Begun at the Black Friars, London, 3 Nov. 21 Hen. VIII., the King being present the first day. Sir Thos. More as chancellor declared the cause of its being summoned, viz., to reform such things as have been used or permitted in England by inadvertence, or by the changes of time have become inexpedient, and to make new statutes and laws where it is thought fit. On these errors and abuses he discoursed in a long and elegant speech, declaring with great eloquence what was needful for their reformation, and in the end he ordered the Commons in the King’s name to assemble next day in their accustomed house and choose a Speaker, whom they should present to the King. That grievances might be examined, receivers and triers of petitions were appointed for the present Parliament, whose names were read out in French by the clerk of the Parliaments in the usual fashion.


Triers of petitions from England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland:—The archbishop of Canterbury, the dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk, the marquises of Dorset and Exeter, the bishop of London, the earl of Shrewsbury, viscounts Lisle, Fitzwater, and Rocheford, the abbot of Westminster, and Sir John FitzJames. From Gascony and beyond sea:—The bishop of Exeter, the earls of Arundel, Northumberland and Rutland, lords Audeley, Mountjoy, and Sandes, the abbot of the Good St. Edmund, and Sir Rob. Brudnell.

After this the Parliament, on account of the plague, adjourned to Westminster, to meet there next day, viz., Thursday 4 Nov.

Afterwards, viz., on Saturday the 4th inst. [Dec.], the Commons presented Thos. Audeley to the King as their Speaker, who, after making his excuse, which was not admitted, made protestation that if he should declare anything on the part of the Commons, he should be at liberty to correct it; which was conceded by the Chancellor by command of the King.

1. Act of general pardon.
2. Concerning such as take sanctuary.
3. Concerning delays in assizes.
5. Fines for probates.2
7. Against servants withdrawing themselves with their masters’ goods.
8. For rearing of calves.
9. Limiting the prices of woollen hats made beyond sea.
10. Against exportation of laten brass and mixed metal.
11. For restitution to persons robbed by felons.
12. For true making of cables in Burporate, Dorset.

1 See his speech in Hall, wherein he speaks of Wolsey as “the great wether which is of late fallen, as you all know, so craftily, so scabbedly, yea, and so unluckily jumbled with the King.”—Hall, p. 764.

2 It was in reference to this Act, according to Hall, that bishop Fisher said openly in Parliament, “My lords, you see daily what bills come hither from the Common House, and all is to the destruction of the Church. For God’s sake, see what a realm the kingdom of Boheme was, and when the Church went down then fell the glory of the kingdom. Now with the Commons is nothing but ‘Down with the Church!’ And all this, meseemeth, is for lack of faith only.” This speech brought out a remonstrance from the Commons, who accused the Bishop, by Audley their speaker, before the King, for saying they were no better than heretics. After their departure the King sent for the bishop of Rochester and others; on which Fisher excused himself.—Hall, p. 766.
13. Against spiritual persons taking farms, pluralities, &c.
14. For the linendrapers in London.
15. Tenants may falsify only for their terms recoveries made by covyn.
17. Repeal of grant to citizens of York for shipping of wools to Hull.
18. Concerning shipping of merchandize at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
20. To associate the president of the King’s Council with the chancellor and treasurer of England and keeper of the Privy Seal in executing the statute of liveries.
21. Concerning the making of worsteds at Yarmouth.
22. For Tho. D. of Norfolk.
23. Concerning the will of John Rooper the elder, of Canterbury.
24. Release to the King of money had by way of loan.
25. No person to be injured by the attainder of the Cardinal.

R. O.

2. [List of the Parliament.]
   i. “Nomina [militum].”
   ii. “Nomina civium et burgensium.”


John Covert, John Michell. *Steyning*:

Tho. Shurley, John Morreys. *Arundell*:


Sir Edw. Chamberleyn, Guthlac (Godelacius) Overton. *Reading*:


Tho. Warde, Wm. Symondes. *Stafford*:


Wm. Fox, John Cother. *Wenlocke*:

John Foster, Edw. Hall. *Heref*:


John Bell, John Hillesse. *Gloucester*:

John Rawlyns, Adam Apowell. *Worcester*:

Hugh Dee, *John Brennyng*. *New Sarum*:


Tho. Edgare, Wm. Stamp. *Bodwyn*:

Wm. Newdygge, John Berwyke. *Cryklade*:


Nich. Hare, Wm. Horwod. *Calne*:

Wm. Crouche, John Turgesys. *Chipnam*:

Wm. Button, Tho. Wylkes. *Hynden*:


Geoffray Lee, Fran. Digneley. *Bath*:

John Byrde. *Welpeley*:

Wells: John Cutte, John Mawdelyn. *Taunton*:

Tho. Crumwell, Wm. Portman. *Bridge-water*:

Hen. Thornetor, Hugh Trotter. *Shaftesbury*:

Wm. More, John Mathew. *Wareham*:

John Orenge, Wm. Grymston. *Dorchester*:

Jasper Fryloll, Wm. Nanfan. *Bridport*:


Wm. Bonde, Rob. Aley. *Poole*:

Wm. Thornehill, Wm. Betylcombe. *Lyne*:


John Trevenyan, Wm. Hollande. *Plympton*:


Wm. Honychurch, Jas. Dynham. *Barstable*:


Tho. Vowell, John Pollarde. *Helston*:


Sim. Mounforde, Wm. Harries. *Preston in Aldernes*:

Chr. Heydoke, *Jas. Walton*. *Lancaster*:


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3 A list of twenty-nine bills of Parliament, viz., on decay of husbandry, weights and measures, for sheriffs, for the cobblers, for the excessive fees in the Exchequer, gold and silver, saddlers, cloths not to be carried over (exported) unwrought, articles for the marts beyond the seas, calves, tanners, fresh rivers, recoveries and fines to uses, marshes and marsh lands, fullers and shermens, ruin and decay of houses and tillage. “A bill put up to the King in his Parliament by his Commons in a’ Dñi 1410, concerning the temporal possessions being in the hands of the Church.” Of “prymier seasons,” farms, the merchant adventurers, statute of the great subsidy, conveyance of coin out of the realm, repealing of attainders, another bill on marshes and marsh lands, statutes of Lambeth, pulling down of towns, heresies, against pluralities, and on merchant adventurers taking great brokes and exactions.

3 The word “mortuus” is written in the margin against each of these names.
4. Act releasing to the King all such sums as were due upon loans.

5. Another copy.

6. Draft bill for remedying the inconvenience of defective titles to land, proposing to enact that from 1 Jan. next all entails be annulled, and all possessions be held in fee simple; that no use be available or of any effect in the law unless recorded in the Court of Common Pleas, and that registers be kept in every shire. The fee for such records to be 2s., and for registering and writing them 1d. for eight lines of ten inches long. That after the seller has sealed the deed of gift, and possession is taken, the said deed be openly read upon a holyday next following in the church or churches of the parishes in which the land lies, at such time as most people are present; and so read, the vicar, parish priest, or curate “to fyrme” the said deed, which is then to be registered in the shire town where the said land lies. The mayor or bailiff to affix the seal of the town, or such seal as is appointed, and to charge only 2s. This Act is not to affect the estates of noblemen within the degree of baron, but their lands to remain entailed, and no man is to buy any nobleman’s estate, unless the nobleman have first obtained the King’s licence under his broad seal. Possessions purchased according to the above order shall not be devict, evict, or recovered out of the possession of the purchaser in any court. That all lands and other possessions, “of which, before this time, recovery hath been had or fine levied upon, and five years past after the fine or recovery, be taken for fee simple.” That all persons whose ancestors have peaceably possessed lands, &c. for 40 years, without any claim having been made, shall enjoy the same without any action being admitted against them.

7. Draft of an Act concerning the fees levied by the prelates and ordinaries for administering the “sacraments and sacramentals” of the Church. See “Statutes of the Realm,” III. 285.

8. Part of a bill in Parliament, defective at the beginning, for the remission of a rent of 15s. a year, which has been in arrear from 7 Nov. 17 Hen. VIII., formerly paid to the Exchequer by the prior of the Hospital [of St. John ?] through the sheriffs of London, for the site of two forges, apparently in Fleet Street, which were destroyed in Jack Straw’s insurrection in the time of Richard II., and have not been allowed to be rebuilt since, “[b]y cause of the great instraighting, noysaunce, and deformytie of the said strete,” and that the King may resume the site into his hands.

9. Grievances charged by the Commons upon the Spirituality:—1. Excessive fines for probates of testaments. Sir Henry Guilford complained that, as executor of Sir William Compton, he had paid the Cardinal and archbishop Warham 1,000 marks sterling for probate duty. 2. Extreme exactions for mortuaries. 3. Against priests becoming stewards and farmers to bishops and abbots. 4. Against abbots keeping tan-houses, and buying and selling wool. 5. The non-residence of the clergy. 6. Against pluralities and unlearned ministers. On this Hall remarks:—“These things before this time might in nowise be touched, nor yet talked of by no man, except he would be made an heretic, or lose all that he had; for the bishops were chancellors, and had all the rule about the King, so that no man durst once presume to attempt anything contrary to their profit or commodity.”