4. *Isabell Osmoderley* v. *William Osmoderley*

4.1 *Parchment Bill of Complaint* *7 May 1555* *REQ 2/24/82*

To the Kinge and Quenes most excellent majesties

Humbly shewithe to your highnes youre power[99] and daly oratrix Issabell Osmoderley of London, wyffe of William Osmoderley of Langrige in the countey of Cumberlande esquier, that wher[e]as by indenture maid the xvth daye of Marche in the xxviijth yere of oure late soveraigne lorde of most famous memorey Kinge Henrey the eight[100] bytwene Thomas Lampleughe esquier, father of youre seid oratrix of the on[e] partey, and William Osmoderley the elder of Langrige aforeseid, esquier, to the said William Osmoderley, husbande to youre said oratrix, of the other partey, yt was covenantyd, concluded, condecended and agreid that one mariage shoulde be by the grace of God solemnised and had bytwene the said William Osmoderley the younger and youre said oratrix, which mariage was sone after had and solemnised accordingly bytwene the said William Osmoderley the younger and your said oratrix according to the lawes of holy churche. In consideracion of which mariage and of certaine mesuag[e]s, lands and tenements of the yerly valewe of foure pounds, conveyed and assured by good and sufficient good consideracions conteynid in the said indentures, the said Thomas Lampleughe, father to youre said oratrix, did content and pay to the said William Osmoderley the some of forthey pounds of good and lawfull money of Englande.

After which mariage the said William Osmoderley, husbande to youre said oratrix, and youre said oratrix dyd remaine and continewe together in the[i]r howse in lawfull matromoney accordinge to the lawes of God tyll abowt eight yeres last past the said William Osmoderley, husbande to youre said power oratrix, of hys evill and ungodly disposyd mynde, withowt any cause or occasion on the parte or behalfe of yore said oratrix, dyd most ungodly withdrawe hymselffe from the companey of youre said oratrix. And sythens that tyme wolde nether come in the companey of youre said power oratrix, nor permit nor suffer youre said oratrix to continewe or remaine in his howse but

[99] i.e. 'poor'.
[100] 1537.

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violently dyd kepe hir owt of the same, nor yet gyve or bestowe any parte or porcion of hys lyvinge to youre oratrix towarde hir necessarey sustenance, lyvinge or fyndinge, nor permit nor suffre any of hir frends to perceive nor take any fruts or profits of the said lands or tenements assignid to hir, as ys aforsaid, for and in the name of hyr jointer. And althoughe youre said oratrix by al[l] ways and meanes she coulde possible dyd travell and labor, as well by hyrselffe as hir frends to have the good seall and favor of hir husbande, yet he wolde never here unto assent ther[e] unto, by reason wherof youre said power oratrix was by penurey constreynid to repaire to the cytey of London for aide and succor of hir frendes, continuinge and remaininge ther[e], wher[e] she contynuithe in a verey power estate, havinge nothinge to lyve apon but that she laborithe trewlye for and the ayde and helpe of hir frends ther[e].

In consideracion wherof, and forasmuche as youre said oratrix ys a verey power woman and not able nor can by the lawe attempt or commence any suyt ageinst hir said husbande but only in youre highnes right honorable courte of Requests, pleasithe yt youre most excellent majesties, the premisses considerid, to graunt youre most gracious wryt of prevey seall to be directyd to the said William Osmoderley the younger, commandinge hym ther[e] at suche day and under suche paine as therin by youre highnes shal be lymityd and appointed personally to appere in youre highnes most gracious court of Requests, then and ther[e] to aunswer to the said premisses and further to stand and abyde all suche ordre and direccion as therin by youre highnes shal be taken in this behalffe. And youre said power oratrix shall daly praye for your highnes royal estat[e]s in honor longe to contynewe.

Wray[101]

[*verso*]
Septimo die Maij annis regnorum Philipi et Marie regis et regine primo et secundo. Fiat brevis de privato sigillo directum Williami Osmoderli iuniori ad comparendum in quindena Trinitatis proxime sub pena c li[102]

Thomas Whyte[103]
John Throkmarton[104]

[101] Possibly Christopher Wray, later serjeant-at-law, assize judge, justice in Queen's Bench, ktd. 7 November 1574, appointed Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench 8 November 1574; see Baker, *Dyer's Reports*, p. 49.

[102] '7 May 1555. Writ under privy seal directed against William Osmoderley junior to appear in the quindene of Trinity next [24–30 June] under pain of £100'.

[103] Sir Thomas White, Master of Requests 1553–1558 (see Appendix 2).

[104] John Throckmorton, Master of Requests 1553–1558 (see Appendix 2).

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