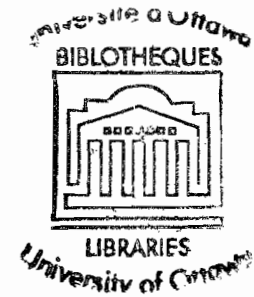


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VITA EDWARDI SECVNDI
THE LIFE OF
EDWARD THE SECOND

RE-EDITED TEXT
WITH NEW INTRODUCTION, NEW HISTORICAL NOTES,
AND REVISED TRANSLATION BASED ON
THAT OF N. DENHOLM-YOUNG
BY
WENDY R. CHILDS



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PREFACE

There have been three previous editions of the *Vita Edwardi Secundi*, in 1730, 1883, and 1957. The last, by N. Denholm-Young for Nelson's Medieval Texts, also included a translation and is still, justly, widely used, although out of print. My first task, therefore, is to record what changes have been made in this new edition. First, the Latin text, classicized by previous editors, has now been wholly revised from Hearne's eighteenth-century transcript, and returned as far as possible to fourteenth-century orthography. The text has also been provided with a full *apparatus criticus*. The introduction is entirely new, and takes account of the many works on the reign since 1957; I have also provided new and more extensive historical notes, an index of quotations and allusions, a concordance with previous editions, and a new general index. The translation has been fully checked and a number of changes have been made for accuracy and style, but this is the part which bears the strongest links with N. Denholm-Young's edition of 1957. In numerous passages his choice of words was difficult to improve.

My many obligations to other scholars, past and present, will be apparent throughout the introduction and the historical notes, and I am grateful to them all. Here, however, I would like particularly to thank the staff of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, who willingly made Hearne's transcription in MS Rawlinson B. 180 available to me, and also provided a photocopy, which made the work of checking the text so much easier. I would also like to thank all friends and colleagues who have answered questions, large and small, and those who have unconsciously helped by prompting my thoughts and further questions in general discussions. Among my colleagues at Leeds, I would particularly like to thank Dr Catherine Batt, Dr W. Flynn, Mr Ian Moxon, Professor Ian Wood, and Dr A. D. Wright. Among those outside Leeds, my thanks are due to Dr Paul Brand, Professor Chris Given-Wilson, Dr J. R. Maddicott, Professor Seymour Phillips, and Professor Michael Prestwich, some for responses to direct questions, some for comments on conference papers as long ago as 1995. Particular thanks must, of course, go to the General Editors of Oxford Medieval Texts. My debt here is great and twofold. One is

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Many are stylistic. The present translation retains more of the double verbs and the repetitions such as 'the said', 'the aforesaid' to reflect the style of the text; but to make the text easier on the modern ear, I have broken sentences, sometimes changed the word order, and at times used active rather than passive constructions. In a few places my amendments make significant shifts in sense. For example, in 1314 it seems clear that Gloucester was pinned beneath his horse, not weighed down by his body armour (pp. 90–1); in 1317 it seems from the previous and subsequent references in the text and by the use of 'curia' that Lancaster was ordered to come to the king's court, but not specifically to the court at the muster at Newcastle (pp. 136–7). And again, in 1319 the author mentions only two routes for the Scots to return home, and they return 'the other' way, that is through Lancaster's lines with his 'permission to pass' (pp. 166–7). This reading makes clear Lancaster's treasonous dealings with the Scots, already mentioned by the author.

In the translation personal names and surnames are given in the most usual modern form. Place names have all been modernized. Biblical quotations follow closely the Challoner revision of the Douai–Reims translation.

VITA EDWARDI SECUNDI

SIGLA

It is necessary to make clear the distinctions between the three levels of information which Hearne provided in his work. These are provided by He, MS, and R in the following sigla. In the apparatus criticus, where no mention is made of previous editors other than Hearne, this is because the subsequent editors have used the form given by Hearne in Rawlinson B 180 or the form specifically noted by Hearne as in the manuscript.

- Den-Y Denholm-Young, *Vita*, 1st edn.
He Hearne, *Trokelowe*. Hearne's suggestions and deliberate amendments for his printed text. These are also to be found in the marginal notes in R.
ML Michael Lapidge
MW Michael Winterbottom
MS Hearne's specific references to particular readings he found in the lost MS belonging to James West.
R Bodleian Library, Oxford: MS Rawlinson B. 180. This indicates readings in Hearne's transcript, which seem doubtful in spelling or meaning but to which Hearne drew no attention. These may be accurate copyings from the MS or may be spellings or errors introduced by Hearne himself. These also appear in the final printed text in *Trokelowe*. R has been retained for reference to the last page of Hearne's transcript, although this has now to be read through the printed version in *Trokelowe*.
St Stubbs, *Chronicles*

VITA EDWARDI SECUNDI

1307 Edwardus post conquestum primus, anno regni sui quinto et tricensimo in die translacionis sancti Thome nature debitum soluens,¹ suscepit regnum filius eius Edwardus secundus, iuuenis et fortis robore, etatis sue annum agens circiter uicesimum tercium. Hic propositum patris sui nondum consumauit,^a set in alia consilium mutauit. Petrum de Gaueston, qui nuper precepto patris regis terram Anglie abiurauerat, reuocauit.² Fuerat autem dictus Petrus, uiuente rege E(dwardo)^b sene, iuuenis Edwardi, tunc principis Wallie, camerarius familiarissimus et ualde dilectus,³ quod manifeste satis apparuit non multo post. Dominus enim rex iuuenis domino Petro, ab exilio reuerso, de consilio et assensu quorundam magnatum terre, uidelicet Henrici de Lacy comitis Lincolnie et aliorum, comitatum Cornubie contulit et donauit. Ipse etenim comes Henricus de Lacy, cum dubitaretur an rex predictum comitatum a iure quod cum corona habebat posset separare, proposuit regem posse, nam sic et alii reges bis antea fecerant.⁴ Maior tamen pars baronum terre non consensit, tum quia Petrus alienigena erat a Vasconia oriundus, tum propter inuidiam. Inuidebant enim ei magnates terre, quia ipse solus habere gratiam in oculis regis et quasi secundus rex dominaretur, cui subessent omnes et par nullus. Inuidebat etiam illi quasi tota terra, maior et minor et senex,⁵ et mala de eo predicabant; unde et nomen eius ualde diffamatum est. Nec tamen uoluntatem regis a Petro poterant separare, quin etiam quanto^c plura audiret rex que gratiam eius conarentur extinguere, tanto magis inualescebat amor et crescebat affectio regis erga Petrum. In tantum etiam ut ad partem Petri

^a sic MS; consumauit *St, Den-Y* ^b E. MS; Edwardo *St, Den-Y* ^c quando MS; quanto *Den-Y*

¹ 7 July 1307.

² Gaveston had been in exile for just over two months. On 26 Feb. 1307 Edward I ordered him to leave three weeks after the next tournament, which was to be held two weeks after Easter. Gaveston should, therefore, have left about 30 Apr. (*CCR 1302-7*, pp. 526-7; *Foed.*, i. 2. 1010).

³ *Camerarius* simply means chamber officer, not necessarily chamberlain. There is no firm evidence then or when Piers returned that he was formally Edward's chamberlain. However, Chaplais quite convincingly suggests that the specific powers Piers wielded after Edward's accession, together with comments in both the *Vita* and the *Annales Paulini*, make it likely that he did *de facto* come to hold the position of king's chief chamberlain,

LIFFE OF EDWARD THE SECOND

Edward, the fe first after the Conquest, died on the day of the translation 1307 of St Thomasas in the thirty-fifth year of his reign,¹ and his son Edward II began his rs reign, a strong young man in about his twenty-third year. He did not fulfil his father's ambition, but turned his mind to other things. He recalled Piers Gaveston, who had recently abjured the realm of England a at his father the king's command.² While the old king Edward was as alive, the said Piers had been the closest and the very much loved chamber officer³ of the young Edward, then prince of Wales. This appeared very clearly not long after. For the young lord king granted and gl gave to Lord Piers, on his return from exile, the earldom of Cornwall with the advice and assent of some of the great men of the kingdom, nanamely Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, and others. Indeed, when there was doubt as to whether the king could lawfully alienate the said earldom in which he held with the crown, Earl Henry Lacy himself said that he e could, as other kings had done so twice before.⁴ The majority of th the barons of the land did not, however, agree, not only because Piers rs was an alien of Gascon birth but also through envy. For the great men of the land hated him, because he alone found favour in the king's eyes and lorded it over them like a second king, to whom all were subject et and none equal. Almost all the country hated him too, both the elder and younger men and the old,⁵ and foretold ill of him, so that his namene was reviled far and wide. However, they could not detach the king's affeccion from Piers, for the more the king heard as they tried to destroy hihis friendship, the more the king's love increased and his tenderness to towards Piers grew. So much so, that, to strengthen Piers

probably with Jo John Charlton acting for all practical purposes as his deputy (Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 64-64-5, 101-6).

⁴ The grant, at, dated 6 Aug. 1307, was witnessed by all the earls except Warwick and Oxford (*CChR 1300-26*, p. 108). Lincoln, at 55, was the oldest, most experienced, and wealthiest of Edward's earls, with lands worth about 10,000 marks (£6,666. 13s. 4d.) a year. His only child, Alice, married Thomas of Lancaster in 1294. Lincoln was normally a royalist and a moderating influence in politics, but was briefly angered enough to take the lead against Gaveston in 1308. He was also an Ordainer in 1310, but died on 5 Feb. 1311 before the completion of the ordinances (*HBC*, p. 470; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 3, 22, 74, 81, 102-4, 109-11-10; Davies, *Opposition*, app. no. 90). There had been three previous grants: briefly to Alan of Brittany in 1140, then to Reginald, illegitimate son of Henry I, also in 1140, and to RicRichard, brother of Henry III, in 1227 (*HBC*, p. 456). The author refers to the grant again in below, pp. 8-9, 26-7, 28-9, 32-3, 64-5. ⁵ Cf. Gen. 19: 31.

1307 fortificandam et amicis stipandam, filiam sororis sue, que fuit filia^a quondam Gilberti comitis Gloucestrie, dominus rex dicto Petro collocavit (in)^b matrimonium.⁶ Sane hec copulacio matrimonialis partem eius non modicum uallabat; fauorem namque amicorum sibi uehementer augebat et odium baronum refrenabat.

Interea conuocati sunt archiepiscopi, comites et ceteri terre magnates ad sepeliendum corpus regis nuper defuncti; et sepultus est dictus rex honorifice Londoniis apud Westmonasterium iuxta patrem suum Henricum tercium.⁷ Post hec ad maiorem Petri famam augendam et nomen celebrandum, auxiliante et consulente domino rege, nomine domini Petri proclamatum est celebriter quoddam torneamentum in uilla uidelicet Walyngfordie, que est de dominico comitis Cornubie. Dies eciam prefigitur, dies scilicet sabbati proxima post festum sancti Andree.⁸ Hoc itaque torneamentum comites et barones in odium Petri magis excitabat. Adueniente igitur die prefixo ex una parte coniuncti^c sunt comites tres uel quatuor cum manu ualida, comes uidelicet Warennie, comes Herfordie, comes de Arundel, et barones non pauci;⁹ ex parte domini Petri comes nullus erat nominatus expressus, set omnes fere milites iuniores et robustiores regni, qui prece uel precio poterant conduci, partem domini Petri iuuabant. Vnde et in illo torneamento pars eius superiorem manum habebat, ac optata reportabat, quamuis campus alteri parti remaneret.¹⁰ Nam ipsius ludi lex esse dinoscitur, quod qui plus perdit et qui sepius ab equo deicitur, probior et forcior iudicatur.

Ex hiis et aliis in dies crescebat odium; erat enim Petrus homo ualde elatus et superbus in gestu. Nam omnes quos sibi pares regni consuetudo esse dictabat, humiles et abiectos, nec ipsum in probitate

^a sic MS; uxor He ^b om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^c coniuati MS; coniuncti He, St, Den-Y

⁶ Gaveston married Margaret de Clare on 1 Nov. 1307. She was the daughter of Joan of Acre, Edward II's sister, who married Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in 1290. Joan had died on 23 Apr. 1307 (*HBC*, p. 38; Hamilton, *Gaveston*, p. 38 and note). It was clearly intended that this marriage into the royal family should protect Gaveston from overt hostility. The author certainly noted Gloucester's reluctance to take action against his brother-in-law in 1308 (below, pp. 10–11), and that the kinship with Gloucester ensured Gaveston a nobleman's death by beheading in 1312 (below, pp. 46–7). Margaret de Clare later inherited a third of the Gloucester estates after the death of her brother at Bannockburn (1314) and married Hugh Audley as her second husband in 1317.

⁷ Edward I was interred in Westminster Abbey on 27 Oct. 1307.

⁸ 2 Dec. 1307. Tournaments were popular, but tightly controlled because they brought dangerously large numbers of armed men together. They could also, as in this case,

and surround him with friends, the lord king married Piers to his sister's daughter, the daughter of the late Gilbert, earl of Gloucester.⁶ This marriage tie did indeed strengthen his position considerably; for it greatly increased the goodwill of his friends and restrained the hatred of the baronage.

Meanwhile the archbishops, the earls, and the other great men of the land assembled to bury the body of the late king; and the said king was interred honourably in London at Westminster next to his father, Henry III.⁷ Then, to further enhance Piers's reputation and honour his name, with the king's support and counsel, a tournament was ceremoniously proclaimed in Lord Piers's name, at Wallingford, a town on the earl of Cornwall's demesne. A day was appointed, namely the Saturday after the feast of St Andrew.⁸ This tournament roused the earls and barons to still greater hatred of Piers. Consequently, when the appointed day came, on one side were three or four earls together with a strong troop, namely Earl Warenne, the earl of Hereford, the earl of Arundel, and not a few barons;⁹ Lord Piers's side could not raise an earl, but almost all the younger and harder knights of the kingdom, whom persuasion or reward could bring together, supported him. So it was that in this tournament his party had the upper hand and carried off the spoils, although the other side remained in possession of the field.¹⁰ For it is a recognized rule in this game that he who loses most and is most frequently unhorsed, is judged the more valiant and the stronger.

From these and other incidents hatred grew day by day, for Piers was a man very proud and haughty in bearing. He thought that all those whom the custom of the realm deemed equal to him were lowly

increase hostility when the opposing companies formed along factional lines. The *Annales Paulini* confirm the hatred engendered by the Wallingford tournament, explaining that Gaveston proclaimed he would bring sixty men to fight but deceitfully brought 200 (J. R. V. Barker, *The Tournament in England 1100–1400* (Woodbridge, 1986), pp. 49–50, 137–42; *Ann. Paul.*, pp. 258–9).

⁹ The earls John of Warenne, earl of Surrey, 1306–47, Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford, 1299–1322, Edmund fitz Alan, earl of Arundel, 1306–26, were all prominent in the later action against Gaveston leading to his death in 1312 (*HBC*, pp. 449, 464, 484; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 123–7). Thereafter their loyalties diverged: Warenne became a moderate royal supporter; after a period of reconciliation, Hereford again went into open rebellion and died at Boroughbridge in 1322; Arundel became a staunch royalist and was executed by Isabella's forces in 1326.

¹⁰ Normally the winners would both hold the field and win most booty, but this is not the only case known where there was no clear-cut winner (Barker, *Tournament*, pp. 141–2). The wry comment which follows suggests that the author of the *Vita* disapproved of tournaments.

1307 quicquam attingere posse reputabat. Econtra comites et barones Anglie ipsum Petrum, quia alienigenam et humilem quondam armigerum, ad tantum decus et honorem prouectum, nec sui prioris status memorem, despiciebant. Vnde et apud omnes fere qui in regno erant pro ludibrio habebatur. Rex autem continuum amorem erga eum habebat, in tantum ut exiret a curia regis preceptum publicum ne quis eum nomine proprio uocaret, uidelicet dominum Petrum de Gauestone, set comitem Cornubie nominaret.¹¹

1308 Deinde cum redissent nuncii qui ad dominum Philippum regem Francie missi fuerant pro matrimonio copulando inter filiam dicti regis Francie et regem Anglie, ac optata reportassent, dominus rex Anglie ad transfretandum se parauit et nauigio parato mare cum suis intrauit. Regnum autem in manu Petri in custodia deputatur. Mira res, qui nuper ab Anglia exul erat et eiectus, eiusdem terre iam factus est gubernator et custos. Celebratis itaque de more nupciis, rex Anglie cum coniuge sua letus in Angliam est reuersus.¹²

Post hec fiunt preparatoria coronacioni regis. Vocantur archiepiscopi, episcopi, comites et barones. Venerunt igitur omnes, set burgenses singularum ciuitatum aderant. Die sancti Mathie apostoli coronati et consecrati sunt rex et regina.¹³ Episcopus Wyntoniensis¹⁴ coronam capiti regis apposuit, set hoc de mandato et consensu archiepiscopi Cantuariensis, cum ad eius dignitatem et ecclesie sue noscatur pertinere, factum est, ipso archiepiscopo quominus adesset uel infirmitate prepedito uel nondum a transmarinis partibus in Angliam reuerso.¹⁵ Finita igitur solempnitate et festiue celebrato conuiuio rediit unusquisque ad propria.

Nunc primum insurrexerunt contra Petrum de Gauestone omnes fere comites et barones Anglie, inuicemque iureiurando astricti sunt, a ceptis nunquam desistere donec Petrus terram Anglie euacuet, et comitatum Cornubie dimitteret; nullusque magnatum partem Petri

¹¹ This statement may reflect the later terms of the first exile in June 1308, when Gaveston was forced to give up the lands he held as earl of Cornwall, but the king insisted that he keep the title (Hamilton, *Gaveston*, p. 53 and n.; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 45–9).

¹² Edward II was absent from England between 22 Jan. and 7 Feb. 1308. He married Isabella, Philip IV's daughter, at Boulogne on 25 Jan., and did homage to the king of France before the end of January (*HBC*, p. 39; *Foed.*, ii. 1. 30; Chaplais, 'Duché-Pairie', p. 143). Edward I had arranged this marriage, and his own second marriage to Margaret of France, as part of the reconciliation after the Anglo-French conflict 1294–8. The English possession of lands in Gascony, however, continued to cause problems over borders, jurisdictions, and homage.

¹³ 25 Feb. 1308.

¹⁴ Henry Woodlock, bishop of Winchester 1305–16 (*HBC*, p. 277).

and worthless, and that no one could equal him in valour. On the other hand the earls and barons of England looked down on Piers because he was a foreigner and formerly a mere squire raised to such splendour and eminence, nor was he mindful of his former rank. Thus he was an object of mockery to almost everyone in the kingdom. But the king had an unswerving love for him, so much so that a public edict issued from the king's court that no one should call him by his own name, that is Lord Piers Gaveston, but he should be styled earl of Cornwall.¹¹

Then, when the ambassadors who had been sent to Philip, king of France, to contract the marriage between the said French king's daughter and the king of England had returned, bringing success, the lord king of England prepared to cross the Channel and, when the ship was ready, he set sail with his retinue. The kingdom was left in the hands and keeping of Piers. What an astonishing thing, he who was lately an exile and outcast from England has now been made governor and keeper of the same land! When the marriage had been duly celebrated the king of England returned joyfully to England with his wife.¹²

After this, preparations were made for the king's coronation. Archbishops, bishops, earls, and barons were summoned. All accordingly came, and burgesses from each city attended. The king and queen were crowned and consecrated on the feast of St Mathias the Apostle.¹³ The bishop of Winchester¹⁴ placed the crown on the king's head; but he did this at the command and with the assent of the archbishop of Canterbury, since [the privilege] is known to belong to his dignity and that of his church, and the archbishop himself was prevented from being present by illness or continued absence abroad.¹⁵ At the conclusion of the ceremony and the joyful wedding feast everyone went home.

Now for the first time almost all the earls and barons of England rose against Piers Gaveston, and they were bound by a mutual oath never to cease from what they had begun until Piers had left the land of England and given up the earldom of Cornwall; and none of the

¹⁵ Robert Winchelsey, archbishop of Canterbury 1293–1313, clashed with Edward I and at Edward's behest was suspended and summoned before the pope in 1306. (For his clash with Edward I, see below, pp. 70–3.) Winchelsey was reinstated on 22 Jan. 1308 but was still abroad at this time. The choice of the bishop of Winchester as his deputy at the coronation averted the threat to Canterbury's claim to precedence had York officiated (*HBC*, p. 277; Denton, *Winchelsey*, pp. 231, 245–7; *Ann. Paul.*, pp. 259–60).

1308 sustinuit excepto rege et Hugone le Despenser.¹⁶ Comes autem Gloucestrie neutram partem promouit: cum Petro non fuit ne pares suos offenderet; cum baronibus esse non potuit quia fratrem suum in lege expugnare non decuit. Set et predictus Hugo de Spenser omnibus baronibus exosus factus est, eo quod ipsos pro communi utilitate regni laborantes deseruerat et, magis studio placendi et cupiditate lucrandi quam ex alia iusta causa, parti Petri adhaeserat. Ille uero qui Petrum prius fauore et amicitia pre ceteris excepto rege fouerat et dilexerat, inter omnes barones maximus eius inimicus factus est et persecutor. Hic erat Henricus de Lacy comes Lyncolnie, et hec non ex uicio comitis set ex ingratitude ipsius Petri noscitur accidisse.

Hec sediciosa dissencio inter dominum regem et barones orta per totam Angliam iam diuulgata est, set et tota terra pro tali tumultu ualde desolata est; omne enim regnum in se diuisum desolabitur.¹⁷ Homines mediocres pacifici, pacis amatores, guerram et pacis exilium ualde formidabant; predones uero qui predam captabant et ad aliena manum extendere, bellum non pacem affectabant. Rex uero ciuitates suas et castra muniri fecit et reparari, set magnates ex parte sua hoc idem fecerunt. Per totam terram uero in comitatibus, hundredis, ciuitatibus, burgis et uillis, conuocaciones et inprouisiones facte sunt, et quibus quilibet armis, necessitate inueniente, uteretur ex debito prouisum est et ordinatum. Certissime enim putabatur discencionem iam ceptam sine magna ruina sedari non posse.

Post hec uidentes hii qui ex consilio regis erant, ex tali discordia toti terre imminere discrimen, et precauentes in futurum, ne furor adhuc recens radices suas ita extenderet, quod inueteratus de facili extingui non possit, elaboratum est ab eisdem ut rex et barones sui in amicitiam et concordiam reuocarentur. De communi igitur consilio uocantur comites, barones et alii magnates terre tractaturi^a de pace, conueniuntque Londoniis non sine manu armata, prodicionem metuentes; ubi rex eos expectabat.¹⁸ Igitur cum diu res ipsa uoluta et reuoluta esset nec tamen finem acciperet (multi enim, uolentes utrique parti placere, uacillabant, ex quorum consilio et discrecione

^a tractatus *MS*; tractaturi *He, Si, Den-Y*

¹⁶ This is the elder Despenser, a staunchly loyal administrator at Edward I's court who continued to serve Edward II (*CP*, iv. 262–3; Davies, *Opposition*, pp. 86–9; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, p. 48). The *Vita*'s author later shows particular dislike of the elder Despenser (below, pp. 52–3, 74–7), which may be why he mentions his role in central politics much sooner than most other chroniclers (but see *Ann. Paul.*, p. 264).

great men took Piers's part except the king and Hugh Despenser.¹⁶ The earl of Gloucester, however, favoured neither party; he could not side with Piers lest he offend his peers; nor could he go with the barons because it was unseemly to fight against his brother-in-law. And now the said Hugh Despenser became hateful to all the barons, because he had deserted them as they worked for the common good of the realm and had become a supporter of Piers more from a desire to please and a lust for gain than for any creditable reason. But the one, who, above all others except the king, had previously supported and made much of Piers by his grace and friendship, had now, of all the barons, become his greatest enemy and persecutor. This was Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, and this is known to have happened through no fault of the earl but through the ingratitude of Piers himself.

This treacherous quarrel, which had arisen between the lord king and the barons, now spread far and wide through all England, and the whole country was utterly devastated by such a disturbance: for every kingdom divided against itself shall be brought to desolation.¹⁷ Ordinary peaceful men, peace-lovers, greatly feared war and the banishment of peace; but robbers, who longed for booty and to lay hands on the goods of others, desired war not peace. The king had his towns and castles fortified and repaired, and the great men for their part did the same. Throughout the whole land in shires, hundreds, cities, boroughs, and vills, meetings were held and regulations made, and it was duly provided and ordained what arms each should use in the event of necessity. For it was thought most certain that the quarrel once begun could not be settled without great destruction.

After this, those who were of the king's council, seeing that by such discord the whole country could be put in danger, and thinking of the future, in case the recent turmoil should spread its roots so that, having become rooted, it could not easily be weeded out, formed a plan by which the king and his barons might once more be brought together in friendship and harmony. By common consent therefore the earls, barons, and other great men of the land were summoned to discuss peace, and they arrived at London with an armed force, as they feared treachery; there the king was waiting for them.¹⁸ Then, when the matter had been discussed and rediscussed for a long time, yet without a settlement (for many, on whose advice and judgement

¹⁷ Luke 11: 17.

¹⁸ Parliament (without commons) was summoned for 28 Apr. at Westminster (*HBC*, p. 552).

1308 *negocium dependebat), tandem post multos et uarios circuitus, cum in aliud consentire non possent, promissum est et concessum baronibus per regem quod Petrus de Gauestone terram Anglie egrederetur.*¹⁹ Per archiepiscopos eciam et episcopos sententia^a excommunicationis in Petrum lata est si ultra terminum statutum in partibus Anglie moraretur. Terminus itaque positus est, dies uidelicet sancti Iohannis baptiste, quo et eodem festo per anni reuolucionem elapso idem Petrus eandem terram prius abiurauerat.²⁰ Adueniente igitur die prefixo, dominus rex et Petrus cum multo comitatu ad portum Bristollie sunt profecti; ibidemque post modicum a rege licenciatus Petrus cum multa familia in partes Hibernie se transtulit et recepit, totaque terra ex precepto domini regis Anglie sue dominacioni et potestati subdita est.²¹

Hiis itaque peractis nec adhuc uerus amor successit, nec uera concordia. Estimabant enim comites, in omnibus gestis adhuc se esse circumuentos, et priorem laborem inanem et cassum; propositum namque eorum exitum non sumpsit optatum. Voluissent certe comites quod Petrus Anglia recessisset, ita quod amplius in familiaritate regis non permansisset, nec terra diucius sumptibus suis sicut prius grauaretur; antecedebat enim fere regem in expensis. Defecit itaque propositum comitum: nam Petrus in Hibernia iam moram faciens, omnes redditus illius terre, qui ad regem Anglie pertinebant,^b ex uoluntate regis et precepto, in suos usus sumpsit et consumpsit; sicque nouissimus error priore factus est peior.²²

Interea Gilbertus comes Gloucestrie, filius quondam comitis Gilberti, filiam comitis de Holuestere duxit in uxorem. Ad nupcias conuenerunt multi magnates et nobiles, preposuerantque rotundam tabulam ibidem tenuisse; set paour circumuencionis, timorque

^a sententiam *MS*; sententia *He, St, Den-Y* ^b pertinebat *MS*; pertinebant *He, St, Den-Y*

¹⁹ The accusations against Gaveston read at this parliament were prefaced by a declaration that homage was made to the crown and not to the person of the king ('Articles against Gaveston presented by the earl of Lincoln to the king, March to April 1308', *EHD*, iii. 525-6). This is one of the clearest statements of political theory made during the reign and it is perhaps surprising that the author of the *Vita*, who shows much awareness of constitutional arguments, does not mention it. Of the chroniclers, the canon of Bridlington has the fullest description of these proceedings including a verbatim report of the first part of the document (*Brid.*, pp. 33-4).

²⁰ The excommunication was issued on 24 May (*Registrum Simonis de Gandavo*, ed. C. T. Flower and M. C. B. Dawes, Canterbury and York Society, xl-xli (Oxford, 1934) i.

the matter hung, wished to please each side and so wavered), finally, 1308 after many and varied circumlocutions, since they could not agree on anything else, the king promised and granted to the barons that Piers Gaveston should leave England.¹⁹ Furthermore, sentence of excommunication was pronounced upon Piers by the archbishops and bishops if he should delay in England beyond the appointed term. Accordingly, the term was fixed, namely St John the Baptist's day, on which same feast a year before the same Piers had first forsworn the same land.²⁰ When the appointed day arrived, therefore, the lord king and Piers set out for Bristol with a great following; and there after a little, having taken leave of the king, Piers crossed the sea with a large household and took himself off to Ireland, and by command of the lord king of England the whole country was subjected to his authority and power.²¹

Even when these things had been carried out neither true love nor true harmony resulted. The earls thought that they were still outwitted in all their doings, their former effort vain and futile, for their designs had not achieved the outcome they desired. The earls undoubtedly wanted Piers to leave England, so that he should no longer remain intimate with the king, nor the country be burdened any longer as hitherto with his upkeep; for he almost outdid the king in his spending. The earls' plan failed in this way: for now that Piers was in Ireland, with the king's willing consent, he took for his own use and squandered all the revenues of that land which belonged to the king of England; and so the last straying from the path of righteousness is made worse than the first.²²

Meanwhile, Gilbert, earl of Gloucester, son of the late Earl Gilbert, married the earl of Ulster's daughter. Many great and noble men gathered at the wedding celebrations, and they had planned to hold a Round Table there; but some of them were afraid of being trapped,

237-40. The sentence of exile, issued on 18 May, was for 24 June (*Ann. Lond.*, p. 154; *CPR 1307-13*, p. 71); the exile in 1307 had been planned for about two months earlier in the year (see n. 2 above).

²¹ Gaveston was appointed royal lieutenant in Ireland on 16 Jun. 1308 and held the office until June 1309. He appears to have found a good working relationship with Richard de Burgh, earl of Ulster, who had been given lesser powers with the same title on 15 June. He was remembered by Irish chroniclers as an effective lieutenant (Tout, *Ed. II*, p. 343; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 49-61; Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 55-66; J. Lydon, 'A land of war', in A. Cosgrove (ed.), *A New History of Ireland*, ii: *Medieval Ireland 1169-1534* (Oxford, 1987), pp. 240-74, at pp. 262-3).

²² Cf. Matt. 12: 45.

1308 prodicionis, quosdam inuasit fecitque quominus cepta procederent.²³

Videns itaque rex barones suos quasi murum ex aduerso consistere,²⁴ et propter hoc propositum suum non posse procedere, conatus est fedus eorum rumpere, et potenciores ad se inclinare. Igitur paterna et patria fretus^a cautela, blandiuntur enim Anglici cum uires oneri sufficere non uident, unum post alium donis, promissis et blanditiis, ad suum nutum reduxit, in tantum ut uix unus ex baronibus remaneret qui prius decreta et concessa defenderet. Solus autem comes de Warewyk flecti non potuit. Dicebat enim sana consciencia se a placitis recedere non posse, set cum omnes dissimularent ipse solus stare non potuit. Nec tamen expresse consensit. Interea multi tractatus et consilia habita sunt de defensione terre Scocie et expugnatione Roberti de Brutz; cuius tamen effectus fuerunt, nec in palam uenit neque de facto apparuit.²⁵

1309 Dum hec ita agerentur et iam appropinquaret autumpnus, uidenturque barones cum rege unanimes, Petrus de Gauestone clam propter insidias aduersariorum per partes Wallie ab Hibernia in Angliam reuersus est. Sentencia uero que contra eum lata erat, si amplius in Anglia moraretur, procurante rege, auctoritate apostolica remissa est.²⁶

Rex itaque, sciens Petrum iam rediisse, obuiam illi uenit ad Cestriam,²⁷ ibique de reditu suo letus gratanter ualde eum tamquam fratrem suum honorifice suscepit. Reuera fratrem suum semper appellauerat.²⁸ Nullus autem baronum ausus est amplius uel contra eum manum extendere, uel de reditu suo querelam deponere; claudicabat enim cetus eorum, et pars eorum, in se diuisa, infirmata est. Sic igitur qui bis antea dampnatus erat in exilium, iam exultat reuersus ad solium. Comes autem Lincolnie, qui anno preterito inter omnes barones exilium Petri maxime procurauerat, amicabile compositor

^a fetus MS; fretus He, St, Den-Y

²³ Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester 1307–14, married Maud, daughter of Richard de Burgh, earl of Ulster 1280–1326, on 29 Sept. 1308 at Waltham Abbey. His sister, Elizabeth de Clare, married Richard's son, John de Burgh, on the following day (*CP*, v. 714; *ibid.* xii. 2. 178; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, p. 51). The 'Round Table', a tournament played out round the Arthurian theme, was popular at this time (Barker, *Tournament*, pp. 88–95).

²⁴ Cf. Ezek. 13: 5.

²⁵ The author no doubt refers to the further parliaments which were summoned for 20 Oct. 1308, 28 Feb. 1309, and 27 Apr. 1309 (*HBC*, p. 552).

²⁶ The author's reference to autumn is misleading. The papal bull annulling the sentence was read in London on 11 June. Its date of issue is generally accepted as 25

and dreaded treachery, so that they did not go ahead with their plans.²³

When the king saw that his barons stood against him like a wall,²⁴ and that because of this he could not carry out his intentions, he tried to break up their alliance and draw the more powerful to his side. Therefore, relying on native and traditional trickery—for the English flatter when they see their strength is insufficient for a task—he bent one after another to his will, with gifts, promises, and blandishments, with such success that scarcely a baron remained to defend what had previously been decided and agreed. Only the earl of Warwick could not be swayed. He said that he could not with a clean conscience go back upon what had been accepted, but when all practised deceit he could not stand alone. On the other hand he did not expressly give his consent. Meanwhile many consultations and councils were held about the defence of the land of Scotland and the defeat of Robert Bruce, but their outcomes did not become public nor result in action.²⁵

While these things were thus happening and autumn was now approaching, and the barons seemed to be at one with the king, Piers Gaveston returned from Ireland to England through Wales secretly, on account of the plots of his enemies. Even the sentence of excommunication which had been pronounced against him, if he stayed any longer in England, was remitted by papal authority at the king's request.²⁶

The king, therefore, knowing that Piers had returned, came to meet him at Chester,²⁷ and there, delighted at his return, he very joyfully received him with honour as his brother. Indeed he had always called him his brother.²⁸ None of the barons now dared further to raise a finger against him, or to lay any complaint about his return; their ranks wavered, and their party, divided against itself, was weakened. So he who had twice been condemned to exile exults, having returned to high position. The earl of Lincoln, who the year before had been the foremost of the barons in bringing about Piers's exile, now became a friendly go-between and mediator; at his

Apr., but Chaplais argued for c.21 May, suggesting that Edward would want the sentence known quickly and the delay between April and June would be unlikely. Gaveston was back by 27 June (Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 70, 73; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 58–9).

²⁷ Edward was at Chester from 27 June to 1 July (*Itin.*, p. 46).

²⁸ For discussion of this and other references in the *Vita* to Edward II's calling Gaveston his brother, and the suggestion that the two were sworn brothers in arms, see Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 10–11 and *passim*.

1309 iam factus est et mediator; ad cuius preces sollicitas et continuas comes de Warenna, qui, ab eo tempore quo torneamentum de Walyngford finem accepit, hillarem uultum Petro nunquam exhibuit, necessarius amicus iam factus est et fidelis adiutor. Ecce quam frequens et subita magnatum mutacio! Quibus sine fide^a adhibemus in borea, contrarium reperimus in austro.^b Amor magnatum quasi ludus in alea, et uota diuitum pennis^c similima.²⁹

Petrus uero ad pristinum statum iam reuersus deterius se cepit habere quam prius. Comites et barones despiciebat, et turpia cognomina similiter addebat.³⁰ Officia et potestates ab aliis auferebat, et suis familiaribus pro libito conferrebat. Vnde magnates terre ceperunt hec pro malo habere, et precipue comes Lancastrie, quia unus ex familiaribus suis procurante Petro eiectus erat ab officio suo.³¹ Iccirco caue tibi, Petre, quia comes Lancastrie retribuet tibi simile.

Ipsa igitur dominus rex de presencia Petri ualde gauisus est; quasi qui recepit amicum ex longa peregrinatione reuertentem, letos dies agitabat. Instante uero natiuitate Domini, dominus rex et Petrus ad locum quem rex ipse ualde dilexit cum tota familia iter direxit.^d Locum autem ille Langeleye dicitur, qui iuxta uillam Sancti Albani situatur. In hoc igitur loco festa natalicia celebrarunt, cotidie colloquentes ac mutua conuersacione et diu affectata presencia priorem absenciam plene redimentes.

1310 Transacto natali solacio conueniunt Londoniis edicto regio barones uniuersi, qui cum ad locum consuetum parlamenti nostri uenire different,³² et rex inconsuete more causam requireret, nunciis regis

^a sic MS; sane fidem He; si fidem St; 'the text remains uncertain' Den-Y ^b auster MS; austro He, St, Den-Y ^c pernis R; pennis St, Den-Y ^d sic MS; direxerunt He

²⁹ The barons received more than personal gifts. The author omits any reference to the parliaments at Westminster (27 Apr. 1309) and Stamford (27 Jul. 1309). At Stamford the barons had received solid concessions on problems dating back to Edward I's reign and beyond, notably on prise and purveyance. These concessions were almost certainly a condition for the return of Gaveston. For the parliaments and allied negotiations, see Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 72–4 and Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 97–105.

³⁰ Later the *Vita* notes that Warwick was called the 'Dog' (below, pp. 44–5). The longest list of names is in the *Brut* (pp. 206–7). There 'Robert' Earl of Gloucester is called 'Horessone'. Following Tout, Denholm-Young convincingly argued that it was Joan's second husband, Ralph Monthermer, known as earl of Gloucester by right of his wife, whom Gaveston so named. Gilbert, her son, who was Gaveston's new brother-in-law and (at least at first) one of Gaveston's supporters, is an unlikely recipient of such abuse (*Vita*, 1st edn., p. 8 n. 1).

³¹ The instance referred to is not clear. It does not concern Nicholas Segrave, as

repeated and anxious requests the Earl Warenne who, ever since the conclusion of the Wallingford tournament, had never shown Piers a 1309 welcoming face, became his inseparable friend and faithful helper. See how often and abruptly great men change! Those whom we regard as faithless in the North we find just the opposite in the South. The love of great men is as a game of dice, and the desires of the rich like feathers.²⁹

Now that Piers had regained his former position he began to behave worse than before. He looked down on the earls and barons and gave them base nicknames.³⁰ He took offices and authority from others, and granted these at his pleasure to members of his household. The great men of the land began to resent this, and particularly the earl of Lancaster, because one of his household had been thrown out of office at Piers's instigation.³¹ Therefore watch yourself, Piers, for the earl of Lancaster will repay you like for like.

So then, the lord king himself was overjoyed at Piers's presence; like one who receives a friend returning from a long pilgrimage, he passed pleasing days with him. At Christmas the lord king and Piers with the whole household travelled to a place of which the king was very fond. That place is called Langley, which is situated near the town of St Albans. There they passed the festive season, talking daily and fully making up for the former absence by their long-desired closeness and conversation together.

When the time of relaxation at Christmas was over, all the barons 1310 met at London by royal edict, but they put off coming to the normal meeting place of our parliament,³² and when the king enquired the

Denholm-Young suggested (*History and Heraldry 1254–1310: A Study of the Historical Value of the Rolls of Arms* (Oxford, 1965), pp. 134, 141), since Segrave was still marshal in 1311. Maddicott suggested that it is more likely to be a reference to the appointment in Sept. 1311 of Gaveston's associate Arnaud de Tilh as marshal of the exchequer, an office which should have been in Nicholas Segrave's gift. An earlier instance which might fit the author's chronology better is suggested by Chaplais. This was the dismissal of John Segrave from the post of justice of the northern forest, a position he expected to hold for life. Dislike between Lancaster and Gaveston also increased during the dispute in 1309 over the lordship of Powys between Lancaster's retainer, Griffin de la Pole, and Hawise, wife of John Charlton, Gaveston's retainer (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 93, 117–18, 140–1; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 70–1, 84).

³² Parliament (without commons) was summoned for 8 Feb. 1310 at Westminster (*HBC*, p. 552). The lords and bishops normally met in the White Chamber in the Palace of Westminster (J. G. Edwards, *The Second Century of the English Parliament* (Oxford, 1979), p. 4). This makes it plausible for them to say that they would not be safe there if Piers Gaveston were to be in the king's chamber (nearby) at the same time. I am indebted to Miss Barbara Harvey for pointing this out to me.

1310 tale dederunt responsum, dicentes quod ad mandatum regis et domini naturalis uenire tenebantur ex debito, set dum capitalis inimicus eorum, qui regnum turbauerat et ipsos, regio lateret in thalamo, accessum eorum non fore securum, ac hoc, nec in hoc regis precepto fore parendum, uno ore protestabantur, addentes quod, si se regio conspectui representare oporteret omnimodo, non inermes ut facere solebant, set armati copiam sui facere promiserunt. Nec ob hoc offensam se regia maiestas sentiret aut lesam dum unusquisque naturali uiam affectu tenetur eligere tuciozem.

Tandem rex de suorum consilio Petrum ad satis tuta loca profectum^a dimisit ad tempus, ut ceptum negocium uel finem caperet optatum, uel saltem mora eius non faceret imperfectum. Extunc conuenerunt comites et barones, causamque uocacionis audituri, regem adierunt;³³ inter quos multa interlocutoria habita sunt, que non in communem uenere noticiam. Set cum per multos dies protelatum esset consilium, hoc demum ex parte baronum audiui fuisse petatum, scilicet quod cum status regis et regni a tempore quo bone memorie Edwardus rex senior diem clausit extremum ualde declinasset in deuium, ac per hoc totum regnum lederetur non modicum, petebant quod ex consensu et assensu domini regis et suorum baronum eligerentur duodecim uiri discreti, bone opinionis et potentes, quorum arbitrio et decreto status reformaretur et consolidaretur; et si quid in regni grauamen redundaret, eorum ordinacio destrueret; si uel in aliquo casu regno esset prospectum,^b eorum discrecione plenarie foret consultum.³⁴

Rex igitur, super hiis habita deliberacione, quia uidebantur sibi in quibusdam suspecta, diucius differebat inexpedita; set barones unanimes uiriliter instabant multa allegantes, plurima minantes, ac demum quasi uno ore in hiis residebant, dicentes quod, nisi rex petita concederet, iam non ipsum pro rege haberent, nec fidelitatem iuratum sibi seruarent maxime cum ipse iusiurandum in sua coronacione

^a profectum *MS*; *poss.* profecturum *He*; profectum *St*, *Den-Y* ^b sic *MS*; *Den-Y*
suggested possibly prospectatum; for prospectus *ed.*

³³ The *Annales Londonienses* (pp. 167–8) wrongly gives 27 Feb. 1310 as the date of parliament, but that date may, perhaps, be when barons and prelates now finally met the king. The barons would already know in general terms the reason for the summons, which was always mentioned briefly in the writ of summons. The reason was then formally reiterated and developed by one of the king's chief ministers at the first full meeting of parliament (Edwards, *Second Century of the English Parliament*, p. 3; *RP*, i. 350–1; *Parliamentary Texts*, pp. 71, 83). Discussion continued through early March.

³⁴ The petition is recorded in *Annales Londonienses* (pp. 168–9) and the *Liber*

reason for the unusual delay, they answered the royal messengers 1310 thus, that it was their bounden duty to come at the command of their king and natural lord, but as long as their chief enemy, who had set the kingdom and themselves in an uproar, was skulking in the king's chamber, their approach would not be safe, and this they declared with one voice, that the king's mandate would not be obeyed in this; in addition they vowed that if it was absolutely necessary to present themselves before the king, they would make their appearance not unarmed as they usually did, but in arms. His royal majesty should not feel offended or injured by this, since by natural inclination everyone is bound to choose the safer way.

At length on the advice of his friends the king sent Piers away for a time to a very safe place, so that the business which had been started should reach a conclusion, as desired, or at least should not be left unfinished because of his delay. Thereupon the earls and barons met together and approached the king to hear the reason for the summons;³³ they held many deliberations amongst themselves, and these were not made public. But when the council had dragged on for many days, this at length, I heard, had been asked for by the barons: namely that, as the state of the king and the kingdom had much deteriorated since the death of the elder King Edward, of happy memory, and the whole kingdom had been not a little injured by this, they asked that, with the agreement and consent of the lord king and his barons, twelve discreet and powerful men of good reputation should be elected, by whose judgement and decree the situation should be reformed and settled; and if anything should be found a burden on the kingdom, their ordinance should destroy it; and if there was to be provision for any deficiency in the kingdom, the decision should be taken at their complete discretion.³⁴

Having considered these proposals, the king was in no hurry to expedite them, as they seemed to him suspect in certain particulars; but the united barons strongly insisted, bringing forward many points, making many threats, and at length as if with one voice took their stand upon them, saying that unless the king granted their requests they would not have him for king, nor keep the fealty that they had sworn to him, especially since he himself was [not] keeping

Customarum (pp. 198–9). It does not include a request for twelve men, but such a group may have been suggested in discussions. A group of thirty-two barons promised that their actions would not be prejudicial to the king, and there were finally twenty-one Ordainers (see n. 38 below).

1310 prestitum <non>^a seruaret,³⁵ cum in lege et naturali ratione caueatur, quod 'frangenti fidem fides frangatur eidem'.³⁶ Hiis et aliis allegatis rex, arciori habito consilio, cum uideret rem iam in arto positam, nec sine discrimine uel scandalo necessitatem posse euitari, electiones, ordinationes et quicquid saluo honore regio pro communi utilitate regni crederent statuendum, expresse concessit, et scriptis sigillo suo roboratis confirmauit.³⁷

Electi sunt igitur ordinatores de potencioribus et discreciorebus tocus regni, et tempus^b iurisdictionis siue ordinationis faciende et publicande limitatum est.³⁸ Quibus sub tali forma concessis et consilio finito secessit unusquisque ad propria.

Post paucos dies dominus rex de consilio suo Robertum de Brutz expugnare disposuit. Fecit enim edicto regio per totum regnum proclamari, quod uidelicet omnes qui regi^c exercitum ducenti ad bellum certum patrocinium ferre tenebantur, die sancti Iohannis baptiste apud Berewyk super Twede presto regi assisterent, debitum seruicium et auxilium ibidem impensuri.³⁹ Vnde uiri ecclesiastici, episcopi, abbates et priores, qui pro baroniis quas de rege tenebant in capite, et pro quibus ad diuersa seruicia domino regi ex fidelitate et homagio prestitis tenebantur^d astricti, pro talibus oneribus precipue^e compensabant non modicum thesaurum, set prout quisque conuenire poterat cum thesauro, regis infundentes errario.^f⁴⁰

Quidam autem comitum et baronum huic precepto regis minime obtemperarunt. Comes enim Lincolnie^g custodiam terre a rege acceperat, iccirco uenire non poterat; comes de Warewyk et alii barones, circa ordinationes predictas occupati, quominus adessent fuerant impediti; comes uero de Lancastre, comes de Penbrok, et

^a om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^b episcopis R; tempus St, Den-Y ^c regis MS; regi He, St, Den-Y ^d tenebatur MS; tenebantur He, St, Den-Y ^e precipuum MS; precipue He, St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; erario St, Den-Y ^g Lincolnensis He, St; Lincolnie Den-Y

³⁵ This and later threats against Edward's kingship, made in 1312 and 1321, are particularly interesting in the light of Edward's final deposition. However, here the threat is unlikely to be of deposition, but rather of withdrawal of obedience to make government impossible; see above, pp. lvi-lvii.

³⁶ This proverb is recorded by Walther, *Proverbia*, ii. 182, no. 9915.

³⁷ The king agreed to the appointment of the Ordainers on 16 Mar. 1310 (*CPR 1307-13*, p. 215).

³⁸ The Ordainers were elected and sworn on 20 Mar. 1310. The election was sophisticated: the bishops elected two earls, the earls elected two bishops, and these four elected two barons. The six then elected fifteen others, five bishops, six earls, and four

the oath which he had taken at his coronation,³⁵ since in law and common sense there is this reservation, that with the breaker of faith 1310 faith may be broken.³⁶ After these and other matters had been aired, the king, having taken fuller counsel, when he saw that the business was now delicate and that the inevitable could not be avoided without danger or scandal, expressly granted, and confirmed by his sealed letters, the elections, ordinances, and (saving the royal honour) whatever they believed should be established for the common good of the kingdom.³⁷

Ordainers were therefore elected from amongst the more powerful and discreet men of the whole kingdom and a term was set by which their decrees or ordinances were to be made and published.³⁸ When these concessions had been duly made and the council had come to an end, everyone went home.

A few days later the lord king of his own accord decided to attack Robert Bruce. He had it proclaimed by royal edict throughout the kingdom that all who were bound to bring a certain force to the king when he led an army to battle should attend the king in a state of readiness on St John the Baptist's day at Berwick-on-Tweed, there to give him their due service and aid.³⁹ Consequently churchmen, bishops, abbots, and priors, in return for the baronies which they held from the king in chief, for which they were bound to the lord king in various services by the fealty and homage that they had performed, paid considerable sums specifically in exchange for such burdens, pouring their money into the king's treasury, according to what each had been able to agree with the treasury.⁴⁰

Some of the earls and barons, however, did not comply with this royal command. For the earl of Lincoln had been made keeper of the realm by the king and therefore could not come; the earl of Warwick and other barons, taken up with the said ordinances, were prevented from being present; but the earl of Lancaster, the earl of Pembroke,

barons (*PW*, ii. 2. App., p. 27; Davies, *Opposition*, pp. 358-61). The term set was 29 Sept. 1311 (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 105; *CPR 1307-13*, p. 215).

³⁹ The author was mistaken about the date: the writ of summons to the feudal host was issued on 18 Jun. 1310 to muster on the Nativity of the Virgin Mary (8 Sept.), not the Nativity of St John the Baptist (24 June) (*PW*, ii. 2. 394-7). For the forces raised by the *seruitium debitum*, see below, n. 168.

⁴⁰ The writer uses both *erarium* and *fiscus* in this work. In imperial Rome the first was the public treasury and the second the emperor's treasury. It is possible that the author makes a similar differentiation, equating *erarium* with the Exchequer (into which here scutage is paid) and *fiscus* with chamber (later associated with gifts and confiscated lands) (see below, pp. 134-5, 196-7; *Vita*, 1st edn., p. 111n.).

1310 comes de Hereford, in odium Petri pre ceteris inuecti regem in Scociam non sunt secuti. Profectus est igitur rex, a tribus comitibus tantum comitatus, comite uidelicet Glouuernie, comite Warennie et comite Cornubie, qui uocatur Petrus. Alii tamen barones et milites, et peditum turba copiosa Walensium et Anglicorum, qui animum ad questum habebant intentum, regem e uestigio sequebantur ad bellum. Reuera, ut dicebatur, simulatum erat hoc regis opus et fictum; non enim accessit rex finaliter in Scociam ut Robertum de Brutz expugnaret, set ut mandatum regis Francie caute declinaret. Mandauerat enim rex Francie regi Anglie, ut pro terris quas in partibus transmarinis ab ipso tenebat, ueniret sibi ut domino suo fidelitatem facturus, ut^a pro eisdem terris debita et consueta seruicia similiter impensurus.⁴¹ Set timuit rex; coniciebat pro certo quod, si ad mandatum regis Francie explendum accederet, Petro suo in Anglia inter inimicos suos dimisso, mors, carcer, uel si quid deterius est, forsane ueniret. Talia predicabantur in populo; si uera uel falsa sint Deus scit,^b nescio.⁴²

Intrauit rex autem Scociam cum exercitu suo, nullusque ei rebellus^c inuentus est, qui uel regi manum apponeret uel hominibus regis insidias pararet, nisi forsitan contingeret aliquos de exercitu causa foragii uel prede capiende longius abscedere.⁴³ Tunc enim Robertus de Brutz, qui in insidiis semper latebat, omne malum quod poterat eis inferebat. Nam quadam die, dum sic quidam Anglorum et Walensium, qui parati sunt ad predam, causa depredacionis exissent, necnon et equites quamplurimi simul cum eis pro tutela ab exercitu discessissent, subito superuenerunt homines Roberti de Brutz, qui in speluncis et locis nemorosis latuerant, ac grauem insultum nostris hominibus dederunt. Videntes autem equites nostri quod eis^d succurrere non possent, horrendo clamore ad exercitum reuersi sunt; statimque prosilierunt omnes ad arma et ad succurrendum suis, inter hostes relictis, unanimiter properabant; set sera fuit defencio quam nostrorum precessit occisio. Nam sero seram ponis stabulo post furta latronis. Antequam enim milites nostri uenirent, trucidati sunt de

^a sic MS; et He, Den-Y ^b sic MS; scit He, St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; rebellis He, St, Den-Y ^d ei MS; eis He, St, Den-Y

⁴¹ The king of England's homage for his French lands had become a major diplomatic problem since 1259 (G. P. Cuttino, *English Medieval Diplomacy* (Bloomington, Ind., 1985), pp. 60–73). In this case, however, the author errs. Edward had done homage to Philip IV in 1308 and was not called on to do it again. However, in 1311 meetings began at

and the earl of Hereford did not follow the king to Scotland because 1310 they hated Piers more than the others. So the king set out accompanied by only three earls, the earl of Gloucester, Earl Warenne, and the earl of Cornwall, who is called Piers. However, other barons and knights and a numerous crowd of Welsh and English infantry, who were intent on gain, followed in the king's footsteps to war. This indeed, it was said, was a mere pretext on the king's part; for the king was not going at last to Scotland in order to fight Robert Bruce, but so that he might prudently avoid the king of France's summons. For the king of France had commanded the king of England to come and do fealty to him, as to his lord, for the lands which he held of him overseas, and also to perform the due and customary services for the same lands.⁴¹ But the king was afraid; he was convinced that if he agreed to obey the king of France's summons and left Piers in England in the midst of his enemies, death, imprisonment, or worse would perhaps befall him. Such things were spoken of openly; whether they are true or false God knows, I do not.⁴²

The king entered Scotland with his army, but not a rebel was found to lay a hand upon him or to ambush his men, except that a few from the army, out foraging or on a plundering raid, were cut off.⁴³ For at those times Robert Bruce, who lurked continually in hiding, did them all the harm that he could. One day, when some English and Welsh, who were ready for plunder, had gone out on a raid accompanied for protection by many horsemen from the army, Robert Bruce's men, who had been concealed in caves and in the woodlands, suddenly came upon and made a serious attack on our men. Our horsemen, seeing that they could not help them, returned to the army with terrible shouts, and immediately all sprang to arms and hurried with one accord to the help of those who had been left amongst the enemy; but assistance came too late to prevent the slaughter of our men. For it is no use locking the stable door after the robber's theft. Before our knights arrived, up to three hundred

Perigueux in an attempt to solve border and land disputes. Edward had expected to attend and on 5 July 1311 Philip wrote to him regretting that because the Scots had broken the truce he and Edward would not meet (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 110). See P. Chaplais, 'Règlement des conflits internationaux franco-anglais au XIV^e siècle (1293–1377)', in his *Essays in Medieval Diplomacy and Administration* (London, 1981), ch. ix, at pp. 280–4.

⁴² 2 Cor. 12: 3.

⁴³ The king entered Scotland on 16 Sept. 1310 (*Itin.*, p. 64). The most detailed accounts of this rather desultory campaign, in which Gaveston was the most active earl, are those of Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 84–6, and McNamee, *Wars*, pp. 49–52.

1310 Walensibus et Anglicis usque ad trecentas^a animas, hostesque reuersi sunt ad speluncas suas. Ex talibus insidiis frequenter inuenerunt homines nostri multa mala. Robertus enim de Brutz, sciens se tam ex uiribus quam ex fortuna sua regis Anglie imparem, decreuit sibi magis expedire contra regem nostrum arma latenter mouere quam in bello campestri de iure suo contendere. Reuera dominum Robertum de Brutz affectarem laudibus extollere nisi reatus homicidii et nota prodicionis cogere me tacere; reatus autem excludit omnem honorem.⁴⁴

Verumtamen quo iure regnum Scocie ad se pertinere contendit in breuibus apparebit. Post finem Alexandri regis Scocie, in dubium uenerat quis ei deberet succedere, erantque duo uel tres quorum quilibet se uerum et proximum heredem asseruit. Set ex decreto magnatum utriusque regni Iohannes^b de Bailiol ut^c proximus heres Alexandro successit, quem rex Anglie, debita seruicia negantem et fidem non seruantem, regno priuauit, receptisque fidelitatibus et homagiis a magnatibus illius terre regnum in breui totum occupauit.⁴⁵ Porro Iohanne de Bailiol^d excluso, Robertus de Brutz comes de Carryk ius succedendi ad se deuolutum uisus est uendicare, ac diadema sibi imponens⁴⁶ contra regem et dominum suum cui fidelitatem prestiterat ceruicem cepit erigere, quem rex Edwardus cum exercitu suo diu persecutus est. Set capto Willelmo Waleys, Symon^e Frysel, Iohanne de Arseles et aliis quampluribus,⁴⁷ hic solus euasit, et mediante probitate et industria sua, decreto regis nostri suo tempore subici non potuit. Hic alter Eneas, a captiuitate Troiana^f solus effugiens, laudibus Enee, nisi crimina nota necarent, attolli meruit, set eas mala tot macularunt.⁴⁸

1311 Perhendinauit itaque rex in Scocia per totam hiemem, et usque ad natiuitatem sancti Iohannis baptiste,⁴⁹ et castra sua ex omnibus necessariis muniri fecit et restaurari. Circuiuitque per ciuitates,

^a trecentum MS; for tercentum or trecentas He ^b Iohannis MS; Iohannes He, St, Den-Y ^c et MS; ut He, St, Den-Y ^d Boiliol MS; Bailiol He, St, Den-Y ^e sic MS; Symone He, St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; Troie St

⁴⁴ Cod. iii. 24. 1, *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, ii. 130.

⁴⁵ Alexander died on 19 Mar. 1286; his granddaughter and heiress died on 26 Sept. 1290. John Balliol was accepted 17 Nov. 1292, but abdicated in the face of Edward I's demands on 10 July 1296 (*HBC*, p. 58). For Edward's actions towards Balliol and his subsequent attempt to conquer Scotland, see Prestwich, *Ed. I*, pp. 363–75, 469–516; Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 39–76.

⁴⁶ Bruce took the throne on 25 Mar. 1306 (*HBC*, p. 59). For his early career, see Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 20–6, 109–52.

Welsh and English souls were slaughtered, and the enemy returned 1310 to their lairs. From such ambushes our men often suffered heavy losses. For Robert Bruce, knowing himself unequal to the king of England in strength or fortune, decided that it would be better to make war against our king covertly rather than to assert his right in open battle. Indeed I might be tempted to honour Sir Robert Bruce with praises except that the guilt of homicide and the stain of treachery bid me keep silent; for criminal guilt involves the loss of all honour.⁴⁴

Now the right by which he vigorously maintained that the kingdom of Scotland belonged to him will become apparent in a few words. After the death of Alexander king of Scotland, it was doubtful who should succeed him, and there were two or three, each of whom put himself forward as the true and nearest heir. But by decree of the great men of both kingdoms John Balliol succeeded Alexander as nearest heir. Because he refused his due service and did not keep faith, the king of England deprived him of his kingdom, and, having received the fealty and homage of the great men of that land, in a short time occupied the whole realm.⁴⁵ Then, when John Balliol had been removed, Robert Bruce, earl of Carrick, claimed that the right of succession had passed down to him and, placing the crown upon himself,⁴⁶ he began to set himself up against his king and lord to whom he had sworn fealty, and King Edward long pursued him with his army. And when William Wallace, Simon Fraser, John of Atholl, and many others were captured,⁴⁷ he alone escaped and, helped by his prowess and unremitting perseverance, he could not be subjected to our king's decree in his lifetime. Here was another Aeneas fleeing alone from the Trojan captivity, Aeneas's fame, but for his crimes, he might have won; by evil deeds his honour was undone.⁴⁸

So the king stayed in Scotland throughout the winter and until the following feast of the nativity of St John the Baptist,⁴⁹ and had his 1311 castles put in a state of defence and restocked with all necessary

⁴⁷ Wallace was captured in Aug. 1305 and executed; Fraser was captured in Aug. 1306 and executed; John Strathbogie, earl of Atholl, was taken in Sept. and executed on 7 Nov. 1306 (Prestwich, *Ed. I*, pp. 501, 503, 507–8; *CP*, i. 306).

⁴⁸ The fall of Troy and Aeneas's flight into exile were well known in the Middle Ages. England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as Rome and Merovingian France, claimed descendants of 'noble' Aeneas and his associates as their founders (Gransden, *Historical Writing*, i. 204 and n.; Patterson, *Chaucer*, pp. 90–3). For the author's interest in Troy, see above, pp. xxviii–xxix, and for Scotland's use of the legend, see below, pp. 224–5.

⁴⁹ 24 June 1311. Edward was at or near Berwick from 1 Nov. 1310 to 30 July 1311 (*Itin.*, pp. 66–75).

1311 uillas, et castra, et omnium optinuit municiones. Robertus autem de Brutz stetit a longe ut uideret finem,⁵⁰ non enim in tali uicinio uidebatur sibi locus esse securus, set semper appropinquante exercitu tenebat loca montana inuia aquosa, ad que non poterat talis exercitus faciliter peruenire. Et certe quamuis rex Anglie tam breui manu per septennium Scociam obsideret, Robertum^a de Brutz suo carceri nequaquam manciparet. Verum occupatus erat rex circa duo, unum circa expungnationem Roberti de Brutz, in quo remissus^b agebat, pro eo quod maior pars baronum Anglie ad istud negocium non ferebat auxilium; aliud erat circa retencionem Petri de Gauestone, ad cuius expulsionem et exilium omnes fere barones Anglie unanimiter laborabant. In hiis duobus rex anxius et satis afflictus unum ob aliud non est consecutus. Versus:^c

Nam qui binas lepores una sectabitur hora,
Vno quandoque, quandoque carebit utroque.⁵¹

Queret autem aliquis unde tantam indignacionem baronum meruerat Petrus; que causa odii, quid seminarium ire et inuidie extiterit, uehementer forsan admirabitur, cum in omnium fere magnatum domibus optentum sit hodie ut unus aliquis de familia dominice dileccionis gaudeat prerogatiua. Sane ut reprobacio unius alios instruat, et ruina reprobatum ad aliorum cedat documentum, causas odii et inuidie pro posse meo curabo exprimere.

Hic Petrus a Wasconia oriundus filius fuit cuiusdam militis regis Edwardi senioris quondam familiaris.⁵² Dum autem Edwardus iunior adhuc esset princeps Wallie, dictus Petrus armiger iuuenis in familiarem domus eius assumptus est, et grata exhibicione^d obsequiorem apud dominum suum summi fauoris apicem optinuit in breui. Et, ut paucis uerbis multa concludam, rex noster, cum mortuo patre suo regnum Anglie iam esset adeptus, Petrum de Gauestone comitem fecit Cornubie. Set Petrus iam comes Cornubie olim se fuisse Petrum et humilem armigerum noluit intelligere. Nullum suum comitem, nullum suum parem reputabat Petrus, nisi solum

^a Roberto MS; Robertum He, St, Den-Y ^b sic MS; remissus He, St, Den-Y
^c Versus inserted above the line by He in R; Versus prob. a marginal note in original MS, Den-Y ^d exhibicione MS; exhibicione He, St, Den-Y

⁵⁰ Matt. 26: 58.

⁵¹ This proverb was widely known in European late medieval MSS (Walther, *Proverbia*, iv. 142, no. 23863).

⁵² Piers's father was Arnaud de Gabaston, who held a respectable amount of land in

provisions. He went round the cities, towns, and castles, and obtained supplies of all things. But Robert Bruce stood afar off, that he might see the end,⁵⁰ for there seemed no safe place for him in such a neighbourhood, but always as the army approached he kept to the trackless boggy mountain places, into which such an army could not easily penetrate. And indeed even if the king of England were to lay siege to Scotland for seven years, being shorthanded as he was, he would never commit Robert Bruce to his prison. For the king was really occupied with two projects: one was the defeat of Robert Bruce, in which he acted feebly, because the greater part of the English baronage gave no help in the affair; the other was keeping Piers Gaveston with him, for whose expulsion and exile almost all the barons of England were working together. In these two matters the king, worried and very distressed, could not attain one on account of the other. A verse:

For he who hunts two hares together,
Will lose now one, and then the other.⁵¹

But if anyone asks how Piers had come to deserve such great baronial displeasure, what was the cause of the hatred, what was the seedbed of the anger and jealousy, perhaps he will be very surprised, since it happens in almost all noble houses today that some one of the lord's household enjoys a prerogative of affection. So, then, that the condemnation of one may instruct others, and the downfall of the one condemned become a lesson to others, I shall endeavour to explain the causes of this hatred and envy as best I can.

This Piers, originating from Gascony, was the son of a certain knight who had been a member of the elder King Edward's household.⁵² While Edward the younger was still prince of Wales, the said Piers was received into his household as a young esquire, and by a pleasing attention to his duties he quickly found the very highest favour in his master's sight. And, to make a long story short, when he had obtained the kingdom of England on the death of his father, our king made Piers Gaveston earl of Cornwall. But Piers, now earl of Cornwall, was unwilling to remember that he had once been Piers the humble esquire. For Piers reckoned no one his fellow, no one his equal, except the king alone. In fact his countenance

Gascony but who became financially dependent on service to Edward I. He served in Wales, Scotland, and Gascony over a twenty-year period until his death in 1302 (Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 21-8).

1311 regem. Reuera uultus eius maiorem reuerenciam exigebat quam regis. Erat igitur baronibus fastus eius intollerabilis et prima causa odii simul et rancoris. Nam uulgariter dicitur,

Si tibi copia, si sapiencia, formaque detur,
Sola superbia destruit^a omnia si comitetur.⁵³

Credo igitur et constanter teneo quia, si Petrus ab inicio prudenter et humiliter erga magnates terre se gessisset,^b nunquam eorum aliquem sibi contrarium habuisset. Erat enim causa odii secundaria hec, quod cum ab antiquo omnibus desiderabile^c exstiterit habere gratiam in oculis regum, solus Petrus gratiam et uultum hillarem regis habuit et fauorem, in tantum ut, si comes uel baro colloquium habiturus cum rege cameram regis intraret, in presencia Petri nulli rex uerba dirigebat, nulli faciem hillarem ostendebat, nisi soli Petro. Et reuera ex talibus frequenter oriri solet inuidia. Sane non memini me audisse unum alterum ita dilexisse. Ionathas dilexit Daud, Achilles Patroclum amauit; set illi modum^d excessisse non leguntur.⁵⁴ Modum autem dileccionis rex noster habere non potuit, et propter eum sui oblitus esse diceretur, et ob hoc Petrus malificus putaretur esse.

Causa autem quare a comitatu Cornubie nitebantur eum expellere fuit hec. Dominus Edwardus rex senior uni ex filiis suis Thome uel Edmundo comitatum Cornubie contulisse decreuerat; set mors amara preueniens factum quod erat conueniens fecit imperfectum. Vnde barones iunioris regis ingratitudinem uidentes, quia ignotum noto, extraneum germano, et aduenam incole conebatur preferre, dominum illegittimum, comitem superbum, uelle consilio preuium, nisi sunt mittere in exterminium. Hiis maxime de causis excitata erat contra Petrum indignacio baronum; et Petrus nihilominus magnanimus, tumidus et elatus permansit. Set ureor ne superbia in ruinam et precipitium ipsum deuoluat; scriptum est enim, ante ruinam exaltabitur cor;⁵⁵ ille qui in altis habitat et humilia respicit⁵⁶ superbiam super omnia detestatur. Hec Luciferum mire claritudinis angelorum^e

^a sic R; distruet St ^b gessisset R; gessisset St, Den-Y ^c desiderabile MS; desiderabile He, St, Den-Y ^d modus MS; modum He, St, Den-Y ^e sic MS; angelum He, St, Den-Y

⁵³ The verse is found in a variety of European late medieval MSS (Walther, *Carminum*, p. 943, no. 17998).

⁵⁴ For Jonathan's love of David and defence of him even against his father, King Saul, see 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 18: 1-4, 19: 1-7, 20: 1-42; 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 1: 12-27. The legend of

exacted greater deference than the king's. His arrogance was, then, 1311 intolerable to the barons and the main cause of both the hatred and the rancour. For it is commonly said,

You may be rich and wise and handsome,
But insolence could be your ruin.⁵³

I therefore believe and firmly maintain that if Piers had behaved discreetly and humbly towards the great men of the land from the beginning, none of them would ever have opposed him. But there was a secondary cause of their hatred, namely that, though of old it has been desirable for all men to find favour in the eyes of kings, Piers alone received the king's favour, welcome, and goodwill, to such an extent that, if an earl or baron entered the king's chamber to speak with the king, while Piers was there the king addressed no one, and showed a friendly countenance to no one except Piers alone. And in truth envy is accustomed frequently to spring from such behaviour. Certainly I do not remember having heard that one man so loved another. Jonathan cherished David, Achilles loved Patroclus; but we do not read that they went beyond what was usual.⁵⁴ Our king, however, was incapable of moderate affection, and on account of Piers was said to forget himself, and so Piers was regarded as a sorcerer.

The reason, however, why they strove to expel him from the earldom of Cornwall was this. The old lord king Edward had decided that the earldom of Cornwall should be conferred upon one of his sons, Thomas or Edmund; but his sad death, intervening, prevented what was appropriate from being carried out. So, seeing the young king's ingratitude, that he was trying to promote the unknown over the known, the stranger over the brother, and the foreigner over the native, the wish foreshadowing the plan, the barons strove to destroy this unlawful lord, this insolent earl. These were the principal causes which had aroused the anger of the barons against Piers; and Piers nevertheless remained arrogant, haughty, and proud. But I fear that his pride will bring about his ruin and headlong fall; for it is written, 'the heart will be lifted up before a fall';⁵⁵ 'He who dwelleth on high and looketh down on the low things'⁵⁶ hates pride above all things. This it was that hurled Lucifer, an angel of wonderful brightness,

Achilles' love for Patroclus, his grief at his death, and his revenge on Hector of Troy made an apposite parallel for the friendship of Edward and Gaveston. See above, pp. xxviii-xxx for the medieval interest in Greek history (mediated through Latin writers). For Achilles' grief at Patroclus' death, see Homer, *Iliad*, esp. bk. xviii.

⁵⁵ Cf. Prov. 16: 18 (*ante ruinam exaltatur spiritus*).

⁵⁶ Ps. 112 (113): 5-6.

1311 ad yma deiecit;⁵⁷ hec reginam Vasti a solio regni similiter abiecit;⁵⁸ nec mirum si in superbia sua nec Deo nec homini foret acceptus. Nam in superbia et in abusione sublimes oculos distortuens in fastum, quadam pomposa et superciliosa facie despexit uniuersos, et omnia quasi pro imperio agens, magnates terre, quibus necessarius^a esse non potuit quin eorum auxilio magis indigeret, uix aliquando et indignantissime respexit. Et certe in filio regis satis esset intollerabile supercilium quod pretendit. Publice tamen scitur quod non erat filius regis nec regalem prosapiam quicquid attingens.

Imminente^b festiuitate sancti Iohannis baptiste, conueniunt Londoniis ordinatores,⁵⁹ quibus anno preterito commissa fuit potestas ordinandi, corrigendi et ad meliorem statum reducendi, si quid contra leges regni uel in commune dispendium fuisset attemptatum. Potestas enim eorum limitem habuit proximum futurum festum beati Michaelis. Vt ergo antequam exspiraret eorum iuredicchio, statuta et ordinata per eos in publicum uenirent, uocauerunt dominum regem et alios magnates terre ut coram eis recitata uel infirmarentur uel approbarentur.⁶⁰ Quod enim omnes tangit ab omnibus debet approbari.⁶¹ Recessit igitur rex a Scotia, et uenit Londonias,⁶² et apud fratres predicatorum hospicio se recepit. Cum quidam autem procerum moram facerent, sine quorum presencia res expediri non posset, dominus rex sacra loca uisitare Cantuariam proficiscitur, ac demum circa finem mensis Augusti reuertitur.⁶³

Omnibus itaque quorum interesse uertebatur^c adunatis, profertur in medium labor annalis, et capitula singillatim recitantur, et regis consiliariis copia porrigitur. Rex autem de consilio suo quedam sibi incommoda, quedam in odium suum adinuenta protestatur, et se hiis assensum prebere non teneri arguit et causatur, cum in commissione concessa regia magestas fuisset excepta.^d Sciebant tamen barones regis excusaciones friuolas esse et fictas et ad exquirendas dilaciones semper intentas; unde et ipsi uiriliter instabant, et cum omnium incomodo^e regis magis commodum compensabant. Fuit autem inter ordinationes illas una quedam que magis inter ceteras regem

^a necessariis MS; necessarius He, St, Den-Y ^b imminente MS; imminente He, St, Den-Y
^c sic MS; poss. uidebatur He ^d sic MS; excepta He, St, Den-Y ^e sic MS; incommodo He, St, Den-Y

⁵⁷ Cf. Isa. 14: 12-19.

⁵⁸ Cf. Esther 1: 9-22.

⁵⁹ 24 June 1311.

⁶⁰ For the powers of the Ordainers and the deadline of Michaelmas (29 Sept.), see above, pp. 20-1. Parliament was summoned for 8 Aug. 1311 in London; the first session ended on 9 Oct., and it met again in Nov. (HBC, p. 552).

⁶¹ Cod. v. 59. 5 (2), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, ii. 231.

1311 down to the depths;⁵⁷ this likewise cast queen Vashti from the throne of her kingdom;⁵⁸ nor is it surprising if he in his pride should be acceptable to neither God nor man. For, scornfully rolling his eyes upwards in pride and in insult, he looked down upon all with overbearing and disdainful countenance, and, carrying out everything as if with supreme authority, he scarcely ever paid any heed, and then most contemptuously, to the great men of the land, to whom he could not be necessary, but whose help he needed rather more. And the haughtiness which he affected would certainly have been unbearable enough in a king's son. Yet it was universally known that he was not a king's son, nor was he related to any royal stock whatsoever.

As the feast of St John the Baptist approached the Ordainers came to London.⁵⁹ The year before they had been given the power of ordaining, correcting, and reforming anything which had been done against the laws of the realm or to the common loss. The term set to their power was the following Michaelmas. Therefore, in order that their decrees and ordinances should be made public before their jurisdiction expired, they invited the lord king and the other great men of the land to reject or confirm what was recited before them.⁶⁰ For 'what touches all should be approved by all'.⁶¹ So the king left Scotland and came to London,⁶² where he lodged with the Dominicans. When certain of the notables delayed, without whom the business could not proceed, the lord king set out to visit the shrines at Canterbury and at length returned towards the end of August.⁶³

And so, when all those concerned had gathered together, the year's work was produced and the chapters were recited one by one, and a copy was made available to the king's counsellors. But the king and his council protested that some things were disadvantageous to him, some devised out of hatred, and he argued and pleaded that he was not bound to give his consent to these, since in the commission granted to them matters touching the king's sovereignty had been excluded. The barons knew, however, that the king's excuses were frivolous and invented and always meant to gain time; they therefore firmly stood their ground, setting the common good above the king's loss. There was, however, one of those Ordinances that distressed the king more than the rest, namely the expulsion of Piers Gaveston and

⁶² Edward left Berwick on 30 July; by 12 Aug. he was at St Albans, and the following day his household was at Westminster (*Itin.*, pp. 75-6).

⁶³ The visit to Canterbury is not evident in the published itinerary, but is possible. The king was certainly in London on 17 and 21 Aug. (*Itin.*, p. 76).

1311 affligebat, uidelicet expulsio Petri de Gauestone et eius exilium; set rex ad hoc nullo sensu inclinari potuit uel induci. Vt tamen baronibus satisfaceret hoc offerebat: 'quecunque', inquit, 'ordinata sunt, quecunque statuta, quantumcunque in meum priuatum incomodum redundant, ad petitionem uestram ualeant atque perpetuo subsistant. Verum a persecucione fratris mei Petri desistatis, et comitatum Cornubie habere permittatis.' Hoc sepe et sepius petebat sic rex, nunc illos blandiciis palpans, nunc autem minas adiciens; set barones uiriliter instabant, plurima allegantes ut fideles regis regi consulentes, ac demum, quasi uno animo et una uoce, hoc in calce sermonis adiciebant, quod aut^a Petrus iuxta arbitrium ordinatorum exilium subiret, aut unusquisque de capite proprio defendendo sibi consuleret. Videntes igitur hii qui de consilio regis erant quod, si dominus rex ordinatorum decretis et placitis non acquiesceret, turbaretur regnum et pacis sequeretur exilium; scientes eciam quod ciuile bellum nunquam finem habuisset acceptum, de quo bellum de Lewes manifestum reliquid exemplum et bellum de Euesham eternam seruabat memoriam, in quo pro tempore iusticie nobilis ille comes Leycestrie Symon occubuit;⁶⁴ considerabant eciam quam dura inter regem et barones suos et quam periculosa foret dissencio, quod tocius terre sequeretur desolacio, quod inter dubios euentus uix euitaretur regis capcio, et, sicut Roboam qui consilium seniorum respuens consilio iuuenum adhesit, incaute solio forsani priuaretur et regno;⁶⁵ hec et hiis similia considerantes qui consulares regis esse dicebantur, attentius instare ceperunt pro regno, pro populo, pro semetipso^b regem interpellantes, quatinus suorum digneretur^c acceptare consilium, ineuitabile protestantes euenire periculum quod sibi et suis perpetuum afferret obprobrium, nisi decretis baronum assentiret, nisi ordinationes eorum sine fraude concederet.

Rex igitur, suorum monitis et precibus inductus, ordinationes, prouisiones et statuta, quocunque nomine censeantur, pro se et suis successoribus inuiolabiliter et imperpetuum rata teneri consentit. Directa est igitur copia ordinationum sub magno sigillo ad quemlibet comitatum, et ibidem publice proclamantur, et ab omnibus proclamare precipiuntur. Quas hic ideo interserere nolui, quia

^a autem R; aut St, Den-Y ^b sic MS; semetipsis He ^c sic MS; dignaretur He, St, Den-Y

⁶⁴ During the Barons' Wars against Henry III the battle of Lewes took place on 14 May 1264 and the battle of Evesham on 4 Aug. 1265. At Lewes Henry III was captured, and at Evesham Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, was killed.

his exile; to this the king could in no way be persuaded or brought to agree. Nevertheless, to satisfy the barons he offered these terms: 'whatever things have been ordained or decided upon', he said, 'however much they may redound to my private disadvantage, shall be established at your request and remain in force for ever. But you shall stop persecuting my brother Piers, and allow him to have the earldom of Cornwall.' The king sought this time and again, now coaxing them with flattery, now hurling threats; but the barons firmly stood their ground putting forward many arguments as the king's faithful subjects consulting the king's interests, and finally, as if with one mind and voice, they added at the end of their reply that either Piers should suffer exile according to the judgement of the Ordainers, or each man would consider how to defend his own life. The king's advisers, seeing that if the lord king would not agree to the decrees and resolutions of the Ordainers the kingdom would be in turmoil and peace would subsequently be driven out of the land; knowing also that civil war never yet had an acceptable end, of which the battle of Lewes remains an obvious example, and the battle of Evesham preserved an everlasting reminder, where that noble man Simon, earl of Leicester, died in the cause of justice;⁶⁴ considering also how harsh and dangerous the struggle between the king and his barons would be, that the suffering of the whole land would follow, that amidst the fluctuating events the king's capture would hardly be avoided, and like Rehoboam, who rejected the counsel of the elders and followed the advice of the young, he might perhaps through imprudence be deprived of his throne and of the kingdom;⁶⁵ considering these things and the like, those who were said to be the king's counsellors began to press more insistently, urging the king for the sake of the kingdom, the people, and himself to deign to accept their advice, showing that inescapable danger would arise, which would bring everlasting disgrace upon him and his, unless he agreed to the decrees of the barons and granted their Ordinances without deceit.

So the king, moved by their warnings and entreaties, agreed for himself and his successors that the Ordinances, provisions, and statutes, by whatever name they may be called, should be held inviolably valid for ever. A copy of the Ordinances was therefore sent under the great seal to every county, and there publicly proclaimed, and commanded to be proclaimed by all. Therefore I

⁶⁵ Cf. 3 Kgs. (1 Kgs.) 12: 8; 2 Chr. 10: 8. For comment on threats concerning the loss of the kingdom, see above, pp. lvi-lvii.

1311 *seriem huius materie rescinderem^a uel fastidium legentibus afferrem;^b set, si quis eas sibi dixerit ignotas, inter alia statuta suo loco reperiet insertas.⁶⁶ Verum quia ordinacio illa que Petrum de Gauestone eiecit ab Anglia pluribusque^c inter alias magis uidebatur accepta, inspicientes enim ordinaciones statim ad illam recursum habebant, cum tamen in ordine prima non esset, set decimum uel ulteriorem locum optineret, et ut ipsa ordinacione perfecta manifeste appareat ipsius exilii causa, iccirco in hac mee narrationis serie, quia multum concordat materie statutum illud, de uerbo ad uerbum, prout fuerat in audientia publicatum, interserui sub forma que sequitur:—⁶⁷*

Quia notum est et per examinationem prelatorum, comitum, baronum, militum et aliorum bonorum et legalium hominum regni repertum, quod Petrus de Gauestone dominum regem male duxit, domino regi male consuluit,^d et ipsum ad male faciendum deceptorie et multiformiter induxit, contractando sibi totum thesaurum regis, quem eciam extra regnum elongauit; attrahendo sibi homines qui secum morarentur contra omnes gentes, et per thesaurum regis quem sic adquisiuit, de die in diem dominando supra statum regis et corone in destructione regis et regni; specialiter elongando cor domini regis a suis legiis hominibus, consilia eorum despiciendo, bonos ministros legem facere non permittendo et bonos ministros amouendo; tales autem de sua familiaritate, tam alienigenas quam alios, constituendo, qui ad suum preceptum et uelle iusticiam offendunt (et)^e legem terre, acceptando terras et tenementa contra suum homagium de corona, nedum ante ordinaciones ad profectum regis et regni ab ordinatoribus concessas set eciam post, contra dictorum ordinatorum prouisiones et decreta.

Sustinet eciam predones et homicidas ipsisque cartas domini regis de pace acquirit, et sic aliis malefactoribus magis delinquendi prebet audaciam. Conducit regem in terram guerre sine communi consensu suorum baronum, in periculum regis et destructionem regni; albas cartas sub magno sigillo regis facit consignari, in capcionem et exheredacionem regis et corone; et callide false et proditorie fecit^f hec omnia predicta in magnum dedecus^g et

^a rescindere MS; rescinderem He, St, Den-Y ^b auferem MS; afferrem He, St, Den-Y
^c sic MS; poss. substitute pluribus or om. que He ^d consuluit MS; consuluit He, St, Den-Y
^e om. R; supplied St, Den-Y ^f sic R; for facit, ed. ^g dedecus MS; dedecus St, Den-Y

⁶⁶ The order to proclaim the Ordinances was issued on 11 Oct. 1311. The Ordinances consisted of forty-one clauses (six of which had been issued immediately in Mar. 1310 and were repeated). They covered a number of controversial political matters concerning finance, appointments, and war, and specified the expulsion from court of a number of individuals as well as Piers Gaveston. For the full text of the Ordinances see *RP*, i. 281–6; *SR*, i. 157–68; trans. in ‘The New Ordinances, 1311’, *EHD*, iii. 527–39. The author’s phrasing suggests that he was writing for readers who would have access to the official

did not want to insert them here because I would break the flow of this narrative and prove tedious to readers: but if anyone should say that he is unacquainted with them he will find them in their proper place among the other statutes.⁶⁶ However, because the ordinance which expelled Piers Gaveston from England seemed more welcome to many than the rest, for when people examined the Ordinances they at once turned to it although it did not come first in the list but was tenth or later, and so that the cause of banishment may appear clearly once this ordinance has been read through, I have therefore inserted that decision in the course of my narrative as very relevant to my theme, word for word as it was read out publicly, in the following form:⁶⁷

Because it is known and found by the examination of prelates, earls, barons, knights, and other good and lawful men of the kingdom, that Piers Gaveston has led the lord king astray, advised the lord king badly, and persuaded him deceitfully and in many ways to do wrong; in gathering to himself all the king’s treasure which, moreover, he has exported from the country; in attracting to himself men who would remain with him against all people, and this by means of the king’s treasure thus acquired from day to day; in lording it over the state of the king and of the crown to the ruin of the king and kingdom; more especially in estranging the lord king’s heart from his liege men; in despising their counsel, not permitting good ministers to enforce law and removing good ministers; in appointing from his own circle, both foreigners and others, such persons as, at his command and will, violate justice and the law of the land; in receiving lands and tenements against his homage to the crown, not only before the Ordinances ordained by the Ordainers for the profit of the king and the kingdom, but also afterwards, against the provisions and decrees of the said Ordainers.

Also he maintains robbers and homicides and obtains the lord king’s pardons for them, and so encourages other evildoers to greater boldness in crime. He takes the king into a country at war without the common consent of his barons, to the danger of the king and the destruction of his kingdom; he has blank charters sealed under the king’s great seal to the deception and disinheritance of the king and the crown; and all the aforesaid things he did craftily, falsely, and treacherously to the great disgrace and damage of the statute roll, or to a full collection of statutes copied and kept in a muniment room or library of some size.

⁶⁷ This is a close translation into Latin of clause 20 of the Ordinances (*RP*, i. 283; *SR*, i. 162a; ‘The New Ordinances, 1311’, *EHD*, iii. 532–3). The clause was in this position in the rolls of parliament and in the official published version, and appeared even later in the list in the Durham draft (M. Prestwich, ‘A new version of the Ordinances of 1311’, *BIHR*, lvii (1984), 189–203, at 192, 201). The discrepancy in number may therefore be through error, or an intermediate miscopying of .x. for .xx.

1311 dampnum regni, exheredacionem corone, in destruccione populi multimode.

Insuper habentes respectum ad facta nobilissimi regis patris domini nostri regis qui nunc est, (cuius)^a edicto dictus Petrus regnum Anglie abiuravit et exulavit, qui et uoluit quod dominus noster rex filius suus pro omni tempore societatem illius abiurasset; inspicientes eciam quod postea communi assensu tocius regni pariter et regis prospectum erat quod Petrus idem regnum euacuaret, et euacuavit, et quod per communem assensum non rediit, set duntaxat per consensum aliquorum, qui sub condicione, si post regressum suum bene se gereret, ad hoc consenciebant; et nunc certissime repertus est male gessisse; quamobrem et propter sua malefacta predicta, et propter alia que uerisimiliter domino regi et populo contingere possent, et ad bonam concordiam inter dominum regem et suos subditos nutriendam et multimodas discordias et pericula euitanda, nos ordinatores, ut ordinatores et uirtute dicte commissionis regie, concessimus quod Petrus de Gauestone, tanquam publicus hostis regis et regni, a regno penitus eiciatur et exuletur, nedum ab Anglia set eciam Wallia, Scotia, Hibernia, Wasconia, et ab omni terra tam ultra mare quam citra mare dominacioni regis Anglie subiecta, pro omni die et sine reditu. Et quod citra festum omnium sanctorum proxime futurum⁶⁸ regnum Anglie et omne ^bregis dominium^b relinquat et penitus euacuet, et portum apud Douere sibi damus in forma predicta. Nec liceat sibi alibi terram exire uel in alio sinu maris portum arripere. Et si dictus Petrus in regno Anglie uel alibi in dominio regis nostri ultra statutum diem faciat moram, extunc faciat^c de ipso tanquam de inimico regni, regis, et populi. Et quicumque contra hanc ordinationem uenerit, ad tardacionem dicti exilii, fiat de ipsis prout uisum fuerit expedire cum super hoc fuerint conuicti.

Et Petri quidem exilium ex decreto ordinatorum sic erat.

Post festum omnium sanctorum, quia rex ordinationibus baronum stare iurauerat, Petrum in exilium ire disposuit, quia in breui satis competenter sibi prouidere proposuit. Antequam tamen Petrus terram Anglie egrederetur, de consilio quorundam qui parti sue adherabant, litteras regis bone conuersacionis et fidelitatis testimoniales a rege impetrauit et optinuit; et hiis litteris rex sigillum suum apposuit, et multi magnates similiter fecerunt, qui magis reprehensione digni quam ex hoc facto laudandi fuerunt. Inter quos comes Gloucestrie Gilbertus, iuuenis et precibus regis inductus, predictis litteris testimonium prebuit. Nam et illas sigillo suo roborauit, set postea saniori ductus consilio, et pretextu minoris etatis excusatus,

^a om. R; supplied St, Den-Y ^{b-b} regnum domu' MS; regni dominium He; regis dominium St, Den-Y
^c sic MS; poss. fiat He; fiat St, Den-Y

kingdom, the disinheritance of the crown, and the destruction of the people 1311
in many ways.

Moreover, having regard to what was done by the most noble king, father of our present lord king, by whose edict the said Piers abjured and was exiled from the realm of England, and who wished that our lord king his son should renounce the company of this person for all time; bearing in mind, further, that afterwards by the common assent equally of the whole realm and of the king it was decided that the said Piers should leave the realm, and he did leave it, and that he did not return by common assent, but only by the consent of some individuals, who consented to this on condition that after his return he should behave well; and now it is found most certainly that he has behaved badly; for which reason, and on account of his aforesaid wrongdoing, and on account of other things which are likely to happen to the lord king and the people, and in order to foster good harmony between the lord king and his subjects, and to avoid many kinds of discords and dangers, we, the Ordainers, as Ordainers and by virtue of the said royal commission, have decreed that Piers Gaveston, as a public enemy of the king and of the kingdom, shall be utterly cast out and exiled from the kingdom, not only from England, but from Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Gascony, and from every land as well beyond the sea as on this side of the sea subject to the lordship of the king of England, for ever and without return. And that before the feast of All Saints next coming⁶⁸ he shall leave and completely depart from the kingdom of England and every lordship of the king, and we assign to him in the said form Dover harbour. Nor may he leave the land elsewhere nor from another harbour. And if the said Piers stays in the kingdom of England or elsewhere in the lordship of our king beyond the appointed day, he shall thereafter be treated as an enemy of the kingdom, the king, and the people. And let everyone who shall go against this Ordinance, to delay the said exile, be dealt with as seems expedient when they have been found guilty of it.

And this was the manner of Piers's exile by decree of the Ordainers.

After the feast of All Saints, as the king had sworn to stand by the Ordinances of the barons, he arranged for Piers to go into exile, because he planned to provide for him very adequately soon. Before Piers left England, however, on the advice of some who stuck to his side, he asked for and obtained from the king letters testifying to his good character and loyalty; and the king put his seal to these letters, and many great men more worthy of reproof than praise for this deed did likewise. Amongst these Gilbert, earl of Gloucester, a young man persuaded by the king's entreaties, lent his testimony to these letters. For he confirmed them with his seal, but afterwards, guided by wiser counsel

⁶⁸ That is 1 Nov. 1311. Several chroniclers noted that he left in fact after 1 Nov., and the *Ann. Lond.* specified 4 Nov. (*in triduo post festum*, p. 202).

1311 errorem suum reuocauit, et impressionem sigilli sui a litteris illis extorsit.

Petrus igitur tali testimonio munitus clam propter aduersarios secessit in Flandriam, omni fere populo ignorante ad quas partes diuertisset.⁶⁹ Post hec comites iuxta ordinaciones domini regis ulterius disponere uolentes, complices et fautores Petri a curia regis sub pena incarcerationis recedere decreuerunt, ne et ipsi animum regis ad reuocandum Petrum de cetero instigarent.⁷⁰ Ad hec rex ultra modum commotus, quod nec unum familiarem iuxta proprium uotum retinere sibi liceret, set sicut prouidetur fatuo, tocius domus sue ordinacio ex alieno dependeret arbitrio, in odio comitum reuocauit Petrum, per animam Dei iurans ex solito quod libere proprio uteretur arbitrio.⁷¹

1312 Et Petrus quidem ad regis mandatum statim reuersus est in Angliam, quia regem Francie suspectum habebat, per Flandriam. Set quamuis periculosa sibi foret Francia, periculosior futura sibi fuit Anglia. Euenit enim sibi quod quidam ait,

Incidit in Scillam cupiens uitare Caribdim.⁷²

Reuersus igitur Petrus caute ambulabat, et nunc in camera regis, nunc apud Walyngford, nunc in castello de Tyntagel latere putabatur. Cum autem appropinquaret natale Domini dominus rex et Petrus ad partes boriales sunt profecti, et apud Eboracum festa^a natalicia celebrant.⁷³ Et dominus rex studiose in dies cum omni consilio suo de statu Petri et pace tractabat; et quia non erat Petro tutus locus in Anglia, Hibernia, Wallia, Wasconia nec Francia, de mora Petri tractare disposuit in Scotia, donec impetus baronum cessaret, uel Petro decencius et alibi prouideret; set inane studium uix habuit inicium. Cum enim Robertus de Brutz de fidelitate Petro seruanda et

^a facta R; festa St, Den-Y

⁶⁹ There is no certain evidence for where Piers spent his short exile, but several of the chronicles record Flanders, which is likely (Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 91–2; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 74–6).

⁷⁰ The supplementary ordinances survive in *Ann. Lond.*, pp. 198–202 and *Lib. Cust.*, ii. 2. 682–90, where they are said to be the work of the earls of Lancaster and Warwick.

⁷¹ The king declared the Ordinances repealed on 9 or 16 Jan. 1312, but, faced with opposition to this, he again ordered their enforcement on 26 Jan., provided nothing was done to his prejudice or against the law. This proviso arguably excluded the enforcement of Gaveston's exile, which Edward had also separately declared unlawful on 18 Jan. (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 153–4; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 79–82; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 122–3). The

and excused on the grounds of his minority, he corrected his mistake and tore the impression of his seal from the letters. 1311

Thus protected by such a testimonial Piers secretly, on account of his enemies, departed to Flanders, almost everyone being ignorant of his destination.⁶⁹ After this, the earls, wishing to make further arrangements according to the lord king's Ordinances, declared that Piers's friends and supporters should leave the king's court under penalty of imprisonment, lest they should urge the king to recall Piers once more.⁷⁰ At this the king, angered beyond measure that he was not allowed to keep even one member of his household at his own wish, but that, as is provided in the case of an idiot, the ordering of his whole house should depend upon the decision of another, recalled Piers out of hatred for the earls, swearing, as he was wont, on God's soul that he would freely use his own judgement.⁷¹

And so Piers immediately returned to England at the king's command, by way of Flanders, because he mistrusted the king of France. But though France might be dangerous for him, England was going to be more dangerous. For it so turned out for him that, as is commonly said, 1312

He falls into Scylla in trying to avoid Charybdis.⁷²

When he returned, Piers proceeded cautiously, and was thought to be skulking now in the king's apartments, now at Wallingford, now at Tintagel Castle. As Christmas approached, however, the lord king and Piers set out for the North, and celebrated the feast of the nativity at York.⁷³ The lord king anxiously discussed day by day with his whole council the question of Piers's position and the peace of the realm; and because there was no safe place for Piers in England, Ireland, Wales, Gascony, or France, he tried to arrange for Piers's residence in Scotland, until the baronial attack should cease, or he could provide more fittingly for Piers elsewhere; but this fatuous scheme was scarcely even begun. For when Robert Bruce was

question of whether the king could revoke the exile on his own authority, without assent, underlay the legal dispute after the murder of Gaveston.

⁷² Walter of Châtillon, *Alexandreis*, v. 301 (*PL* ccix. 514). The phrase is proverbial after his time (*Vita*, 1st edn., p. 21 n. 2).

⁷³ The *Annales Paulini* also mistakenly placed Edward at York for Christmas. He spent it at Westminster, and arrived in York on 13 Jan. 1312 (*Itin.*, p. 81). He was by then accompanied by Gaveston, who probably wished to be with his wife, who bore their first child there in Jan. (Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 78–9; Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 92–3). The king declared Gaveston's exile unlawful on 18 Jan., and restored his estates on 20 Jan. (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 153–4; *CCR* 1307–13, pp. 448–9).

1312 condicione pacis requir(er)etur^a et inuitaretur; cum eciam sibi multa offerentur ac demum ipsum regnum^b Scocie tranquille et imperpetuo domino Roberto promitteretur, hoc modo regis mandato fertur respondisse, 'Quomodo rex Anglie pactum michi seruaret, qui legis suis hominibus, quorum fidelitatem et homagia recepit, quibus eciam mutuo fidem seruare tenetur, promissa eciam iuramento uallata non custodit? Non est adhibenda fides homini tam uario; non me decipiet sua promissio.' Sic cassata spes regia, sic eluduntur regis promissa.

Audientes autem comites et pro certo iam scientes quod rediisset Petrus, uidentes autem quod non procederet ordinacio quam statuerant circa eum, congregati sunt cum primato^c suo Roberto Cantuariensi archiepiscopo. Et primas quid(em),^d sicut erat spiritu feruens et pacem regni zelans, gladium suum arripuit et Petrum anathemate percussit, ut sic lata sententia euacuaretur gracia;⁷⁴ nam qui iuste ligatur raro efficaciter operatur. Et barones ex parte sua non minus laborant ad querendum remedia, fueruntque ad defensionem ordinationum principaliter intenti et inuicem iureiurando similiter astricti comites subscripti: Thomas comes Lancastrie, Adolmarus comes Penbroke, Humfridus comes Herfordie, Edmundus comes Darundel, et Guydo comes Warewyke. Hii quinque comites armis strenui, genere preclari, et copiosa armorum multitudine uallati, circa capcionem Petri unanimiter consultant. Quid autem in illo consilio fuerit decretum, uel quibus insidiis molirentur in Petrum, diu quidem latuit; set quid ibidem actum fuerit ex post factis satis apparuit; et caute quidem et prouide actum, ut ita lateret eorum propositum, ne diulgata intencio immunem prestaret in uicio.^e Secesserunt igitur comites ab inuicem unusquisque in uiam suam, et comes Glouuernie, quamuis in hoc proposito socius non esset, ratum tamen habere promisit quicquid comites facerent, quicquid in hac expedicione disponderent. Comes autem Lancastrie ad partes boriales se transtulit, et ceteri comites, ne ex uisu armorum terreretur prouincia, fecerunt per diuersa loca proclamari tornea-menta, ut sub tali pretextu colligerent quos sibi necessarios esse,^f et

^a requiretur *R*; requireretur *St*, *Den-Y* ^b regem *MS*; *poss. fore understood He*; regnum *St*, *Den-Y* ^c *sic MS*; primate *He*, *St*, *Den-Y* ^d quid *MS*; quidem *He*, *St*, *Den-Y* ^e *He read inicio in MS and suggested inicio*; in uicio *St*, *Den-Y* ^f *sic MS*; *poss. existimarunt understood He*

⁷⁴ Winchelsey and the bishops met the magnates in London on 13 Mar. 1312. No record of Gaveston's excommunication survives, but at the provincial council in May a

sounded out and asked about keeping faith with Piers and the terms 1312 of peace; when, too, many offers were made to him, and finally the kingdom of Scotland itself was offered to Lord Robert freely and for ever, he is said to have replied to the king's message in this manner: 'How shall the king of England keep faith with me, since he does not keep the sworn promises made to his liege men, whose homage and fealty he has received, and with whom he is bound in return to keep faith? No trust can be put in such a fickle man: his promise will not deceive me.' Thus was the king's hope shattered, thus the king's promises were mocked.

When the earls had heard and knew for certain that Piers had returned, realizing that the ordinance which they had made concerning him would not be enforced, they met together with their primate Robert, archbishop of Canterbury. And the primate, as he was passionate in spirit and eager for the peace of the realm, seized his sword and struck Piers with anathema, so that with the sentence having been made public he should be excluded from grace;⁷⁴ for he who is bound in due form is seldom effective in action. And the barons for their part worked no less to find a remedy; they were chiefly concerned with the defence of the Ordinances, and the following earls were likewise bound by a mutual oath: Thomas, earl of Lancaster, Aymer, earl of Pembroke, Humphrey, earl of Hereford, Edmund, earl of Arundel, and Guy, earl of Warwick. These five earls, active soldiers, of famous families, and surrounded by a strong force of men-at-arms, took counsel together about the capture of Piers. What, however, was decreed in that council or what traps they laid for Piers was long kept secret; but what had been done there later became clear; and, indeed, that their plan was thus kept concealed was done shrewdly and with foresight, lest knowledge of their intentions should keep him safe in his crime. So the earls separated from one another, each going his own way, and the earl of Gloucester, although he was not a partner in this plan, nevertheless promised that he would approve whatever the earls did, whatever they should arrange in this enterprise. The earl of Lancaster betook himself to the North, and the other earls, lest the country should be terrified by the sight of arms, had tournaments proclaimed in different places, so that under cover of such a pretext they might gather those who were necessary to

decision was made to issue a general excommunication of all those who disturbed the peace of the realm (Denton, *Winchelsey*, pp. 265-7; Wright, *Reynolds*, p. 350). Gaveston would have been covered by this.

1312 sic mouerunt se de loco ad locum donec transirent Eboracum, et comes Lancastrie circa solis occasum aggressus est iter suum. Sic Thomas de nocte uolat, sub luce moratur, ut lateat, modicum cursum ne fama loquatur; et hac cautela nisus^a ad Nouum Castrum subito uenit et inprouisus,⁷⁵ ubi^b dextrarii et magni caballi ipsius Petri uel uerius domini regis morabantur. Erat eciam ibidem copiosa multitudo armorum, in quibus erat fiducia^c Petri defendendi et resistendi se. Set hec omnia cepit comes, et custodibus eiectis suis hominibus et hec omnia custodienda mandauit, ut^d regis erant, fideliter restituerentur et regi.

Accidit itaque modicum post hec ut dominus rex et Petrus ab inuicem separarentur; unus apud Scardeburghe, alter apud Knaresbrugg morabatur.⁷⁶ Quod cum perpendisset comes Lancastrie, disposuit se in medio esse, ne unus ad alterum posset habere regressum, et ceteri comitum interim obsiderent Petrum. Cum igitur uideret Petrus obsidionem iam ceptam, auxilium regis interceptum, castrum uictualibus destitutum et socios minus sufficientes ad bellum, misit ad comitem Penbrokie se reddere uolens sub condicione; et erat condicio hec uidelicet quod dictus comes Petrum usque ad gulam Augusti seruaret illesum, et, si placeret ei quod interim comites disponerent, bene quidem; sin autem, restitueretur in pristinum statum, scilicet ad castrum unde exierat et ad sororem quam prius relinquerat.^{e 77}

Comes autem de hac capcione gauisus, sociis inconsultis, immo ex proprio capite sumpto consilio, cepit Petrum, et placuit condicio, et ad Petrum seruandum sub forma predicta obligauit regi terras et tenementa.⁷⁸ Nam et huius rex conscius erat, quia de consilio regis res ipsa prodierat; sperauit enim ante predictum terminum sufficiens prestare Petro subsidium: quia si Petrus exspectasset Augustum, ad libitum, ut dicitur, rediisset arbitrium. Nam papa et rex Francie ordinassent remedium, quia rex Anglie donasset Wasconiam eis in feodum.

Comes igitur Adolmarus cum uincolato suo Petro recessit a borea,

^a uisus R; nisus St, Den-Y ^b nisi R; ubi St, Den-Y ^c fiducia MS; fiducia He, St, Den-Y ^d sic MS; que supplied after ut Den-Y ^e sic MS; reliquerat He, St, Den-Y

⁷⁵ He arrived on 4 May 1312 (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 343).

⁷⁶ Edward had arrived at Scarborough by sea on 10 May (*Brid.*, p. 42); by 14 May he was at Knaresborough and by 19 May at York (*Itin.*, p. 85). By 17 May the siege of Scarborough had begun (*CCR 1307-13*, p. 460).

⁷⁷ Probably Amy de Gabaston, who stayed in England to serve first Queen Isabella, then Edward III's wife, Queen Phillippa (Hamilton, *Gaveston*, p. 102).

1312 them; and thus they moved from place to place until they passed York, and about sunset the earl of Lancaster set out on his way. Thus Thomas flies by night and hides by day so as to remain unknown, lest rumour divulge his slow progress; and relying on this cautious procedure he came suddenly and unexpectedly to Newcastle,⁷⁵ where the war-horses and great riding-horses of the said Piers, or rather of the lord king, were stabled. There was also a large supply of arms there, in which lay Piers's confidence that he could resist and defend himself. But the earl took all these, and, having thrown out the guards, ordered his own men to guard all these things, since they belonged to the king and should be faithfully restored to the king.

Shortly after this it happened that the lord king and Piers were separated from one another; one stayed at Scarborough, the other at Knaresborough.⁷⁶ When the earl of Lancaster had considered this carefully, he took up his position in between them, so that the one could not fall back upon the other, and meanwhile the other earls should besiege Piers. When Piers saw that the siege had begun, help from the king was cut off, the castle was without food, and his supporters were too few to give battle, he sent to the earl of Pembroke, wishing to surrender conditionally; the condition was this, namely that the said earl should keep Piers unharmed till the first of August, and if he agreed to what the earls in the meantime decided, well and good; if not he should be restored to his former state, namely to the castle from which he had moved out, and to the sister whom he had previously left.⁷⁷

The earl was delighted by this capture and without consulting his fellows, on the contrary on his own initiative, he took Piers and accepted the condition, and pledged his lands and tenements to the king under the said form for Piers's safety.⁷⁸ Now the king knew of this, because the suggestion had been put forward at the king's instigation; for he hoped to give Piers adequate support before the said deadline: because if Piers could have held out until August, he would have recovered, it is said, his personal freedom. For the pope and the king of France would have arranged a remedy, because the king of England would have given them Gascony in fee.

Therefore Earl Aymer left the North with Piers as his prisoner,

⁷⁸ Piers surrendered on 19 May 1312. The deadline of 1 Aug. and the pledge of property are accurately reported. Pembroke's biographer thinks it unlikely that Pembroke failed to inform the other lords (Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 33 and n., 34).

¹³¹² ad Angliam^a tendens interiora, et cum circiter quinque dietas uel amplius peregrisset, tandem in comitatum^b Northamptonensem deueniens, uocato Petro dixit, 'Fatigatus es ex itinere, et opus esset tibi recreacione; est autem hic iuxta uilla modica, locus amenus et ampla edificia. Ego uero quedam^c negocia ad tempus recedam; ibidem morare donec ueniam.' Et Petrus quod comes optulit gratanter accepit; et misit eum ad dictam uillam cum custodia;⁷⁹ set non uidit comes Petrum amplius in Anglia.

Cum autem didicisset comes Warewykye omnia que agebantur circa Petrum, accepta manu ualida, accita eciam tota patria, clam tendit ad locum ubi cognouit esse Petrum, et ualde mane una sabbatorum⁸⁰ ueniens ad uillam intrauit portam curie et circumdedit cameram. Exclamauit autem comes uoce magna, 'Surge proditor, captus es'. Et Petrus audiens comitem, uidens eciam manum comitis superiorem et custodiam cui deputatus (erat)^d non resistentem, induens uestimenta sua descendit de camera. Capitur igitur Petrus et non sicut comes, immo sicut latro, producitur; et qui solebat palfridos ascendere iam pedes cogitur ire.

Cum autem transissent a uilla ad modicum, iussit comes preberi Petro iumentum ut eo uelocius maturaret iter suum. Et^e Petrum sequebantur cornua tonancia, populus clamans et uox horrida. Iam Petrus deposuit cingulum milicie, sicut fur et proditor tendit Warewykye, et ibidem ueniens mittitur in carcerem. Modo suis uinculis Petrum subiugauit quem canem Warewyk Petrus appellauit.⁸¹

Et Petrus quidem seruabatur in carcere, oratio autem fiebat sine dilacione ab Adolmaro comite ad barones pro eo.⁸² Statim enim ut cognouit captum esse Petrum, accessit ad comitem Glouernie plorans et orans quatinus iniuriam sibi illatam uindicaret, et Petrum omnimodo sibi restitueret. Addidit eciam quod, nisi comes succurreret, obprobrium sempiternum subiret, et terras quas obligauerat amitteret. Et comes Glouernie ita fertur respondisse, 'Domine comes, iniuria tibi illata comiti Guydoni non est imputanda. Quod enim fecit, consilio et auxilio nostro fecit; et si, ut tu dicis, terras tuas obligasti, ipsas utique perdidisti. Nichil ergo ulterioris restat consilii nisi ut

^a Angliam MS; Anglie He, St, Den-Y ^b comitatu MS; comitatum He, St, Den-Y
^c circa supplied before quedam He, St, Den-Y ^d deputatus R; deputatur Den-Y; erat supplied ed. ^e et et MS; et om. He, St, Den-Y

⁷⁹ Piers was lodged at Deddington, Oxfordshire, while Pembroke went to his manor at Bampton, Oxfordshire, to visit his wife (*Ann. Lond.*, p. 206).

and made for the heart of England, and when he had gone about five days' journey or more, coming at length to the county of Northampton, he sent for Piers and said, 'You are tired from the journey, and need rest; there is a small village near here, a pleasant place with ample lodgings. I am going off on certain business for a time; stay there till I come.' Piers gratefully accepted the earl's offer; and he sent him to the said village under guard;⁷⁹ but the earl never saw Piers again in England.

When the earl of Warwick had learned all that was happening about Piers, he took a strong force, raised the whole countryside, and secretly approached the place where he knew Piers to be. Coming to the village very early in the morning one Saturday⁸⁰ he entered the gate of the courtyard and surrounded the chamber. Then the earl called out in a loud voice: 'Arise traitor, thou art taken.' And Piers, hearing the earl, also seeing the earl's superior force and that the guard to which he had been allotted was not resisting, putting on his clothes came down from the chamber. In this fashion Piers is taken and is led forth not as an earl but as a thief; and he who used to ride palfreys is now forced to go on foot.

When they had left the village a little behind, the earl ordered Piers to be given a mare so that their journey might proceed more quickly. Blaring trumpets, yelling people, and savage shouting followed Piers. Now Piers has laid aside his belt of knighthood, he travels to Warwick like a thief and a traitor, and coming there he is thrown into prison. He whom Piers called Warwick the Dog⁸¹ has now bound Piers with his chains.

Piers therefore was kept in prison, but prayer was made without delay by Earl Aymer unto the barons for him.⁸² For as soon as he knew that Piers had been captured he approached the earl of Gloucester, beseeching him with tears to vindicate the wrong that had been done to him, and at all costs to restore Piers to him. He also added that, unless the earl would help, he would suffer eternal disgrace, and lose the lands which he had pledged. The earl of Gloucester is said to have replied thus: 'My lord earl, the wrong done to you is not to be blamed on Earl Guy. For he did what he did with our support and counsel; and if, as you say, you have pledged your lands, you have lost them anyhow. It only remains to advise you to

⁸⁰ Cf. Mark 16: 2; Piers was seized on Saturday 10 June 1311 (*Ann. Lond.*, p. 206).

⁸¹ For Piers's nicknames for the barons, see above, pp. 16-17.

⁸² Cf. Acts 12: 5.

1312 *discas alias cautius negociari.* Comes autem, ut uidit preces suas sic esse repulsas, confusus abcessit^a et uenit apud Oxoniam. Congregate uniuersitati clericorum ostendit causam suam, et transcriptum obligationis legi fecit coram omnibus clericis et burgensibus similiter adunatis. Deposuit querelam suam coram eis, ut uel sic ad recuperandum Petrum consilium communicarent et auxilium, uel ut iusticiam suam ostenderet ne quis forsan de se aliter presumeret. Habebatur enim apud quosdam suspectus, quasi in capcione Petri tam durum peccatum dolo confirmasset, ut Petrum facilius morti traderet quem longa obsidione forsan non cepisset. Set nec clerici nec burgenses rem ad se non pertinentem tractare uel attemptare curabant.⁸³

Altera autem die non longe post capcionem Petri, reliqui comites Warewykye conueniunt, et de morte Petri tractantes sic tandem diffiniunt, quod propter affinitatem comitis Glouernie nec ut fur suspenderetur nec ut proditor protraheretur, set sicut nobilis et ciuis Romanus capitalem penam pateretur.⁸⁴ Comes autem Warewykye acutum nuncium emisit ad Petrum, mandans ei ut consuleret anime sue, quia hec foret dies ultima quam uisurus esset in terra. Et nuncius accelerans mandatum statim accessit ad Petrum: 'Consule,' inquit, 'tibi, domine, quia morte morieris hac die.'⁸⁵ Et Petrus, ubi nomen mortis audiuit, modicum suspirans ingemuit:^b 'O,' inquit, 'ubi sunt dona mea quibus tot familiares amicos acquisiueram,^c et quibus potestatem sufficientem habuisse putaueram? Vbi sunt amici mei, in quibus erat fiducia^d mea,⁸⁶ corporis tutela et tota salutis substancia; quorum iuuentus ualida, probitas inuicta et uirtus ad ardua semper accensa; qui eciam in bello pro me stare, carcerem intrare, et mortem promiserant non uitare? Certe superbia mea, elacio quam nutriuit eorum una promissio, regis fauor et regis curia, duxerunt me in hec tedia. Non habeo subsidium, uacat omne remedium, fiat uoluntas comitum.'⁸⁷

^a sic R; abcessit St, Den-Y ^b ingenuit R; ingemuit St, Den-Y ^c acquisieram R; acquisiueram ed. ^d fudicia MS; fiducia He, St, Den-Y

⁸³ This is the fullest description of Pembroke's distress at Gaveston's seizure; he promptly and unequivocally returned to support the king (Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 36-7).

⁸⁴ To a Roman citizen capital punishment meant simply death, or the civil death of loss of citizenship, but that the author of the *Vita* is implying beheading is plain from his reference to nobility, and the contrast with hanging and drawing. The relationship of these three is made clear later at the execution of Lancaster (below, pp. 212-13), where *protrahere* and *suspendere* are clearly contrasted with *capite truncare*. Whether the author believed that the execution method for Roman citizens was beheading (as it had been for

learn another time to negotiate more cautiously.' When the earl saw that his prayers were thus rejected, he departed in confusion and came to Oxford. He explained his cause to the assembled university of clerks, and had a copy of his pledge read out before all the clerks and burgesses similarly meeting together. He laid his plea before them, either so that they might lend their aid and counsel in recovering Piers, or so that he might show the justice of his cause in case anyone perhaps should think otherwise. For he was suspected by some, in taking Piers, of having deceitfully abetted so harsh a crime in order to hand Piers over to death more easily, when perhaps he would not have captured him by a lengthy siege. But neither the clerks nor the burgesses cared to take up or discuss a matter that did not concern them.⁸³

On a day not long after the capture of Piers, the remaining earls met at Warwick, and after discussing Piers's death they finally decided that on account of his kinship with the earl of Gloucester he should not be hanged as a thief nor drawn as a traitor, but should suffer capital punishment as a nobleman and a Roman citizen would.⁸⁴ The earl of Warwick sent a sharp-tongued messenger to Piers, telling him to look to his soul, because this was the last day that he would see on earth. And the messenger, hastening with his message, immediately he reached Piers, said: 'Look to yourself, my lord, for this day you shall die the death.'⁸⁵ And Piers when he heard the word death, sighing a little, groaned: 'Oh!', he said, 'where are my gifts through which I had acquired so many close friends, and with which I had thought to have sufficient power? Where are my friends, in whom was my trust,⁸⁶ the protection of my body, and my whole hope of safety; whose vigorous youth, unbeaten valour, and courage was always on fire for hard tasks; who had promised, furthermore, to stand by me in war, to suffer imprisonment, and not to shun death? Assuredly, my pride, the arrogance that one single promise of theirs has nourished, the king's favour and the king's court have brought me to this loathsome position. I have no help, every remedy is vain, let the earls' will be done.'⁸⁷

St Paul), or was enjoying a moment of wordplay around *capitalis*, is unclear. He appears to play with the word *caput* in *capitolium* later (see below, pp. 214-15). I am indebted to Mr Ian Moxon for a discussion on this passage.

⁸⁵ Exod. 21: 17; Matt. 15: 4.

⁸⁶ Cf. Deut. 32: 37.

⁸⁷ This echoes the words of the Lord's Prayer, *fiat uoluntas tua* (Legg, *Sarum Missal*, p. 216).

¹³¹² Circa hora terciam⁸⁸ educitur Petrus de carcere; et comes de Warewyk Petrum uincolatum reliquit comiti Lancastrie, et Petrus, ut comitem illum uidit, procidens in terram orauit dicens, 'Generose comes, miserere mei.' Et comes, 'Tolle,' inquit, 'tolle eum, per Deum perducetur.' Et qui uiderunt lacrimas continere non potuerunt. Quis enim continere se posset cum uideret Petrum, nuper gloriose^a militantem, nunc autem misericordiam in tam flebili fine petentem? Eductus Petrus de castro properauit ad locum ubi passurus erat supplicium; et ceteri comites sequebantur a longe ut uiderent finem,⁸⁹ nisi quod comes Guydo remansit in castro suo.

Cum autem uenissent ad locum qui Blakelowe dicitur,⁹⁰ pertinens ad comitem Lancastrie, missus quidam a comitis latere iussit Petrum in predicto loco remanere; et statim iussu comitis traditus est Walensibus duobus, de quibus transfodit^b hic corpus, amputauit ille^c caput. Et nunciatum est comiti quod res sic se haberet.^d Ille autem non credidit donec caput ipse uideret; et post rem sic consummatam reuersi sunt comites in uiam suam. Fratres autem Iacobini⁹¹ collegerunt^e Petrum, et caput corpori consuentes detulerunt illud Oxoniam; set quia innodatus erat sententia, non sunt ausi sepelire corpus in ecclesia. Exitus hic Petri qui, dum conscendit in altum,

labitur in nichilum qui fuit ante nichil.⁹²

Ecce Petrus nuper in aula regis ceteris nobilior, nunc propter inportunitatem sui gestus iussu comitis Lancastrie iacet decolatus.^f Videant amodo curiales Anglici ne, de regio fauore confisi, barones despiciant. Sunt enim membrum regis principale,⁹³ sine quo nil grande poterit rex aggredi uel consummare. Ergo qui barones paruipendunt, regem utique contempnunt et lese magestatis se reos ostendunt.

Set quare iussu comitis Lancastrie occiditur Petrus magis quam aliorum comitum, dubitabit aliquis in posterum. Sciat autem in

^a gloriosa MS; gloriose He, St, Den-Y ^b sic MS; poss. confodit He ^c illos MS; ille He, St, Den-Y ^d habere MS; haberet He, St, Den-Y ^e colligerunt MS; collegerunt He, St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; decollatus He, St

⁸⁸ On 19 June 1312 (HBC, p. 456).

⁸⁹ Matt. 26: 58.

⁹⁰ This is Blacklow Hill, about two miles north of Warwick Castle towards Kenilworth. A memorial, 'Gaveston's Cross', stands at OS SP 289 675.

⁹¹ The Dominicans were known as Jacobins from the name of their first house in Paris, the Hospital of St Jacques (St James) (Du Cange, *Glossarium*, under 'Jacobini').

⁹² This sentence cannot be traced through *PL*, the Vulgate, or Walther's *Initia* and

About the third hour⁸⁸ Piers was led out from prison; and the earl ¹³¹² of Warwick handed Piers over bound to the earl of Lancaster, and Piers, when he saw the earl, cast himself on the ground and pleaded, saying, 'Noble earl, have mercy on me.' And the earl said 'Lift him up, lift him up. In God's name let him be taken away.' And the onlookers could not hold back their tears. For who could contain himself on seeing Piers, lately in his martial glory, now seeking mercy in such lamentable straits. Piers was led out from the castle and went quickly to the place where he was to suffer the last penalty; and the other earls followed afar off that they might see the end,⁸⁹ except that Earl Guy remained in his castle.

When they had come to a place called Blacklow,⁹⁰ which belonged to the earl of Lancaster, an envoy from the earl ordered that Piers should stay there; and immediately by the earl's command he was handed over to two Welshmen, one of whom ran him through the body and the other cut off his head. It was announced to the earl that thus it had been done. He, however, did not believe it until he had seen the head himself; and after the business had been thus dispatched the earls again went their ways. The Dominican Friars,⁹¹ however, gathered up Piers, and, sewing the head to the body, they carried it to Oxford; but because he was excommunicate they dared not bury the body in church. Such Piers's end, who, climbing up too high,

Crashed into nothingness from whence he came.⁹²

See how Piers, recently more celebrated than the rest in the king's hall, now for his insolent behaviour lies beheaded by order of the earl of Lancaster. Let English courtiers henceforth beware lest, trusting in the royal favour, they look down upon the barons. For they are the king's chief member,⁹³ without which the king cannot attempt or accomplish anything of importance. Therefore those who belittle the barons without doubt despise the king and show themselves guilty of treason.

But someone in future will be unsure why Piers was killed by order of the earl of Lancaster rather than of the other earls. However, he

Proverbia, but it is also used by Murimuth (about the abortive popular crusade of 1320): 'vertitur in nihilum, quod fuit ante nihil' (*Murimuth*, p. 32).

⁹³ The image of the body politic with the king as the head and various groups as the organs and limbs of the body was well developed at this time. A full elaboration of the image is found in John of Salisbury's *Policraticus*, v-vi.

1312 occisione Petri comites Anglie arduum negocium assumpsisse, nec diebus nostris aliquando simile contigisse. Occiderunt enim magnum comitem quem rex adoptauerat in fratrem, quem rex dilexit ut filium, quem rex habuit in socium et amicum. Opus ergo erat ut ille magnus esset qui tale factum defenderet. Vnde Thomas comes Lancastrie, sicut omnibus generosior, ita et ceteris potencior, periculum huius rei in se assumpsit, et Petrum post tria exilia, quasi post tres moniciones legitimas, non obtemperantem, occidi mandauit.

Hic comes Thomas dominum regem in secundo gradu consanguinitatis contingebat, utpote qui ex duobus fratribus qui primum faciunt gradum descendebant, ex rege scilicet Edwardo seniore et fratre eius Edmundo comite Lancastrie. Mater eius erat regina Nauarie, et soror eius regina Francie, et filia sororis sue regina nunc est Anglie.⁹⁴ Sic utroque parente regio habens natales generosior apparet quam ceteri comites. Per uires patrimonii potenciam eius attendere potes. Habebat enim quinque comitatus in Anglia, uidelicet comitatum Lancastrie, Leycestrie, et comitatum de Ferers ex parte patris; comitatum Lyncolnie et Saresburie ex parte uxoris. Ecce dominacio tot comitatum olim nobilium redigitur in unum. Potest nunc solus Thomas quod aliquando comes Edmundus, dominus de Longespée, dominus de Lacy, et dominus de Ferers singillatim potuerunt.⁹⁵ Nec credo ducem uel comitem, sub imperio Romano militantem, de terrarum prouentibus tantum facere posse quantum Thomas comes Lancastrie.

Post consummacionem Petri, cum uox publica mortem eius auribus singulorum inculcasset, letata est terra, gauisi sunt omnes habitantes in ea. Confidenter dicam mortem unius hominis, nisi grauasset rem publicam, nunquam antea tot et tantis gratanter acceptam. Gaudet terra, gaudent incole, Petro mortuo pacem inuenisse: soli familiares eius, et maxime quos ipse promouerat, mortem domini sui egre ferebant. Nam multa multis contulit, de stabulo ad cameram quosdam ascendere fecit, de quibus quidam militant qui

⁹⁴ His mother, Blanche, married first Henry, king of Navarre, then Edmund of Lancaster, Thomas's father. Joan, Blanche's daughter by the first marriage and thus Thomas's half-sister, married Philip IV of France. Their daughter Isabella, Thomas's niece, married Edward II (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 2–3).

⁹⁵ Earl Edmund was Edmund 'Crouchback', youngest son of King Henry III, earl of Leicester 1265–96 and earl of Lancaster 1267–96 (and thus Thomas's father) (*HBC*, pp. 468–9). William Longespée, illegitimate son of Henry II, married Isabel, heiress to the earldom of Salisbury, and was styled earl of Salisbury (1197–1226). Neither his son William II (d. 1249) nor his grandson William III (d. 1257) inherited the title of earl of Salisbury as Isabel outlived them both, and they were known as Lords Longespée. The

1312 should understand that in killing Piers the earls of England had undertaken a difficult task, unlike anything that has ever happened in our time. For they put to death a great earl, whom the king had adopted as a brother, whom the king cherished as son, whom the king regarded as a companion and friend. Therefore it was necessary for the one who should prosecute such a deed to be great. Hence Thomas, earl of Lancaster, being of higher birth than all the others and so more powerful than the rest, took upon himself the risk of this business, and ordered Piers, after three terms of exile, as one disobedient to three lawful warnings, to be put to death.

This Earl Thomas was related to the lord king in the second degree of kinship, for they were descended from two brothers in the first degree, namely from the elder King Edward and his brother Edmund, earl of Lancaster. His mother was queen of Navarre, his sister queen of France, and his sister's daughter is now queen of England.⁹⁴ As each parent was of royal birth he is clearly of nobler descent than the other earls. You may assess his power by the size of his patrimony. For he had five earldoms in England, namely the earldoms of Lancaster, Leicester, and Ferrers from his father, and the earldoms of Lincoln and Salisbury from his wife. See how the lordship of so many noble earldoms is now reduced to one. Now Thomas alone can do as much as formerly Earl Edmund, Lord Longespée, Lord Lacy, and Lord Ferrers, each singly, could do.⁹⁵ I do not believe that any militarily active duke or count under the Roman empire could do as much from the profits of his lands as Thomas earl of Lancaster.

After Piers's end, when the voice of the people had dinned his death into everyone's ears, the country rejoiced, and all its inhabitants were glad. I may say with confidence that the death of one man, unless he had oppressed the state, had never before been accepted with joy by so many. The land rejoices, its inhabitants rejoice that they have found peace in Piers's death: only his household, and particularly those whom he had promoted, bore the death of their lord with grief. For many owed much to him; he

Salisbury title and lands were brought to the Lacy family by William III's only daughter and heiress, who married Henry Lacy in 1256 and inherited the title on the death of her great-grandmother Isabel in 1261 (*CP*, xi. 375–85; *HBC*, p. 481). Lord Lacy was this same Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln 1272–1311, Thomas's father-in-law (*HBC*, p. 470). Lord Ferrers was Robert Ferrers, the last of the Ferrers earls of Derby, 1260–6; he forfeited his lands and title in 1266 for opposing Henry III; the title and lands were given to Edmund of Lancaster, Thomas's father (*HBC*, p. 458).

1312 nunquam militasse decreuerant; et ut paucis multa concludam, de causa Petri gaudent omnes inimici, atque dolent pauci nisi qui sunt eius amici.

Post tres pluresue dies conueniunt Wygornie predicti comites,⁹⁶ ut de predictis tractarent et aduersus futura consulerent. Sciebant enim quod, cum res in regis ueniret noticiam, tanquam ob illatam sibi iniuriam, si liceret ei, procederet ad uindictam. Iccirco caute et prouide inter eos prospectum est, quod, si processum eorum iure tenere^a non possent, saltem se et sua armorum suffragiis unanimiter defenderent. Nam uim ui repellere lege permittitur, et quod quis ob tutelam sui fecerit, iure fecisse uidetur.⁹⁷

Postquam notificatum est autem regi quod mortuus est Petrus, contristatus ualde condoluit, et post modicum astantibus dixit: 'Per animam Dei, ut fatuus egit. Nam de consilio meo ad manus comitum nunquam peruenit. Hoc^b est quod semper inhibui. Nam et que nunc facta sunt prius quam fierent excogitauit. Quid sibi fuit de comite de Warewyk, quem constat Petrum nunquam dilexisse? Sciebam certe quod, si eum apprehenderet, de manibus eius nunquam euaderet.' Hoc uerbum regis leniter^c prolatum, cum tandem deueniret in publicum, plures excitauit (ad)^d risum. Set certus sum regem ita doluisse de Petro, sicut aliquando dolet pater de filio. Nam quanto magis procedit dileccio, tanto magis dolet infortunio. In planctu^e Dauid super Ionatan amor ostenditur, quem dicitur super amorem mulierum dilexisse.⁹⁸ Fatetur et sic rex noster; superaddit quod^f mortem Petri uindicare disposuit. Nam accitis consiliariis suis querit consilium quid super istis foret agendum, ratum tamen habens propositum illos destruere qui occiderunt Petrum.^g Et erat cum rege comes Penbrokye, cuius intererat^h comites debellare, et dominus Hugo deⁱ Despenser apud regem latuit,⁹⁹ qui plus quam Petrus forte demeruit. Henricus de Beaumont adhuc est in curia, qui

^a teneri MS; tueri or tenere He; tueri St, Den-Y ^b hec MS; hoc He, St, Den-Y
^c sic R; leuiter St, Den-Y ^d om. MS; ad risum or pluribus excitauit risum He; ad risum St, Den-Y
^e plactu MS; planctu He, St, Den-Y ^f dum MS; for quod MW
^g Rex proponit uindictam marginal note in R ^h intereat R; intererat He, St, Den-Y
ⁱ sic R; le St, Den-Y

⁹⁶ On 20 July Edward prohibited assemblies at Worcester, where opposition might be discussed and where obligations might be entered into 'to come and die together'; the prohibition was extended to other places on 24 July (CPR 1307-13, p. 481; CCR 1307-13, p. 540; Foed., ii. 1. 172).

⁹⁷ Dig. ix. 2. 4, ix. 2. 45 (4), Corpus Iuris Civilis, i. 125, 130. The Roman law doctrine of self-defence was well known in the Middle Ages through development by canon lawyers,

promoted some from the stable to the chamber, of whom some serve 1312 as knights who had never thought to have done so; and, to sum up briefly, all enemies rejoice at Piers's end, and few there are to grieve except his friends.

After three or more days the aforesaid earls met at Worcester,⁹⁶ to discuss what had happened and make plans for the future. For they knew that when the matter came to the king's notice, he would, if he could, proceed to take revenge as though for a wrong done to himself. Therefore, they carefully and cautiously made provision among themselves, that if they could not defend their proceedings in law, they could at least, together, entrust themselves and theirs to the judgement of arms. For it is permitted by law to meet force with force, and what anyone may do for his own protection he is deemed to have done lawfully.⁹⁷

When the king was informed that Piers was dead, he was saddened and he grieved very much indeed and after a little while he said to the bystanders: 'By God's soul, he has acted like a fool. If he had taken my advice he would never have fallen into the hands of the earls. This is what I always told him not to do. For I guessed that what has now happened would occur. What was he doing with the earl of Warwick, who was known never to have liked Piers? I knew for certain that if the earl caught him, Piers would never escape from his hands.' When this moderate utterance of the king became public it moved many to derision. But I am certain the king grieved for Piers as a father at any time grieves for his son. For the greater the love, the greater the sorrow. In the lament of David upon Jonathan, love is depicted which is said to have surpassed the love of women.⁹⁸ Our king also spoke like that; and he added that he planned to avenge the death of Piers. For, having summoned his counsellors, he enquired from them what should be done about these things, although he had already decided to destroy those who killed Piers. With the king was the earl of Pembroke, whose interest it was to vanquish the earls; and Sir Hugh Despenser,⁹⁹ who was perhaps even less deserving than Piers, lurked with the king. Henry Beaumont is still at court, though according to the Ordinances he

not only for private defence but as one of the causes of a just war; see F. H. Russell, *The Just War in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 1975), pp. 41-4, 95-8.

⁹⁸ 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 1: 26.

⁹⁹ Hugh Despenser the elder became an increasingly important figure in domestic and foreign affairs after 1312, when Pembroke became dominant (Davies, *Opposition*, pp. 87-8; Phillips, *Pembroke*, p. 52).

1312 iuxta ordinationes recedere debuisse ab illa,¹⁰⁰ Edmundus de Maulee¹⁰¹ et alii milites qui nuper fuerant Petri familiares. Hii siquidem regem instigabant ut ex fidelibus suis exercitum colligeret, et aduersarios suos audacter impeteret. Nam triumphum secure reportaret ex quo pro iure suo legitime tractaret. Addunt etiam infideles uincere non posse, quos constat domino suo fidem non seruare; protestantes a seculo inauditum simile delictum in aliquem regem esse commissum, et cum pro quouis "crimine minori"^a possit satisfieri, crimen lese maiestatis non poterit purgari. Alii uero sanioris consilii, bene scientes futura metiri,^b nullo sensu prebebant assensum, ut rex cum baronibus iniret conflictum. Nam si rex caperetur hoc foret absurdum; nec regi proficeret destruccio^c comitum, maxime cum Robertus de Brutz iam totam Scociam occupauerat, et terram North-umbriorum ad tributum compulerit;¹⁰² plus expediret terram defendere quam terre defensores uelle destruere. Placuit tamen regi prius consilium, quia magis accessit^d ad uotum suum; quod enim iuxta uelle consulitur, frequenter apud homines magis acceptatur. Ad hoc etiam naturaliter regem inducebat indignatio quam contra comites pro morte Petri conceperat; magnanimitas in paucis experta, et suggestio malorum hominum nimis assidua. Nam hii qui post mortem Petri ad regem confugerant, guerram magis quam pacem procurabant. Timebant enim quod, si rex placitis baronum adquiesceret, hoc in dampnum eorum forsitan redundaret. Semper enim trepidat qui sibi conscius exstat.

Certe adulatorum figmenta milites decipiunt et ad finem desperatum frequenter perducunt. Bene cum magnatibus ageretur, si uerum a falso discernerent, si simulaciones a uero iudicio separarent. Set nescio qua deprauacione nature aures diuitum delicate graciosius acceptant mendacis lingue blandicias quam aperte testimonium ueritatis. Nam iuxta poetam,

^{a-a} crimior' MS; crimine He; crimine minori St, Den-Y ^b meturi MS; metiri He, St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; destruccio St, Den-Y ^d secessit MS; poss. se gessit He; accessit ed.

¹⁰⁰ Henry Beaumont, part of a well-connected French family making its way in England, was a staunch royal supporter until the last years of the reign. Through his wife, Alice Comyn (m. 1310), he claimed substantial lands in Scotland, and he was briefly granted the kingdom of Man in 1310 and 1312 (*HBC*, pp. 65, 502). In 1311 he and his sister, Isabella de Vescy, were banished from court and Isabella had to give up Bamburgh Castle (Ordinances, caps. 22, 23; see *SE*, i. 163b, trans. in 'The New Ordinances of 1311', *EHD*, iii. 533-4). Henry, however, remained frequently at court, and their brother, Louis, became bishop of Durham with the support of Queen Isabella. They were the children of

1312 should have left it;¹⁰⁰ [as are] Edmund Mauley,¹⁰¹ and other knights who had been lately in Piers's household. These men urged the king to collect an army from his faithful supporters and boldly attack his enemies. He would surely triumph because he was lawfully striving for his rights. They add that faithless men, who are known not to have kept faith with their lord, cannot be victorious; protesting that for such a crime to have been committed against any king was utterly unheard of, and though satisfaction could be made for any lesser crime, the crime of treason could not be purged. Others, however, of wiser counsel, knowing well how to assess what would happen, would have nothing to do with the proposal that the king should engage in a struggle with the barons. For, if the king was taken captive, this would be absurd; nor would the destruction of the earls benefit the king, particularly since Robert Bruce had now occupied the whole of Scotland, and will have forced all Northumbria to pay tribute;¹⁰² it would be better to defend the land rather than to try to destroy its defenders. The king however, preferred the former counsel, because it was more in accord with his desires; indeed it is frequently more acceptable to advise a man to follow his wishes. Also the anger which he had conceived against the earls on account of Piers's death naturally inclined the king to this view; few people are magnanimous and the suggestions of evil men are ever with us. For those who had fled to the king on Piers's death were looking for war rather than peace. For they feared that if the king agreed to the baronial pleas, this might perhaps redound to their loss. He is always fearful who is thinking of himself.

In truth, the imaginings of flatterers deceive soldiers and frequently lead them to a hopeless end. It would go well with great men if they could distinguish truth from falsehood, if they could separate pretence from sound judgement. But I do not know by what perversion of nature the tender ears of the rich more readily receive the flatteries of a lying tongue than the candid testimony of truth. As the poet says,

Louis de Brienne, vicomte of Beaumont in Maine, grandchildren of Jean de Brienne, who had been king of Jerusalem and Latin emperor of Constantinople (*CP*, ii. 59-60).

¹⁰¹ Edmund Mauley was a constant royal supporter, and not unacceptable to the baronial opposition since he was given grants with their approval in the early period of the Ordinances (*Ann. Lond.*, p. 198). He was steward of the household c.28 Dec. 1310 until his death at Bannockburn, 24 June 1314, apart from three months in the winter of 1312-13, when he had to answer accusations of forgery (*Tout, Ed. II*, p. 314).

¹⁰² The tribute paid on several occasions in this period by the inhabitants of North-umberland was the price of a truce with the Scots; the Lanercost chronicler notes at least three tributes paid between 1311 and 1314 (McNamee, *Wars*, pp. 131-2). The *Vita* refers to the system again below, pp. 82-3, 176-7.

Cum quis adulator facilem placauerit^a aurem,¹⁰³
Continuo cunctos superat cum uera loquentur.

Huius pestis detestanda frequentia hodie nimis regnat in curia.

Rex igitur noster in ulcionem Petri quosdam de baronibus impugnare proponit; nam comitem Warewyk aut capite priuabit aut bonis confiscatis perpetuo deportabit. Milites uocat ad arma, milites conducit in castra, forestarios et sagittarios congregat, pedites in expeditionem pugne uenire procurat.

Interim autem barones et comites ad parlamentum suum publico citauit edicto.¹⁰⁴ Ipsi uero, proprie salutis non inmemores, ad parendum regis mandato hoc modo se preparant. Comes Lancastrie mille loricated, mille et quingentos pedites secum adduxit. Comitum Herfordie turba Wallensium uallata, siluestris et fera, non erat uilis nec modica. Comes Warewyke homines suos de Arderne animosos ualde preparanter^b mandauit adesse, et ceteri barones qui erant ex parte comitum, unusquisque pro posse suo communem uallauit exercitum, et sic profecti sunt ad parlamentum. Venientes autem^c Londonias non statim accesserunt ad regem, set nuncios suos prouide miserunt, qui aduentum eorum domino regi nunciarent et causam uocationis humiliter inquirerent.

Cum ergo didicisset rex aduentum comitum et formam aduentus eorum, consilium suum conuocat ut instans negocium consulte disponat; uolens eciam inquirere an cum comitibus expediret congregari, uincere sperarent necne.^d Quidam uero, quibus de uiribus utriusque partis iam liquide constabat, conflictum ad presens penitus dissuadebant. Nam quicquid de rege accideret, pars regis sine dubio periret, cum regis^e exercitum pars aduersa in duplo superaret; et hoc forsitan ad terrorem dicebant, quia pacem bello preferre uolebant. Et erant eodem tempore cum rege Lodowycus frater regis Francie et quidam cardinalis qui secum uenerat de partibus transmarinis.¹⁰⁵ Hi omnem opem et operam concordiam formandi cotidie inhibebant.^f

^a placuerit *MS*; placauerit *He, St, Den-Y* ^b sic *R*; properanter *St, Den-Y* ^c *He* read sunt (*poss. reading sut for aut*) and suggested deletion; autem *St, Den-Y* ^d *He* read unde .c. and noted .c. as redundant; necne *St, Den-Y* ^e rege *MS*; regis *He, St, Den-Y* ^f sic *R*; *poss. for* adhibebant *Den-Y*

¹⁰³ Cf. *Juv. Sat. iii. 122* (*nam cum facilem stillauit in aurem*) for the first line of the verse. The quotation also appears in John of Salisbury's *Policraticus* (*PL* cxcix. 486c); and in Peter of Blois, *Ep. lix* (*PL* ccvii. 178) together with the second line found here (*continuo cunctos adigit, qui uera loquentur*). I am grateful to Dr J. Binns for the reference to Peter of Blois.

¹⁰⁴ Parliament was summoned for 23 July at Lincoln. It is not clear what force *publico edicto* might have: the lords were called by individual writ as usual (*PW*, ii. 2, 72–6). The difficulties

When a flatterer soothes the attentive ear¹⁰³
At once he conquers all who speak the truth.

This pest predominates at court with deplorable frequency today.

Thus our king proposes to attack certain of the barons out of revenge for Piers; for he will either have the earl of Warwick's head, or having confiscated his goods he will banish him for ever. He summons the knights to arms, garrisons his castles, gathers his foresters and archers, sends for infantry ready to campaign.

Meanwhile he called the earls and barons to his parliament by public edict.¹⁰⁴ They in truth, not unmindful of their own safety, prepared to obey the king's command in this way. The earl of Lancaster brought with him a thousand men-at-arms and fifteen hundred foot. The retinue of the earl of Hereford, strengthened by a crowd of Welsh, wild men from the woodlands, was neither poor nor mean. The earl of Warwick summoned his stout-hearted men from Arden to come in all readiness, and the other barons who were on the side of the earls, each according to his means, contributed to the common army, and so they set out for parliament. When they reached London, however, they did not immediately approach the king, but wisely sent their messengers, who announced their arrival to the lord king and humbly enquired the cause of summons.

Consequently, when the king learned of the arrival of the earls and the way in which they had come, he called together his council so as to dispatch the immediate business by their advice; he also wished to enquire whether it was practical for him to attack the earls; did they expect him to win, or not? Some, indeed, who knew clearly the strength of either side, advised strongly against fighting at present. For whatever happened to the king, the king's party would undoubtedly be destroyed, since his adversaries had an army double the size of his; they said this, perhaps, to cause alarm, because they preferred peace to war. At that same time there were with the king, Louis, brother of the king of France, and a certain cardinal who had come with him from abroad.¹⁰⁵ These used all their strength and effort every day to bring about an agreement.

of the period are reflected in the postponement of the parliament to 20 Aug. at Westminster; then in the first dismissal of the commons on 28 Aug; their resummoning for 30 Sept.; and their final dismissal on 16 Dec. (*HBC*, p. 553). The author explains the essence of the arguments on both sides very well, but gives little sense of the complex chronology of meetings and negotiations. These are clearly set out in Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 135–51.

¹⁰⁵ Louis of Evreux, brother of Philip IV of France and the queen's uncle, arrived in London on 13 Sept. 1312 (*Ann. Paul.*, p. 272). There were two cardinals in England in the

1312 Comes autem Gloucestrie mediatoris partes sustinuit, et regem de pace et concordia erga barones suos habenda frequenter conuenit: 'Amici tui sunt,' inquit comes, 'quos inimicos uocas. Amici tui sunt quos imprudenter expungnas. In commodum tuum cedit quicquid faciunt. Pro commodo tuo multa satis expendunt. Rex, si barones tuos destruis, honorem tuum certe contempnis. Nec tamen hoc pati tenentur, nec in aliquo delinquant si propria iura tuentur.' Et rex comiti sic respondit: 'Non est qui uicem meam doleat;¹⁰⁶ non est qui pro iure meo aduersus istos contendat. Tu uero, nepos meus et dux meus et notus meus, auunculum tuum deseris, et aduersariis eius amicum te facis. Protestor amicos meos non esse qui res meas et ius meum nituntur expungnare. Si michi iure regio sicut aliis regibus uti liceret, non hominem exulatum ex quacunque causa de regia potestate ad pacem possem reuocare? Hoc iure propria sua auctoritate me priuarunt, nam cui pacem concesseram crudeliter necarunt. Et comes Lancastrie michi proximus agnatus, cui possent sufficere quinque comitatus licet aliena non raperet, apud Nouum Castrum homines meos inuasit et quedam^d mei iuris secum asportauit; quod si minor aliquis fecisset, furti posset argui, et ui bonorum raptorum iudicio recte condempnari. Et comites ad parlamentum uocati in dedecus regis cum magno exercitu ueniunt armati. Vnde cum mea rapuerint et homines meos occiderint, satis est uerisimile quod michi nolunt deferre, set coronam rapere et alium sibi regem preficere.' Et comes, 'Domine, si quid <in>^b iniuriam tuam comites presumpserint, decet emendari; et si^c satisfacere fuerint parati, merito debent reconciliari. Est enim sententia uulgaris^d ut nemo in admittenda satisfacione sit difficilis.^e Expedi igitur comites prius conueniri et amicabiliter de grauaminibus per eos uobis illatis interpellari, ut ex responsione eorum appareat an iure uel iniuria res finem acceperit.^f Est enim apud omnes consuetudo ut lenia premittantur,^g que si non proficiant aspera subsequantur.'¹⁰⁷

Et annuit rex. Accessit ergo comes ille mediator ad comites, et

^a que R; quedam St, Den-Y ^b om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^c sibi MS; tibi He; si St, Den-Y ^d uulgare MS; uulgaris He, St, Den-Y ^e difficilis MS; difficilis He, St, Den-Y ^f acceperat MS; acceperit He, St, Den-Y ^g permittantur R; premittantur Den-Y

autumn of 1312, Arnald Nouel, abbot of Fontfroide (Languedoc) and cardinal priest of Santa Prisca, and Arnald d'Aux, bishop of Poitiers and cardinal bishop of Albano (Eubel, *Hier. Cath.*, i. 13, 14, 35, 49). They were appointed by the pope on 14 May 1312 as mediators to foster peace in England (*CPL 1305-42*, pp. 104-8). Nouel was in London by 29 Aug. (*Ann. Paul.*, pp. 271-2), and the bishop of Poitiers was at court by 6 Sept. 1312

The earl of Gloucester took the part of mediator and frequently 1312 met the king about how to produce a state of peace and harmony with the barons. 'Those whom you call enemies,' said the earl, 'are your friends. Those you rashly attack are your friends. Whatever they do is for your benefit. They are paying out much for your advantage. King, if you destroy your barons, you indeed make light of your own honour. And they are not bound to suffer this, nor do they commit any offence if they protect their own rights.' And the king replied thus to the earl: 'There is not one that pitieth my case:¹⁰⁶ none who fights for my right against them. Even you, my nephew, my military commander, and my friend, desert your uncle, and make friends with his adversaries. I declare that those who strive to attack my property and my rights are not my friends. If I may use my royal prerogative as other kings do, may I not, by royal power, recall to my peace a man exiled for any reason whatever? They deprived me of this right by their own authority, for they cruelly put to death the man to whom I had granted peace. And the earl of Lancaster, my first cousin, who might have been content with five earldoms without seizing others, attacked my men at Newcastle and carried off some of my property; if any lesser man had done it, he could be found guilty of theft and rightly condemned by a verdict of robbery with violence. And the earls summoned to parliament come, to the king's shame, armed and with a large army. In this, since they have seized my goods and killed my men, it is very likely that they do not wish to be subject to me, but to seize the crown and set up for themselves another king.' And the earl replied, 'Sire, if the earls have presumed to do you wrong, it must be put right; and if they are prepared to offer amends, they ought in justice to be reconciled. For there is a common saying that no one should make difficulties about receiving satisfaction. Therefore it is advisable that the earls should first be assembled and questioned in a friendly way about the injuries done by them to you, so that from their answer it may be known whether the matter has been rightly or wrongly judged. For everywhere it is usual for leniency to be tried first, and if it is profitless harsh measures may follow.'¹⁰⁷

The king agreed. So the earl as mediator approached the earls, and

(Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 134 n.). The cardinals worked through the year and were present at the agreement finally reached in Oct. 1313; see below, pp. 74-5.

¹⁰⁶ 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 22: 8.

¹⁰⁷ The same sentiment is expressed below, pp. 160-1, which refers more clearly to Deut. 20: 10-12.

1312 querelam regis ac causas iniuriarum seriatim exposuit. Ipsi uero super hiis consulti ita responderunt: 'Nos domini regis nostri Anglie barones, et secundum possibilitatem humane condicionis per omnia fideles, in priuacionem iuris regalis nichil presumpsimus, nichil attemptauimus, nec in preiudicium uel incommodum eius unquam aliquid excogitauimus. Verum est quod proditorem quendam exul-antem, et post exilii decretum in terra latitantem, occidi mandauimus, et hoc non in dedecus regis nec contra pacem eius; nec propria auctoritate hoc fecimus, set iuxta ordinaciones legitimas, assensu regis et suorum baronum editas et promulgatas, processimus, quas nec rex sola uoluntate sua reuocare potuit uel immutare. Nichil enim sine consilio et communi assensu domini regis et suorum baronum potest statui; igitur eadem ratione nec dissolui. Nam secundum leges ciuiles nichil tam naturale quam unumquodque dissolui eo genere quo ligatur,¹⁰⁸ et alibi omnes^a res per quascunque causas nascitur per easdem dissoluitur. Patet igitur quod pax regia ipsi proditori concessa non ualuit, quia rex ipsam pacem contra ordinaciones concessit, quas solo et proprio arbitrio tollere non potuit.'

Comes de Lancastre ad obiecta sibi per regem respondit quod in predam uel rapinam nunquam concessit;^b homines regis non inuasit; bona regis nequaquam asportauit, set apud Nouum Castrum ueniens multa, que ad regem pertinere cognouit, quasi pro derelicto habita, et occupare uolentibus exposita, ut^c dominum regem conseruaret indempnem,^d occupauit et ad opus regis, inuentorio de omnibus confecto, custodiendo^e mandauit.¹⁰⁹

Ita reponderunt omnes unanimiter quod non in contemptum regis, set propter quosdam sibi suspectos ad parlamentum muniti uenerunt, cum iuxta consilium sapientis nec nudi deberemus^f contendere nec inermes nos inimicis opponere. Ex hiis dictis^g satis apparere in coronam regiam se nichil deliquisse; protestantes eis in mentem nunquam euenisse alium regem sibi preficere uoluisse.¹¹⁰ Et in

^a sic MS; omnis He, St, Den-Y ^b sic R; poss. for consensit Den-Y ^c ad R; ut St, Den-Y ^d sic MS; poss. indempnia He ^e sic MS; custodienda He, Den-Y ^f debere MS; debemus He; poss. deberemus or debeamus MW ^g a verb is possibly omitted; perhaps exposuerunt or similar, ed.

¹⁰⁸ Dig. l. 17. 35, *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 869.

¹⁰⁹ The issue of Gaveston's jewels and horses was an important one. The jewels included gifts from the royal treasury and were extremely valuable, and their detention was symbolic of Lancaster's powerful opposition. The negotiators agreed that they should be returned by 13 Jan. at St Albans, but Lancaster detained them until 23 Feb. (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 137, 139-40, 146-7; R. A. Roberts, 'Edward II, the Lords Ordainer, and Piers Gaveston's jewels and horses' (*Camden Miscellany*, xv, Camden Society 3rd ser., xli (1929), 3, 5-7).

explained the king's complaint and the reasons for his grievances one by one. When they had taken counsel in the matter, they replied thus: 'We, as barons of our lord king of England, and faithful in all things so far as is humanly possible, have not presumed to diminish the royal prerogative in anything, we have sought nothing nor ever devised anything to his prejudice or disadvantage. It is true that we ordered a certain exiled traitor, who hid in the land after exile had been decreed, to be killed, but this was not to the king's dishonour nor against his peace; nor did we do this on our own authority, but we acted according to lawful ordinances put forth and published with the assent of the king and his barons, which the king by his will alone cannot revoke or change. For nothing can be decreed without the counsel and common consent of the lord king and his barons; therefore for the same reason nothing can be annulled. For according to the civil law nothing is so natural as that everything is loosened in the same way that it is bound,¹⁰⁸ and, elsewhere, every obligation is dissolved by those same processes from which it arises. It is therefore evident that the king's peace granted to that traitor was not valid, because the king granted that peace against the Ordinances, which by his own mere will he could not annul.'

The earl of Lancaster replied to the king's accusations against him, that he had never acquiesced in plunder or booty; he had not attacked the king's men; he had never carried off the king's goods, but coming to Newcastle he seized many things, which he knew belonged to the king, which were regarded as abandoned and open to any who wished to take them, so that he might save the lord king from harm, and, having made an inventory of everything, he ordered them to be kept to the king's use.¹⁰⁹

All replied unanimously in this wise: that they had not come armed to parliament in contempt of the king, but on account of some who were suspect to them, since according to the counsel of the wise we should not engage in conflict stripped of our armour nor oppose our enemies unarmed. From these remarks [they maintained] it was quite clear that they had committed no crime against the royal crown; protesting that it had never entered their heads to wish to set up another as king.¹¹⁰ And at the end of this

¹¹⁰ Threats made to the king in 1310-11 (as in 1321) refer to withdrawal of fealty rather than replacement of the king, and the author believed that captivity and restraint rather than replacement were the aims of Lancaster and the others (see below, pp. 76-7). The actions of the opposition may have led to rumours that they wished to replace the king and, indeed, the king in his previous speech accused them of planning this (above, pp. 58-9). For comment on threats to Edward, see above, pp. lvi-lvii.

¹³¹² calce sermonis hec simul adiciunt; 'Manifeste,' inquit, 'iam liquet quia dominus rex occasiones querit aduersus nos. Cum enim iam per quinquennium et amplius, pro confirmacione regni, pro augmentacione honoris regii, satis ultra uires expenderimus, satis tamen incassum laborauimus, quia dominus rex omnia in dedecus eius excogitata, omnia in odium eius adinuenta conuerterit. Vtinam dominus noster quid^a bonum est in oculis faciat; unum autem sciat, quod cum homines eius simus, fidem ei seruabimus; set quamuis a nobis fidelitatem receperit et homagium, equum et ipse nichilominus iuramentum seruare tenetur illesum. Et si forsitan ab hoc pacto uellet recedere, nos absque fidei lesione nequaquam teneremur acquiescere. Roboam filius regis Salamonis, quamuis regnum iure hereditario sibi competeret, quia tamen barones suos iusta petentes non admisit, decima parte regni contentus, reliquam partem penitus amisit.¹¹¹ Igitur si dominus rex affectione qua decet comites et barones suos tractauerit, si rancorem quem contra nos sine causa concepit benigne remiserit, et proditores a curia sua dimiserit, sibi ut regi parebimus, sibi ut domino seruiemus.'

Sub tanto rerum strepitu, dum uarii rumores hinc inde uolarent, dum unus pacem, alter guerram predicaret, natus est regi filius formosus et dudum affectatus. Impositum est autem ei nomen patris eius, nomen Edwardus; et natus puer iste in festo sancti Bricii,¹¹² quod annuatim celebratur post festum sancti Martini. Hec adoptata natiuitas tempore accepto nobis aduenit,¹¹³ quia duos effectus Deo disponente feliciter impleuit. Dolorem namque regis quem ex morte Petri conceperat ualde mitigauit, et certum heredem regno prouidit. Nam, si rex decessisset sine prole, pro certo mansisset corona sub lite. Viuat igitur iuuenis Edwardus, et, auitis patribus assimilatus, quod singulos ditabat solus optineat. Regis Henrici secundi sectetur industriam, regis Ricardi notam probitatem, ad regis Henrici proueniat^b etatem, regis Edwardi recolat sapienciam, uiribus et specie referat cum corpore patrem.

Audiens igitur rex responsiones comitum, prudentes allegaciones et probabiles excusaciones eorum, aduertens etiam manum ualidam ex parte baronum, et per hoc suum impediri propositum,^c simulatam affectionem pretendit, et uotis eorum parere promisit. Vnde ne nil

^a sic MS; quod *He, St, Den-Y* propositum *He, St, Den-Y*

^b sic MS; perueniat *He*

^c prepositum MS;

¹¹¹ Cf. 3 Kgs. (1 Kgs.) 12: 1-24.

¹¹² 13 Nov. 1312.

¹¹³ 2 Cor. 6: 2.

speech they also added: 'It is abundantly clear that the lord king is ¹³¹² looking for pretexts against us. Though for five years and more we have exhausted our strength to support the realm and to increase the king's honour, we have laboured in vain, because the lord king complains that everything has been designed to put him to shame, everything has been contrived out of hatred for him. Let our lord do what is good in his eyes. But let him know one thing, that as we are his men, we will keep faith with him; but, although he has received fealty and homage from us, he is no less bound to keep his oath intact. And if perhaps he wishes to withdraw from this contract, we without breach of faith are in no way bound to agree. Although the realm belonged to him by hereditary right, Rehoboam, son of King Solomon, however, because he did not admit the just claims of his barons, had to be content with the tenth part of his kingdom and lost the rest utterly.¹¹¹ Therefore, if the lord king treats his earls and barons with the regard that is their due, if he freely gives up the bitterness that he has conceived against us without cause, and sends the traitors away from his court, we will obey him as king, we will serve him as lord.'

Amidst this uproar, while various rumours flew this way and that, while one man foretold peace, and the other war, a handsome and long-desired son was born to the king. He was christened Edward, his father's name; and the boy was born on St Brice's Day,¹¹² which is celebrated each year after the feast of St Martin. This longed-for birth was timely for us,¹¹³ because by God's will it fortunately had two consequences. For it greatly lessened the grief which the king had experienced on Piers's death, and it provided a known heir to the realm. For if the king had died without issue, the crown would certainly have remained in dispute. Long live, therefore, the young Edward, and may he himself embody the virtues that enriched each of his forefathers separately. May he follow the industry of King Henry II, the well-known valour of King Richard, may he reach the age of King Henry, revive the wisdom of King Edward, and remind us of the physical strength and comeliness of his father.

On hearing the answers of the earls, their astute justifications and plausible excuses, and having regard to the armed strength of the barons, by which his plans might be hindered, the king showed a feigned regard for them and promised to comply with their wishes. Whereupon, in case he should seem to have done nothing, he

¹³¹² uideretur egisse, mandat baronibus sub forma concordie ut petitiones eorum exponerent, et quicquid dictaret ratio indubitanter reportarent. At illi dixerunt se nichil aliud petere uelle nisi ut rex ordinationes, quarum effectus in magna sui parte iam erat suspensus, sicut autem^a promiserat, confirmaret, et mortem Petri proditoris suis fidelibus et legiis hominibus benigne remitteret.¹¹⁴

Et dominus rex sic ad petita respondit: 'Excepto fiscali priuilegio ordinationes concessi,¹¹⁵ et adhuc^b concedo; mortem Petri comitibus remitto, set proditorem nequaquam appello.' Et comites hanc regis indulgenciam parui momenti fore dixerunt; 'nam, si rex mortem Petri remittit, suam sectam tamen non remittit, set uxori aut filiis accusacionem non tollit. At si proditoris mencionem faceret, nulli ulterius secta competeret. Et si rex comitatum Cornubie aliquo colore intendit repetere, profecto requiritur ut Petrus tanquam proditor obiisse dicatur. Nam extra hunc casum non poterit rex comitatum acquirere, nisi per Petrum uel si decessisset sine prole: set neutra condicio potest proficere, quia Petrus moritur prole superstite.¹¹⁶ Igitur, nisi proditor Petrus habeatur, ordinationibus multum derogatur, nec comitatum Cornubie poterit rex de iure repetere.'

Set rex baronibus ita respondit: 'Regi,' inquit, 'uariare non conuenit, nec sine causa reuocare quod prius indulgetur.^c Omne crimen per nos fuit Petro^d remissum, ergo proditorem eum reputare non possum, quia beneficium principis decet esse mansurum. Petant igitur barones quicquid petendum iuste putauerint; obsequar in omnibus eorum arbitrio, set Petro prodicionem nullatenus imputabo.' Et sic hac uice sub hiis finibus contencio recedit, set neutra parcium optata reportauit. Reuera omne studium regis erat ut negocium protelaret,^e ut sic laboribus et expensis barones afficeret. Vnde et

^a sic R; ante St, Den-Y ^b ad hoc MS; adhuc Den-Y; the copyist uses the same form below (p. 76) ed. ^c indulgetur MS; indulgetur He, St, Den-Y ^d Petrum MS; Petro He, St, Den-Y ^e procelaret MS; protelaret He, St, Den-Y

¹¹⁴ The emphasis in this passage on the Ordinances as well as on Piers as traitor reflects strongly the terms in the 'Prima Tractatio' of early Sept. However, the placing of the passage after the birth of the king's son suggests chronologically that it may refer to the later 'Rationes'. These also strongly emphasize that Piers was a traitor, but make less reference to the Ordinances (*Ann. Lond.*, pp. 210-11; Roberts, 'Piers Gaveston's jewels', pp. 15-16; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 145-6).

¹¹⁵ It is not clear what the author means by this. Edward II accepted the Ordinances unconditionally on 27 Sept. 1311. However, the terms of reference of the Ordainers had provided that any ordinances were to be 'to our honour and profit and the profit of our people according to right and reason and our coronation oath'; the barons had sworn that the Ordinances would not be prejudicial to the king; and on 12 Jan. 1312 Edward had for

commanded the barons to draw up a list of their requests as a basis for agreement, and they would undoubtedly obtain whatever reason dictated. But they said that they wished to ask for nothing else than that the king should, as he had indeed promised, confirm the Ordinances, which were now largely in abeyance, and that he should freely pardon his faithful and liege men for the death of Piers the traitor.¹¹⁴

The lord king replied thus to the petitions: 'I granted the Ordinances, except the fiscal privilege,¹¹⁵ and these I still grant. I pardon the earls for the death of Piers, but I will never call him traitor.' The earls said that this royal forgiveness would be of little value; 'for if the king pardons the death of Piers, but nevertheless he does not give up his right of prosecution, he does not deprive the wife or children of their right of accusation. But if he should make mention of a traitor, no further suit would be permissible. And if the king proposes to reacquire the earldom of Cornwall under any pretext, then it is necessary that Piers should be said to have died as a traitor. For, if this charge is not allowed, the king could not acquire the earldom, except through Piers or if he had died without issue; but neither condition can be fulfilled because Piers died leaving issue.¹¹⁶ Therefore, unless Piers is held to be a traitor, the Ordinances are much diminished, and the king will not be able lawfully to reacquire the earldom of Cornwall.'

But the king replied thus to the barons: 'It is not fitting', he said, 'for the king to change or revoke without cause what he has previously granted. We pardoned Piers of every crime, therefore I cannot regard him as a traitor, because royal favours should be lasting. Therefore let the barons seek whatever they think may justly be sought; I will comply with their judgement in all things, but I will in no wise charge Piers with treason.' And so on this occasion the dispute died down to some extent, but neither party obtained what it had sought. Indeed the king's whole purpose was to drag out the business, in order to wear down the barons with their exertions and expenses. Shortly afterwards the king left

the first time emphasized that the Ordinances were to be observed only in so far as they were not prejudicial to the Crown (*CCR 1307-13*, pp. 215, 253, 449). The clauses on finance and the barons' later prohibition of the king's appointment of Langton as treasurer could certainly be seen as prejudicial to royal rights (Davies, *Opposition*, pp. 389-92), but there is no evidence that Edward had specifically reserved any fiscal rights.

¹¹⁶ Gaveston's only child, Joan, was born c.12 Jan. 1312 and died 13 Jan. 1325 (Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 78-9; Hamilton, *Gaveston*, pp. 101-2; *CMI 1307-49*, no. 1290, pp. 325-6).

1312 citro post rex a Londoniis recessit, et uersus Wyndulsore iter arripuit
 ut reginam uisitaret que nuper peperit.¹¹⁷

1313 Effluxerunt itaque dies anni usque ad Quadragesimam, et circa
 festum annunciacionis beate Marie sperabatur rex colloquium cum
 baronibus Londoniis habiturus, et habita concordia regni negocia cum
 comitibus dispositurus. Set^a rex morbo ut putabatur ficto detentus ad
 diem non uenit; unde nec ipsa dissencio adhuc finem accepit.¹¹⁸ Post
 Pascha misit rex Francie uiros magnos et honoratos nuncios in
 Angliam,^b qui regem Anglie inuitarent ad conuiuium quod parauerat
 filio suo in festo Pentecostes.^c Voluit enim rex Francie filio suo regi
 Nauarie uel cingulum milicie tradere (uel)^d regni diadema capiti eius
 imponere.¹¹⁹ Vnde rex noster statim de suo itinere disposuit et
 necessaria prouideri mandauit. Miserunt comites ad eum, consulentes
 ei ne regnum suum periculo exponeret, ne ita inconsulte mare
 transiret, maxime cum terra ipsa esset quasi in se diuisa, et hostis
 opugnaret ciuitates et castra. Robertus enim de Brutz Eboracum^e iam
 eiam appropinquauit, et Londonias adire disposuit; nec uidetur
 impossibile, ex quo non est qui uelit resistere.¹²⁰ Verumptamen rex a
 proposito suo non recessit, set in breui transfretare disposuit. Vnde
 nepotem suum comitem Glouernie custodem regni constituit,¹²¹ et
 aliis comitibus sub hoc tenore rescripsit, mandans et rogans quatinus
 una cum dicto comite ad regni^f curam intenderent, et quicquid ius
 dictaret aut ratio in reditu suo certissime reportarent. Vnde et festum
 translacionis beati Thome terminum prefixit¹²² in quo Deo dante
 redire disposuit, et tunc presentibus eis plenarie compleret quod
 promisit.

Hiis itaque peractis, rex et regina, cum ceteris electis nauem
 ascendentes, tendunt in Franciam, et ibidem uenientes in maximo

^a si MS; set *He, St, Den-Y* ^b Anglia MS; Angliam *He, St, Den-Y*
^c Pentecosten MS; Pentecostes *He, St, Den-Y* ^d om. MS; supplied *He, St, Den-Y*
^e Eboracen' MS; Eboracum *He, St, Den-Y* ^f regi MS; regni *He, St, Den-Y*

¹¹⁷ The king spent much of the winter at Windsor. He left it to be at Westminster only
 12–16 Dec., 29 Jan.–3 Feb., and 18–20 Feb. (*Itin.*, pp. 93–6).

¹¹⁸ The date given (25 Mar.) is approximately correct. Parliament was summoned (with
 commons) for 18 Mar. 1313, adjourned on 7 Apr., and reassembled on 6 May (*HBC*,
 p. 553).

¹¹⁹ In 1313 Easter Sunday was on 15 Apr. and Whit Sunday on 3 June. Philip IV's
 eldest son, Louis, inherited the Navarrese throne through his mother, Jeanne, queen of
 Navarre and wife of Philip IV. (She had died in 1305.) The Navarrese throne remained
 annexed to the French throne until the death of Philip's last son, Charles IV of France, in
 1328, when it reverted to Louis's daughter. This French meeting was a considerable

London, and made his way to Windsor to visit the queen, who had
 lately given birth.¹¹⁷

So the days rolled by until Lent, and about the feast of the
 Annunciation it was hoped that the king would hold a meeting
 with his barons at London and, with harmony restored, would deal
 with the business of the realm with the earls. But the king did not
 come at the appointed day, detained, as it was thought, by a feigned
 illness; because of which this same quarrel still did not come to an
 end.¹¹⁸ After Easter the king of France sent great and distinguished
 men as envoys to England, to invite the king of England to the
 banquet which he had prepared for his son at Whitsuntide. For the
 French king wished to knight or to crown his son, the king of
 Navarre.¹¹⁹ Whereupon our king at once arranged for his journey and
 ordered the necessary supplies to be prepared. The earls sent to him,
 advising him not to put his kingdom in danger nor to go abroad so
 unadvisedly, particularly as the land was divided against itself, and an
 enemy might besiege his towns and castles. For Robert Bruce was
 already in the neighbourhood of York, and proposed to march on
 London; nor did it seem impossible, since there was none who would
 resist him.¹²⁰ The king, however, did not change his mind, but
 proposed to cross the Channel shortly. He appointed his nephew, the
 earl of Gloucester, as keeper of the realm,¹²¹ and he wrote to the other
 earls in this sense, charging and requesting them to look to the
 interests of the kingdom together with the said earl, and most
 certainly they would obtain whatever right or reason dictated on
 his return. He named the feast of the translation of the Blessed
 Thomas¹²² as the day on which, God willing, he would return, and
 then he would fulfil to those present all that he had promised.

When this had been done, the king and queen, going aboard ship
 with the others chosen to go with them, set out for France, where on

success. Ceremonies included the knighting of Philip's sons, a banquet for Charles of
 Valois, and both kings took the cross. Philip finally remitted all penalties due from Edward
 and his men for offences in Gascony (Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 63–4).

¹²⁰ There were fears of a Scottish invasion at this time but the rumours were false.
 Bruce was in the Isle of Man in May and June 1313 (Barrow, *Bruce*, p. 193; McNamee,
Wars, pp. 56–7).

¹²¹ The author errs here. The regent was John Droxford, bishop of Bath and Wells
 (*HBC*, p. 39). Gloucester was, however, one of four men appointed on 1 July 1313 to open
 parliament because of the king's delayed return (*CPR 1307–13*, p. 594). He had earlier
 been keeper of the realm during Edward's absence on the Scottish campaign in 1311 (*ibid.*
 333).

¹²² 7 July 1313.

1313 honore suscipiuntur per totam patriam.¹²³ Regem nostrum et reginam saluos reducat Deus in Angliam, illos autem destruat qui regnum peruertunt et regiam familiam.

Ecce nunc rex noster Edwardus sex annis complete regnauit, nec aliquid laudabile uel dignum memoria hucusque patrauit, nisi quod regaliter nupsit et prolem elegantem regni heredem sibi suscitauit. Alia fuerunt^a incia regis Ricardi, qui nondum elapso triennio regni sui probitatis sue radios longe lateque dispersit; nam Messanas ciuitatem^b Sisilie^c uno die uiriliter subiecit, et terram Cypri in quindecim diebus potenter subiugauit. Deinde apud Acon et in aliis partibus transmarinis (quomodo)^d se habuerit, historia Latino et Gallico sermone digesta luculenter percurrit. O si rex noster Edwardus inicio regni sui bene se habuisset, et consilio malorum hominum non aduenisset,^e ex antecessoribus suis nobilior illo nequaquam fuisset. Ditauerat enim Deus ipsum omnium uirtutum dotibus, parem immo excellentiorem fecerat aliis regibus. Nam si quis ea que regem nostrum nobilitant^f uellet describere, parem in terra non poterit inuenire. Generositatem eius auiti patres ostendunt, quorum successiones se iam ad decem gradus extendunt. Diuicias habuit in principio regni sui, terram locupletem^g et fauorem populi. Gener factus est regi Francie, proximus cognatus regis Hispanie.¹²⁴ Si adhesisset baronum consilio Scotos humiliasset pro nichilo. O si armorum usibus se exercitaret, regis Ricardi probitatem prederet. Hoc enim deposcit materia habilis, cum statura longus sit, et fortis uiribus, formosus homo decora facie. Set quid moror ipsum describere? Si tantam dedisset armis operam quantam impendit^h circa rem rusticam,¹²⁵ multum excellens fuisset Anglia; nomen eius sonuisset in terra. O qualis sperabatur adhuc princeps Wallie! Tota spes euanuit dum factus est rex Anglie. Petrus de Gauestone regem duxit in deuium, terram turbauit, consumpsit thesaurum, tribus uicibus exilium subiit, et postea rediens caput perdidit. Set adhuc remanent in regis curia de familiaribus Petri et

^a fuerint *MS*; fuerunt *He, St, Den-Y* ^b comitatem *MS*; comitatum or ciuitatem *He, ciuitatem St, Den-Y* ^c sic *MS*; Sicilie *He, St, Den-Y* ^d om. *MS*; supplied *He, St, Den-Y* ^e sic *R*; adqueuisset *St, Den-Y* ^f nobilitauit *MS*; nobilitant *He, St, Den-Y* ^g locuplete *MS*; locupletem *He, St, Den-Y* ^h impendit *R*

¹²³ The king and queen were absent from 23 May to 16 July 1313 (*HBC*, p. 39).

¹²⁴ Edward's mother, Eleanor of Castile, was sister to Alfonso VIII of Castile. In 1313 Edward was first cousin twice removed to the reigning king, Alfonso XI, great-grandson of Alfonso VIII.

¹²⁵ If this passage was written in 1313, it is one of the earliest voiced criticisms of

arrival they were received with the greatest honour all through the country.¹²³ May God bring back our king and queen safe to England, and destroy those who lead astray the kingdom and the royal household.

Behold, our King Edward has now reigned six full years and up until now he has achieved nothing praiseworthy or memorable, except that he has made a splendid marriage and has produced a handsome son and heir to the kingdom. How different were the beginnings of the reign of King Richard, who, before the end of the third year of his reign, scattered far and wide the rays of his valour. In one day he courageously took Messina, a city of Sicily, and ably subjugated the land of Cyprus in a fortnight. Then, how he bore himself at Acre and in other foreign parts history vividly relates in both the Latin and French tongues. Oh! If our King Edward had borne himself as well at the outset of his reign, and not accepted the counsels of wicked men, not one of his predecessors would have been more renowned than he. For God had endowed him with gifts of every virtue, and had made him equal to or indeed more excellent than other kings. Certainly if anyone cared to describe those qualities which ennoble our king, he could not find his like in the land. His ancestry, reaching back to the tenth generation, shows his nobility. At the beginning of his reign he had wealth, a land of abundance, and the goodwill of his people. He became the son-in-law of the king of France, and was closest kin to the king of Spain.¹²⁴ If he had followed the advice of the barons, he would have humbled the Scots with ease. Oh! If he had practised the use of arms, he would have exceeded the prowess of King Richard. Physically this would have been inevitable, for he was tall and strong, a handsome man with a fine figure. But why linger over this description of him? If only he had given to arms the attention that he expended on rustic pursuits,¹²⁵ he would have raised England on high; his name would have resounded through the land. Oh! What hopes he raised as prince of Wales! All hope vanished when he became king of England. Piers Gaveston led the king astray, threw the country into confusion, consumed its treasure, was exiled three times, and then returning lost his head. But there still remain at the king's court those from Piers's intimates and members of his

Edward's pastimes. Otherwise the earliest recorded reference is in the Crown's prosecution in 1315 of Robert le Messenger, who in an unguarded moment in July 1314 blamed the loss at Bannockburn on Edward's interest in rustic pursuits (H. Johnstone, 'The eccentricities of Edward II', *EHR*, xlviii (1933), 264-7).

¹³¹³ eius familia, qui perturbant pacem totius patrie et regem inducunt uindictam querere. Da pacem, Domine, diebus nostris,¹²⁶ et rex cum baronibus fiat unanims.^a

Hiis temporibus mortuus est Robertus de Wynchelse Cantuarie antistes,¹²⁷ cuius memoria in benediccione est, qui templum Domini in uita sua roborauit, et in diebus suis ecclesiam protexit. De ipso enim specialiter dici potest, non est inuentus similis illi qui conseruaret legem Excelsi.¹²⁸ Ascendit namque ex aduerso et opposuit se murum pro clero.¹²⁹ Exiit aliquando edictum ab Edwardo Cesare¹³⁰ ut taxarentur fructus ecclesie, et sicut talliatur populus, ad tallagium compelleretur et clerus. Porro Robertus primas Anglie preceptum regis non est passus procedere. Dicebat enim omni iuri fore contrarium, ut^b in bonis clericorum haberet rex imperium, quos eciam lex imperialis multis priuilegiis insigniuit et ab omni exactione liberos esse statuit. Hoc eciam uolunt statuta canonum;¹³¹ et ipsi ethnici manifestum nobis reliquerunt exemplum: quando Egipcii pre magnitudine famis seruituti regie se subiecerunt, pontifices et ceteri templorum ministri liberi remanserunt.¹³² Set rex exasperatus, et aduersus primatem et totius Anglie clerum uehementer commotus, publica uoce promisit curialibus ut in nullo penitus defferent^c clericis, set, siue religiosis seu secularibus obuiarent, ipsos ab equis protinus deicerent et in usum proprium equos assumerent, et indistincte nullis parcerent nisi regia proteccionem gauderent. Verumptamen Cantuarie archiepiscopus magis cepit esse tumidus et securus, unde in sarculum suum percussit,¹³³ et in grassantes ulterius processit, et omnes regiam proteccionem impetrantes excommunicauit. In tantum autem excreuit laicorum audacia ut nec ulli parcerent in archipresulis curia, quin eciam ipsum archipresulem ab equo deicerent, et omnem suppellectilem diriperent, unde archiepiscopus pacienter ferrens^d iniuriam pedes coactus est ire per patriam.

^a unanime MS; unanims He, St, Den-Y ^b uel MS; ut He, St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; defferent He, St, Den-Y ^d ferre MS; ferens He, Den-Y; ferrens ed.

¹²⁶ From the liturgy: prayer at Matins and Vespers (Legg, *Sarum Missal*, p. 225).

¹²⁷ Winchelsey died on 11 May 1313 (*HBC*, p. 233).

¹²⁸ Ecclus. 44: 20, with *conseruauit* for the *Vita's conseruaret*.

¹²⁹ Ezek. 13: 5.

¹³⁰ Luke 2: 1.

¹³¹ Edward I imposed a direct tax of half their income on the clergy in 1294, and another tenth in 1295. The clergy paid (although reluctantly), because canon law followed Roman law in allowing such payments to the ruler in the case of urgent necessity for the common good; this normally included war. However, Boniface VIII's papal bull *Clericis laicos*, issued in Feb. 1296 and received in England in Nov. 1296, forbade payments to lay

household, who disturb the peace of the whole country and persuade the king to seek vengeance. Give peace in our time, O Lord,¹²⁶ and may the king be at one with his barons! ¹³¹³

At this time died Robert Winchelsey, archbishop of Canterbury,¹²⁷ of blessed memory, who in his lifetime strengthened the temple of the Lord, and during his time of office protected the church. Of him especially it can be said, 'There was not found the like to him, who kept the law of the most High'.¹²⁸ For he 'went up to face the enemy' and 'set himself up as a wall' for the clergy.¹²⁹ There once went out a decree from Caesar Edward,¹³⁰ that the fruits of the church should be taxed and just as the people were tallaged, so also the clergy were to be forced to pay tallage. But Robert as primate of England did not allow the king's decree to take effect. He said that it would be contrary to all law for the king to have authority over the goods of churchmen, whom the imperial law also marked out with many privileges and ordered to be free from every exaction. Canon law intends this too;¹³¹ and the heathen themselves have bequeathed us a manifest example: when the Egyptians for their great hunger put themselves under the royal yoke, the priests and other servants of the temples remained free.¹³² But the king being wrathful and strongly roused to anger against the primate and the clergy of all England, publicly announced to his officials that they should have no consideration at all for clerks, but, when they met regulars or secular clergy, should at once have them off their horses and take the horses for their own use, and, without discrimination, they should spare no one unless they enjoyed royal protection. However, the archbishop of Canterbury became more incensed and self-confident, and he smote with his rake,¹³³ and, proceeding further against the thieves, excommunicated all those obtaining royal protection. The presumption of the laymen increased to such an extent that they spared no one in the archbishop's court, even pulling the archbishop himself off his horse,

rulers without papal licence. This provided Winchelsey with firm canon law grounds for his opposition to Edward's further exactions in 1296. Boniface qualified *Clericis laicos* in 1297 by permitting payment without papal licence in cases of great necessity, of which the king would be judge. At the convocation of 1317 this qualified position is clearly stated by the prelates; see below, pp. 132-3. For the doctrine of necessity see G. L. Harriss, *King, Parliament and Public Finance in Medieval England to 1369* (Oxford, 1975), pp. 17-24, 51-2, 59-60; for Winchelsey's actions, see Denton, *Winchelsey*, pp. 89-135.

¹³² Cf. Gen. 47: 20-2, 26.

¹³³ Cf. Isa. 7: 25. The phrase is possibly incomplete, but the allusion to Isaiah seems clear, with the implication that the archbishop was cutting out the thorns and briars from good land.

1313 Denique rex ad penitenciam reductus, et grauitur se peccasse confessus, curialium repressit audaciam et liberam manere iussit ecclesiam.¹³⁴ Iterum orta dissensione inter regem et archipresulem, procurante rege uocatus est ad curiam Romanam, et ibi per biennium fere remansit, et fructus suos biennales confiscatos amisit. Deinde mortuo rege in Angliam rediit, et ecclesiam suam pacifice usque huc gubernauit.¹³⁵ Nunc autem nature debita persoluens, celestem migravit ad patriam, Cantuariensem ut creditur ornaturus ecclesiam.

Anno igitur septimo regis intrante, in festo translacionis beate Thome¹³⁶ conueniunt Londoniis comites et barones iuxta promissum regis aduentum exspectantes, ibidemque fere per quindenam commorantes, neque regis copiam habuerunt, neque de regis reditu certos nuncios acceperunt. Vnde comites, laboribus et expensis satis fatigati, sine die ad propria sunt reuersi. Circa gulam Augusti rediit dominus rex,¹³⁷ et quasi de recessu comitum molestus, scripsit comitibus rogans quatinus moram suam excusatam haberent, et in festo sancti Mathei¹³⁸ si placeret ad parlamentum redirent, et tunc communi consilio quicquid faciendum, quicquid corrigendum esse prospicerent, communiter repararet.

Set quid prosunt regi procrastinationes assidue? Dicunt quidam, ut aduersarios suos cogat expendere, uel mortem comitis forsans expectat^a quem alias superare non sperat. Sane peccat qui hoc audet asserere, immo non apparet uerisimile ut rex ipse tam necessariam mortem affectaret amici. Quis magis regi succurreret in summa necessitate, quam cognatus eius Thomas Lancastrie? Certe non socius eius ipse rex Francie, nec Petrus, si uiueret, comes Cornubie. Reuera quicquid dolose actum est in curia regis processit ex

^a sic MS; expectet He

¹³⁴ Edward's quarrel with Winchelsey over the king's attempt to tax the clergy is well covered by Denton, *Winchelsey*, pp. 100–76, and more briefly by Prestwich, *Ed. I*, pp. 414–18, 420. On 12 Feb. 1297 the king ordered the confiscation of all the clergy's lay fees and the goods and chattels on them unless the clergy purchased protection, the fines for which approached the level of the proposed tax itself. Several chronicles mention Edward's confiscation of horses at this time (they constituted valuable army supplies) and Winchelsey's horses were confiscated at Maidstone in early March as he was travelling from Canterbury to meet the king at Salisbury (Denton, *Winchelsey*, pp. 108, 119). Edward was not formally reconciled with Winchelsey until 11 July 1297.

¹³⁵ The later quarrel began in 1305 when Edward promoted a series of lawsuits against Winchelsey, and attempted to have him removed. Clement V, favourably disposed towards Edward, suspended Winchelsey in a bull of 12 Feb. 1306, and Winchelsey left England for Rome 19 May 1306 (Denton, *Winchelsey*, pp. 213–24, 231–6, 247; S. Menache, *Clement V* (Cambridge, 1998), pp. 58–60). Winchelsey did not return until 24 Mar. 1308, after Edward II's coronation; see above, n. 15.

and plundering all his goods, so that the archbishop, bearing the wrong patiently, was forced to go about the countryside on foot. At length the king repented, and, confessing that he had gravely sinned, restrained the presumption of his courtiers and gave orders for the church to remain free.¹³⁴ When the quarrel broke out again between the king and the archbishop, the latter was summoned to the court of Rome at the king's request, and he remained there for almost two years, losing his revenues for two years by confiscation. Then on the king's death he returned to England and ruled his church in peace until the present time.¹³⁵ But now, going the way of all flesh, he has departed to heaven, to be an ornament, it is thought, to the church of Canterbury.

At the beginning of the seventh year of the king's reign, on the feast of the translation of the Blessed Thomas,¹³⁶ the earls and barons met at London, awaiting the king's promised arrival, and stayed there almost a fortnight, having neither access to the king, nor any certain news of the king's return. So the earls, weary enough of the trouble and expense to which they had been put, went home indefinitely. The lord king returned about the first of August,¹³⁷ and as if upset by the departure of the earls, wrote to them asking them to excuse his delay and please to return to parliament on the feast of St Matthew,¹³⁸ and then by common counsel he would make good with them whatever they thought should be done or reformed.

But of what use to the king are these constant delays? Some say that he is forcing his opponents to waste their resources, or is perhaps waiting for the death of an earl whom he does not hope otherwise to overcome. But whoever dares to assert this is wrong, for it is clearly unlikely that the king would desire the death of so necessary a friend. Who could help the king more in his greatest need than his cousin Thomas of Lancaster? Certainly not his ally the king of France, nor, had he lived, Piers, earl of Cornwall. Indeed whatever wickedness was perpetrated in the king's court proceeded from his counsellors, but

¹³⁶ 7 July 1313. Parliament (with commons) had been summoned for 8 July, the day after that on which Edward had indicated he would return from France (*HBC*, p. 553). The *Vita* appears to show either sympathy with the opposition baronage or ignorance, as Gloucester, Richmond, and two others had been appointed on 1 July to open parliament and keep it in session until the king returned. See above, n. 121.

¹³⁷ Edward reached England again on 15 July and was in London by 23 July at the latest and possibly a day or two earlier (*Itin.*, p. 102).

¹³⁸ 21 Sept. Writs were sent out on 26 July summoning parliament (with commons) for 23 Sept. at Westminster. The parliament lasted until 15 Nov. (*HBC*, p. 553).

1313 consiliariis eius, set consilium eorum est inefficax et machinacio peritura. Maledictus furor^a eorum quia pertinax, et indignacio eorum¹³⁹ quia diidentur tandem a curia et dispergentur in ignominia. Iustum est enim ut suos auctores teneant peccata,¹⁴⁰ ne maleficia remaneant impunita.

Ad festum sancti Mathei conueniunt Londoniis comites predicti, et manserunt in eodem loco per aliquod tempus, nec regi mittentes, nec mandatum a rege recipientes. Vt autem per eos non staret quominus concordia fieret, miserunt ad dominum regem petentes quatinus sepe promissa consummaret, et baronibus suis sub fide non ficta rancorem remitteret. Rex uero non statim annuit, set pocius ex solito negocium protelauit. Tandem quia uox publica testimonium prebuit, et rex ipse per exploratores suos manifeste cognouit, quia aut^b petitioni comitum satisfaceret, aut sibi suisque tucius esse ante tempus occurrere quam post uulneratam causam remedium querere; multa eciam instancia cardinalis et domini Lodowicy^c precibus inductus,¹⁴¹ mandauit comitibus et baronibus quatinus, omni suspicionem reiecta et securitate quam uellent petita et optenta, ad presenciam suam accederent, et beniuolenciam eius multociens requisitam pro libito reportarent.

Comites igitur in crastinum dominum regem adierunt, ipsumque flexis genibus sicut decuit salutarunt. Quos ipse benigne suscipiens protinus erexit, et singillatim singulos in osculo suscepit, ab omni delicto prius eis imposito penitus absoluit, racionabiliter petita et in posterum petenda similiter concessit, et hec omnia iureiurando et scripto, magno sigillo confirmatis, roborauit.¹⁴² Rex eciam ad maioris federis signum comites inuitauit ad prandium; ipse uero altera die in mensa comitis Lancastrie.^d Hic etenim mos inoleuit in Anglia ut pax confirmetur ad communia.^e Sic ergo mors Petri remittitur, et comes de Penbroke reconciliatur, et de ceteris amicis regis factum est sicut rex uoluit; set Hugo Despenser gratiam habere non potuit. Caueat sibi de comite Lancastrie, et terram euacuet si uelit euadere. Tota terra uersa est in eius odium; pauci lugerent eius infortunium. Multis

^a fauor R; furor Den-Y; furor is the correct Vulgate wording and improves the sense, ed.

^b autem MS; aut He, St, Den-Y ^c sic R; Lodowici St, Den-Y ^d a verb omitted here MW, possibly cenauit ed. ^e sic R; conuiuia St, Den-Y

¹³⁹ Gen. 49: 7.

¹⁴⁰ Cod. ix. 47. 22 (2), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, ii. 392.

¹⁴¹ Two cardinals and Louis of Evreux had been in England as mediators since the autumn of 1312; see above, pp. 56-7 and n. 105.

their advice is futile and their plots will fail. Cursed be their anger, because it is stubborn, and their wrath,¹³⁹ because they shall at length be separated from the court and scattered in disgrace. For it is right that sins should bind those who commit them,¹⁴⁰ so that evil-doing may not go unpunished.

At the feast of St Matthew the said earls met in London, and remained there for some time, neither sending to the king, nor receiving any command from him. But so that the lack of agreement might not be laid at their door, they sent to the lord king asking him to fulfil what he had so often promised, and give up his grudge towards his barons in genuine good faith. The king did not immediately agree, but rather dragged out the business as usual. However, because it was at length being publicly said, as the king clearly knew through his spies, that he must satisfy the earls' petition, and that it would be safer for him and his supporters to make answer too soon rather than to seek redress once his case had been damaged; also persuaded by the great earnestness of the cardinal and the prayers of lord Louis,¹⁴¹ the king told the earls and barons that, having put aside all suspicion and having sought and obtained the security that they wanted, they should come before him, and freely obtain the goodwill for which they had so often asked.

On the next day, therefore, the earls approached the lord king and greeted him, as was proper, on bended knee. Receiving them graciously he at once raised them and kissed them one by one, wholly absolved them of every crime of which they were accused, granted what they reasonably sought or should seek hereafter, and confirmed all these things by oath and in writing under the great seal.¹⁴² The better to celebrate the treaty, the king also invited the earls to dinner, dining himself next day with the earl of Lancaster. For the custom is growing in England for a reconciliation to be confirmed at banquets. So then Piers's death is pardoned and the earl of Pembroke is reconciled, and as for the other friends of the king matters were arranged as the king willed; but Hugh Despenser could find no favour. Let him beware of the earl of Lancaster and leave the country if he wishes to escape. The whole land has turned to hatred of him. Few would mourn his downfall. He has harmed many unjustly

¹⁴² The pardon was agreed in parliament on 15 Oct. 1313 and proclaimed on 16 Oct. for Lancaster, Hereford, Warwick, Percy, Clifford, and 467 of their supporters (*CPR 1313-17*, pp. 21-6). The matter had been settled broadly on Edward's terms, since there was no reference to the Ordinances nor to Gaveston being a traitor (see Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 150-3).

¹³¹³ in officio suo iniuste nocuit; plures magnates et uiros diuites exheredauit; et utinam amitteret quod sic adquisiuit ut puniretur in quo deliquit.¹⁴³ Summe Deus, auctor iusticie, falsos et perfidos a rege remoue; inter regem et barones hoc fedus initum, Te protegente, seruetur in posterum.

Queret forsā aliquis quid comites fecissent si regem in promissis difficilem inuenissent. Credo constanter quod regem captum sub custodia posuissent, donec eos auctores discordie penitus destruxissent. Nonne sic comes Symon de Mountefort regem Henricum tenuit et filium eius Edwardum carceri mancipauit? Set non est tutum contra regem ceruicem erigere, quia tristes exitus frequenter solet afferre. Nam Symon ille comes Leycestrie^a tandem apud Euesham occubuit in acie; comes de Ferrers terras perdidit; comiti Marescallie rex ipse successit; quilibet istorum regi restitit, et quilibet istorum in fine succubuit.¹⁴⁴

Sic igitur rege et baronibus suis sub forma predicta in amicitiam reuocatis, comites et ceteri magnates terre dederunt regi in subsidium guerre sue uicesimum denarium tocius Anglie, cetera autem ordinanda in futurum distulerunt ad proximum parlamentum;¹⁴⁵ et comes Herfordie remansit de regis familia; ceteri uero comites reuersi sunt ad propria.

Quia prius mencionem feci de morte Cantuariensis archiepiscopi, nunc de eius successore, et quomodo successit, aduerto.^b Mortuo namque archipresule, prior ecclesie Christi Cantuariensis, et eiusdem loci conuentus, processerunt ad eleccionem, unanimi consensu elegerunt magistrum Thomam de Cobham uirum nobilem, diuini et humani iuris professorem; qui statim iter arripiens mare transiit et iuri suo prosequendo operam dedit.¹⁴⁶ Due tamen cause impediabant eum. Adhuc^c enim languente primate miserat papa bullam suam qua^d reseruauit sibi dispositionem archiepiscopatus et eleccionem

^a Lancastrie MS; *recte* Leycestrie He, St, Den-Y ^b aduerte R; aduerto ML ^c ad hoc MS; adhuc He, St, Den-Y; *the copyist uses the same form above* (p. 64) ed. ^d quam MS; qua He, St, Den-Y

¹⁴³ Despenser was justice and keeper of the forest south of the Trent, which the author mentions again below (pp. 194–5). Despenser held the office under Edward I (1297–1307), was reappointed by Edward II at pleasure on 16 Mar. 1308, and for life on 28 Aug 1309. He lost the office temporarily in 1311–12; but was reappointed in 1312–15 (Tout, *Ed. II*, pp. 320–1). An investigation into complaints against his abuse of office began on 13 July 1315. John Walwayn sat on one of the investigating commissions (*CPR 1313–17*, pp. 407–8), and the author's keen awareness of Despenser's role as forester may support the suggestion that he was Walwayn.

¹⁴⁴ For the losses of Ferrers and the Earl Marshal after the battle of Evesham in 1265,

through his office; he has disinherited many great men and rich men; ¹³¹³ would that he might lose what he has thus acquired, that he might be punished in his crime.¹⁴³ All-Highest God, author of justice, remove false men and traitors from the king; may this treaty entered into by king and barons, under Thy protection, be kept hereafter.

Perhaps someone may ask what the earls would have done if they had found the king slow to make promises. I firmly believe that they would have kept the king under restraint, until they had utterly destroyed the creators of discord. Did not Earl Simon de Montfort thus hold King Henry and imprison his son Edward? But it is not safe to rise up against the king, because the outcome is often likely to be unfortunate. For even Simon, earl of Leicester, was at last laid low in battle at Evesham; the Earl Ferrers lost his estates; the king himself succeeded the Earl Marshal; each of these resisted the king, and each of them in the end succumbed.¹⁴⁴

Thus, the king and his barons being reunited in friendship in this way, the earls and other great men of the land gave to the king as a war subsidy the twentieth penny of all England, but they put off the other matters to be settled to the future at the next parliament;¹⁴⁵ and the earl of Hereford remained at court; the other earls went home.

Because I made mention above of the archbishop of Canterbury's death, I turn now to his successor and the manner of his succession. On the death of the primate, the prior and convent of Christ Church Canterbury proceeded to an election, and by a unanimous agreement chose Master Thomas Cobham, a nobleman, and a doctor of canon and civil law, who, setting out at once, crossed the sea to undertake the prosecution of his cause.¹⁴⁶ However, he was hindered by two circumstances. While the primate was still on his sickbed the pope had sent his bull reserving for himself the arrangements for the

see K. B. McFarlane, 'Had Edward I a "policy" towards the earls?', *History*, 1 (1965), reprinted in his *The Nobility of Later Medieval England* (Oxford, 1973) pp. 248–67, at pp. 254–6, 262.

¹⁴⁵ The author mentions only two of Edward's seven parliamentary taxes, this one and the one in 1319 (below, pp. 160–1). In both he states that the lords alone approved the tax, ignoring the role of the commons. In both he also ignores the differential tax on towns. This grant was for one-twentieth on the countryside and one-fifteenth on the towns; it brought in £38, 45s. 3 1/2d. (*Lay Taxes*, p. 31; Willard, *Parliamentary Taxes*, p. 344).

¹⁴⁶ Cobham was elected on 28 May 1313. A royal clerk who had given Edward II good service in diplomatic affairs, particularly with France in 1309–13, he had every reason to expect royal support, but the election was quashed 1 Oct. in favour of Walter Reynolds. Cobham subsequently became bishop of Worcester, 1317–27 (*HBC*, pp. 233, 279; *BRUO*, i. 450–1). For Cobham's diocesan work, see E. H. Pearce, *Thomas de Cobham, Bishop of Worcester 1317–1327* (London, 1923).

1313 futuri pontificis. Misit et rex Anglie summo pontifici, orans ut clericum suum Wygorniensem episcopum ad sedem archiepiscopalem duceret^a promouendum.¹⁴⁷ Hiis de causis impediabatur electus, nec eligencium sibi proficere potuit assensus, quin rege^b instante et multa ut creditur pecunia interueniente, dominus papa archiepiscopatum conferret, et dictum episcopum ecclesie Anglicane preficeret.¹⁴⁸

O quanta inter electum et prefectum erat differentia! Nam electus ipse flos Cancie, nobilis generis, rexerat in artibus,^c in decretis, et magister erat theologus,^d sedi Cantuariensis ecclesie satis ydoneus. Dictus uero episcopus nuper erat simplex clericus et minus competenter litteratus, set in ludis theatralibus principatum tenuit, et per hoc regis fauorem optinuit. Vnde in familia^e regis assumptus post modicum tempus factus est regis thesaurarius, et de thesauraria Wygorniensis episcopus, postmodum cancellarii gessit officium et ecce, nunc promotus est in archiepiscopum. Mirantur quidam de uiri fortuna, set ego magis miror de domino papa, cur tam excellentem personam respueret, et in ydoneum scienter assumeret, cum de utriusque meritis patenter sibi constaret. Set domina pecunia omne negocium consummat in curia. Consuetudinem et mores Romane curie, si forsitan ignorans, aduerte. Amat causas, lites, iurgia, quia expediri non possunt sine pecunia; et causa que curiam semel ingreditur pene immortalis efficitur; et hec fuit causa quare, omisso quolibet medio, licuit ad papam appellare. Quilibet eciam sola contentus esse debet ecclesia, sicut cauit capitulum *de multa*¹⁴⁹ excipiuntur tamen sublimes persone, dispensacionem accipiunt indistincte, sic^f omnes qui pecuniam dare sufficiunt. Hec miranda uanitas, hec curie detestanda cupiditas, totum orbem in sui scandalum excitauit. Multis retro temporibus exstitit inauditum, ut citramontanus eligeretur in papam; post hec nunquam eueniat ut

^a ducet MS; duceret He, St, Den-Y ^b regem MS; rege He, St, Den-Y
^c arcubus R; artibus St, Den-Y ^d sic MS; theologie He, St; the copyist uses the same form below (p. 178) ed. ^e sic MS; poss. familiarum He ^f set R; sic ed.

¹⁴⁷ In a bull dated 27 Apr. 1313 the pope had reserved the right to appoint Winchelsey's successor, but he ordered his nuncios not to deliver it until July, by which time Cobham had been elected. Walter Reynolds, bishop of Worcester since Nov. 1307, treasurer from Aug. 1307 to July 1310, and chancellor from July 1310 to Sept. 1314, was provided to Canterbury on 1 Oct. 1313 and Cobham's election was quashed. Reynolds's character has been treated harshly by historians following the unflattering pictures in the *Flores* and *Vita*, but some chroniclers were more sympathetic, and the pope saw him as a suitable candidate

archbishopric and the choice of the next bishop. Also the king of England sent to the pope, begging him to see fit to promote his clerk the bishop of Worcester to the archiepiscopal see.¹⁴⁷ For these reasons the archbishop-elect was frustrated, nor could the assent of the electors help him, for, at the king's instance and, it is believed, after much money had changed hands, the lord pope conferred the archbishopric and set the said bishop over the English church.¹⁴⁸

Oh! What a difference there was between the elect and the one appointed! For the elect was the very flower of Kent, of noble stock; he had lectured in arts and on canon law, and was a master of theology; a man eminently fitted for the see of Canterbury. The said bishop, on the other hand, had recently been a mere clerk and was scarcely literate, but he excelled in theatrical presentations, and through this obtained the king's favour. For this he was taken into the king's household, and soon became the king's treasurer, and from the treasury became bishop of Worcester; later he took on the office of chancellor, and see! now he is made archbishop. Some are surprised at the man's good luck, but I am more surprised at the lord pope, at why he should reject so excellent a person, and deliberately adopt an unsuitable one, when the merits of each were clearly known to him. But My Lady Money transacts all business in the Curia. If perhaps you do not know the custom and practices of the Roman Curia pay attention to this. It loves causes, lawsuits, disputes, because they cannot be cleared up without money; and a case once entered upon at the Curia becomes almost immortal; and this was the reason why, disregarding any mediator, an appeal to the pope was allowed. Anyone ought to be content with one church only, as the chapter *de multa*¹⁴⁹ decrees, but people of high position are excepted, they receive dispensations indiscriminately, and so it is for all who have sufficient means to give money. This astonishing deceitfulness, this detestable greed of the Curia, has brought scandal on it throughout the whole world. For a long time past it has been unheard of for a non-Italian to be elected pope; after this may it never happen [again]

who could work in cooperation with the king (Menache, *Clement V*, pp. 63-4; Wright, *Reynolds*, pp. 243-62).

¹⁴⁸ The allegation of a substantial bribe is without confirmation, and it is probable that no more money passed hands than was usual at the beginning of an episcopate (Wright, *Reynolds*, p. 245 and n.).

¹⁴⁹ This is canon 29 of the Fourth Lateran Council, 1215: *Decretal. Gregor. IX*, L. 3 t. 5 c. 28 (*Corpus Iuris Canonici*, ii. col. 477). An English translation is readily available in 'Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council, 1215', *EHD*, iii. 643-76, at 657-8.

1313 tam uicinus homo cathedram papalem ascendat.¹⁵⁰ Octo annis et amplius papa Clemens quintus uniuersalem rexit ecclesiam, set quicquid profuit homini euasit memoriam. Apud Vienniam consilium congregauit, et Templarios disposuit, indulgencias pro Terra Sancta concessit, infinitam pecuniam congressit, set Terre Sancte nichil omnino profuit.¹⁵¹ Regibus concessit decimas, pauperum spoliauit ecclesias. Melius esset rectoribus papam non habere quam tot exactionibus in dies subiacere. Set an hoc possit facere^a non est meum discutere, quia instar sacrilegii est de potestate principis disputare.¹⁵² Inter omnes mundi prouincias sola Anglia dominum papam^b sentit onerosum;¹⁵³ nam ex plenitudine potestatis multa presumit, nec princeps nec populus sibi contradicit; omnes pingues redditus sibi reseruat,¹⁵⁴ atque rebellantes statim excommunicat; ueniunt legati et terram spoliunt;¹⁵⁵ ueniunt bullati et prebendas uendicant. Omnes decanatus alienigenis contulit ubi lex indigenas^c preferri statuit. Residencia decanorum iam nunc aboletur, et canonicorum numerus ualde desolatur.¹⁵⁶ Nonne^d sicut papa^e

^a sic MS; poss. fieri He ^b ipsam MS; papam He, St, Den-Y ^c idigenas MS; indigenas St, Den-Y ^d nomen MS; nonne He, St, Den-Y ^e papam MS; papa He, St, Den-Y

¹⁵⁰ Clement V, elected on 5 June 1305, was Bertrand de Got, bishop of Bordeaux from 1299, who had worked as a royal clerk in Gascony and was well disposed to the English kings (J. H. Denton, 'Pope Clement V's early career as a royal clerk', *EHR*, lxxxiii (1968), 303–14). The next Gascon pope was Benedict XII, elected in 1334.

¹⁵¹ The Council of Vienne opened on 16 Oct. 1311. In Mar. 1312 at the end of its first session, it approved the bull *Vox in excelso* suppressing the Order of the Templars. In its second session, which opened on 3 Apr. 1312, and after informal negotiations, Clement V announced the imposition of a sexennial tenth for the crusade on all ecclesiastical provinces, but no decision was reached about the crusade itself. Only one year's tenth was ever levied in England. For the Council's decrees, of which a substantial number were later incorporated in the decretal collection known as the Clementines, see N. Tanner (ed.), *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* (2 vols., London, 1990), pp. 336–401; for the sexennial tenth, Lunt, *Financial Relations*, pp. 395–8. I am indebted to Miss Barbara Harvey for this note on the Council of Vienne.

¹⁵² *Cod. ix. 20. 2, Corpus Iuris Civilis*, ii. 385.

¹⁵³ Despite the author's complaint, papal demands on England do not seem to be out of line with those made elsewhere; see, for instance, the level of papal provisions in France and England (Menache, *Clement V*, pp. 54–100).

¹⁵⁴ The fat rents were undoubtedly a reference to annates, payments of a proportion of the first year's income by new incumbents of benefices. They were levied for the first time as a papal tax in England in 1306–9, and caused immediate resentment. They were prohibited at the parliament of Carlisle in 1307, but the king revoked the prohibition. The total sum collected over the three years has been estimated at £18,838. It was attractive enough for Pope John XXII to repeat the imposition in 1316–19 (Lunt, *Financial Relations*, pp. 486–94; W. E. Lunt, 'William Testa and the parliament of Carlisle', *EHR*, xli (1926), 332–57, at 339, 343–5).

that a man so near to us ascends the papal throne.¹⁵⁰ For eight years 1313 and more Pope Clement V has ruled the church universal, but how it has profited any man escapes my memory. He has gathered together a council at Vienne, and disposed of the Templars, he has granted indulgences for the Holy Land, collected a vast amount of money, but it has profited the Holy Land not at all.¹⁵¹ He has granted tenths to kings, he has plundered the churches of the poor. It would be better for rectors not to have a pope than to be subject to so many daily exactions. But whether this can be done is not for me to discuss, because it is the equivalent of sacrilege to dispute the prince's power.¹⁵² Amongst all the provinces of the world England alone feels the lord pope a burden;¹⁵³ for he presumes much on his *plenitudo potestatis*; neither the prince nor the people refuses him; he reserves all fat rents for himself,¹⁵⁴ and immediately excommunicates the rebellious; legates come and plunder the land;¹⁵⁵ men come with bulls and claim prebends. He has bestowed all deaneries on foreigners although the law has decreed that natives should be preferred. The residence of deans is now already destroyed, and the number of canons is greatly diminished.¹⁵⁶ As pope does he not rule over

¹⁵⁵ Of the legates sent to England before 1313, only William Testa, papal tax-collector 1305–13, received a large number of benefices and could be said to have 'plundered the land'. Peter of Spain, Arnald d'Aux, and Arnald Nouvel received only modest gifts, although other cardinals, resident abroad, held deaneries and prebends at this time (Wright, *Reynolds*, pp. 286, 289–90, 292, 298–9, 305, 306–7).

¹⁵⁶ Direct papal provision to church benefices was increasing throughout Europe. The number of provisions made in England was not high compared with those made later but the practice already caused strong resentment (Denton, *Winchelsey*, pp. 242–4; Wright, *Reynolds*, pp. 29 and n., 275). Attacks on the provision of non-resident foreigners were made in the parliament at Carlisle in 1307 and repeated at Stamford in 1309 (*RP*, i. 207a–208a, 220b–221a; *Councils and Synods with Other Documents Relating to the English Church*, ed. F. M. Powicke and C. R. Cheney (Oxford, 1964), ii. 1236–40; *CPR 1307–13*, p. 180; *Foed.*, ii. i. 84). Cathedral offices without cure of souls were especially attractive for foreigners, since licences for non-residence were easier to obtain. The effect can be seen at York, where up to one-third of cathedral offices were held by foreigners (R. B. Dobson, 'The later Middle Ages, 1215–1500', in Aylmer and Cant, *York Minster*, pp. 79–80). The author's indignation may have been fired by three recent high-profile disputes over provisions to the archdeaconry of Richmond, the deanery of St Paul's, and a prebend at York (Menache, *Clement V*, pp. 68–9). The law to which the author refers is unclear. The statute of Carlisle dealt only with money sent abroad from abbeys. However, the barons at Stamford in 1309 clearly believed they could appeal to law: their petition, explicit in its dislike of foreign incumbents, stated that 'according to the law of the land' any use made of church possessions which was not in line with the intentions of the donors would lead to revocation of the original grant and return of the property to the donors or their heirs (*SR*, i. 150–2; *Councils and Synods*, ed. Powicke and Cheney, ii. 1236–40).

1313 spiritualia moderatur, et sic^a princeps imperatorum^b in temporalibus dominatur? Cur igitur papa magis presumit in clericis, quam ipsa magestas et dominatio imperialis in laicis? Imperator enim sine causa a nullo quicquam exigit; dominus papa passim cum uult mutat, confert et repetit. Domine Iesu, uel papam tolle de medio, uel potestatem minue quam presumit in populo, quia priuilegium meretur amittere qui concessa sibi abutitur potestate.¹⁵⁷ Quid dicam de clericis qui hiis diebus accedunt ad curiam, et multa refusa pecunia tanquam in foro uenali dignitates emunt et prebendas? Si dicamus simoniam committi, ipse papa non poterit excusari, quia simonia ultro citroque est obligatoria; sicut enim eumentem ligat sic et uendentem condempnat.¹⁵⁸ Set forsitan dicet papa se supra leges esse et per consequens legibus ligari non posse. Set non debet^c facere quod necesse habet alios prohibere, ne inde nascantur iniurie, unde iura debent procedere.¹⁵⁹ Ego tamen ad presens dominum papam excuso; nec ipsum excedere credamus in aliquo, quia uel honoris gracia datur, uel ad elimosinam pape redigitur quicquid ex hac causa confertur; unde liberalitas domini pape sic excitatur, set uendicio nusquam contrahitur. Nam si quis honoris gracia in auditorio quicquam tribuit, non tamen propter hoc ipsum conducit; alioquin non ex mandato set ex conducto compereret accio.¹⁶⁰ Prebet^d autem se ipsum homo et secum diligenter deliberet, an sibi^e impetrare uel non impetrare magis expediat, quia gehenne ignis expectat incendium qui^f lesa consciencia tendit ad iudicium.

Interea Robertus de Brutz partes Northumbrorum uiolenter inuasit, uillas et burgos succendit, homines occidit, animalia eorum abegit, et multos ad tributum coegit. Nam ciues et incole, uidentes se sui regis defensione carere, et seuciam Roberti de Brutz non posse sufferre, fecerunt pacem cum eo quam poterant, de termino ad terminum soluendo certum tributum. Erat autem tributum quod modico tempore sic extorserat, quasi quadraginta milia librarum.¹⁶¹

^a sic MS; sicut Den-Y ^b sic MS; poss. imperator He ^c debere MS; debet He, St, Den-Y ^d sic R; probet St, Den-Y ^e si R; sibi Den-Y ^f quia R; qui St, Den-Y

¹⁵⁷ Decretum C. 11 q.3 c.63, *Corpus Iuris Canonici*, col. 660.

¹⁵⁸ Decretum C. 1 q.1 c.6, *Corpus Iuris Canonici*, col. 359.

¹⁵⁹ Dig. viii. 5. 15, *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 121.

¹⁶⁰ These were both actions for breach of contract in Roman law. But whereas *mandatum* was a contract of support and service entered into freely and honourably without money changing hands, *conductum* was a hiring or renting contract for cash. The

1313 spiritualities, just as the prince of emperors governs in temporalities? Why therefore does the pope take more from clerks than the imperial majesty and dominion itself does from laymen? For the emperor demands nothing from anyone without cause; the lord pope far and wide at will changes, bestows, and withdraws. Lord Jesus! Either take away the pope from our midst or lessen the power that he presumes to exercise over the people, for he who abuses the power granted to him deserves to lose his privilege.¹⁵⁷ What shall I say of the clerks who beset the Curia these days, and buy dignities and prebends with a great profusion of cash as if in the marketplace? If we say that simony is committed, the pope himself cannot be excused, because simony is mutually binding; for just as it binds the purchaser so also it condemns the seller.¹⁵⁸ But perhaps the pope will say that he is above the laws and consequently cannot be bound by the laws. But he ought not to do what of necessity he must prohibit others from doing, lest wrongs arise from that from which rights should proceed.¹⁵⁹ Nevertheless, at present I myself excuse the lord pope; we should not believe that he oversteps the limit in any way, because whatever is contributed for this reason is either given as a mark of respect, or is paid in to the pope's charitable relief; by this the lord pope's generosity is aroused in return, but a sale is nowhere contracted. For if anyone pays anything at an audience as a mark of respect, he does not bribe the pope by this; otherwise an action would lie not *ex mandato* but *ex conducto*.¹⁶⁰ But let each man examine himself and carefully weigh in his mind whether it is better for him to obtain or not to obtain, for he who proffers a troubled conscience at the day of judgement awaits the blaze of hellfire.

Meanwhile Robert Bruce violently attacked Northumbria, burned vills and towns, killed men, drove off their cattle, and forced many to pay tribute. For the citizens and inhabitants, seeing that their king did not defend them, and being unable to bear the savagery of Robert Bruce, made such peace with him as they could, paying a fixed tribute from term to term. The tribute which he thus extorted in a short time was of the order of forty thousand pounds.¹⁶¹ He utterly destroyed, too,

technicalities of the actions therefore differed. The *actio mandati* was familiar at this time as part of the decretalists' discussions of a vassal's obligation to his lord in war (Russell, *Just War*, pp. 150-2).

¹⁶¹ This is a reference to the truce from 24 June 1313 to 29 Sept. 1314 bought by Northumberland from Robert Bruce and recorded by the Lanercost chronicler. It was raised by a levy resembling the normal kind, and, if similar in scale to other recent payments, amounted to £2,000 (McNamee, *Wars*, pp. 131-2). The suggestion that

1313 Muros eciam uillarum et castrorum in Scocia funditus destruxit, ne
1314 superuenienti genti Anglorum municioni forent in posterum. Cepit
autem duo castra regis Anglie munitissima, Edenburghe scilicet et
Rokesburghe; unum per prodicionem cuiusdam Vasconis qui erat
cognatus Petri de Gauestone, cui rex noster custodiam castrum
tradiderat. Ipse periurus et proditor adhesit Roberto de Brutz et
castrum prodidit.^a 162 Alterum castrum captum erat per industriam
Iacobi Dugelas, qui erat ex parte Scotorum.¹⁶³ Nam ipse Iacobus
quadam nocte clam ad castellum accessit, et scalas latenter allatas ad
murum apposuit; et sic per eas murum ascendit, et custodibus
dormientibus uel incautis socios introduxit; et quos reperiēbat inuasit
et castrum cepit, et eodem modo castrum de Berewyke cepisset nisi
quidam canis uigiles excitasset.

Deinde Robertus de Brutz ad obsidendum castrum de Stryuelyn se
conuertit. Hoc quidem castrum dominus Edwardus rex Anglie senior
cum toto exercitu suo per tres menses et amplius obsedit antequam
capere posset. Videns igitur custos castrum obsidionem iam ceptam,
uictum eorum insufficientem, Robertum et Scotos in^b insidiis semper
latentes,^c treugas accepit sub hoc pacto, quod aut procuraret regem
Anglie ad defendendum castrum uenire, aut, si regem ad hoc
inducere non posset, castrum indilate relinqueret; et hoc petium
sic initum fide media confirmatur, et dies natiuitatis sancti Iohannis
baptiste pro termino assignatur.¹⁶⁴

Circa principium Quadragesime¹⁶⁵ uenerunt nuncii ad regem
narrantes municipiorum Scocie destructionem, castrorum capcionem
et murorum in circuitu dirupcionem. Venit et constabularius de
Stryuelyn indicans regi quale petium necessitate compulsus inierat;
procurauit regem exercitum in Scociam ducere, castrum suum et
terram defendere.

^a perdidit *MS*; prodidit *He, St, Den-Y* ^b et *MS*; in *He, St, Den-Y* ^c latentem
MS; latentes *He, St, Den-Y*

£40,000 was raised from Northumberland is clearly an exaggeration, but the total tribute
taken by Bruce was high. Harclay's treaty with Bruce in 1323 envisaged compensation of
40,000 marks (£26,666. 13s. 4d.), and Isabella's treaty in 1328 £20,000 (Stones, *Anglo-
Scottish Relations*, pp. 312, 336).

¹⁶² These castles had been the spoils, along with Berwick and Stirling, of Edward I's
great campaign in 1296. Edinburgh was taken on 14 Mar. 1314 by Thomas Randolph, earl
of Moray. Edinburgh's commander was Pierre Lubaud, who joined Bruce after the castle's
capture (Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 195–6; *The Bruce*, x. 327–8; pp. 396–9).

¹⁶³ Roxburgh was taken on the night of 19–20 Feb. by James Douglas. Douglas was a
member of a well-established but minor Lanarkshire military family, whose father died in
captivity in the Tower of London. Knighted by Bruce after Bannockburn, he took part in

the walls of the castles and towns in Scotland, lest they should later
serve to protect the advancing English. He took two of the king of
England's strongest fortresses, namely Edinburgh and Roxburgh; one
through the treachery of a certain Gascon, who was Piers Gaveston's
cousin, to whom our king had given the custody of the castle. This
perjurer and traitor supported Robert Bruce and betrayed the castle.¹⁶²
The other castle was taken through the efforts of James Douglas, who
was on the side of the Scots.¹⁶³ For this James came secretly to the fort
one night, brought up ladders stealthily and placed them against the
wall; and by this means he climbed up the wall, and led his companions
upon the sleeping or careless guards; and he attacked those he found
and took the castle, and he would have taken Berwick Castle in the
same way except that a dog roused the watchmen.

Then Robert Bruce turned to the siege of Stirling Castle. The elder
lord Edward, king of England, besieged this castle with his whole
army for three months and more before he could take it. When the
keeper of the castle saw that the siege had already begun, that their
stores were insufficient, that Robert and the Scots lay continually in
ambush, he agreed to a truce on this condition, that he would either
get the king of England to come to defend the castle, or, if he could
not persuade the king to do this, he would give up the castle without
delay. This arrangement, entered into as described, was ratified by
pledge of faith, and the day of the nativity of St John the Baptist was
appointed as the deadline.¹⁶⁴

About the beginning of Lent¹⁶⁵ messengers came to the king with
news of the destruction of the Scottish towns, the capture of the
castles, and the breaching of the surrounding walls. The constable of
Stirling came, too, and revealed to the king what sort of deal he had
been forced by necessity to enter into. He persuaded the king to lead
an army to Scotland, to defend his castle and the country.

almost every military engagement thereafter, and led many of the raids into England. He
became one of Bruce's most active and trusted commanders. He died 25 Aug. 1330
fighting the Muslims in Spain, bearing Bruce's embalmed heart to fulfil Bruce's vow to
fight on crusade (Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 236–40, 323–4; M. Brown, *The Black Douglases*
(Lancaster, 1998), pp. 14–28; see also *DNB*, 'Douglas').

¹⁶⁴ 24 June 1314. Stirling castle had first fallen into English hands in 1296; the Scots
retook it in 1299, and Edward I had taken it back after a siege lasting from Apr. to July
1304 (Prestwich, *Ed. I*, pp. 473, 484, 501–2). The castellan was Philip Mowbray, a Scot,
who had served Edward I loyally, and had fought alongside the earl of Pembroke at
Methven, 1306. He had been keeper of Stirling Castle since at least 1311 (*CDS*, no. 424).

¹⁶⁵ Ash Wednesday was 20 Feb. 1314; it would have been some time after that when
news came of the fall of the castles.

¹³¹⁴ Audiens hec rex uehementer doluit, et pro castrorum capcione lacrimas continere uix potuit. Mandauit igitur comitibus et baronibus quatinus in auxilium suum uenirent, et proditorem qui se regem facit expungnant.¹⁶⁶ Responderunt comites melius fore ad parlamentum omnes conuenire et ibidem unanimiter diffinire quid in hoc negocio oportet agere, quam si ita inconsulte procederent; nam et ordinationes hoc uolunt. Dixit autem rex instans negocium magna acceleratione indigere, et ideo parlamentum exspectare non posse. Dixerunt comites ad pugnam sine parlamento uenire nolle, ne contingeret eos ordinationes offendere. Consiliarii uero et domestici regis quidam consuluerunt regi, ut debita seruicia ab omnibus exigeret, et audacter in Scociam tenderet. Certum esse quod tot in auxilium uenirent quibus nec Robertus Brutz nec Scoti resisterent. Quid comes Gloucestrie, quid comes de Penbroke, quid comes de Herford, Robertus de Clifford,¹⁶⁷ Hugo de Spenser et regis familia et ceteri barones qui sunt in Anglia? Omnes hii uenient cum suis militibus: non est magna cura de reliquis comitibus. Rex igitur debita seruicia ab omnibus exegit, et commeatui necessaria prouideri mandauit.¹⁶⁸ Premisit quoque comitem de Penbrok cum manu militari, qui insidias Scotorum diligenter exploraret, et uiam regis in Scociam prepararet.

Omnibus itaque necessariis collectis, rex et alii magnates terre cum magna multitudine curuum^a et quadrigarum profecti sunt in Scociam. Cumque dominus rex ad Berewyk peruenisset,¹⁶⁹ aliquantulum moram fecit ut uenturum exercitum exspectaret. Comes autem Lancastrie, comes Warennie, comes de Arundel et comes de Warewik

^a sic MS; curruum *He, St, Den-Y*

¹⁶⁶ This chronology is not strictly correct. A campaign had already been planned before the losses of Edinburgh and Roxburgh and the attack on Stirling. A summons had been issued on 23 Dec. 1313 to muster at Berwick on 10 June 1314 (*CCR 1313-17*, p. 86; *PW*, ii. 2. 421-3).

¹⁶⁷ Clifford became of baronial status when he combined his Clifford inheritance in the Welsh Marches with half the Vipont estates in the north-west, inherited from his mother in 1291. This also shifted his major interest to the northern counties. He was first summoned to parliament in 1299 (*CP*, iii. 290-1). He was among the open critics of the king and Gaveston: he was associated with the Boulogne agreement in 1308 (for which he was dismissed from the constableness of Nottingham castle); he guaranteed that the Ordinances would not be to the prejudice of the king; and he associated himself with Gaveston's death, for which he was pardoned in Oct. 1313 (*CPR 1313-17*, pp. 25-6). Nonetheless, like Hereford, he joined the king at Bannockburn, without appealing to the Ordinances. His son Roger was to join Hereford and Lancaster in 1322.

¹⁶⁸ The service of the feudal host *cum equis et armis et toto seruicio quod nobis debetis* (*PW*, ii. 2. 421) would provide about 400 heavy cavalry. The Ordainers who refused to serve

When the king heard the news he was very much grieved, and for the capture of his castles could hardly restrain his tears. He therefore summoned the earls and barons to come to his help and overcome the traitor who pretends to be king.¹⁶⁶ The earls replied that it would be better for all to meet in parliament and there unanimously to decide what ought to be done in this matter, rather than to proceed thus without consultation; moreover the Ordinances demand this. But the king said that the present business required the utmost speed and he could not therefore wait for parliament. The earls said that they would not come to fight without parliament, in case they infringed the Ordinances. Some of the king's counselors and household officials in fact advised the king to demand their due service from all, and to set out boldly for Scotland. It was certain that so many would come to his help that neither Robert Bruce nor the Scots would resist. What of the earl of Gloucester, the earl of Pembroke, the earl of Hereford, Robert Clifford,¹⁶⁷ Hugh Despenser, and the king's household and the other barons in England? All these would come with their knights: there is no need to worry about the other earls. The king therefore demanded their due service from all, and ordered the necessary supplies to be provided.¹⁶⁸ He sent the earl of Pembroke ahead with a force of knights, to reconnoitre carefully for Scottish ambushes, and prepare the king's route into Scotland.

When all the necessary supplies had been collected, the king and the other great men of the land with a great multitude of carts and baggage wagons set out for Scotland. When the lord king had reached Berwick,¹⁶⁹ he made a short halt there to await the arrival of the army. However, the earl of Lancaster, Earl Warenne, the earl of Arundel,

personally did so because the king had issued the summons without baronial consent to the war, taken in parliament, as demanded by clause 9 of the Ordinances. They nonetheless provided the minimum service (the due service) they owed. Extra cavalry forces were raised by appealing to the fealty of tenants in chief and asking them to send additional forces. Hereford, Gloucester, Pembroke, and many barons willingly served in 1314, and the cavalry probably amounted to 2,000-2,500 horse. Orders to muster 21,000 infantry were issued, although not all may have served. Willing service could be increased by offers of reward as in 1319 (below, pp. 162-3). For Edward's forces at Bannockburn see M. Prestwich, 'Cavalry service in early fourteenth-century England', in J. Gillingham and J. C. Holt (eds.), *War and Government in the Middle Ages: Essays in Honour of J. O. Prestwich* (Woodbridge, 1984), pp. 147-58, at pp. 148-52; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 157-8; Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 204-8; McNamee, *Wars*, pp. 125-6. Edward clearly had adequate men and supplies at Bannockburn, as the author emphasizes again in the following paragraph.

¹⁶⁹ Probably by 11 June, when the privy seal was used there (*Itin.*, p. 115).

¹³¹⁴ non uenerunt, set milites instructos qui debita seruicia pro eis impenderent ad exercitum premiserunt. Instante iam festo sancti Iohannis baptiste, sexto uel septimo die precedente,¹⁷⁰ rex noster cum uniuerso exercitu suo a Berewyk exiuit, et uersus Stryuelyn iter arripuit. Erant autem armatorum amplius quam duo milia excepta peditum turba copiosa. Fuerunt in societate illa satis sufficientes^a ad penetrandum totam Scociam, et iudicio aliquorum, si tota Scocia collecta fuisset in unum, non exspectaret regis exercitum. Reuera hoc fatebatur tota comitiua, quod tempore nostro talis exercitus non exiuit ab Anglia. Multitudo quadrigarum, si seriatim extensa fuisset in longum, occupasset spacium uiginti leucarum.

Rex igitur, de tanta et tam clara multitudine confisus et animosus effectus, de die in diem festinanter ad locum prefixum est profectus, non tanquam exercitum ducturus ad bellum set magis profecturus ad Sanctum Iacobum.¹⁷¹ Breuis erat mora capiendi sompnum, set breuior erat mora sumendi cibum; unde equi, equites et pedites, labore et fame fatigati, si minus bene rem gererent non erant culpandi.

Comes autem Gloucestrie et comes Herfordie primam aciem regebant. Die itaque Dominica, que erat beati Iohannis uigilia,¹⁷² cum iam quandam siluam preteriissent et castrum de Stryuelyn iam appropinquarent, ecce Scoti quasi fugientes errabant sub nemore,^b quos miles quidam Henricus de Boun^c cum Walensibus persecutus est usque ad introitum nemoris.¹⁷³ Gestabat enim in animo quod, si Robertum de Brutz ibidem inueniret, uel morti traderet uel secum captum adduceret. Cum autem eo peruenisset, Robertus ipse a latebris silue statim exiuit;^c uidensque predictus Henricus quod multitudini Scotorum resistere non posset, redire uolens ad socios equum retorsit; set Robertus ei restitit et securi quam manu gerebat caput ipsius contriuit. Armiger autem eius, dum dominum suum tueri uel uindicare conatur, a Scotis opprimitur.

Inicium malorum hoc! ipso eodem die satis acre bellum geritur, in

^a sufficienter *MS*; sufficientes *He, St, Den-Y* ^b more *MS*; nemore *He, St, Den-Y*
^c Doun *R*; Boun *Den-Y*; *He also read, or his MS provided, Danastre for Banastre, see below*
^d exhibit *MS*; exhibit *He, St*; exiuit *Den-Y*

¹⁷⁰ That is 17 or 18 June 1314.

¹⁷¹ Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, north-west Spain, was one of the great pilgrimage centres of the period. Edward thus was acting as if hastening to a peaceful destination.

¹⁷² That is 23 June 1314.

¹⁷³ The wood was Torwood, south of Stirling Castle, and the clash with Henry Boun

and the earl of Warwick did not come, but sent knights equipped to do their due service for them in the army. On the sixth or seventh day before the feast of St John the Baptist,¹⁷⁰ our king with his whole army left Berwick and made his way towards Stirling. The men-at-arms numbered more than two thousand, without counting a very large troop of foot soldiers. There were in that company quite sufficient to penetrate the whole of Scotland, and some thought that if the whole strength of Scotland had been gathered together, they would not have stayed to face the king's army. Indeed all who were present agreed that never in our time has such an army marched out from England. The great number of wagons, if they had been placed end to end, would have stretched for twenty leagues.

The king therefore took confidence and courage from so great and fine an army and hurried day after day to the appointed place, not as if he was leading an army to battle but rather as if he were going to Santiago.¹⁷¹ Short were the halts for sleep, shorter still were those for food; hence horses, horsemen, and infantry were worn out with toil and hunger, and if they did not bear themselves well it was not their fault.

The earl of Gloucester and the earl of Hereford commanded the first line. On Sunday, which was the day before St John's day,¹⁷² when they had passed a certain wood and were approaching Stirling Castle, the Scots were seen straggling under the trees as if in flight, and a certain knight, Henry Boun, pursued them with the Welsh to the edge of the wood.¹⁷³ For he had in mind that if he found Robert Bruce there he would either kill him or carry him off captive. But when he had come there, Robert himself came suddenly out of his hiding place in the wood, and the said Henry seeing that he could not resist the crowd of Scots, turned his horse intending to return to his companions; but Robert opposed him and struck him on the head with an axe that he carried in his hand. His squire, trying to protect or rescue his lord, was overwhelmed by the Scots.

This is the beginning of their troubles! On the same day a sharp

(or Bohun) took place at its northern end at New Park (Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 209-13, 218). Henry Bohun was among the group which left Edward I's army prematurely in 1306 to attend a tournament and which was pardoned in 1307; he was possibly a nephew of the earl of Hereford (*CCR 1302-7*, p. 482; *The Bruce*, xii. 25-59; pp. 448-51). Hearne read (or his manuscript gave) Doun, and Tout noted that Doun was a well-known Welsh name (*Ed. II*, p. 339). However, in the light of Hearne's reading (or the manuscript's provision) of Danastre for Banastre later, and of the clear record of Henry Bohun in the lists of those dead at Bannockburn (*The Bruce*, as above; *Ann. Lond.*, p. 231; *Cont. Trivet*, p. 14), it is certain that we should read Boun.

1314 quo comes Gloucestrie ab equo deicitur, in quo Robertus de Clifford turpiter in fugam conuertitur, set et homines nostri diu Scotos persequentur,^a multi ex utraque parte perimuntur. Quia uero inclinata erat iam dies conuenit totus exercitus ad locum ubi ipsa nocte reclinaret. Set nulla erat quies; totam enim illam duxerunt insomnem; putabant namque Scotos pocius insultum dare de nocte quam bellum expectare de die. Mane¹⁷⁴ autem facto certo cercius comperitum est Scotos paratos ad prelium cum magna multitudine armatorum. Vnde homines nostri, milites scilicet ueterani, et hii qui magis erant experti, consilium dederunt ipso die non esse pungnaturum,^b set diem crastinum magis expectandum, tum propter solemne festum, tum propter laborem preteritum. Vtile quidem et honestum erat consilium apud iuuenes reprobatum, inhers et ignauum^c reputatum.

Comes autem Gloucestrie consuluit^d regi ne ipso die in bellum prodiret, set propter festum pocius uacaret, et exercitum suum ualde recrearet. Set rex consilium comitis spreuit, et prodicionem et preuaricationem sibi imponens in ipsum uehementer excanduit.^e 'Hodie,' inquit comes, 'erit liquidum quod nec proditor nec preuaricator sum', et statim parauit se ad pungendum. Interim Robertus de Brutz socios monuit et instruxit, panem et uinum prebuit, et modo quo potuit confortauit; ubi uero didicit acies Anglorum in campum deuenisse totum exercitum suum eduxit de nemore. Circiter quadraginta milia hominum secum produxit, ipsosque in tres turmas diuisit; et nullus eorum equum ascendit, set erat unusquisque eorum leui armatura munitus, quam non facilliter penetraret gladius. Securim habebant ad latus et lanceas ferebant in manibus. Ibant eciam quasi sepes densa conserti,^f nec leuiter potuit talis turma penetrari.¹⁷⁵ Cum autem ad hoc uentum esset ut congregari simul oporteret, Iacobus Douglas, qui prime turme Scotorum preerat, aciem comitis Gloucestrie acriter inuasit. Et comes ipsum uiriliter^g excepit, semel et iterum cuneum penetrauit, et triumphum utique reportasset si fideles socios habuisset. Set ecce, subito irruentibus Scotis equus comitis occiditur et comes in terram labitur. Ipse eciam defensore carens et mole corporis nimis oneratus facilliter exurgere

^a sic MS; persequuntur He, St, Den-Y

^c ignarum R; ignauum St, Den-Y

^e excanduit MS; excanduit He, St, Den-Y

^g ipsum repeated after uiriliter MS; om. He, St, Den-Y

^b sic R; for pungendum MW

^d consiluit MS; consuluit He, Den-Y

^f sic MS; poss. conferti He

¹⁷⁴ That is on 24 June 1314.

1314 action takes place, in which the earl of Gloucester is thrown from his horse, and Robert Clifford is disgracefully put to flight, and though our men long pursue the Scots, many are killed on each side. Because now the day was over, the whole army gathered at the place where it was to rest that night. But there was no rest; for they spent the whole night sleepless, expecting the Scots rather to attack by night than to wait for battle by day. At daybreak¹⁷⁴ it was abundantly clear that the Scots were ready for the conflict with a great force of armed men. Therefore our men, that is the veteran knights and those who were more experienced, advised that we should not fight that day, but rather wait for the next day, both on account of the importance of the feast and their previous exertion. This practical and honourable advice was rejected by the younger men as lethargic and cowardly.

The earl of Gloucester, on the other hand, counselled the king not to go forth to battle that day, but rather to rest on account of the feast, and let his army recuperate as much as possible. But the king scorned the earl's advice, and grew very heated with him, charging him with treachery and deceit. 'Today,' said the earl, 'it will be clear that I am neither a traitor nor a liar', and at once prepared himself for battle. Meanwhile Robert Bruce briefed his company and drew them up in battle array, gave them bread and wine, and heartened them as best he could; when he learned that the English line had reached the field he led his whole army out from the wood. He brought about forty thousand men with him, and split them into three divisions; and not one of them was on horseback, but each was furnished with light armour, which a sword would not easily penetrate. They had axes at their sides and carried lances in their hands. They advanced like a thick-set hedge, and such a troop could not easily be broken.¹⁷⁵ When, however, it had come to the point that the two sides must meet, James Douglas, who commanded the first division of the Scots, vigorously attacked the earl of Gloucester's line. The earl withstood him manfully, time and again he penetrated their wedge, and would without doubt have been victorious if he had had faithful companions. But look! At a sudden rush of Scots, the earl's horse is killed and the earl falls to the ground. Furthermore, without a defender and burdened by the weight of its body he could not easily rise, and of the

¹⁷⁵ The number is a clear exaggeration. Bruce probably had about 500 cavalry and 5-6,000 infantry (Barrow, *Bruce*, p. 209). The tight-packed Scottish schiltrom or wedge formation was difficult to overcome, and is frequently mentioned by English chroniclers. For its use at Bannockburn see Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 220-1.

1314 non potuit, set inter quingentos armatorum quos suis sumptibus duxerat ad bellum, ipse fere solum occubuit. Cum enim uiderent dominum suum ab equo deiectum, stabant quasi attoniti non ferentes auxilium. Maledicta milicia^a cuius summa necessarie^b perit audacia. Heu! uiginti milites armati satis subuenissent comiti, set inter quingentos fere non profuit unus. Confundat eos Dominus!

Alii dixerunt comitem Gloucestrie ex incauto processu subito periisse. Certabant enim inter se ipse et comes Herfordie quis in acie alterum deberet procedere,^c et comes Herfordie dicebat hoc sibi de iure competere eo quod constabularius sit Anglie. Alius dicebat progenitores suos semper in acie primos exstitisse, et hoc ideo ad se pertinere de consuetudine. Porro dum in hunc modum uterque certaret, et acies Scotorum acriter appropinquaret,^d prosiluit comes Gilbertus inordinate uolens de primo congressu triumphum reportare; set ecce irruentibus Scotis comes excipitur et equus eius statim occiditur; quia defensore caruit ab equo deiectus, et multis uulneribus confossus,^e turpiter occubuit. Heu! uiginti milites armati satis subuenissent comiti, set inter quingentos fere non profuit unus. Confundat eos Dominus!

Egidius de Argentym, miles strenuus^f et in re militari multum expertus, dum frenum regis regeret et casum comitis aspiceret,¹⁷⁶ acer et anxius illuc properauit subuenire comiti, nec potuit. Fecit tamen quod potuit, et cum comite simul occubuit, honestius arbitrans cum tanto uiro subcumbere^g quam fugiendo mortem euadere; nam qui in acie pro re publica perimuntur semper per gloriam uiuere intelliguntur. Eodem die Robertus de Clifford, Paganus Typetot, Will-elmus Mareschal, milites preclari, potentes et strenui, a Scotos oppressi^h ibidem occumbunt.¹⁷⁷

Videntes hii qui cum rege nostro erant aciem comitis contritam et socios eius paratos ad fugam, dixerunt, periculosum est diucius

^a malicia R; milicia St, Den-Y ^b necessarie R; necessitate St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; precedere He, St, Den-Y ^d appropinquaret MS; appropinquaret He, St, Den-Y
^e confossus MS; confossus He, St, Den-Y ^f strenuus MS; He changed his first reading of strenuus to strenuus without comment; strenuus St, Den-Y; the copyist used strenuus again below (p. 210) ed. ^g sic R; succumbere St, Den-Y ^h sic R; oppressi St, Den-Y

¹⁷⁶ Argentein was an active soldier, who fought in Scotland, on the Continent, and as a crusader in the east. He was also a keen tourneyer. He left Edward I's campaigns in 1302 and 1306 to attend tournaments, was at the Dunstable tournament in 1309, and was a leading figure as 'king of the green wood' at the following tournament in Stepney (Barker, *Tournament*, pp. 127-8; H. Johnstone, *Edward of Caernarvon: 1284-1307* (Manchester, 1946), pp. 116-17 and nn.). To be in charge of the king's rein was the equivalent of being his personal bodyguard. Barbour's *Bruce* notes both Pembroke and Argentein as appointed to hold the king's rein (*The Bruce*, xi. 180-4, xiii. 295-8; pp. 415, 495).

five hundred men-at-arms whom he had led to battle at his own 1314 expense, almost only he was killed. For when they saw their lord thrown from his horse, they stood stunned and did not help him. Cursed be the knighthood whose courage fails in the hour of greatest need!

Alas! Twenty armed knights might have saved the earl, but among some five hundred, not one was of any use. May the Lord confound them! Some said that the earl of Gloucester had perished suddenly by reason of his rash attack. For there was rivalry between him and the earl of Hereford, over who should take precedence over the other in the line, and the earl of Hereford said that this was lawfully his by right, because he was constable of England. The other replied that his forbears had always led the van, and therefore this was his by custom. Then, while they argued in this fashion, and the Scottish forces were approaching rapidly, Earl Gilbert dashed forward in disorder, seeking to carry off the glory of the first clash; but see! the earl is met by the onrushing Scots and his horse immediately killed; because there was no one to defend him when he was thrown from his horse, he was pierced by many wounds, and was shamefully killed. Alas! Twenty armed knights might have saved the earl, but among some five hundred not one was of any use. May the Lord confound them!

While he was in command of the king's rein, Giles Argentein, an active knight and very experienced in the art of war,¹⁷⁶ saw the earl's misfortune and rushed there, eager and anxious to help the earl, but he could not. Yet he did what he could, and fell together with the earl, thinking it more honourable to perish with so great a man than to escape death by flight; for those who fall in battle for their country are known to live in everlasting glory. On the same day Robert Clifford, Payn Tibetot, William Marshal, famous, powerful, and active knights, overcome by the Scots, died there.¹⁷⁷

When those who were with our king saw that the earl's line was broken and his men ready to run, they said that it would be dangerous

¹⁷⁷ Here the author probably reflects a contemporary newsletter which listed the dead. These three names are also the first and in the same order in the long list cited in *Ann. Lond.* (p. 231), and apart from Gloucester are, together with Argentein and Mauley, the ones most frequently cited in contemporary chronicles. For Clifford see n. 167 above. Tibtoft was a notable soldier and tourneyer, but also active in politics, and held the offices of justice of the forest south of the Trent, and of justice of Chester for certain periods. Like Clifford, he put his name to the Boulogne agreement and guaranteed the Ordinances (Johnstone, *Ed. of Caernarvon*, pp. 116-17 and nn.; Tout, *Ed. II*, pp. 320, 337; Phillips, *Pembroke*, p. 316). Marshal was an Ordainer, but clearly did not make upholding the Ordinances an excuse not to serve at Bannockburn.

¹³¹⁴ morari set tucius fore regem reuerti. Ad quorum dicta rex campum reliquit et uersus castrum properauit. Porro dum uexillum regis abire conspicitur, totus exercitus cito dispergitur. Ducenti milites et amplius, qui nec gladium eduxerant nec ictum quidem protulerant, in fugam conuersi sunt.

O gens inclita multis retro temporibus inuicta, cur fugis pedites que uincere solebas equites? Apud Berewyke, Dounbar et Foukyrk, triumphum reportasti,¹⁷⁸ nunc Scotis peditibus terga dedisti. Set quicquid dicant alii, non erat tecum manus Domini. Sic Benedab fortissimus rex Syrie fugatur per pedissecos^a principum Samarie.¹⁷⁹

Dum igitur gens nostra fugeret, dum uestigia regis arriperet, ecce quedam fossa multos absorbit, magna pars nostrorum in ipsa periit.¹⁸⁰ Veniens namque rex ad castrum et credens ibidem habere refugium, tanquam hostis repellitur; pons attrahitur et porta clauditur. Vnde custos castrum a plerisque prodicionis expers non esse credebatur, et tamen in acie armatus quasi pro rege pungnaturus ipso die uidebatur.¹⁸¹ Verum nec custodem absoluo, nec prodicionis accuso, set consilio Dei fateor euenisse regem Anglie castrum non intrasse, quia si tunc admissus fuisset sine capcione nequaquam euasisset.

Cum rex sic se repulsum uidisset, nec aliud refugium iam superesset, uersus Dounbar iter arripuit, et ibidem ueniens nauem ascendit, ad portum de Berewyke cum suis applicuit. Alii uero nauem non habentes per terram ueniunt. Milites arma exuunt et nudi fugiunt; Scoti semper persequuntur^b a tergo; quinquaginta miliaribus durauit persecucio. Multi quidem ex nostris perimuntur, et multi similiter capiuntur. Nam incole terre, qui prius pacem finxerant, nunc homines nostros passim trucidabant, quia^c proclamatum erat per dominum Robertum de Brutz captiuos ducere et capientes lucrum sentire. Vnde Scoti satagebant ualde magnates capere ut multam pecuniam possent extorquere. Capti sunt itaque

^a pedissetos *MS*; pedissequos *He, St, Den-Y*; pedissecos *ed.* ^b persequuntur *MS*;
persequuntur *He, St, Den-Y* ^c sic *R*; quare *Den-Y*

¹⁷⁸ These were the famous victories of Edward I. Berwick was captured and the battle of Dunbar won in 1296, Falkirk was won in 1298.

¹⁷⁹ Cf. 3 Kgs. (1 Kgs.) 20: 13-21.

¹⁸⁰ This is Bannock Burn, which here had steep sides (Barrow, *Bruce*, p. 229).

¹⁸¹ After the English defeat, the castellan, Philip Mowbray, was obliged to surrender

to remain longer and safer for the king to retreat. On their advice the king left the battlefield, and hurried towards the castle. Then, when the royal standard was seen to depart, the whole army quickly scattered. Two hundred knights and more, who had neither drawn their swords nor even struck a blow, were reduced to flight. ¹³¹⁴

Oh! Famous race unconquered through the ages, why do you, who used to conquer knights, flee from foot soldiers? At Berwick, Dunbar, and Falkirk you carried off the victory,¹⁷⁸ and now you have turned your backs to Scottish infantry. But whatever others may say, the hand of the Lord was not with you. Thus was Ben-hadad, a most powerful king of Syria, put to flight by the foot soldiers of the princes of Samaria.¹⁷⁹

Then, while our people fled, following in the king's footsteps, see! a certain ditch entrapped many of them, and a great part of our army perished in it.¹⁸⁰ The king, coming to the castle and expecting to find refuge there, was driven off as if he were an enemy; the drawbridge was raised and the gate closed. Because of this the castellan was thought by many to be not innocent of treason, and yet that very day he was seen in armour in the battle line as if he was going to fight for the king.¹⁸¹ Truly I neither absolve the castellan nor accuse him of treachery, but I think it was God's doing that the king of England did not enter the castle, for if he had been admitted then he would never have escaped capture.

When the king saw that he was repulsed in this way and that no other refuge now remained to him, he set out towards Dunbar, and coming there took ship, [and] landed with his following at the port of Berwick. Others having no ship came by land. The knights threw down their arms and fled without them; the Scots continually harassed their rear; the pursuit lasted fifty miles. Many of our men perished and many, too, were taken prisoner. For the inhabitants of the countryside, who had previously feigned peace, now butchered our men everywhere; whereupon it was proclaimed by Lord Robert Bruce that they should take prisoners and hold them to ransom. So the Scots busied themselves with taking prisoner the great men in order to extort large sums from them. Accordingly there were

Stirling castle to the Scots, as previously agreed. Although he behaved wholly correctly at this time, his loyalty to Edward II became suspect because he then stayed with Bruce and later fought with Edward Bruce in Ireland. He was acknowledged as a brave soldier and was twice praised by Barbour as a good man in a tight corner (see above, n. 164; Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 195, 217, 231; *The Bruce*, x. 812, xiv. 26: pp. 403, 521).

1314 comes de Herforde, Iohannes Gyffard,¹⁸² Iohannes de Wylyntone,¹⁸³ Iohannes de Segraue,¹⁸⁴ Mauricius de Be(r)kelee,¹⁸⁵ barones certe magne potencie, et multi alii quos non oportet numerare, quorum multi de redempcione conueniunt, et pecuniam soluentes absoluti sunt. Non profuit ibidem cognicio, quia difficilior erat redempcio. Quingenti et amplius putabantur mortui qui captiui ducti sunt et postea redempti. Porro inter omnia aduersa hoc quidem exercitui nostro prospere contigit, quod, dum gens nostra fuge presidium quereret, magna pars Scotorum ad spolia diripienda se conuertit; quia si omnes Scoti pariter persecucioni nostrorum intendissent, pauci ex nostris Scotos euasissent. Vnde dum Robertus de Brutz cum suis quadrigas nostras inuasit, plurima pars Anglorum ad Berewyke salua peruenit. Siquidem a seculo recordor inauditum talem exercitum coram peditibus tam subito dispersum, nisi cum flos Francie coram Flandrensibus apud Coutray cecidit, ubi nobilis ille comes Artagensis Robertus occubuit.¹⁸⁶

O dies ulcionis et infortunii, dies perdicionis et opprobrii, dies mala et execranda, nec in anni circulo computanda; que famam Anglorum maculauit, et spoliauit Anglicos, et Scotos ditauit, in qua preciosa supellex nostrorum dirripitur, que ducentarum milium librarum estimatur! Tot boni proceres, iuuentus ualida, tot equi nobiles, tot arma bellica, preciose uestes et uasa aurea, dies dura et breuis hora abstulit hec omnia.

Queret forsā et dicet aliquis quare percussit nos hodie Dominus, quare subcubuimus coram Scotis, cum uiginti annis preteritis semper

¹⁸² John Giffard of Brimpsfield (Glos) was a rich and well-connected Marcher, at first entirely loyal to Edward. He became a royal retainer in 1316, was often at court, and was one of the additional members of the standing council appointed in 1318 (*CP*, v. 644–6; Phillips, *Pembroke*, app. 3; Cole, *Docs. Illus.*, p. 12). His Marcher lands, however, later brought conflict with the Despensers and he joined the rebellion against them. He was tried at Gloucester (*CPR* 1321–4, p. 149) and executed in 1322.

¹⁸³ John Willington, who held lands in Wiltshire, Devon, and Somerset, had a modest military and administrative career. He had been a conservator of the peace in 1308, at the Dunstable tournament in 1309, and served in the siege of Bristol in 1316. Like Giffard and Berkeley he became a contrariant, and for that he was heavily fined. His brother Henry, also a contrariant, was executed at Bristol. Both had been associates of the Berkeleys (Fryde, *Tyranny*, p. 72).

¹⁸⁴ John Segrave, a Lancastrian retainer, came from Leicestershire. He was the eldest brother of Nicholas and Henry, and father of Stephen, all of whom had strong Lancastrian connections (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 59, 116). He was to become a member of the original standing council nominated after the treaty of Leake, 1318 (*PW*, ii. i. 184–5). See above, n. 31.

¹⁸⁵ Three Berkeleys were captured: Thomas senior, Lord Berkeley, by this time aged about 69, and his grandsons, Thomas and Maurice, sons of Maurice senior. Maurice

1314 captured the earl of Hereford, John Giffard,¹⁸² John Willington,¹⁸³ John Segrave,¹⁸⁴ Maurice Berkeley,¹⁸⁵ undoubtedly barons of great power, and many others whom it is not necessary to specify, of whom many agreed ransoms and, paying the money, were set free. Being well known was no advantage there, because the ransom was then more difficult to agree. More than five hundred were thought to be dead, but were taken captive and later ransomed. In fact, amongst all their misfortunes this one thing at least turned to the advantage of our army, that, while our people sought safety in flight, a great part of the Scottish army turned to plunder; because, if all the Scots had been equally intent on the pursuit of our men, few of our men would have escaped the Scots. So while Robert Bruce with his men attacked our baggage train, the greater part of the English came safe to Berwick. Indeed I think it is unheard of in our time for such an army to be scattered so suddenly by infantry, unless when the flower of France fell before the Flemings at Courtrai, where the noble Count Robert of Artois was killed.¹⁸⁶

Oh! day of vengeance and misfortune, day of ruin and dishonour, evil and accursed day, not to be reckoned in our calendar, that stained the reputation of the English, and robbed the English and enriched the Scots, in which our men's costly belongings, valued at two hundred thousand pounds, were snatched away! So many fine noblemen, [and] strong young men, so many noble horses, so much military equipment, costly garments, and gold plate—all lost in one harsh day, one fleeting hour.

Perhaps some one will enquire and ask why the Lord smote us this day, why we succumbed to the Scots, when for the last twenty years senior, first son and heir of Thomas senior, escaped. The Berkeleys were one of the most important southern Marcher families and long-standing retainers of Pembroke. Maurice senior was becoming a major political figure at this period. He was made keeper of Berwick 1315 and justice of South Wales 1316, probably through Pembroke's influence. The relationship was to break down in 1318. The Berkeleys transferred their allegiance to Mortimer and were drawn into the Marcher rebellion against Despenser (*CP*, ii. 127–9; Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 75 n., 261–7; W. J. Smith, 'The rise of the Berkeleys: an account of the Berkeleys of Berkeley castle 1243–1361', *TBCAS*, lxx (1951), pp. 64–80). For the possible relationship of the Berkeleys with John Walwayn, see Denholm-Young, 'Authorship', pp. 275–8.

¹⁸⁶ The battle of Courtrai took place in 1302. The defeat of cavalry and the subsequent slaughter of knights shocked the military classes. An English political song of the time notes how the Count of Artois tried to yield to a free man in chivalric mode, 'that y ne have no shame ne no vylte', only to have his head cut off by a Flemish butcher who resented paying for prisoners' food (T. Wright, *The Political Songs of England from the Reign of John to that of Edward II*, Camden Society 1st ser. (1839), repr. with new introduction by P. Coss (Cambridge, 1996) p. 192).

1314 uictoriam habuerimus; reuera casus antiquorum exemplum prebent, et actus Hebreorum manifeste respondent. Medorum rex Serseles potentissimus dum Grecis bellum indiceret in classe numerosa et multitudine contumaci, uix licuit uicto sola cum naue reuerti.¹⁸⁷ Israel dum Beniamyn expugnaret propter scelus commissum in Gabaa, de numero et fortitudine confidens, bis in prelio ceditur, bis coram Beniamyn in fugam^a conuertitur.¹⁸⁸ Sic homines nostri, qui in superbia et abusione uenerunt, in ignominia et confusione redierunt. Certe superba nostrorum presumpcio^b Scotos fecit gaudere triumpho.

De superbia modernorum, et quis fructus inde proueniat, modicum si placet lector aduertat. Hodie pauper et tenuis, qui nec obolum habet in bonis, maiorem se contempnit, et maledictum pro maledicto referre non metuit. Set ex rusticitate forsitan hoc accidit. Veniamus igitur ad eos qui se putant eruditos. Quis putas maiori rixa in alium excandescit^c quam curialis? Dum forte rancore tumescit inferiorem non respicit, parem fastidit, maiori par fieri semper intendit. Nam armiger militem, miles baronem, baro comitem, comes regem, in omni fere cultu antecedere nititur et laborat. Porro dum sumptus deficit, quia patrimonium non sufficit, ad predam se conuertunt, uicinos spoliunt, subditos^d expilant, et in ipsos Dei ministros infamem questum exercent. Hinc est quod magnates terre uel cadunt in bello, uel moriuntur sine filio, aut sexus femineus hereditatem diuidit, et nomen patris imperpetuum euanescit.

Post hec rex de consilio suorum relicta Berewike sub custodia tendit Eboracum,¹⁸⁹ et ibidem cum comite Lancastrie et ceteris magnatibus habuit consilium, et de suis infortuniis querit remedium.¹⁹⁰ Dixerunt comites ordinaciones obseruatas non esse, et iccirco regi deterius accidisse; tum quia rex ordinacionibus stare iurauerat, tum quia archiepiscopus omnes contrauenientes excommunicauerat. Vnde nichil bene posse fieri protestantur, nisi ordinaciones plenius obseruentur. Rex uero ad omnia pro communi utilitate

^a sic R; fuga St, Den-Y ^b sic MS; poss. et presumpcio He ^c excandescit MS; excandescit He, St, Den-Y
^d subitos MS; subditos He, St, Den-Y

¹⁸⁷ Xerxes, king of the Persians and Medes, son of Darius I, succeeded his father in 486 BC. He attacked the Greeks in 480 BC to avenge his father's defeat at the battle of Marathon (490 BC). After initial success at the battle of Thermopolae and in sacking Athens, he was defeated at the naval battle of Salamis. Information on Greek history was readily available in the Middle Ages through Roman writers (see above, pp. xxviii–xxx). For Xerxes in Greece, see Herodotus, *The Histories*, books vii–viii.

¹⁸⁸ Cf. Judg. 20: 21–5.

we have always been victorious; indeed antiquity offers an example, and the actions of the Hebrews clearly provide a parallel. Xerxes, most powerful king of the Medes, when he waged war upon the Greeks with a numerous fleet and steadfast army, was scarcely allowed in defeat to escape with a single ship.¹⁸⁷ Israel when it fought Benjamin for the crime committed in Gibeah, trusting in numbers and courage, was twice defeated in battle, twice put to flight before Benjamin.¹⁸⁸ Thus our men, who came in pride and insolence, returned in shame and rout. Without doubt the proud arrogance of our men made the Scots rejoice in triumph.

I shall turn for a moment, if it please the reader, to the pride of present-day men and the fruit which it bears. Today the poor and needy man, who has not a halfpenny to his name, despises his betters, and is not afraid to exchange a curse for a curse. But perhaps this arises from rusticity. Let us come therefore to those who think themselves educated. Who do you think is inflamed with greater malice against another than the courtier? While he is greatly puffed up with bitter ill-feeling he ignores his inferiors, despises his equals, is always striving to equal his betters. For in almost every aspect of life the squire strains and strives to outdo the knight, the knight the baron, the baron the earl, the earl the king. Moreover when they cannot afford their expenses, because their inheritance is insufficient, they turn to pillage, they plunder their neighbours, fleece their tenants, and practise nefarious extortions upon the servants of God. Hence it is that the great men of the land either fall in battle, or die without a son, or the female sex divides the inheritance, and the name of their father disappears for ever.

After this the king on the advice of his friends left a garrison in Berwick and moved to York,¹⁸⁹ and there took counsel with the earl of Lancaster and the other great men, and sought a remedy for his misfortunes.¹⁹⁰ The earls said that the Ordinances had not been observed, and for that reason events had turned out worse for the king; both because the king had sworn to stand by the Ordinances and because the archbishop had excommunicated all who opposed them. Therefore they declared that nothing could be well done unless the Ordinances were more fully observed. The king indeed said that he

¹⁸⁹ Edward left Berwick on 13 July 1314, and was at York by 17 July, where he stayed until 9–10 Oct. (*Itin.*, pp. 116–19).

¹⁹⁰ Parliament (with commons) was summoned to York for 9 Sept. 1314 and lasted until 27–8 Sept. (*HBC*, p. 553).

1314 ordinata paratum se dixit, et se ordinationes obseruare in bona fide promisit. Dixerunt comites nil uideri actum dum aliquid superesset ^a agendum,¹⁹¹ set <si>^b ordinationes debeant obseruari oportet eas execucioni demandari. Rex execucionem concessit; nichil^c comitibus denegauit. Igitur cancellarius, thesaurarius, uiccomites et alii officiarrii remouentur, et iuxta tenorem ordinationum noui subrogantur.¹⁹² Voluerunt eciam comites quod Hugo Despenser, Henricus de Beaumont et quidam alii curiam regis euacuant, donec ad sibi obicienda responderent interrogatis,^d et super obiectis satisfacionem prestarent conuicti; set hoc ad instanciam regis differtur. Hugo tamen Despenser latitare compellitur.

De expungnacione Roberti de Brutz et recuperacione Scocie ad proximum parliamentum distulerunt, quia comes Herfordie et alii barones in uinculis detenti nondum redierunt. Lugebat autem soror regis maritum suum comitem Herfordie,¹⁹³ et dominus rex dedit ei omnes captiuos Scocie. Nam tempore regis Edwardi senioris quidam capti fuerant qui usque ad presens tempus sub carcere remanserant; inter quos erat uxor Roberti de Brutz, episcopus de Glascou,^e et quidam comes iuuenis, et alii milites Scotorum quindecim et amplius. Elaboratum est interim ut comes postliminio^f rediret, set <non>^g promittitur, nisi multa conferret; et multa quidem offeruntur, set plura satis et que uires eius excederent exiguntur. Tandem post uarios circuitus sic actum est, ut Robertus de Brutz uxorem suam et ceteros captiuos Scotorum reciperet,^g¹⁹⁴ et comitem Herfordie sine mora restitueret; et hac permutacione sic facta rediit comes noster ad propria.

Post natale Domini paucis euolutis diebus dominus rex corpus Petri de Gauestone, sui quondam specialis amici, ab Oxonia ad Langeleye fecit transferri. Iam enim de capitacione ipsius biennium transiuit et amplius, et usque nunc apud fratres Oxonie iacuit

^a superesse MS; superesset He, St, Den-Y ^b om. R; supplied St, Den-Y ^c sic R; nihil St ^d sic R; interrogati Den-Y ^e postlimino MS; postliminio He, St, Den-Y ^f om. R; supplied Den-Y ^g reciperit MS; reciperet He, St, Den-Y

¹⁹¹ Lucan, *De bello civili*, ii. 657.

¹⁹² The insistence on the Ordinances and a purge of the administration and household led in Nov. to John Sandall replacing Reynolds as chancellor and Walter Norwich replacing Sandall as treasurer. Ingelard Warley and John Ockham (who had been named in the supplementary ordinances of 1311) were dismissed at this time, but were back at the Exchequer by 1316 and 1317 respectively. The majority of sheriffs was also changed (*HBC*, pp. 86, 104; Tout, *Ed. II*, pp. 305-7; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 164-5; *List of Sheriffs, passim*).

¹⁹³ The king's sister, Elizabeth, had married the earl of Hereford on 14 Nov. 1302, after the death of her first husband John, count of Holland. She died c.5 May 1316 (*HBC*, p. 38).

was prepared to do everything ordained for the common good, and promised that he would observe the Ordinances in good faith. The earls said that nothing seemed to have been done as long as anything remained undone,¹⁹¹ and if the Ordinances ought to be observed, it was proper to ask for their execution. The king granted their execution; he refused nothing to the earls. Therefore the chancellor, the treasurer, the sheriffs, and other officials were removed and new ones were put in their place according to the text of the Ordinances.¹⁹² The earls also wanted Hugh Despenser, Henry Beaumont, and certain others to leave the king's court, until they should answer certain matters put to them, and if convicted give satisfaction in the matters raised; but at the king's request this was put off. Nevertheless Hugh Despenser was forced to keep out of the way.

They postponed discussion of the struggle against Robert Bruce and the recovery of Scotland until the next parliament, because the earl of Hereford and other barons held captive had not yet returned. However, the king's sister lamented for her husband, the earl of Hereford,¹⁹³ and the lord king gave to her all the Scottish captives. For in the time of the elder King Edward some had been captured who had remained in prison until the present time; among them was the wife of Robert Bruce, the bishop of Glasgow, a certain young earl, and fifteen or more other Scottish knights. Meanwhile it was worked out how the earl might return home, but this was only promised if a large amount was paid; much indeed was offered, but even more was demanded, beyond his ability to pay. At length after various toings and froings it was decided that Robert Bruce should receive back his wife and the other Scottish captives,¹⁹⁴ and he should restore the earl of Hereford without delay; and when this exchange had been made our earl returned home.

A few days after Christmas, the lord king had the body of Piers Gaveston, once his intimate friend, brought from Oxford to Langley. For now two years and more had gone by since he was beheaded, and until now he had lain unburied with the friars at Oxford. For, it is

¹⁹⁴ Elizabeth de Burgh, daughter of Richard de Burgh, earl of Ulster, was Bruce's second wife. She was captured in 1306 after the battle of Dail Righ, along with his sister Mary and his daughter Marjorie. Robert Wishart, bishop of Glasgow (1273-1316), was captured earlier the same year at Coupar. The earl was Donald of Mar, who was also captured in 1306 after the battle either of Methven or of Dail Righ (Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 153, 160-1, 274). They were sent to Carlisle on 2 Oct. to be exchanged for Hereford, but Mar elected to stay with Edward (*CPR 1313-17*, p. 183; Barrow, *Bruce*, p. 274).

1314 inhumatus. Proposuerat namque rex, ut dicitur, prius mortem Petri
uindicasse, deinde corpus eius sepulture tradidisse. Set iam reuocati
1315 in amicitiam sunt ex quibus uidebatur rex petere uindictam. Rex
apud Langeley, ubi fratribus predicatoribus iam pridem domum
construxit, corpus sui Petri honorifice sepeliuit.

Deinde ad purificationem beate Marie¹⁹⁵ conueniunt Londoniis
comites et barones uniuersi, de statu regis et regni et de expungna-
tione Scotorum tractaturi.¹⁹⁶ Et in primis eiecerunt a consilio regis
Hugonem Despenser, et Waltherum de Langetone episcopum Cestrie,
olim thesaurarium domini regis Anglie.¹⁹⁷ Postea remouerunt a curia
regis familiam superfluum, regi et terre nimis onerosam, ut dicebatur.
Ex illa remocione expense regis cotidiane in decem libris sunt
diminute.¹⁹⁸ Cepit igitur parlamentum pacifice tractari et usque ad
finem Quadragesime fere protelari.¹⁹⁹

In hoc parlamento, quia negociatores in uendendis^a uictualibus
per patriam transeuntibus modum excesserunt, comites et barones,
rei publice prospicientes, huic morbo medelam apposuerunt; unde in
bobus, porcis et ouibus, in auibus, pulcinis et columbis, et in ceteris
communibus uictualibus certum precium statuerunt. Prouisum est
eciam et concessum ut Vascones uina sua ad portus Anglie transue-
herent, et ibidem tonellum secundum precium in parlamento
taxatum uenderent, nec Anglici ulterius tanquam forstallarii ad
querenda uina transfretarent. Hec omnia per terram sic diuulgantur
et in comitatibus <et>^b burgis publice proclamantur.²⁰⁰

^a uendidis *MS*; uenditis *or* uendendis *He*; uendendis *St*, *Den-Y* ^b *om. MS*; *ac He*;
et St, *Den-Y*

¹⁹⁵ 2 Feb. 1315.

¹⁹⁶ Parliament (with commons) was summoned to Westminster for 20 Jan., and the commons were dismissed 9 Mar. (*HBC*, p. 553).

¹⁹⁷ The elder Despenser was removed as keeper of the forest south of the Trent on 19 Feb. 1315 and investigations into complaints took place in Feb. and July (*CFR* 1307-19, p. 230; *CPR* 1313-17, pp. 309, 407-8). Langton had been treasurer from Sept. 1295 to Aug. 1307, and also briefly from Jan. to May 1312 without baronial assent. He held the bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield, which was still frequently known as the bishopric of Chester, from 1296 to his death on 9 Nov. 1321 (*HBC*, pp. 104, 253).

¹⁹⁸ The lack of household accounts before Dec. 1314 and the general difficulty of interpreting the surviving accounts make estimates difficult. Edward's household expenses ran at about £30 a day in 1314-16, and even rose gently to £33 a day in 1316-17. They then steadily fell and by 1318-19 were £10 less at c. £23 a day. Later household pruning thus seems to have had more effect than the earlier strictures. Edward's expenses do not seem grossly extravagant. At £8,311 in 1318-19 royal expenses were less than double the household expenses of Lancaster (Tout, *Ed. II*, p. 93; Tout, *Chapters*, vi. 84-5; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 27).

¹⁹⁹ Counsellors were reconvened for 13 Apr. to deal with unfinished business, such as

said, the king had proposed first to avenge Piers's death and then to 1314
lay his body in the grave. But already those from whom the king
seemed to seek vengeance have been readmitted to friendship. The 1315
king buried Piers's body with honour at Langley, where he had long
since built the Dominicans a house.

Then at the purification of the Blessed Mary¹⁹⁵ the earls and all the
barons met at London, to discuss the state of the king and the realm,
and the conquest of the Scots.¹⁹⁶ And first they removed Hugh
Despenser from the king's council, and Walter Langton, bishop of
Chester, formerly treasurer of the lord king of England.¹⁹⁷ Next they
removed from the king's court the unnecessary members of his
household, exceedingly burdensome to the king and to the country,
it was said. By that move the king's daily expenses were reduced by
ten pounds.¹⁹⁸ Parliament therefore began to discuss matters peace-
ably and it dragged on almost to the end of Lent.¹⁹⁹

In this parliament, because merchants going about the country
selling victuals charged excessive prices, the earls and barons, looking
to the welfare of the state, applied a remedy to this affliction; they
established a fixed price for oxen, pigs, and sheep, for fowls, chickens,
and pigeons, and for other common foods. It was also provided and
granted that the Gascons should transport their wines to English
ports, and sell them there by the cask according to the price assigned
in parliament, and that Englishmen should not in future cross the sea
seeking wine, as forestallers so to speak. These matters were
published thus throughout the land, and publicly proclaimed in
shire courts and boroughs.²⁰⁰

petitions, which had been delayed by the main business of reform and Scotland. This continuation was still in session 30 Apr. 1315 (*HBC*, p. 553).

²⁰⁰ The ordinance on prices was issued on 13 Mar. 1315. Different prices were fixed for London and the countryside (*CCR* 1313-18, pp. 160-1; *RP*, i. 295; *Lib. Cust.*, p. 678). This concern with prices (other than of grain) came before the famine years, and rising prices were probably largely due to monetary inflation (M. Mate, 'High prices in early fourteenth-century England: causes and consequences', *ECHR*, 2nd ser., xxviii (1975), 1-16; for a good brief survey of the problem and its historiography, see M. Allen, 'The volume of English currency, 1158-1470', *ECHR*, 2nd ser., liv (2001), 595-611). The ordinance was repealed in 1316 (below, pp. 120-1 and n. 235). The concern with wine prices was shown with an order on 10 Apr. against forestalling, the practice of buying goods before they reached the open market in order to create scarcity and drive up prices. This was followed on 30 May by a separate ordinance fixing retail wine prices at 3 pence the gallon (*CCR* 1313-18, pp. 182, 227). Gascon merchants and London retailers objected to the fixing of wine prices, and in Oct. 1315 it was agreed that wines imported before the ordinance might be sold at 'reasonable' prices. Prices were allowed to rise to 5 pence a gallon in 1316 (M. K. James, *Studies in the Medieval Wine Trade* (Oxford, 1971), pp. 11-12; *Let. Bk. E*, pp. 44, 72).

1315

Mauricius de Berkelee curam et custodiam uille de Berewik accepit,²⁰¹ unde ad eam tuendam sine dilacione iter arripuit. Est autem Berewyke uilla fortis et bene murata in inicio Scocie super mare posita, mercatoribus in tempore pacis satis accommoda;^a que si prodicione non fraudetur nunquam Scocie subicietur; obsidionem non formidat, dum tamen Anglia sibi succurrat. Naues enim Anglicane totam terram circuerunt,^b et in arte nauigandi et in conflictu nauali principatum gerunt; unde si tota Scocia Berewyk inuaderet, a parte maris timeri non oportet.

Exiit preterea a curia regis preceptum publicum, ne quis arma uel bladum uel aliquod genus uictualium ad Scotos transferret; si quis autem huius precepti transgressor inueniretur, tanquam proditor et hostis publicus puniretur. Vnde Iohannes Bodecourtus^c 202 cum manu armata ex parte una, et alii magnates ex altera, meatus marinos obseruabant, et ne quid in subsidium hostium differretur^d summo opere procurabant. Itaque opere et opera eorum in breui sic actum est ut tanta esset apud Scotos bladi penuria quod pro centum solidis uenderetur quarterium frumenti in Scocia. Missi sunt eciam ad partes Northumbrorum comes de Penbrok et Bartholomeus de Badesmere^e 203 cum quingentis armatis ad fines illos tuendos et ad frequentes insultus Scotorum propulsandos, ut sic uirtus eorum undique lacessita, et machinacio eorum pro parte refrenata, minus proficeret ad singula.

Dum hec aguntur in Anglia, Robertus de Brutz de aliis negociis deliberat in Scocia. Nam exercitum copiosum adunauit, et ciuitatem de Cardoil obsedit.²⁰⁴ Sane hec urbs Scotis semper erat odiosa, hec urbs Scotis semper formidanda, incursus eorum frequenter exceptit et

^a acomoda MS; accommoda He, St, Den-Y ^b sic R; circueunt St, Den-Y ^c sic R; Bodecourtus St, Den-Y ^d sic MS; or deferretur He ^e sic R; Badlesmere St, Den-Y

²⁰¹ For his indenture, dated 18 Apr. 1315, see Davies, *Opposition*, app., no. 46.

²⁰² Botetourt was appointed admiral of the northern fleet on 15 Mar. 1315, while William Cray was put in command of a combined Welsh, Irish, and Cinque Port fleet (presumably operating off the west coast) on 29 May 1315 (*HBC*, p. 136). Botetourt, an East Anglian landowner, was one of Edward I's bannerets by 1298, but not, as has been suggested, his illegitimate son (Prestwich, *Ed. I*, pp. 131–2). He served in Gascony and Scotland and had considerable administrative and judicial experience. He was one of the Boulogne group in 1308, one of the guarantors that the Ordinances would not be prejudicial to the king in 1310, and supported the execution of Gaveston, but he associated himself with Hereford and Clifford rather than Warwick and Lancaster (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 152). Thereafter he served the king loyally, becoming a royal indentured retainer from 1316–17 until shortly before his death in 1324 (Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 149, 314).

1315

Maurice Berkeley received the keeping and custody of the town of Berwick,²⁰¹ and he at once set out to defend it. Berwick is a strong and well-walled town situated on the coast on the borders of Scotland, very convenient for merchants in time of peace, a town which will never be subject to Scotland unless it is cheated out of us by treachery. It fears no siege while England supports it. For English ships sail round the whole land, and both in the art of navigation and naval warfare they are supreme; so that if the whole of Scotland attacked Berwick, nothing would be feared from the sea.

Besides all this a public edict went out from the king's court that no one should carry arms or grain or any kind of food to the Scots; if anyone should be found breaking this edict, he would be punished as a traitor and public enemy. So John Botetourt²⁰² with an armed squadron on the one side, and some other great men on the other, kept a watch on the maritime approaches, and did their utmost to ensure that nothing was carried over to help the enemy. Consequently their labour and care resulted in a short space of time in the Scots being so short of grain that a quarter of wheat was sold for a hundred shillings in Scotland. Furthermore the earl of Pembroke and Bartholomew Badlesmere²⁰³ were sent to Northumbria with five hundred men-at-arms to protect the borders and repel the frequent attacks of the Scots, so that with their strength challenged on all sides and their plots to some extent held in check, they would profit less on each occasion.

While these things were happening in England Robert Bruce was considering other things in Scotland. For he collected a large force and laid siege to the city of Carlisle.²⁰⁴ This city was indeed always hateful to the Scots; it was always feared by them, for it frequently intercepted

²⁰³ Badlesmere, from a Kent family, was a member of Gloucester's household. He served on the council while Gloucester was keeper of the realm in 1311, accompanied Gloucester and the queen to Paris in 1314, and transferred to the royal household after Gloucester's death, with terms of indenture similar to those of the earl of Hereford. He worked closely with Pembroke and was on the king's council from 1316. He was made an additional member of the standing council and a member of the reforming committee in the York parliament, 1318. He was steward of the household 20 Oct. 1318–14 June 1321. Why he swung towards the Marchers in 1321 is unclear. His treason was greater for being committed while he still held the stewardship, and for this his head was spiked on the city gate of Canterbury (Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 143–5; Davies, *Opposition*, pp. 427–9, 209 n.; *HBC*, p. 76).

²⁰⁴ Carlisle was blockaded by 14 July; the full siege was under way by 22 July and lasted until 1 Aug. 1315 (H. Summerson, *Medieval Carlisle: The City and the Borders from the Late-Eleventh to the Mid-Sixteenth Century*, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquary and Archaeological Society, extra ser., xxv (1994), i. 216–19).

1315 uolatus eorum multociens impediuit. Hanc igitur si capere posset, usque ad Nouum Castrum nullus sibi resisteret. Premiserat^a quoque fratrem suum Edwardum cum electa manu militum in Hiberniam, qui gentem illam aduersus regem Anglie excitaret, et terram si posset sue dominacioni subiceret.²⁰⁵ Et erat rumor quod, si ibidem ad uotum proficeret, statim ad partes Wallie se transferret, et Walenses similiter contra regem nostrum procuraret. Hec enim duo genera facilliter in rebellionem excitantur, et iugum seruitutis egre ferentes dominacionem Anglorum execrantur.

Iusticiarius autem Hibernie, Edmundus Botiler nomine,²⁰⁶ audiens Scotos in terram de Huluestre appulisse, de fidelibus regis congregauit exercitum, et Scotis eorumque fautoribus fecit insultum. In primo autem congressu fugati sunt Scoti ad montana quasi greges ouium dispersi per pascua. Habitant siquidem in montanis et nemoribus illius terre Hibernienses siluestres, terras non colunt, set de animalibus et eorum lacticiniis uiuunt; et, si quandoque panibus indigeant, ad uillas Anglorum super maritima descendunt; uendunt autem animalia et comparant sibi frumenta. Hos et eorum regulos associauit sibi Edwardus contra Anglicos. Si comes de Huluestre fuerit fidelis, non est enim timendum ab eorum insidiis.²⁰⁷

Exiuit interim falsus rumor per totam Angliam quod exercitus noster de Hibernia Scotos disperserat, quod Edwardus de Brutz perierat, quod uix unus ex Scotis uiuus remanserat. Vnde Robertus de Brutz tum propter rumores desperatos, tum quia audiuit comitem Penbrokye cum multis armatis nouiter aduenire, obsidionem reliquit, et uersus Scociam iter arripuit. Videntes hii qui erant infra ciuitatem quod exercitus Scotorum recederet,^b (exierunt)^c post eos, diu persequentes^d a tergo. Vnde in illa persecucione multi ex Scotis perierunt, plures uero lesi, et quidam remanserunt captiui.

Mirabitur forsitan aliquis in posterum quomodo gens Scotorum audaciam resistendi concepit, et cur sic repente uirtus Anglorum

^a promiserat *MS*; premiserat *He, St, Den-Y* ^b resideret *R*; recederet *St, Den-Y*
^c om. *R*; supplied *St, Den-Y* ^d sic *MS*; poss. persequantur *He*

²⁰⁵ Edward Bruce arrived in Larne on 26 May 1315 (Lydon, 'Impact', p. 282).

²⁰⁶ Butler was justiciar from 4 Jan. 1315 until 6 May 1318, at first alone then from 23 Nov. 1316 under Roger Mortimer, the king's lieutenant. He had also served as deputy justiciar in 1304–5 and 1312–14. He had collected an army against Bruce by July 1315, but he and the earl of Ulster failed to coordinate, and the Scots beat Ulster at the battle of Connor on 20 Sept. 1315. Butler was cleared of suspicion of collusion with the Scots in 1320 (*HBC*, p. 162; Lydon, 'Impact', pp. 286–94, 295). This statement of an early government success against the Scots cannot be substantiated. Either the author is

1315 their raids and many times hindered their flight. If, therefore, he could take this place there would be no one to resist him as far as Newcastle. He had also sent his brother Edward to Ireland with a picked force of knights, to stir up that people against the king of England, and subject the country, if he could, to his authority.²⁰⁵ And there was a rumour that, if he gained his desire there, he would at once cross to Wales, and raise the Welsh likewise against our king. For these two races are easily roused to rebellion; they bear the yoke of slavery reluctantly, and curse the lordship of the English.

The justiciar of Ireland, however, Edmund Butler by name,²⁰⁶ hearing that the Scots had landed in Ulster, assembled an army of the king's loyal men, and attacked the Scots and those who helped them. At the first clash the Scots were driven to the hills like flocks of sheep scattered over the pastures. Since the Irish are woodland people and dwell in the mountains and forests of their country, they do not cultivate the land, but live on their livestock and the dairy produce from them; and if from time to time they need bread, they come down to the English towns on the coast; they sell livestock and buy grain. With these people and their kinglets Edward allied himself against the English. If the earl of Ulster is loyal there is nothing to be feared from their plots.²⁰⁷

A false report meanwhile spread throughout England that our army in Ireland had scattered the Scots, that Edward Bruce had perished, and that hardly one of the Scots had remained alive. Hence Robert Bruce, both on account of these wild stories and because he heard that the earl of Pembroke had recently arrived with many men-at-arms, gave up the siege and set out towards Scotland. When those who were within the city saw that the Scots were leaving, they moved out after them, pursuing them for a long time. Many of the Scots perished in that pursuit, very many were wounded, and some were left behind as prisoners.

Someone hereafter may perhaps wonder how the Scottish race had the boldness to resist, and why the courage of the English should have

repeating the rumour mentioned immediately below (which he clearly knows to be wrong) or 'Scotos' is possibly written in error.

²⁰⁷ Richard de Burgh, earl of Ulster, was closely linked to England through the Clare family by marriages of his daughter Maud to Gilbert, earl of Gloucester, and of his son John to Gilbert's sister Elizabeth (see above, n. 23). This link was broken by the deaths of John in June 1313 and of Gilbert at Bannockburn in 1314, but Ulster remained loyal to England. Nevertheless, because another daughter had married Robert Bruce, rumours of Ulster's collusion with his son-in-law were frequently recorded (Lydon, 'Impact', pp. 116–19).

1315 defecerit. Reuera populus sine duce facile dispergitur, et membra deficient cum caput deprimitur. Olim reges Anglie, dum contra hostes erigerent uexillum, quindecim comites et plures sequebantur ad bellum. Nunc autem quinque uel sex tantum regi nostro ferunt auxilium. Comitatus Cornubie, Maressallie et Cestrie in manu regis sunt hodie. Comes Lyncolnie nuper obiit, comes Glouernie in bello cecidit, et comes Warewyke infirmus occubuit.²⁰⁸

De comite Gloucestrie censeo^a dolendum quia tam potens et iuuenis tam premature decessit, quod heredem de corpore suo non reliquit, et tamen uxor eius comitissa per annum iam et amplius expectatur paritura; et licet nunc pareret non uideo quo iure puer hereditatem uendicaret, quia iure cauetur quod, si posthumus ultra undecimum mensem natus fuerit, hereditatem defuncti uendicare non poterit.²⁰⁹ Igitur si hereditas comitis ad sorores descendat, tres partes fieri continget, et scutum quod semper fuit integrum iam erit tripertitum. Set comes Warewyke (si) in uiuis^b (fuisset)^c fuisset, tota patria pro eo: consilio eius (et)^d ingenio ordinaciones prodierunt, et ceteri comites eo audito multa fecerunt; in prudentia et consilio non habuit similem. Heredem reliquit set ualde iuuenem. Credo constanter quod hec uindicta Dei, hec mutacio dextere Excelsi,²¹⁰ propter peccata et scelera nostra duces nostros preriipiat, et populus terre indefensus intereat.

Temeritatis quidem argui possem si patriam meam, si proprium genus, infamarem; set, si uera loqui licet aut conuenit, gens Anglorum pre ceteris nacionibus in tribus excedit, in superbia, in dolo et in periurio. Modernos homines et maxime iuuenes reputo superbos quia contumaces, et cum superbia inicium sit omnium malorum, abierunt hodie de uicio^e in uicium, de superbia in dolum et periurium. In omni regno circa mare Grecum reperies multos de genere Anglorum, et uulgo dicitur et fama nunciat quod in hiis pre ceteris dolus habitat. Est et species doli maxima et quidem frequens in Anglia; de hiis loquor qui mutuuum accipiunt et statutis diebus debitum non soluunt.

^a senseo *MS*; censeo *He, St, Den-Y* ^b uicinius *MS*; si in uiuis *He, Den-Y*; unianimis *St* ^c *om. MS*; supplied to accompany si in uiuis *He, Den-Y* ^d *om. MS*; supplied *He, St, Den-Y* ^e *de om. R*; de supplied before uicio *St, Den-Y*

²⁰⁸ Lincoln died on 5 Feb. 1311; Gloucester died at Bannockburn on 24 June 1314; Warwick died on 12 Aug. 1315 (*HBC*, pp. 470, 463, 486).

²⁰⁹ It is not clear what law the author had in mind. Bracton does not specify eleven months, simply writing of one born 'so long after' his father's death that it is impossible

so suddenly failed them. In truth, a leaderless people is easily 1315 scattered and the limbs fail when the head is removed. Formerly fifteen earls and more followed the kings of England to war, when they raised their standard against the enemy. Now, however, only five or six bring aid to our king. The earldoms of Cornwall, of the Marshal, and of Chester are today in the king's hand. The earl of Lincoln recently died, the earl of Gloucester fell in battle, and the earl of Warwick lay ill.²⁰⁸

I think we must grieve for the earl of Gloucester, because so powerful and youthful a man died so early that he left no heir of his body, and yet the countess his wife has been expected to give birth for a year or more; and if she should now give birth, I do not see by what right the boy could claim the inheritance, because it is decreed by law that if a posthumous child is born after the eleventh month, it cannot claim the inheritance of the deceased.²⁰⁹ Thus, if the earl's inheritance descends to sisters, it will fall into three parts and the shield that was always whole will thenceforth be in three parts. But if the earl of Warwick had been alive, the whole country would have been behind him: the Ordinances came from his advice and skill, and other earls did many things only after listening to him; in wisdom and counsel he had no like. He left an heir, but very young. I firmly believe that this judgement of God, this change of the right hand of the Most High,²¹⁰ carries off our leaders for our sins and crimes, and leaves the people of the land defenceless.

I could indeed be accused of irresponsibility if I attacked the good reputation of my country, my own people; but, if it is right and proper to speak the truth, the English race excel other nations in three qualities, in pride, in deceit, and in perjury. Present-day men, especially young ones, I regard as proud because they are insolent and, since pride is the beginning of all evils, they have gone today from vice to vice, from pride to deceit and perjury. In every kingdom bordering the Mediterranean you will find many of the English race; it is commonly said and rumour relates that deceit resides in them above all others. There is indeed a very great kind of deceit that is common in England; I speak of those who accept a loan and fail to pay the debt on the appointed days. Indeed, he who withholds what he

that the child is legitimate (Bracton, *De Legibus*, iv. 299, 304). The *Digest* does not appear to consider very late posthumous birth (*Dig.* xxxvii. 9. 1 (14), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 556).

²¹⁰ Ps. 76: 11 (77: 10).

1315 *Iam*^a dolo facit qui detinet quod enim^b restituere oportet.²¹¹ Omne malicie potest obuiari, set mali debitores non possunt castigari. Si non mutuo, inimicus ero; si repeto, amicitias perdo. Quid ergo melius est, non mutuando inimicum habere, quam^c mutuum perdere et inimicitias nichilominus incurrere? Merlinus de nobis^d ait ue genti periure,²¹² ostendens propter periurum^e aliquod excidium nobis euenire.

Omnes fere lites et placita que agitantur in regis curia per assisas terminantur in patria. Porro cum ad assisam uentum fuerit, qui plus dare sufficit proculdubio optinebit. Heu omnis religio, omnis dignitas, et omnis potestas cedit precio. Hinc quidam festiue ait,

Manus ferens munera pium facit impium;
Nummus iungit federa dat^f nummus consilium.
Nummus in prelati est pro iure satis,
Vos qui iudicatis nummo locum datis.²¹³

Per alia quedam signa apparet manus Dei contra nos extenta. Nam anno preterito tanta fuit habundancia pluuię quod uix licuit hominibus frumenta colligere uel horreo^g salua recondere. Anno uero presenti deterius euenit. Nam inundacio pluuiarum omne fere semen consumpsit, in tantum ut^h uaticinium Ysaye iam uideretur expletum esse; ait enim decem iugera uinearum faciunt lagunculam unam, et triginta modii sementis faciunt modios tres.²¹⁴ Et in pluribusque locis fenum tam diu sub aquis latuit quod nec falcari nec colligi potuit. Oues autem communiter perierunt et alia animalia subita peste ceciderunt.²¹⁵ Valde autem nobis timendum est ne, si

^a sic R; nam St ^b sic R; eum St ^c quasi MS; quam He, St, Den-Y ^d uobis R; nobis Den-Y ^e sic MS; periurium He, St, Den-Y ^f dati MS; datus He; dat St, Den-Y ^g horeo MS; horreo He, St, Den-Y ^h uel MS; ut He, St, Den-Y

²¹¹ Dig. xvii. 1. 8 (9), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 215. The reference to the English around the Mediterranean is interesting but difficult to explain. English merchants rarely went so far at this time, but the reference may be to churchmen, lawyers, pilgrims, or to those who had joined later crusades.

²¹² *Geoff. Mon.*, vii. 4, *Ve periure genti, quia urbe incluta propter eam ruet*. Merlin's prophecies in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* are largely unintelligible, but they were clearly intended to show that Welsh resistance to the Anglo-Saxons would eventually be successful (*The Historia Regum Britanniae of Geoffrey of Monmouth*, ed. A. Griscom (London and New York, 1929), pp. 383–97; a modern translation is found in Geoffrey of Monmouth, *The History of the Kings of Britain*, ed. L. Thorpe (Harmondsworth, 1966), pp. 170–85). For a discussion of the sources for Merlin and his prophecies, see J. Tatlock, *The Legendary History of Britain: Geoffrey of Monmouth's Historia Regum Britanniae and its Early Vernacular Versions* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1950), pp. 171–6, 403–21. Because Geoffrey's history provided the basis for the early sections of the French prose Brut chronicle, very popular in the late 13th and 14th cc., Merlin's prophecies

truly ought to restore is employing deceit.²¹¹ All ill-will can be resisted but bad debtors cannot be subdued. If I do not lend I shall be an enemy, if I seek repayment I lose friendships. Which, therefore, is the better: by not lending to make an enemy, or to lose the loan and none the less incur enmity? Merlin says of us, 'Woe to a perjured race',²¹² showing that for perjury some destruction will befall us.

Almost all the lawsuits and pleas started in the king's court are brought to an end by assizes in the provinces. Then when it comes to an assize, he who can give more will certainly win. Alas! every religious institution, every high office, every authority has its price. Hence someone says in jest:

Some men bring us presents, changing right to wrong;
Money seals our treaties, money sings its song.
Money for the prelacy surely will suffice,
You who sit in judgment are paid for your advice.²¹³

By certain other portents the hand of God appears to be raised against us. For in the past year there was such plentiful rain that men could scarcely harvest the wheat or store it safely in the barn. In the present year worse has happened. For the floods of rain have rotted almost all the seed, to such an extent that the prophecy of Isaiah might seem now to be fulfilled, for he says that ten acres of vineyard shall yield one little measure and thirty bushels of seed shall yield three bushels.²¹⁴ And in many places the hay lay so long under water that it could neither be mown or gathered. Sheep commonly died and other animals were killed by a sudden pestilence.²¹⁵ It is greatly to be

became even better known—but in a different form. In the French prose Brut they were rewritten to reflect more clearly the reigns of Henry III, Edward I, and Edward II, and their significance was specifically explained after each of these reigns (*Brut*, pp. 72–6, 177–8, 203–4, 243–7). For interest in political prophecies in Edward II's reign, see J. R. S. Phillips, 'Edward II and the Prophets', in W. M. Ormrod (ed.), *England in the Fourteenth Century* (Woodbridge, 1986), pp. 196–201; R. M. Haines, *King Edward II: His Life, his Reign, and its Aftermath, 1284–1330* (Montreal and London, 2003), pp. 23–35.

²¹³ This verse was very widely known in the Middle Ages (Walther, *Carminum*, p. 543, no. 10661); a full text can be found in *The Latin Poems Commonly Attributed to Walter Mapes*, ed. T. Wright, Camden Society, xvii (1841), pp. 226–8.

²¹⁴ Isa. 5: 10.

²¹⁵ This was the beginning of a catastrophic famine in England. The bad harvest in 1314 could be weathered, but the subsequent bad harvests in 1315 and 1316 brought famine conditions. The problem covered most of northern Europe so that supplies could not easily be imported and some were sought from Spain and the Mediterranean (*CPR 1313–17*, pp. 466, 624; *CCR 1313–18*, pp. 425, 452). The death rate in England is unknown, but in Ypres (Flanders) it was nearly 10 per cent in the summer of 1316. The improved harvest of 1317 and the good harvest of 1318 at last brought the prices down, but there were

1315 Dominus post hec flagella incorrigibiles nos inueniat, homines et pecora simul disperdat; et constanter credo quod, nisi intercederet Anglicana religio, dispersi fuissetus elapso tempore multo.

Accidit interea ut quidam miles, Adam de Banastre^a nomine, de domo et familia comitis Lancastrie, perpetrasset homicidium, et de uenia desperans ac peccatum suum augmentans, insurgere cepit contra dominum suum. Credidit enim regi placere si comitem infestaret, qui tociens regi restiterat, qui tociens regem initum^b coegerat^c mutare consilium. Vnde terras comitis cepit inuadere et precipue comitatum Lancastrie, et, secundum relatum aliquorum, quasi a rege iussus, baneriam regis erexit, et sub hoc colore multos auxiliarios secum assumpsit, castella comitis latenter intrauit, arma in exercitum Scottorum preparata et multam pecuniam simul asportauit.²¹⁶

Erant autem quasi octingenti uiri in auxilium eius procurati, quidam precio conducti, quidam mortis timore compulsi, quos uel oportuit patriam relinquere uel secum in arma concurrere. Audiens ergo comes proditoris insaniam, et considerans rem esse periculosam, statim precepit militibus suis ut infidelem illum prudenter inuestigarent, et inuentum prudenter inuaderent. Ibant ergo armatorum quasi sexcenti in mortem Ade de Banastre^d omnes accensi. Et cum uenissent prope locum ubi congregauerat Adam exercitum suum, diuiserunt se in duas turmas ut prima ueniens hostes inuaderet, que si non sufficeret, altera superueniens negocium consummaret. Hoc postquam Adam de Banastre^e cognouit, cum fautoribus et complicibus suis primam turmam acriter excepit, et ipsam sine dubio penitus dissipasset, nisi secunda turma recenter aduenisset. Adam uero et sui sequaces aduersarios accrescere uidentes, et multo plures adesse putantes, iam uacillare ceperunt, et post modicum, aduersariorum impetum non ferentes, fugam inierunt.²¹⁷ Set fugientes passim ceduntur a tergo. Porro persequencium tota fuit intencio, ceterorum

^a Danastre R; Banastre St, Den-Y ^b sic MS; poss. inuitum He ^c coegerat MS; coegerat He, St, Den-Y ^d see above, n. a ^e see above, n. a

continued hardships with livestock diseases and with another bad harvest in 1321. For the scale and significance of the famine, see I. Kershaw, 'The great famine and agrarian crisis in England, 1315-22', *Past and Present*, lix (1973), pp. 3-50, esp. at pp. 6-15; for the famine in Europe, see W. C. Jordan, *The Great Famine* (Princeton, 1996), *passim*. For the author's comments on English prices, see below, pp. 120-1.

²¹⁶ The revolt began on 8 Oct. 1315 and the rebels were active in the area between Warrington and Preston (Lancashire). Banaster had been a faithful Lancastrian retainer since 1305, and part of the cause of the revolt may have been rivalry with the Holand family, who were also Lancastrian retainers. Lancaster's letter to Edward II after the revolt, in which he

feared that if the Lord finds us incorrigible after these scourges, he will destroy at once both men and beasts; and I firmly believe that if the English church had not interceded for us, we should have perished long ago. 1315

Meanwhile it happened that a certain knight, named Adam Banaster, in the household and retinue of the earl of Lancaster, committed homicide and, without hope of pardon, yet aggravating his crime, he took it upon himself to rise up against his lord. For he believed that it would please the king if he attacked the earl who had so often opposed the king and so often forced the king to change plans already under way. Therefore this knight began to attack the earl's estates, especially the earldom of Lancaster, and according to some accounts he raised the royal standard, as if on the king's orders, and under this colour he drew to himself many helpers, entered the earl's castles by stealth, and carried off equipment prepared for the army against the Scots together with a large sum of money.²¹⁶

Some eight hundred men were persuaded to help him, some bought for a price, some forced by fear of death, who had either to leave the area or join him in arms. The earl, hearing of the traitor's madness, and considering the situation dangerous, at once ordered his knights to make a careful search for this faithless man, and to attack him with well-considered tactics when they found him. So hundreds and hundreds of men-at-arms went forth all fired up for Adam Banaster's death. When they had come near the place where Adam had assembled his army, they split up into two troops, so that the first one should come up and attack the enemy, and, if this was not enough, the other should come up too and finish off the business. When Adam Banaster realized this, with his accomplices and supporters he took on the first troop fiercely, and would doubtless have completely defeated it, if the second troop had not arrived in time. When Adam and his followers saw that their opponents grew in numbers, and thinking that many more were nearby, they began to waver, and after a little while, unable to withstand their opponents' attack, they took flight.²¹⁷ But as they fled they were everywhere cut down from behind. Now the whole intention of the pursuers was to

accepts that Edward had not encouraged Banaster, appears to confirm the *Vita's* comment that Banaster claimed to be acting in the king's interest (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 175-7). For a detailed chronology of the revolt, see G. H. Tupling (ed.), *South Lancashire in the Reign of Edward II* (Chetham Society, 3rd ser., i. 1949), pp. xlii-xlvi, 42-6.

²¹⁷ Banaster's defeat was on 4 Nov. at Deepdale near Preston (Tupling, *South Lancashire*, pp. 39, 45-6).

1315 signiferum Adam comprehendere, et uiuum si possent comiti presentare. Fugerat^a autem in quoddam horreum, et ibidem latitabat, set modicum; non enim diu latitare potuit qui totam patriam uelud^b hostis publicus debellauit. Aduersarii eius domum obsederunt et ipsum ad dedicionem sepius monuerunt; set ipse, delicti sui conscius et quocumque^c se uerteret de morte securus, audaciam ex desperatione concepit et se aduersariis audacter opposuit; quosdam eorum occidit et plures ex eis male uulnerauit. Tandem, quia sine magno periculo uiuum capere non poterant, inpressionem^d in eum facientes ipsum occiderunt, et caput eius auferentes comiti detulerunt.²¹⁸ Sic Ciba filius Botri dominum suum Dauid regem expugnauit, quem Ioaob princeps milicie fugientem in Abbella capite priuauit.²¹⁹

Paganus de Torboruile curam terre de Glamorgan acceperat a rege, unde ministrales^e prius constitutos nouis subrogatis cepit amouere;²²⁰ quamobrem Leulinus Bren^f commotus est, nec poterat Pagano quicquam loqui pacifice. Erat autem Leulinus ille Walensis uir magnus et potens in partibus suis.²²¹ Hic uiuente comite Gloucestrie magnum officium sub ipso gerebat, et nunc preposito Pagano potestatem sibi sublatam egre ferebat. Vnde Paganum contumeliis frequenter aggreditur, et pluribus audientibus in has minas inuehitur: 'Venient,' inquit, 'dies, et cessare faciam superbiam Pagani, reddam sibi uices quas impendit michi.' Propter quod accusatus est Leulinus apud regem quod sediciosus esset, quod occasiones rebellandi quereret, et, nisi rex diligenter precaueret, Leulinus de nouo Walenses excitaret. Audiens Leulinus condicionem suam sic apud regem deterioratam, de consilio amicorum accessit ad curiam, uolens si posset se ipsum excusare, aut saltem iniuriam suam caute palliare. Spreuit eum rex, iurans et protestans

^a fugeat MS; fugerat He, St, Den-Y ^b sic R; uelut St, Den-Y ^c sic R; quocumque St, Den-Y ^d sic R (corrected without comment from impressionem); impressionem St; inpressionem Den-Y ^e ministrales or ministrates MS (He leaves reading unclear, ed.); ministrales St, Den-Y ^f Breu R, He; Bren St, Den-Y

²¹⁸ Again the author's details are sketchy. In the legal records Banaster is said to have fled to the moors, but was betrayed when he asked for refuge in Charnock Richard on 11 Nov. He was executed on 12 Nov. (Tupling, *South Lancashire*, pp. xlvii, 38, 46).

²¹⁹ Cf. 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 20: 21-2.

²²⁰ Turberville, from an Anglo-Norman family which had been settled in Coety since the 12th c., was keeper of the Gloucester lands in Glamorgan from July 1315 to Apr. 1316. It was possibly his lack of sympathy with the Welsh, his changing of officials, and his financial pressures which encouraged Bren's rebellion (*CPR 1313-17*, pp. 362, 370, 432, 433; *CCR 1313-18*, pp. 253, 263, 275-6; J. Beverley Smith, 'The rebellion of Llewellyn Bren', in T. B. Pugh (ed.), *Glamorgan County History*, iii: *The Middle Ages* (Cardiff, 1971),

capture Adam, the ringleader of the others, and take him to the earl 1315 alive if they could. He, however, had escaped to a certain barn and lay hidden there, but only for a while; for the man who had brought war to the whole countryside like a public enemy could not hide for long. His opponents laid siege to the building and urged him again and again to surrender; but he, aware of his guilt and certain of death whichever way he turned, took courage from despair and faced his enemies boldly; he killed some of them and seriously wounded many of them. At length, because they could not take him alive without great danger, they made a rush upon him and killed him, and cutting off his head took it to the earl.²¹⁸ So likewise Seba son of Bochri fought against his lord king David, and Joab captain of the soldiery beheaded him as he fled to Abela.²¹⁹

Payn Turberville had received the administration of the land of Glamorgan from the king, and began to replace the previously appointed officials by new ones;²²⁰ this angered Llywelyn Bren, so that he could not speak peaceably to Payn. Now, that Llywelyn was a Welshman, a great and powerful man in his own country.²²¹ While the earl of Gloucester was alive he had held high office under him, and now with Payn in charge he bore it hardly that his authority was taken from him. Hence he frequently attacked Payn with insults, and in the hearing of many uttered these threats: 'The day will come', he said, 'when I will put an end to Payn's arrogance and give him in turn as good as he gives me.' For this, Llywelyn was accused before the king of sedition, and of seeking an excuse for rebellion; and unless the king took great care Llywelyn would rouse the Welsh afresh. Llywelyn hearing that his position with the king had been made worse, came to court on the advice of his friends, wishing to excuse himself if he could, or at least carefully to cover up his crime. But the

pp. 75-82). His accounts for the lordship, rendered by his widow, are on the pipe roll for 10 Ed. II (*Vita*, 1st edn., p. 66 n.).

²²¹ Llywelyn Bren was the son of Gruffud ap Rhys, the last independent ruler of Senghennydd, South Wales, whose lands had been brought under the lordship of the earls of Gloucester in the 1260s. The *modus vivendi* which had been reached was overturned with the death of Gilbert in 1314, when royal administrators in his lordship, particularly those from old Marcher families such as Turberville, showed little sympathy with the Welsh. The administrators may also have been tightening control in 1315-16, fearing that Bruce's invasion of Ireland might spread to Wales. The parliament of 1316 received complaints of oppression from all over Wales. Bren surrendered by 26 Mar. 1316 and was sent to the Tower. Despenser later had him executed in Cardiff (R. R. Davies, *Conquest, Coexistence and Change: Wales 1063-1415*, History of Wales, ii (Oxford, 1987), pp. 281-2, 388; Smith, 'Rebellion of Llewellyn Bren', pp. 74-86; *CPR 1313-17*, pp. 433-4; *CCR 1313-18*, pp. 274-5; *RP*, iii. 364; *Stats.*, i. 183).

1315 quod filius mortis esset,²²² si crimen ei obiectum manifestum foret. Habuitque in mandatis ad Lyncolniam uenire, et ibidem super hiis responsum expectare.²²³

1316 Leulinus ergo, accepto tali mandato, clam et festinanter ad partes suas rediit, et quod ante proposuerat statim patefecit. Prius quidem fecerat^a uerba maliuola, set iam de uerbis peruentum est ad uerbera. Nam quadam die, dum custos de Kaerfili extra castrum curiam teneret, superuenit Leulinus cum filiis et fautoribus suis ad constabularium, captum secum abduxit, quibusdam ministris cesis et pluribus qui ad curiam illam conuenerant male uulneratis. Castrum quoque statim inuasit, set custodibus resistentibus intrare non potuit, ulteriorem uero custodiam totam incendit.²²⁴ Iam palam facte sunt inimicitie. Leulinus minatus (est)^b Paganum occidere. Paganus declinauit eius insidias donec accresceret uires suas.

Interim Leulinus ipse terras sub tuicione Pagani constitutas uiolenter aggreditur: cedit, incendit, et depredatur. Associauerat sibi enim in auxilium quasi decem milia Walensium. Omnia bona sua, boues, uaccas et cetera uictualia ad montes transtulerant; nam in cauernis montium et in latebris nemorum erat eorum refugium. Hiis et aliis malis perpetratis ac domino regi notificatis, precepit rex seruis suis dicens, 'Ite uelociter, et persequimini proditorem illum, ne forte ex mora deterius eueniat, et tota Wallia contra nos insurgat.' Committiturque negocium comiti Herfordie, nam res ipsa precipue uidebatur ipsum tangere; terra^c enim de Breynok que ad comitem pertinet terram de Glamorgam collateralem habet, et iuxta poetam,

Tunc tua res agitur paries dum proximus ardet.²²⁵

Abiit ergo comes in terram suam ut persequeretur Leulinum, et uterque Rogerus de Mortimer ferebat auxilium.²²⁶ Willelmus de

^a fecerit *MS*; fecerat *He, St, Den-Y* ^b minatur *R*; minatus (est) *ed.* ^c terram *R*; terra *St, Den-Y*

²²² 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 20: 31 (that is: he would die).

²²³ Parliament (with commons) was summoned to Lincoln for 27 Jan. 1316 (*HBC*, p. 553).

²²⁴ Caerffili castle was a symbol of English overlordship. It was begun in 1267 by the earl of Gloucester to control the newly subdued land of Senghennydd (Davies, *Wales 1063-1415*, pp. 281-2).

²²⁵ Horace, *Ep.* i. 18. 84. Hereford was appointed to overall command of the campaign on 11 Feb. 1316 (*CPR 1313-17*, p. 432).

²²⁶ Roger Mortimer of Wigmore and Roger Mortimer of Chirk were important Marcher barons. Roger Mortimer of Wigmore, earl of March 1328-30, was heir to the family lands

king rejected him, swearing and asserting that he was the son of death²²² if the crime charged against him was proved. He was ordered to come to Lincoln, and there await a reply on these matters.²²³

Then, having received such an order, Llywelyn returned secretly and in haste to his own country and at once made clear what he had previously had in mind. He had formerly uttered words of disaffection, but now it went beyond words to blows. For on a certain day, while the keeper of Caerffili was outside the castle holding his court, Llywelyn with his sons and accomplices fell upon the constable and led him away captive; some of the servants were killed, and many who had come to the court were badly wounded. Llywelyn also at once attacked the castle, but because of the resistance of the guards he was unable to enter; nevertheless he burnt the whole of the outer ward.²²⁴ Hostilities now became open. Llywelyn threatened to kill Payn. Payn avoided his plots until he should increase his forces.

Meanwhile Llywelyn himself violently attacked the lands under Payn's protection: he killed, burned, and plundered. He had attracted to himself the help of some ten thousand Welshmen. These had carried off all Payn's goods to the mountains, oxen, cows, and other victuals; for their refuge was in mountain caves and wooded hiding places. When these and other wrongs which had been committed had been reported to the lord king, the king gave orders to his servants saying, 'Go quickly, and pursue that traitor, lest perhaps worse should happen through delay and all Wales should rise against us.' And the affair was committed to the earl of Hereford, as the situation itself seemed to affect him particularly; for the land of Brecon, which belongs to the earl, has land adjoining Glamorgan, and according to the poet,

Have a care for your caves, if your neighbour's dwelling burns.²²⁵

The earl therefore went off to his lands to pursue Llywelyn, and both the lords Roger Mortimer helped him.²²⁶ William Montague,

in the Marches and in Ireland. He was knighted at the same time as Prince Edward in 1306, and until 1321 served loyally in Scotland, the Welsh Marches, and in Ireland. He was king's lieutenant and keeper of Ireland 1316-18 and justiciar of Ireland 1319-21. His opposition to the Despencers in 1321-2 brought imprisonment and exile. His later liaison with Queen Isabella brought him the earldom of March (*CP*, viii. 433-42; *Tout, Ed. II*, pp. 343-4). Roger Mortimer of Chirk, third son of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore (d. 1282), was the uncle of this Roger Mortimer of Wigmore. As a younger son he had had to make a career for himself: he served Edward I loyally and rose to prominence under Edward II, serving as justice of North and South Wales in 1308-15, 1316, and 1317-22. However, like his nephew, he opposed Despenser in 1321-2, and was imprisoned in the Tower, where he died on 3 Aug. 1326 (*CP*, ix. 251-4; *Tout, Ed. II*, p. 336).

1316 Monte Acuto prefectus^a milicie regis ex parte una, Iohannes Gyffard et qui cum eo erant ex altera uenerunt.²²⁷ Henricus de Lancastria²²⁸ et alii barones et milites, terras in uicino habentes, opem tulerunt, ut sic Walenses undique obsessi^b nullatenus haberent locum diffugii. Videns ergo Leulinus quod male errasset, quod ad resistendum non sufficeret, Walenses^c enim bis uel ter Anglicos predanter^d acceperant, set semper ubique deterius reportauerant, obtulit se comiti sub condicione, ut scilicet uitam^e et membra, terras et cetera bona mobilia salua liceret habere, et pro satisfaccione delicti optulit magnam summam argenti; set noluit comes eum admittere, nisi simpliciter se uellet reddere. Tandem cum exercitus noster aprouinquasset et excubias Walensium iam didicisset, Leulinus suos homines sic cepit alloqui: 'Non est,' inquit, 'tutum cum Anglis congregari. Ego dedi causam negocio. Ego me tradam pro toto populo. Melius est enim ut unus moriatur quam tota gens exulet uel gladio perimatur.'²²⁹

Descendens^f ergo Leulinus de montibus reddidit se comiti, subiciens se penitus regie uoluntati; misitque eum comes ad regem ut misericordiam expectaret aut legem. Hec est consuetudo Walensium ut uetus^g insania. Si quieuerint per decennium statim respirant ad prelium, et quod multo tempore congesserint uadit in exterminium.^h Leulinus ap Griffyth et frater eius Daudid poterant in pace uixisse, set rebellantes uitam perdiderunt et principatum Wallie.²³⁰ Verum si consuete rebellionis causam 'uelis perscrutari,'ⁱ hoc pro ratione poterit assignari. Walenses, prius dicti Britones, olim dicti^j quidem erant nobiles et tocius Anglie regnum possidentes; set superuenientibus Saxonibus eieci fuerunt, et regnum (et)^k nomen simul amiserunt. Terra fertilis et plana cessit Saxonibus; terra sterilis et montuosa remansit Walensibus. Porro ex dictis Merlini prophete, sperant adhuc Angliam recuperare.²³¹ Hinc est quod frequenter

^a prefectus MS; prefectus He, St, Den-Y ^b obsessi MS; obsessi He, St, Den-Y
^c Walensis MS; Walenses He, St, Den-Y ^d sic R; predantes Den-Y ^e uita MS; uitam He, St, Den-Y ^f ascendens R; descendens Den-Y ^g sic R; perhaps uel pocius Den-Y ^h exterminium MS; exterminium He, St, Den-Y ⁱ uel perscrutari MS; uelis perscrutari He, St, Den-Y ^j sic R; om. Den-Y ^k om. MS; nomenque He; et supplied St, Den-Y

²²⁷ Montague was a household knight from a rising west country family. His active military service began in 1301, and he served also as diplomat and courtier. By 1316-17, he was a prominent courtier along with Amory, Audley, and the two Despensers. With Audley and others he acted against Bren, and left a report of his action (*CPR* 1313-17, p. 384; *CChW*, i. 437-9). He rose to become steward of the household in Nov. 1316 to Nov. 1318, after which he was appointed seneschal of Gascony on 20 Nov. 1318. He was dead by 6 Nov. 1319 (*CP*, ix. 80-2; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 194-5; *HBC*, p. 76; Tout,

commander of the king's forces, came from one side, and John 1316 Giffard and those who were with him came from the other.²²⁷ Henry of Lancaster²²⁸ and the other barons and knights who had lands in the neighbourhood brought help, so that the Welsh, hemmed in on all sides, had no place of refuge at all. Therefore, seeing that he had made a bad mistake and that he did not have a sufficient force to resist, for the Welsh had two or three times met the English on plundering raids but had always everywhere come off worse, Llywelyn offered to submit to the earl on condition, namely that he should have safety of life and limb, lands, and other moveable goods, and in satisfaction of his crime he offered a great sum of money; but the earl would not receive him unless he would surrender unconditionally. At length when our army had drawn near and had already recognized the Welsh guards, Llywelyn began to address his men thus: 'It is not safe', he said, 'to engage the English. I provoked this business. I will hand myself over for the whole people. For it is better that one man should die than that the whole race should be exiled or perish by the sword.'²²⁹

Coming down from the hills therefore Llywelyn gave himself up to the earl, submitting himself utterly to the king's will; and the earl sent him to the king to await his mercy or judgement. This habit of the Welsh is a long-standing madness. They keep quiet for ten years and then, in an instant, are ready again for battle, and what they have achieved over a long period is quickly destroyed. Llywelyn ap Gruffudd and Daffyd his brother could have lived in peace, but they lost their lives and the principality of Wales in rebellion.²³⁰ And if you wish to trace the roots of this rebellious habit, this may be given as a reason. The Welsh, formerly called the Britons, were once noble and owned the whole realm of England; but they were expelled by the incoming Saxons and lost both name and kingdom. The fertile lowlands went to the Saxons; the barren and mountainous districts were left to the Welsh. But because of the sayings of the prophet Merlin they still hope to recover England.²³¹ Hence it is that the

Ed. II., p. 350). His son continued in royal service and was created earl of Salisbury in 1337. For Giffard see above, n. 182.

²²⁸ Henry was the younger brother of Thomas of Lancaster. ²²⁹ Cf. John 11: 50.
²³⁰ These were the last princes of Gwynedd. Their rebellion in 1282 provoked Edward I's final conquest of Wales. Llywelyn was killed in battle 11 Dec. 1282, and Daffyd, his younger brother, was executed 3 Oct. 1283 (*HBC*, pp. 51-2; Davies, *Wales 1063-1415*, pp. 348-54; Prestwich, *Ed. I*, pp. 193-6, 202-3).
²³¹ For Merlin's prophecies, see above n. 212.

1316 insurgunt Walenses, effectum uaticinii implere uolentes; set quia debitum tempus ignorant, sepe decipiuntur et in uanum laborant.

Dominus rex apud Lyncolniam barones conuocauerat,²³² set propter guerram Leulini Bren,^a de paucis consuluerat.^b Perambulacio tamen forestarum ibidem conceditur, et comes Lancastrie principalis consiliarius regis efficitur.²³³ Ordinationes super uictualibus prius facte penitus dissoluuntur.²³⁴ Itinerantes enim per patriam multum graubantur, nam ex quo processit illud statutum, nichil uel modicum in foro reperiebatur expositum, cum tamen prius habundaret forum uenalibus, licet cara uiderentur transeuntibus. Porro melius est emere care quam nichil emendum ad opus inuenire. Nam licet raritas annonam facit cariorem, habundancia subsequens reddet meliorem.

Transeunte solempnitate Paschali cepit caristia bladi uehementer augeri. Non est uisa temporibus nostris in Anglia nec audita centum <annis>^c retroactis tanta caristia. Nam Londoniis et locis uicinis uendebatur modius tritici pro quadraginta denariis, et aliis partibus terre ubi minor erat concursus hominum triginta denarii erat commune precium.²³⁵ Porro durante penuria creuit et fames ualida, et post famem dura pestilencia, ex qua moriuntur in diuersis locis plus quam milia. A quibusdam eciam audiui relatum, quod in partibus Northumbrorum canes et equi et alia immunda sumebantur ad esum. Hii enim propter frequentes incursus Scotorum maiori tedio laborabant, quos maledicti Scoti suis uictualibus cotidie spoliabant. Heu terra Anglie! que olim ex tua fertilitate aliis terris solebas subuenire, nunc pauper et indigens cogeris mendicare. Terra fructifera uertitur in salsuginem;²³⁶ aeris intemperies deuorat pinguedinem;

^a Bru *R, He*; Bren *St, Den-Y*
^c *om. R*; *supplied St, Den-Y*

^b *consulerat MS*; *consuluerat He, St, Den-Y*

²³² Parliament (with commons) was summoned for 27 Jan. 1316 and ended on 20 Feb. (*HBC*, p. 553).

²³³ The perambulation of the forests and Lancaster's appointment were both agreed on 17 Feb. 1316 (*RP*, i. 351). The fullest description of the business in this parliament is in Davies, *Opposition*, pp. 408–15. This marks the highest point of Lancaster's activity in government. The experiment did not work well, but this was not entirely due to Lancaster's own failures (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 180–9). The standing council which was set up in 1318 no longer had Lancaster as a member (see below, n. 299).

²³⁴ For the ordinance see above, pp. 102–3. The repeal was agreed on 14 Feb. 1316; writs went out on 20 Feb. (*RP*, i. 351; *CCR 1313–17*, p. 325).

²³⁵ Easter fell on 11 Apr. in 1316. The string of bad harvests had begun in 1314 and brought severe famine conditions in 1315–17 (see above, pp. 110–11). The author was correct in stating that the price levels reached were unheard of; they have been called 'quite unparalleled in English history' (Kershaw, 'Agrarian crisis', p. 13). Normally prices ranged between 6s. and 8s. a quarter in the early 14th c.; the *modius* was almost certainly a

Welsh frequently rebel, hoping to give effect to the prophecy; but because they do not know the appointed time, they are often deceived and their effort is in vain. 1316

The lord king had summoned the barons to Lincoln,²³² but on account of the war of Llywelyn Bren he had dealt with few matters. However, the perambulation of the forests was granted there, and the earl of Lancaster was made the king's chief counsellor.²³³ The regulations formerly made about food were completely abolished.²³⁴ In fact, those who travelled about the country were suffering much hardship, for, as a result of that statute, little or nothing was exposed for sale in the markets, whereas formerly the market had been full of goods, even though they seemed dear to travellers. But it is better to buy dear than to find there is nothing to buy when you need it. For although scarcity makes produce dearer, subsequent plenty brings back a better time.

After the celebration of Easter the dearth of grain began to increase greatly. Such a scarcity has not been seen in our time in England, nor heard of for a hundred years. For the bushel of wheat was sold in London and its vicinity for forty pence, and in other less thickly populated parts of the country thirty pence was a common price.²³⁵ Indeed during this time of scarcity a great famine appeared, and after the famine came a severe pestilence, from which many thousands died in different places. I have even heard it said by some, that in Northumbria dogs and horses and other unclean things were consumed as food. There, indeed, on account of the frequent raids of the Scots, people are afflicted with greater hardship as the accursed Scots rob them daily of their food. Alas, land of England! You who out of your abundance once helped other lands, now, poor and needy, are forced to beg. A fruitful land is turned into barrenness,²³⁶ the inclemency of the

bushel and therefore, at eight bushels to the quarter, the author of the *Vita* is reporting prices of 20s. to 26s. 8d. a quarter. Manorial and market prices of wheat at over 25s. a quarter were not uncommon, and in the worst-hit areas chroniclers reported wheat prices at 40s. the quarter. For prices, see D. L. Farmer, 'Prices and wages', in H. E. Hallam (ed.), *Agrarian History of England and Wales*, iii: 1042–1350 (Cambridge, 1988), fig. 7.4, pp. 736–7.

²³⁶ Ps. 106 (107): 34. Excessive rain was mentioned by nearly all chroniclers as the main cause of the grain shortage. Sea storms and coastal flooding also caused recurrent problems for the low-lying areas on the east coast in the late 13th and first half of the 14th cc., although the famine years themselves did not see as many recorded inundations as the 1280s or the subsequent years of the 1330s and 1340s (M. Bailey, 'Per impetum maris: natural disaster and economic decline in eastern England', in B. M. S. Campbell (ed.), *Before the Black Death: Studies in the 'Crisis' of the Early Fourteenth Century* (Manchester, 1991), pp. 184–208, at pp. 187–96).

1316 seritur frumentum et procreatur lolium. Eueniunt autem omnia a malicia habitantium in ea.²³⁷ Parce, Domine, parce populo tuo.²³⁸ Subsannant et derident nos qui sunt in circuitu nostro.²³⁹ Dicunt tamen sapientes astrologie has celi tempestates naturaliter euenisse; Saturnus enim securus et frigidus asperitates procreat inutiles seminibus; triennio iam regnans cursum consummauit, et sibi mitis lubiter ordine successit. Porro Ioue regnante cessabunt pluuias unde, ualles habundabunt frumento^a et campi replebuntur ubertate,²⁴⁰ etenim Dominus dabit benignitatem, et terra nostra dabit fructum suum,²⁴¹ et cetera.

Iam pridem orta fuit dissensio in uilla Bristollie super consuetudinibus in portu maris et in foro, super priuilegiis et aliis rebus, in quibus quatuordecim de maioribus eiusdem uille uidebantur prerogatiuam habere.²⁴² Obstitit^b communitas, asserens burgenses omnes unius condicionis esse et hoc in libertatibus et priuilegiis pares existere. Super huiusmodi rebus frequentes inter se habuerunt altercationes, donec in curia regis impetrarent iudices qui de causa cognoscerent et ipsam debite terminarent. Porro quatuordecim illi predicti procurauerant in inquisitione forenses associari. Credebantur insuper et ipsi conducti et ad partem illorum quatuordecim totaliter inclinati. Allegauit communitas libertatibus uille fore contrarium causas intrinsecas uentilari^c iudicio forensium; set iustitarii tales allegaciones friuolas reputabant, unde nec libertatibus nec^d priuilegiis eorum in hoc deferebant. Videntes ergo maiores communitatis excepciones suas repelli, ius eorum fauore potius quam ratione confundi, conturbati nimirum exierunt ab aula ubi de consuetudine tractantur iudicia, nunciaueruntque plebi dicentes, 'Venerunt iudices aduersariis nostris fauentes, et in preiudicium nostrum forenses admittunt, unde et iura nostra sine fine peribunt.' Ad hec uerba uulgus insipiens in sedicionem uertitur, et totus populus pre tumultu timore concutitur.^e Redeuntes denuo cum multo comitatu uenerunt in aulam ubi ius eorum iam uertent^f in iniuriam. Nam pugnans et

^a ferro R; frumento St, Den-Y ^b abstitit MS; obstitit He, St, Den-Y ^c uentelari MS; uentilari He, St, Den-Y ^d in MS; nec He, St, Den-Y ^e concutitur MS; concutitur He, St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; uertunt or uertunt He; uertunt St

²³⁷ Ps. 106 (107): 34; and see also Jer. 12: 4.

²³⁸ From the liturgy: in the Litany or prayer of general supplication (Legg, *Sarum Missal*, pp. 54, 151).

²³⁹ Ps. 43 (44): 14.

²⁴⁰ Ps. 64 (65): 14, 12.

²⁴¹ Ps. 84 (85): 13.

²⁴² Some initial discontent was felt over Badlesmere's farm of the town in 1309 for £210

weather destroys the fatness of the land; wheat is sown and tares are brought forth. All this comes from the wickedness of them that dwell therein.²³⁷ Spare, O Lord, spare thy people!²³⁸ They scoff and deride us, that are round about us.²³⁹ Yet those who are wise in astrology say that these storms in the heavens have happened naturally; for Saturn, heedless and cold, brings rough weather that is useless to the seed; in the ascendant now for three years he has completed his course, and kindly Jupiter has in turn succeeded him. Henceforth, under Jupiter these floods of rain will cease, the vales shall abound with corn, and the fields shall be filled with plenty;²⁴⁰ for the Lord will give goodness and our earth shall yield her fruit,²⁴¹ etc.

A long time ago discontent arose in the town of Bristol, over the customs in the harbour and the market, over privileges and other matters in which fourteen of the greater townsmen appeared to take precedence.²⁴² The community opposed them, maintaining that all the burgesses were of one rank and therefore equal in liberties and privileges. Over such matters they had frequent disputes among themselves, until they asked the king's court to provide judges to take cognizance of the case and duly bring it to a conclusion. Now those said fourteen had arranged for outsiders to be on the panel of jurors. And, moreover, these men were believed to have been won over and to be entirely favourably disposed to the side of those fourteen. The community alleged that it would be against the liberties of the town for domestic issues to be subject to the judgment of outsiders; but the justices regarded such allegations as frivolous, and would not allow them their liberties or privileges in this. The leaders of the community, seeing that their liberties were rejected, that their rights were upset rather by favour than by reason, in much distress left the hall where judgments are customarily given, and spoke to the people saying, 'Judges favourable to our opponents have come, and to our prejudice they admit outsiders, by which our rights will be lost for ever.' At these words the foolish crowd turned to rioting, and the whole populace trembled from fear of the disorder. Returning once more with a large following, they entered the hall, where they turned their right to wrong. For with fists and sticks they began to attack the

p. a. This was compounded by internal disputes and open violence between the townsmen, led by John Taverner on one side and William Randolph on the other. Further opposition to the Crown came in the refusal to pay the tallage of 16 Dec. 1312, and by 10 Nov. 1313 the town was taken into the king's hands. It took nearly three more years to resolve the problems (E. A. Fuller, 'The tallage of 6 Edward II and the Bristol rebellion', *TBGAS*, xix (1894-5), pp. 173-83).

1316 fustibus obuam sibi turbam inuadere ceperunt, et ipsa die subito fere uiginti homines fatue peremerunt.^a Timor namque non uanus nobiles et ignobiles tantus inuasit ut plures per fenestras de summo solarium in plateam exilierunt, et crura uel tibias in terram decedentes enormiter leserunt.^b Timebant et iudices, humiliter petentes in pace recedere, quos maior uille, plebis insaniam uix tandem compescens, illesos fecit abire.

Indictati fuerunt super hoc quasi octoginta uiri, et habita inquisitione diligenter coram iustitiariis regis apud Gloucestriam condemnati,^c postea de comitatu exiguntur, et non uenientes neque parentes exules fieri precipiuntur. Ipsi uero bene muniti continuerunt se intra uillam suam; non parebunt regis mandato nisi per manum ualidam.

Quatuordecim illi predicti, qui aduersabantur communitati, domos et redditus relinquentes a uilla recesserunt; nam sub tali tempestate morari cum aduersariis inutile censuerunt. Per duos annos et amplius durauit ista rebellio communitatis Bristollie, et tamen ex parte regis pluries sunt moniti ad pacem uenire. Maluit enim rex penam grassancium si uellent mitigare, quam plenam uindictam expetendo bonam uillam destruere. Perstiterunt autem ipsi semper rebelles, mandatum et preceptum regis semper contempnentes. Non uenerunt uocati, non paruenerunt moniti, causantes omnem processum contra eos habitum iniustum, quia priuilegiis et libertatibus eorum omnino contrarium.

Nolens^d ergo rex malicie eorum ulterius satisfacere, milites et maiores de comitatu Glouernie uocantur Londonias, quibus iniunxit in uirtute sacramenti ibidem prestiti causam Bristollie et cuius esset iniuria patenter edicere. Qui omnes dixerunt communitatem Bristollie partem sinistram fouere, et octoginta uiros auctores iniurie. Misit ergo Bristollie Adolmarum comitem de Penbrok,²⁴³ qui uocatis maioribus communitatis dixit eis ex parte regis: 'Dominus rex,' inquit, 'causam^e uestram uentilans, uos reos inuenit, et ut iuri pareatis uos monet et precipit. Homicidas et reos illos tradite, et uos et uilla uestra in pace manete. Promitto quod, si sic feceritis, dominum regem erga uos satis placibilem et misericordem inuenietis.' Respondit communitas: 'Nos iniurie auctores non fuimus; nos in

^a sic R; perhaps for perierunt MW; or perempti sunt ed. ^b lederunt MS; leserunt He, St, Den-Y ^c condemnari MS; condemnati St, Den-Y ^d nolentes MS; nolens He, St, Den-Y ^e sic R; causam St, Den-Y

²⁴³ Pembroke, William Inge, John de Lisle, and John Musard were appointed on 20 June 1316 to investigate and to force the Bristol townsmen back to obedience (CPR 1313-17, p. 489; Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 102-3; Fuller, 'Bristol rebellion', pp. 185-6).

crowd opposed to them, and suddenly that day nearly twenty men 1316 lost their lives for nothing. A very natural fear seized noble and commoner, so great that many leapt out of the top-storey windows into the street, and seriously injured their legs or thighs as they fell to the ground. The judges too were afraid, humbly begging to leave in peace, and the mayor of the town, with difficulty at last restraining the frenzy of the populace, got them away safely.

About eighty men were indicted for this, and after a searching enquiry before the royal justices at Gloucester, were condemned, then the county was ordered to produce them. As they neither came nor obeyed, they were ordered to be exiled. In truth, well protected, they stayed within their town; they will not obey the king's command unless they are forced to.

Those said fourteen who were opposing the commons, abandoning their houses and rents, left the town, for they judged it useless to remain with their opponents during such a commotion. This rebellion of the community of Bristol lasted for two years and more, though they were many times warned by the king to make their peace. For the king preferred a penalty from the rioters if they would comply, than to destroy a good town by demanding full vengeance. However, they always persisted in their rebellion at all times, constantly disregarding the king's command and order. They did not come when they were summoned; they did not appear when they were instructed, pleading that the whole process against them was unjust, because it was entirely contrary to their privileges and liberties.

Unwilling, therefore, to put up any longer with their wickedness, the king summoned the knights and the more important men of Gloucestershire to London, and enjoined them by virtue of an oath taken there to make a clear pronouncement on the case of Bristol and who had suffered wrong. And they all said that the Bristol community had favoured the wrong cause and that the eighty men were the authors of the wrongdoing. So the king sent to Bristol Aymer, earl of Pembroke,²⁴³ who called together the leaders of the community and spoke to them on the king's behalf: 'The lord king,' he said, 'on hearing your cause has found you guilty, and he warns and commands you to obey the law. Hand over the killers and the guilty, and you and your town shall remain in peace. I promise that if you do this you will find the lord king lenient and merciful enough towards you.' The community replied: 'We were not the authors of this wrongdoing; we

1316 dominum regem nichil deliquimus. Quidam nitebantur iura nostra tollere, et nos sicut decuit e contra defendere. Iccirco, si dominus rex ea que nobis inponuntur remiserit, si uitam et membra, redditus et predia nobis concesserit, sibi ut domino parebimus, et omnia quecunque uoluerit faciemus; alioquin persistemus ut cepimus, et libertates et priuilegia nostra usque ad mortem defendemus.⁷

Audiens rex contumaciam eorum, et considerans rem esse mali exempli, iussit uillam obsederi,^a et non recedere donec caperentur obsessi. Et statim obsessa est uilla, municiones contra eam et propungnacula facta. Mauricus de Berkele obseruabat uiam maris. Aderat Iohannes de Chertone regis camerarius,²⁴⁴ Rogerus de Mortimer, Iohannes de Wylinthone, et alii barones et milites quam plurimi, et Bartholomeus de Badesmere procurator tocius negocii.²⁴⁵ Erant eciam in castro quod est uille contiguum uiri cum petrariis et aliis machinis facientes assaultum. Per aliquot^b dies obsessi nitebantur uillam defendere, quia sperabant exteriores non longam moram facere, tum quia comes Gloucestrie dudum prius sic uillam obsesserat, set infecto negotio tandem recesserat, quia tum^c sciebant regem in Scociam tendere, et suorum procerum auxilio indigere. Fefellit eos spes uacua; non recedent nec uilla subiecta. Nam^d petraria castri uehemencius acta conquassabat muros et edificia. Quod uidentes opidani turbati sunt, et timore concussi^e mittunt totam uillam in dedicionem,^e et maiores capti missi sunt in carcerem.²⁴⁶ Puniri non potuit tota multitudo, set multis grassantibus opus est exemplo.

Iam sciunt Bristollienses se male errasse, et rebellionem suam nichil perficisse.^f Si condicionem pacis oblatam prius acceptassent, tota fere communitas et bona eorum tuto remansissent, set quia malo sunt usi consilio relictis sunt omnes regis iudicio. Inutile quidem fuit

^a sic MS; obsideri He, St ^b aliquod MS; aliquot He, St, Den-Y ^c sic R; tum quia St, Den-Y ^d non MS; nam He, St, Den-Y ^e timentes totam uillam in dedicionem MS; tradidere or similar verb to be supplied He; tradunt supplied St; timentes totam uillam in (destructionem ire; ita consensere in) dedicionem conjectured Den-Y; it is possible that timentes, which simply repeats the previous ideas of turbati sunt and timore concussi, is itself a corruption of a verb, perhaps mittunt. I am indebted to Mr Ian Moxon for this suggestion, ed. ^f sic MS; profecisse He, St; profecisse Den-Y

²⁴⁴ Charlton had been one of Gaveston's yeomen. He was royal chamberlain in 1310-18, and possibly from 1308. If Gaveston was Edward's chamberlain (see above, n. 3) then Charlton may have acted as deputy chamberlain in the early years. His presence at court was opposed by the baronage in the supplementary ordinances in Oct. 1311, but without effect (Hamilton, *Gaveston*, p. 43 and n. 52; Tout, *Ed. II*, p. 315; *Ann. Lond.*, p. 20; Chaplais, *Gaveston*, p. 65).

²⁴⁵ This was Mortimer of Wigmore (Phillips, *Pembroke*, p. 103). For Mortimer and

have done nothing wrong towards the lord king. Certain men strove 1316 to take away our rights, and we, as was proper, strove to defend them. Therefore if the lord king will remit the penalties placed upon us, if he will grant us life and limb and rents and property, we will obey him as lord and do whatever he wishes; otherwise we shall continue as we have begun, and defend our liberties and privileges to the death.⁷

The king hearing of their stubbornness, and thinking that this was a bad example, ordered the town to be besieged, and not left until those besieged had been taken. And immediately the town was besieged, fortifications and siegeworks were prepared against it. Maurice Berkeley guarded the approach by sea. Present were John Charlton, the king's chamberlain,²⁴⁴ Roger Mortimer, John Willington, and very many other barons and knights, and Bartholomew Badlesmere, in charge of the whole business.²⁴⁵ In the castle, which adjoins the town, there were also men assaulting it with mangonels and other engines. For some days the besieged struggled to defend the town, hoping that those outside would not stay long, both because the earl of Gloucester had long ago besieged the town but had at length departed without taking it, and also because they knew that the king was going to Scotland and needed the help of his great men. This vain hope deceived them; they [the besiegers] will not depart until the town is taken. Moreover, one of the castle's mangonels, handled more forcefully, shattered the walls and buildings. When the townsmen saw this they were thrown into confusion and, stricken with fear, they surrendered the whole town, and the leading men, having been seized, were sent to prison.²⁴⁶ The whole crowd could not be punished, but when there are many lawbreakers an example is needed.

The Bristollians now know that they have made a bad mistake, and that their rebellion has achieved nothing. If they had accepted the condition of peace offered earlier, almost the entire community and their goods would have remained safe, but because they have followed bad advice they are all left at the king's mercy. The advice indeed was

Willington, see above, nn. 183, 226. Badlesmere (for whose career see above, n. 203) had a long-standing interest in Bristol as constable of the castle from 1307 to 1320, with only a short break in 1312 (*CFR 1307-19*, pp. 2, 122, 147; *ibid.* 1319-27, p. 33). He inevitably became drawn into internal town conflicts, as one side looked for government (i.e. the constable's) support.

²⁴⁶ The siege took place between 19 and 26 July 1316; by 18 Dec. most of the guilty had bought their pardons and Bristol's liberties had been restored (Phillips, *Pembroke*, p. 103; Fuller, 'Bristol rebellion', pp. 186-7).

1316 consilium dum utilitas priuatorum transit^a in commune dispendium. Sane meminisse debuerant obsessorum apud Bedeford finem desolatatum, et eorum pariter qui apud Kenelesworthe contra regem tenuerunt castrum: illi quidem capti et omnes fere suspensi; isti uero uel in carcerem detrusi uel in exilium deportati.²⁴⁷

Quid est regi resistere nisi propriam uitam contempnere et omnia bona pariter amittere? Nam si insulanus^b contra regem insulanum rebellat, proinde ac si uincolatus cum magistro carceris contendat. Per huiusmodi dissenciones deterioratur patria, et multipliciter leduntur indigene; quas,^c si rex manum rigidam et correctricem apponeret, sedaret facillime. Set hodie frequenter accidit quod, licet aliquem deliquisse constiterit, pro muneribus iustificatur; fouetur impius, et (in)^d innocentem culpa retorquetur. Ex hoc quippe crescit audacia nocendi. Nam facilitas uenie incentium prebet delinquendi. Et si queratur cuius auctoritate fiant talia, dici potest quod tota iniquitas originaliter exiit a curia. Auaricia enim curialium uotis subsequitur singulorum. Hii sunt de quibus loquitur Daud in Psalmis: Dextera eorum repleta est muneribus.²⁴⁸ Iccirco nil magis utile (et)^e necessarium foret in curia, quam ut rex tales collaterales haberet in camera, qui pro loco et tempore regem excessibus^f suppliciter corripere et impiorum satillitum cum uiderint expedire facta suggerent.^g Propter quod uir quidam religiosus et note auctoritatis confessori domini regis misit litteras sub hiis uerbis:²⁴⁹

Cum rex a regendo dicatur,²⁵⁰ utpote qui populum legibus gubernare et gladio debeat ab inimicis defendere, dum bene regit conuenienter rex

^a sic MS; for transit He ^b insulanus MS; insulanus He, St, Den-Y ^c quam MS; poss. patriam to be understood, otherwise quas to refer to dissenciones He ^d om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^e om. MS; supplied He, Den-Y ^f sic R; perhaps de excessibus MW ^g suggerentur MS; suggererent He, St; suggerent Den-Y

²⁴⁷ At the fall of Bedford in 1224 William de Bréauté and over eighty of the garrison, which had rejected the offer of surrender and mercy, were executed for breach of fealty (D. A. Carpenter, *The Minority of Henry III* (London, 1990), pp. 366–7). The garrison of Kenilworth was allowed to go home when it finally capitulated on 14 Dec. 1266, but the siege had lasted nearly five months, and had already caused immense hardship (F. M. Powicke, *Henry III and the Lord Edward* (Oxford, 1947), ii. 539).

²⁴⁸ Ps. 25 (26): 10.

²⁴⁹ Both Stubbs and Denholm-Young noted the similarity of the beginning of this letter to the *Speculum Regis Edwardi III*. The *Speculum* survives in two recensions, which Leonard Boyle has convincingly argued should be seen as two separate works; a letter (*Epistola*) to the king written at the beginning of 1331 (Recension A in Moisant's edition) was followed up in 1332 by the *Speculum* proper (Recension B in Moisant's edition). Both were almost certainly written by William de Pagula, vicar of Winkfield in Windsor Forest. Both bitterly criticized

useless since the advantage of individual citizens turned into common 1316 loss. They ought, indeed, to have remembered the tragic fate of the besieged at Bedford, and equally of those who held the castle of Kenilworth against the king; the former were captured and almost all hanged; the latter were cast into prison or sent into exile.²⁴⁷

What does it serve, to resist the king, except to throw away one's life and lose all one's goods as well? For an islander to rebel against an island king is as if a chained man were to try his strength with the warder of his prison. By such quarrels the country is weakened, and the inhabitants are injured in many ways; if the king applied a firm correcting hand he would very easily settle them. But it often happens today that, although someone is known to have done wrong, he clears himself by gifts; the wicked man is encouraged, and guilt is fastened upon the innocent. Because of this the boldness of the wrongdoer certainly increases. For ease of pardon is a stimulus to crime. And if anyone should ask by whose authority such things are done, it could be said that the whole evil originally proceeds from the court. For the courtiers' greed pursues the offerings of individuals. These are they of whom David speaks in the Psalms: Their right hand is filled with gifts.²⁴⁸ Therefore nothing would be more useful and necessary at court, than that the king should have such companions in his chamber, who, at the right time and place, would restrain the king's excesses by their entreaties and point out the doings of wicked dependants as they saw it necessary. On this subject a certain member of a religious order of acknowledged authority sent a letter to the lord king's confessor in these words:²⁴⁹

since a king is so styled from the fact of ruling,²⁵⁰ as one who should rule his people with laws, and defend them with his sword from their enemies, he is fittingly called king while he rules well; when he robs his people he is

the king's use of prise (L. E. Boyle, OP, 'William of Pagula and the *Speculum Regis Edwardi III*, *Mediaeval Studies*, xxxiii (1970), 32–6; J. Moisant, *De Speculo Regis Edwardi III* (Paris, 1891), *passim*). This passage reflects more closely Recension A than Recension B, but there is not necessarily any direct connection between Pagula's work and the *Vita* apart from a common concern with the overuse of prise. This was a burning issue in the last years of Edward I and throughout the reign of Edward II.

²⁵⁰ This definition of kingship was widely used and paraphrased in the Middle Ages; for an extensive list of early usages, see R. Maltby, *Lexicon of Ancient Latin Etymologies* (Leeds, 1991) under *rex*; for further examples, see Kingsford, *Song of Lewes*, pp. 104–6. Similar phrasing was used by Bracton, writing close to this period: *dicitur enim rex a bene regendo et non a regnando, quia rex est dum bene regit, tyrannus dum populum sibi creditum violenta opprimat dominatione*; Bracton, *De Legibus*, ii. 305. For full statements of the lawyers' views of kingship, see *ibid.* 33, 304–6; *Fleta*, ii. 35.

1316 appellatur; dum populum spoliat tyrannus magis esse iudicatur. Sane rex noster transiens per patriam bona hominum capit et nil uel modicum aut male soluit. Set et hii frequenter, quibus ex tali causa aliquid debetur, ut labores eitent, de quota remittenda faciunt pactum, ut eo cicius soluatur residuum. Olim quidem gaudebant incole regis aduentantis uultum aspicere, nunc uero, quia in aduentu regis populus leditur, recessum eius ualde prestolantur et abeuntem^a inprecantur^b ut nunquam reuertatur. Rex eciam religiosis domibus nimis . . .

[*Bina folia, siue quatuor pagine, infortunio plane dolendo interciderunt. Hearne*]

. . . ueniret.

Reuera anno preterito ordinatum erat quod dominus rex sine consilio comitum et procerum nichil graue, nichil arduum inchoaret, et comitem^c Lancastrie de consilio suo principaliter retineret.²⁵¹ Set quicquid placet domino regi domesticis^d comitis nituntur euertere; et quicquid placet comiti domesticis^e regis dicunt proditorium esse; et ita ad suggestionem seminantis zizannie^f interponunt se utriusque familiares, et dominos suos, per quos deberet terra defendi, non sinunt esse concordēs. Siquidem Robertus de Brutz iam per multos annos, cum uastaret terras in Marchia, predia comitis semper dimisit intacta. Sperat enim, ut creditur, procurante comite penam diu comminatum euadere, et regnum^g ante uenditum^h sub aliquo colore pacis retinere. Timet forsā et comes ne rex aliquando, memor iniurie quam exercuit comes in Petrum, ulcionem expectatⁱ cum uiderit^j oportunitatem. Iccirco, ut dicitur, nititur comes Robertum de Brutz in regno Scocie solidare, ut, si forsā solus contra regem non possit resistere, saltem Roberti de Brutz fretus auxilio minas regias compellat arescere; set in hiis an fidei transgressor, an lese magestatis reus, comes habeatur, iudicio maiorum relinquatur: nam iure naturali saluti proprie per fas et nefas^k licet consulere. Sic Dauid, fugiens a facie domini sui regis Saul, sibi prouidit, et ad regem Ghet cum suis omnibus prudenter conuolauit.²⁵²

Interea mandauerat^a archiepiscopus Cantuariensis in ecclesia

^a habentem *R*; abeuntem *St, Den-Y* ^b sic *R*; inprecantur *St* ^c comite *MS*; comitem *He, St, Den-Y* ^d domesticis *MS*; domestici *He, St, Den-Y* ^e domesticis *MS*; domestici *He, St, Den-Y* ^f sic *R*; zizanie *St, Den-Y* ^g autem uenditum *R*; ante uenditum *St, Den-Y* ^h sic *MS*; expectet *He, St, Den-Y* ⁱ uideris *MS*; uiderit *He, St, Den-Y* ^j nefa *MS*; nefas *He, St, Den-Y*

²⁵¹ This refers to the agreements made in the Lincoln parliament in Jan. 1316 (1315 by the medieval calendar); see above, pp. 120-1.

rather adjudged to be a tyrant. Indeed our king, passing through the country, 1316 takes men's goods and pays little or nothing or badly. In fact, those to whom something is owed from such a cause, in order to save trouble, often make an agreement to remit a percentage, so that the balance may be paid more quickly. Formerly, indeed, the inhabitants rejoiced to see the face of the king when he came, but now, because the people are injured by the king's arrival, they look forward greatly to his departure and as he leaves they pray that he may never return. The king moreover too often (visits) religious houses . . .

[*Two leaves or four pages by a lamentable misfortune have wholly perished. Hearne*]

. . . came.

In fact it had been decreed the year before that the lord king should initiate nothing weighty or important without the advice of the earls and great men, and should keep the earl of Lancaster at the head of his council.²⁵¹ But whatever pleases the lord king the earl's servants try to upset; and whatever pleases the earl the king's servants call treachery; and so at the prompting of the Devil the followers of each interfere, and do not allow their lords, by whom the land ought to be defended, to come to agreement. Indeed for many years past Robert Bruce, when he was laying waste to lands in the March, always left the earl's estates untouched. For he hopes, so it is believed, that with the earl's help he will escape the long-threatened penalty, and with some show of peace keep the kingdom which he has claimed. The earl also fears perhaps that the king, mindful of the wrong that the earl did to Piers, is waiting for revenge when he sees the opportunity. Therefore, it is said, the earl is trying to strengthen Robert Bruce in the kingdom of Scotland, so that, if by chance he cannot hold out alone against the king, with the help of Robert Bruce he may at least force the royal threats to cease; but whether in these matters the earl should be considered in breach of fealty or guilty of treason may be left to the verdict of more important persons: for by natural law it is proper to provide for one's own safety by any means, lawful and unlawful. Thus David, fleeing from the face of his lord king Saul, saved himself, and with all his men wisely took refuge with the king of Gath.²⁵²

²⁵² Cf. 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 21: 10. This appears to be the earliest reference to rumours that Lancaster was in contact with the Scots with treasonous intent. The author's concerns with treason and with its definition are evident here. For a discussion of his attitudes to resistance see above, pp. liii-lvii, and for a fuller discussion see Childs, 'Resistance and treason', pp. 179-91.

1316 sancti Pauli Londoniis totius Anglie clerum conueniri;²⁵³ petitiueque idem archiepiscopus, cum ceteris episcopis ab aula electis, de media uel tertia parte bonorum ecclesiasticorum domino regi subueniri. Videntes illi pauci episcopi, qui ab ecclesia erant assumpti, primatem suum cum maiori parti coepiscoporum in partem domini regis inclinatum, iam in unam et eandem sententiam conuenerunt, et petitionem archipresulis rationabilem fieri decreuerunt; set communitas cleri pluribus rationibus ab huiusmodi prestacione nitebatur absolui; ^btum quia^b sine auctoritate apostolica speciali non debet laicis de bonis ecclesiasticis aliqua porcio concedi, tum quia annona cara et annus sterilis, porcioneque regis et necessariis reseruatis, non haberent rectores quid erogarent^c pauperibus. Responderunt prelati auctoritatem apostolicam in hoc casu non debere requiri, quia, cum rex infra regni sui terminos expungnatur, regi tanquam commune negocium gerenti communiter debet subueniri. Similiter <per>^d sterilitatem anni non oportet prestacionem tam necessariam impediri,^e nam mediante archiepiscopo diebus oportunis fiet solucio. Tandem procuratores cleri, importunitate petencium uicti, decimam ecclesie domino regi concesserunt, et diem Purificacionis proxime sequentem, et eundem anno reuoluto iterum uenientem, dies solucionis acceperunt.²⁵⁴

Sane timendum est ne huiusmodi collecta, que grauat ecclesiam, domino regi cedat in ruinam. Nam bona ecclesie sunt bona pauperum. Nunquam pauperum, nunquam ecclesie spolia prosperum habuerunt auspicium. Certe sub Pharaone, cum ex principali decreto omnes ad solucionem quinte partis generaliter urgerentur, sacerdotes tamen fuerunt ab obseruancia et onere illius constitucionis immunes.²⁵⁵ In libro eciam Numeri, ad figuram perpetue libertatis precepit Leuiticam tribum ab omni publica funcione liberam esse, ^fsummi pontificis^f duntaxat arbitrio subiaccere.²⁵⁶ Quid aliud potest aut debet exigere princeps a pontificibus uel a clero, quam <ut>^g incessanter fiat oracio ab ecclesia ad Deum pro eo? Omnis enim pontifex ex hominibus assumptus pro hominibus constituitur in hiis

^a mandauerit *MS*; mandauerat *He, St, Den-Y* ^{b-b} quia tamen *MS*; tum quia *He, St, Den-Y* ^c erogarent *R*; erogarent *St, Den-Y* ^d *om. MS*; *poss. sterilitas He*; per supplied *St, Den-Y* ^e *sic MS*; *poss. impedire with sterilitas He* ^{f-f} summus pontifex *MS*; summi pontificis *He, St, Den-Y* ^g *om. MS*; supplied *He, St, Den-Y*

²⁵³ The southern province was summoned for 11 Oct. 1316. The northern province met between 26 Oct. and 23 Nov. (*HBC*, p. 594).

²⁵⁴ The payments were to be made on 2 Feb. 1317 and 1318. The reference to papal

1316 Meanwhile the archbishop of Canterbury had ordered the clergy of all England to meet in the church of St Paul's, London;²⁵³ and the same archbishop, together with the other bishops chosen by the court, asked for a half or a third of ecclesiastical goods to be given in aid to the lord king. Those few bishops chosen by the church, seeing that their primate with the majority of their fellow-bishops inclined towards the lord king's side, now came over to one and the same conclusion, and decided that the archbishop's reasonable request should be granted; but the community of the clergy urged on many grounds that they should be quit of this kind of payment; both because no part of ecclesiastical goods ought to be granted to laymen without special papal authority, and also because, by reason of the high price of grain and the poor year, when the king's share and other necessaries had been put aside, rectors would not have anything to give to the poor. The prelates replied that papal authority need not be sought in this case; because, since the king was being attacked within the borders of his kingdom, he should be supported by the community as one who was undertaking a matter of common concern. Likewise so necessary a contribution ought not to be hindered by the unfruitfulness of the year, for through the mediation of the archbishop payment would be made at convenient times. At length the proctors of the clergy, overcome by the persistence of the petitioners, granted an ecclesiastical tenth to the lord king and agreed to the feast of the Purification next following, and the same again the year after, as the days for payment.²⁵⁴

It is indeed to be feared lest this kind of contribution, which burdens the church, should bring about the lord king's ruin. For the goods of the church are the goods of the poor. Robbing the poor or the church has never been a good omen. Certainly under Pharaoh, when by the princely decree all in general were exhorted to pay the fifth, the priests were nevertheless exempt from the observance of this burdensome order.²⁵⁵ Further, in the book of Numbers, as a symbol of perpetual liberty He ordered that the priestly tribe should be free from every public office, though subject to the judgement of the high priest.²⁵⁶ What else can or should the prince demand from the bishops or clergy, than that prayer should continually be offered to God by the church for him? For every high priest taken from among

licence refers to the bull *Clericis laicos* (1296). For the church's view on clerical taxation to support the lay ruler, see above, n. 131.

²⁵⁵ Cf. Gen. 47: 26.

²⁵⁶ Cf. Num. 1: 47-53, 3: 5-10, 32, 18: 2-3.

1316 que sunt ad Deum, ut offerat dona et sacrificia²⁵⁷ pro rege et populo, et, si iratus est Dominus, sacerdos medius intercedat, et in tempore iracundie factus^a est reconciliatio.²⁵⁸ Iratus Dominus populum suum Israel delere decreuerat, stetitque Moises in confracione^b in conspectu eius,²⁵⁹ et motum diuine indignacionis oracione placuit.^c Item flamma^d diuina animaduersionis^e deseuiete in populo, Aaron arrepto^f turibulo^g medius inter uiuos et mortuos se flamme obiecit, et cessauit quassacio.²⁶⁰ Moise orante et manus erigente, Hebrei uicerunt. Et sacerdotibus uociferantibus ad Dominum muri Ierico corruerunt.²⁶¹ Hec est uis oracionis et sacrificii; aduersus non preualebunt uectes inferi.^h²⁶² Recolat utinam dominus rex non ad oppressionem set ad tuicionem ecclesie seⁱ potestatem gladii ab ecclesia suscepisse. Set et locum et officium in quo posuit eum Dominus agnoscat, nec de thesauris ecclesie, que debentur pauperibus, set de^j fiscali erario^j bellum inferat inimicis.²⁶³

1317 Instante iam uerno tempore misit rex nuncios ad curiam Romanam, qui cum uenissent petierunt ex parte regis Anglie quatinus dominus papa dictum regem ab obseruacione^k quarundam ordinacionum, quibus idem rex iuramento tenebatur astrictus, digneretur^l absoluere. Asserebant enim predictas ordinaciones, licet de communi assensu procerum editas et confirmatas, in perniciem regni et ecclesie Anglicane periculose nimis redundare. Petierunt eciam sentenciam excommunicacionis in Robertum de Brutz et omnes sibi adherentes fulminari, et terram Scotorum interdicto supponi, donec idem Robertus super commissis erga regem Anglie se reformaret, et regnum Scocie, quod iniuste occupare dinoscitur, penitus relinqueret. Supplicarunt insuper domino pape quatinus domino regi, qui totum thesaurum suum pro defencione regni sui et (ecclesie impenderat)^m per aliquod tempus dignaretur subuenire,

^a sic MS; facta He, St; factus Den-Y (which conforms with the Vulgate reading, ed.)

^b confirmacione R; confracione St, Den-Y (which conforms with the Vulgate reading, ed.)

^c sic MS; placuit He, St, Den-Y ^d flamam MS; flamma He, St, Den-Y ^e sic MS;

animaduersionis He, St, Den-Y ^f arepto MS; arrepto He, St, Den-Y ^g sic MS;

turibulo He, St; turibulo Den-Y ^h inferri MS; inferi He, St, Den-Y ⁱ set MS; se

He, St, Den-Y ^j sic R; fisco uel erario suggested by Den-Y ^l ad obseruacionem

MS; ab obseruacione He, St, Den-Y ^m sic MS; dignaretur He, St, Den-Y ⁿ om.

MS; impenderat conjectured He, St; ecclesie impenderat supplied Den-Y

²⁵⁷ Heb. 5: 1.

²⁵⁸ Eccclus. 44: 17.

²⁵⁹ Ps. 105 (106): 23.

men is appointed for men in the things that pertain to God, so that 1316 he may offer up gifts and sacrifices²⁵⁷ for the king and the people, and if the Lord is angered, the priest may intercede as a mediator, and in the time of wrath he was made a reconciliation.²⁵⁸ The Lord in his wrath had decided to destroy his people Israel, and Moses stood before him in the breach,²⁵⁹ and appeased by prayer the mounting anger of the Lord. Also, the fire of divine punishment going out upon the people, Aaron took up his censer and stood against the flame between the dead and the living, and the plague ceased.²⁶⁰ As Moses prayed and lifted up his hands, the Hebrews conquered. And as the priests cried to the Lord the walls of Jericho fell down.²⁶¹ This is the power of prayer and sacrifice; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.²⁶² Would that the lord king remembered that he has received the power of the sword from the church not for the oppression but for the protection of the church. Let him, further, acknowledge both the place and office in which the Lord has placed him, and wage war upon his enemies not from the wealth of the church which should be for the poor, but from the royal treasury.²⁶³

When spring came round the king sent an embassy to the court of 1317 Rome; when they had arrived, these asked on behalf of the king of England that the lord pope should regard it as fitting to absolve the said king from the observance of certain Ordinances to which the same king was closely bound by oath. They maintained that the said Ordinances, though published and confirmed by the common consent of the great men, were contributing extremely dangerously towards the destruction of the kingdom and the English church. They also asked for sentence of excommunication to be promulgated against Robert Bruce and all his supporters, and for the land of the Scots to be put under an interdict, until the same Robert should make good the wrongs committed by him against the king of England, and should utterly give up the kingdom of Scotland, which he is known to have seized wrongfully. They also begged the lord pope to see fit to help for a time the lord king, who [had expended] all his treasure for the defence of his realm and [the church]; adding that the king was determined, when he had made

²⁶⁰ Num. 16: 46, 48; Ps. 105 (106): 30.

²⁶¹ Cf. Josh. 6: 20.

²⁶² Matt. 16: 18.

²⁶³ For the author's use of *fiscus* and *erarium* see above, n. 40.

1317 adicientes regem intentum, pacificato regno suo, si competeret facultas, summa deuocione contra paganos transfretare.²⁶⁴

Ad hec respondit papa regem Anglie ab obseruacione predictarum ordinacionum absolui non debere, cum, sicut acceperat, fidedignorum studio fuissent confecte, quos non erat uerisimile in preiudicium regni uel ecclesie aliquid ordinasse. Deceuit eciam dominus papa regnum Scotorum interdicto non esse supponendum donec constaret de iure parcium. Denique ecclesiam uel decimas ecclesie noluit dominus papa potestati laicorum submittere, set sue^a tantum ordinacioni reseruaret, et, si regem Anglie in subsidium Terre Sancte armari contingeret,^b de fructibus ecclesie, si necesse foret, sumptus habundanter ministraret.²⁶⁵ Promisit insuper dominus papa legatos in Angliam mittere, qui de hiis diligenter inquirerent et auctoritate apostolica omnes controuersias fine debito terminarent.²⁶⁶

Interim adueniente^c tempore quo solent reges ad bella procedere,²⁶⁷ uocauit rex proceres ad parliamentum ut iuxta tenorem ordinacionum, antequam procederetur ad bellum, in communi parlamento deliberaretur quid esset agendum; set die statuto adueniente non uenit comes Lancastrie. Interim sub fidelitate et homagio monetur esse parlamento; set, nec sic ueniens, sub forisfactura omnium que possidebat in Anglia, copiam sui facere iubetur in curia. Tunc misit comes nuncios qui excusarent eum coram rege et allegarent similiter causas absencie;²⁶⁸ qui statim iussa complentes accesserunt ad regem dicentes: 'Domine, si placet, offendi uel mirari non debetis, si comes Lancastrie ad parliamentum non uenit, timet enim quorundam insidias capitales quos curia regia tuetur et nutrit.

^a sine MS; sue He, St, Den-Y ^b contingeret MS; contingeret He, St, Den-Y
^c inueniente MS; ueniente or adueniente He; ueniente St, Den-Y

²⁶⁴ Letters empowering the bishops of Ely and Norwich, the earl of Pembroke, and Bartholomew Badlesmere to treat in Avignon were issued in Dec. 1316. Their clear tasks were to renegotiate the loan from Clement V, and to obtain support against Scotland, a delay to Edward's vow to go on crusade, and a grant of clerical taxation. This is a unique reference to the attempt to annul the Ordinances at this time, but as the author is accurate about the other matters, he may be equally so about this. Edward was acutely aware of the Ordinances at this time because of the various negotiations with Lancaster. An annulment was possibly part of verbal instructions. In a letter of 18 Jan. 1317 the pope was asked to give credence to what the ambassadors should tell him about a private matter close to Edward's heart. This could certainly describe the Ordinances (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 302-29; Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 107-8; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 199).

²⁶⁵ John XXII had just imposed a second levy of papal annates (first fruits) to run for three years from Dec. 1316. He granted half the first year's revenue to the king (Lunt, *Financial Relations*, pp. 494-501); for the first levy, see above, n. 154.

²⁶⁶ By Mar. 1317 two legates had been duly appointed. They were Gaucelin d'Euse, the

peace in his realm, if the opportunity occurred, to cross the sea 1317 against the pagans with the utmost dedication.²⁶⁴

To this the pope replied that the king of England ought not to be absolved from the observance of the said Ordinances since they had been drawn up, as he had been informed, through the endeavour of trustworthy persons, and it was not likely that they had ordained anything to the prejudice of the kingdom or the church. The lord pope also decreed that the kingdom of Scotland was not to be put under an interdict until the rights of both sides had been established. Finally, the lord pope refused to put the church or the tenths of the church into the control of laymen, but would keep such things at his own disposal, and if it happened that the king of England took up arms to help the Holy Land, he would if necessary abundantly provide expenses from the fruits of the church.²⁶⁵ The lord pope also promised to send legates to England, to make careful enquiry about these matters, and, by apostolic authority, put a due end to all controversies.²⁶⁶

Meanwhile, as the time approached when kings go forth to war,²⁶⁷ the king summoned the nobles to parliament so that, according to the tenor of the Ordinances, before proceeding to war they should consider in common parliament what was to be done; but when the appointed day arrived the earl of Lancaster did not come. He was warned in the meantime to attend parliament by reason of his fealty and homage; but, as he did not so come, he was ordered on pain of forfeiting all that he possessed in England, to make his appearance at court. Then the earl sent messengers to excuse him before the king and likewise to put forward the reasons for his absence.²⁶⁸ They at once approached the king in fulfilment of their orders, saying: 'My Lord, if it please you, you ought not to be offended or surprised if the earl of Lancaster does not come to parliament, for he fears the deadly plots of certain men whom the royal court protects and fosters. Their

pope's nephew, appointed cardinal priest of SS Marcellino and Pietro in 1316 and (later) cardinal bishop of Albano in 1327, and Luca dei Fieschi, kinsman of King Jaime II of Aragon, appointed cardinal deacon of Santa Maria in Via Lata in 1300 and of SS Cosma e Damiano in 1306 (*Eubel, Hier. Cath.*, i. 13, 15, 35, 44, 49; *Foed.*, ii. 1. 317, 318). They were in England by 1 July (*CCR 1313-18*, p. 482).

²⁶⁷ 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 11: 1.

²⁶⁸ Clause 9 of the Ordinances demanded the assent of the baronage in parliament for war. The author's use of the word parliament for the meetings in 1317 is interesting since none of the three meetings was called parliament in the records. Councils were called for 9 Feb. at Clarendon, 15 Apr. at Westminster, and 18 July at Nottingham (*CCR 1313-18*, pp. 451, 456, 459, 482; *CPR 1313-17*, p. 634; *HBC*, p. 554). Lancaster attended none (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 191-2). This passage almost certainly refers to the April meeting; see below, n. 270.

1317 De inimicitii eorum iam constat euidenter; iam uxorem comitis in dedecus et obprobrium eius rapuerunt,²⁶⁹ unde affectum quem erga eum gerunt iam liquido protulerunt. Petit ergo comes quatinus malefactores illos a familiaritate uestra uelitis expellere, et tunc ueniet ad uos ubicunque uolueritis assignare. Petit eciam quod possit sine offensione uestra de iniuria sibi illata uindictam sumere et satisfactionem qualem poterit impetrare.²⁷⁰

Respondit rex: 'Ego contemptum comitis iudicabo cum potero; familiares meos expellere nolo; de raptu uxoris sue remedium iure querat tantummodo.' Conuocatis itaque familiaribus suis et ceteris amicis, ait rex coram omnibus: 'Ecce uidetis quomodo comes Lancastrie ad parlamentum non uenit. Videtis quomodo mandatis nostris parere contempserit. Quid uobis uidetur?' Dicunt quidam: 'Dignum est ut qui preceptis domini sui parere contempnit contumaciam luat, et feodum si quod tenet, tamquam periurus consequenter amittat. Persequatur ergo rex contemptorem suum et comprehendat, et comprehensum sub carcere cludat uel regno proscribat.' Alii uero dixerunt: 'Non est leue capere comitem Lancastrie. Scoti succurrent ei et magna pars Wallie; set melius est aliam uiam assumere, et prius tractare de forma concordie. Satis enim liquet ex Britonum historia quam sit plena periculis ciuilibus discordia. Nam quod Iulius Cesar regnum Britannie sibi subiugauit, et quod gens Saxonum fugatis Britonibus regnum occupauit, quod Normanni regimen Anglie consequenter,^a ex simili discordia cuncta peruenisse noscuntur.'

Interuenientibus ergo magnatibus, concessum est ut dominus rex et comes conuenirent^b ad quendam locum sicut fieri decet ad diem amoris²⁷¹ sine strepitu armorum. Sperabatur enim quod, si inter se rationes suas et uerba conferent,^c cicius efficerentur unanimes, quam per mediatores mandata parcium sepe peruertentes. Set quia secreta diuturnum occultari non possunt, statim nunciatum est comiti regem iurasse quod, si comes uix modo^d conuentum accederet, aut capite priuaret eum aut carceri manciparet.

^a sic R; poss. for consequentur MW; prob. a verb is missing, ed. conuenirent He, St, Den-Y ^b conuenerunt MS; ^c sic MS; conferrent He, St, Den-Y ^d modum MS; uix modo He, Den-Y; uixdum St

²⁶⁹ Alice left Thomas on 11 Apr. 1317, possibly with court connivance (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 197–8).

²⁷⁰ The reference to his wife's abduction strongly suggests that these messengers were excusing his absence at the April council meeting, held very shortly after the abduction. Lancaster's letter of excuse for his later absence in July did not refer to his wife (*Murimuth*, pp. 271–4; *Brid.*, pp. 50–2). However, it remains possible that the messengers mentioned

enmity is already clearly well known; they have already carried off the earl's wife to his disgrace and shame,²⁶⁹ whereby they have plainly displayed the feelings that they bear towards him. The earl therefore asks you to drive these evildoers from their position in your household, and then he will come to you wherever you wish to choose. He also asks that he may without offence take revenge and such satisfaction as he can get for the wrong done to him.²⁷⁰

The king replied: 'I will punish the affront to the earl when I can; I will not to send away members of my household; for the abduction of his wife let him seek a remedy only at law.' And so, having summoned his household and other friends, the king said in the presence of all: 'You see how the earl of Lancaster has not come to parliament. You see how he scorns to obey our commands. How does it seem to you?' Some said: 'It is right that he who scorns to obey his lord's commands shall pay for his obstinate disobedience, and consequently, as a perjurer, lose his fief if he holds one. Let the king therefore pursue and seize the man who has scorned him, and when he is seized put him in prison or exile him from the kingdom.' But others said: 'It is not a small matter to take the earl of Lancaster. The Scots will support him and a great part of Wales; but it is better to adopt another way, and to discuss first a form of agreement. For it is very clear from the history of the Britons, how civil discord is filled with dangers. For that Julius Caesar made the kingdom of Britain subject to him, that the Saxon race seized the kingdom once the Britons had fled, that the Normans in their turn [took over] the rule of England are all known to have resulted from a similar discord.'

So, with the great men acting as mediators, it was agreed that the lord king and the earl should meet at a certain place as it is appropriate to do for a loveday²⁷¹ without the clash of arms. For it was hoped that if they talked their reasons and arguments over between themselves, they would come to an agreement more quickly than through mediators who often twist the meaning of their instructions from both sides. But because the secrets of the rich cannot be hidden, it was immediately reported to the earl that the king had sworn that if only the earl should come to the meeting, he would either have his head or throw him in prison.

here were those of July, delivering an additional verbal message to supplement the July letter (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 198).

²⁷¹ A loveday was 'a day appointed for a meeting with a view to an amicable settlement of a dispute' (*OED*). It was a term used for meetings to manage breaches of truce and to extend truces (Keen, *Laws of War*, p. 215).

1317 Ab illa die in antea cogitavit comes regem non adire sine tutela. Congregavit sibi comes omnes sibi adherentes apud Pountefreyt^a castrum suum, et erat rex eo tempore apud Eboracum, ubi mandauerat exercitum suum conuenire;²⁷² set qui properabant ad regem non permittuntur cum armis transire. Obseruabat enim comes pontes, et diligenter fecit inhiberi dextrarios transduci uel arma transferri; et hoc asserebat se facere eo quod senescallus sit Anglie, cuius interest utilitatibus regni prospicere, et, si rex contra aliquem arma uellet assumere, senescallo precipue deberet innotescere.²⁷³ Cernens autem rex suum impediri propositum, et consilium eius pro parte denudatum, quid faceret uel quo se uerteret penitus ignorauit. Denique procurante comite de Penbrok, interponentibus se etiam cardinalibus legatis^b iam qui^b uenerant in Angliam, sic actum est, ut in quindena sancti Hillarii²⁷⁴ apud Lyncolniam conuenirent uniuersi, et tunc repararentur omnia indirecta, et de malefactoribus fieret iusticia.

Hiis itaque dispositis dominus rex cum tota comitiua sua uersus Londonias aggreditur, et, cum uenisset prope castrum de Pountfreit pertinens ad comitem Lancastrie, iussit omnes suos arma resumere, quia forsan timuit sibi ubi non erat timendum, aut certe ab insipientibus processit consilium. Armati uero et per turmas distincti processerunt quasi uillam expugnaturi; et ecce, comes Penbrok regem alloquitur: 'Domine,' inquit comes, 'quale consilium accepisti? quid est quod ita precipitanter arma sumpsisti? Aduersarius non instat, nec aliquis nos expungnat. Nonne omnia ad certum tempus sunt suspensa, pacta inita, fide pariter et scriptis confirmata? Turpe est contra pacta uenire, credentem fallere et fidem infringere.' Et rex ad comitem; 'Relatum est michi quod comes Lancastrie in insidiis latitat, et nos omnes inprouisos inuadere studiose procurat.'

^a Pountesfreyt R; Pountefreyt St, Den-Y ^{b-b} sic R; qui iam St, Den-Y

²⁷² Lancaster was certainly at Pontefract as early as 24 July 1317 (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 345) and may have been there throughout Aug. Edward was at York from 4 Sept. (*Itin.*, p. 159). After preliminary meetings at York, the main army was due to muster at Newcastle on 15 Sept. (*PW*, ii. i. 494-9).

²⁷³ This appears to be the earliest reference to Lancaster's exploitation of the stewardship of England in the middle years of the reign. He made a further statement in 1318 and claimed in 1319 the right to appoint the steward of the household. Lancaster claimed the stewardship through its links with the earldom of Leicester. The earldom had been granted to his father, Edmund, in 1265; but the stewardship was granted to Edmund only in 1268 and then only for life. Thomas made no claim to the office while Edward I was alive, but

From that day forward the earl took care not to approach the king¹³¹⁷ without protection. The earl collected all his supporters at his castle of Pontefract, and the king at that time was at York, where he had ordered his army to muster;²⁷² but those who were hastening to the king were not allowed to pass by armed. For the earl guarded the bridges, and assiduously prevented war-horses or weapons from being taken across; and he said that he did this because he was steward of England, whose business it was to look to the advantage of the kingdom, and if the king wished to take up arms against anyone he ought first to notify the steward.²⁷³ The king seeing that his purpose was frustrated and his plan partly laid bare, had absolutely no idea what to do or which way to turn. At length at the instance of the earl of Pembroke, and by the intervention of the cardinal legates who had now reached England, it was decided thus: that they should all meet a fortnight after the feast of St Hilary²⁷⁴ at Lincoln, and then all wrongs would be righted, and justice done to evildoers.

When these things had been settled the lord king marched towards London with all his retinue, and when he had come close to the earl of Lancaster's castle of Pontefract he ordered all his men to take up their arms, perhaps because he was afraid where there was nothing to be feared, or else, in fact, because the advice came from foolish people. In truth, armed and divided up into troops they marched on as if about to besiege the town; and see, the earl of Pembroke addresses the king: 'My Lord,' said the earl, 'What kind of counsel have you taken? Why have you so hastily taken up arms? No enemy presses us, no one is fighting us. Has not everything been postponed until an appointed date, agreements entered into, confirmed equally by a pledge and being set down in writing? It is shameful to go against the agreement, to deceive those trusting in it, and to break faith.' And the king replied to the earl: 'I have been told that the earl of Lancaster is lying in ambush, and is carefully preparing to attack us all by surprise.'

obtained it for himself and his heirs from Edward II in 1308. His claim to supervise the good of the kingdom reflects the first part of the tract on the steward (usually assigned to 1321), but the claim to a military role is not made there. The military claim may have been based on the right to supervise the king's castles granted to Edmund soon after he had been made steward (L. W. Vernon Harcourt, *His Grace the Steward and Trial of Peers* (London, 1907), pp. 148-51, 164-7; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 76-7, 241-3).

²⁷⁴ 27 Jan. 1318. The cardinals (Gaucelin d'Euse and Luca dei Fieschi) had been in England since 1 July 1317 (see n. 266 above). They arrived at York c. 7 Sept. following the attack on them near Durham (see below, p. 142-3). Negotiations took place until 29 Sept., when Edward left York (*Cont. Trivet*, p. 23; *Itin.*, p. 159). The parliament was later postponed (see n. 283 below).

1317 'Certe,' inquit comes, 'domine, non est ita. Regnum et feodum, et uniuersa que possidet, comes ipse relinqueret priusquam huiusmodi prodicionem inchoaret.' Sic tandem ad suggestionem comitis rex ab ineptis destitit, et uersus Londonias iter arripuit.²⁷⁵

Rebus sic se habentibus,^a reuersi sunt eciam cardinales Londonias. Processerant enim uersus Scociam ut^b ibidem legacionem suam^c fungerentur; set per terram Northamhimbrorum iter facientes a quibusdam predonibus^d male tractabantur. Nam Gilbertum quendam de Middeltone dictum cum suis complicitibus obuiam habuerunt,^e qui sarcinulas eorum scrutantes maximam summam pecunie legatis abstulerunt.²⁷⁶ Suspendebant ergo legati partes legacionis sue ad tempus, donec in parlamento optinuerunt^f fieri ulcionem de malefactoribus illis; procedentes nichilominus spiritualiter contra dictos predones, Gilbertum de Middeltone cum suis fautoribus solempniter et publice a communione fidelium separantes. Vt^g expressa pena inmanitas excessus appareat, tenorem quem ex constitutione Bonifacii octaui pro parte recolui lector aduertat. Bonifacius octauus in titulo *de penis* sic statuit:²⁷⁷

Si quis in hoc sacrilegii genus irrepserit quod ecclesie Romane cardinalem hostiliter insecutus fuerit, percusserit aut ceperit, fieri mandauerit uel factum ratum habuerit, consilium facienti dederit uel fauorem, aut scienter receptauerit uel defensauerit eundem, tanquam reus lese magestatis perpetuo sit infamis, bannitus et intestabilis,^h et ab omni successione repulsus; omnia edificia eius diruantur, et, ut perpetuam notamⁱ infamie perpetua ruina testetur, et^j nullo tempore reparentur. Nullus ei debita cogatur reddere, nullus in iudicio sibi teneatur respondere, set quicquid in bonis ipsius inuenitur, fisco uel rei publice dominio applicetur, nulla parte bonorum ad posteros eius transmissa, ut sic quodammodo cum ipso dampnentur et sua, et si quid ab ecclesia forsan optineant ipso iure beneficium perdant, de quo

^a dehabentibus MS; se habentibus He, St, Den-Y ^b et MS; ut He, St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; suum St, Den-Y ^d predonis MS; predonibus He, St, Den-Y ^e habuit MS; habuerunt He, St, Den-Y ^f sic R; He corrected his first reading of optinuerunt to optinere without comment; optinere St, Den-Y ^g et MS; ut He, St, Den-Y ^h indetestabilis MS; intestabilis He, St, Den-Y ⁱ uotam MS; notam He, St, Den-Y ^j sic MS; redundant MW

²⁷⁵ This incident took place between 29 Sept. 1317, when Edward left York, and 3 Oct., by which time he had reached Doncaster (*Itin.*, pp. 159-60).

²⁷⁶ The attack occurred on 1 Sept. 1317 at Ferryhill, between Darlington and Durham. The cardinals were accompanying Louis Beaumont, bishop-elect of Durham, and his brother Henry Beaumont to Durham for Louis's consecration. Although the perpetrator was Gilbert Middleton, a Northumbrian and a royal household knight, Lancaster may have been implicated in the attack. He disliked Henry Beaumont as a symbol of the king's non-

1317 'Indeed, my lord, it is not so', said the earl. 'The earl himself would leave the kingdom, his fee, and everything that he has, before he would set such treachery in motion.' So at length at the earl's prompting the king gave up his intentions, and made his way towards London.²⁷⁵

This was the state of affairs when the cardinals too returned to London. They had set out for Scotland to carry out their commission there; but journeying through Northumbria they were badly treated by certain robbers. For they met a certain Gilbert, called of Middleton, with his accomplices, who searched their baggage and took from the legates a very large sum of money.²⁷⁶ Therefore the legates postponed part of their mission for a time, until they should obtain redress in parliament against those wrongdoers; nevertheless they proceeded spiritually against the said robbers, solemnly and publicly cutting Gilbert Middleton and his accomplices out of the communion of the faithful. So that the enormity of the outrage may appear from the penalty laid down for it, the reader may note the wording of Boniface VIII's constitution which I have recorded in part. Boniface VIII under the title 'Of Penalties' decreed thus:²⁷⁷

If any one fall into this kind of sacrilege, namely that he has attacked, struck, or seized a cardinal of the Roman church, or has ordered it to be done, or approved it when done, or given counsel or aid to the doer, or has knowingly received or defended the same, as one guilty of treason he shall be for ever disgraced, banned, and incapable of making a will, and excluded from every succession; all his buildings shall be destroyed, and, so that their permanent ruin may bear witness as an everlasting mark of disgrace, they shall never be repaired. No one shall be forced to pay debts to him, no one bound to answer to him in judgment, but whatever is found of his goods shall be made over to the treasury of public funds, no part of his property shall be transmitted to his descendants, so that in a way they are condemned with him and his goods, and if by chance they hold anything from the church, by the same law they shall lose the benefice, which the

enforcement of the Ordinances, and Louis Beaumont because he had been favoured above Lancaster's candidate for the bishopric of Durham. The Beaumonts were detained in Mitford Castle until payment of ransom in Oct. The cardinals' presence in the party seems to have been unexpected: they were immediately released and Lancaster offered his personal protection for their journey from Durham to York (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 204-6; Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 126-8). For a full account, see A. E. Middleton, *Sir Gilbert de Middleton* (Newcastle, 1918); for doubt cast on Lancaster's role, see M. Prestwich, 'Gilbert de Middleton and the attack on the cardinals, 1317', in T. Reuter (ed.), *Warriors and Churchmen in the High Middle Ages: Essays Presented to Karl Leyser* (London, 1992), pp. 179-94, esp. 186-90, 194.

²⁷⁷ Cf. *Sexti*. L. 5 t. 9 c. 5, *Corpus Iuris Canonici*, cols. 1091-2.

1317 superior ecclesie pro sua uoluntate disponat. Insuper filii eius et nepotes per masculinam lineam descendentes, si beneficium aliquod uel eciam pontificalem dignitatem fuerint adepti, sint eis ipso iure priuati; sit talibus omnis preclusa dignitas, sit postulandi negata facultas, officium et quodlibet ministerium^a publicum utrobique sic sit eis interdictum. Non credatur in iudiciis eorum assertioni; ad testimonium prorsus reddantur indigni.^b Sit eis ad ordines ascensus inhibitus; sit ad beneficium ecclesiasticum negatus accessus; et, ut magis famosa sit eorum infamia, super omnibus premissis sit eis spes dispensacionis penitus adempta, et tam insecutor quam uiolente manus^c iniector, ipso facto sententiam excommunicationis maioris incurrat, quam non nisi per summum pontificem, nisi duntaxat in mortis articulo constitutus, euadat.

Et hec quidem sententia in predictum Gilbertum et suos fautores tam terribiliter erat promulgata.

Reuera nimis erat audax uersucia et uersuta nimis audacia que tantis uiris non pepercit. Cui capiti cuiusque persone reuerencia debetur, si patribus conscriptis, si^d legatis a latere pape transmissis non defertur? Ceterum quantumcunque peccauerit^e uir in uirum,²⁷⁸ solet ecclesia Romana humiliter petenti ueniam prestare; set si manus sacrilega curiam ipsam inuaserit, qua fronte, queso, poterit ueniam postulare, cum iure caueatur quod frustra legis auxilium inuocat qui committit in legem?²⁷⁹ Denique cuius efficacie fuerit sententia statim apparuit; nam paucis euolutis diebus Gilbertus capitur et coram iusticiariis regis Londoniis condempnatur. Deinde protractus, suspensus et exenteratus, capite truncatur.²⁸⁰

Quia in festo sancti Hillarii²⁸¹ dominum regem et ceteros magnates ad parlamentum conuenire oportuit, ex conducto conuenerunt hii qui erant de consilio domini regis,²⁸² dicentes: 'Non est bonum inire parlamentum sub hoc modo. Nam si dominus rex ueniat et comes Lancastrie ueniat, utique et omnes qui sunt de eorum retencione, et^f certe tanta et tam effrenata^g multitudo mali pocius quam boni foret occasio. Iccirco melius est per medias personas inter dominum regem et comitem Lancastrie firmam concordiam et plenam securitatem

^a misterium R; ministerium St, Den-Y ^b indignum MS; indigni He, St, Den-Y
^c ma manus MS; manus He, St, Den-Y ^d se MS; si He, St, Den-Y ^e placuerit MS; fecerit, or else faciat to be understood He; peccauerit St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; redundant MW ^g effrenata MS; effrenata He, St, Den-Y

²⁷⁸ 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 2: 25.

²⁷⁹ Dig. iv. 4. 37, *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 61.

ecclesiastical superior shall dispose of as he wills. Moreover his sons and grandsons descending in the male line, if they have acquired any benefice or even the episcopal dignity, are by the same law deprived of them; such persons are precluded from every dignity, denied the opportunity of postulation, office and any kind of public service is alike forbidden to them. No faith is to be placed in their statements in courts of law; they are rendered utterly unworthy of bearing witness. They may not proceed to Holy Orders; they may not receive an ecclesiastical benefice; and that their infamy may be the more notorious, all hope of dispensation for all the aforesaid is utterly taken away, and the persecutor as well as the one who attacks with violence shall automatically incur the sentence of the greater excommunication, from which he shall not escape, except at the hands of the pope alone, unless he is at the point of death.

And this sentence was indeed, terrifyingly, promulgated against the said Gilbert and his supporters.

Indeed too rash was the deceit and too deceitful the rashness that did not spare such men. To whose head, to whose person is reverence due, if it is not given to senators, to legates specially sent by the pope? In other respects, however much one man shall sin against another,²⁷⁸ the Roman church is accustomed to bestow pardon on the humble petitioner; but if the sacrilegious hand attacks the curia itself, with what assurance, I ask, can pardon be demanded, since we are warned by law that the support of the law is sought in vain by the lawbreaker?²⁷⁹ At any rate the efficacy of the sentence was at once apparent; for after a few days Gilbert was taken and condemned before the king's justices at London. Then he was drawn, hanged, and disembowelled, and his head cut off.²⁸⁰

Because the lord king and the other great men were to meet in parliament on the feast of St Hilary,²⁸¹ those who were of the lord king's council met by agreement,²⁸² saying: 'It is not good to begin a parliament like this. For if the lord king comes and the earl of Lancaster comes, and all on both sides who are retained by them, surely so great and so unruly a crowd would be the occasion of evil rather than good. Therefore it is better to restore true harmony and full confidence between the lord king and the earl of Lancaster by

²⁸⁰ Middleton held out until Dec. in Mitford Castle; he was executed in London on 26 Jan. 1318 (*Ann. Paul.*, pp. 281-2) or about 2 Feb. (*Brid.*, p. 52; *Flores*, iii. 180).

²⁸¹ 13 Jan. 1318; the date is given correctly as the quinzaine of St Hilary (27 Jan.) above, pp. 140-1.

²⁸² The council met on 30 Dec. 1317 (*CCR 1313-18*, p. 586; *PW*, ii. 2. 174; *Phillips, Pembroke*, p. 154).

1317 prius reformare, ac deinde diem et locum parlamenti sicut decet
1318 assignare.' Et actum est.²⁸³ Nam de consensu conuenerunt apud
Leicestriam archiepiscopi, comites et barones ex parte domini regis,
et consiliarii comitis, tractaturi super istis negociis.²⁸⁴ Vbi cum multa
ex parte regis peterentur quibus et comes ipse, si placeret ei, prestaret
assensum, ad nichil penitus inclinari potuit sine plenaria obseruacione
ordinacionum.

Videntes igitur archiepiscopi^a et ceteri comites animum comitis
immobilem, concesserunt pro domino rege et pro se ordinaciones
uniuersas fideliter obseruari, et cartam testimonii sacramento singu-
lorum et sigillorum impressione roborari. Et comes Lancastrie e
contra domino regi et suis debitam fidelitatem et securitatem sub
fide promisit, excepta querela quam contra comitem Warennie de
raptu uxoris dudum instituit.

Hiis igitur sub tali forma excessis,^b acceperunt diem parlamenti
apud Lyncolniam in crastino Trinitatis.²⁸⁵ 'O quantum^c nocuit ista
dissencio, O quantum exstitit malis occasio! Dum rex delirat cum
baronibus, fiducia^d rebellandi datur hostibus. Sic^e iam amittitur tota
Scocia, et terra Northamhimbriorum iacet inculta. Vna uilla regi
remanserat in Scocia. Hec erat Berewyke, fortis et ualida et muro
inexpugnabili decenter ambita. Hanc dum rex committeret burgen-
sium custodie, uillam tradunt hostibus famuli perfidie.²⁸⁶ Reuera nec
locus tutissimus nec uir potentissimus resistit proditoribus; set Troia
obsessa^f decennio, que uinci non potuit in prelio, proditorum tandem
subcubuit ingenio. Sic ille magnus Grecorum imperator Allexander,^g
tocius orbis domitor, cum cunctas naciones armis subicit, per
familiares proditores toxicatus occubuit.²⁸⁷ Studeat amodo rex

^a sic R; archiepiscopus St, Den-Y ^b sic R; concessis Den-Y ^c Equantum MS;
O quantum He, St, Den-Y ^d fiducia MS; fiducia He, St, Den-Y ^e sit MS; sic He,
St, Den-Y ^f obsessa MS; obsessa He, St, Den-Y ^g sic R; Alexander St, Den-Y

²⁸³ The parliament was postponed on 4 Jan. 1318 to 12 Mar., and on 3 Mar. to 19 June, in order to accommodate negotiations with Lancaster through the spring. On 8 June the summons was revoked because of the need to combat the Scottish raids. Parliament finally met on 20 Oct. 1318 at York and implemented the terms of the treaty of Leake (CCR 1313-18, pp. 590, 601, 619; CCR 1318-23, p. 99; PW, ii. 1. 175-7, 178, 181-2).

²⁸⁴ They met at Leicester in early Apr. 1318 and final agreement was probably reached by 12 Apr. 1318. The canon of Bridlington is the best source for this meeting, although he wrongly called it a parliament (*Brid.*, pp. 54-5). At this stage Lancaster appeared to have achieved everything he wanted, but over the next four months, under pressure, he made concessions (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 216-29, 237-9). The recipients of royal grants had every reason to block the agreement, but it is also possible that royal envoys had made the agreement expecting further negotiations (Phillips, *Pembroke*, p. 163).

²⁸⁵ 19 June 1318. The author is mistaken in placing the decision about the new date for

intermediaries, and then appoint a day and place for parliament as is
fitting.' And so it was done.²⁸³ For the archbishops, earls and barons
on the lord king's part, and the earl's counsellors met by agreement at
Leicester to discuss this business.²⁸⁴ There, when many things were
sought on the king's behalf to which the earl should give assent if it
pleased him, he could not be persuaded to accept anything at all
without full observance of the Ordinances.

Seeing, therefore, that the earl's mind was made up, the arch-
bishops and the other earls granted on behalf of the lord king and
themselves that all the Ordinances should be faithfully observed, and
that a charter in witness of this should be confirmed by the oath of
each and the impression of their seals. And the earl of Lancaster for
his part promised on his oath due fealty and security to the lord king
and his men, saving the complaint that he had long ago lodged against
Earl Warenne for the abduction of his wife.

When these things had been granted in this way, they received a
date for parliament at Lincoln on the morrow of Holy Trinity.²⁸⁵ Oh!
How harmful was this quarrel! Oh! How great an occasion for evil!
While the king raves against the barons, his enemies are given the
confidence to rebel. In this way the whole of Scotland is now lost and
the land of Northumbria lies waste. One town alone remained to the
king in Scotland. This was Berwick, sturdy and strong and well
surrounded by an impregnable wall. When the king committed this
town to the care of the burgesses, the treacherous servants handed it
over to the enemy.²⁸⁶ Indeed there is no place safe enough or any man
powerful enough to withstand traitors: Troy, besieged for a decade,
which could not be conquered in battle, at length succumbed to the
trickery of traitors. So too that great emperor of the Greeks,
Alexander, conqueror of the whole world, while he subdued all the
nations in war, was poisoned by traitors in his own household.²⁸⁷ Let

parliament after the meeting at Leicester in April. The writ postponing parliament had already been issued on 3 Mar. (CCR 1313-18, p. 601; PW, ii. 2. 178). Otherwise the author's information is good and he is the only chronicler to show knowledge of the postponed parliaments.

²⁸⁶ The town was lost between 2 and 8 Apr. 1318. Berwick had been taken by Edward I in 1296 and was of great strategic importance to the English for channelling men and supplies to the Scottish wars. Its loss was also a great blow to Edward's prestige, and helped to speed up the negotiations with Lancaster so that a united force could be organized to retake the town.

²⁸⁷ Troy was taken by the Greeks' ruse of the wooden horse, but those advising the acceptance of the gift were suspected of betrayal. Rumours that Alexander the Great was poisoned arose soon after his death. Most commentators have discounted them but a recent

1318 noster uel Scociam recuperare, uel saltem terram propriam ab hostibus defendere. Nam licet Scotis fortuna semel arriserit, manum forsitan retrahens ad Anglos conuolabit. Prodigio, periurium et homicidium, que Roberto de Bruto regnandi dederunt inicium, perducent eum tandem ad finem desolatum.²⁸⁸

Appropinquante die parliamenti prefixo uenit rex apud Northamptoniam cum electa multitudine armatorum;²⁸⁹ ubi dum uellet omnimodo expectare magnates, apparuit quidam Oxonie qui diceret se filium regis esse et regnum Anglie iure sanguinis ad se pertinere. Dicebat enim se in cunis fuisse sublatum et regem qui nunc regnat pro ipso suppositum.²⁹⁰ Accessit autem ad aulam regiam, ubi fratres Carmelitani^a ceperunt edificare,²⁹¹ uolens ibidem seisinam capere. Peruenit itaque uerbum ad regem, et statim iussu regis capitur, et in crastino domino regi presentatur. Verumptamen coram rege constitutus priora dicta sua non negauit, set se uerum regni heredem, regem autem iniuste regnare, constanter affirmauit.

Huius rei celebris erat fama per totam terram, et ultra quam dici potest molestabat reginam. Cepit igitur inter sapientes esse consultum quid in hoc casu foret agendum, ac post magnam disceptationem consideratum est inter eosdem quod qui fame principis et honori non parcat tanquam proditor^b capitali pena^c dampnetur, sicut scriptum est, qui maledixit principi morte moriatur.²⁹² Itaque fatuus ille ex decreto curie protrahitur, ac post illam proditorum penam laqueo suffocatur.²⁹³ Reuera male uendicauit, et actionem non recte instituit, dum uitam et regnum simul amisit.

^a Carmelini MS; Carmelitani He, St, Den-Y
Den-Y ^c penam MS; pena He, St, Den-Y

^b proditori MS; proditor He, St,

re-examination of the evidence leaves the question open (see Hamilton, *Plutarch: Alexander*, pp. 213–14; Green, *Alexander*, pp. 476–80). For medieval interest in Alexander and the use of his death in exempla, see Cary, *Medieval Alexander*, pp. 190–4, and above, pp. xxviii–xxx. The author's earlier quotation from Walter of Châtillon's *Alexandris* suggests he may have acquired his information on Alexander from that work, where death by poison is described in book x (*PL* ccix. 566–7).

²⁸⁸ This comment indicates that the author wrote before the Anglo-Scottish treaty of 1328 acknowledged Bruce as king of Scotland (Stones, *Anglo-Scottish Relations*, pp. 323–41).

²⁸⁹ The summons to parliament for 19 June had, in fact, been cancelled on 8 June (see n. 283 above), but the king was expecting a major meeting at Northampton to witness reconciliation with Lancaster, who had been given a safe conduct to come to the king on 29 June (*CPR* 1317–21, p. 162). The king was at Northampton 30 June–3 Aug. 1318 except for a brief visit to Woodstock at about 22–7 July (*Itin.*, pp. 169–71).

²⁹⁰ The claim was made by John of Powderham, son of an Exeter tanner. It made considerable public impact and was recorded in most chronicles (Childs, “Welcome”).

our king now take thought either for the recovery of Scotland, or at least for the defence of his own land against his enemies. For, though Fortune has once smiled upon the Scots, perhaps she will withdraw her hand and fly over to the English. Treachery, perjury, and homicide, which brought Robert Bruce to the throne, will lead him at last to a desolate end.²⁸⁸

As the day fixed for parliament approached, the king came with a chosen body of men-at-arms to Northampton.²⁸⁹ While he was waiting there for the great men, a person appeared at Oxford who said that he was the king's son and that the kingdom of England belonged to him by right of blood. He claimed that he had been taken from the cradle, and that the king who now reigned was put in his place.²⁹⁰ So he came to the royal palace, where the Carmelite friars were beginning to build,²⁹¹ wishing to take possession there. Then word reached the king, and the man was at once arrested by the king's order, and brought before the lord king the next day. Even brought face to face with the king he did not deny what he had already said, but stated firmly that he was the true heir to the kingdom, and that the king had no right to reign.

The notoriety of this spread throughout the whole country, and annoyed the queen beyond all words. Therefore the wise began to take counsel on what should be done in this case, and after much discussion it was decided amongst them that he who does not spare the good reputation and honour of the prince, shall be condemned to the extreme penalty as a traitor, as it is written: ‘He that curseth the ruler shall die the death’.²⁹² So by the verdict of the court, this fool was drawn and after that was strangled by a noose, the punishment of traitors.²⁹³ Indeed he had a bad claim and he did not bring a true action, for he lost his life and the kingdom together.

Another impostor had been recorded in 1313, when a Gascon claimed to be Edward's brother, but he was treated very leniently and the incident received no attention in the chronicles (Chaplais, *Gaveston*, pp. 111–12). A certain Thomas de Tynwelle had also been accused in 1316 of doubting that Edward II was Edward I's son (H. Johnstone, ‘Isabella, the she-wolf of France’, *History*, xxi (1936–7), 212–13).

²⁹¹ The King's Hall in Oxford was granted to the Carmelites on 1 Feb. 1318 (*CPR* 1317–21, pp. 75, 103–4, 168–9, 237).

²⁹² Cf. Exod. 21:17, 22: 28; Matt. 15: 4.

²⁹³ Edward laughed at the claim (*Anon.*, pp. 94–5). Others thought the man mad or possessed (*Brid.*, p. 55), but some saw the claim as dangerous in the delicate political situation of summer 1318 and quickly had Powderham arrested. An order for his delivery from Northampton gaol was made on 20 July (TNA, E 37/4 m. 3), and his execution may have been then or c.23 July (*CPR* 1317–21, p. 273; *Ann. Paul.*, p. 283; *Brid.*, p. 55; *Anon.*, p. 95).

1318 Igitur sicut predixi dominus rex apud Northamptoniam exspectabat; magnates autem erant cum eo comes de Warenna, Rogerus Dam-mori, Hugo Despenser pater et filius, Hugo Daudeleghe, Willelmus de Mountagu; et hii omnes cum magna sequela, ita ut reputares eos non ad parlamentum uenisse, set pocius ad bella. Quod cum audisset comes Lancastrie, licet pluries uocatus noluit accedere.²⁹⁴ Nam hos omnes prenomatos reputabat comes sibi capitales inimicos. Causas autem inimicie breuiter, si placet, licet exponere.

Comes de Warenna comitis Lancastrie rapuit uxorem, uel saltem rapientibus prestabat assensum, de quo nimirum si unus uindictam uellet expetere, et alter si posset penam euadere.²⁹⁵ Oderant eciam comitem reliqui omnes eo quod tueri uolebat ordinaciones. Illi namque iuxta ordinaciones a curia regis erant amouendi, et terras quas a domino rege acceperant similiter amissuri. Ideo insidiabantur^a comiti in quantum potuerunt; set insidie eorum effectum non habuerunt; statim enim notificatur comiti quicquid contra eum machinantur inimici.

Videns igitur rex quod proficeret nichil, (nichil)^b ageret in omnibus que contra comitem excogitaret, pensans eciam sibi periculosam esse huiusmodi dissencionem, eo quod Scotorum contra se firmaret rebellionem, nec posse eum contra Scotos proficere sine auxilio comitis Lancastrie; pensans eciam uillam de Berewyk turpiter amissam et uillam de Northam nouiter amittendam nisi succurratur obsessis, qui resistere non possunt ultra festum sancti Michaelis;²⁹⁶ pensans et expensas immensas quas faciebat contra comitem, requirere quatinus, omni rancore deposito, ad locum quem uellet accederet, ubi cum eo super omnibus commissis 'pro se^c et suis amicabiliter componeret; set et omnes hii, contra quos diceret se comes habere querelam, ad arbitrium comitis satisfacerent,

^a insidiebantur *MS*; insidiabantur *He, St, Den-Y* ^b *om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y*
^c per se *MS*; per suos *He*; pro se *St, Den-Y*

²⁹⁴ Lancaster had a safe conduct to meet the king for 29 June (see above, n. 289). Amory and Audley and Montague were also identified by the continuator of the *Flores* as the king's new favourites and worse than Gaveston (*Flores*, iii. 178). The young Despenser, Audley, and Amory had risen in wealth and standing after the death of Gilbert de Clare in 1314, through their marriages to the three Gloucester heiresses. Despenser had married Eleanor, the eldest sister, in 1306 (*CP*, iv. 269). Audley, from an Oxfordshire family, began his career in royal service around 1312-13 and married Margaret, widow of Gaveston, 28 Apr. 1317 (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 194-5; *CP*, i. 346; *ibid.* v. 715). Amory, at this time probably closest of the three to the king, also from an Oxfordshire family and originally a Gloucester retainer, was a later arrival to royal favour. He began to rise in royal service only after Bannockburn, and married Elizabeth, the youngest sister, widow of John de

Thus, as I have said, the lord king was waiting at Northampton: the magnates with him were the Earl Warenne, Roger Amory, Hugh Despenser, the father and the son, Hugh Audley, William Montague; and these were all there in great strength, so that you would have thought they had come not to parliament, but rather to battle. When the earl of Lancaster heard this, though often summoned, he refused to come.²⁹⁴ For the earl reckoned all these mentioned above to be his deadly enemies. The causes of this enmity may, by your leave, be briefly set forth.

The Earl Warenne abducted the earl of Lancaster's wife, or at least gave his consent to those who did, so that it is not surprising if the one should wish to look for vengeance, and the other to escape punishment if he could.²⁹⁵ All the others also hated the earl because he wanted to uphold the Ordinances. For they, according to the Ordinances, were to be removed from the king's court and would likewise lose the lands they had received from the lord king. They therefore intrigued against the earl as much as they could; but their conspiracies had no effect, for the earl was at once notified of whatever his enemies plotted against him.

Thus the king, seeing that he profited nothing, achieved nothing by all the plans he made against the earl; also considering that such discord was dangerous to him, because it encouraged the Scottish rebellion against him, and he could make no headway against the Scots without the help of the earl of Lancaster; considering, too, that the town of Berwick had been disgracefully lost and the town of Norham was on the point of being lost unless help was brought to the besieged, who could not hold out beyond Michaelmas;²⁹⁶ and considering the enormous expenses he incurred against the earl, asked that, all ill-feeling laid aside, [the earl] should go to a place of his own choosing, where a friendly agreement might be made with him and his men about everything done in his name; moreover all those against whom the earl said that he had any complaint, should make satisfaction at the earl's discretion, and for this should offer

Burgh, before 3 May 1317 (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 193-4; *CP*, iv. 42-5). The final division of the lands was made 15 Nov. 1317 (*RP*, i. 355; *CPR 1313-18*, pp. 660-1, 666; *CFR 1307-19*, pp. 350-1). Montague also held Oxfordshire lands, and had been active on royal military service since 1301. He continued to serve Edward II as soldier, diplomat, and courtier, and was royal steward by 1317 (*CP*, ix. 80-2; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 194-5; *HBC*, p. 76).

²⁹⁶ Norham was on the English side of the border, strategically placed on the River Tweed about ten miles south-west of Berwick.

1318 et super hoc fideiussores, cautionem aut pignora prestarent; et ita ad instanciam domine regine, comitis Herfordie, et aliorum nobilium quos comes Lancastrie reputabat fideles, optentum est.²⁹⁷

Conuenerunt igitur dominus rex et comes,²⁹⁸ et diu familiariter alloquentes debitam amiciciam et mutuam gratiam renouarunt, atque in signum federis eadem die cibum simul acceperunt; set et Rogerus Dammori et ceteri, exceptis Hugone Despenser et comite de Warena ad comitis presenciam humiliter accedentes, in gratiam eius admissi sunt. Preterea quia in ordinacionibus cautum erat quod dominus rex nichil alienaret, nichil grande uel arduum inchoaret nisi per assensum comitum et baronum et hoc in communi parlamento solempniter expressum, prouisum est quod eligerentur duodecim uiri de discrecioribus tocius regni, quorum quatuor episcopi, quatuor comites, et quatuor barones essent, et de hiis tres ad minus dominum regem semper comitantes,^a si aliquid arduum in curia regis emergeret, auctoritas istorum duodecim statim expediret. Nam difficile foret, pro singulis negociis que solent in curia regis accidere omnes magnates tocius regni congregare.²⁹⁹

Nabugodonosor ille potentissimus rex Assiriorum ante annum regni sui duodecimum nichil egisse legitur memorandum, quod anno uero regni sui duodecimo cepit florere et gentes et regna sibi subicere. Arphaxat regem Medorum in bello deuicit, et de multis regnis unam monarchiam potenter effecit.³⁰⁰ Nec eciam rex noster Edwardus, qui undecim annis regnauit et amplius, aliquid egit quod predicari debeat in foro uel in tectis. Vtinam ad exemplum regis Nabugodonosor hostes suos nunc^b saltem niteretur inuadere, ut dampna et obprobria que diu sustinuit posset resarsire.

^a communicantes *MS*; *prob. for* comitantes *He, St, Den-Y* ^b nec *R*; nunc *St, Den-Y*

²⁹⁷ Although brief, these three paragraphs show an acute awareness of the tensions of June and July. The agreement of 12 Apr. was renegotiated at meetings on 23 June (at Horninglow near Tutbury), 4–16 July, and 20–5 July. A final meeting on 1 Aug. made arrangements for formal reconciliation. The best modern surveys are in Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 217–38, and Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 159–76.

²⁹⁸ The king and Lancaster met on 7 Aug. for the kiss of peace; the final agreement was sealed at Leake on 9 Aug. 1318 (HMC, 55, *Var. Colls.*, i. [Dean and Chapter of Canterbury] 269; *CCR*, 1318–23, pp. 112–14).

²⁹⁹ This is a reasonable résumé of the treaty of Leake. It set up a standing council to advise the king; it gave unconditional pardons to Lancaster and his followers, while Lancaster released all claims on his opponents except for Warenne; and it confirmed the Ordinances. No specific reference was made to the resumption of gifts, although this would be covered by confirmation of the Ordinances, and in particular no reference was made to punishment of those receiving grants. Whether Lancaster had intended to be one

sureties, caution money, or pledges. And so at the request of the lady 1318 queen, the earl of Hereford, and other nobles whom the earl of Lancaster accounted faithful to him, this was achieved.²⁹⁷

So the lord king and the earl met²⁹⁸ and, speaking together long and intimately, they renewed due friendship and mutual goodwill, and to mark the pact they ate together on that same day; and Roger Amory and the rest, except Hugh Despenser and the Earl Warenne, humbly presenting themselves before the earl, were received into his grace. Moreover, because it had been carefully laid down in the Ordinances that the lord king should alienate nothing, and should initiate nothing important or difficult without the assent of the earls and barons and that solemnly expressed in a general parliament, it was provided that twelve of the more discreet men of the whole realm should be elected, of whom four should be bishops, four earls, and four barons, and, with at least three of these always accompanying the lord king, if anything difficult should arise in the king's court, the authority of those twelve would at once deal with it. For it would be difficult, in individual cases which occur from time to time in the king's court, to bring together all the great men of the whole realm.²⁹⁹

Nebuchadnezzar, that most powerful king of the Assyrians, before the twelfth year of his reign did, we are told, nothing memorable, but in that twelfth year of his reign he began to flourish and to conquer nations and kingdoms. He overcame Arphaxad, king of the Medes, in war, and out of many kingdoms constructed one powerful monarchy.³⁰⁰ Neither has our King Edward who has reigned eleven years and more, done anything that ought to be preached in the marketplace or from the rooftops. Would that, following the example of King Nebuchadnezzar, he would now at least try to attack his enemies, so that he might repair the damage and disgrace which he has borne so long.

of the named council is unclear, but his position was certainly weakened when he was only represented by a banneret (*PW*, ii. 2. 184–5). The detailed arrangements were further worked out at the York parliament in Oct. (see below, n. 306). Substantial payments of money by Amory, Audley, and Montague in Nov. 1318 were probably part of the arrangements to compensate Lancaster (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 233–4). The council is reminiscent of that proposed for Henry III in 1258, and its importance or its novelty prompted the author to report it fully; he is, however, mistaken in his numbers. There was to be a group of sixteen of whom four would always be with the king. A further seven names were added to the list at the York parliament (Cole, *Docs. Illus.*, pp. 1–2, 12).

³⁰⁰ Cf. Judith 1: 1, 5, 11, 13. There it was not until the seventeenth year that Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Assyrians, defeated Arphaxad, king of the Medes.

1318 Spes magna hiis diebus nobis accreuit eo quod Deus in multis prosperis regem et populum exhillarauit. In primis regi et populo Anglorum feliciter contigit quod dominus papa, cuius est dissension^a sedare, Scotis et eorum ducibus treugas biennales indixit, ut interim uiam concordie et formam pacis excogitaret. Set Robertus de Brutz spretis^b mandatis apostolicis regem Anglie multipliciter infestauit. Visum est itaque domino pape transgressoribus penam infligere, et post monita censuram adicere. Igitur Robertum de Brutz et suos sequaces anathematizauit, et terram Scotorum interdicto supposuit, ita ut nullus nisi ianuis clausis, interdictis et excommunicatis exclusis, diuina celebraret.³⁰¹ Cuius efficacie fuerat interdictum dignatus est Deus ostendere ad oculum. Nam dum quadam die Robertus de Brutz peteret sibi missam celebrari, capellanus pretextu interdicti nitebatur excusari; set iussum^c tyranni preualuit, et capellanus nimio^d timore coactus, ad altare diuina celebraturus accessit. Cum autem sacerdos missam usque ad eleuationem Corporis Domini rite peregisset, sacerdos, sicut mos est, hostiam nitebatur erigere, et columba desuper ueniens manifeste cunctis apparuit et hostiam de manu sacerdotis ereptam cunctis uidentibus asportauit. Quid aliud pretendere potest huiuscemodi uisio, nisi quod presentes ibidem indigni erant sacramento? Et hoc quidem acceptabile nobis et gratum, dum scimus hostem nostrum a Deo reprobatum eo quod non seruauit interdictum.

Secundo dedit nobis Deus uictoriam super inimicos nostros in Hibernia. Edwardus de Brutz et sui milites, qui iam per biennium dominium ibidem usurparunt, uenientes uersus Dondalk ut uillam caperent, exercitum nostrum obuiam habuerunt; set inito conflictu cecidit Edwardus^e et quingenti cum eo ualentes armati ipsa die coram nostris.³⁰²

(Tercio, cessauit)^f sterilitas illa que diu nos afflixit, et habundancia omnium^g bonorum terram Anglorum multipliciter fecundauit.³⁰³

^a descensiones *MS*; dissensiones *He, St, Den-Y* ^b spectis *MS*; spretis *He, St, Den-Y*
^c iussum *MS*; iussum *He, St, Den-Y* ^d non uno *R*; nimio *St, Den-Y*
^e Edwardum *MS*; Edwardus *He, St, Den-Y* ^f om. *R*; supplied *St, Den-Y* ^g omni *R*; omnium *St, Den-Y*

³⁰¹ Edward asked for support against the Scots in Nov. 1317; the pope declared the truce on 17 Mar. 1318 (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 347-8; *CPL* 1305-42, p. 127). Bruce ignored the truce by capturing Berwick, Wark, Harbottle, and Mitford, and raiding as far south as Ripon, Knaresborough, and Skipton in Yorkshire (*Lanercost*, pp. 234-5; I. Kershaw, 'A note on Scottish raids in the West Riding 1316-18', *Northern History*, xvii (1981), 231-9). The papal bull of excommunication was dated 28 June (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 362-3), but was not

1318 Great hope has latterly grown up in us, because God has gladdened king and people with many signs of prosperity. In the first place, it turned out happily for the English king and people that the lord pope, whose business it is to settle quarrels, imposed upon the Scots and their leaders a two years' truce, so that in the meanwhile he might devise a way to bring harmony, and a form of peace. But Robert Bruce scorned the apostolic commands and attacked the king of England many times. So it seemed good to the lord pope to penalize the transgressors and, after warnings, to add censure. He therefore anathematized Robert Bruce and his followers, and placed the land of the Scots under an interdict, so that no one could celebrate the holy offices except behind closed doors, with interdicted and excommunicate persons excluded.³⁰¹ God deigned to show the efficacy of this interdict. For when one day Robert Bruce asked for Mass to be celebrated for himself, the chaplain sought to be excused by reason of the interdict; but the tyrant's order prevailed, and the chaplain, overwhelmed with fear, approached the altar to celebrate Mass. But when the priest had performed the office as far as the elevation of the Body of our Lord, the priest, as usual, attempted to elevate the Host, and a dove coming down from above clearly appeared to all, and in the sight of everyone carried off the Host, plucked from the priest's hand. What else can such a vision mean, except that those present were unworthy of the sacrament? This indeed was welcome and pleasing to us, for we knew that our enemy had been rebuked by God for not observing the interdict.

Secondly, God gave us victory over our enemies in Ireland. Edward Bruce and his knights, who now for two years had usurped lordship there, approaching Dundalk to take the town, came up against our army; but when battle was joined Edward fell before our men that day, and five hundred stout-hearted men-at-arms with him.³⁰²

Thirdly, the dearth that had so long plagued us ceased, and England became fruitful with a lavish profusion of all good things.³⁰³ A bushel

published until 3 Sept. 1318 (*Ann. Paul.*, p. 283). Before then, the Scots would have been covered by the general excommunication in 1312 of those disturbing the peace of the kingdom (Wright, *Reynolds*, pp. 350, 351, 352).

³⁰² The battle of Dundalk took place on 14 Oct. 1318 (Lydon, 'Impact', pp. 293-4).

³⁰³ The famine had begun in 1315; see above pp. 110-11. Although in many places conditions improved after two to three years, in some areas hardship continued longer, and the Bridlington chronicler recorded that in Yorkshire the scarcity lasted as long as six years (*Brid.*, p. 48; Kershaw, 'Agrarian crisis', pp. 13-15).

1318 Modius tritici, qui anno preterito pro quadraginta denariis uendebatur, hodie pro sex denariis emptori libenter offertur. Sic olim tamdiu obsessa Samaria, ut mater filii carnibus uesceretur pro penuria^a uictualium, recuperauit diuina gracia. Nam capud asini, quod octoginta aureis pridie uendebatur, omnibus inmundum in crastino reputatum erat, et modius simile pro statere uno uenundatus, sicut predixerat uir Dei Heliseus.³⁰⁴

Quarto, factus est unanimes rex noster cum baronibus suis. Nam nugis postpositis^b consilia baronum auscultat,^c nec est qui regem ad malum instigat amplius, quia priuata familia que baronibus erat contraria hodie recessit ab aula. Hiis igitur omnibus per gratiam Dei concurrentibus, non est timendum nobis ab inimicis nostris, sicut scriptum est ad Romanos, si Deus nobiscum, quis contra nos?³⁰⁵

Habita concordia inter dominum regem et comitem Lancastrie, bonum uisum est magnatibus concordiam et unitatem in populo facere, iniurias ulcisci et regnum innouare. Tunc assignati sunt et destinati ad quemlibet comitatum uiri discreti et bone opinionis, ad audiendum et terminandum querelas subditorum. Ministrales enim regii auctoritate publice potestatis concuciebant simplices, spoliarunt innocentes, ut^d nemo negocium suum consummaret, nisi huiusmodi officialium^e manum impleret. Amoti sunt omnes tales ab officio ut liberius procederet inquisicio.³⁰⁶ Insuper ordinatum est ut conuicti^f lesis in duplo satisfacerent, et ad officium nunquam redirent.

Hec ordinacio terruit multos, et ad satisfaciendum induxit nondum conuictos. Reuera de officialibus domini regis ueraciter hoc possumus dicere, quia a minimo usque ad maximum omnes student auaricie; a summo iusticiario usque ad minimum pedaneum iudicem,³⁰⁷ nullus recusat accipere. Porro, licet aliqui non exigant uel extorqueant offerendum,^g nullus tamen eorum respuit oblatum. Verumtamen quod offertur ex gracia licenter recipi^h potest, set cum mensura; quia a nemine accipere est ualde inhumanum,ⁱ³⁰⁸ set passim et indifferenter, turpissimum. Oporteret certe dominum regem; a maioribus

^a pennuria MS; penuria He, St, Den-Y ^b prepositis MS; postpositis He, St, Den-Y ^c auscultat MS; auscultat He, St ^d et MS; ut He, St, Den-Y ^e officialium MS; officialium He, St, Den-Y ^f comiti R; conuicti St, Den-Y ^g sic MS; offerendum He, St, Den-Y ^h recipi MS; recipi He, St, Den-Y ⁱ inhumanum MS; inhumanum He, St, Den-Y

³⁰⁴ Cf. 4 Kgs. (2 Kgs.) 6: 25-9, 7: 1, 16.

³⁰⁵ Rom. 8: 31.

³⁰⁶ At the York parliament in Oct. 1318 the practical details following from the treaty of Leake were worked out. The king also agreed to a reform of his household, a review of offices, and an inquiry into county administration at all levels (Cole, *Docs. Illus.*, pp. 1-4,

of wheat, which the year before was sold for 40 pence, today is freely 1318 offered to the buyer for sixpence. So once Samaria, which had been besieged for so long that for lack of food a mother fed upon the flesh of her son, recovered through divine grace. For an ass's head, which the day before had sold for 80 pieces of gold, was on the next day held unclean by all, and a bushel of fine flour was sold for a stater, as Elisha, the man of God, had foretold.³⁰⁴

Fourthly, our king became reconciled with his barons. For putting aside trifles, he listens to the barons' advice, and there is no longer anyone to incite the king to do wrong, because his close supporters who were hostile to the barons have now left the court. Therefore, with all these things coinciding by the grace of God, we need not fear our enemies, as it is written in the Epistle to the Romans, 'If God be for us, who is against us?'³⁰⁵

When peace had been made between the lord king and the earl of Lancaster, it seemed good to the great men to promote peace and unity among the people, to punish wrongs and overhaul the kingdom. Discreet men of good reputation were assigned and appointed to each county, to hear and determine the complaints of the people. For the king's officials with the authority of public power terrorized the simple, robbed the innocent, and no one could finish his business without greasing the official palm. All such men were removed from office so that the investigation might proceed more freely.³⁰⁶ Furthermore, it was decreed that those found guilty should pay the injured party double, and never return to office.

This decree terrified many and persuaded those not yet convicted to make satisfaction. Indeed, we can truly say this of the lord king's officials, that from the lowest to the highest they all eagerly apply themselves to avarice; from the lord chief justice to the least petty judge³⁰⁷ no one rejects a bribe. Furthermore, although some may not demand or extort money, nevertheless none of them has refused what is offered. Of course, what is offered freely may properly be received, but in moderation; for to take from no one is scarcely human,³⁰⁸ but to do so promiscuously and indiscriminately is most scandalous. Certainly it should be essential for the lord king; for men take an

6-13). As part of this review, twenty sheriffs were replaced on 29 Nov. and one more on 1 Dec. 1318 (*CFR* 1307-19, pp. 381-3).

³⁰⁷ *Pedaneus* ('foot-high') in juridical Latin signified a minor judge, who sat on a low seat, had no tribunal, and tried minor cases (*Dig.* iii. 1. 1 (6), xlviii. 19. 38 (10), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 35, 817).

³⁰⁸ *Dig.* i. 16. 6 (3), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 15.

1318 sumitur enim exemplum, et a capite diriuatur omnis malicia. Sic ille regum prudentissimus rex noster Edwardus proximus Thomam de Weilonde capitalem iusticiarium, propter quasdam transgressiones et oppressiones subditorum, omni honore, beneficio et dignitate priuauit, et capitali pene uel carceri perpetuo addictus fuisset, nisi ad ordinem minorum cicius conuolasset.^a Set nec corda minorum eidem prestabat^b confugium, quin idem Thomas nudatus pedes et caput subiret exilium.³⁰⁹ Eodem tempore multi et magni uiri inter potestates domini regis precipui, de turpibus sceleribus conuicti, cum magna iactura et ignominia ab officio et dignitate repulsi sunt. Inter quos quidam clericus, inter officiales regis non minimus, de tyrannide quam exercuit ab ipsis specialibus domini regis accusatus et conuictus, omni feodo laicali quod in regno possidebat est priuatus.³¹⁰ Insuper in auro et argento et uaria suppellectili ad ualorem triginta milium marcarum perdidit, que manus regia, utpote de bonis regis collecta, sibi confiscauit. O quanta cura in hiis adunandis prius impendit, et uno die uel uno momento ualefecit! O fallax rerum copia que, cum possessorem suum felicem facere deberet, infelicissimum reddit, que nec eum dormire nec saltem unam horam in gaudio consummare permittit. Nam solitudines et uigilie inimici sunt nature. Hoc est quod Ecclesiastes deplorando conqueritur: Vide,^c inquit, quod est sub sole et quidem^d frequens apud homines; uir cui dedit (Deus)^e diuicias, substanciam et honorem, et nichil deest anime eius ex omnibus que desiderat; nec tribuit ei Deus potestatem (ut)^f ex eo commedat, set homo extraneus deuorabat illud. Deinde addit Ecclesiastes et diffinit de talibus, dicens quod melior illo est abortiuus. Frustra enim uenit, et pergit ad tenebras, et obliuioni dabitur nomen eius.³¹¹

Inter comitem Lancastrie et comitem de Warennia facta est concordia per excambium quarundam terrarum, quas autem comes imperpetuum possidebit hereditate. Iacturam fecit ut euitaret maius^g periculum, quia de duobus malis minus malum est

^a conualescet MS; conuolasset He, St, Den-Y ^b sic MS; prestabant He ^c sic MS; uidi He ^d qui deus MS; quidem He, St, Den-Y ^e om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^f om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^g manus MS; maius He, St, Den-Y

³⁰⁹ Thomas Weyland, chief justice of common pleas, was removed in Sept. 1289 for protecting two of his followers who had committed murder. He took refuge with the Franciscans at Bury St Edmunds, but was starved out and exiled at the following parliament, which met between Dec. 1289 and Jan. 1290 (Prestwich, *Ed. I*, p. 339).

³¹⁰ Adam Stratton, chamberlain of the Exchequer, was removed in 1290. He had already

example from those greater than themselves and from the head is derived all evil. Thus, that wisest of kings, our previous king Edward, 1318 for certain crimes and oppressions done to the people deprived Thomas Weyland, the chief justice, of every honour, benefice, and dignity, and he would have been condemned to death or life imprisonment, if he had not taken refuge quickly with the Franciscans. But even the cord of the Franciscans did not protect the same Thomas from going into exile with bared head and feet.³⁰⁹ At the same time many great men amongst the lord king's principal officials, found guilty of disgraceful crimes, were driven from office and honour to their great loss and disgrace. Amongst them was a certain clerk, not the least of the king's officials, who, accused and found guilty of tyrannous behaviour by very special justices of the lord king, was deprived of all the lay fees that he possessed in the kingdom.³¹⁰ Moreover he lost gold and silver and other moveables to the value of 30,000 marks, which the crown confiscated for itself as these had been amassed from the king's goods. Think of the trouble he had taken to gather all this wealth together, only to lose it all in a day, in a moment! Oh! How deceptive is material wealth, which, when it ought to make its possessor happy, renders him most unhappy, which allows him neither to sleep nor to pass even one joyful hour. For anxiety and sleeplessness are nature's enemies. It is this that the Preacher deplores in his lament: 'See', he says, 'what I have seen under the sun, and that frequent among men; a man to whom God hath given riches, and substance, and honour, and his soul wanteth nothing of all that he desireth: yet God doth not give him power to eat thereof, but a stranger shall eat it up.' Then the Preacher adds and explains such things, saying that 'the untimely born is better than he. For he came in vain, and goeth to darkness, and his name shall be wholly forgotten.'³¹¹

An agreement was made between the earl of Lancaster and Earl Warenne for the exchange of certain estates, which the earl will possess forever by hereditary right. He [Earl Warenne] cut his losses to escape a greater danger, for of two evils the lesser evil is to be

faced complaints in 1279. He was a major pluralist, holding twenty-three benefices in 1280, and a moneylender. At his arrest in 1290 he had the spectacular sum of £11,333 in new money and £1,317 in old coin as well as many debts owed to him (N. Denholm-Young, *Seigniorial Administration in England* (Oxford, 1937), pp. 77-85; Prestwich, *Ed. I*, p. 341; R. H. Bowers, 'From rolls to riches: King's clerks and money-lending in thirteenth-century England', *Speculum*, lviii (1983), 60-71, at p. 69).

³¹¹ Eccles. 6: 1-4.

1318 eligendum.³¹² Sic comes Lancastrie aduersarios suos ad satisfaccionem reduxit caute; set Hugonem Despenser adhuc pro libito superare non potuit. Hugo semper et caute querit subterfugia ut redimat tempus et euitet pericula. Nam secundum relatum aliquorum iam adiuuit sanctum Iacobum,³¹³ quia timuit uenire ad parlamentum.

1319 Post Pascha conuenerunt omnes magnates terre cum domino rege apud Eboracum,³¹⁴ et consilio facto consenserunt unanimiter in festo sancte Marie Magdalene omnes apud Nouum Castrum cum armis conuenire,³¹⁵ et extunc quod ad expeditionem belli pertinet, Deo dante, feliciter incohare.^a Concesserunt eciam proceres domino regi in subsidium guerre sue duodeuicensimum denarium tocius Anglie.³¹⁶

Hiis ita dispositis^b misit dominus rex nuncios in Scociam qui regnum peterent, pacem offerrent, et Roberto de Brutz uitam et membra sic salua permitterent.³¹⁷ Sic enim decet regem facere, et pace repulsa hostes impetere. Sic eciam habuerunt filii Israelis in preceptis, ut, cum ciuitatem aliquam expungnarent, pacem prius offerrent, qua non admissa ad pungnacionem citanter^c rite procederent.³¹⁸ Sic Greci post raptum Helene leguntur Troianis pacem optulisse. Sic potens ille Nabugodonosor rex Assiriorum, antequam expungnaret exteras naciones, petiit sub pace tributum.³¹⁹ Respondit Robertus de Brutz se de pace regis Anglie non multum curare; regnum Scocie suum esse et iure hereditario et iure belli ad se pertinere. Hiis titulis dicebat se munitum esse, protestans se nec debere nec uelle aliquem superiorem uel dominum terrenum agnoscere.

^a sic R; inchoare St, Den-Y ^b depositis MS; dispositis He, St, Den-Y ^c sic R; cito or citatim also possible readings, He; MS was evidently unclear ed.

³¹² Warrenne released all his lands in Yorkshire and North Wales and the reversion of his lands in Norfolk to Lancaster on 29–30 Nov. 1318. He also pledged to pay Lancaster £50,000 by 25 Dec. In return he received a few estates in the west country. The money was not paid, but the land exchange was complete by Mar. 1319. The exchange was to Warrenne's immense disadvantage, and he claimed in 1322 that the agreements were made under duress while he was at Pontefract (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 234–7).

³¹³ The elder Despenser had letters of safe conduct and protection dated 1 Jan. 1319 to last to 29 Sept. for a journey to Spain on the king's business. The king also addressed letters on 5 Feb. 1319 to the Castilian princes on his behalf, asking for a safe conduct and permission to export war horses (*CPR 1317–21*, p. 262; *CCR 1319–23*, p. 123). Despenser may have made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia during this visit.

³¹⁴ Parliament (with commons) was summoned to York for 6 May 1319 and dismissed on 25 May (*HBC*, p. 554).

1318 preferred.³¹² Thus the earl of Lancaster shrewdly brought his enemies to make amends; but as yet he could not overcome Hugh Despenser as he wished. Always Hugh cautiously took evasive actions to gain time and keep out of danger. In fact, according to the reports of some people, he now went to Santiago,³¹³ because he was afraid to come to parliament.

1319 After Easter all the great men of the land met the lord king at York,³¹⁴ and, having held council, they unanimously agreed that all should muster in arms at Newcastle on St Mary Magdalene's day,³¹⁵ and then, God willing, happily make a start on the preparations for a campaign. The nobles also granted to the lord king the eighteenth penny from all England as a war subsidy.³¹⁶

When these things had been thus arranged, the lord king sent envoys to Scotland to claim the kingdom, offer peace, and allow safety in life and limb to Robert Bruce.³¹⁷ For it is fitting for a king to act thus, and to attack his enemies when peace is refused. This commandment, too, was laid upon the children of Israel, that when they were to besiege a city, they should first offer peace, and if this was not accepted, they might justly move on quickly to the battle.³¹⁸ Thus the Greeks after the abduction of Helen are said to have offered peace to the Trojans. Thus that mighty Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians, before he attacked other nations, sought peaceful tribute.³¹⁹ Robert Bruce replied that he did not much care for the king of England's peace; the kingdom of Scotland was his and belonged to him both by hereditary right and by right of battle. He said that he was justified by these titles, and protested that he neither ought to nor would acknowledge any superior or earthly lord.

³¹⁵ 22 July. The parliament of York in Oct. 1318 had agreed to a muster for 10 June 1319 (Cole, *Docs. Illus.*, p. 4), but at this parliament writs dated 22 May postponed the muster until 22 July (*CCR 1318–23*, p. 141).

³¹⁶ This is the second of Edward's parliamentary taxes to be mentioned by this writer (see above, pp. 76–7). Again he ignores the commons' role and the tax on towns: the countryside was to give one-eighteenth and the towns one-twelfth; the tax raised £36,396. 1s. 1d. (*Lay Taxes*, pp. 34–5; Willard, *Parliamentary Taxes*, p. 344).

³¹⁷ It is unclear when these envoys were sent to Scotland. As early as 8 Mar. 1319 the king requested permission from the pope to treat with the excommunicated Scots (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 381).

³¹⁸ Cf. Deut. 20: 10–12. The same sentiment is expressed above, pp. 58–9.

³¹⁹ The examples chosen are of extremes of bitter hostility, to emphasize the contrast of offering peace. The Trojan war was marked by its savagery, and Nebuchadnezzar was the epitome of the merciless attacker, a punishment from God. There is little biblical evidence to show that he ever offered quarter; see 4 Kgs. 24: 1, 8–19, 25: 1–22; 2 Chr. 36: 6–13, 17–20; Jer. 38: 17–27, 40: 1–8.

1319 Termino prefixo conuenerunt rex, apud Nouum Castrum, comites et barones.³²⁰ Aderat Thomas comes Lancastrie, comes de Penbrok, comes de Arundel et comes de Herford, comes de Warena et frater domini regis comes Marescallie. Affuit eciam Hugo Despenser, Rogerus Dammori et Hugo Daudeleye, et hii tres "uice comitis" Gloucestrie; hii tres enim tres sorores duxerant que, familie^b iudicio, comitatum^c Gloucestrie inter se diuiserant.³²¹ Aderant eciam reliqui barones Anglie, qui, domino regi certum patrociniū tenentur conferre; et multa milia peditum similiter confluerant; et omnes uoluntarie, eo quod dominus rex concesserat unicuique usque^d ad summam centum librarum sine restitutione, quantum posset in bonis hostium occupare. Item concessit dominus rex nautis omnibus, ut scilicet a parte maris hostes uiriliter impeterent, ut^e de spoliis hostium quantum possent^f sua dominia amplificarent.^f Hec utique concessio in depredacionem Scotorum uoluntarios multos armauit, quia restitucio, que post concordiam frequenter fiebat, timenda non fuit.³²²

Profectus inde dominus rex in Scociam apud Berewyk cum toto exercitu primo peruenit, et hanc primam expungnacionem de consilio fore decreuit, eo quod ultro^g recesserat ab imperio suo, et ne se ipsos exponerent periculo dum hostes inuictos dimitterent a tergo.³²³ Diffusus est igitur exercitus uille^h in circuitu a parte terrestri et ceperunt contra eam municiones et expungnaculaⁱ properari. A parte uero maris naute qui^j presunt quinque portubus ita obseruabant introitus et exitus^k ut nulli omnino pateret egressus.

Dum hec aguntur in Scocia, nec uideretur esse timendum ab hostibus in Anglia, Iacobus Douglas cum suis complicibus, qui semper machinacionibus fuit intentus, nisi Deus et Dominus omnium nobis precauisset, magnam iacturam et dampnum inestimabile^l nobis intulisset. Nam iuxta consilium Achitofel decem milia uirorum sibi elegerat,^m³²⁴ et reginam Anglie, que iuxta Eboracum morabatur, rapuisse decreuerat. Certe si capta fuisset tunc regina,

^{a-a} uices comites *MS*; uicecomites *He, St*; uice comitis *Den-Y* ^b familie *MS*; familie *He, St, Den-Y* ^c comitum *MS*; comitatum *He, St, Den-Y* ^d sic *R*; om. *St, Den-Y* ^e et *R*; for ut *ed.* ^{f-f} suo dominio amplicarent *MS*; sua dominia amplicarent *He, St*; suo dominio amplicarent *Den-Y* ^g ulcio *R*; ultro *St, Den-Y* ^h uillam *MS*; circa uillam *He*; uille *MW* ⁱ sic *R*; or propugnacula *He* (*leaving in doubt which was in West's MS, ed.*); propugnacula *Den-Y* ^j que *MS*; qui *He, St, Den-Y* ^k exercitus *MS*; exitus *He, St, Den-Y* ^l inestimabilem *MS*; inestimabile *He, St, Den-Y* ^m eligerat *MS*; elegerat *St*

³²⁰ Edward was in or near Newcastle on 2 Aug.—21 Sept.; by 29 Sept. he was back at Durham (*Itin.*, pp. 185–8).

At the date arranged the king, earls, and barons assembled at Newcastle.³²⁰ There were present Thomas, earl of Lancaster, the earl of Pembroke, the earl of Arundel, and the earl of Hereford, Earl Warenne, and the lord king's brother, the earl marshal. Present, too, were Hugh Despenser, Roger Amory, and Hugh Audley, and these three in place of the earl of Gloucester; for these three had married three sisters who by a family arrangement had divided the earldom of Gloucester between themselves.³²¹ The other English barons, who are bound to render a fixed service to the lord king, were there too; and many thousands of infantry likewise had assembled; and all these came voluntarily, because the lord king had granted to each man as much of the enemies' goods as he could seize up to the value of a hundred pounds without restitution. Also the lord king granted to all the sailors, so that they should eagerly attack the enemy by sea, that they might increase their own possessions with as much booty from the enemy as they could take. This right to plunder the Scots certainly roused many volunteers to arms, because they need not fear the restitution which was frequently made after a truce.³²²

Then the lord king set out for Scotland and came first to Berwick with his whole army, and decided on advice that this should be the first place to be besieged, both because it had withdrawn from his authority, and so that they should not expose themselves to danger by leaving an unconquered enemy in their rear.³²³ The army was therefore disposed about the town on the landward side, and they began to prepare fortifications and siege-works against it. By sea the sailors in charge of the Cinque Ports' fleet kept so close a watch on the entrances and exits, that no one at all could come out.

While this was happening in Scotland, and it seemed as if there was nothing to fear from enemies in England, James Douglas and his supporters, always ready for intrigue, would have inflicted great loss and immeasurable damage upon us, had not God, the Lord of all, provided for us. For according to the advice of Ahitophel he had chosen ten thousand men,³²⁴ and had resolved to carry off the queen of England, who was staying near York. Indeed if the queen had at

³²¹ For the marriages see above, n. 294. The final division of the Gloucester lands took place in Nov. 1317 (*CFR 1307–19*, p. 350).

³²² This was the only campaign in which Edward had the support of all the earls and barons. The army was not as large as the one at Bannockburn, but was of good size with about 400–500 horse and probably about 10,000 infantry (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 244–5).

³²³ The siege began on 7 Sept. 1319 (*CDS*, iii. no. 663).

³²⁴ Cf. 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 17: 1.

1319 credo quod pacem emisset sibi Scotia. Set dissipatum est consilium proditoris Achitofel, nec passus est tantum discrimen nobis inferri Deus Israel.³²⁵ Nam quadam die captus est quidam explorator apud Eboracum; et, cum uidisset se questionibus addictum, promisit se,^a si daretur ei penam euadere, totam machinationem Scotorum reuelare; et placuit pactum maioribus ciuitatis; erant enim ibidem archiepiscopus Eboracensis et regis cancellarius episcopus tunc Eliensis.³²⁶ Explorator ille indicauit quod inimicus noster Iacobus Douglas clam uenturus esset cum electa manu ad partes illas, ut uidelicet reginam adduceret et quos reperiret inprouisos simul occideret.^b 'Tali,' inquit, 'die et tali loco latitabunt,^c et, cum tempus acceperint ydoneum, propositum consummabunt.' Vix erat qui dictis adhiberet credentiam, eo quod dominus rex Anglie terras Scotorum uastare^d iam inciperet, et magis uidebatur necessarium talem exercitum proprios fines defendere quam extra propria loca per centum miliaria pungnam appetere. Addidit autem explorator ille quod^e nisi euentus rei dictis suis fidem afferret, capitalem penam libenter acciperet.³²⁷

Tunc exierunt de ciuitate illa archiepiscopus et cancellarius, cum communi sequela sua, uicecomes et burgenses et eorum familiares, monachi et canonici et ceteri regulares, necnon et omnes alii qui ad arma ferenda inuenti sunt habiles, reducerunt reginam ad ciuitatem; deinde per aquam reducta est apud Notyngham.³²⁸ Ibi fuit tutior locus regine, nec Iacobus timendus nec eius insidie.

Altera autem die qua iuxta uerbum exploratoris reperiendi erant Scoti in suis latibulis, exierunt iterum de ciuitate Eboracensi laici, clerici et religiosi. Ibant igitur clam et sine tumultu, ut hostes inprouisos inuaderent, ne et ipsi premuniti fugam forsitan arriperent. Verumptamen satis erant premuniti, nec tamen in fugam conuersi. Nam cum homines nostros inordinate uenientes aspicerent, 'Hii', inquit, 'non bellatores set uenatores; non multum proficient.' Incenderunt autem Scoti fenum multum quod erat in loco illo

^a sic R; om. St, Den-Y ^b occidirent MS; occiderent or occideret He; occiderent St, Den-Y
^c latitabant MS; latitabant He ^d uastaret MS; uastare He, St, Den-Y
^e qui MS; quod He, St, Den-Y

³²⁵ Cf. 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 17: 14.

³²⁶ William Melton, archbishop of York from 1316 to 1340, and John Hotham, bishop of Ely from 1316 to 1337 and chancellor from June 1318 to Jan. 1320 (*HBC*, pp. 86, 244, 282).

³²⁷ Two chronicles name Edmund Darel as the English knight who was suspected of conspiring with the Scots to betray the queen, and who was captured and taken to London (*Flores*, iii. 188-9; *Ann. Paul.*, p. 288). Although there seems to be little proof of Darel's

that time been captured, I believe that Scotland would have bought 1319 peace for herself. But the counsel of the traitor Ahitophel came to nought, and the God of Israel did not suffer so great a peril to fall upon us.³²⁵ For one day a certain spy was captured at York; and when he saw that he would be interrogated, he promised, if he should be allowed to escape punishment, to disclose the whole conspiracy of the Scots; this bargain pleased the greater men of the city; the archbishop of York and the king's chancellor, at that time the bishop of Ely, were there too.³²⁶ That spy explained that our enemy James Douglas was to come there secretly with his chosen band, to abduct the queen and also kill all those whom he should take unawares. 'They will hide,' he said, 'on such a day and in such a place, and when they see the appropriate moment, they will carry out their plan.' There was hardly anyone who believed this story, because the lord king of England was already beginning to lay waste the lands of the Scots, and it seemed more necessary for such an army to defend its own frontiers than to seek battle a hundred miles outside its own territory. However, the spy added that if what happened did not bear out his words, he would willingly submit to capital punishment.³²⁷

Then the archbishop and the chancellor went forth from the city, with their combined retinue, the sheriff and the burgesses and their followers, the monks and canons and other regulars, as well as all the others who were found able to handle a weapon, and they brought the queen back into the city; then she was taken by water to Notting-ham.³²⁸ That was a safer place for the queen where neither James nor his traps were to be feared.

The next day, on which, according to the spy, the Scots would be found in their hiding places, the laymen, clerks, and men of religion went out again from the city of York. They went stealthily and without noise to take the enemy by surprise, lest, if they were forewarned, they should perhaps take flight. Even so, they were well enough warned, but they did not flee. For when they saw our men advancing without military order, they said: 'These are not soldiers but huntsmen; they will not achieve much.' So the Scots set

complicity in this attack (Doherty, *Isabella*, pp. 63-4), he was troublesome. He had links with the opposition to Edward in 1312-13 and in 1322, and was a violent neighbour in Yorkshire in 1318 (Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 54-5; Fryde, *Tyranny*, p. 62; *CPR 1317-21*, pp. 181, 183).

³²⁸ The main sources for the battle do not record the queen's proximity (*Brid.*, pp. 57-8; *Brut*, pp. 211-12; *Lanercost*, p. 239), but it is reported in *Flores*, iii. 189 and *Ann. Paul.*, p. 287.

1319 congestum, et ascendit fumus late dispersus in celum. Fumus^a impediēbat uisum nostrorum, unde et quos credebant in fugam conuersos inuenerunt paratos ad bellum. Erant quippe uiri ex omni Scotia electi ad preliandum apti, ad omnem laborem apti. Nostri uero plures in re militari minus instructi, ad fugandum quam ad preliandum magis intenti. Inito igitur conflictu plures ex nostris perimuntur et multi super^b capiuntur; set et Scoti in Scociam cum suis captiuis indempnes reuertuntur, etc.³²⁹

Peruenit uerbum ad regem Anglie et ad exercitum nostrum qui morabatur in obsidione, et statim nescio quorum consilio derelicta est penitus obsidio.³³⁰ Rex enim nitebatur obuiare Scotis fugientibus per unam semitam, et comes Lancastrie per alteram. Scoti uero felici usi^c diplomate per alteram uiam reuersi sunt in regionem suam.³³¹ Set quare derelicta est obsidio tanto opere inchoata? Dicunt quidam quod Robertus de Brutz habuit amicos. Certe Dauid non euasisset manus Saul regis, si non habuisset in familiaribus amicos eius.³³² Inputatur comiti Lancastrie quod rex recessit de obsidione; inputatur eciam eidem quod Scoti uenerunt rapere reginam, et quod inimici regis illesi in patriam suam sunt reuersi. Argumenta quedam prodicionis publice proclamantur,^d unde comes et sui sequaces enormiter diffamantur.³³³ Vulgariter enim dicitur quod comes ille recepit a Roberto de Brutz quadraginta milia librarum, ut sibi et suis occulte ferret auxilium; et quod in obsidione, dum omnes expungnarent murum, nullus^e ex priuatis comitis fecit insultum, et uilla de Berewyk dedita fuisset si cautela comitis nusquam repungnasset; et Iacobus Douglas reuertens in Scociam per exercitum comitis transibat, comes autem inhermis per medium Scotorum ibat.

^a fug^{MS}; poss. for foc^{ed.}; fumus *He, St, Den-Y* ^b sic *MS*; insuper *He uisu MS*; usi *He, St, Den-Y* ^c proclamatur *MS*; proclamantur *He, St, Den-Y*
^e nullis *MS*; nullus *He, St, Den-Y*

³²⁹ The battle of Myton-on-Swale made a great public impact because of the number of English who were slaughtered and the number of religious who fought, from which it received the name the 'white battle' (*Brut*, p. 212) or the 'Chapter of Myton' (*The Bruce*, xvii. 587: pp. 646-7). The beginning of this passage, 'on the second day', and the conclusion, 'etc.', suggests the use of a newsletter, and it was probably through this means that details reached so many chroniclers. The battle probably took place on 12 Sept. 1319 (*Brid.*, p. 58), which would allow time for the news to reach Berwick by 17 Sept. when the siege ended. Other clerics who fought were the abbots of York and Selby, the dean of York, and William Airmynt, then chief clerk of the chancery (*Brid.*, p. 57-8; *Flores*, iii. 189). The *Brut* confirms the story of the Scottish smokescreen, and both it and the *Lanercost* chronicle describe the Scottish use of the wedge formation which devastated the untrained English forces (*Brut*, pp. 211-12; *Lanercost*, p. 239).

³³⁰ The siege was raised on 17 Sept. (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 247 n. 3). In a letter of 21

1319 fire to a large amount of hay that had been gathered there, and the smoke rose, spreading widely in the air. The smoke made it difficult for our men to see, so that those whom they thought had fled they found ready for battle. They were indeed men picked from the whole of Scotland, fit for fighting, fit for every task. Many of our men on the other hand were untrained in the art of war, and were readier to flee than to fight. Therefore, when battle was joined many of our men were killed and many more taken prisoner; but the Scots returned unharmed to Scotland with their captives, etc.³²⁹

Word of this came to the king of England and to our army remaining at the siege, and at once by someone's advice the siege was completely raised.³³⁰ Indeed, the king tried to cut off the retreating Scots by one road and the earl of Lancaster by the other. In truth, the Scots, in possession of a fortunate permit to pass, returned by the other road to their territory.³³¹ But why was a siege given up that had cost so much labour to begin? Some say that Robert Bruce had friends. Certainly David would not have escaped the hand of King Saul had he not had his friends amongst the household.³³² That the king raised the siege was blamed on the earl of Lancaster; he was also blamed for the Scots coming to seize the queen, and the king's enemies returning unscathed to their own country. Some evidence of treachery was openly spoken of, from which the reputation of the earl and his followers was seriously damaged.³³³ For it was commonly said that the earl received 40,000 pounds from Robert Bruce to help him and his men secretly, and that at the siege, while everyone was attacking the wall, none of the earl's retinue assaulted it, and that the town of Berwick would have surrendered if the earl's scheming had not hindered this, and that James Douglas on his way back to Scotland passed through the earl's lines, and that the earl went unarmed through the midst of the Scots.

Sept. to his sheriff in Glamorgan Hugh Despenser blamed Lancaster, although not overtly accusing him of collusion with the Scots (*CDS*, v. no. 654). Barbour also repeated the story of Lancaster's speed in leaving the siege (*The Bruce*, xvii. 853-85: pp. 658-61).

³³¹ Matt. 2: 12. This sentence seems to be a reference to Lancaster's deliberate help to the Scots. The author writes of two routes only, and that it was 'the other', i.e. the one guarded by Lancaster, that the Scots took; *usi diplomate* may therefore have its original meaning of 'permission to travel'. The Scots' safe return through Lancaster's lines is made explicit in the last sentence of this paragraph.

³³² Cf. 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 19: 1-2, 11-12.

³³³ In the following pages the author makes his longest lament on Lancaster's behaviour and despite Lancaster's purging himself of the accusation, the author clearly does not believe his innocence; see below, pp. 174-5. For the author's interest in treason, see above, pp. lii-lv.

1319 O comes Lancastrie, cuius sunt tante diuicie, cur pro tanta summa pecunie perdidisti famam et nomen constancie? Vtinam non fuisset illa pecunia pro qua fama tua periit et creuit infamia!^a Magna est iactura in fame periculo, in cuius dispendio nulla est estimacio, quia cum^b semel lesionem patitur uix uel nunquam recuperatur. Certe, si totum thesaurum tuum in munera disperges,^c famam tuam pristinam nunquam reuocares. O^d quante laudis^d habebas precones dum iugiter defenderes ordinaciones! Fauor populi in odium conuertitur, et fama tua in infamiam commutatur. Sic licet Ioab multa fortiter gessit, prodicio in Abner et Amasam omnem laudem eius denigravit.³³⁴

O generese comes, cur non ad mentem reuocas genus electum,³³⁵ regalem prosapiam tuam quam infamas? Cur non aduertis, comes egregie, quantum sit crimen scelus perfidie? Nam si facta reorum^e diuersimode^f puniuntur, proditores tamen iuste^g maxima pena plectuntur. Proprium enim proditorum est pessimum finem capere, et quis unquam talem transiuit impune? Filotas quondam pungnator strenuus sub magno Alexandro, miles egregius, quia delacionem proditoris triduo suppressit, ex decreto curie sententiam proditoris accepit.³³⁶ Eneas et ceteri Troiani, qui urbem suam inclitam prodiderunt, post mortem Priami exules defecti Troiam^h reliquerunt.³³⁷ Veniamus ad exempla domestica. Thomas Torboruile, qui regem Anglie prodidit in Francia, nouam penam suam pertulit postmodum in Anglia.³³⁸ Comes de Arselles, Symon Frysel, Willelmus Waleys, non quia Scoti fuerunt set quia proditores, sententiam proditorum acceperunt.³³⁹ Quid itaque

^a infamiam MS; infamia He, St, Den-Y ^b tunc MS; cum He, St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; poss. for dispergeres MW ^{d-d} quante laudes MS; quantos laudis He; quante laudis St, Den-Y ^e eorum MS; malorum He; reorum Den-Y ^f sic MS; for diuerso modo ML ^g iniuste MS; iuste He, St, Den-Y ^h Troiani MS; Troiam He, St, Den-Y

³³⁴ Cf. 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 3: 27, 20: 10.

³³⁵ 1 Pet. 2: 9.

³³⁶ Philotas was a successful but arrogant cavalry leader, and son of Parmenio, Alexander's leading military commander. He was informed of a plot against Alexander, but failed to pass the information on, saying in his defence that he did not take it seriously. It is not clear if Alexander believed in Philotas's complicity, or simply took the opportunity to remove a group of Macedonians who opposed further Persian adventures. For modern narratives and commentaries, see J. A. Hamilton, *Alexander the Great* (London, 1973), pp. 94–5; Green, *Alexander*, pp. 339–45; Hamilton, *Plutarch: Alexander*, pp. 132–7. The author may have used Walter of Châtillon's *Alexandris* as his source, where the story of Philotas appears in book viii, and the reference to three days at lines 80–91 (*PL* ccix. 542). For the medieval interest in Alexander and the author's use of Châtillon, see above, p. xxix. Concealing conspiracy was one of the formal acts of treason: Bracton declared *lesa maiestas* to be manifest if plots were not disclosed immediately (Bracton, *De Legibus*, ii. 335).

³³⁷ Aeneas could be viewed both as the noble founder of Rome and as one who fled from, and thus betrayed, Troy. The view of Aeneas as traitor reappeared at this time and is

Oh! earl of Lancaster, whose riches are so great, why for such a sum of money have you lost your reputation and your name for constancy? Would that that money had never been, for which your reputation died and dishonour was born! There is great damage when reputation is in danger, the cost of which is immeasurable, because once injured it can scarcely ever be regained. Indeed if you scattered all your riches in gifts, you would never recover your former reputation. Oh! What paeans of praise you had while you were constantly upholding the Ordinances! The goodwill of the people is turned to hatred, and your fame is changed to infamy. Thus although Joab performed many brave deeds, his treachery towards Abner and Amasab thoroughly tarnished all his renown.³³⁴

Oh! noble earl, why do you not recall to mind the 'chosen generation',³³⁵ your royal family which you disgrace! Why do you not take thought, distinguished earl, how great a charge is the crime of broken faith! For, although the deeds of guilty men are punished in a variety of ways, nevertheless traitors justly suffer the extreme penalty. For it is proper that traitors should undergo the worst fate, and who has ever committed such a deed with impunity? Long ago Philotas, a valiant warrior under Alexander the Great, a distinguished soldier, because he held back his denunciation of a traitor for three days, by decree of the court received a traitor's sentence.³³⁶ Aeneas and the other Trojans, who betrayed their famous city, on Priam's death left Troy as homeless exiles.³³⁷ Let us come to examples nearer home. Thomas Turberville, who betrayed the king of England in France, afterwards received his new sentence in England.³³⁸ The earl of Atholl, Simon Fraser, William Wallace, were sentenced as traitors, not because they were Scots, but because they were traitors.³³⁹ What then are you doing, earl of Lancaster? If

found also in Trevet's and Higden's writings (F. Ingledew, 'The Book of Troy and the genealogical construction of history: The case of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia regum Britanniae*', *Speculum*, lxi (1994), 665–704, at p. 700).

³³⁸ Turberville, a household knight, had been captured by the French and released on condition that he spied against Edward I for France. This he did, was discovered and executed in 1295 (J. G. Edwards, 'The treason of Thomas Turberville, 1295', in R. W. Hunt, W. A. Pantin, R. W. Southern (eds.), *Studies in Medieval History Presented to F. M. Powicke* (Oxford, 1948), pp. 296–309).

³³⁹ John Strathbogie, earl of Atholl, joined Bruce's rising of 1306, was captured in Sept. and executed 7 Nov. 1306 in London. Fraser supported Wallace, then Bruce, was captured in Aug. 1306 and executed in London. Wallace rebelled in 1297, was finally captured in Aug. 1305 and executed. All three were considered by Edward I as traitors for fighting against him as their overlord; Fraser's crime was greatest because he had been closest to Edward as one of his household knights (Prestwich, *Ed. I*, pp. 501, 503, 507–8; *CP*, i. 306).

1319 facies, comes Lancastrie? Si uiam nephariam proponas incedere, totus mundus insurget contra te, nec penam debitam poteris euadere. Igitur uel^a labia dolosa³⁴⁰ de falso conuincas, uel mala opera tua in meliora cito conuertas.

Inter cetera uicia duo sunt diuitibus ualde inconuenientia, cupiditas et fallacia cupiditatis socia. Vt quid enim cupit qui satis habundat, ut quid fallit qui alieno non eget? Reuera pauperes et tenues, (qui)^b que necessaria sunt non habent, huiusmodi uicio laborare solent. Nam et in iudiciis testimonium eorum solet reprobari, eo quod presumitur tales facilius posse corrumpi. Set nunc cupiditas assensiones suas ita disposuit, ut pre ceteris uiciis ueraciter dicere possit, 'Ego in sublimibus habito, et tronus meus in diuitum consorcio'.³⁴¹

Sic igitur concurrunt et stant pariter simul in unum diues et pauper, nisi quod de paupere frequenter fit iudicium, set contra iniuriam diuitis non est remedium. Heu multa mala inducit cupiditas, periurium, homicidium, et machinationes innumeras. Hec animam hominis uenalem facit et de periculo anime nichil curat, dum tamen id quod concupiscit acquirit.

Maledicta cupiditas, et eius commercium, per quam caritas abiit et fides in exilium. Ecce comites et ceteri magnates terre, qui de patrimonio suo satis possent decenter uiuere, iam totum tempus suum computant pro nichilo, nisi patrimonium augeant in duplo uel in triplo; unde uicinos pauperes ad uendicionem paternarum rerum studiose sollicitant, et quos sic inducere non possunt multipliciter infestant, donec angustiati pro modico forsitan offerant, quod pro magno prius uendidisse potuerant. Et, quia res concordat materie, factum 'quoddam libet' apponere.

Erat quidam miles uir simplex et multe innocencie sicut ex quodam eius actu consueto potest apparere. Nam cum seruos eius^d ex decreto balliui contingeret quandoque pro transgressione facta puniri, solebat miles ille apud balliuum pro seruis intercedere, et penam inflictam frequenter remittere. Dicebat se ex rapinis et spoliis nolle uiuere; magnum erat opus hoc misericordie. Reliquit post se filios bene ualentes quorum conuersacio placens erat apud Dominum et homines. Venit autem magnus quidam et potens filius diaboli, minister Sathane, et pueros expulit a paterna hereditate. Illi uero

^a ut MS; uel He, St, Den-Y ^b om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^c quod ubilibet MS; quoddam libet He, St, Den-Y ^d sic R; suos St, Den-Y

³⁴⁰ Ps. 11 (12): 3; see also Ps. 30 (31): 19.

³⁴¹ Cf. Ecclus. 24: 7.

you intend to take the path of wickedness, the whole world will rise 1319 against you, and you will not be able to escape the due punishment. Therefore you should either convict the deceitful lips³⁴⁰ of falsehood, or quickly turn your evil deeds into better actions.

Two vices amongst others are most unbecoming to the rich, avarice and deceit, the companion of avarice. For what sort of man covets when he has abundance enough, what sort of man cheats when he does not need another's goods? It is true that the poor and needy, who have not the necessaries of life, commonly indulge in this vice. And their testimony is commonly rejected in judicial decisions, because it is presumed that such people can be more easily corrupted. But now avarice has so organized its rise that, beyond other vices, it can truly say: 'I dwell in high places, and my throne is set in the company of the rich'.³⁴¹

Thus rich and poor come together and stand equally side by side, save only that judgment is frequently obtained against the poor, but there is no remedy against the evildoing of the rich. Alas! avarice leads to many evils—perjury, homicide, and innumerable conspiracies. It corrupts man's soul and he cares nothing for the danger to his soul, so long as he gets what he covets.

Cursed be avarice, and its dealings, through which charity has departed and faith is exiled. See how the earls and other great men of the land, who could live fittingly enough on their inheritance, now regard all their time as wasted, unless they double or treble their patrimony; wherefore they assiduously pester their poorer neighbours to sell what they have inherited, and those whom they cannot persuade they plague in many ways, until, in distress, they may perhaps offer for a song what they could earlier have sold for a good price. And since it is relevant to my theme, I am disposed to add an example.

There was a certain knight, a simple man of great innocence, as can appear from a certain habit of his. For when it happened that by order of his bailiff his servants were at some time or other punished for a misdeed, the knight used to intervene with the bailiff on behalf of his servants, and often remitted the penalty imposed. He used to say that he did not wish to live on plunder and robbery; this was a work of great mercy. He left behind him strong sons whose way of life was pleasing to God and man. But there came a certain great and powerful son of the devil, a minister of Satan, and expelled the children from their paternal inheritance. They, in truth not daring

1319 non audentes querelam instituere, coacti sunt pro iure suo modicum accipere.

Set cum prouidencia Dei regatur mundus, ut credimus, cur subcumbit innocens et floret impius, cur non est sumpta uindicta de nocentibus? Sane hec uetus querela magnos et sanctos^a afflixit, set et regis David animum quandoque concussit. Cum enim rex ille propheta pressuras iustorum cerneret, et iniquos ad omnes uite huius illecebras licencius euagari conspiceret, querebat si utique esset fructus iustorum, et esset Deus iudicans iniquos in terra. 'Mei,' inquit, 'pene moti sunt pedes, pene effusi sunt gressus mei, quia zelauit super iniquos, pacem peccatorum uidens. In labore hominum non sunt, et cum hominibus non flagellantur. Ideo tenuit eos superbia; ecce ipsi peccatores habundantes in seculo optinuerunt diuicias. Et dixi, ergo sine causa iustificauit cor meum et laui inter innocentes manus meas, et fui flagellatus tota die.'³⁴² Tandem ad occulta Dei iudicia descendens nodum^b questionis enucleat dicens; 'uerumtamen propter dolos posuisti eis, deiecisti eos dum alleuantur. Quomodo facti sunt in desolationem, subito defecerunt, perierunt propter iniquitatem suam.'³⁴³ Manifeste igitur insinuat, qualiter diuicie fallaces et proditorie amatores suos decipiunt, et quos dolose erigunt cum dolore prosternunt. Beatus igitur Iob in dolore et afflictione positus eandem querelam mouet, et postea diuine dispensacionis iusticiam assignat: 'Quare impii uiuunt, subleuati sunt et confortati diuiciis? Semen eorum permanet coram eis, domus eorum secure sunt et parate,^c et non est uirga Dei super eos';³⁴⁴ et cetera prosequitur in hunc modum. Nunc diuine dispensacionis iudicium: 'Ducunt in bonis dies suos, et in puncto ad inferna descendunt.'³⁴⁵ Ecce quomodo exaltati sunt sicut cedrus Libani, et deiecit eos consilium Altissimi.³⁴⁶ Diuicie date sunt eis in laqueum, delicie et uoluptates in capturam. Super hac re similiter disputat Ieremias; 'Quare,' inquit, 'uia impiorum prosperatur, bene est omnibus qui male agunt et preuaricantur? Plantasti eos, radices miserunt, proficiunt et faciunt fructum.'³⁴⁷ Et tandem suam mittit sententiam: 'Congregabuntur,' inquit, 'in die occisionis quasi greges ad uicti-

^a querelam inserted after sanctos in MS; om. He, St, Den-Y ^b nondum MS; nodum He, St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; pacate He, St, Den-Y; pacate conforms with Vulgate reading, ed.

³⁴² Ps. 72 (73): 2-3, 5-6, 12-14.

³⁴⁴ Job 21: 7-9.

³⁴⁶ Cf. Isa. 2: 12-13.

³⁴³ Ps. 72 (73): 18-19.

³⁴⁵ Job 21: 13.

³⁴⁷ Jer. 12: 1-2.

to lodge a complaint, were forced to accept a pittance for what was theirs by law. 1319

But since the world is ruled by the providence of God, as we believe, why is the innocent overcome and why does the wicked flourish, why is not vengeance taken on evildoers? Truly, this old complaint has tormented great men and saints, and even at times troubled the mind of King David. For when that prophet-king perceived the oppression of the righteous, and observed the wicked turning aside without restraint in pursuit of all the attractions of this life, he asked if this was the reward of the just, and if God judged the wicked upon earth. 'My feet', he said, 'were almost moved, my steps had well nigh slipped; because I was jealous of the wicked, seeing the prosperity of sinners. They are not in trouble as other men, neither are they scourged like other men. Therefore pride hath held them fast; behold these are sinners, and yet prospering in the world, they have obtained riches. And I said, Then have I in vain justified my heart, and washed my hands among the innocent, and I have been scourged all the day.'³⁴² Coming at last to the secret judgements of God, he sets out the nub of the question, saying: 'But indeed for deceits thou hast put it to them, when they were lifted up, thou hast cast them down. How are they brought to desolation, they have suddenly ceased to be, they have perished by reason of their iniquity.'³⁴³ Therefore he clearly implies how false and treacherous riches deceive those who pursue them, and those whom they raise up by deceit they cast down in sorrow. The blessed Job, placed in grief and affliction, raises the same complaint, and later admits the justice of divine dispensation: 'Why then do the wicked live, are they advanced and strengthened with riches? Their seed continueth before them, their houses are secure and provisioned, and the rod of God is not upon them';³⁴⁴ and thus he elaborates his theme. Now this is the judgement of the divine dispensation: 'They spend their days in wealth and in a moment they go down to hell.'³⁴⁵ Behold how they were raised like the cedar of Lebanon, and the counsel of the Most High has cast them down.³⁴⁶ Their riches are given to them for a snare, delights and pleasure for their capture. On this matter Jeremiah argues in like manner: 'Why', he says, 'doth the way of the wicked prosper, why is it well with all them that transgress, and do wickedly? Thou hast planted them, and they have taken root; they prosper and bring forth fruit.'³⁴⁷ And at length he gives his opinion: 'They shall be gathered together on the day of slaughter like sheep for

1319 mam.³⁴⁸ Quidam eciam poeta, dum de prosperitate impiorum^a conqueritur simile iudicium prosequitur. Ait enim, 'Tolluntur in altum, ut lapsu grauiore ruant.'³⁴⁹ Ecce Dauid et Iob, Ieremias et poeta, eandem^b instituunt querelam, quorum similia sunt iudicia et in unum consona dicta. Certe 'quia non profertur cito contra malos sententia, absque ullo timore filii hominum impetrant^c mala'.³⁵⁰ Nunc autem due semite nobis exponuntur, una uite, altera interitus, et utriusque noticiam habemus. Qui ergo salutis sue tam prodigus extiterit ut relicta semita uite uiam interitus maluerit incedere, sibi imputare debet qui potuit eligere.

Audiens autem comes Lancastrie sic nomen suum diffamatum in populo, et quod publica uox et fama testimonium perhiberet de malo, accessit ad regem et dixit, 'Scitis, domine, quod fueram cum omni retencione mea uobiscum in Scotia, et quod non modicos sumptus ibidem fecerim pro uilla de Berewyk recuperanda.'³⁵¹ Set nunc imputatur per totum regnum quod res non successit nobis ad uotum. Ego autem ora hominum obturare non possum, uerumptamen ad arbitrium boni uiri, et, si necesse fuerit, ^gin ferro candenti^d offerro me purgaturum, uel, si appareat^e accusator et uelit se inscribere, offerro me legitime innocenciam meam ostendere.' Et uidebatur oblacio comitis iusta, eo quod sola fama laborabat, nec erat transgressio manifesta. Admissa est igitur purgacio comitis cum quadam^f manu parium. Sic spina in lilium, rubigo in ferrum, et scoria redit^g in aurum, et cetera.

Post hec exegit nouus rex Francie a rege Anglie homagium pro terra Vasconie; et, quia huiusmodi seruicium non nisi personaliter prestari potuit,³⁵² rex de consilio suo treugas biennales cum Scotis iniit,³⁵³ et sic in breui transfretare disposuit. Displicuerunt treuge quibuscumque^h proceribus, eo quod status domini regis uideretur in

^a imperiorum MS; impiorum He, St, Den-Y ^b eadem MS; eandem He, St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; perpetrant He, St, Den-Y; perpetrant conforms with Vulgate reading, ed. ^{d-d} in ferro candenti MS; in ferro candenti He, St, Den-Y ^e apperiat MS; appareat He, St, Den-Y ^f qua MS; quadam He, St, Den-Y; qua poss. for quarta or quinta St; meaning 'with four or five oath helpers', Den-Y ^g reddit MS; redit He, St, Den-Y ^h sic R; quibuscumque St

³⁴⁸ Cf. Jer. 12: 3.

³⁴⁹ Claudian, *In Ruf.* i. 22.

³⁵⁰ Eccles. 8: 11.

³⁵¹ There are indeed no records of payment to Lancaster for his service at Berwick. Greater magnates had sometimes served at their own expense under Edward I and continued to do so under Edward II (M. Prestwich, 'Cavalry service in early fourteenth-century England', in J. Gillingham and J. C. Holt (eds.), *War and Government in the Middle Ages: Essays in Honour of J. O. Prestwich* (Woodbridge, 1984), pp. 147-58, at pp. 152-3).

the sacrifice.³⁴⁸ Also a certain poet, complaining of the prosperity of the wicked, passes a similar judgement. For he says, 'They are raised up on high that they may fall headlong into more grievous ruin'.³⁴⁹ See how David and Job, Jeremiah and the poet make the same complaint, their judgements are alike and their words are in harmony. Indeed 'because sentence is not speedily pronounced against the evil, the children of men commit evils without any fear'.³⁵⁰ And now two paths are open to us, the one of life, the other of destruction, and we are informed of each. He therefore who remains so careless of his safety that abandoning the path of life he prefers rather to follow the way of destruction, must blame himself, for he has had his choice.

The earl of Lancaster hearing that his name was thus maligned amongst the people, and that public opinion and rumour bore witness as to his wrongdoing, approached the king and said, 'You know, my lord, that I was with you in Scotland with my whole retinue, and that there I was put to no little expense in recovering the town of Berwick.'³⁵¹ But now I am blamed by the whole kingdom that we did not get the success we wanted. I cannot stop men talking, but I offer to clear myself by the arbitration of a good man, and, if it should be necessary, by the white-hot iron, or even if an accuser shall appear and wish to put himself on record, I offer to show my innocence by legal process.' And the earl's offer seemed a fair one, because only rumour had been brought against him; the offence was not proved by evidence. The earl was therefore allowed to purge himself with the help of his peers. Thus the thorn turns into a lily, rust into iron, and dross into gold, etc.

After this the new king of France demanded homage from the king of England for the land of Gascony; and because this kind of service could only be performed in person,³⁵² the king on advice entered upon a two years' truce with the Scots,³⁵³ and so arranged to cross the channel in the near future. The truce annoyed certain nobles because

Lancaster possibly refused payment in order to maintain his independence in the face of the court (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 245-6).

³⁵² Philip V had succeeded his brother Louis X on 5 June 1316. Homage by proxy had been permitted in the past, but Philip now insisted on personal homage, although Edward was not pushed to give a personal oath of fealty (Chaplais, 'Duché-Pairie', pp. 150-4).

³⁵³ Safe conducts were issued for twelve Scottish negotiators on 24 Oct., powers were granted to English negotiators 1 Dec., and a two-year truce was arranged to run from 21 Dec. 1319. Further negotiations for a peace treaty or an extension of the truce took place a year later in Jan.-Apr. 1321 (with French and papal representatives present), but they soon foundered and the truce was not extended (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 404, 410, 416, 441, 450; Stones, *Anglo-Scottish Relations*, pp. 292-307; Barrow, *Bruce*, pp. 240-2).

1319 hoc ualde minoratus. Sane probabiliter sentirent si onus quod regi incumbit caute declinarent. Set nec lex nec ratio turpiter fieri presumit quod necessitas ineuitabilis introducit. Legitur quod in "obsidione Troiana" omnes fere mundi principes conuenerant, isti quidem exterioribus, illi uero ad auxilium prestandum obsessis. Set nec hii nec isti erubescabant inducias petere cum oporteret morticina comburere. Porro non iniiit rex treugas tantum quia transfretaturus erat, set ut eo pacto ab infestacione suorum gens Scotorum desisteret, quos tempore hiemali precipue uastare consueuerat. Solebat enim rex annis preteritis per totam hiemem munire Marchiam custodibus, set magis nocebat populo oppressio ^bcustodum quam ^bpersecucio inimicorum. Scoti namque pro modico tributo Northamhimbriorum incolis ad tempus parcebant, set hii qui ad tutelam prepositi uidebantur cotidiane exaccioni^c iugiter uacabant.³⁵⁴ Preterea non potuit rex simul transfretare et exercitum ad bellum conducere: erat enim transfretaturus^d post Pascha, quando solent reges preparare conductum ad bella.³⁵⁵

1320 Vocauit igitur dominus rex barones suos apud Eboracum ut de statu regni disponerent ante recessum suum.³⁵⁶ Comes autem Lancastrie, sicut pluries, uocatus non uenit. Non enim decebat habere parlamentum in cameris, ut dixit.³⁵⁷ Habebat namque regem et collaterales suos sibi suspectos, et ipsos non iam clam set manifeste protestabatur inimicos suos. Set nonne iam dudum erat omnis controuersia et discordia sedata? Reuera sic uidebatur pluribus fuisse res gesta. Verum suspecta est pax inter magnates, ad quam, non amore set ui sublimes ueniunt potestates. Dominus rex apud Berewyke cum firmata fuisset obsidio, et uidebatur res expedienda pro nichilo, huiusmodi uerba protulisse fertur: 'Cum iniquus^e transierit iste tumultus, ad alia negocia manus conuertemus. Nondum enim nobis excedit ^fa memoria^f fratri meo Petro illata ^{a-a} obsidionem Troianam MS; obsidione Troiana He ^{b-b} custodium quamque MS; custodium quam He, St, Den-Y ^c exaccione MS; exaccioni He, St, Den-Y ^d transfretaturus MS; transfretaturus He, St, Den-Y ^e iniqua MS; iniquus He, St, Den-Y ^{f-f} ad memoriam R; a memoria St, Den-Y

³⁵⁴ The office of warden of the Marches first appeared as a permanent post in 1309 as a result of the Edwardian wars (R. R. Reid, 'The office of warden of the Marches; its origin and early history', *EHR*, xxii (1917), 479-96, at p. 479). For examples of exactions by English officials, including the constable of Bamburgh Castle, see Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 161, and J. Scammell, 'Robert I and the North of England', *EHR*, lxxiii (1958), 385-403, at p. 389; see also A. King, 'Jack le Irish and the abduction of Lady Clifford, November 1315: the Heiress and the Irishman', *Northern History*, xxxviii: 2 (2001), 187-95.

the lord king's estate seemed to be much diminished by it. Their judgement would have been quite right if they could have avoided with safety the obligation that lies upon the king. But neither law nor reason judges it to be disgraceful to do what unavoidable necessity brings about. We read that at the siege of Troy almost all the princes of the world had assembled, some to help the besiegers, others the besieged. But neither the latter nor the former were ashamed to ask for a truce when it was necessary to burn their dead. Further, the king did not make the truce so much because he was about to go overseas, but so that, when it was made, the Scottish people would stop attacking his people, whom they used to plunder especially in wintertime. For in past years the king had been in the habit of strengthening the March with wardens throughout the winter, but the oppression of the wardens harmed the people more than the persecution of their enemies. For the Scots used to spare the inhabitants of Northumbria for a time in return for a moderate tribute, but these who were supposed to be set over them for their protection were free all the time to make exactions every day.³⁵⁴ Moreover the king could not cross the channel and at the same time muster an army for war: for he was to go overseas after Easter when kings customarily make preparations for war.³⁵⁵

The lord king therefore summoned his barons to York to make arrangements about the state of the realm before his departure.³⁵⁶ The earl of Lancaster, however, as frequently happened, when summoned, did not come. He stated that it was improper to hold parliament in secret.³⁵⁷ For he regarded the king and his supporters as suspect, and he declared, no longer privately but publicly, that they were his enemies. But had not all controversy and discord been settled a while ago? Indeed many thought that this had been done. But in truth peace between great men is to be regarded with suspicion when eminent and powerful men have arrived at it not through love but by force. When siege had been laid to Berwick and it seemed that the matter was being pursued to no purpose, the lord king is said to have uttered some such words as these: 'When this wretched business is over, we will turn our hands to other matters. For I have not yet

³⁵⁵ Cf. 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 11: 1.

³⁵⁶ Parliament (without commons) was summoned to York for 20 Jan. 1320 (*HBC*, p. 555).

³⁵⁷ Although York could hardly be called 'secret', this may echo cap. 29 of the Ordinances, which says that parliament must be summoned to a convenient place (*SR*, i. 165b, trans. in 'The New Ordinances, 1311', *EHD*, iii. 536).

1320 quondam iniuria.⁷ Et hoc quidem uerbum comitem non latuit; unde nimirum de re apud Berewyk segnius intromisit, uel, si dicere fas sit, ipsam expeditionem forsitan impediuit. Sic^a Achilles iratus commilitonibus Grecorum fertur nocuisse, et ab armis suis diu propter uotum abstinuisse.³⁵⁸ Non uitupero^b comitem si sibi precaueat, nec tamen laudo si fidem infringat.³⁵⁹

Igitur quinto sextouae die ante natiuitatem sancti Iohannis baptiste transfretauit dominus rex in Franciam,³⁶⁰ quem Deus pro sua pietate salvo custodiat et salvo reducat in Angliam. Precesserant autem regem frater eius Edmundus, Bartholomeus Badesmere, et quidam alii pro quibusdam negociis domini regis ad curiam Romanam profecturi.³⁶¹ Eo tempore uacabat in Anglia sedes episcopalis Lyncolniensis, set canonici ante recessum regis optenta licencia unanimiter consenciebant de electione pastoris, qui quidem, magister Antonius de Bek nominatus, sicut^c generosus et morigeratus et magister erat theologus^d ecclesie Lyncolniensis satis ydoneus, illius egregii Antonii de Bek quondam Dunelmensis episcopi et patriarche Ierosolimitane^e consanguineus.³⁶² Habebat dictus Bartholomeus nepotem qui pro etate industris erat; nondum enim quinque et uiginti annos attigerat. Procurante itaque Bartholomeo inductus est rex Anglie supplicare domino pape pro iuuenem, ut ad dictam sedem episcopalem dignaretur eum assumere. Rogabat et rex Francie, et Edmundus frater regis^f Anglie, et laudabant iuuenem omnes, personam ipsius apud dominum papam, multipliciter recommendantes. Sic igitur dominus papa, tot et tantorum precibus sollicitatus priorem electionem cassauit, et iuuenem illum ecclesie Lyncolniensi prefecit.^g

Mirabile quidem factum, quia contra legem et rationem^h actum, nec uisum nec prius auditum ut tam iuuenis proficeretur in

^a si MS; sic He, St, Den-Y ^b uituperio MS; uitupero He, St, Den-Y ^c sic R; fuit St, Den-Y ^d sic MS; theologie He, St, Den-Y; the copyist uses the same form above (p. 78) ed. ^e sic MS; Ierosolimitani He, St, Den-Y ^f eius R; regis St, Den-Y ^g prefacit R; prefecit St, Den-Y ^h armacionem MS; He considered arramicionem but preferred rationem; rationem St, Den-Y

³⁵⁸ Achilles quarrelled with Agamemnon and refused to fight the Trojans. While he sulked the Greeks sustained heavy losses including that of his greatest friend Patroclus. See above, pp. xxix, 28-9. For the quarrel and its outcome see Homer, *Iliad*, esp. bks i, xvi.

³⁵⁹ The author's view of Lancaster's guilt seems to have hardened since the previous entry, where rumour has more emphasis (above, pp. 167-71); the author still, however, admits mitigating circumstances.

³⁶⁰ The date given, that is 18 or 19 June, is accurate. Edward was absent from England between 19 June and 22 July 1320, and the ceremony took place on 30 June (*HBC*, p. 39; Chaplais, 'Duché-Pairie', p. 153).

1320 forgotten the wrong that was once done to my brother Piers.⁷ And this remark did not escape the earl; for this reason without doubt he took a less active part at Berwick, or, if the truth be told, perhaps he hindered that expedition. In the same way Achilles in anger is said to have brought injury upon the Greek co-fighters, and to have abstained for a long time from the use of arms for a vow.³⁵⁸ I do not blame the earl if he is looking after his own interests, nor, however, do I praise him if he breaks faith.³⁵⁹

On the fifth or sixth day before the nativity of St John the Baptist³⁶⁰ the lord king accordingly crossed to France, and may God in His mercy keep him in safety and bring him safely back to England. His brother Edmund, Bartholomew Badlesmere, and some others who were going on the lord king's business to the court of Rome had preceded the king.³⁶¹ At that time the episcopal see of Lincoln was vacant in England, but before the king's departure the canons had obtained their licence and unanimously agreed on the election of a pastor, named Master Anthony Bek, who, as a worthy and well-born man and a master of theology, the kinsman of the famous Anthony Bek, formerly bishop of Durham and patriarch of Jerusalem, was well fitted for the church of Lincoln.³⁶² Now the said Bartholomew had a nephew who was hard-working for his age; he had not yet reached the age of 25. So at Bartholomew's instigation the king of England was persuaded on the young man's behalf to humbly entreat the lord pope to see fit to promote him to the said episcopal see. Both the king of France and Edmund, the king of England's brother, requested it, and everyone praised the youth, repeatedly recommending his person to the lord pope. So therefore the lord pope, urged on by so many prayers of so many great men, quashed the former election and appointed the young man to the church of Lincoln.

This was an extraordinary action, because it was an illegal and unreasonable act, never before seen or heard of, that so young a man

³⁶¹ The embassy to Avignon left England on 19 Mar. It was headed by Edmund, earl of Kent, and included the elder Despenser and Badlesmere (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 418). Its members joined the king in France at Amiens in late June or early July (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 255 n.).

³⁶² John Dalderby, bishop of Lincoln, died on 12 Jan. 1320; Bek was elected on 3 Feb. (*HBC*, p. 255). The elder Bek, bishop of Durham 1283-1311, had been a royal clerk and, although not as outspoken as Winchelsey, he had given support to Winchelsey and to the earls of Norwich and Hereford in 1297. He was known to contemporaries as a mediator between Edward I and the earls, and in a long eulogy the Bridlington chronicler goes so far as to say that, if he had lived, the dissension between Edward II and his earls would have had a happier outcome (*Brid.*, p. 38).

1320 episcopum: contra legem, cum nemo citra triginta annos de iure cathedram pastorem possit ascendere, contra rationem quia nemo iuuenes eligit duces, eo quod non constat eos esse prudentes.³⁶³ Nam et Salomon incertissimum reputat inter omnia incerta uiam adolescentis in iuuentute sua.³⁶⁴ Siquidem admiranda seculo et ridiculosa^a presumpcio, dum iuuenis pastoralis locatur in solio. Iuuenem contingit ad regnum sublimari, set bene non congruit iuuenes episcopari, quia sanguis et natura attenditur in principe, set uirtus et sciencia requiritur in episcopo.^b In gregibus et armentis aper, aries et taurus, corpore et animositate prestancior, ceterorum erit minator et ductor, set inter racionales hic ordo non seruatur. Hodie enim quanto quis minus sapit, tanto audacius melioribus 'anteuenisse'^c presumit. Qui nichil didicit aliorum doctor efficitur, et quasi aes sonans aut cymbalum^d³⁶⁵ usurpat predicacionis officium, cum sit cuneus inutilis et ydolum mutum. Nam episcopus illiteratus prece est mutus. Apud ueteres erat condicio sapientum inestimabiliter uenerabilis. Hodie uero prudentia tanquam uilis et abiecta calcatur; et quadam abhominabili mutacione stulticia in sublimi preponitur. Hoc est quod Ecclesiastes deplorando conqueritur. 'Vidi,' inquit, 'malum quod est sub sole, stultum in sublimi dignitate positum, et sapientes sedere deorsum.'³⁶⁶ Sacre scripture 'prorsus expertes'^e onus importabile 'dignitatis usurpant,'^f de aliena potius quam de sua sciencia presumentes.^g Erubescat doleatque prelati presso populo nec prodesse, docentis officium assumpsisse et in doctrina populi mutum esse. Talem siquidem non prefert honestas set cupiditas, non moralitas set uenalitas, non sciencia set pecunia, non meritum set precium, non electio set ambitio, et, cum ad regimen plebis et ducatum populi proficiatur, timendum est ne relicta terra promissionis, in seruitutem incidat et in Egiptum reuertatur. Dignitatis equidem appetitus natione celestis est, in celo conceptus, a celo deiectus, quando affectabat Lucifer ille a parte aquilonis cathedram erigere, collocari in excelso et fieri similis Altissimo.³⁶⁷ Timendum est

^a ridiculosa MS; ridiculosa He, St, Den-Y ^b principe R; episcopo St, Den-Y
^c ante eum esse MS; anteuendum or antefendum esse He; antecedere (antecedendum) St; anteuensse Den-Y ^d simbalum MS; cimbalum He, St, Den-Y ^e prorsus ex parte MS; prorsus ex parte He, St; prorsus expertes Den-Y ^f dignitate usurpauit R; dignitate usurpant St (who notes the whole sentence as corrupted); dignitatis usurpant Den-Y
^g sic MS; presumens He

³⁶³ Henry Burghersh was provided to the see on 27 May 1320 and held it until his death in 1340. Most chroniclers disapproved of the appointment, but he was university educated

should be made a bishop. It was illegal, since no one under 30 years of age can rightfully occupy the pastoral chair, it was unreasonable because no one chooses young men as leaders, for the reason that their wisdom is an unknown quantity.³⁶³ Solomon, too, held that the most uncertain of all uncertainties was 'the way of a man in youth'.³⁶⁴ Indeed it astonishes the world and is a laughable presumption for a young man to be set upon the pastoral throne. It may happen that a young man is raised to royal authority, but it is not at all fitting for young men to be made bishops, because blood and birth are looked for in a prince, but virtue and knowledge are required in a bishop. In flocks and herds the boar, the ram, and the bull, outstanding in physique and courage, will dominate and lead the others, but amongst rational beings this rule is not kept. For today the less a man knows, the more boldly he dares to push in front of his betters. He who has learnt nothing is made the teacher of others, and as sounding brass or cymbal³⁶⁵ usurps the office of preacher, although he is a useless block and a dumb idol. For an illiterate bishop is a dumb herald. With the ancients the position of wise men was one of immeasurable veneration. But today sound judgement is trampled underfoot as vile and despicable; and by some disgusting change foolishness is raised on high. This is what the Preacher bitterly laments: 'I have seen', he said, 'an evil which is under the sun, a fool set in high dignity, and the wise sitting beneath.'³⁶⁶ Men completely ignorant of Holy Scripture usurp the burden of an office they cannot uphold, drawing on other people's knowledge rather than their own. May a prelate blush and grieve to find himself in command of the people without being of use, to have taken upon himself the duty of teaching, and to be dumb in instructing the people. It is indeed not honour but greed which promotes such a man, not morality but venality, not knowledge but money, not merit but a bribe, not free choice but soliciting votes, and when he is set up to direct the masses and lead the people, it is to be feared that, having left the promised land, he will fall into slavery and return to Egypt. Indeed the lust for authority is of heavenly birth, conceived in heaven, but from heaven cast down, when the famous Lucifer attempted to raise aloft his throne from the northern parts, to be set on high and to be regarded like the All Highest.³⁶⁷ Therefore

and in at least his twenty-ninth year and therefore near canonical age (HBC, p. 255; BRUO, iii. 2157-8; Smith, *Appointments*, pp. 35-6).³⁶⁴ Prov. 30: 18-19.

³⁶⁵ 1 Cor. 13: 1.

³⁶⁶ Eccles. 10: 5-6; wherein *diuites* for the author's *sapientes*.

³⁶⁷ Cf. Isa. 14: 13-14.

1320 itaque miseris prelati ne, dum cathedram erigunt ad aquilonem, id est dum indignè cathedram ascendunt pastorem, cum Lucifero precipitentur in gehennam.

Qua fronte, queso, preesse presumit qui prodesse non nouit? Nonne uideretur insanus qui omnino nauigationis ignarus in discrimine^a tempestatis peritissimos nautas contempneret, ipse autem in suam et aliorum perniciem propter temeritatem magisterium nauis usurparet? Set nullus hodie ab onere pontificali se excusat; nullus inuitus trahitur aut reclamans.^b Vbi hodie similis Amonio reperitur, qui cum ab omni populo ad pontificatus apicem peteretur, 'Oculos meos,' inquit, 'effodiam, linguam^c per quam uobis me placeo nisi me dimittatis abscedam.'³⁶⁸ Certe cum ad erudicionem populi mitteret Dominus Ieremiam, quem^d sanctificauerat ex utero, suam imperfectionem propheta formidans, 'A! A! A!' inquit, 'Domine, ecce loqui nescio.'³⁶⁹ Moyses eciam, dum a Domino ad liberacionem^e populi in Egiptum destinatur, inpedicionem lingue pretendens alium mittendum humiliter inprecatur.³⁷⁰ Iccirco propter insufficienciam et cupiditatem pontificum translata est hodie archa Dei de Israel in Azotum, id est, a sanctitate in ignem concupiscentie, et de Azoto^f transfertur in templum Dagon,³⁷¹ id est, desolacionis et tristicie. Nam in Matheo scriptum est, cum uideritis abhominacionem desolacionis sedentem in templo, tunc ue pregnantibus et nutrientibus,³⁷² ac si diceret, cum uideritis^g ambiciosum, illiteratum^h et fatuum in ecclesia Dei preminere, ue illis qui talibus prelati coguntur subiacere. Illi uero qui spem salutis conceperant, exemploⁱ talium suffocantur, qui^j uero uite celestis alimenta^k petebant nullo^k uerbi Domini pabulo sustentantur. 'Paruuli,' inquit propheta, 'petierunt panem et non erat qui frangeret eis.'³⁷³

Post reuersionem domini regis orta est magna discordia inter quosdam maiores baronum et Hugonem Despenser filium, domini regis camerarium.³⁷⁴ Hugo namque, qui primogenitam heredum

^a discrimen MS; discrimine He, St, Den-Y ^b reclamas MS; reclamans He, St, Den-Y
^c liguam MS; linguam He, St, Den-Y ^d q' MS; qui He; quem St, Den-Y
^e obliberacionem MS; liberacionem He, St, Den-Y ^f Azota MS; Azoto He, St, Den-Y
^g ambicom, illaratum MS; ambitiosum, illiteratum He, St, Den-Y ^h exemplum MS; exemplo He, St, Den-Y
ⁱ quo MS; qui He, St, Den-Y ^j alimentam MS; alimenta He, St, Den-Y
^k nulle MS; nullo He, St, Den-Y

³⁶⁸ Palladius, *Historia Lausiaca*, xii (PL lxxiii. 1104).

³⁷⁰ Cf. Exod. 4: 10, 13.

³⁷² Matt. 24: 15, 19 (wherein *stantem in loco sancto* for the author's *sedentem in templo*).

³⁷³ Lam. 4: 4.

³⁷⁴ The king returned from France on 22 July 1320 (*HBC*, p. 39). Despenser's

these wretched prelates should be alarmed lest, when they raise their throne in the North, that is when they unworthily ascend the pastoral throne, they be cast down with Lucifer into the pit. 1320

With what effrontery, I ask, does he presume to command, who does not know how to be of use? Does it not seem altogether mad that he who is wholly ignorant of navigation should scorn the most expert sailors at the height of the storm, while out of rashness he seizes command of the ship to the destruction of himself and others? But no one today excuses himself from the burden of the pontificate; no one is dragged forth unwillingly, or protesting. Where today is one found like Amonius, who, when he was begged by all the people to become their bishop, said 'I will pluck out my eyes and cut off the tongue through which I please you, unless you suffer me to depart?'³⁶⁸ Indeed when the Lord sent Jeremiah, whom He had sanctified from birth, to instruct the people, the prophet, fearing his inadequacy, cried 'Ah! Ah! Ah! Lord, behold I cannot speak.'³⁶⁹ Moses, too, when he was sent by the Lord into Egypt to deliver his people, protesting his imperfection of speech, humbly begged that another might be sent.³⁷⁰ Therefore through the incompetence and greed of the bishops the ark of God is today removed from Israel to Azotus, that is from holiness to the fire of lust, and from Azotus it is taken to the temple of Dagon,³⁷¹ that is of desolation and grief. For in Matthew it is written, 'When you shall see the abomination of desolation sitting in the temple, then woe to them that are with child, and that give suck',³⁷² as if he were to say: when you shall see the ambitious, the illiterate, and the fool pre-eminent in the church of God, woe to those who are placed under such prelates. Indeed those who had taken hope of safety are choked by the example of such men, those who sought the food of celestial life are not sustained by the nourishment of the Lord's word. 'The little ones', says the prophet, 'have asked for bread, and there was none to break it unto them.'³⁷³

After the lord king's return a great quarrel arose between some of the greater barons and Hugh Despenser the son, the lord king's chamberlain.³⁷⁴ For Hugh, who had married the eldest of the

appointment as chamberlain took place sometime between 19 Apr. 1318, when John Charlton was still chamberlain, and 20 Oct. 1318, when Despenser's appointment was confirmed in the York parliament (Tout, *Ed. II*, p. 315; Cole, *Docs. Illus.*, p. 4). The French prose Brut's suggestion that opponents tried to oust Despenser from the office of chamberlain at Northampton, if correct, would indicate he was in office by July 1318 (*Anon.*, pp. 39-40, 93).

1320 Gloucester duxerat uxorem, et cui fere totum Glamorgan cesserat in partem, omni studio et tota mente terras uicinas^a dominio suo nitebatur amplificare;^b et primo castrum de Neuport, quod Hugo de Augeleghe^c in partem accepit, fraudulenter^d intrauit et tenuit;³⁷⁵ et castra quedam, ex regia munificencia Rogero de Mortemer dudum collata, uehementer affectauit, et dominum regem ad repeticionem dictorum castrorum consequenter induxit.³⁷⁶

Preterea terram de Gower, ex quibusdam causis in legibus Marchie preiudicium exquisitis, fisco applicari censebat, pro eo quod Iohannes Moubray in ipsam, cum de rege teneretur in capite, sine licencia regis ingressum fecerat; set et dominus rex, qui uotis Hugonis pro posse fauebat, processum quendam in predictum Iohannem, et legi Marchie preiudiciale, fieri discernebat.^{e 377} Obstabat Iohannes, obstabat^f et comes Herfordie, commune preiudicium aduertentes, domino regi ne nouam legem, quam^g consuetudines^h ab antiquo usitatas et approbatas, induceret humiliter supplicantes. Instabat Hugo Despenser pertinaciter dicens dominum regem tam in Wallia quam in Anglia hac semper prerogatiua gaudere, ut nullus sine licencia regis ingressumⁱ haberet in feodum quod de rege teneretur in capite; et si contrarium a quocunque foret attemptatum feodum sic occupatum redigeretur in fiscum. Allegabant alii legem marchie et consuetudines quas non licebat infringere.³⁷⁸ Spreuit Hugo et consuetudines et legem Marchie, set et barones talia allegantes lese maiestatis uidebatur arguere.

Tanta contumelia barones affecti indignanter recesserunt, et conuenientes in Wallia Hugonem Despenser prosequendum, deponendum et penitus destruendum, unanimiter decreuerunt. Huic autem decreto principaliter consencientes et iuramento astricti fuerunt

^a uicinas MS; uicinas He, St, Den-Y ^b amplificare MS; amplificare He, St
^c Augeleghe R; Angeleghe He; Audeleghe St, Den-Y ^d fraudulenter MS; fraudulenter
 He, St, Den-Y ^e sic MS; poss. decernebat He ^f obstabat MS in both places; for
 obstabat St, Den-Y; instabat He ^g sic R; contra St, Den-Y ^h consuetudinis MS;
 consuetudines He, St, Den-Y ⁱ in before ingressum MS; om. He, St, Den-Y

³⁷⁵ By Dec. 1318, and clearly under pressure, the Audleys granted Newport to Despenser. They confirmed the grant in 1320 (CPR 1317-21, pp. 257, 415, 456).

³⁷⁶ This is probably a reference to the castles of Blaenllyfni and Dinas in the lordship of Blaenllyfni, both of which Roger Mortimer of Chirk held as keeper from 1310 and which were granted to him in 1316. Despenser did not acquire them until after Mortimer's rebellion. He became keeper of Blaenllyfni in 1322, and was granted both castles in 1324 (CFR 1307-1319, p. 58; *ibid.*, 1319-27, pp. 143, 179; CChR 1300-1326, pp. 306, 469). I am indebted to Barbara Wright for detailed discussion of Mortimer's association with the castles. For Mortimer, see above, n. 226.

1320 Gloucester heiresses, and to whose share almost all Glamorgan had fallen, now devoted all his energy and thoughts to extending his lordship over the neighbouring lands; and first he deceitfully seized and held Newport castle, which had fallen to Hugh Audley's share;³⁷⁵ and he passionately coveted certain castles bestowed on Roger Mortimer a little while ago of the king's gift, and so persuaded the lord king to reclaim the said castles.³⁷⁶

Further, he proposed that the land of Gower, for certain reasons carefully chosen to be prejudicial to the laws of the March, should be put under the royal treasury, because John Mowbray had entered it without the king's licence, although it was held from the king in chief; and the lord king, who furthered Hugh's designs as far as he could, decided that an action should lie against the said John, prejudicial to Marcher law.³⁷⁷ John opposed this, the earl of Hereford also opposed it, pointing out the general disadvantage, humbly begging the lord king not to introduce a new law, rather than [keep] customs used and approved from time out of mind. Hugh Despenser stubbornly insisted, saying that the lord king had always enjoyed this prerogative in Wales as in England, that no one without the king's licence should have entry upon any fee held of the king in chief; and if, on the other hand, this should be attempted by anyone, the fee so seized should be assigned to the royal treasury. Others cited the law and customs of the March which could not be infringed.³⁷⁸ Hugh took no notice of the customs and law of the March, and appeared to accuse the barons who cited such things of treason.

Deeply upset by such an affront the barons departed full of indignation, and, meeting in Wales, they unanimously decided that Hugh Despenser must be pursued, laid low, and utterly destroyed.

³⁷⁷ John Mowbray of Axholme (Lincs.) was knighted alongside Mortimer and Prince Edward 1306, and served regularly in the Scottish wars. He was William Braose's son-in-law and expected to obtain Gower through right of his wife and a contract made with Braose (CP, ix. 377-9; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 260 n. 7). In need of money, Braose also made bargains with Hereford, Mortimer of Wigmore, and Despenser. Mowbray entered Gower without the king's licence to forestall other claimants including Despenser, and the king confiscated the lordship on 26 Oct. 1320 (CCR 1318-23, p. 268; J. Conway Davies, 'The Despenser war in Glamorgan', *TRHS*, 3rd ser., ix (1915), pp. 34-41). The king's men met resistance to the confiscation of Gower in Nov. 1320, and finally took possession 14 Dec. (CFR 1319-27, pp. 40-2; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 260).

³⁷⁸ Over a long period, as defenders of English borders against the Welsh princes, Marcher lords had acquired considerable independent jurisdictions, where the writ of the king did not run. When Edward I conquered Wales, English administration and law were applied to the conquered lands, but not to the entrenched Marcher jurisdictions. For the peculiar status of the Marcher lordships see Davies, *Wales 1063-1415*, pp. 391-2, 404-5.

1320 subscripti: Iohannes de Mounbray, comes de Herford, Hugo Dau-
deleye, et Rogerus de Clifford, Rogerus Dammory, et inter alios
1321 Rogerus de Mortymer auunculus et nepos. Isti uenerunt cum multis
aliis; et manus comitis Lancastrie erat cum illis.³⁷⁹ Quilibet^a istorum
Hugonem^b diffiderat,^c quia contra singulos Hugo deliquerat: Iohannes
de Moubray pro terra de Gower, quem supplantare nititur Hugo
Despenser; Hugo^d Daudeleye pro castro detento; comes de Herford
pro leso filio;³⁸⁰ Rogerus de Clifford pro exheredacione matris, quam
Hugo procurauerat in preiudicium ipsius;³⁸¹ Rogerus Dammori,
coheres comitis Gloucestrie, inuidum suum non potest diligere.
Rogerus de Mortimer et Rogerus de Mortimer inimici facti sunt
Hugoni Despenser quia unum spoliare disposuit et in utrumque
mortem aui sui uindicare promisit.³⁸² Comes Lancastrie notam
infamie, quam apud Berewyk pertulit, imputat Hugoni,³⁸³ quam
uult uindicari cum tempus acceperit.

Igitur antequam rem in actum proferrent, mandarunt domino regi
quatinus Hugonem Despenser a se dimitteret, aut electe custodie
ipsum committeret, ut^e certo die iudicio sisti posset, quo ad sibi
obicienda responderet; alioquin regem pro rege deinceps non haber-
ent, set homagium et fidelitatem et iusiurandum quodlibet regi
prestitum penitus declinarent, et tanquam homines sine rege, sine
rectore et sine iudice, pro defectu iusticie in ulcionem Hugonis
propria auctoritate procederent, et uindictam qualem possent de
malefactis tantorum malefactorum expeterent.³⁸⁴

^a He read quibus and suggested omnibus; quilibet *St, Den-Y* ^b Hugo *R*; Hugonem
St, Den-Y ^c diffidat *MS*; diffiderat *Den-Y* ^d Hugonem *MS*; Hugo *He, St, Den-Y*
^e et *MS*; ut *He, St, Den-Y*

³⁷⁹ This meeting probably took place in Feb. 1321. On 30 Jan. 1321 the king had forbidden the Despensers' opponents to assemble together, but a letter of 27 Feb. reported that the Marchers and Lancaster had met. It appears to be the only source for such a meeting at this time (*CCR 1318-23*, p. 355; *Foed.*, ii. i. 442; Davies, 'Despenser war', p. 47, citing *TNA Anc. Corr.* 35/8). Lancaster took no part in the subsequent violence, although most chronicles record his support for the Despensers' opponents (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 267).

³⁸⁰ Hereford's son was to have the reversion of Gower (see above, n. 377).

³⁸¹ Roger Clifford, born 1300 and one of the youngest contrarians, was the son of Robert Clifford who died at Bannockburn (see above, n. 167). His mother was heiress to the lands of her nephew Thomas Clare, son of Richard Clare of Connaught. Thomas was dead by spring 1321, but this seems rather late to have caused trouble over inheritance in 1320, unless there were previous problems over wardship (*CP*, iii. 247, 291; Davies 'Despenser war', p. 43 n.).

³⁸² For the Mortimers, see above, n. 226. This is a reference to Despenser's attempt to rob Wigmore of Gower, but the author has also mentioned Despenser's designs on Chirk's

The leaders of those agreeing with this decision and bound by oath 1320
were as written below: John Mowbray, the earl of Hereford, Hugh
Audley, and Roger Clifford, Roger Amory, and amongst others Roger
Mortimer, the uncle and the nephew. These came with many others;
and they had the support of the earl of Lancaster.³⁷⁹ Each of these had 1321
renounced allegiance to Hugh, because Hugh had wronged each of
them: John Mowbray for the land of Gower, in which Hugh
Despenser is trying to overthrow him; Hugh Audley for the castle
withheld; the earl of Hereford for the wrong done to his son;³⁸⁰ Roger
Clifford for the disinheritance of his mother, which Hugh had
brought about to his damage;³⁸¹ Roger Amory, co-heir of the earl
of Gloucester, could not love his jealous rival. The two Roger
Mortimers were hostile to Hugh Despenser because he proposed to
rob the one, and promised to avenge the death of his grandfather
upon each of them.³⁸² The earl of Lancaster blames Hugh for the
mark of dishonour which he suffered at Berwick,³⁸³ which he wishes
to avenge when the opportunity arises.

Thereupon, before they put plans into action, they told the lord
king to dismiss Hugh Despenser from his presence, or to commit him
to a picked guard, in order that he could be put on trial on a certain
day, when he might answer the charges against him; otherwise they
would no longer have the king for king, but would utterly renounce
their homage and fealty and whatever oath they had sworn to the
king, and as men without a king, without a ruler, and without a judge,
they would proceed to take vengeance upon Hugh on their own
authority for lack of justice, and they would take what revenge they
could from the perpetrators of such enormities.³⁸⁴

castles; see above, n. 376. The reference to revenge is because the Mortimers and Despensers had fought on opposite sides at the battle of Evesham in 1265, and Wigmore's grandfather (Chirk's father) had been instrumental in blocking the bridge which trapped Montfort's army and ultimately led to Despenser's grandfather's death in battle. Mortimer seems to have been particularly brutal there (Prestwich, *Ed. I*, p. 51; J. R. Maddicott, *Simon de Montfort* (Cambridge, 1996), pp. 340-2).

³⁸³ The *Vita* devotes more space than other chronicles to discussing Lancaster's blame for the failure to retake Berwick (see above pp. 166-71, 174-5). Despenser certainly helped to circulate the rumours in a letter to John Inge, his sheriff in Glamorgan (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 249).

³⁸⁴ The first part of this passage reflects closely the letter sent by Hereford to excuse himself from meeting the king at Gloucester in Apr. The passage threatening renunciation of fealty does not, however, appear in that letter (*CCR 1318-23*, pp. 367-8; *PW*, ii. i. 231-2; Davies, 'Despenser war', pp. 50-2). For threats against Edward see above, pp. 18-21, 60-3, and below pp. 192-3.

1321 Indignatus^a rex uehementer super mandato baronum, uersus Gloucestriam iter arripuit,³⁸⁵ et ultra progressus Rogero Dammory, qui partem aduersam sustinuit, castrum de Sancto Briauello cum libertate et pertinenciis statim abstulit,³⁸⁶ et terras Hugonis Daudeleye confiscari iussit, quia, ut rex asserit,^b contra iuramentum quod regi prestiterant baronibus adhesit.³⁸⁷ Deinde cum propositum baronum sine forma predicta suspendere non posset, cum suo Hugone semper a latere Londonias reuertitur.

Set propositum baronum ulterius non differtur, nam castrum de Newport primitus obsidentes leuiter capiunt,³⁸⁸ et Hugonem Daudeleye, prout ius dictabat, in possessionem mittunt. Cetera castella, que Hugo Despenser tenebat in Wallia, modico labore barones occupant. Nec custodes defendere nec Walenses, dominacionem Hugonis execrantes, tuicionem inferre procurant; erat enim cum baronibus fortitudo copiosa armatorum octingenti et peditum multa milia; nec Hugo Despenser uenerat defendere nec custodes indefensi poterant resistere. Quicquam^c autem preciosam in castris reperiunt, econtra lege^d iuris belli inter ipsos diuidunt.³⁸⁹ Oues, boues et equos non dimittunt, set quid quis tolleret sine lite statuunt. Dignum namque iudicant ut publicentur (bona)^e eius, per quem regnum et optimates regni grauiter perturbantur.

Conuenerunt autem incole illius terre ad barones quasi triginta milia hominum, dicentes: 'Cesset indignacio uestra circa nos; dominacionem Hugonis Despenser nunquam gratam habuimus; parati sumus unanimiter obedire mandatis uestris.' Admissi sunt sub tali pacto, ut ab homagio Hugonis Despenser penitus discederent, ut eum pro domino nunquam agnoscerent, set domino regi per omnia fideles existerent, et uero heredi pro loco et tempore debita seruicia illesa seruarent; et hec omnia tactis sacrosanctis euangeliis^f et oretenus appositis specialiter confirmarunt.

Post rem sic consummatam in Wallia, idem iudicium decreuerunt barones exercendum in Anglia. Nam omnia bona Hugonis tam patris

^a indignatur MS; indignatus He, St, Den-Y ^b sic MS; poss. asseruit He ^c sic MS; quicquid He, St, Den-Y ^d sic MS; poss. legem or leges He ^e om. MS; supplied Den-Y ^f euuangeliiis R; euangeliis St, Den-Y

³⁸⁵ The king was at Gloucester by 26 Mar. 1321 (*Itin.*, p. 208). The rebels were summoned to appear before him there on 5 Apr. (*CCR 1318-1323*, p. 364).

³⁸⁶ The king was at St Briauels 2-6 Apr. 1321 (*Itin.*, p. 209).

³⁸⁷ The king ordered the confiscation of Audley's lands on 9 Apr. (*CFR 1319-27*, pp. 51-2; *PW*, ii. 2. App. 158).

1321 Highly displeased at the baronial demand the king set out towards Gloucester,³⁸⁵ and going beyond it immediately took the castle of St Briavel's, with its liberty and appurtenances, from Roger Amory who supported the other side,³⁸⁶ and ordered Hugh Audley's estates to be confiscated, because, as the king asserted, he supported the barons contrary to the oath which they had sworn to the king.³⁸⁷ Then, since he could not put a stop to the baronial plan unless he agreed to their terms, he returned to London with his own Hugh always at his side.

But the baronial plan was put off no longer, for, first besieging Newport Castle, they easily took it,³⁸⁸ and put Hugh Audley in possession, as right dictated. The barons seized the other castles which Hugh Despenser held in Wales without much difficulty. The keepers did not defend them, nor did the Welsh, hating Hugh's lordship, give them any protection; for with the barons there was an ample contingent of eight hundred men-at-arms and many thousand foot soldiers; and Hugh Despenser had not come to defend the castles, nor had the keepers been able to offer resistance without help. Whatever they found of value in the castles they divided between themselves, contrary to the law of war.³⁸⁹ They did not forgo sheep, oxen, and horses, but agreed without dispute what each might take. For they judged it right to confiscate the goods of the one through whom the kingdom and its great men were severely troubled.

However, the inhabitants of that region, some 30,000 men, came to the barons saying: 'give up your displeasure towards us; we have never liked Hugh Despenser's lordship; we are all prepared to obey your orders'. They were accepted on these terms, that they would wholly renounce their homage to Hugh Despenser, that they would never acknowledge him as lord, but would remain faithful to the lord king in all things, and would maintain unimpaired the due services for the true heir at the proper time and place; and having touched and kissed the Holy Gospels, they solemnly confirmed all these things.

When this business had been settled in Wales, the barons resolved that the same judgment was to be carried out in England. They

³⁸⁸ The Marchers turned from threats to violence at the beginning of May, and attacked Newport on 6 May (*CCR 1318-23*, p. 541). The Tintern version of the *Flores*, however, records the attack as on 4 May and Newport's fall as on 8 May (*Flores*, iii. 344).

³⁸⁹ By the commonly accepted laws of war towns which surrendered without fighting should not be pillaged; only those which resisted and were taken unconditionally were open to the full rigours of plunder (Keen, *Laws of War*, pp. 119-23).

1321 quam filii ubicumque reperta occuparunt, disperserunt, et publicarunt. Voluntas enim comitis Lancastrie fuit ut non solum insurgerent in filium, set ut patrem cum filio mitterent in exterminium, quia antiquum odium erga patrem conceptum tempus uindictae non uiderat acceptum. Et sic interim coniurati sunt barones Marchie cum comite Lancastrie in exilium Hugonis Despenser tam patris quam filii, in persecucionem eorum, in dampnationem, in perpetuam exheredacionem.³⁹⁰ Igitur, sicut dixi, occupantur bona eorum, maneria spoliantur, franguntur claustra ferarum, et, forsitan quia Hugo pater olim a multis pro feris regis iniustam extorsit redempcionem,³⁹¹ nunc in feris propriis, quas multum dilexit, patitur ulcionem. Sic Pharaon submergitur quia infantes submersit;³⁹² et sic frequenter^a iuste contingit ut quis puniatur in quo deliquit.

Cum audisset rex tantam feritatem baronum, conuocatis consiliariis suis proposuit^b concilium.³⁹³ Erant quidam qui iustum reputabant esse iudicium inuadere et occupare castra baronum, ut exemplum quod ipsi prestiterant retorqueretur in caput eorum. Et huic quidem consilio dominus rex libenter acquieuisset si consentaneos^c sufficientes habuisset. Alii uero sanioris consilii dissuadebant sic fieri. Dicebant enim ex huiusmodi processu nichil aliud euenire quam communem guerram suscitare, terram destruere, et ad perdicionem regni properare. Consulebant autem ut rex barones ad parlamentum conuocaret, et ibidem sicut decet querelas singulorum audiret, et eas secundum leges terminaret. Vocauit igitur barones ad parlamentum, ut interim cessaret impetus eorum.³⁹⁴ Venerunt itaque ad parlamentum, set cum maxima multitudine armatorum.³⁹⁵

Videns autem rex propositum baronum, animaduertens petitiones

^a sic frequenter et sic frequenter *MS*
^c consentaneos *MS*; consentaneos *He, St, Den-Y*

^b posuit *R*; proposuit *St, Den-Y*

³⁹⁰ Although this conspiracy is placed in the text before the council meeting in May, it must allude to the meeting at Sherburn on 28 June 1321. The author explicitly places it after the Welsh seizures in May, so it cannot refer to the meeting between the Marchers and Lancaster in Feb. (see above, n. 379), but Marchers were not present at Lancaster's meeting with northern barons at Pontefract on 24 May (*Brid.*, pp. 61–2). Hereford and other unnamed southern barons were, however, at the meeting Lancaster called at Sherburn on 28 June, at which the indictment against the Despensers was first drawn up (*Brid.*, pp. 62–5). Maddicott has convincingly shown that there was only one meeting at Sherburn that summer (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 270–9).

³⁹¹ Except for two short periods in 1307–8 and 1311–12, the elder Despenser had been justiciar of the forest south of Trent for nearly eighteen years between 1297 and 1315. He would be appointed again, for life, in June 1324 (Tout, *Ed. II*, pp. 320–1). For this author's further comment see below, pp. 238–9.
³⁹² Cf. Exod. 1: 22, 14: 28.

seized, divided up, and confiscated all the goods of Hugh (the father as well as the son) wherever they were found. For it was the wish of the earl of Lancaster that they should not only rise against the son, but destroy the father along with the son, because he had seen no opportunity for satisfying his old hatred against the father. And so for a time the barons of the March made a sworn conspiracy with the earl of Lancaster to banish, prosecute, condemn, and perpetually disinherite the Despensers, father and son.³⁹⁰ Thus, as I have said, their goods are seized, their manors plundered, their game preserves broken open, and, perhaps because Hugh the father once squeezed unjust fines from many for offences against the royal beasts of the chase,³⁹¹ he now suffers vengeance against his own beasts, in which he has taken much pleasure. Thus Pharaoh is drowned because he drowned the children;³⁹² and thus it often justly happens that the punishment fits the crime.

When the king heard that the barons were behaving so savagely, he called together his advisers and held a council.³⁹³ Some thought it would be right to attack and seize the baronial castles, so that the precedent which they had established should recoil upon their heads. This advice the lord king would willingly have followed, if it had had sufficient support. Others, however, of wiser counsel argued against doing this. For they said that nothing would emerge from such a course except that it would stir up a general war, destroy the country, and hasten the ruin of the kingdom. They advised the king to summon the barons to parliament, and there, as was fitting, hear the complaints of each, and settle them according to the law. He therefore called the barons to parliament, so that their attacks might cease for a time.³⁹⁴ So they came to parliament, but with a very great crowd of men-at-arms.³⁹⁵

When the king saw the barons' intention, and heard their petitions,

³⁹³ The council was called at London for 13 May 1321, then postponed to 17 May (*PW*, ii. 2. 159).

³⁹⁴ Parliament (with commons) was summoned on 15 May 1321 to meet on 15 July at Westminster. It was dismissed on 22 Aug. (*HBC*, p. 555).

³⁹⁵ Detailed descriptions of this parliament are also to be found in *Ann. Paul.*, pp. 294–7 and *Hist. Roff.*, pp. 166–7. The *Annales Paulini* add the queen as mediator, and the *Historia Roffensis* records Badlesmere's plot to saddle the Despensers with the declaration on homage which had been used against Gaveston in 1308. Both the *Historia Roffensis* and the *Brut* (p. 213) show the cohesion of the rebel forces in their use of a common green and yellow livery. For a discussion of the charges against the Despensers and their evolution, see Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 280–6, and M. Prestwich, 'The charges against the Despensers, 1321', *BIHR*, lviii (1985), 95–100.

1321 eorum, et quod ad hoc tendebant omnimodo, ut exterminarent priuatum^a suum, nitebatur differre negocium. Nolebant dilacionem ferre magnates. Noluit rex audire barones, et ita per aliquot dies suspendebat rex petitiones eorum, donec unanimiter omnes unum conformauerunt decretum, mandantes domino regi quatinus querelas eorum audiret et petitionibus eorum secundum iusticiam satisfaceret, aut ab homagio suo penitus discederent et alium rectorem sibi preficerent qui iusticiam omnibus faceret et collum nocentium et superbiorum humiliaret;³⁹⁶ et hoc quidem mandatum comes de Penbrok et alii magnates qui uidebantur mediatores regi differrebant,^b qui tamen cum baronibus de^c querelis eorum defendendis usque ad mortem iuramentum prestiterant.

Tunc comes Adomarus coram rege huiusmodi uerba fertur protulisse. 'Considera,' inquit, 'domine rex, potenciam baronum; imminens^d aduerte periculum; nec frater nec soror te tibi debet esse carior. Noli ergo pro aliquo uiuente perdere regnum tuum. Alpibus ille perit qui plus se diligit ullum. Nec dicat dominus rex in contumeliam suam hec a baronibus incohata;^e set, quia publice utile est ut malis hominibus euacuetur patria, et ad hoc, domine rex, prestitisti iuramentum in coronacione tua, ergo si barones audieris, potenter et gloriose regnare poteris; sin autem, et a petitionibus eorum (et)^f a nostris^g auertis,^h regnum forsitan et nos omnes consequenter amittes.ⁱ Coniurati enim sumus, quia paribus nostris contradicere non possumus.'

Videns ergo rex quod uehementer irruerunt in eum, annuebat licet inuitus petitionibus eorum. Tunc missus est ex parte regis archiepiscopus Cantuariensis, qui barones ad Westmonasterium conuocaret, ubi coram rege conuenirent, et quod ratio dictaret sine dilacione reportarent. Nec mora, congregatis omnibus apud Westmonasterium, perlecte sunt coram rege querele eorum baronum et protinus adiecte petitiones eorum, et quia nemo contradicere posset sequebatur conforme iudicium. Summam autem querele paucis uerbis libet exprimere.

Arguebatur Hugo nimium cupidus et per hoc regi minus ydoneus; arguebatur malus consiliarius; arguebatur conspirator et falsus; arguebatur destructor^j populi, exheredator corone, inimicus regis et

^a sic MS; poss. primatum He ^b sic MS; defferrebant He; deferebant St, Den-Y ^c et MS; pro or de He; de Den-Y ^d imminens MS; imminens He, St, Den-Y ^e sic MS; inchoata St; ^f om. MS; supplied He ^g sic R; aures St, Den-Y ^h aduertis MS; auertis He, St, Den-Y ⁱ amittis MS; amittes He, St, Den-Y ^j distructor R; destructor St

and that they were utterly determined upon the expulsion of his favourite, he strove to delay the matter. The magnates would not tolerate this delay. The king would not listen to the barons, and so for some days the king held up their petitions, until at length they all unanimously drew up a single resolution, requesting the lord king to hear their complaints and satisfy their petitions according to justice, or they would utterly renounce their homage and set up another ruler to do justice to all and make the guilty and the arrogant bow their necks;³⁹⁶ the earl of Pembroke and other great men brought this message to the king, appearing to be mediators, although they had taken an oath with the barons to defend their grievances to the death.

At this time Earl Aymer is said to have uttered these words in the presence of the king: 'Consider, lord king', he said, 'the power of the barons; pay heed to the looming danger; neither brother nor sister should be dearer to you than yourself. Do not therefore for any living soul lose your kingdom. He perishes on the rocks who loves another more than himself. Let not the lord king say, to his own dishonour, that this business was begun by the barons; but, since it is for the good of the people that the country be rid of wicked men, and to this [public good], lord king, you swore an oath at your coronation, if therefore you will listen to the barons you will be able to reign in power and glory; but if not, and you turn away from their petitions [and] from ours, you may perhaps because of that lose the kingdom and all of us. For we are sworn allies, and we cannot oppose our peers.'

So the king, seeing how violently they attacked him, unwillingly granted their requests. Then the archbishop of Canterbury was sent on the king's behalf to summon the barons to Westminster, where they should meet in the king's presence, and they would immediately obtain what reason demanded. Nor was there any delay; when they had all gathered at Westminster the barons' complaints were read out before the king and their petitions added forthwith, and, as no one could contradict them, an appropriate judgment followed. The sum of their complaints can be expressed in a few words.

Hugh was accused of being too greedy and thus unsuitable to be with the king; he was accused of being an evil counsellor; he was accused of being a conspirator and a liar; he was accused of being a

³⁹⁶ This the most extreme threat to Edward recorded by the author, but even so it is not yet a threat to choose another king, but a 'rector', perhaps a governor or keeper of the realm. For similar threats see above, pp. 18-21, 60-3, 186-7.

1321 regni. Hec omnia contra Hugonem barones allegabant, et super hiis tam patrem quam filium constanter accusabant. Non erat qui patrem uel filium defenderet, non erat qui pro ipsis contra barones disputaret.

Tunc in conspectu domini regis, prelatorum, comitum et baronum, prolatum est iudicium in Hugonem Despenser patrem et filium. Nam uterque tanquam malus et falsus domini regis consiliarius, tanquam seductor et conspirator uel exheredator corone et destructor populi, et inimicus regis et regni, condempnatur, proscribitur et exheredatur; et super hoc editum est statutum, ut iudicium, tanta auctoritate firmatum, nullum reuocetur in eum.³⁹⁷

Ecce duo uiri inter magnates terre, et ipsius regis speciales nuper precipui, natale solum et solium deseruerunt licet inuiti. Res miranda quia tam subita, subitas enim mutaciones odit et miratur natura. Reuera iudicio multorum iuste accidit eis hoc infortunium. Pater namque ferus et cupidus olim multis nocuit, et excommunicationes multorum promeruit. Cum enim esset iusticiarius de foresta, multos accusauit de uenacione regia, multos nequiter exheredauit, quosdam in exilium compulit, iniquas redempciones a pluribus extorsit, mille libratas terre per concussionem adunauit, et ecce manum Dei uel corrigentem uel prouenientem iam sensit. Communi uero iudicio iuste perdidit quod per iacturam aliorum prius congregauit. Set nonne legitur in sacris scripturis: 'Filius non portabit iniquitatem patris?'³⁹⁸

Ad hoc uidentur respondere, uidelicet quod commoditas iniquitatis paterne ad filium debuit deuenire, iustum fuit ut paternum uicium communiter redundaret in filium. Set et secundum quosdam malicia filii preponderabat^a paterne seueritati. Nam de regio fauore confisus omnia pro imperio agebat, omnis captabat, nulli nec alicui quantumcunque auctoritatis deferebat, coheredibus suis moliebatur insidias; sic, si fieri posset, per occasiones fictas uterque partem suam amitteret, et ipse solus solidum comitatum optineret. Ipsi uero, auxilio freti baronum, malicie eius occurrerunt. Nam et patrem et filium simul in exilium agitarunt. Verumptamen iudicio fide-

^a sic MS; preponderabat *He, St, Den-Y*

³⁹⁷ The official indictment was read in Westminster Hall and finally accepted by the king on 14 Aug. 1321 (*Ann. Paul.*, p. 297; *Anon.*, pp. 100-1). The author of the *Vita* closely reflects the general wording of the accusations but is mistaken on the matter of statute. A statute was indeed requested, but on the king's refusal the judgement was finally made by an award; the indictment was therefore entered on the close roll not among the

1321 destroyer of the people, a disinheritor of the crown, an enemy of king and kingdom. All these things the barons alleged against Hugh, and persistently accused both father and son of these offences. There was no one to defend either the father or the son, no one to speak for them against the barons.

Then in the presence of the lord king, the prelates, earls, and barons, judgment was given against Hugh Despenser, the father and the son. Each was found guilty, proscribed, and disinherited, as an evil and false counsellor of the lord king, as a deceiver and conspirator, and even a disinheritor of the crown and a destroyer of the people, and an enemy of the king and kingdom; and a statute was published on this so that the judgment, confirmed by such authority, should never be revoked.³⁹⁷

See now how two men, counted amongst the great men of the land, and until recently the particular intimates of the king himself, reluctantly left their native soil and splendour. An astonishing thing because so sudden, for nature abhors and marvels at sudden changes. But in truth in the opinion of many this misfortune fell upon them justly. For the cruel and greedy father had in the past wronged many, and obtained the excommunication of many. For when he was justice of the forest he accused many of illegal hunting, he wretchedly disinherited many, forced some into exile, extorted unjust ransoms from many, collected a thousand pounds' worth of land by means of threats, and behold now he feels the hand of God coming to correct him. The general judgement was that he justly lost what he had formerly accumulated from the loss of others. But is it not written in the Holy Scriptures: 'The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father?'³⁹⁸

In reply it may be said that, as the profit from the father's evildoing had to pass by inheritance to the son, it was right that the father's crime should also accrue to the son. But according to some the son's wickedness outweighed the father's harshness. For, confident of the royal favour, he did everything on his own authority, grabbed everything, had no regard for the authority of anyone whomsoever, set traps for his co-heirs; thus, if he could manage it, each would lose his share through trumped up accusations and he alone would obtain the whole earldom. But they, relying on the help of the barons, were a match for his wickedness. For they drove both father and son into

statutes (Prestwich, 'The charges against the Despensers', pp. 95, 97; *RP*, iii. 363; *CCR* 1318-23, pp. 492-4).

³⁹⁸ Ezek. 18: 20. For Despenser as forester, see above, pp. 74-7, 194-5, and n. 197.

1321 dignorum barones in persecucione sua excesserunt modum. Nam, si causas exilii iustas inuenerunt, bona tamen eorum non iuste occuparunt. Quare maneria eorum destruxerunt, quamobrem a familiaribus^a redempciones extorserunt? Si iustam causam prius habuerunt, ius et iniuriam^b modo conuerterunt. Sic Saul rex dum percussit Amalec Deo placuit, set, postquam ad predam uersus armentis pepercit et gregibus, Deo displicuit, quia quod non debuit perpetravit.³⁹⁹ Cartas autem remissionis quas a rege barones impetrauerunt^c non sicut decuit exegerunt, et iccirco comodo^d eorum^e postmodum caruerunt.⁴⁰⁰ Sic Babilonii induxerunt regem inuitum, ut Daniele mitteret in lacum leonum,⁴⁰¹ et, quia hoc iniuste fecerunt, penam condignam postmodum pertulerunt.

Hiis itaque gestis Hugo pater transmarinas^f partes se transtulit; Hugo uero filius in mari remansit, quem dominus rex tutele nautarum de portubus obnixe commendarat. Et factus est Hugo belua marina insidians mercatoribus qui transibant. Maria occupauit, merces eorum et cetera bona, et nulla nauis transibat intacta; set in grandem nauem Ianuensem quam uulgo appellant^g dromonem inuasit, et nautis peremptis infinita bona que nauis inerat^h ad suos usus sequestrauit.⁴⁰²

Interim dominus rex magnatos illos, qui Hugonem in exilium compulerant, expugnare decreuit, pro eo quod castella exulantium occupauerant, et maneria exulantium tam patris quam filii turpiter destruxerant; et quia bona exulum, que fisco magis applicari debuerant,⁴⁰³ in suos usus sumpserant et consumpserant; et licet dominus rex huiusmodi transgressiones diceretur remisisse, et unicuique cartam concessisse, dicebat tamen et protestabatur se inuitum hoc fecisse et uoluntatem coactam nullam esse.

Igitur dominus rex Bartholomeum de Badelesmere primitus expugnauit, et castrum ipsius apud Ledes personaliter obsedit.⁴⁰⁴

^a familiaribus MS; familiaribus He, St, Den-Y ^b et in iniuriam R; in om. St, Den-Y ^c impetrauit MS; impetrarunt He, St, Den-Y; impetrauerunt ed. ^d sic MS; comodo He, St, Den-Y ^e eorum MS; earum He, St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; in or ad to be supplied He ^g appellat MS; appellant He, St, Den-Y ^h inierant MS; inerat He, St, Den-Y

³⁹⁹ Cf. 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 15: 3, 9-11, 15-23.

⁴⁰⁰ Pardons were granted on 20 Aug. 1321 (CPR 1321-24, pp. 15-20). Promises extorted under duress were invalid, as the author notes below. ⁴⁰¹ Dan. 6: 16.

⁴⁰² The Despensers were to leave England by 29 Aug. (CCR 1318-23, p. 494). Hugh the elder went to Poitou (Flores, iii. 198). Hugh the younger's seizure of two Genoese dromonds with cargoes said to be worth £60,000 appears in the accusations against him in 1326. The Genoese claimed 14,000 marks compensation (£9,333. 6s. 8d.), and Edward III eventually paid them 8,000 marks (£5,333. 6s. 8d.), while pointing out that he had no

1321 exile at the same time. Yet in the judgement of some worthy men the barons went too far in their persecution. For even if they found just reason for the banishment, nevertheless they did not seize their goods justly. Why did they destroy their manors, for what reason did they extort ransoms from their followers? Although they had a just cause before, they now turned right into wrong. Thus King Saul pleased God when he smote Amalek, but afterwards, when he spared their herds and flocks for plunder, he angered God, because he had done what he ought not to have done.³⁹⁹ The barons did not claim the charters of pardon, which they sought from the king, in the proper way, and so later they failed to get any benefit from them.⁴⁰⁰ Thus the Babylonians persuaded the unwilling king to cast Daniel into the lions' den,⁴⁰¹ and because they did this unjustly they afterwards suffered the punishment they deserved.

When these things had been done, the elder Hugh took himself abroad; but Hugh the son remained at sea, as the lord king had firmly commended him to the protection of the sailors of the Cinque Ports. And he became a sea monster, lying in wait for merchants who crossed the sea. He was master of the seas, their merchandise, and other goods, and no ship got through unharmed; he even attacked a great Genoese ship, commonly called a dromond, and having killed the crew, he appropriated to himself the vast amount of goods that were in the ship.⁴⁰²

Meanwhile the lord king determined to attack those great men who had forced Hugh into exile, because they had seized the fortresses of the banished men, and had disgracefully destroyed the manors of both the exiles, father and son; and further because they had taken for their own use and wasted the goods of the exiles, which ought rather to have gone to the treasury;⁴⁰³ and, although the lord king might be said to have pardoned these trespasses and to have granted a charter to each man, he nevertheless said and declared that he had done this unwillingly and that any grant under duress is void.

So to begin with the lord king attacked Bartholomew Badlesmere, and personally besieged his castle at Leeds.⁴⁰⁴ Then the greater

obligation to do so (G. A. Holmes, 'The judgement on the Younger Despenser, 1326', EHR, lxx (1955), 261-7, at p. 264; Foed., ii. 2. 941).

⁴⁰³ For the author's use of *erarium* and *fiscus*, see above, n. 40.

⁴⁰⁴ Badlesmere held Leeds Castle (Kent) from the king. On 13 Oct. Badlesmere's wife refused to admit Queen Isabella to the castle. The refusal, possibly deliberately provoked by the king, was treason and brought a fast response. Edward's hatred of Badlesmere probably had two main roots: Badlesmere had been close to the king as royal steward at the

1321 Tunc congregati sunt maiores de Marchia <ut>^a succursum obsessis prestarent, set prohibicio comitis Lancastrie fecit quominus auxilium promissum inferrent.⁴⁰⁵ Comes enim dictum Bartholomeum odio habuit, et plures transgressiones sibi imposuit, ob quas uel carcere perpetuo uel saltem exilio dignum fore decreuit; et sic obsessi in castro succursu caruerunt, unde et non^b ualentes resistere castrum reddiderunt. Reperit autem rex infra castrum predones, homicidas et proditores; et hos quidem protrahi iussit, illos suspendit et reliquos carceri mancipauit.⁴⁰⁶ Voluit enim rex exemplum aliis prebere, ut nullus de cetero audeat contra eum municiones tenere. Sicut enim nullus potest in terra castra sine regis licencia construere, ita nec fas est contra regem in regno castra defendere.

Deinde misit rex manus et occupauit cetera castra Bartholomei, et comitis Herfordie, Rogeri Dammory et Hugonis de Audeleye; nec inuenti sunt aliqui resistentes, quia ulcio sumpta de hiis apud Ledes uehementer terruit omnes. Extendit etiam rex manus ad maneria baronum qui Hugonis procurauerant exilium, et bona eorum occupauit; set et omnes adherentes eis et eorum fautores uniuersos depredauit.

Cum igitur occupasset rex municiones baronum a parte orientali, idem disposuit faciendum in parte occidentali. Tunc congregauit exercitum copiosum iturus in Marchiam, ut magnates expungnaret qui occupabant partem illam.⁴⁰⁷ Ibi enim fuit tutissimum refugium baronum, et regi sine manu ualida difficile penetrandum.

Conuenerunt autem in auxilium domini regis duo fratres sui, uidelicet Thomas comes Marescallus et Edmundus comes Cancie, pro etate strenui.⁴⁰⁸ Set et comes de Penbrok diuertebat se ad partem regis eo quod comes Lancastrie imposuerat se prodicionis. Expertus erat comes Lancastrie, ut dixit, hominem illum infidum et uarium, et baronibus indixerat auxilium eius repudiandum.⁴⁰⁹ Eratque cum rege

^a om. MS; supplied He, St, Den-Y ^b nunc R; non St, Den-Y

time of his defection to the rebels at Sherburn in June, and he then played a leading part in drawing up the final indictment against Despenser (*Hist. Roff.*, pp. 162-3). The siege lasted 17-31 Oct. 1321. Edward was at Leeds 26 Oct.-3 Nov. (*Itin.*, pp. 217-18; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 293-4).

⁴⁰⁵ The relieving force stopped short at Kingston-on-Thames on 27 Oct. Lancaster's interference is confirmed by the *Anonimale Chronicle*, and he is said to have written to ask the king not to persecute his people (*Ann. Paul.*, p. 299; *Murimuth*, p. 34; *Anon.*, pp. 102-3). Lancaster's reason for hating Badlesmere is less clear than the king's; possibly he resented Badlesmere's appointment as steward of the household, which he felt was in his gift as hereditary steward of England.

Marchers assembled to bring help to the besieged, but the earl of Lancaster's prohibition made it impossible to send the promised help.⁴⁰⁵ For the earl hated the said Bartholomew, and blamed him for many offences, for which he considered him worthy of life imprisonment or at least exile; and so those besieged in the castle lacked help, and not being strong enough to resist they surrendered the castle. Within the castle the king found robbers, murderers, and traitors; some he ordered to be drawn, others he hanged, and the rest he imprisoned.⁴⁰⁶ For the king wished to give an example to others, so that no one in future would dare to hold fortresses against him. For just as no one can build castles in the land without the king's licence, so it is wrong to hold castles in the kingdom against the king.

Then the king sent a force to seize the other castles of Bartholomew, and of the earl of Hereford, of Roger Amory, and of Hugh Audley; nor were any found to resist, because the vengeance exacted from those at Leeds terrified everyone immensely. The king also laid hands on the manors of the barons who had brought about Hugh's exile, and seized their goods; he also plundered all their followers and every one of their supporters.

Then, when the king had seized the baronial strongholds in the east, he made ready to do the same in the west. He gathered a large army to go to the March and attack the great men who held that area.⁴⁰⁷ For it was there that the barons had their safest refuge, and it was difficult for the king to penetrate it without a strong force.

His two brothers came to the lord king's help, namely Thomas, Earl Marshal, and Edmund, earl of Kent, active soldiers considering their age.⁴⁰⁸ The earl of Pembroke went over to the king's side because the earl of Lancaster had accused him of treachery. The earl of Lancaster knew by experience, as he said, that the man was faithless and fickle and had pointed out to the barons that his help

⁴⁰⁶ The commander of the garrison, Walter Culpeper, and twelve others were executed on 1 Nov. Lady Badlesmere, Bartholomew Burghersh, and others were sent to the Tower (*Ann. Paul.*, p. 299; *Anon.*, pp. 102-3).

⁴⁰⁷ The royal household left Westminster 7 Dec. and reached Cirencester on 20 Dec. 1321 (*Itin.*, p. 219). Troops had already been ordered to muster at Cirencester on 13 Dec. (*PW*, ii. 2. 540-2).

⁴⁰⁸ These were the sons of Edward I's second marriage to Margaret of France. Thomas of Brotherton was 21 (b. 1 June 1300) and Edmund of Woodstock was 20 (b. 5 Aug. 1301). Thomas had been made earl of Norfolk and Earl Marshal (previously held by the Bigod family) in Dec. 1312 at the age of 12; Edmund had to wait longer for a title and available lands, and was made earl of Kent only in July 1321 (*HBC*, pp. 38-9, 467, 473).

1321 comes de Arundel propter affinitatem Hugonis Despenser;⁴¹⁰ comes de Warena et comes de Rychmund adhererunt domino regi, et alii barones potentes et multi.⁴¹¹ Isti promiserunt domino regi auxilium prestare et iniuriam sibi illatam pro posse uindicare.

Robertus le Ewer, qui alio modo dicitur Aquarius, erat dux peditum, et Fulco filius Warini milicie conduxit exercitum. Robertus le Ewer nomen sumpsit a re, quia in aula regis aquam solebat ministrare.⁴¹² Fulco filius Warini, qui nunc militat, nomen et cognomen antecessorum suorum portat.⁴¹³ Nam Fulco filius Warini primus in diebus regis Iohannis miles fuit famosus, cui successit Fulco secundus, homo remissus et tepidus. Successit isti^a Fulco tercius, miles fortis et strenuus et in Hispania contra paganos pluries expertus. Sic frequenter euenit quod post probum improbus et e contra succedit; et talis genealogia^b ratione forte non caret. Nam probitas uiri per comparacionem lucidius apparet. Sic figulus iuxta artem suam quedam uasa ad honorem, quedam componit ad contumeliam,⁴¹⁴ ut hec que facit ad honorem comparacione deteriorum maiorem habeant decorem.

1322 Igitur dominus rex cum exercitu suo uersus Cyrencestriam iter arripuit, et ibidem propter natale Domini per aliquot dies perhendit. ⁴¹⁵ Barones autem preoccupauerant Gloucestriam; quamobrem rex diuertebat Wygorniam,⁴¹⁶ nec ibidem transiuit Sabrinam, quia barones ex parte aduersa custodiebant ripam. Premisit quoque rex apud Bruggenorthe uiros armatos et pedites qui preparent transitum

^a iste MS; isti *He, St, Den-Y*

^b genologia MS; genealogia *He, St*

⁴⁰⁹ Lancaster considered Pembroke had deserted him in 1312 over Gaveston; they also had substantial disputes over Thorpe Waterville and Mitford Castle (Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 77–82, 127–8).

⁴¹⁰ Edmund FitzAlan, earl of Arundel, was one of the young men knighted with Prince Edward in 1306. At first he was a strong opponent of Gaveston, associated himself with Warwick and Lancaster in Gaveston's death, and invoked the Ordinances when he refused to go to Bannockburn in 1314. Thereafter he positioned himself closer to Pembroke and was a mediator alongside Pembroke in Aug. 1321. Finally, however, he betrothed his son Richard to the younger Despenser's daughter Isabel in Feb. 1321, and on Despenser's return he became a firm supporter of the court party. He was executed by Queen Isabella's forces in Nov. 1326 (*CP*, i. 241–2; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 127, 280).

⁴¹¹ Like Pembroke, Warenne had split from Lancaster at Gaveston's death; and he also had substantial land disputes with Lancaster in Yorkshire (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 207–8, 232–7). John of Brittany, earl of Richmond 1306–34, was a royal supporter throughout. Brother of the Duke of Brittany and without marriage connections to the other earls, he was something of an 'outsider' (*HBC*, p. 479).

⁴¹² Ewer was a king's yeoman by 1318 and held lands in Hants. As *aquarius* his official duties were to dry the king's clothes and prepare his bath (*Vita*, 1st edn., p. 117 n. 4). He

should be rejected.⁴⁰⁹ There was also with the king the earl of Arundel on account of his kinship with Hugh Despenser;⁴¹⁰ Earl Warenne and the earl of Richmond and many other powerful barons stood by the lord king.⁴¹¹ These promised to lend aid to the lord king and to avenge the wrong done to him in so far as they could.

Robert Ewer, otherwise called the waterbearer, was in command of the infantry, and Fulk FitzWarin led the cavalry. Robert Ewer derived his name from the fact that he was accustomed to serve the water in the king's hall.⁴¹² The Fulk FitzWarin who is now on active service bears the name and surname of his ancestors.⁴¹³ For, in the days of King John, the first Fulk FitzWarin was a famous knight, who was succeeded by Fulk II, a mild and faint-hearted man. To him succeeded Fulk III, a brave and active knight who often proved himself against the pagans in Spain. So it frequently happens that a valiant man is succeeded by one less worthy and vice versa; and such a pedigree is not perhaps without design. For a man's worth appears more clearly by comparison. Thus the potter of his art makes 'one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour',⁴¹⁴ so that those which he makes unto honour have the greater glory by comparison with those of less worth.

So the lord king set out towards Cirencester with his army, and stayed there for some days over Christmas.⁴¹⁵ The barons had already occupied Gloucester; so the king turned aside to Worcester,⁴¹⁶ but did not cross the Severn there because the barons held the opposite bank. The king also sent ahead men-at-arms and foot soldiers to

was an active but rebellious soldier. In 1311, 'Roberd le Ewer, archers, et tieu manere de ribaudaille' were dismissed from court (*Ann. Lond.*, p. 199); in 1321 he rebelled and was temporarily removed from the office of constable of Odiham castle. This had nothing to do with the Marcher rebellion, and he was a keen royalist in the civil war. Afterwards his violence continued and included the plundering of contrariant estates and the attack on Despenser's lands, which led to his arrest and death (*CPR 1317–21*, pp. 136, 505, 586, 595; *CIPM*, vi. 543; *CCR 1318–23*, pp. 179, 260, 326; *CPR 1321–24*, pp. 199, 206; Fryde, *Tyranny*, pp. 76, 153–5). For his death, see below, pp. 216–19.

⁴¹³ Fulk was a substantial baron with lands in Shropshire and Gloucestershire, who was a Lancastrian retainer in 1317–19, but his loyalty to the king in 1321 was clear enough for the king to put him in charge of forces against the rebels. He was suspected in 1330 of complicity with the earl of Kent in his attempt to release Edward II from prison (Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 46, 54–6; *CP*, v. 497–9). Fulk's rebellious ancestor in the reign of King John was the hero of a romance popular in the late 13th and early 14th cc. (*Gesta Fulconis filii Warini*, in *Radulphi de Coggeshall Chronicon Anglicanum*, ed. J. Stevenson, RS, lxxvi (1875), pp. xxiii, 277–415).

⁴¹⁴ Rom. 9: 21.

⁴¹⁵ The king was at Cirencester 20–6 Dec. 1321 (*Itin.*, p. 219).

⁴¹⁶ Edward was at Worcester 31 Dec. 1321–7 Jan. 1322 (*Itin.*, pp. 219–20).

1322 suum. Restiterunt domini de Mortimer necnon et grauem eis^a fecerunt insultum. Nam magnam partem uille incenderunt, et de seruis regis plurimos occiderunt. Reliquit autem rex uillam ad sinistram, et sic adiuit ad Salopiam,⁴¹⁷ ut ibidem transiret in Marchiam. Poterant ad hec barones si uoluissent cursum regis impedissee; set domini Mortymer noluerunt ulterius consentire, eo quod iuxta placitos dies non uenit comes Lancastrie; timebant enim aliquid magnum aggredi sine comite. Iccirco sine comite noluerunt domino regi amplius resistere. Vnde uidentes quod comes non succurreret in articulo necessitatis, relictis sociis, reddiderunt se uoluntati domini regis.⁴¹⁸ Reliqui^b uero comites^c uehementer attoniti comitem Lancastrie adierunt, et ea que sic gesta erant in lacrimis narrauerunt. Comes autem in proteccionem suam omnes recepit, et pro communi querela defendenda sub iureiurando auxilium promisit.

Rex igitur, relicta Salopia,⁴¹⁹ in Marchiam transiuit, et quia nemo restitit omnia castella faciliter occupauit. Veniensque rex apud Herfordiam episcopum loci acriter increpauit, eo quod contra naturalem dominum suum barones sustinuit, unde et plurima bona ipsius in ulcionem confiscauit.⁴²⁰

Deinde rediit rex apud Gloucestriam, et Mauricium de Berkeleye recepit in gratiam suam. Iussit eum nichilominus in custodiam mitti et castrum de Berkeleye cum omnibus bonis suis pariter confiscari.⁴²¹ Exinde misit rex illos de Mortymer ad Turrim Londoniarum ut ibidem remanerent, ne forte prioris facti penitentes ad socios suos barones resilirent.

Dum autem rex moram faceret in uilla Gloucestrie, oblatus est quidam miles de partibus Herfordie, et notificatum est regi quod miles ille officium uiccomitis gesserat, et nichilominus cum barones equitauerat, et quod, in illa secta quam barones dabant militibus pro

^a eius R; ei St, Den-Y; eis ed. ^b relequi MS; reliqui He, St, Den-Y ^c comitis MS; comites He, St, Den-Y

⁴¹⁷ Edward reached Shrewsbury 14 Jan. 1322 (*Itin.*, p. 220). Once the king could cross the Severn the lands of the Marcher lords were wide open to his forces.

⁴¹⁸ The Mortimers surrendered on 22 Jan. 1322. The first safe-conduct for them was issued on Sunday 17 Jan. to last until Wednesday 20 Jan. and through the following night. It was then extended for all Thursday and the following night, then for all Friday and the following night (*PW*, ii. 2. App. 176). On Friday 22 Jan. Edward wrote to inform London that the Mortimers had surrendered (*Let. Bk. E.*, p. 150).

⁴¹⁹ Edward left Shrewsbury on 24 Jan. 1322 (*Itin.*, p. 220).

⁴²⁰ Edward was at Hereford 29 Jan.–4 Feb. (*Itin.*, pp. 220–1). The bishop was Adam Orleton, formerly a king's clerk and an experienced diplomat in Edward's service.

1322 prepare his crossing at Bridgnorth. And the lords Mortimer likewise offered resistance and made a serious attack upon them. For they burned a great part of the town and killed very many of the king's servants. However, the king left the town on the left, and thus came to Shrewsbury,⁴¹⁷ so that he might cross into the March there. The barons could have hindered the king's march here if they had wished; but the lords Mortimer would not take part any longer, because the earl of Lancaster had not come at the appointed days; for they were afraid to attempt any large-scale operation without the earl. They therefore would not oppose the lord king any further without the earl. Then, seeing that the earl did not help them in their time of need, they deserted their allies, and threw themselves on the lord king's mercy.⁴¹⁸ The other earls were absolutely stunned and approached the earl of Lancaster, and in tears told him what had happened. The earl received them all into his protection, and under oath promised help for the prosecution of their common grievance.

The king, therefore, leaving Shrewsbury,⁴¹⁹ crossed into the March and as no one opposed him he easily took all the castles. Coming to Hereford, the king sharply rebuked the bishop of the place for supporting the barons against their natural lord, and he confiscated many of his goods in revenge.⁴²⁰

The king then returned to Gloucester and received Maurice Berkeley into his grace. Nevertheless he ordered him to be arrested, and his castle of Berkeley to be confiscated with all his goods as well.⁴²¹ From there the king sent the lords Mortimer to the Tower of London, where they were to remain, in case, perhaps repenting what they had done, they should return to their baronial allies.

While the king was staying in the town of Gloucester, however, a certain Herefordshire knight was brought before him, and the king was informed that this knight had exercised the office of sheriff, and nevertheless had ridden with the barons, and that, wearing the livery that the barons gave to their knights as a distinguishing mark, he

Although he was suspected of sympathy for the Mortimers, formal charges were not made against him until 1323 and his goods were not seized until early 1324. Edward's persecution turned him into a firm supporter of Isabella's invasion and a prime player in the deposition. He moved up the episcopal scale thereafter, to Worcester in 1327 and to Winchester in 1333, where he stayed until his death in 1345 (Haines, *Orleton*, pp. 134–53, 164–77).

⁴²¹ Edward was at Gloucester 6–17 Feb. 1322 (*Itin.*, p. 221). During this period Berkeley surrendered. An order to seize all Berkeley's lands, castles, and goods had gone out on 1 Dec. 1321, but a further order to seize the castle was issued on 7 Feb. 1322 (*CFR* 1319–27, pp. 84, 91).

1322 noticia, in contumelia regis placita comitatus tenuerat. Vnde decretum est militem illum tanquam proditorem fore puniendum; set rex ex gracia penam proditorum remisit, set suspendendum fore decreuit, et suspensus est miles ille in secta predicta, ut^a sicut patebat pena, pateret et causa.⁴²²

Eodem tempore uenit Andreas de Herkelee miles de partibus borialibus ad regem dicens; 'Ecce, domine, treuge Scotorum iam finite; Robertus de Brutz fines Anglorum inuasit incendit, depredatur et cedit. Non est qui populum defendit, non est qui pro populo se murum opponit.⁴²³ Iccirco, domine mi rex, bonum esset, aliis negociis postpositis,^b populo oppresso primitus succurrere, qui sine auxilio regis sui seuitie^c Scotorum non possunt resistere.'⁴²⁴ Respondit rex: 'Scias,' inquit, 'Andrea, pro certo, quod si michi Robertus de Brutz immineret^d a tergo, et homines meos, qui tot et tanta enormia michi intulerunt, a fronte conspicerem, proditores illos inuaderem, et Robertum de Brutz inpersecutum dimitterem. Nimirum si Scoti, qui nullo uinculo michi tenentur obnoxii,^e regnum meum inuadunt, cum hii, qui fidelitate et homagio michi tenentur astricti, contra me insurgunt, homines meos spoliunt et uillas incendunt; si dominum expungnant serui, quanto magis extraneus?' Sic ait Dauid rex cum persequeretur eum Absolon et malediceret ei Semei: 'Ecce,' inquit, 'filius meus querit animam meam; quanto magis hic filius Gemini^f maledicit^g michi?'⁴²⁵ et non permisit aliquem nocere ei.

Dixit autem rex ad militem: 'Reuertere ad partes tuas et serua municiones tibi commissas; ego uero persequar proditores meos ubicunque se conuertant, et non reuertar donec deficiant.' Iussit itaque dominus rex uiros fortes et armatos et pedites ex singulis

^a et MS; ut *He, St, Den-Y* ^b prepositis MS; postpositis *He, St, Den-Y* ^c seuite MS; seuitie *He, St, Den-Y* ^d imineret MS; immineret *He, St, Den-Y* ^e obnoxii MS; obnoxii *He, St, Den-Y* ^f *He read* Genui, *poss for* Gemini in MS; Iemini *He, St, Den-Y*; Gemini *ed.* ^g sic MS; or maledicet *He*

⁴²² The *Flores* records that three knights were hanged at Gloucester while the king was there, and names them as Roger de Elmerugge, Nicholas de Lauin, and Nicholas de Torville (*Flores*, iii. 203). Of these Roger Elmerugge was sheriff of Herefordshire from Nov. 1318 to 5 Jan. 1322 (*List of Sheriffs*, p. 59). However, he is also listed in the *Flores* and other chronicles among those executed after Boroughbridge (*Flores*, iii. 207; *Brid.*, p. 78; *Anon.*, pp. 110-11; G. L. Haskins, 'A chronicle of the civil wars of Edward II', *Speculum*, xiv (1939), 78; *Le Baker*, p. 171; see also *Brut*, p. 224, which gives William of Elmbrugge). The livery was, perhaps, the green cloth with one quarter yellow with white bends, as worn by the rebel forces in London at the parliament of 1321 (see above, n. 395).

⁴²³ Cf. Ezek. 13: 5.

⁴²⁴ The meeting is not otherwise known, but possibly took place. Scottish raids began

1322 had held the pleas of the county, showing insolence to the king. For this it was decreed that this knight should be punished as a traitor; but the king graciously remitted the penalty of traitors, and decided that he should be hanged, and the knight was hanged in the said livery, so that just as the penalty was manifest, so too should be the cause.⁴²²

At the same time Andrew Harclay, a north country knight, came to the king saying: 'Look my lord, the Scottish truce is already at an end; Robert Bruce in an attack on the English frontier, is burning, plundering, and killing. There is no one to defend the people, no one who sets himself up as a wall for the people.'⁴²³ Therefore, my lord king, it would be good if, putting aside other business, you came at once to the help of your hard-pressed people, who without their king's help cannot resist the ferocity of the Scots.⁴²⁴ The king replied: 'You may be sure, Andrew,' he said, 'that if Robert Bruce threatens me from behind, and I see before me my own men, who have committed so many and such enormities against me, I would attack those traitors and leave Robert Bruce alone. Small wonder if the Scots, who are in no way bound to me, invade my kingdom, when those who are bound to me by fealty and homage rise against me, plunder my men, and set fire to my towns; if the servants attack their lord, how much more will a foreigner?' Thus said King David when Absalom pursued him and Semei cursed him: 'Behold', he said, 'my son seeketh my life; how much more may this Benjamite curse me?'⁴²⁵ and he did not permit anyone to harm him.

So the king said to the knight: 'Return to your own country and keep the strongholds committed to you; I shall pursue my traitors wherever they go, and I shall not turn back until they give up.' So the lord king ordered a force of men-at-arms and foot soldiers to be assembled from each county, and a large army to be mustered hastily

immediately the truce ended in Jan. 1322. Harclay was given authority to negotiate with Bruce for a truce or peace on 9 Feb. while the king was at Gloucester (*CPR 1321-4*, p. 71), and the king's order may have been prompted by a personal visit from Harclay. Harclay, son of a Cumberland knight, was a professional soldier, whose whole career was spent in the defence of the north-west. He served as sheriff of Cumberland 1312-16 and 1319-23, and was deputy in Westmorland for Roger Clifford, the hereditary sheriff; he defended Carlisle in 1315 (at the fall of which he briefly became a Scottish prisoner), and was keeper of Cumberland and Westmorland in 1319 during the Berwick campaign (*List of Sheriffs*, p. 26; *CP*, iii. 31; J. Mason, 'Sir Andrew Harclay, earl of Carlisle', *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, xxix, new series (1929), pp. 98-137). For his role at Boroughbridge see below, pp. 210-13.

⁴²⁵ 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 16: 11.

1322 comitatibus congregari, et copiosum exercitum ad inimicos debellandum festinanter adunari. Inimicos suos omnes appellat quos pars baronum secum sustentat, sicut scriptum est qui non est mecum contra me est.⁴²⁶ Iccirco bis uel ter proclamari fecit solempniter quod omnes hii qui ad partem baronum diuerterant^a infra certum diem ad pacem regis redirent; alioquin^b uelut hostes publici regi puniendi sine spe redeundi extunc remanerent.⁴²⁷

Circa idem tempus Hugo Despenser pater et filius reuersi sunt ab exilio, eo quod reconciliatio eorum et pax nutu regio proclamata foret in regno.⁴²⁸ Redierunt, inquam, in Angliam quia rex nouit eos exulasse per inuidiam. Poterant adhuc barones ad pacem uenisse, ueniam et misericordiam regis forsitan impetrasse, set modo quicquid agunt aut machinantur in confusionem et dampnationem totaliter operantur. Nam, de proteccionem comitis Lancastrie nimis elati, resistentes cedunt, patientes spoliunt, nec parcunt alicui, et ad maiorem dampnationem suam castrum ipsius regis apud Tykhulle inuadunt, et ad capcionem castri toto nisu licet incassum laborant.⁴²⁹

Dominus rex nimirum super hiis uehementer commotus apud Couentriam iter arripuit, et ibidem exercitum uenturum per aliquot dies exspectauit.⁴³⁰ Exinde conduxit exercitum usque ad magnum flumen^c qui dicitur Trente.⁴³¹ Est autem ibidem pons magnus qui uiam prebet transeuntibus. Premisit quoque rex ad pontem cuneum fortem armatorum et peditum, scire uolens an^d aliquis impediret transitum suum. Venerat autem comes Lancastrie cum omni sequela sua in uillam de Burghtone ex parte alia.

Cumque iam fuisset compertum quod rex disposuit transire fluuium, misit comes uiros fortes armatos et pedites qui pontem defenderent. Verum cum per tres pluresue dies inter se partes

^a diuertant *MS*; diuerterant *He, St, Den-Y* ^b aliquin *MS*; alioquin *He, St, Den-Y*
^c sic *R*; fluuium *St, Den-Y* ^d aut *R*; utrum *He*; an *St, Den-Y*

⁴²⁶ Matt. 12: 30.

⁴²⁷ For the author's interest in treason, see above, pp. liii-lv.

⁴²⁸ The younger Despenser's appeal against exile, delivered to the king on 30 Nov., may have been placed before an ecclesiastical council on 1 Dec. 1321. The five southern prelates who attended the meeting declared the exile unlawful. Their judgment was confirmed by four earls (Kent, Pembroke, Richmond, Arundel), and then by the royal justices and members of the king's council. The annulment of the sentence was published on 1 Jan. 1322 (*CCR 1318-23*, pp. 543-6; *Ann. Paul.*, p. 301). Edward gave the younger and elder Despensers safe conducts to return on 8 and 25 Dec. respectively; he also provided a safe conduct for their troops to fight against Scotland in Feb. The Despensers finally joined him on 3 Mar. at Lichfield (*CCR 1318-23*, pp. 510-11; *CPR 1321-4*, pp. 45, 47, 64; Phillips, *Pembroke*, pp. 219-20, 223).

to subdue his enemies. He called all those who supported the baronial party his enemies, as it is written: 'He that is not with me is against me.'⁴²⁶ Therefore two or three times he had it solemnly proclaimed that all those who had gone over to the baronial party should return to the king's peace by a certain day; otherwise from henceforth they were to remain as public enemies of the king to be punished without hope of returning to the king's grace.⁴²⁷

About the same time the Despensers, father and son, returned from exile, because their reconciliation and release from outlawry was about to be published in England on the king's command.⁴²⁸ They returned to England, I say, because the king knew that they had been banished out of jealousy. The barons could still have made peace, could perhaps have sought the king's pardon and mercy, but now whatever they do or contrive works entirely to their confusion and loss. For, made arrogant by the earl of Lancaster's protection, they kill those who oppose them, plunder those who offer no resistance, spare no one, and to their greater guilt attack the king's own castle at Tickhill, and put their best efforts into taking the castle, though in vain.⁴²⁹

The lord king, extremely provoked, of course, by these actions, set out for Coventry, where he awaited the arrival of his army for some days.⁴³⁰ Thence he led the army to the great river called the Trent.⁴³¹ There is there a great bridge which offers a passage to those who wish to cross. The king sent a strong troop of men-at-arms and infantry ahead to the bridge, wishing to know if anyone would oppose his crossing. However, the earl of Lancaster had arrived with all his retinue at the town of Burton on the other side.

Now, when it was known that the king proposed to cross the river, the earl sent staunch men, men-at-arms and foot soldiers, to defend the bridge. But when the two sides had fought together for three or more days and had returned to the same fight the next day, the king

⁴²⁹ Until now Lancaster had refrained from open violence and the king's attention had focused on the Marchers. Lancaster's attack on Tickhill was under way by 10 Jan. 1322. It was possibly aimed at Tickhill's constable, William de Aune, an active informer against Lancaster, rather than at the king, but an attack on a royal castle was treason. By both contemporaries and recent historians the attack has been considered a turning point in the war, with Edward moving to a determined effort to crush Lancaster and his supporters once and for all (*Lanercost*, p. 242; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 306-7).

⁴³⁰ Musters were ordered at Coventry for various dates between 21 Feb. and 7 Mar. The king arrived on 27 Feb. (*PW*, ii. 2. 547-54; *Itin.*, p. 221).

⁴³¹ The king reached Cauldwell, just south of Burton-on-Trent, on 7 Mar. 1322 (*Itin.*, p. 222).

1322 dimicassent, ac ad eundem conflictum in crastinum rediissent, reperit rex uadum superius, ubi transiit ipse et reliqua pars exercitus.⁴³² Audientes itaque barones et iam uidentes quod rex flumen transisset, pontem reliquerunt, equos ascenderunt et fugam inierunt. Set quare fugit comes Lancastrie qui tociens solebat regi resistere, precipue cum haberet secum comitem Herfordie et clariorem miliciam tocius Anglie? Reuera magna erat nunc manus regis et ualida. Habebat enim circiter omnibus numeratis trecenta milia numero.⁴³³

Mandauerat comes Roberto de Hoylond, quem preposuerat^a gazis^b suis, quatinus exercitum conduceret de uiris fortissimis, et certum diem ueniendi statuit; set prefixo die Robertus non uenit, immo preuaricator in causa domini sui reddidit se domino regi.⁴³⁴ Vnde comitis sequaces auxilium parum adesse^c uidentes pontem reliquerunt, equos ascenderunt, et fugerunt.^d

Persequatur rex fugientes usque ad castrum de Totbury,⁴³⁵ quod erat comitis Lancastrie, inuenitque rex ianuas apertas, eo quod post fugam comitis nullus audebat resistere.^e Set et custos castrum de Kneleworthe,^f audita fuga comitis, reddidit statim castrum in manus uicecomitis. Repperit autem rex apud Tottebury Rogerum Dammori in extremis laborantem; erat enim infirmitas ad mortem, quia non uixit ultra tercium diem; et bene quidem et honeste sibi contigit quod ad finem desolatum cum sociis non durauit. Iste Rogerus olim pauper miles et tenuis ob industriam et probitatem suam factus est regis specialis, quamobrem dedit ei rex neptem suam in uxorem, et de comitatu Gloucestrie que contingebat eam^g terciam partem; set quia cum baronibus contra regem tenuit, notam ingrati-tudinis a multis reportauit.⁴³⁶

Comes igitur Lancastrie et comes Herfordie, cum omnibus sibi adherentibus, in fugam conuersi, ad Pountfreit peruenerunt. Ibidem aliquantam moram facientes, tandem diffinito consilio uersus Scociam

^a proposuerat MS; preposuerat He, St, Den-Y ^b garis R; gazis St, Den-Y
^c abesse R; adesse Den-Y ^d only . . . ge . . . legible in MS; diligenter He; et fugerunt St, Den-Y
^e resistere MS; resistere He, St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; Keneleworthe He, St, Den-Y
^g sic MS; poss. ei He

⁴³² Skirmishing took place between 7 and 10 Mar., by which day the king's household reached Burton. By 11 Mar. the household was at Tutbury (*Itin.*, p. 222).

⁴³³ This is an obvious exaggeration. It might be a scribal error, but Hearne made no comment on the figures he transcribed.

⁴³⁴ Holand, of Holland in Lancashire, had served Lancaster since 1298 and seems to have exercised authority equivalent to that of a steward. He also held livery from Audley and Badlesmere and served the king. He was royal justice of Chester for the third time

found a ford higher up, where he himself crossed with the remainder of his army.⁴³² When the barons heard, and now saw for themselves, that the king had crossed the river, they left the bridge, mounted their horses, and fled. But why did the earl of Lancaster, who so often used to resist the king, now flee, particularly as he had with him the earl of Hereford and the more celebrated soldiers of all England? In reality the king's force was now great and powerful. For he had about 300,000 men all told.⁴³³

The earl had ordered Robert Holand, whom he had put in charge of his treasure, to bring an army of his best men, and had arranged a day for his arrival; but on the appointed day Robert did not come; on the contrary, as a renegade in his lord's cause, he surrendered to the lord king.⁴³⁴ Because of this the earl's followers, seeing that there was not enough support, left the bridge, took horse, and fled.

The king pursued the fugitives to Tutbury Castle,⁴³⁵ which belonged to the earl of Lancaster, and he found the gates open, because after the earl's flight no one dared to offer resistance. The keeper of Kenilworth Castle, too, on hearing of the earl's flight, at once surrendered the castle to the sheriff. At Tutbury the king found Roger Amory at the point of death; he was indeed mortally ill for he did not live beyond the third day; and indeed it turned out well and honourably for him that he did not last out with his comrades to the bitter end. This Roger, once a poor and needy knight, by his diligence and valour became the king's special friend, for which reason the king gave him his niece in marriage, and her third share of the earldom of Gloucester; but because he sided with the barons against the king, many marked him down as ungrateful.⁴³⁶

Thus the earl of Lancaster and the earl of Hereford, with all their supporters, were put to flight and came to Pontefract. After a short delay there it was finally decided to press on towards Scotland. They

between Feb. 1319 and Feb. 1322. Perhaps it was the loss of this position which finally showed him the great danger of opposing the monarch and prompted his desertion of Lancaster. He was murdered by Thomas Wyther, a Lancastrian knight, in 1328 (*Ann. Paul.*, p. 342; J. R. Maddicott, 'Thomas of Lancaster and Sir Robert Holand: a study in noble patronage', *EHR*, lxxxvi (1971), 449-72).

⁴³⁵ The king was at Tutbury on 11 Mar. 1322; the household moved on to Derby between 12 and 14 Mar. (*Itin.*, p. 222).

⁴³⁶ Amory died of wounds or illness on 13 or 14 Mar. 1322. The sentence of execution against him for treason was formally respited on 13 Mar., because of the king's former affection for Amory and because he was married to Edward's niece (*CP*, iv. 43 note f). For Amory's marriage to Elizabeth de Clare, see above, n. 294.

1322 iter arripuerunt. In Scociam sperabant habere confugium, quia Robertus de Brutz, ut dictum erat, contra regem promiserat auxilium.⁴³⁷

Cumque apud Borbrigge uenissent⁴³⁸ ut ibidem saltem una nocte requiescerent, ecce Andreas de Herkelee miles strenuus,^a cui iam de fuga comitis innotuerat, qui etiam progressum^b eius et propositum plenius explorauerat, quasi cum quatuor milibus uirorum uenerat quos ad locum illum repente conduxerat. Audientes autem comites, qui erant infra uillam quasi iam hospitati, quod uenerat Andreas et sui sequaces ad expungendum eos totaliter, exierunt uillam bipertito^c cum aduersariis congressuri. Comes Herfordie cum suis armatis per pontem transiuit, set nullus eorum equum ascendit, erat enim pons strictus, nec uiam equitibus ad bellum precedentibus prebere potuit. Comes Lancastrie cum suis militibus ad uadum fluminis uiam arripuit. Set Andreas de Herkeleye, tanquam miles prouidus, ad utrumque exitum cuneum armatorum sapienter statuit.⁴³⁹ Comes Herfordie partem aduersam primitus aggreditur; decertando male uulneratus tandem occiditur. Tres uel quatuor milites in ipso certamine cum comite perierunt. Rogerus de Clifford⁴⁴⁰ et alii quamplurimi male uulnerati ad uillam redierunt. Alii uero, dum uadum transire nituntur, ab ymbre sagittarum usque^d atteruntur; set post mortem comitis Herfordie sua uirtus tepuit milicie, et statim reuertuntur. Pepigit autem comes Lancastrie cum Andrea de Herkelee de treuga et pace seruanda usque in crastinum; et hoc facto rediit unusquisque ad hospicium suum. Ipsa uero nocte uiccomes Eboraci⁴⁴¹ cum magna cohorte uenerat inimicos regis inuadere; cuius auxilio fretus^e Andreas de Herkelee uillam intrauit summo mane,⁴⁴² et cepit comitem Lancastrie et omnes pene reliquos milites et scutarios sine uulnere, et perducens Eboracum reclusit in

^a strenuis MS; strenuus St, Den-Y; the copyist uses this form above (p. 92) ed.

^b progressu MS; progressum He, St, Den-Y ^c bipertitam R; bipertito St, Den-Y

^d usum MS; poss. usque or usquequaque or omit usum altogether He; misere St, Den-Y

^e fertus MS; fretus He, St, Den-Y

⁴³⁷ Rumours of Lancaster's contacts with the Scots led many to believe that the flight north was to Scotland. The pro-Lancastrian author of the *Brut* tried to save Lancaster's reputation by reporting that he was forced by Clifford to go beyond Pontefract (*Brid.*, p. 76; *Lanercost*, p. 242; *Brut*, p. 217).

⁴³⁸ Boroughbridge, sixteen miles north-west of York, was on the main route to the north, whether to Lancaster's castle at Dunstanburgh or to Scotland. The battle took place on 16 Mar. 1322.

⁴³⁹ The use of *cuneus* by the author of the *Vita* suggests that Harclay was copying the close formation wedge or 'schiltrom' he had seen used by the Scots during his military service on the northern border. This is confirmed by the detailed description of the battle in the *Lanercost* chronicle which describes Harclay's *scheltrum secundum modum Scottorum*

were hoping to find a refuge in Scotland, because Robert Bruce, as it was said, had promised help against the king.⁴³⁷ 1322

And when they had reached Boroughbridge,⁴³⁸ intending to rest there for at least one night, who should be there but Andrew Harclay, that active knight, to whom the earl's flight had already become known, who had also more fully spied out the earl's advance and plans, and who had arrived with nearly 4,000 men, whom he had led there with all speed. The earls, who had already almost settled into their lodgings in the town, hearing, however, that Andrew and his followers had come to destroy them utterly, marched out of the town in two columns to meet their opponents. The earl of Hereford crossed by the bridge with his men-at-arms, but none of them was mounted, for the bridge was narrow, and could provide no passage for horsemen in battle array. The earl of Lancaster with his knights made his way to the ford of the river. But Andrew Harclay, as a knight with foresight, wisely stationed a wedge of men-at-arms opposite each crossing.⁴³⁹ The earl of Hereford attacked the enemy first; badly wounded in the fighting, at length he died. Three or four knights were killed with the earl in the struggle itself. Roger Clifford⁴⁴⁰ and very many others returned to the town badly wounded. Others, trying to cross the ford, were continually weakened by a shower of arrows; but after the death of the earl of Hereford their eagerness to fight cooled down, and they immediately retreated. But the earl of Lancaster made a truce with Andrew Harclay to keep the peace until the next day; and when this was done each returned to his lodging. On that same night the sheriff of York⁴⁴¹ had come with a large force to attack the king's enemies; relying on his help Andrew Harclay entered the town very early,⁴⁴² and took the earl of Lancaster and almost all the other knights and squires unscathed, and leading them off to

(*Lanercost*, p. 243). For his service at Boroughbridge Harclay was made earl of Carlisle, but he enjoyed the position for less than one year. He was executed for treason in Mar. 1323 for attempting to negotiate a treaty with the Scots without the king's permission (*HBC*, p. 454). The *Lanercost* chronicler was fully aware that the action was treason, but was also sympathetic to Harclay's attempt to obtain peace; this may reflect widespread northern opinion (*Lanercost*, pp. 248-51). The terms Harclay arranged showed understanding of the northern situation and had much in common with the treaty finally agreed in 1328. It is unfortunate that the missing leaves later in this manuscript deprive us of this author's views on Harclay.

⁴⁴⁰ Clifford, aged just 22, was the son and heir of Robert Clifford who died at Bannockburn (above, n. 167).

⁴⁴¹ Simon Ward was sheriff of Yorkshire from Oct. 1315 to Jan. 1317 and again May 1318 to June 1323, with a brief hiatus of three weeks in Nov.-Dec. 1318 during the purge of sheriffs agreed at the York parliament (*List of Sheriffs*, p. 161).

1322 carcerem. Euitare^a equos reliquerunt, et exuentes^b arma sua ueteres attritas uestes quesierunt sibi, et more mendicantium uiam incesserunt. Set cautela non profuit, nam nec unus quidem famosus ex omnibus euasit.

O monstrum! uidere uiros purpura et bisso nuper indutos⁴⁴³ nunc attritis uestibus incedere, et uinctos in compedibus recludi sub carcere! Res miranda et certe nutu Dei et auxilia promota, quod tam rara manu subito superatur tanta milicia. Pars^c enim comitis numero armatorum partem persequencium excessit in septuplum. Capti sunt enim cum comite Lancastrie et ceteris baronibus milites ualentes centum et amplius. Set et scutariorum non minus^d ualencium multo maiorem credo fuisse numerum. Quare igitur non restitissent et pro salute sua uiriliter dimicassent? Reuera cor delinquentium semper est pavidum et ideo minus ualens ad negocium. Videbant totam patriam a fronte excitatam, et per hoc uiam eorum impeditam. Sciebant a tergo iminere^e regis exercitum, et propter hoc cursum retrogradum non esse securum. Vnde quasi homines non habentes consilium nec eiam tempus ad deliberandum, inciderunt in manus inimicorum, etc.

Quarto quintoue die post capcionem comitis Lancastrie ueniens rex apud Pontfret iussit adduci comitem sine dilacione,⁴⁴⁴ et statim iussu regis adducitur, et in quadam noua turri per noctem illam^f recluditur.⁴⁴⁵ Fertur comes turrim illam nouiter construxisse, et regem captum in ipsa recludendum perpetuum decreuisse, set et leonem more Lombardorum principem constituisse.⁴⁴⁶ Hec erat fama uulgaris, set non audiui testem ueritatis.

In crastinum producitur comes in aulam coram iusticiariis assignatis, et singillatim species transgressionis, ac pro quolibet articulo adicitur pena specialis, uidelicet, ut primo protraheretur, deinde suspenderetur, ac postremo capite truncaretur. Set ob reuerenciam regii sanguinis pena protractionis est remissa, suspensio suspensa, set pena pro omnibus decreta. At comes, uolens se in aliquibus excusare,

^a sic MS; poss. ut euitarent He; quidam St, Den-Y ^b exeuntes R; exuentes St, Den-Y
^c per MS; pro He; pars St, Den-Y ^d unus MS; minus He, St, Den-Y
^e sic MS; imminere He, St, Den-Y ^f illa MS; illam He, St, Den-Y

⁴⁴² On 17 Mar. 1322.

⁴⁴³ Luke 16: 19.

⁴⁴⁴ The king was there 19–25 Mar. (*Itin.*, p. 222). Pontefract was reputed to be Lancaster's favourite castle and he spent long periods there in 1318–21 (*Anon.* p. 106; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, pp. 331, 346–7).

⁴⁴⁵ The night of 21–2 Mar.

York, he imprisoned them. To escape, they left their horses and, taking off their armour, looked round for old worn-out clothes, and took to the road as beggars. But their precaution was no use, for not a single well-known man from among them all escaped.

Oh, calamity! To see men lately clothed in purple and fine linen⁴⁴³ appear now in rags and, bound in shackles, shut up in prison! A marvellous thing and certainly one brought about by God's will and help, that so small a force should in an instant overcome so many knights. For in the number of men-at-arms the earl's side was more than seven times that of its pursuers. More than a hundred valiant knights were captured with the earl of Lancaster and the other barons. I believe the number of squires, no less strong, was much greater. Why therefore should they not have stood firm and fought manfully for their safety? In fact the criminal's heart is always fearful and therefore less effective in action. They saw that the whole countryside was up in arms in front of them, and thus their route was blocked. They knew that the king's army threatened them from the rear, and therefore their retreat was not secure. Thus as men having no plan or even time to deliberate, they fell into the hands of their enemies, etc.

On the fourth or fifth day after the capture of the earl of Lancaster, the king, coming to Pontefract, ordered the earl to be brought there without delay,⁴⁴⁴ and he was at once brought there by the king's command, and for that night he was shut up in a certain new tower.⁴⁴⁵ It is said that the earl had recently built that tower, and had determined that when the king was captured he should be imprisoned in it for life, and so he would make the prince a lion after the manner of the Lombards.⁴⁴⁶ This was the common story, but I have not heard a witness to its truth.

On the following day the earl was led into the hall before the justices assigned for the purpose, and charged one by one with his crimes, and for each charge a particular penalty was awarded, namely, that first he should be drawn, then hanged, and finally beheaded. But out of reverence for his royal blood the penalty of drawing was remitted, the hanging was suspended, and one punishment was

⁴⁴⁶ This is perhaps a general reference to the restraints put on the claims of the emperors in northern Italy by the independence of the Lombards, rather than to any specific imprisonment of a king. The affairs of the emperors in northern Italy were of topical interest throughout Edward's reign. Most major chronicles recorded Henry VII's acceptance by the pope, Henry's death, the election of Louis IV 'of Bavaria', and Louis's subsequent war with the pope.

¹³²² nitebatur quedam statim allegare; set iusticiarii noluerunt ipsum audire quia uerba dampnatorum sicut nec nocent nec possunt^a proficere. Tunc ait comes: 'Fortis est hec curia, et maior imperio, ubi non auditur responsio nec aliqua admittitur excusacio'.

O spectaculum! uidere comitem Lancastrie, qui nuper erat terror totius patrie, in castro proprio et domo iudicium recipere. Deinde educitur comes extra castrum, et ascendens quoddam uile iumentum conductus est ad capitolium.⁴⁴⁷ Tunc comes quasi orando caput extendit, et spiculator bis uel ter percuciens caput amputauit. Et hec acta sunt mense Marcii anno regni quintodecimo.⁴⁴⁸

O comes Lancastrie! ubi est dominacio tua, ubi sunt diuicie tue, quibus sperabas omnes subicere et nullum contra te posse resistere? Si in primeua fide perdurasses, ad desolatum^b nequaquam peruenisses. Si Sampson in cautela et Salomon in deuocione perstitissent, nec hic uiribus nec ille sapientia priuatus fuisset.⁴⁴⁹ Forte latens causa, non presens set preterita, comitem puniuit. Comes Lancastrie caput Petri de Gauestone olim abstulit, et nunc iussu regis comes Lancastrie caput perdidit. Sic uicem pro uice, forsitan non iniuste, comes reportauit, sicut scriptum est in sacris litteris: eadem mensura qua mensi fueritis remetietur uobis.⁴⁵⁰ Sic Abner occidit Asael percuciens in inguine,^c set Abner non euasit; nam postea interiit consimili uulnere.⁴⁵¹ Sic in principio Iudicum cepit Iudas regem Bezel et uinxit captiuum, ac summitates manuum eius prescidit et pedum. Tunc ait rex ille captus, 'Merito fecit hoc michi Dominus, ego enim septuaginta reges in bello ceperam et omnes hac⁴⁵²

[Desunt sex folia: Hearne]⁴⁵³

. . . tempore comes Wyntoniensis, licenciatus a rege, ad partes australes se transtulit ut maneria sua uisitaret, quia post destructio-

^a possent MS; possunt He, St ^b sic MS; poss. desolacionem He ^c igne MS; inguine He, St, Den-Y

⁴⁴⁷ *Capitolium* is an unexpected word to find here. The Capitoline Hill with its temples was the religious centre of Rome. The author may be indulging in play on the word *caput* as he had done earlier (see above, n. 84) to imply that Lancaster would lose his head on a headland (Lancaster was executed on a small hill outside Pontefract). There may also be a further allusion. The Tarpeian rock from which, in legendary times in Rome, traitors had been thrown to their deaths is on the south-west side of the Capitoline Hill in Rome. This would make an apt allusion to the death of Lancaster for treason, but it is not clear that the author would know of the location of the rock. I am indebted to Mr Ian Moxon and Dr W. Flynn for discussions on this use of *capitolium*.

⁴⁴⁸ On 22 Mar. 1322. ⁴⁴⁹ Cf. Judg. 16: 16-21; 3 Kgs. (1 Kgs.) 11: 1-13.

decreed for all three. Now the earl, wishing to speak in mitigation of his crimes, immediately tried to make some points; but the judges refused to hear him, because the words of the condemned neither harm nor can be of any advantage. Then the earl said: 'This is a powerful court, and very great in authority, where no answer is heard nor any mitigation admitted.'

Oh, what a sight! To see the earl of Lancaster, who was recently the terror of the whole country, receiving judgment in his own castle and home. Then the earl was led out from the castle, and, mounting some worthless beast of burden, was led to the Capitol.⁴⁴⁷ Then the earl stretched forth his head as if in prayer, and the executioner cut off his head with two or three blows. And these things happened in March in the fifteenth year of the reign.⁴⁴⁸

Oh! Earl of Lancaster! Where is your power, where are your riches, with which you hoped to subdue all, and that no one could resist you? If you had been steadfast in your early faith, you would never have come to be forsaken. If Samson had remained cautious and Solomon devout, the one would not have been deprived of his strength nor the other of his wisdom.⁴⁴⁹ Perhaps a hidden cause, not immediate but in the past, brought punishment upon the earl. The earl of Lancaster once cut off Piers Gaveston's head, and now by the king's command the earl of Lancaster has lost his head. Thus, perhaps not unjustly, the earl received like for like, as it is written in Holy Scripture: 'for with the same measure that you shall mete withal it shall be measured to you again'.⁴⁵⁰ Thus Abner killed Asahel, striking him in the belly, but Abner did not escape, for he afterwards died by a similar wound.⁴⁵¹ Thus at the beginning of the Book of Judges, Judah took the king of Bezel and made him captive, and cut off his fingers and his toes. Then said the captive king: 'What I have done, so hath God requited me, for I had taken seventy kings in battle and all . . .'⁴⁵²

[Six leaves are lacking: Hearne]⁴⁵³

time the earl of Winchester, with the king's leave, went south to inspect his manors, as he had not seen them since their destruction a

⁴⁵⁰ Luke 6: 38.

⁴⁵¹ Cf. 2 Kgs. (2 Sam.) 2: 23, 3: 27

⁴⁵² Judg. 1: 6-7.

⁴⁵³ These six folios are equivalent to about twelve pages in the Stubbs and Denholm-Young editions. This is a substantial loss, including all comment on the executions after the death of Lancaster and on the York parliament at which the elder Despenser was created earl of Winchester on 10 May (*HBC*, p. 488). The narrative is taken up again in the late summer of 1322.

1322 nem iam dudum non uidit. Cum audis loqui de comite Wyntoniensi, intellige de Hugone Despenser seniore.

Accessit itaque Robertus Lewer ad maneria comitis Wyntoniensis, et cepit ibidem uictualia et alia necessaria pro sua uoluntate.⁴⁵⁴ Visitauit eciam maneria Henrici Theys⁴⁵⁵ et Warinii^a de Insula,⁴⁵⁶ comiti Wyntoniensi post dampnationem eorum a rege collata. Et ibidem dominus Robertus ^belemosinarum nomine^b pro animabus dictorum baronum fecit magnam distributionem pauperibus. Ex hoc tamen parum promeruit, quia^c non quid fiat set quo animo Deus attendit. Non potest dici elemosina que sit^d ex furto uel rapina. Nam, sicut dicitur alibi, species furti ex bonis alterius inuito domino quicquam largiri.

Audiens autem comes Wyntoniensis quod uenisset Robertus eum comprehendere, intrauit castrum de Wyndelsore, et fecit fieri excubias die et nocte, donec congregasset uirtutem sufficientem ad excipiendum Robertum et comitiuam suam. Venit eciam in auxilium eius comes Cancie missus a latere regis. Sic ergo Robertus caruit proposito suo, et sui cotidie diuertebant ab eo. Cumque uideret iam aliud subsidium nullum superesse, ueniens clam apud Hamptone super mare, cogitauit ibidem cum uxore sua transfretare. Set omnibus incolis facie notissimus, utpote apud illos diu conuersatus, latere non potuit. Quodam^e die comprehensum in urbe minister regis in carcerem detrusit. Productus uero coram iusticiariis, interrogatus et accusatus in multis, nichil respondit. Quem discrecio iudicum ad peragendam sententiam suam in carcerem retorsit.^f Pena siquidem, scienter obmutescitibus debita, talis per regnum usitata. Sedebit incarceratus in area frigida et nuda captiuus, unica sola et tenuissima ueste uelatus, tanto pondere ferri quantum miserum corpus ferre ualerit oppressus. Cibus erit illi panis deterrimus^g et modicus, et potus aque liquor turbidus et fetidus. Die qua commedit non potabit, nec die qua potauerit panem gustabit. Communis humane nature

^a Wariny R; Warini St; Warinii Den-Y ^{b-b} elemosinarius nam MS; nam om. He; elemosinarum nomine St, Den-Y ^c que MS; quia He, St, Den-Y ^d sic R; fit St, Den-Y ^e quedam MS; quodam He, St, Den-Y ^f sic MS; for retrusit He ^g deterius MS; deterior He; deterior or deterrimus St; deterrimus Den-Y

⁴⁵⁴ These attacks took place in Aug. and Sept. 1322. Ewer was finally arrested in Dec. and was dead by 8 Jan. 1323 (*CPR 1321-4*, p. 232). For his rebellion, see Fryde, *Tyranny*, pp. 153-5. For his earlier career see above, n. 412.

⁴⁵⁵ For his part in the rebellion, Tyes was hanged in London on 3 Apr., in rebel livery (*Ann. Paul.*, p. 303; for the livery, see above, nn. 395, 422). He had held lands in several southern counties, had been summoned to parliament from 1300, and held office from time

long time ago. When you hear speak of the earl of Winchester, you are to understand Hugh Despenser the elder. 1322

So Robert Ewer came to the earl of Winchester's manors, and carried off victuals and other necessities of life as he liked.⁴⁵⁴ He also visited the manors of Henry Tyes⁴⁵⁵ and Warin de Lisle,⁴⁵⁶ granted by the king to the earl of Winchester after their condemnation. And there Sir Robert distributed a great deal to the poor in the name of alms for the souls of the said barons. However, he had little benefit from this, because God has regard not to the deed but to the intention. That cannot be called alms which comes from theft or robbery. For, as it is said elsewhere, it is a kind of theft to distribute largesse from the goods of another without the consent of the lord.

When the earl of Winchester heard that Robert had come to attack him, he took refuge in Windsor Castle, and set a watch night and day, until he had gathered a force sufficient to capture Robert and his retinue. The earl of Kent, sent from the king's court, also came to help him. Thus Robert failed in his plan, and his men deserted him day by day. When he saw that no other help was left, coming secretly to Southampton on the coast, he thought that he might cross the sea from there with his wife. But as he was very well known by sight to all the inhabitants from long residence there, he could not hide himself. He was arrested one day in the town and a royal official threw him into prison. When he was brought before the justices, questioned, and accused of many crimes, he did not answer. He was therefore returned to prison at the discretion of the judges to undergo his sentence. The customary punishment, indeed, for those deliberately remaining silent is carried out thus throughout the kingdom. The prisoner shall sit on the cold, bare floor, dressed only in the thinnest of shirts, and pressed with as great a weight of iron as his wretched body can bear. His food shall be a little of the worst sort of bread, and his drink cloudy and stinking water. The day on which he eats he shall not drink, and the day on which he has drunk he shall not taste

to time (e.g. keeper of Oxford, and of the Isle of Wight). He was the brother-in-law of Warin de Lisle, and it is not clear what brought both of them so firmly to the rebel side. Tyes had no obvious connections with Lancaster, and may have been closer to Amory and Hereford. His father had supported Hereford's father in 1297 (*CP*, xii. 2. 102-4).

⁴⁵⁶ Lisle was one of the six lords (two of them certainly Lancastrian retainers) who were hanged at Pontefract on 22 Mar., the day of Lancaster's execution. Lisle had had lands in Berks. and other southern counties, and like Tyes had held keeperships (e.g. Windsor 1318-19) from time to time. Also like Tyes, he had no obvious connection with Lancaster nor, in his case, with the Marchers (*CP*, viii. 48-9).

1322 uirtutem superaret qui quintum uel sextum diem sub hac pena
transigeret.⁴⁵⁷

1323 Huiusmodi pene per aliquot dies Robertus astrictus tandem
occubuit, et ita "pro delictis" dignam ulcionem et anime salutiferam,
si^b tamen pacienter ipsam tum sustinuit, in fine reportauit. Ipse
Robertus, in curia regis olim educatus, in rebus bellicis cautus erat et
strenuus. Verumptamen de fauore curie confisus, et uariis moribus a
iuuentute consuetus, ad predas et homicidia semper erat precipuus.
Ceterum quia tum quendam bonum occidit, et uxorem eius super-
dixit, quam eiam in adulterio prius posuerat, omne aliud^c delictum
longius excedit. Sic igitur Robertus cecidit ut meruit, et comes
Wyntoniensis indemnis euasit.

Aliud quoque non minus timendum accidit Wyntoniensi comiti
periculum.⁴⁵⁸ Mauricius de Berkele, iam fere per annus detentus, tum
moram traxit in castro Walynfordie, ad quem solebat quidam armiger
qui diu steterat in obsequio ipsius frequenter intrare, et ob priorem
familiaritatem domino suo beneficium consolacionis impendere.
Accidit autem quadam die ut armiger ille cum tribus uel quatuor
sociis intraret castrum, de licencia custodis, propter solitum accessum
in nullo suspectus. Eadem nocte rogauit Mauricius constabularium ut
cenaret cum eo, insuper et^d ianitores et uigiles quotquot^e erant in
castro. Cenantibus autem illis subito surrexit armiger cum sociis suis,
et petiit clauas castri sibi reddi, necnon et minas mortis intendebat
cuilibet repugnanti.

Videns ergo constabularius quod non posset resistere, tradidit
clauas sine dilacione. Tunc armiger ille ad quamdam^f priuatam
portam accessit, et circiter uiginti socios statim introduxit. Et hec
quidem facta sunt sub tanto silencio ut nec clamor nec murmur
resonaret in castro. Tandem puer quidam residens ad exteriorem
portam, postquam sentiit quod interior custodia insolito modo
tractabatur, latenter exiuit, ^hadiensque (maiolem) uille,^h castrum
perditum et multos extraneos intrasse protinus nunciauit. Primum
quidamⁱ nuncius a predicto armigero cum litteris emissus testis

^{a-a} per electis MS; pro He; pro delictis St, Den-Y ^b sibi R; si St, Den-Y
^c alium MS; aliud He, St, Den-Y ^d e MS; et He, St, Den-Y ^e in quotquot MS; in
om. He, St, Den-Y ^f sic R; quidam St, Den-Y ^{h-h} audiensque uelle R; adiensque
(maiolem) uille Den-Y ⁱ quid' MS; quidem He, St, Den-Y; quidam MW

⁴⁵⁷ The procedure of returning a defendant to prison until he agreed to plead was introduced from France in the 1250s; the conditions of eating and drinking on alternate days, of skimpy clothing and heavy fetters began to be recorded between the 1270s and 1290s. By not pleading the defendant ensured that his goods and lands could not be

bread. He who survives this punishment beyond the fifth or sixth day 1322
would have strength beyond that of normal human nature.⁴⁵⁷

Afflicted with this treatment for a few days Robert at length died, 1323
and thus received in the end a punishment fitting for his crimes and
healthy for his soul, provided that he then bore it with resignation.
This Robert, who had been brought up at court, was shrewd and
active in military matters. Nevertheless, relying on his influence at
court, and accustomed to lax morals from youth, he was always ready
for plunder and killing. But because he then killed a certain good
man, and made off with his wife, with whom he had previously
committed adultery, he exceeded by far every other crime. Therefore
he died as he deserved, and the earl of Winchester escaped unharmed.

Another danger no less fearful befell the earl of Winchester.⁴⁵⁸
Maurice Berkeley, in custody now for almost a year, was at that time
detained in Wallingford Castle, where a certain squire who had long
been in his service often used to visit him and to give his lord comfort,
on account of his former close friendship. But it happened one day
that this squire entered the castle with three or four companions, with
the guard's permission, in no way mistrusted because his visit was
usual. The same night Maurice invited the constable to dine with
him, and all the doorkeepers and watchmen in the castle as well. As
they were dining the squire and his companions suddenly rose and
demanded the keys of the castle, threatening with death anyone who
resisted.

Seeing therefore that he could not resist, the constable handed over
the keys immediately. Then the squire went to a certain postern gate,
and at once let in about twenty companions. This was done in such
silence that not a sound or murmur was heard in the castle. At length
a boy living at the outer gate, realizing that affairs in the inner ward
were not as they should be, secretly slipped out, and going to [the
mayor] of the town, at once reported that the castle was lost, and that
many strangers had entered. A certain messenger sent out by the
squire with letters came forward as a witness. For the squire had

forfeited and so lost to his heirs (H. R. T. Summerson, 'The early development of the *peine fort et dure*', in E. W. Ives and A. H. Manchester (eds.), *Law, Litigants and the Legal Profession* (London, 1983) pp. 116-25).

⁴⁵⁸ This event took place in Jan. 1323. Berkeley had been in captivity since his surrender in Jan. 1322, and the king knew of this rising by 20 Jan. 1323 (*CPR 1321-4*, p. 257). Berkeley died in prison in May 1326, but his son, Thomas, who was also imprisoned in 1322 after Boroughbridge, survived and was released from Pevensey by Isabella in Oct. 1326 (*CP*, ii. 128-9; see above, n. 421).

1323 accessit. Disposuerat enim armiger ille quosdam socios premunisse, et in "gallicinio dominum" suum Mauricium et ceteros uinculatos^b pariter eduxisse. Set nuncius machinationis proditorie timens periculum subire accessit ad maiorem uille. Populus conuocatur, pulsantur campane, tonant cornua, et uox horrida^c plebis extollitur.

Tunc qui erant infra castrum audientes "populi tumultum"^d suspicabantur consilium suum iam esse detectum, et per consequens propositum eorum impeditum, unde "statuerunt custodes ad singulas (portas, et) excubias per totum murum ordinauerunt."^e Mane facto diulgata est res per totam patriam, accessitque uicecomes ad uillam, et hortabatur interiores ad castri dedicionem. Illi uero asserebant^f se regis auctoritate castrum intrasse, nec cuiquam homini sine regis mandato reddere uelle. Et hoc quidem responso^g usi sunt ad cautelam, ut sic prodicionem suam palliarent et nacta oportunitate temporis a castro recederent.

Non credidit uicecomes responsum, quia non fecerunt ei fidem de regis mandato. Immo statim accesserunt robustiores tocius patrie, et fecit fieri uigilias circa castrum die ac nocte donec certificaretur super allegata regis auctoritate. Aduenerunt in auxilium uicecomitis comes Wyntonie et comes Cancie, quoniam tunc erant in partibus illis, et statim disposuerunt^h castrum inuadere et proditores ui et armis ad dedicionem compellere. Videntes autem interiores tot et tantos uiros ad obsidicionem,ⁱ et capcionem tandem euitari non posse, quantoque diucius rebellarent, tanto grauiori pene subiacerent,^j portas aperiunt et liberum introitum cunctis promittentes in quadam capella omnes conueniunt.

Tunc ingressi comites reperierunt Mauricium in solita custodia, reliquos autem in capella. Non profuit eis immunitas ecclesie; nam protinus extracti trudentur in castrum. Ille uero interrogatus cur proditores in castrum regis aduocare presumpsit, nichil in preiudicium domini regis machinatum constanter affirmauit, et cognitorem^k omnium cordium⁴⁵⁹ et omnes homines exceptis aduersariis suis testes adiecit. Tunc significauerunt domino regi omnia acta cum responso Mauricii. Rescripsit rex comiti Cancie consensu Mauricii

^{a-a} galli cinodnu' MS; gallicinio dominum He, St, Den-Y ^b uinculatores MS; uinculatos He, St, Den-Y ^c homda MS; horrida He, St, Den-Y ^{d-d} populum tumultu MS; populi tumultum or populum tumultuantem He; populi tumultum St, Den-Y ^{e-e} statuerunt custodes ad singulas excubias per totum murum ordinauerunt MS; statuerunt (et) custodes etc. He; statuerunt custodes (et) ad singulas excubias; per totum murum ordinauerunt St; statuerunt custodes ad singulas (portas, et) excubias etc. Den-Y ^f asserebantur MS; asserebant He, St, Den-Y ^g responsio MS; responso

1323 planned to warn certain friends and at cockcrow to get his lord Maurice away together with the other prisoners. But the messenger of this treacherous plot, fearing to take the risk, went to the mayor of the town. The townsmen were aroused, bells rung, horns sounded, and the harsh cries of the populace were heard.

Then, hearing the people in uproar, the men in the castle guessed that their plan was discovered and consequently their intention blocked, so they posted guards at all [the gates and] arranged watches all along the wall. By morning the news had spread throughout the countryside, and the sheriff came to the town and urged those inside to surrender the castle. They replied that they had entered the castle by the king's authority, and that they would not yield it to any man without the king's command. They gave this answer as a precaution, to disguise their treachery, so that if they found an opportunity they might leave the castle.

The sheriff did not believe this reply, because they gave him no proof of the king's command. The hardier country folk came up immediately, and he set a watch around the castle day and night until he was informed about the alleged royal authority. The earl of Winchester and the earl of Kent, since they were then in that area, came to the sheriff's aid, and they at once arranged to attack the castle and compel the traitors to surrender by force of arms. Seeing the strength of the besieging force, and that they could not in the end escape capture, and that the longer they rebelled the more severe would be their punishment, the men inside opened the gates and, promising unimpeded entry to everyone, they gathered all together in a certain chapel.

Then, having entered, the earls found Maurice in custody as usual, and the rest in the chapel. The immunity of the church was of no benefit to them; for they were dragged out immediately and hustled into the castle. When [Maurice] was asked why he had presumed to call traitors into the king's castle, he stoutly maintained that he had plotted nothing to the prejudice of the lord king, and called as witnesses Him who knows all hearts,⁴⁵⁹ and all men except his enemies. They then notified the lord king of all that had been done and of Maurice's reply. The king wrote back to the earl of Kent . . . to

He, St, Den-Y ^h deposuerunt MS; disposuerunt He, St, Den-Y ⁱ sic MS; obsidionem He, St, Den-Y ^j sic MS; poss. subiaccere He ^k cogitorem MS; cognitorem He, St, Den-Y

⁴⁵⁹ This echoes the first collect of the mass: *Deus cui omne cor patet* (Legg, *Sarum Missal*, p. 216).

1323 diligenter inquireret, et dictum armigerum ceterorum sig
suis

[*Deest folium unum: Hearne*]⁴⁶⁰

1324 . . . sepius promouit; et, si per lapsum temporis populum suum in unitate reduxerit, id quod prius profuit in uanum redibit. Preterea diutina pax homines nostros effeminatos reddet, et usus armorum suspensus inbellem gentem nostram efficiet. Set et hii qui nunc apti sunt ad prelium inutiles fient, uergentes in senium; et hec omnia nobis incommoda conferet^a tempus uacacionis producte. Super hiis igitur consulimus quod regi Anglorum perpetua concordia offeratur,^b et pax fiat, alioquin de treugis initis non multum confidat.⁴⁶¹ Et quia rex Anglorum, sicut creditur, certamen est habiturus cum Francis, eo cicius speramus optinere quod petimus.⁴⁶²

Tunc misit Robertus le Brutz ad regem Anglie, dicens: 'Domine, placet Scotis in pacem perpetuam treugas conuertere, et quid tibi placuerit, si bonum tibi uidetur, uelitis rescribere. Multi enim nostris treugis^c initis egre consenserant. Vnde timeo ne forsam pace repulsa pacta seruabo, set multorum grassancium rabiem solus cohibere non potero. Nam et rex Getheus, qui satis in Dauid sibi complacuit, eum tamen contra uota satraparum sustinere non potuit.'⁴⁶³

Animaduertens rex Anglie quod artaret eum negocium Vasconie, quod et Scoti ex nimia causa proni essent ad recidium^d concordie, rescripsit se uelle in pacem perpetuam libenter consentire, placuitque de communi consensu super tractanda apud Eboracum partes conuenire.⁴⁶⁴ Quo cum uenissent, uidelicet rex Anglie ex parte una et quidam magnates Scotorum ex altera, pecierunt Scoti Scociam ab omni exaccione regni Anglie imperpetuum esse^e immunem et

^a conferret *MS*; conferet *He, St, Den-Y* ^b offeratur *MS*; offeratur *He, St, Den-Y*
^c treugis *MS*; treugis *He, St, Den-Y* ^d recidium *MS*; recidium *He, St, Den-Y*
^e et *R*; esse *Den-Y*

⁴⁶⁰ The lost leaf, equivalent to about two pages in Stubbs's and Denholm-Young's editions, covers most of 1323 and 1324. The reference below to appointing negotiators, which was done on 3 Nov., places the reopened narrative in the autumn of 1324.

⁴⁶¹ A short Anglo-Scottish truce had been arranged in Mar. 1323 to negotiate a final peace. When this proved impossible a thirteen-year truce was made 30 May 1323 (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 510-13, 518, 521-2; *CPR* 1321-4, p. 292; *CCR* 1318-23, p. 717; *Plac. Abb.*, p. 342). Peace with the Scots was not popular with all the English; Henry Beaumont feared the loss of his Scottish lands (Fryde, *Tyranny*, p. 159 and n. 42).

⁴⁶² The situation in Gascony was grave. Open hostilities had already begun in Aug.

enquire diligently with Maurice's consent, and . . . the said squire . . . 1323
of the rest . . .

[*One leaf is lacking: Hearne*]⁴⁶⁰

. . . advanced more frequently; and if in the course of time he 1324
[Edward II] reunites his people, what formerly was profitable will be worthless. Further, a long period of peace will make our men unmanly, and lack of practice in the use of arms will make our people unwarlike. Those who are now fit for battle will become useless, bordering upon old age; a long-drawn-out time of rest will bring all these disadvantages upon us. In this, therefore, we advise that a permanent agreement be offered to the king of the English, and let it be peace, otherwise he should not rely on any truces which were set up.⁴⁶¹ And because the king of the English, as it is thought, is on the point of fighting the French, we hope to obtain what we seek from him more quickly.⁴⁶²

Then Robert Bruce sent to the king of England saying: 'My Lord, the Scots wish to turn the truces into a permanent peace, and, if it seems good to you, may it please you to send a reply on what you wish to do in the matter. For many men have agreed to our present truces reluctantly. For this reason I fear that if peace is refused I will be unable to keep the agreements, for I will not be able alone to restrain the fury of a violent throng. For the king of Gath, though himself much pleased by David, yet could not support him against the wishes of his satraps.'⁴⁶³

The king of England, realizing that the Gascon affair limited his scope of action and that the Scots had every reason to welcome the restoration of peace, wrote back that he would willingly consent to a permanent peace, and it was agreed by common consent that the parties should meet at York to negotiate.⁴⁶⁴ When they had come there, that is the king of England on the one hand and certain Scottish magnates on the other, the Scots demanded that Scotland should be for ever exempt and free from every exaction of the English kingdom,

1324, and Agen and La Réole had surrendered by September. For the causes of the Anglo-French war, see below, pp. 228-9.

⁴⁶³ Cf. 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 29: 1-11.

⁴⁶⁴ Scottish envoys had safe conducts from 3 Nov. 1324 to 13 Jan. 1325, and English negotiators were appointed on 8 Nov. (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 577-8). In a letter to Ralph Basset, seneschal of Gascony, Hugh Despenser wrote that a meeting with the Scots had been arranged for 18 Nov. (Chaplais, *Saint-Sardos*, p. 76). The *Vita*'s description is the fullest we have of the negotiations.

1324 liberam, pecierunt iure adquisicionis et domini totam terram quam perambulauerant usque ad portas Eboraci.⁴⁶⁵ Erat et quedam baronia in partibus Essexie quam Robertus de Brutz propter rebellionem dudum demeruit; hanc peciit Robertus sibi restitui, eciam cum fructibus quos medio tempore rex inde percepit.⁴⁶⁶ Pecierunt eciam Scoti petram illam regalem sibi restitui quam Edwardus rex senior quondam de Scocia tulerat et apud Westmonasterium collocauerat iuxta tumbam sancti Edwardi.⁴⁶⁷ Erat autem lapis ille apud Scotos celebris memorie, eo quod super hanc reges Scocie solebant gubernacula regni cum ceptro^a recipere. Scota filia Pharaonis hanc petram secum a finibus Egipti eduxit, cum in partes^b Scocie applicuit et terram subiugauit. Prophetauerat enim Moises quod qui petram illam secum afferret amplas terras suo dominio subiugaret. Vnde a Scota est dicta Scocia que prius ab Albanacto uocabatur Albania.⁴⁶⁸ Ad hec in augmentum federis 'ac cumulum^c pacis optulit Robertus de Brutz filiam suam matrimonialiter copulari filio regis. Postremo uoluerunt Scoti quod, presentibus quorum interest coram domino papa, a rege Francie confirmarentur uota procerum, ut fedus pacis 'd iam initum^d et tanta auctoritate uallatum nullum solueretur in eum.

Auditis petitionibus Scotorum ait rex: 'Scoti uenerunt non ut nos <ad> pacem^e allicerent set ut occasiones dissencionis magis quererent et sponte treugas infringerent. Reuera preiudicialia nimis nobis

^a sic MS; sceptro St, Den-Y ^b parte MS; partes He, Den-Y ^c ad tumultu MS; ac cumulum He, St, Den-Y ^d tam in ta^m MS; tali He, St; iam initum Den-Y; the text remains uncertain ed. ^e sic MS; pace He, St, Den-Y; ad pacem ed.

⁴⁶⁵ The reference to lordship may be an allusion to the Scottish possession of Cumbria and Northumbria in 1137-57 (G. W. S. Barrow, 'Frontier and settlement', in R. Bartlett and A. MacKay (eds.), *Medieval Frontier Societies* (Oxford, 1989), pp. 3-21, at p. 4; R. R. Davies, *The First English Empire* (Oxford, 2000), pp. 64-5). I am indebted to Miss Barbara Harvey for this suggestion. However, the reference to conquest and York seems to refer also to recent events. Edward utterly refuted the claim.

⁴⁶⁶ Bruce inherited Writtle and Hatfield Broadoak in Essex from his father (*CIPM Edward I*, iv. no. 220). These came into the family through his great-grandmother, Isabel, as part of her inheritance of one-third of the honour of Huntingdon (Barrow, *Bruce*, p. 331 n. 8).

⁴⁶⁷ The Stone of Destiny, the Scottish royal enthronement stone, had been taken south from Scone by Edward I after he defeated John Balliol in 1296 as a symbol of his conquest of Scotland (Barrow, *Bruce*, p. 73; N. Aitchison, *Scotland's Stone of Destiny* (Stroud, 2000), pp. 113-18).

⁴⁶⁸ This was one of several myths which linked medieval peoples to antique origins (see above, p. xxix). Scota, wife of a Scythian prince, daughter of Pharaoh, was part of an early Irish origin myth. It was claimed that she and her husband fled from Egypt in the time of

1324 they demanded by right of conquest and lordship the whole land that they had traversed as far as the gates of York.⁴⁶⁵ There was also a certain barony in Essex which Robert Bruce had long ago forfeited on account of his rebellion; Robert demanded that this should be restored to him, with the profits, moreover, that the king had received from it in the meantime.⁴⁶⁶ The Scots also demanded that the royal stone should be restored to them, which the elder King Edward had long ago taken from Scotland and placed at Westminster by the tomb of St Edward.⁴⁶⁷ This stone was of famous memory amongst the Scots, because upon it the kings of Scotland used to receive the government of the kingdom with the sceptre. Scota, daughter of Pharaoh, brought this stone with her from the country of Egypt when she landed in Scotland and subdued the land. For Moses had prophesied that whoever bore that stone with him should bring broad lands under the yoke of his lordship. For this reason the land which was formerly called Albany from Albanactus is called Scotland from Scota.⁴⁶⁸ To improve the treaty and strengthen the peace, Robert Bruce proposed that his daughter should be joined in marriage with the king's son. Finally the Scots wished that, with all those concerned being present before the lord pope, the nobles' wishes should be confirmed by the king of France, so that the treaty of peace then agreed and strengthened by such authority, should never be broken.

When the king had heard the Scottish proposals he said: 'The Scots have come not to draw us towards a peace but to seek opportunities for further discord and for unprovoked breaches of

Moses and settled for a time in Spain. Their descendants moved to Ireland and, later, to Scotland. The legend was adapted in the 1290s by the Scots to bring Scota herself directly to Scotland. This provided Scotland with a long independent history and a direct classical link as part of the battle against Edward I's claim to overlordship. In particular it could be used to combat the English use of their own legendary origin, in which Brutus (great-grandson of Aeneas of Troy) conquered all Britain, and bequeathed Scotland to his son Albanactus. The revised legend of Scota was used in the Scots' pleading at the papal curia in 1301 and is clearly visible in the Declaration of Arbroath, although Scota is not mentioned there by name. The author of the *Vita* is thus repeating a recently devised piece of political propaganda. For Albanactus's inheritance see *Geoff of Mon.*, ii. 1; for the development of Scota's legend, see E. J. Cowan, 'Myth and identity in early medieval Scotland', *SHR*, lxiii (1984), 111-35, at pp. 119-23; Dauvit Broun, 'The birth of Scottish history', *SHR*, lxxvi (1997), 4-22 at pp. 10-15; R. A. Mason 'Scotching the Brut: politics, history and national myth in sixteenth-century Britain', in R. A. Mason (ed.), *Scotland and England 1286-1815* (Edinburgh, 1987), pp. 60-84, at p. 64; A. A. M. Duncan, *The Nation of Scots and the Declaration of Arbroath*, Hist. Assoc. gen ser., lxxv (1970), pp. 31-2, 34. For variations on the myths associated with the origins of the stone, see Aitchison, *Stone of Destiny*, pp. 19-36.

1324 exposcunt, unde et sine effectu ad propria remeabunt. Quomodo enim sine preiudicio corone nostre ius quod habemus in Scocia possumus remittere, que ab aduentu Britonum usque aduentum Saxonum et deinceps usque ad tempus nostrum antecessoribus nostris semper dinoscitur fuisse subiecta, que quamuis rebellando nostrum sepius declinaret imperium, ad iugum tamen debitum, licet inuita, non ambigitur fuisse reducta? Ius in Marchia uendicare non poterunt, cuius possessionem nunquam habuerunt. Pedis enim posicio priuato possessionem tribuit, non extraneo.⁴⁶⁹ Quod si ob perambulacionem Marchiam petant, consequens est ut et ipsi magnam partem Scocie eadem ratione nobis concedant. Hereditatem quam Robertus de Brutz petit, pater meus ei ob manifestum delictum quondam abstulit, et non decet filium irritare quod pater decreuit. Scimus eciam quod pater meus deuicta Scocia petram illam regalem secum tulit in signum uictorie; quod si restitueremus, uideremur forsitan ius sic acquisitum tanquam degeneres repudiare. Verumptamen super petra reddenda dissencio breuis, si cetera non discreparent a limite rationis. Nupcias eciam quas offert Robertus ad presens non admittimus, quoniam prout offeruntur^a nobis indecentes esse perpendimus. Denique pacem quam Scoti coram domino papa et rege Francie petunt confirmari, si contingeret eam debito fine concludi, coram quolibet principe mundi uellemus explicari. Set, quia preiudicialia nimis nobis exposcunt, infecto negocio ad propria remeabunt.⁷

Igitur responsum est Scotis formam oblatam regi non placere, nec regem in tantum artatum esse ut tam degenerem pacem cogatur inire.⁴⁷⁰ Conuencionem tamen super treugis prius initam nichilominus censuit obseruandam, alioquin Scotis nunquam deinceps fidem adhibendam. Nuncii uero Scotorum, accepto responso, redeuntes retulerunt regi suo et hiis qui erant de consilio responsa regis Anglie et conclusionem in fine. Inter quos tandem deliberatum est et communiter consensum quod predictae treuge cum Anglis inite in suo robore starent, et religionem quam omnis natio et etas conseruat

^a offeruntur *MS*; offeruntur *He, St, Den-Y*

⁴⁶⁹ Cf. *Dig.* xli. 2. 3 (1), xli. 2. 40 (1), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 652, 655. Bracton echoed the Roman law position, that livery did not need more than a token entrance to the property, but he emphasized that the donor must be willing, *De Legibus*, ii. 125-6. The *Vita* is the only source for these claims of the Scots to some rights in the March, which caused Edward such outrage.

the truce. In fact, they are demanding terms highly damaging to us 1324 and they will return to their own country without result. For how, without prejudice to our Crown, can we surrender the right we have in Scotland, which is known always to have been subject to our ancestors, from the coming of the Britons to the coming of the Saxons and from then down to our own time; which, although in rebellion it often spurned our authority, was, nevertheless, as no one doubts, restored to its proper state of servitude, though unwillingly? They cannot claim any right in the March, of which they never had possession. For the placing of the foot gives possession to the citizen but not to the foreigner.⁴⁶⁹ But if they claim the March by perambulation, it follows by the same reasoning that they should give up a large part of Scotland to us. Robert Bruce claims the inheritance which my father once took from him for manifest crime, and it is not fitting that a son should nullify what his father has decreed. For we know that my father, when Scotland had been conquered, took with him that royal stone as a sign of victory; and if we were to restore it we should perhaps seem basely to give up the right thus acquired. Nevertheless, we should make little difficulty about returning the stone, if their other demands were not beyond all reason. Even the marriage which Robert offers we do not agree to at present, since we consider that, as offered, it is unsuitable for us. Finally, we would be willing to have the peace, which the Scots seek to have confirmed in the presence of the pope and the king of France, recited before every prince in the world, if it were brought to a suitable conclusion. But, as their demands are too damaging to us, they shall return home unsatisfied.⁷

Reply was therefore made to the Scots that the draft offered to the king did not please him, nor was the king under such pressure that he could be forced to make such an ignoble peace.⁴⁷⁰ But he thought nevertheless that the agreement previously made concerning the truces should be observed, otherwise no credence could ever be given to the Scots. The Scottish ambassadors, having received the reply, returned and reported to their king and his counsellors the king of England's answers and final conclusion. At last it was determined among them by common consent that the said truces made with the English should stand firm, and that they would in no way dishonour the scrupulous observation of an oath which every nation and age

⁴⁷⁰ The king wrote to the pope that the Scottish demands were to the disinheritance of his crown (*Foed.* ii. 1. 595).

1324 in nullo macularent. "Nam et Israel Gabaonitis" seruauit iusiurandum quamuis dolo in circumuencione fuisset extortum.⁴⁷¹

Dum durarent inducie inter reges Anglorum et Francorum discurrerent nuncii et mediatores, hinc inde proponentes plures formas concordie; set nulla placuit regi Francie nisi satisfaccio sibi pro terra Vasconie.⁴⁷² Videns igitur rex Anglie quod per huiusmodi nuncios nichil proficeret, disposuit mittere reginam si forsan ipsa negocium ad effectum perduceret. Nam sicut inter duos reges erat sanguine media, ita efficacior uidebatur in pace procuranda.⁴⁷³

1325 Abiit regina ualde gauisa, dupplici gaudio letificata; gaudens quippe natale solum et parentes uisitare, gaudens quorundam quos non diligebat comitiuam^b relinquere. Nimirum si Hugonem non diligit per quem auunculus eius periit, per quem famulis orbata et omnibus redditibus suis priuata remansit; iccirco a multis reuersura non creditur, donec Hugo Despenser a latere regis penitus seperatur.^c⁴⁷⁴

Veniens autem regina ad fratrem suum regem transmarinum, nichil plus aliis nunciis optinuit, nisi quod rex frater eius amore ipsius usque ad gulam Augusti treugas prorogauit.⁴⁷⁵ Cernens itaque rex Anglie ex actis iam nichil aliud restare, nisi aut transfretare et regi Francie satisfacere, aut terram^d Wasconie indefensam perdere, transacto iam Paschate collegit exercitum copiosum, pedites uidelicet linea armatura^e incinctos,^f habentes arcus, secures aut gladios, singuli^g arma singula in quibus se nouerant magis expertos.⁴⁷⁶ Est enim aliquis

^{a-a} nan et Irael Gabaonis MS; nam et Israel Gabaonitis He, St, Den-Y
^b comitiuam MS; comitiuam St, Den-Y ^c sic MS; separaretur He, St, Den-Y
^d terras MS; terram He, St, Den-Y ^e armata MS; armatura He, St, Den-Y
^f imminctos MS; aminctos He; incinctos St, Den-Y ^g sic MS; poss. singulos He

⁴⁷¹ Cf. Josh. 9: 3-27.

⁴⁷² War had broken out between England and France in 1324 for two main causes: conflict over the building of a French bastide at St Sardos in the English territory of Agenais in the autumn of 1323, and Edward's constant delay in performing homage to the new French king, Charles IV. Charles finally confiscated Edward's French lands on 24 June 1324 (Chaplais, *Saint-Sardos*, p. 188 n. 1). The French army entered the Agenais on 15 Aug. 1324 and quickly reached La Réole, where they besieged the king's brother, Edmund, earl of Kent, who had been sent to defend the king's lands. After a five-week siege, he surrendered and arranged a six-month truce for 22 Sept. 1324 to 14 Apr. 1325 (Chaplais, *Saint-Sardos*, pp. ix-xiii, 61-3).

⁴⁷³ Sometime before 13 Jan. French negotiators had suggested that both Isabella, who was Charles IV's sister, and Prince Edward should go to France, and in early Feb. the king's advisers agreed unanimously that the queen should go. The suggestion that Prince Edward should go (originally made by England in Nov. 1324) was dropped. Edward later said that the suggestion that Isabella should go had come from the pope (Chaplais, *Saint-Sardos*, pp. 193-6; *Foed.*, ii. 1. 599; M. Buck, *Politics, Finance and the Church in the Reign of*

upholds. For Israel kept its oath to the Gibeonites although it was 1324 extorted by treachery and deceit.⁴⁷¹

While the truces lasted between the kings of the English and the French, ambassadors and mediators ran to and fro proposing many forms of agreement; but nothing pleased the king of France unless it gave him satisfaction for Gascony.⁴⁷² The king of England saw that nothing was to be achieved through these ambassadors, and arranged to send the queen, who might perhaps bring the matter to the desired conclusion. For, since she was related by blood to each king, so she seemed likely to be more effective in bringing peace.⁴⁷³

The queen departed very joyfully, happy with a twofold joy; 1325 pleased in fact to visit her native land and her relatives, pleased to leave the company of some whom she did not like. Certainly she does not like Hugh, through whom her uncle perished, by whom she was deprived of her servants and dispossessed of all her rents; consequently many think she will not return until Hugh Despenser is wholly removed from the king's side.⁴⁷⁴

When the queen came to her brother, the king, across the channel, she obtained nothing more than the other ambassadors, except that her brother, out of affection for her, prolonged the truce until the first of August.⁴⁷⁵ So the king of England, seeing that there was now nothing left to do except either to cross the channel and satisfy the king of France, or to lose the defenceless land of Gascony, after Easter collected a large army, namely of foot soldiers equipped with linen armour, having bows, axes, or swords, each bearing the arms in which he knew he was more skilled.⁴⁷⁶ For one is fitted for this, but not for

Edward II: Walter Stapeldon, Treasurer of England (Cambridge, 1983), p. 153 n. 178). Isabella landed at Wissant on 9 Mar. 1325 and by 20 Mar. reached Pontoise, where she met the queen of France (Chaplais, *Saint-Sardos*, p. 267).

⁴⁷⁴ Isabella's uncle was the late Thomas of Lancaster; for the relationship see above, n. 94. Her lands were confiscated on 18 Sept. 1324 and she was given a cash allowance; her French servants were removed on 28 Sept. (*Foed.* ii. 1. 569; *CFR 1319-27*, p. 300). Confiscation was not unprecedented in times of war and Isabella's income was not ungenerous, but at 3,920 marks (£2,613. 6s. 8d.) a year it was just over one-third of her earlier income (Buck, *Stapeldon*, p. 152 n.).

⁴⁷⁵ By 31 Mar. 1325 Isabella had negotiated an initial extension of the truce from 14 Apr. to 9 June. After further negotiations it was agreed on 31 May and confirmed by Edward on 13 June that he would come to France to do homage on 15 Aug. On 1 June the homage ceremony was postponed until 29 Aug. (Chaplais, *Saint-Sardos*, pp. 199-201; *Foed.*, ii. 1. 601-3; Chaplais, 'Duché-Pairie', pp. 156-7).

⁴⁷⁶ Preparations for Edward's passage to France continued throughout the spring and summer. Easter was 7 Apr. 1325. The main muster at Portsmouth was first called for 17 Mar., postponed to 17 May, and then to 2 Aug. (*PW*, ii. 1. 683-90, 696-9, 702-4, 714-19).

1325 aptus ad hec, non ad illa; Saul ad gladium, Ionathas ad arcum, et Daud in^a fundam.⁴⁷⁷ Iussitque eos rex ad mare procedere cum ductoribus suis, ibidemque residere donec aliud haberent in mandatis. Conuocauitque magnates regni sui Wyntoniam, disponere uolens communi consilio negocium expeditionis sue.⁴⁷⁸

Interim pedites petierunt uadia sua, set non dabantur eis; quomobrem discurrerant per totam patriam spoliantes incolas uictualibus suis. Mirabantur omnes quia non satisfaceret rex peditibus, cum rite uiuere non possent sine uadiis, et satis habundaret thesaurus regis. Multi enim progenitores sui congregauerunt denarios, ipse solus supergressus est uniuersos.⁴⁷⁹ Verumtamen imputatur Hugoni regis duricia sicut et alia mala que fiunt in curia. Vnde et multi in necem eius coniurauerunt, set machinatione detecta quidam eorum capti sunt, reliqui fugerunt.⁴⁸⁰

Tunc iussit rex omnes pedites naues ascendere et in fluctibus maris stacionem facere, donec adueniret tempus transfretandi in terram Vasconie; preposuitque eis comitem de Warena, Iohannem de Sancto Iohanne, et alios magnates terre, qui similiter ingressi sunt naues non audentes resistere.⁴⁸¹ Misit eciam rex litteras per singulos comitatus mandans et precipiens omnes qui ab exercitu ad partes suas sine licencia rediissent capi, et statim sine interrogacione suspendi. Tantus siquidem rigor hodie creuit in rege, ut nullus quantumcunque magnus et consultus uoluntati regis audeat obuiare. Iccirco parlamenta, tractatus et consilia hiis diebus de nullo decernunt.^c Nam proceres regni, minis et penis aliorum interriti,^d uoluntatem regis liberis habenis ambulare permittunt. Sic uoluntas hodie uincit racionem. Nam quicquid regi placuerit, quamuis racione careat, legis habet uigorem.⁴⁸²

^a sic MS; poss. ad He decernunt He, St, Den-Y ^b fugierunt MS; fugerunt He, Den-Y ^c deserunt MS; interiti MS; interriti He, St, Den-Y

⁴⁷⁷ Cf. 1 Kgs. (1 Sam.) 15: 33, 17: 48-50, 20: 35-41.

⁴⁷⁸ A council was summoned to Winchester for 3 Mar. 1325, but the king remained in London for most of that month. The council was postponed to 14 Apr. at Westminster, then on 8 Apr. postponed *sine die* (PW, ii. 1. 325-6, 328). On 6 May the king summoned a parliament to meet at Westminster on 25 June (HBC, p. 555).

⁴⁷⁹ Edward's wealth is well established. By the end of his reign he had paid off most of his father's debt and amassed at least £69,000 in cash. The author of the *Vita* is not the only chronicler to remark on his wealth, and the author of the *Brut* called him the richest king since the Conqueror (*Brut*, p. 225). For details of his income see Buck, *Stapeldon*, pp. 163-96.

that: Saul for the sword, Jonathan for the bow, and David for the sling.⁴⁷⁷ And the king ordered them to advance to the sea with their leaders, and to remain there until they received further orders. He also summoned the great men of his kingdom to Winchester, wishing to arrange the matter of his expedition by common counsel.⁴⁷⁸

Meanwhile the foot soldiers claimed their wages, but they were not given them, because of which they overran the whole countryside, plundering the inhabitants for their food. Everyone was amazed that the king did not pay the infantry, since they could not live properly without wages, and the king's treasure was abundant enough. For many of his forebears amassed money, he alone outstripped them all.⁴⁷⁹ However, the king's hardness is blamed on Hugh, like the other evils that take place at court. Hence many conspired to kill him, but the plot was discovered, some were captured and the rest fled.⁴⁸⁰

Then the king ordered all the infantry to board the ships and stand out to sea, until the time should come for crossing to Gascony; and he put in command of them Earl Warrene, John de St John, and other great men of the land, who likewise went on board the ships not daring to resist.⁴⁸¹ The king also sent letters to every county commanding and ordering that all who had returned from the army to their homes without leave should be arrested, and hanged forthwith without trial. The king's harshness has indeed increased so much today that no one, however great and wise, dares to cross the king's will. Thus parliaments, consultations, and councils decide nothing these days. For the nobles of the realm, terrified by threats and the penalties inflicted on others, let the king's will have free rein. Thus today will conquers reason. For whatever pleases the king, though lacking in reason, has the force of law.⁴⁸²

⁴⁸⁰ Earlier fears of conspiracy against Despenser are apparent in 1323 when the escaped Mortimer was accused of encouraging the assassination of the king's counsellors, and when accusations were made against a group of twenty-seven men for using sorcery to get rid of the Despensers and the prior of Coventry (CPR 1321-4, p. 349; *Select Cases in the Court of King's Bench*, iv. Selden Society, lxxiv (1955) pp. 154-7).

⁴⁸¹ Warrene contracted to serve in Gascony for six months in Mar. 1325 and was appointed leader of the expedition on 1 Apr.; he was in Gascony from May to Oct. (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 591-2, 594, 596; CP, xii. 1. 510). John de St John of Basing, king's banneret, was a loyal supporter of Edward II throughout the reign and went with Warrene to Gascony (*Foed.*, ii. 1. 592; CCR 1323-7, p. 279). After the Gascon campaign, he was entrusted with organizing the defence of Hampshire against possible invasion in 1326. He left Edward only after Edward's capture in Nov. 1326 (Phillips, *Pembroke*, p. 314; Maddicott, *Lancaster*, p. 299; CP, xi. 325-6).

⁴⁸² *Inst.* i. 2. 6, *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, i. 1. For the author's views on kingship, see above, pp. lii-lvii.