

EXTRACT

FROM

THE STATUTES

OF THE

Cathedral Church of Lichfield,

1875,

RELATIVE TO THE

VICARS CHORAL.

LICHFIELD:

A. C. LOMAX, "THE JOHNSON'S HEAD."

1879.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.

THE DEAN AND CHAPTER, in presenting each Vicar Choral with a copy of their portion of the Statutes which specially concerns the Office and Duties of the Vicars, request the careful and earnest attention of the Vicars thereto.

CHAPTER HOUSE, LICHFIELD,
JULY 18TH, 1879.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES
OF THE
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF LICHFIELD,
1875.

CHAP. VI. THE VICARS.

The Vicars are fourteen in number, of whom four, *Priest and Lay Vicars.* who must be Priests in Holy Orders, take rank in the following order, viz. the Precentor's, the Dean's, the Chancellor's, and the Treasurer's, Vicar. The other ten shall, so far as regards their duties in the Choir, be Lay Vicars Choral, though any of them, who may be in Holy Orders, may at the request of the Dean, or (in his absence) of the Canon-in-residence, officiate in any way not inconsistent with the Statutes or with the proper discharge of his duties in the Choir.

Among the four Priest Vicars, the Subchanter *Subchanter.* holds the first place, as representing the Precentor, to whose office it belongs to regulate all matters relating to the Choir. Whatever has hereinbefore been assigned to the Precentor in that respect, shall devolve in his absence upon the Subchanter; who also shall, even when the Precentor is present,

perform any duties consigned to him by the same; such as to select the Chants, Services, Anthems, and other Music to be used in Divine Service; and to prepare regularly, and present to each Hebdomadary Chapter, the Weekly Table, wherein shall be specified all Music as aforesaid for the week next following, and such other matters relating to the said Music as the Precentor shall from time to time direct in writing. The said Table shall also contain the names of the Priest Vicar, whose turn it is to read the First Lesson, and to chant the Litany with a Lay Vicar, and of the Hebdomadary Priest, who is to take the rest of the Morning or Evening Prayer for the week, except when the Lord Bishop, the Dean, or any other Canon may officiate in any part of the Service. The Subchanter shall also assist the Dean, Precentor, and Canon-in-residence in taking care that the other Vicars and the Choristers conduct themselves in Church as becomes the sacred duties in which they take part: a Vicar offending, whether in or out of Church, he shall admonish, and, if his admonition be of no effect, he shall report the matter to the Dean and Residentiary Chapter; an offending Chorister he shall report to the Precentor, or in his absence give over to the Master for proper punishment.

Sacrist.

The Treasurer's Vicar has the office of Sacrist. It is his duty to minister in the Cathedral Close at all

Baptisms, Marriages, Churchings of Women, and Burials, except when the Lord Bishop, the Dean, or any other Canon may please to do so; and to register faithfully all such Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in the proper books. He shall also under the direction of the Treasurer take care with the help of the Sub-sacrist (who shall be appointed by the Sacrist in writing with the concurrence of the Dean and Residentiary Chapter), that the Font be filled with water, when required; that bread and wine sufficient in quantity and quality for the Holy Communion, and every thing requisite for the Services of the Church, be duly provided; that the Church be sufficiently warmed and lighted; that every part of the Church and its furniture be properly swept and kept clean; that the doors remain open at the stated times, and at other times be securely closed; that graves be dug without asking any further leave for those who by these our Statutes have a right of sepulture in the Cathedral yard, but for no others except with the express permission of the Dean, or (in his absence) of the Canon-in-residence; that the bells be rung for the usual Public Prayers or Sermons, for Marriages or Funerals, on Festivals, and at such other times or for such other purposes as the Bishop, Dean, Canon-in-residence, or Residentiary Chapter may direct. All expenses duly incurred by the Sacrist in accordance with these Statutes shall be defrayed by the Dean and

Residentiary Chapter. The Sacrist shall also under the Treasurer have the charge of all the books, (except those containing the Music for the Choir), ornaments, and utensils belonging to the Church. The fees due to him, as well as those due to other officers, will be found in Table C. annexed to these Statutes.*

Organist.

The Organist by virtue of his appointment is a Lay Vicar, and shall have a Stall assigned to him accordingly, so that he may take part in singing with the Choir when the organ is not used. Besides his duties in Divine Service, he shall attend as is prescribed hereinafter for practice with the Vicars.

*Appointment
of Vicars.*

The Dean has the power to appoint his own Vicar ; but the appointment of all the other Vicars, whether Clerical or Lay, which formerly belonged to the Canons whom they severally represented, is now vested in the Dean and Residentiary Chapter : to whom in every case the Candidate shall be required to produce satisfactory testimonials of moral character, and in the case of a Priest Vicar to exhibit also his Letters of Orders. The Precentor (or, in his absence, the Subchanter) shall then take care that the name of the person selected either by the Dean or by the Residentiary Chapter be placed on the Weekly Table, in order that his powers may

* See Table C. p. 44.

be tried in the Services of the ensuing week ; and, if in the opinion of the Subchanter and other Vicars he be incompetent, the Dean shall forthwith reject him ; provided, nevertheless, that if the said person consider himself aggrieved thereby, he may appeal to the Precentor, at whose request the Dean and Residentiary Chapter may then appoint one or more persons (not being Members of the Choir) whom they may consider competent to examine and report upon the grievance alleged, and thereupon shall proceed to a decision, which shall be final.

If, however, the person selected be approved by the Subchanter and the Vicars, they shall certify the Residentiary Chapter thereof ; and he shall be admitted into the Choir ; and the Dean, with the consent of the other Members of the Residentiary Chapter, shall then administer the following declaration :—

Admission.

I *A. B.* do declare that I will be faithful to this Cathedral Church. I will to the best of my power sustain my part in the Services thereof. I will render due obedience to the Dean and Chapter in all their lawful commands. The Statutes of the said Church, so far as they in any way concern my office, I will faithfully observe.

When this declaration has been made, and other things ordered by the Laws of the Realm have been done, the Dean shall take the new Vicar by the

hand and consign him to the Subchanter, or (in his absence) to some other Vicar acting for him in this behalf; and he, taking the new Vicar by the right hand, shall place him in the Stall of the Canon whom he represents, saying:—

By the authority of the Dean [*or* President] and Residentiary Chapter committed to me in this behalf, I admit thee as Vicar Choral [*or* as Proxy for the Vicar Choral] of the Prebend of *N.* in the Choir of this Cathedral Church; and I induct thee into the Vicarage thereof with all its rights and appurtenances. The Lord preserve thy coming in and thy going out from this time forth for evermore. Amen.

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer, all kneeling.

Duties.

All the Vicars, except such as shall have previously obtained leave of absence as hereinafter specified, shall attend in their proper habit and places during Divine Service in the Cathedral, and shall be there before the time appointed for the commencement of each Service; and in order that due reverence and decent solemnity becoming their sacred duties may be always observed at such times, they shall proceed to their places in the Choir and leave the same in such manner and form as the Dean and Residentiary Chapter shall prescribe by any rules in that behalf.

The Lay Vicars shall respectively take and

support such parts in the Choral Services of the Church as shall be from time to time assigned to them by the Precentor, or (in his absence) by the Subchanter; and in order that they may be the better prepared so to do, they shall for one hour on every Saturday Evening attend with the Organist at the Cathedral, and practise such music as shall be prescribed by the Precentor or Subchanter, either in person or in writing. The Priest Vicars shall also attend, when required to do so by the Precentor.

It is the plain duty of the Vicars always to bear in mind the position they hold, and to give their minds accordingly to the Services in which they take part; to observe rightly the prescribed order and postures belonging to the same; to abstain from all careless and irreverent behaviour or inattention; and to conduct themselves in all respects as becometh those who are assisting in religious ministrations. They are at all times to obey the lawful commands and wholesome admonitions of the Canons, and to promote mutual love and fellowship among themselves as brethren.

At the beginning and end of Morning and Evening Prayer they shall join with the Clergy present in shewing respect for the office by reverently bowing to the Lord Bishop, or in his absence to the Dean, or, if he also be not present, to the Canon-in-residence.

No Vicar shall be allowed to take away any of

the Music books belonging to the Choir without the permission of the Precentor.

Vacations.

The Dean and Residentiary Chapter shall from time to time appoint such vacation times as they may think fit, during which the several Vicars may, for relaxation and better preservation of their health, and for other purposes, absent themselves at their own pleasure from their duties as Vicars Choral; but in so doing the Dean and said Chapter shall take care that in addition to the Organist, or his deputy approved by the Dean and said Chapter, there be always present and taking part in the Services of the Church not less than two Priest Vicars and six Lay Vicars Choral, two of the latter being capable of sustaining the Alto, two the Tenor, and two the Bass, parts in the Choir.

Leave of absence.

At other times the Dean, (or, in his absence, the Canon-in-residence) may give at his discretion to any Vicar Choral leave of absence from duty, provided that the due performance of the Services of the Church, as specified in the preceding paragraph, be not thereby impeded.

No Lay Vicar is to be at any time absent from his duty, except during his vacation appointed as aforesaid, or with such leave as herein last mentioned; provided always that, if at any time any such Vicar shall, through sickness or sudden

emergency, be absent without leave or go out of the Choir during Divine Service, the Dean (or else the Canon-in-residence) may approve of or excuse such absence or departure on being satisfied with respect thereto by medical certificate or other sufficient evidence.

In order that it may be known, whether the *Intimator*. Vicars duly attend at Divine Service, the Dean and Residentiary Chapter shall annually choose one of the Vicars to be "Intimator," who shall keep a true record of attendance and lay the same every week before the Hebdomadary Chapter.

The Vicars have each equally for Commons three- *Rights and Privileges.* pence a day: the rest of their income is derived from estates of their own, which they hold as a Corporation with a common seal, and from other sources. They are bound to keep in good repair all buildings, which belong to them as a Corporation, whether occupied or not, at their common cost; but each to do the same at his own cost for whatever he may occupy either by himself or by his tenant. No Vicar shall let his Vicarage House or any part thereof for a term of years without the express permission of the Dean and Residentiary Chapter, given under their hand and seal.

The Vicars, whether acting or retired, have a right of free sepulture in the Cathedral yard, if their death should occur in the Close.

Penalties.

If any Vicar offend against any of the Statutes hereby made, the Dean or (in his absence) the Canon-in-residence may impose a fine not exceeding One Shilling, according as the Dean and Residentiary Chapter shall have regulated such fines; and in all other cases of graver or repeated offences, of which sufficient proof shall be given to the Dean and said Chapter, the Vicar so offending shall pay to the Dean and said Chapter a fine not exceeding Twenty Shillings; and all the fines above-mentioned shall be added to the Cathedral Fabric Fund. In case such fine shall not be paid within a reasonable time, or if the Dean and said Chapter think fit, they may (in addition to or without ordering the payment of such last-mentioned fine) by writing warn the offender duly to observe the Statutes, to avoid hereafter any dereliction of duty, and to be correct in his future conduct; and if any such Vicar, after receiving three such warnings, shall again offend, the Dean and said Chapter may on proof thereof suspend such Vicar from his office for such time as they shall think fit, not exceeding Twelve Calendar Months; and, if after having been once so suspended he shall again offend, the Dean and said Chapter may suspend him for whatever time they may deem proper; or, if they believe him to be incorrigible, they may expel him and declare his stall vacant. Provided always that, in case of any gross immorality (which God forbid!) being alleged against any

Vicar on credible testimony, or being notorious and such as to cause public scandal and offence, the Dean (or in his absence the Canon-in-residence) may at once require such Vicar to abstain from the performance of his duties, until the Residentiary Chapter shall have been able thoroughly to investigate the matter; and if after such investigation it shall seem to such Chapter (at which two Residentiaries at least besides the Dean must be present) that the case absolutely requires for the sake of decency and religion immediate and summary correction, they may deal with it forthwith by any, even the most extreme, of the penalties above-mentioned.

If any Vicar Choral shall from loss of voice or *Substitutes.* infirmity or other cause be incapable of duly performing his duties, he shall, on being thereto required by an order of the Dean and Residentiary Chapter, forthwith provide a proper Substitute to the satisfaction of the Dean and said Chapter. But in case of any Vicar respecting whom a defect of voice or ear is alleged, the Dean and said Chapter (if requested by such Vicar) shall, before a substitute is appointed, obtain the opinion of persons (not being Members of the Choir) competent to judge in such a matter, one of whom shall be nominated by the Dean and said Chapter, another by the Subchanter, and a third by the said Vicar, if he think fit; and

the persons so nominated shall severally report in writing to the Dean and said Chapter respecting the defect alleged within two months after the order to provide a substitute shall have been given to such Vicar; and, the said reports having been duly considered, the Dean and said Chapter shall proceed to a decision, which shall be final.

In case any Vicar shall be suspended from his office under any of these Statutes, the Dean and Residentiary Chapter may require him to provide a sufficient substitute, to be approved by them, for the discharge of such Vicar's duties during the suspension or any part thereof; and such substitute shall be remunerated in such manner as shall be directed by the Dean and said Chapter at the rate of not more than half his net yearly emoluments, taken at the average of the then last seven years; and, if the Vicar so suspended neglect or refuse to provide such substitute within the space of three months, it shall be lawful for the Dean and said Chapter to declare his stall vacant and to appoint a successor.

Every substitute appointed under any of the foregoing provisions shall be subject to all regulations, to which the Vicar, for whom he is a substitute, would (if acting himself) have been subject, and shall be removable at the pleasure of the Dean and Residentiary Chapter.

So many of the foregoing Statutes relating to the Vicars Choral as were made by Bishop Lonsdale in March, 1863, shall be construed with an express reservation (if they shall so require) to such Vicars, as were appointed to their office before that date, of any rights, privileges, immunities, emoluments, duties, or other matters, which were expressly reserved to them or any of them under the said Statutes of Bishop Lonsdale.

*Reservation
for Vicars
appointed
before March,
1863.*

Any Vicar who may feel aggrieved by anything done or omitted to be done by virtue or under colour of anything herein contained, may appeal to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese for the time being as Visitor, whose decision thereon shall be final.
