

Bishops and Bishops, 27 Abbots and 2 Priors, (albeit in troth the number was many times uncertain, as in the close Roll it appeareth) which severally held per Baroniam, and were Lords of Parliament, and so continued untill they were dissolved in the reign of H. 8. The entry of the said Act of 6 H. 6. in the Roll is: It is enacted by the King, Lords Temporall, and Commons, that no man should contract or marry himself to any Queen of England, without the speciall license and assent of the King, on pain to lose all his goods and lands. The Bishops and Clergy assented to this Bill, as far forth as the same swerved not from the law of God, and of the Church, and so as the same imposed no deadly sinne.

How many Lords Spirituall in former times.

This is holden to be an Act of Parliament: First, for that the assent of the Clergie could not be conditionall. Secondly, it was not against the law of God nor of the Church, nor imposed any deadly sinne to make this law by authority of Parliament, as it appeareth by Magna Carta, cap. 7. which had by 32 Acts of Parliament been confirmed, and many others.

This Law was made after the marriage of Queen Katherine Dowager of H. 5. with Owen ap Meredith ap Grono (descended of the Princes of Wales) by whom she had issue Edmond of Hadham aforesaid, Earle of Richmond, and Jasper of Hatfeild, after Earle of Pembroke, and Duke of Bedford.

How the Commons give their voices.

The Commons give their voices upon the question, by *Yea* or *No*, and if it be doubtfull, and neither party yeild, two are appointed to number them; one for the *Yea*, another for the *No*: the *Yea* going out, and the *No* sitting: and thereof report is made to the House. At a Committee, though it be of the whole House, the *Yeas* go of one side of the House, and the *Noes* on the other, whereby it will easily appear which is the greatest number.

Pl. com. 126 mi-
flaketh it, and
that the Clerk
number them.

How Parliaments succeed not well in five Cases.

It is observed by ancient Parliament men out of Record, that Parliaments have not succeeded well in five Cases. 1. When the King hath been in displeasure with his Lords, or with his Commons. 2. When any of the Great Lords were at variance between themselves. 3. When there was no good correspondence between the Lords and the Commons. 4. When there was no unity between the Commons themselves. 5. When there was no preparation for the Parliament before it began.

^a For the 1: So essentiall is the Kings good will towards his Commons, that it was one of the petitions of the Commons to the King, that he would require the Archbishop, & all others of the Clergy to pray for his estate, for the peace & good government of the land, & for the continuance of the Kings good wil towards his Commons: whereunto the thrice noble King assented with these effectuall words, The same prayeth the King: & many times the like petitions for the Lords. ^b How the King in all his weighty affairs had used the advice of his Lords & Commons, (so great a trust & confidence he had in them.) Alwaies provided, that both Lords & Commons keep them within the circle of the Law & custome of the Parliament.

^c For the second: at the Parliament holden in 4 H. 6. what variance was there between the Duke of Gloce. and the B. of Winchester, and their friends on either side: the successe was, that little was done in any Parliamentary course at that Parliament, and that little was of no moment.

^d At the Parliament holden in the third year of H. 6. the great controversie was between John Earl Marshall, and Richard Earl of Warwick with like successe.

^e The like controversie between William Earl of Arundell and Thomas Earl of Devon, for superiority of place, with like event. And many more might be cited. & And alwayes in the beginning amity was made between the Grantees of the Realm by shaking of hands and kissing, and sometime by submission.

For the third, when it was demanded by the Lords and Commons what might be a principall motive for them to have good successe in Parliament, it was answered, *Eritis insuperabiles, si fueritis inseparabiles. Explosum est illud diverbium; Divide, & impera cum radix & vertex imperii in obedientium consensu rata sunt.*

^a Rot. Parl.
37 E. 3. nu. 1. and
the Writ to the
Clergie, *De oran-
do pro rege &
regno*, which was
usuall in those
dayes.

^b Rot. Parl.
43 E. 3. nu. 1.
25 E. 3. nu. 15.
30 E. 3. nu. 2.

^c Rot. Parl. 4 H. 6.
nu. 12. See the
Acts of that Par-
liament.

^d Rot. Parl. 3 H. 6.
nu. 1 & 10.

^e Rot. Parl.
27 H. 6. nu. 13.

^f Rot. Parl. 2 H. 4.
nu. 14.

5 H. 4. nu. 18, 20.
^g Rot. Parl.

21 R. 2 by the
Cunt of Arun-
dell to the D. of
Lancast.

4 H. 6. nu. 12.