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Dara per martum Iacobi

h. bonis Carcellarij. . . . .



# CHARTER OF PHILIP AUGUSTUS, KING OF FRANCE, 1180.

(FROM THE SURRENDEN COLLECTION.)

MUCH historical interest is attached to the Charter of which we here give a facsimile.

The French Chronicles tell us that Louis VII., father of Philip Augustus, towards the close of his reign, A.D. 1179, "Ayant près de soixante ans d'âge, et sachant bien que le temps de sa vie ne pouvait *moult* longuement durer, car il sentait son corps agrégié d'une maladie que les *physiciens* appellent paralysie, assembla grand concile à Paris de tous les archevêques, évêques, abbés et barons de son royaume, et leur annonça qu'à la fête de l'Assomption prochaine il voulait couronner Philippe, son fils, à Reims, par leur conseil et par leur volonté. Les princes et les prélats s'écrièrent tous d'un même cœur, et d'un même vouloir: *Ainsi soit fait! ainsi soit fait!*"<sup>1</sup>

The King's intentions, however, were frustrated by an accident which befell the young Prince, who, as the feast of the Assumption approached, was residing with his father at Compiègne, preparing for the ceremonial of his coronation. One day, in the eagerness of the chase, while in pursuit of a wild boar, he was parted from his companions, and benighted in the forest; after

<sup>1</sup> 'La Chronique de Saint Denis,' cited by Martin.

wandering long in misery and darkness, he met with a charcoal burner, who conducted him safe to Compiègne. He was then barely fifteen years of age, and the fatigue of that dreadful night brought on a severe illness endangering his life. "Le Roi," continues the chronicler, "Le Roi, père de l'enfant, qui eût mieux aimé mourir que de voir son fils souffrir de la sorte, passait le jour et la nuit à pleurer, repoussant toute consolation."

"One night, when the King had fallen asleep from exhaustion, he saw in a dream Thomas the Martyr, of Canterbury, who ordered him to make a pilgrimage to his tomb to obtain the cure of the young Philip. Louis imparted this vision to his councillors, who at once deterred him from thus placing himself in the hands of a foreign King; but the Saint appeared a second and a third time, reiterating his injunctions, and that with menaces. Louis made his decision and departed for England, with the Count Philip of Flanders, and many other great lords. Henry II. did not abuse this mark of confidence. He arrived at Dover before Louis, rendered him great honours, and conducted him in person to the tomb of the blessed Thomas. The King of France there deposited a cup of gold as an offering, and, by a charter, sealed with his seal, granted (*octroya*) to the monks of Canterbury one hundred measures (*muids*)<sup>1</sup> of wine,—to be taken from the revenues of the Royal residence of Poissy-sur-Seine. After passing two days in prayer, Louis returned to France . . . and, on his arrival, found his son in convalescence,—'grâce aux prières et aux mérites du bienheureux martyr Thomas,'—and on the 1st November

<sup>1</sup> "Muids,"—"Modius." It is impossible to state with precision what was the precise measure of the "muids," or "modius" of wine, as set out in this Charter; it could hardly have been the modern hogshead. The ordinary estimation of the "muids" seems to have been sixteen quarts, or four gallons, which would give 200 dozen bottles as the annual produce of this grant.

following (*i.e.* 1st November, 1179) the young Prince was solemnly crowned at Rheims."<sup>1</sup>

Louis did not long survive this event; he died 18th September, 1180, and was succeeded by Philip Augustus, then only fifteen years of age, one of the first acts of whose reign was the confirmation of his father's grant to the monks of Canterbury by the Charter before us. It is dated at Mantes, in the year of our Lord 1180, and the first of the King's reign. *In extenso* it is as follows:—

IN NOMINE SANCTE ET INDIVIDUE TRINITATIS, AMEN.

PHILIPPUS, Dei gratia Francorum Rex.

Ea que ab antecessoribus nostris, et precipue que a patre nostro LUDOUICO rege Francorum, pietatis intuitu sanctis ecclesiis et aliis locis uenerabilibus sunt indulta, non est nostri propositi aliquo modo extenuare; sed opera misericordie immobili firmitate conservare.

Nouerint igitur uniuersi presentes pariter et futuri; quod intuitu beatissimi Thome Martiris quondam Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi, ad cujus tumulum pro salute anime et sanitate corporis impetranda, pater noster in multa devotione fuerat profectus, Conuentui Monachorum Sancte Trinitatis ibidem Deo seruientium centum modios uini, ad mensuram Parisiensem, singulis annis tempore uindemiarum, in castellaria Pissiaci accipiendos, in elemosinam concessit.

Conuentui etiam predicto indulxit, quatenus de predictis centum modiis uini, et de omnibus que ad esum et potum suum pertinere sacramento unius seruientis de mandato alicuius monachi de eodem Conuentu probari poterit, in omnibus passagiis suis, et nostris, quantum ad ipsum attinebat, sint omnino liberi et immunes.

Quod factum patris nostri, ne aliqua possit obliuione deleri, et aliqua malignantium inuidia uiolari, manu nostre confirmationis apposita, precipimus immutabiliter custodiri.

Unde et sigilli nostri auctoritate, ac regii nominis karactere inferius annotato, presentem cartam uoluimus communiri.

<sup>1</sup> See Henri Martin, 'Histoire de France,' (Paris, 1859, 8vo), vol. iv. pp. 59-61.

Actum MADUNTE, anno incarnationis domini m<sup>o</sup> c<sup>o</sup> lxxx<sup>o</sup>; regni nostri anno primo. Astantibus in palatio nostro quorum nomina supposita sunt et signa.

Signum Comitis THEOBAUDI, Dapiferi<sup>1</sup> nostri; Signum GUIDONIS, Buticularii;<sup>1</sup> Signum REGINAUDI, Camerarii;<sup>1</sup> Signum RADULPHI, Constabularii.<sup>1</sup>

Data per manum Secundi [The Monogram of Philip the Second, "regii nominis karactere annotato"] HUGONIS, Cancellarii.

We regret that we are unable to give a transcript of the original Charter of Louis. It is not in the Surrenden Collection; but the recital of it in this his son's Charter proves that it was for an annual grant of one hundred "muids" of wine, to be received from the cellars of Poissy; with passage free of toll for the monks of St. Trinity, (afterwards styled the Priory of Christ Church,) Canterbury, on these occasions, and on all others when employed in the purchase of provisions.

L. B. L.

<sup>1</sup> These were the four great Officers of State, by whom the Charters and Diplomas of the Kings of France were witnessed.



SEAL OF PHILIP II. (AUGUSTUS) K. OF FRANCE. 1180.