

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Cambridge

The city of Cambridge received its royal charter in 1201, having already been home to Britons, Romans and Anglo-Saxons for many centuries. Cambridge University was founded soon afterwards and celebrates its octocentenary in 2009. This series explores the history and influence of Cambridge as a centre of science, learning, and discovery, its contributions to national and global politics and culture, and its inevitable controversies and scandals.

Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries

First published in 1854, this is the first of a two-volume collection of historical sources relating to the University of Cambridge during the religious upheavals from the Elizabethan period to the Restoration. This volume covers the period 1570-1590, and documents the long-running debate between the Puritans in the university senate, who sought to regulate forms of worship, and the heads of colleges, who accepted the new University Statutes of 1570. It also reveals other areas of controversy including religious tests on graduation, dress, and even public bathing. Letters and diary entries provide additional insights into less contentious aspects of 'the manners and pursuits of the University' at the time. The book will be of interest to historians of the Elizabethan period and its turbulent religious currents, and to historians of education.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan
Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University
Transactions
During the Puritan
Controversies
of the 16th and
17th Centuries

VOLUME 1

EDITED BY JAMES HEYWOOD
AND THOMAS WRIGHT



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan
Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108000390

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1854

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00039-0

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan
Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE

UNIVERSITY TRANSACTIONS.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan
Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE

PURITAN CONTROVERSIES

OF THE

16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES.

COLLECTED BY

JAMES HEYWOOD, M.P. F.R.S. F.S.A.

OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE;

AND

THOMAS WRIGHT, M.A. F.S.A. HON. M.R.S.L.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

HENRY G. BOHN, YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1854.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan
Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TO THE

RIGHT HON. HENRY GOULBURN, M.A. F.R.S.

M.P. FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, ETC. ETC.

THIS COLLECTION OF

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO THE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

IS

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VIRTUES

OF THE LATE

HENRY GOULBURN, ESQ., M.A.

PELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

THE documents contained in the present volumes belong to a period of great importance in the history of the University of Cambridge; and they relate to almost every part of its internal government and external privileges. They commence with the University Statutes of 1570—intended to check the rising power of Puritanism,—and they terminate with the Act of Uniformity of 1662, and the diary of the Rev. Dr. Worthington, who was ejected in 1660 from the Mastership of Jesus College, Cambridge.

Religious toleration was little understood in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; indeed, society was then in a rude and unrefined condition, of which a curious instance is preserved in the decree of Whitgift and the other heads of houses at Cambridge in 1571, ordering that any undergraduate of the University convicted of bathing within the county of Cambridge should be severely flogged in the college-hall to which he belonged,* before all the members of his college. At the present day, a regular bathing place is set apart on the banks of the Cam, and facilities are afforded for an easy access to the river from the colleges.

Reformers of religion were at first encouraged by the despotic independence of Henry VIII., as well as by the Protestant regulations of Edward VI. Under Queen Mary the Protestant cities of the continent, Zurich, Geneva, and

* See vol. i. p. 56, *infra*. Decrees of the Heads.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

INTRODUCTION.

Frankfort, offered a safe retreat to the persecuted adherents of the reformed religion; and after the accession of Queen Elizabeth, these refugees brought back to their native country a determined spirit of opposition to the vestments which Queen Elizabeth and her advisers deemed essential for the services of the Church of England.

The free form of government restored to the University in the early part of the reign of Elizabeth, and the strength of the Puritanical party among the members of the Academical Senate, gave a predominant power at Cambridge to the friends of ecclesiastical reform.

Cartwright, a Fellow of Trinity College, was elected by the Bachelors of Divinity to the Lady Margaret Professorship in the University. His lectures were attended by crowds of pupils; his Puritanical views attracted the sympathy of his hearers; and when he preached at St. Mary's Church it was requisite to take down the windows.

Honours and rewards in the gift of the ruling powers of the country were at that time exclusively bestowed on members of the High Church party. Whitgift received from the Crown his appointment to the Mastership of Trinity College, and to the Regius Professorship of Divinity; but his theological views were not popular in the University; the number of his hearers was small; and during his absence on a Sunday from Trinity College, Cartwright with the aid of two friends preached three sermons in the College-chapel, so vehemently inveighing against the vestments of the Church, that at evening prayers all the members of the college, with the exception of three, "cast off their surplices as an abominable relic of superstition."*

Frequent complaints of the difficulty experienced in the maintenance of external uniformity of ecclesiastical

* Fuller's *History of the University of Cambridge*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

ix

discipline were sent to Sir William Cecil, the Chancellor of the University. Whitgift and his friends drew up a new form of University Statutes, partly derived from the previous models of Roman Catholic times, and securing to the Heads of Houses the entire government of the University: these statutes are reprinted at the beginning of the present work. They were approved by Sir William Cecil, and imposed on the University by royal authority; but they were so distasteful to the Puritans, that in the act of parliament of 1571 (13th Eliz. chap. 29), for the Incorporation of the Universities, the royal letters patent of the 3d Elizabeth for Cambridge are mentioned alone, without any reference to the academical statutes just enforced in that University.

Dr. Lamb, in the introductory remarks to his *Collection of Letters, Statutes, and other Documents*, gives the following account of the changes which had been made in the laws of the University during the earlier years of Elizabeth's reign. "Thus (*i.e.* by Queen Elizabeth's first visitation) the University was again placed under those statutes which had been first given by the visitors of Edward VI., and were now approved, with certain immaterial alterations, by the visitors of Elizabeth. After these statutes had been in operation a few years, they were found to be unsatisfactory in some respects to certain of the heads. Cardinal Pole, in his injunctions, had deprived the regents* of their ancient right of electing the Vice-Chancellor, and had introduced the system of nominating two individuals, one of whom the regents were bound to elect. The cardinal had also interfered with the ancient custom respecting the Caput,† by decreeing that the same individuals should continue in the Caput for a year, and that

* Regents are Masters of Arts of not more than five years' standing. Non-regents are Masters of Arts of higher standing than 5 years.

† The Caput is a small governing committee.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

each one should have a negative voice. Queen Elizabeth's visitors restored to the regents their right of freely electing the vice-chancellor; and left the Caput to be appointed according to the ancient custom, which seems to have been, that at each congregation three doctors, chosen by the whole body, represented their respective faculties of law, physic, and divinity; the scrutators sent up a non-regent or representative of that house; and the proctors a regent or representative of the other house: which five, with the Vice-Chancellor, formed the Caput." Dr. Lamb then goes on to observe on Whitgift's new statutes: "The two new statutes by which the heads secured to themselves the whole management of the University are chapters 34 and 41, respecting the election of the Vice-Chancellor and Caput. When Cardinal Pole deprived the regents of their right of electing the Vice-Chancellor, he gave the nomination of two persons for that office to the heads of colleges, to the doctors of the three faculties, and to bachelors of divinity. Even this limitation was not sufficient for Whitgift and his colleagues. The new statutes limited the right of nomination to the heads alone, and gave the election to the regents and non-regents. With respect to the Caput, it seemed too arbitrary a measure to deprive the doctors, scrutators, and proctors of all right of appointing to that office; and a plan was most ingeniously devised, by which the whole power might be vested in the Vice-Chancellor, leaving these officers apparently a share in the appointment.

"The plan adopted was the following: the Vice-Chancellor makes out one list containing the names of a doctor of divinity, a graduate in law, a graduate in medicine, a non-regent, and a regent; each proctor provides a similar list; and out of these fifteen, the heads, doctors, and scrutators prick five, who shall constitute the Caput for the following year. Now it is an understood thing with

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xi

the heads invariably to prick the five names put down by the Vice-Chancellor; and no instance, I believe, exists of any individual being on the Caput who was not nominated by the Vice-Chancellor. Had the proctors been allowed to put down the names of three regents, and the scrutators of three non-regents, and each faculty of three of its members, leaving the heads to choose out of these fifteen, there would have been some justice in the arrangement, and some observance of the ancient custom of the University; but by the present statute the Vice-Chancellor has not only a negative voice upon every grace offered to the senate, but virtually appoints each individual of the Caput. The compilers of these statutes, having thus secured to their own order the nomination of Vice-Chancellor and the appointment of the Caput, introduced a clause giving to each master within his own college a VETO at all elections, in direct violation of their private statutes. And they confirmed their power by a proviso introduced at the end of the statutes: "If any thing doubtful or ambiguous should arise in these our (royal) statutes and regulations, it shall be explained and determined by the Chancellor and the greater part of the heads of houses; and we will, that all other persons shall yield to their decision and interpretation."

Whitgift was appointed Vice-Chancellor under the new academical statutes. Edward Deringe, a Puritan resident at that time in Cambridge, describes him as having "a froward mind" against Mr. Cartwright, and others of similar opinions; and as ruled by his affections, and not by his learning.

The Romanising feeling among the heads of houses is thus alluded to by Deringe in a letter to Sir William Cecil, dated the 18th November, 1570, and preserved in the British Museum: "If Dr. Harvey shall have scarcely chosen one Protestant to be a fellow for the last twelve

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

years (*i. e.* since the accession of Queen Elizabeth); if Dr. Perne keep such curates as fly away beyond the seas; if Dr. Hawford could not be brought to take away either Popish books or garments without great importunity, and in the end all the best and the richest he hath conveyed, none of the fellows know whither;—if greater crimes than these are as easy to be seen in them as their open-doings are easy to be known, I trust your honour will not allow of such accusers against a true preacher (Cartwright).”

Deringe remonstrates with Sir William Cecil, on account of his proceeding with such “fearful statutes” to the punishment of such small offences; and he requests the Chancellor to send down a new statute, that “no master of a house shall have a benefice except he serve it himself.”

Cartwright soon suffered academical martyrdom from the new authority created at Cambridge. He was denied his degree of doctor of divinity, and forbidden to read public lectures; and after having been thus silenced, he was deprived of his fellowship in Trinity College, and finally expelled from the University.

For several years a controversy continued between the Puritans in the senate and the heads of houses respecting the new statutes. Lord Burghley, as Chancellor of the University, possessed great power; and in June 1572 he plainly informed the University that he could not suffer “this manner of rashness to increase, without tempering it with some colder humour to reduce the same to modesty.”*

In September 1572 the Chancellor observed, on the occasion of settling a dispute at Cambridge, that he would much rather use the authority of his office “for the benefit

* See vol. i. p. 115, *infra*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xiii

and preferment of the University, than bestow the little leisure which he had from greater affairs in the compounding of their quarrels.”*

A Puritanical sermon, by the Rev. Bartholomew Charke, of Peterhouse, in December 1572, led to fresh complaints to Lord Burghley; and in the following February the offending divine was expelled by the Vice-Chancellor and the heads of houses.†

Nicholas Browne, a less determined Puritan, consented, about the same time, to retract some of the opinions‡ which he had uttered with respect to Church discipline; and the case of Thomas Aldrich, of Corpus Christi College, soon afterwards occurred, which involved a dispute between the University and Archbishop Parker, and a correspondence with Lord Burghley on the right of archiepiscopal interference, terminating in a compromise, by which the Heads of Houses addressed letters to his Grace the Archbishop,§ recognising the well-known and extraordinary care which he had always manifested for Corpus Christi College, as a ground of control in the case of that college under consideration.

Extravagance in dress, and religious scruples respecting the wearing of the surplice, caused perpetual trouble to the authorities of the University in the latter part of the sixteenth century. Their anxiety on both these subjects may be seen in the decree of the Chancellor and Heads of Houses in 1578, that no student should wear within the University “any hose of unseemly greatness or disguised fashion, nor yet any excessive ruffs in their shirts, nor swords nor rapiers, except when they were going out to ride.” The same order included a direction to the Masters of Colleges, to cause “all such as had any sustentation, stipend, or other maintenance, within their houses,

* Vol. i. p. 122, *infra*.† *Ibid.* p. 131.‡ *Ibid.* p. 136.§ *Ibid.* p. 155.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

to conform themselves, and to reform all their disordered apparel, according to the local statutes of the house; or otherwise, if time in some points had caused alteration, yet to use such as should be comely and agreeable to their vocations.”* Directions for apparel were suggested by the Bishop of London to Lord Burghley, in 1580, that the Heads of Houses should be enjoined by the Lord Treasurer, to see that all the members of their respective colleges should use scholars’ apparel, according to their statutes.†

In 1585, Lord Burghley, with the assent of the Vice-Chancellor, the Masters of Colleges, and the Doctors of different Faculties, again issued orders on apparel for the members of the University, specifying that the pensioners should not wear a dress of “scarlet, crimson,‡ yellow, or any other light colour, besides what was there appointed;” the directions being framed to repress ostentation and expense, as well as to maintain uniformity.

Under the Long Parliament, the House of Commons resolved, in 1642, “that the statute made in the University of Cambridge, which imposeth the wearing of surplices upon all graduates and students under several pains, and which was reinforced by the canons made in 1603, ought not to be pressed or imposed upon any student or graduate, it being against the law and liberty of the subject; and it is therefore ordered, that it shall not, for time to come, be pressed or imposed upon any student or graduate whatsoever.”§

At the Restoration, in 1660, the previous orders for uniformity in academical costume were re-established; but even under the Commonwealth there was much extravagance in dress among the students; and such unwise expenditure may perhaps be regarded as one of the follies

* Vol. i. p. 218, *infra*.

Ibid. p. 404.

† Ibid. p. 263.

§ Vol. ii. p. 455.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xv

incidental to the collection of large numbers of young men in a place of education.

The Crown, acting through the Chancellor of the University, exercised considerable control over academical affairs in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Lord Burghley, in 1580, annulled two graces of the Senate; the Master of Magdalen College was duly chosen, in 1595, by the Fellows of St. John's College, to the Johnian Mastership, on the recommendation of the Queen. Dr. Smith was subsequently nominated to the Mastership of Clare Hall by Sir Robert Cecil, and his appointment was confirmed by the fellows.

In 1603, royal letters patent were sent to Cambridge, authorising the corporation of the University to elect two burgesses from their own body to represent their interests in Parliament; and in 1613 and 1616 royal directions were given for the imposition of a compulsory subscription to the three articles of the thirty-sixth canon, as a test for graduation.

Persecution continually raged at Cambridge during this eventful period, both against Roman Catholics and Puritans. The names of Legge, Digby, Hickman, Bambridge, Johnson, Barrow, Huddleston, Allesson, Brownrigg, Beale, and Worthington, are distinguished as sufferers for conscience sake in the present work. Some were imprisoned; and the arm of the secular power was constantly exercised in vain efforts to maintain compulsory uniformity of dress and dogmatic opinions.

Occasionally a milder spirit of toleration beams forth in the academical documents of the Tudor and Stuart dynasties. In 1581 Lord Burghley remonstrated with the Master and Fellows of Trinity College on their intended deprivation of a Mr. Medolph. Dr. Whitaker wrote against a University visitation in 1589, as likely to "pull

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

up more good plants than weeds;" and in compliance with his advice, this scheme appears to have been abandoned.

In 1608, an important change in academical laws was carried into effect, by an interpretation of the Heads of Houses, allowing residence to be optional in the University of Cambridge, after the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Colleges had been founded in earlier times specially to provide facilities of residence during long periods of professional education; and the cessation of study in the University after the first or bachelor's degree soon rendered the subsequent course of instruction merely nominal; and thus the college studies became principally limited to the general or secular subjects required by statute or University custom for the first degree.

Ancient religious foundations were, by this remarkable "interpretation," virtually secularised, and a liberty, unknown to ancient times, was permitted to the junior fellows of colleges, of residence at a distance from the University.

Constant disputes occurred, at all periods of University history, between the academical authorities and the town of Cambridge; investigations were, from time to time, conducted into the moral conduct of some of the fellows of colleges; and the law of compulsory celibacy for the fellows, appears to have led almost necessarily to academical scandal, which is exemplified in the case of Remigius Booth.

A calm view of the interior of Cambridge life is contained in the letters of Mead to Sir Martin Stuteville, from 1622 to 1625. The diary of Dr. Worthington, Master of Jesus College, and the narrative of the undergraduate career of Oliver and Nathaniel Heywood, display the manners and pursuits of the University at the period of the Commonwealth.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xvii

Archbishop Laud attempted, in 1635, to establish a right of metropolitan visitation over the University of Cambridge, which was supported by a royal decision of King Charles the First in his favour; but the temper of the times was adverse to such a stretch of ecclesiastical power; and in the time of the Long Parliament, the University acknowledged only the royal right of visitation.

In September 1654, the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, appointed commissioners to visit each of the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. His ordinance for this purpose was issued in the following words:

“Whereas the carrying on and perfecting of the reformation and regulation of the Universities of this land is a work very much conducing to the glory of God and the public good, for want of which many inconveniences and evils do and cannot but ensue:

“Be it therefore ordained by his Highness the Lord Protector, by and with the consent of his Council,

“That the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford for the time being; William Viscount Say and Seale; Nathaniel Fiennes, Esquire; Sir Charles Wolesey, Baronet; Humphrey Mackworth, Esquire; Bulstrode Whitelock, one of the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal; Samuel Dunch, Esquire; Sir John Dreydon; Richard Ingoldesby, John Crew, George Fleetwood, John Bright, — Jenkinson, and — Greenfield, Esquires; Dr. Robert Harris, President of Trinity College; Dr. Christopher Rogers, Principal of New Inn Hall; Dr. Thomas Goodwin, President of Magdalen College; Dr. John Owen, Dean of Christ Church; Dr. Henry Wilkinson, the Lady Margaret’s Professor of Divinity; Dr. Peter French, Prebendary of Christ Church; Dr. John Conant, Rector of Exeter College; Dr. Jonathan Goddard, Warden of Merton College; Mr. Thankful Owen, President of St. John’s College; Mr. Stephens, Principal of Hart Hall; Mr. James Baron, of Magdalen College; and Mr. Francis Howell, Fellow of Exeter College; or any seven or

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xviii

INTRODUCTION.

more of them, be, and they are hereby constituted and ordained, commissioners for visiting the said University.

“ And the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge for the time being ; the Lord Henry Cromwell ; Henry Lawrence, Lord President of His Highness’s Council ; John Lambert, Esquire ; John Disbrow, Esquire ; Sir Gilbert Pickering ; Colonel Edward Montague ; Francis Rous, Esquire ; Oliver St. John, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas ; John Thurloe, Robert Castle, Thomas Bendish, Robert Vinter, Griffith Lloyd, Esquires ; Sir William Strickland ; Dr. Anthony Tuckney, Master of St. John’s College ; Dr. John Arrowsmith, Master of Trinity College ; Dr. Horton, President of Queen’s College ; Dr. Samuel Bolton, Master of Christ’s College ; Dr. Lazarus Seaman, Master of Peter House ; Dr. John Lightfoot, Master of Catherine Hall ; Mr. John Sadler, Master of Magdalen College ; Dr. Whichcott ; Dr. Cudworth ; Mr. Worthington, Master of Jesus College ; Mr. Dillingham, Master of Emanuel College ; Mr. Simpson, Master of Pembroke Hall ; Mr. Templar, Fellow of Trinity College ; Mr. Mowbrey, Fellow of St. John’s College ; Mr. William Moses, Fellow of Pembroke Hall ; Mr. Wood, Fellow of Magdalen College ; or any seven or more of them, be, and they are hereby constituted and ordained, Commissioners for the visiting the said University.

“ And [for the visiting] all Colleges and Halls within the said Universities, and all Governors, Masters, Presidents, Principals, Provosts, Professors, Fellows, Graduates, Students, Scholars, or other members and officers of the said Universities, and of all and every the said Colleges and Halls ; and shall have, use, and exercise all and every the like powers, authorities, and jurisdictions, as any person or persons heretofore appointed Visitors of either of the said Universities, or of any College or Colleges, Hall or Halls, within the same, or which any Visitor or Visitors now have or heretofore had, and lawfully used and exercised by force or virtue of any law, statute, ordinance, custom, commission, patent, or foundation of any College or Hall respectively, and to proceed in the execution thereof as fully and amply as

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xix

any Visitor or Visitors may or ought to do, or have done, to all intents and purposes; and that all and every act and acts, thing and things, which shall be done by the said Commissioners before named, or any seven or more of them, according to and in pursuance of the powers and authorities aforesaid, shall be as good, effectual, and of as full force, as if the same had been acted or done by such Visitor or Visitors.

“And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the commissioners before named, or any seven or more of them respectively, for each University, calling to their assistance such person and persons as they shall think fit, shall consider of the best ways and means for the well ordering, regulation, and good government of the said Universities respectively, and of the Colleges and Halls therein, for the better advancement, countenance, and encouragement of piety and learning in the said Universities, and shall examine what Statutes of the said Universities, or of the said Colleges and Halls respectively, or what of them are fit to be taken away, abrogated, or altered, and what is fit to be added, for the better ordering and government of each of the said Universities respectively in general, and the several Colleges and Halls within the said Universities in particular, in matters of religion, manners, discipline, and exercises, and shall exhibit the same to His Highness and the Parliament.

“And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that in the meantime the Commissioners before named, or any seven or more of them, for each University respectively, shall have power, and are hereby authorised to explain such Statutes of any of the said Colleges or Halls as, being ambiguous or obscure, shall be offered unto them for that purpose; as also to hear, examine, decide, and determine all and every such controversy and controversies by or upon any appeal or appeals which shall be brought before them by any person or persons, being a member of the said University, or [controversies] of any Students or Scholars within the same, or [within] any of the said Colleges or Halls, which are not clearly determinable by the Statutes of such respective College or Hall, or of the said Universities respectively; and that all and every such determination of the said

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

commissioners, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall stand and be, and shall be reputed and adjudged to be valid and in full force, and to be obeyed accordingly. And all Sheriffs, Mayors, Justices of the Peace, and other Ministers of Justice, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting the Commissioners in the due execution of the premises.

“ And it is further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the said Visitors, or any seven or more of them, for each University respectively, are hereby empowered to find out and settle some equal and just way of competent allowances to their register and mandatory for their attendance and pains during the time of their visitation.

“ And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the said Visitors for both the said Universities, or any four or more of them, whereof two at the least [are] to be Visitors of each University, be and are hereby appointed to be Visitors of the School of Westminster; and that the said Visitors of the said University of Oxford, or any four or more of them, be and are hereby appointed to be Visitors of the College and School of Winchester, and of Merchant Taylors' School, London; and that the said Visitors for the University of Cambridge, or any four or more of them, be and are hereby constituted and appointed to be Visitors of the College and School of Eton, and of the Masters, Fellows, and Scholars in the said respective Colleges and Schools, and are hereby authorised to put in execution all and every the powers and authorities heretofore given or granted to any Visitor or Visitors of the said Schools and Colleges respectively, or any of them, by any Statutes of the said Colleges or Schools, and to consider of any Statutes of the said Colleges and Schools which are fit to be taken away and abrogated, and of such other Statutes as are fit to be made for the well ordering and government of the said Colleges and Schools respectively, for the better advancement of piety, learning, and good nurture in the said Colleges and Schools, and present the same to be approved as aforesaid.”*

In 1656, an Act of Parliament was passed to confirm

* Scobell's *Acts and Ordinances*, September 1654.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xxi

the Ordinance of the Lord Protector and his Council in 1654, for the visitation of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This Act (Sess. 1656, cap. 10) commenced as follows :

“Whereas, since the 20th day of April, 1653, in the great exigencies and necessities of these nations, divers Acts and Ordinances have been made without the consent of the people assembled in Parliament, which is not according to the fundamental laws of the nations, and the rights of the people, and is not for the future to be drawn into example, yet the actings thereupon tending to the settlement of the estates of several persons and families, and the peace and quiet of the nations : Be it enacted by His Highness the Lord Protector and this present Parliament, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the authority of the same,” &c. &c.

It was enacted by this Statute, that the Ordinance for appointing Visitors for the Universities should be confirmed and continued for six months from and after the end of the first Session of the Parliament.

The extensive visitatorial powers thus granted were regarded with considerable jealousy by the Universities, and a proposition was made to the Visitors, by a committee of members of the Oxford Convocation, requesting them not to carry into effect any alteration until the intended change had been notified to and confirmed by His Highness the Lord Protector and the Parliament. New members were also suggested by the committee to be added to the visitatorial body, and a limitation of the term of office of the Visitors to one year was proposed. Such suggestions were, however, not listened to by the Visitors ; and an appeal was consequently made to the Lord Protector and his Council, who cautiously abstained from any undue sanction of extraordinary interference with existing laws. The negotiation ended in a feeling of confidence that the Visitors would use their powers with discretion, and in an assurance

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

from the Lord Protector and his Council that they would not exercise any legislative authority in making new Ordinances previous to the sitting of Parliament.* At this period both Universities seriously took up the cause of reform: a multitude of promissory oaths were removed from the Statute-books; and academical expenses and excessive entertainments were placed under regulation. The wearing of University gowns appears to have been nearly voluntary, and, according to Wood, "every one that pleased did take the liberty to neglect the use of academical habits without control." It was farther openly stated in the Oxford Convocation, that if any person were dissatisfied in conscience concerning the unlawfulness of using the dresses of the University, he might have a personal dispensation for himself. The Convocation would not, however, grant any general dispensation with respect to the wearing of academical gowns; and the Visitors found that on various points they were unable to carry into effect the changes which they wished for in the University. Decrees of the Visitors were accordingly published, on the supposition that they had the power to make statutes; and the idea was entertained among the Visitors of remodelling the Convocation itself, and of placing its powers in the hands of godly and prudent men, by the majority of whom new members might be admitted. This last-mentioned proposal was based on the following reasons:—"That the multitude of employments abroad soon took off from the University all that were of any worth, and that the greatest part of those who remained were but drones, or were too young to be intrusted with government." The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, Dr. Owen, eagerly promoted the changes proposed by the Visitors; but on his arrival in London he was induced to desist from such extensive

* Wood's *Annals*, A.D. 1654.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

alterations, and the rules of the Visitors were principally confined to matters of inferior moment.

At Cambridge, as well as at Oxford, the Parliament had previously interfered to remove the religious tests imposed on graduation. In January 1640-1, the House of Commons resolved, "that the statute made about twenty-seven years since (in 1613), in the University of Cambridge, imposing upon young scholars a subscription according to the 36th article of the canons made in the year 1603, is against the law and liberty of the subject, and ought not to be pressed upon any students or graduates whatsoever."*

Copies of the solemn league and covenant were sent down to Cambridge in 1643, and the names of those who took † and who refused this new test were to be returned to Parliament. In the following year, college offices ‡ were restricted to those who took the league and covenant; and the word "office" was defined to mean "any place of special trust," viz. the bursar, dean, &c.; or of special command, such as the president, the seniors, and the deputies.

In 1650, another test, "the engagement," was imposed on the University, which was submitted to with many secret murmurs,§ and often signed in a non-natural sense, as only binding until a party should appear in opposition to the dominant power.

On the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, King Charles the Second issued a declaration concerning ecclesiastical affairs, in which he stated his will and pleasure, that no persons in the Universities should, for the want of subscription to the three articles of the 36th canon, "be hindered in the taking of their degrees."|| But that monarch soon acquiesced in a different line of policy; and the religious tests which had been enforced before the civil

* See vol. ii. p. 438, *infra*.

† Ibid. p. 458.

‡ Ibid. p. 463.

§ Ibid. pp. 532, 535.

|| Ibid. p. 544.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxiv

INTRODUCTION.

wars were re-established in the Universities shortly after his accession to the throne.

In 1662, the Act of Uniformity gave a Parliamentary sanction to an organised system of ecclesiastical tests, extending over the whole of the higher endowments of the Universities and their Colleges, and regulating the forms of public worship in the College chapels. By this act, the use of the Morning and Evening Prayers of the Church of England is prescribed, without addition or diminution, for the daily services of the chapels in Colleges; and its injunctions are almost universally obeyed at Cambridge.

Many portions of the present work show the peculiar characteristics of opinion in the 16th century. Thus, Archbishop Whitgift, in 1584, doubted the expediency of printing being continued in the University of Cambridge; and recommended that no books should be printed there unless they had been previously allowed by lawful authority.* Great complaints of the parents of young men at Cambridge are mentioned by Lord Burghley, in 1587,† both on account of the loss of the students' time and of the expense of University education.

The documents relating to the Chancellorship of Lord Burghley have been copied from the Burghley Papers in the Lansdowne Manuscripts in the British Museum, and the Parliamentary Journals have been consulted for the illustration of academical history.

* See vol. i. p. 381, *infra*.

† Ibid. p. 500.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan
Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

	PAGE
Statutes of the Rev. Dr. Whitgift, Master of Trinity College, given to the University of Cambridge, by the authority of Queen Elizabeth, A.D. 1570 . . .	1
Introduction to the statutes	1
1. Terms for lectures and disputations; interval of the long vacation	3
2. Examination and inauguration of bachelors	4
3. Public lecturers	4
4, 5. Arrangements for public lectures	5
6, 7. Undergraduates and bachelors of arts	7
8-10. Masters of arts, ten-year men, and bachelors of divinity	8
11-13. Doctors of divinity, students and bachelors of (civil) law	9
14-19. Doctors of (civil) law, students of medicine and surgery, bachelors of medicine, doctors of medicine, and forms for the degree of master of arts	10
20. Ceremonies in conferring degrees	11
21. Granting graces	11
22-24. Disputations of sophs, disputations and declamations of bachelors	13
25. Disputations of masters of arts	14
26. Disputations of bachelors of divinity, and of masters of arts of four years' standing, who were not engaged for the dis- putations of civil law or medicine, [and who were supposed to belong to the faculty of divinity, if they did not profess to belong to the faculties of medicine or civil law]	14
27. Order for the supply of disputants and opponents from the different colleges	15
28. Disputations of (civil) lawyers	16
29-32. Disputations of medical students, disputations in all the faculties, appointment of professors and lecturers to pre- side over and to determine disputations, disputations at vesperies, and on the day of assembly	17

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxvi	CONTENTS OF VOL. I.	[1642
		PAGE
33. Election of the chancellor		18
34. Election of the vice-chancellor		19
35. Election of the proctors		20
36, 37. Election of the scrutators and taxors		23
38. Number, office, and election of the esquire bedells		24
39. Election of the keepers and auditors of the common chest (of the University)		25
40. Nomination and election of the readers, bedells, stationers, gaugers, wine-dealers, and other servants or officials of the University, not provided for elsewhere, and here appointed to follow the form prescribed for the election of the vice- chancellor (chap. 34)		26
<p style="margin-left: 2em;">N.B. This statute was extended, in 1613, to the election of the burgesses or representatives of the University in the House of Commons, by a decree of the heads of houses. See vol. ii. p. 258, "On the mode of electing the burgesses." At the present day the members for the University are, however, uniformly elected by the University-senate, without the restrictions of chap. 34, imposed on the choice of the vice-chancellor.</p>		
41. Election of the caput (or head committee of the University), and authority of the caput		26
42. Office of chancellor, including also that of the vice-chancellor		28
43. Office of proctors		29
44. Public orator		30
45. University sermons		30
46. Dress of the students		31
47. Decorum and courtesy in manners		32
48. Legal causes and appeals		35
49. Fees to be paid by members of the University taking degrees		36
50. Ordinances prescribed for the colleges (with a few additional rules), including regulations for attendance at religious ser- vices in the colleges, with pecuniary fines for absence from the college chapels		39
50 (continued). Rules for problems, disputations, responsions, sermons, lectures		40
50 (continued). Rules for tutors, college-lectures, the reading and knowledge of the English language, the terms of ad- mission into a college, the entrance-examination, and the limitations on the teaching of grammar		41
50 (continued). Rules for moderation in entertainments, for the limitations of fellowships in the colleges of theologians to bachelors of arts, for the determination of the county to which any one belongs, for cases of expulsion from a col- lege, for heads of houses, for the preference of the clever sons of poor parents over the sons of the rich and powerful,		

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

1642]	CONTENTS OF VOL. I.	xxvii
		PAGE
	in the election of fellows and scholars, for the diminution of expenses in feasting, and for the power of the master of a college in his own college	42
50 (continued).	Rules against proxy-voting in any kind of election, on the payments to lecturers, for college-bursars, for the celibacy of college-fellows, for the shutting of the college-gates at night, for the registration of grants, for the regulation of the lord of misrule in Christmas festivities, for the abolition of feasts and payments for charity at funeral obsequies	43
50 (continued).	Rules for the commemoration of college-benefactors, and the payment of the college-preacher in honour of these benefactors	44
50 (concluded).	Powers of the heads of houses, division of the fines appointed in the statutes, imposition of fines, repeal of all statutes, agreements, and customs opposed to the holy Scriptures, to the royal injunctions, or to these statutes; right of the chancellor and the majority of the heads of houses to interpret and determine doubtful passages in these royal statutes, order for four copies of these statutes. Signature of the chancellor (Cecil)	45
	Act of parliament concerning purveyance in the University, A.D. 1571	46
	Act of parliament for the incorporation of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge	50
	Decrees of the heads of houses against University men bathing in the county of Cambridge	56
	Decree of the heads on the election of the father, &c., and the limitation of the power of the proctors at the tripos	57
	Limitation about wearing hats	58
	Controversial letters and papers relating to the disputes about the new statutes, A.D. 1572	58
	Letter of the vice-chancellor and heads to the Archbishop of Canterbury	58
	List of subscriptions in opposition to the new statutes	61
	Paper addressed to Lord Burghley	63
	Letter of the heads to Lord Burghley	64
	Minutes of evidence before the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of Ely, on the disputes about the new statutes	65
	Objections of the body of the University against the new statutes	66
	Answers to the objections	82
	Reply to the answers	99

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxviii	CONTENTS OF VOL. I.	[1645
		PAGE
Letter of the two archbishops and three bishops to Lord Burghley on the controversy		108
Complaints of the heads of houses against Mr. Beacon and others for opposition to the statutes		109
Letter from Lord Burghley to the University		113
Letter from the vice-chancellor to Lord Burghley		115
Reports of Dr. Hawford and Dr. Chaderton, and certain interrogatories administered by Dr. Kelke, the vice-chancellor, touching the case of Mr. Beacon, senior proctor		116, 117
Depositions against Mr. Beacon		118
Letter from Lord Burghley to the University, explaining the statute for the election of lecturers and others		121
Decree of the heads, Dec. 6, 1572, touching the sum to be allowed to the two proctors of the University, for the charges of the night-watches		122
Letters relating to the expulsion of Mr. Charke for puritanism, 1573.		
The vice-chancellor to Lord Burghley on the anti-episcopal doctrines of Mr. Charke, and the "superstitious monuments" kept by Dr. Caius		123
Mr. Charke to Lord Burghley—appeal against the heads		125
The heads to Lord Burghley		127
Expulsion of Mr. Charke		130
Mr. Charke to Lord Burghley		132
Decree of the heads, on the size of bushels, Jan. 17, 1573		133
Graces of the senate, viz. disputations of masters of arts, penalty for not disputing, substitution of lecturers, pensioners and strangers admitted to degrees, election of scrutators		133-35
Retraction of Nicolas Browne, who had preached puritanical doctrines		136
Letter of N. Browne to Lord Burghley complaining of the injustice of his prosecution		137
Letters concerning Mr. Aldrich, who wished to continue master of Benet or Corpus Christi College, without taking his degree of bachelor of divinity.		
Archbishop Parker to Lord Burghley, on the case of Aldrich		139
Archbishop Parker to the Queen, on the same case		
The ecclesiastical commissioners to the vice-chancellor, demanding the appearance of Thos. Aldrich before them		142
The heads to Lord Burghley		143
The college to the same		144
Archbishop Parker to the same		145
From the same to the same		147

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00039-0 - Cambridge University Transactions During the Puritan Controversies of the 16th and 17th Centuries, Volume 1

Edited by James Heywood and Thomas Wright

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

1650]	CONTENTS OF VOL. I.	xxix
		PAGE
Lord Burghley to the vice-chancellor and heads, advising Aldrich to appear before the archbishop and the commissioners		150
Archbishop Parker to the vice-chancellor		151
Archbishop Parker to Lord Burghley		152
The University to Lord Burghley		153
The heads to Lord Burghley, declaring Aldrich incapable of holding the mastership, but referring the matter to the archbishop		154
The vice-chancellor to Lord Burghley on Mr. Myllane's sermon; on the ordering and making of minister; on fasting on saints' eves, and keeping their days as festivals		156
Decrees of the heads, on fines for absence from the ordinary lectures, 1574		159
Decrees against plays and games within five miles of Cambridge		160
Interpretation of a statute on the disputation on the degree of bachelor of divinity		162
Grant for a new street		162
The heads to Lord Burghley, recommending Philip Bignon, a Frenchman		165
The vice-chancellor to Lord Burghley, on the causes of the plague, state of the town, and on Stourbridge fair		166
The ecclesiastical commissioners to the University, 1575		170
The University to Lord Burghley, for an order to admit strangers to degrees		171
Interpretation of a statute on the admission of strangers to degrees		173
Grace of the senate, on the oath required from proctors and scrutators		175
The heads to Lord Burghley, rejecting Mr. Philip Bignon as Hebrew lecturer, on the ground of his not being a graduate		176
Decree of the heads, on the authority of the proctors		177
Case of Mr. Middleton of Queen's College, who was deprived of his fellowship, in consequence of his not having taken his degree of master of arts within the proper time		177
The fellows of Queen's College to Lord Burghley, in behalf of Mr. Middleton		181
From the same to the same, claiming the right of appeal for Mr. Middleton		182
Order of the Privy Council against scholars being present at plays		185
Grace of the senate, forbidding the oath to the town		187
Dr. Perne to Lord Burghley, on quitting the office of vice-chancellor—copy of the foregoing grace		189