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dare not put my pen vnto it, because I want bothe skill, and leasure,
to amende it ...⁶⁵

The possibility of amendment was picked up by the York City Council. At a meeting 27 April 1568 a performance of the Corpus Christi Play was proposed but not agreed to 'but that the book thereof shuld be perused / and otherwise amendyd / before it were playd'.⁶⁶ In 1572, William Allen, described by Palliser as 'the most firmly Catholic alderman',⁶⁷ was elected mayor and, in an act of seeming bravado, persuaded the council to authorize the production of the Pater Noster Play. The minute of 14 April seems to imply that Allen himself would get the playbook from the 'Maister of St Anthonyes' who had custody of the text 'that the same may be perused amended and corrected' and 'that my said Lord Mayour shall Certefie to theis presens at their next assemblee here of this pleasure to be taken therin'.⁶⁸ There is no mention of sending the play book to the Ecclesiastical Commission for approval.⁶⁹ The performance, the last performance of any of the plays of the old religion in York, caused a major dispute in the York City Council that led to the imprisonment and disenfranchisement of two aldermen. That same year, as we have seen, Grindal in his letter to the mayor of Chester ordered him

to surcease from further preparation for setting forth the said plays,
& utterly to forbear the playing thereof for this Summer & for all
times hereafter till your said plays shall be perused corrected &
reformed by such learned men as by us shall be thereunto appointed
& the same so reformed by us allowed ...

It seems that up to 1572 performing the plays if they were amended according to the desires of the Commissioners was a possibility. However, in York, after 1572, it seems to have ceased to be even a possibility. It is clear from the House Books that by the playing season in 1575 three play books 'as perteyne this cittie' were in the custodie of Archbishop Grindal.⁷⁰ The City Council asks 'yat his grace will apoynt twoe or thre sufficiently learned to correcte the same wherein by the lawe of this Realme they ar to be reformed'.⁷¹ His Grace does not seem to have paid any attention to their request. However, at some point, the Register of the Play must have been returned to the city because in 1579 when the Council determined to produce the Play they said 'And that first the booke shalbe caried to my Lord Archebishop and Mr Deane to correcte if that my Lord Archebissop doo well like theron'.⁷² Perhaps the Council hoped that the new Archbishop, Edwin Sandys, would take a more flexible position than