

Original Document.

Communicated by JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. Scot.

This document was noted some time ago in consequence of hearing and in due time reading Mr. G. T. Clark's interesting memoir on Guildford Castle (*Archæological Journal*, vol. xxix, pp. 1 et seqq.) There is no date or signature, nor is the name of the king given. So these particulars can only be guessed at from the persons who are suggested as fit gaol-deliverers for the counties of Sussex and Surrey. William Brayboef appears as one of the Justices itinerant at Winchester in the Octaves of Hilary, 1280-1 (*Calendar of Documents, Ireland*, by Mr. H. S. Sweetman. No. 1778). William de Braybof, possibly the same person, appears a little earlier in letters of attorney, directed to the king's bailiffs in Ireland, about 4th June, 1278 (*Ib.*, No. 1458). William de Wintreshill is a witness to a deed by Thomas de Clare on 30th March, 1270 (*Ib.*, No. 867). From Brayley and Mantell's *Surrey* (vol. ii, pp. 31 and 53,) it appears that William de Wintreshull was a landowner in the Hundred of Woking in 1270, and died in April, 1287. And though his brother Justice, W. de Braboeuf, is not mentioned by name, yet as there was a manor of Brabeuf or Brabief, near Guildford, which was owned by Geoffry de Brabeuf and his descendants from the 16th of Henry III (1232) for 130 years, it is more than probable that this Justice was also a Surrey landowner (*Ib.*, vol. i, pp. 402-3). Sir William de Wyntershylle and other Justices are found sitting at Winton, in August, 1271 (*Luard's Annales Monastici*, Rolls' Pub., ii, p. iii). I do not find any mention of Sir Dauid de Jargovile, so far as I have been able to look. It may thus be concluded that the document is, in all probability, to be referred to the end of Henry III's reign or beginning of his son's. And as the keep of Guildford Castle, doubtless the "prison" referred to, does not seem to have been converted to that use before the 51st of Henry III (1267), (*Brayley and Mantell*, vol. i, p. 320,) it would appear that it was very soon found to be defective in its accommodation; though, as we learn from authorities, it continued for upwards of two centuries to be the common gaol for Surrey and Sussex, till the inhabitants of Sussex, making a strong representation to Parliament (3rd of Henry VII., 1488), obtained the prayer of their petition, that their county gaol should be at Lewes (*Brayley and Mantell*, vol. i, p. 321). The contractions of the original are supplied. It is seven inches long by two deep, and forms No. 4692 of the collection of Royal, &c., letters in the Public Record Office. Mr. W. D. Selby of that Office has kindly decyphered several doubtful letters in the last sentence, shewing that the matter was very urgent.

"Por ce que la prison de Guildeford est plaine et grant mestier et auroit de deliurance nos vos prioms que vos voillez granter que mon sire Willaume de Braiboeuf Sire Willaume de Wintreshull et Sire Dau de Jargonuile ou un [ou] deus de eus par autres cheualiers que il porront acompagner a eus—des Contes de Sussey ou de Surrey. poussent deliurer les prisons des deus Contez. Aussi ceus qui [sont] rete de mort de home com dautre ret. Ceste chose vos prioms nos a ceste foiz despecial grace."

[No Endorsement.]