

XIII.



THE earliest printed notice of the Stationers' Company that we have met with, occurs in the *Injunctions given by her Maiestie*, printed by R. Jugge and J. Cawood in the year 1559. Queen ELIZABETH'S first Parliament sate from the 25th January to the 8th May of that year, and more than one edition of these *Injunctions* were afterwards issued before the termination of the Queen's regnal year on the 16th November. But two of these *Injunctions* refer specially to books.

6. Also that they [*i. e. the Clergy*] shall prouyde within three monethes next after this visitation, at ye charges of the paryshe, one boke of *the whole Byble* of the largest volume in Englyshe. And within one .xii. monethes next after the sayde visitacion the *Paraphrases of ERASMUS* also in Englyshe, *vpon the Gospelles*, and the same set vp in some conuenient place within the said Church that they haue cure of, whereas theyr Paryshyoners may moste commodiously resort vnto the same, and reade the same, out of the time of common seruice. The charges of the *Paraphrases* shalbe by the personne [*parson*] or proprietarie [*patron*] and paryshyoners borne by equall portions.

And they shall discourge no man from the readyng of any parte of the *Byble* eyther in Latin or in Englyshe, but shall rather exhorte euery person to reade the same, with greate humilitie and reuerence, as the verye lyuely woorde of God, and the specyal fo[o]de of mans soule, which all Chrystyan persones are bounde to embrace, beleue, and followe, yf they looke to be saued: Wherby they may the better knowe theyr duties to God, to theyr Soueraigne Ladye the Quene, and theyr neyghbour, euer gentely and charitably exhortyng them, and in her Maiesties name, straightly charging and commaundyng them, that in the readyng therof, no man to reason or contende, but quietly to heare the reader.

51. *Item* because there is a great abuse in the printers of bokes, which for couetousnes cheifly regard not what they print, so thei may haue gaine, whereby arriseth great dysorder by publicatyon of vnfrutefull, vayne and infamous bokes and papers: The Quenes maiestie straytly chargethe and commaundeth, that no manner of person shall print any manner of boke or paper, of what sort, nature, or in what language soeuer it be, excepte the same be first licenced by her maiestie by expresse wordes in writyng, or by .vi. of her priuy counsel, or be perused and licensed by the archbysshops of CANTORBURY and YORKE, the bishop of LONDON, the chauncelours of both vnyuersities, the bishop beyng ordinary [*i. e. Ecclesiastical Judge as well*], and the Archdeacon also of the place where any suche shalbe printed, or by two of them, wherof the ordinary of the place to be alwaies one. And that the names of such as shal allowe the same, to be added in th[e]ende of euery such worke, for a testymonye of the allowaunce therof. And bycause many pamphletes, playes and balletes, be often times printed, wherein regard wold be had, that nothinge therin should be either heretical, sedicious, or vnsemely for Christian eares: Her maiestie likewise commaundeth, that no manner of person, shall enterprise to print any such, except the same be to him lycenced by suche her maiesties commysioners, or .iii. of them, as be appoynted in the citey of London to here, and determine diuers causes ecclesiasticall, tending to the execution of certayne statutes, made the last parliament for vnyformitye of order in religion. And yf any shall sell or vtter, any manner of bokes or papers, beyng not licensed as is abouesaid: That the same party shalbe punyshed by order of the sayde commysioners, as to the qualitie of the faulte shalbe thought mete. And touchinge all

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other bokes of matters of religyon, or polycye, or gouernaunce, that hathe ben printed, eitheir on this side the Seas, or on th[e]other side, bicause the diuersitie of them is great, and that there nedeth good consideration to be had of the perticularyties therof: her maiesty referreth the prohibition, or permission therof: to th[e]order whiche her saide commissioners within the Citie of London shall take, and notifie. Accordynge to the whyche, her maiesty straightly commaundeth al manner her subiectes, and specially the wardens and company of Stationers, to be obedyent.

Prouyded that these orders do not extend to anye prophane [*i. e. classical*] aucthours, and workes in any language, that hath ben heretofore commonly receyued or allowed in any the vnyuersities or Scoles: But the same may be prynted and vsed, as by good order they are accustomed.

In reply to our own query at *p.* 155, it would seem that the above two *Injunctions* were the sole foundation of, and the primal authority for all Protestant Episcopal licensing of books in England.