justice to the king's prejudice, to correct the same, provided that in the execution of the office bound upon his shoulders by authority of the Apostolic See, neglect cannot be charged to him':—

the king makes replication extra judicium and saving his appeal. That the bishop's deeds directly contradict his words, whereat he grieves, and what things have been attempted by him in prejudice of the king and in his great contempt, though not in the whole yet in part is sufficiently declared in the king's letters which were read to the bishop yesterday, wherein the king's offer of the cognizance of the said masters is contained, and if he wished to correct himself about these things he would do well, for whoever is an executor in his own cause is not listened to by the world. The bishop is also in no little contempt of the Apostolic See, which protects everyone justly appealing, inasmuch as he has promulgated (in deed because he could not do it by right) his sentence of excommunication against Master Henry de Secusia, the king's counsellor and proctor in this cause, after the said appeal and the licence which he had received from the friends and his household of Winchester, and after he had already started his journey for the sake of prosecuting this cause. But certainly 'what he did to one of the least of his, &c. And he who touches you &c.' and no wonder because he is part of his body.


To the abbots, abbesses, priors, priresses and other prelates, rectors and priests of churches of the bishopric of Winchester. The king is sending to them letters of the official of B. elect of Canterbury, and his executors, touching protection, granted to the king, and his, and his adherents in the king's appeals against W. de Radleg the bishop, commanding them kindly to hear them and see, after they have been presented to them, that they are observed, and to do nothing against them to the prejudice of the king's appeals and the said protection.