



## A Charter of Henry iii.

(Charter Roll 20, Henry iii., m. 5 or 6) in  
favour of Hurley Priory.

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**I**N a lengthy Charter Henry III. granted and confirmed, through his Chancellor, the Venerable Ralph, Bishop of Chichester, at Woodstock, on February 17th, 1236, "to God and to the Church of St. Mary, of Hurley, which is a cell to the Abbey of Westminster, and to Richard, Prior of Hurley, and to the Monks serving God of the same place and to their successors, all the lands and gifts of lands, men, alms, effects, rents, and possessions conferred by our predecessors or by other faithful persons in times past and present, or such as hereafter shall be conferred by us or by our successors as Kings of England or by other faithful persons, or such as have been lawfully acquired or shall hereafter be acquired in any other manner alike in churches as in matters ecclesiastic or in matters secular, in the same manner as we have made grants and by our Charter have confirmed them to God and to the Church of St. Peter, of Westminster and to the glorious (*glorioso*) King Edward, our special patron, and to other the cells of the aforesaid Abbey of Westminster, together with all the liberties and free uses as one contained below in this our present Charter." And then follows a number of boons and privileges granted to Hurley Church, and "to the aforesaid Prior and Monks and their successors," including "all their liberties and free uses and quittances in wood and in plain, in meadows and in pastures, in waters, in mills, in roads and in paths, in pools and in fishponds, in rushes and in granaries and in copses, &c.—with soke and sake and tol and team, infangentheof, outfangentheof, weregeldtheof, hamsoken, and grithbreche, and blodwite, infang, and forfang, and fithwite, and flirhwite, and ferdwite, and angwite, and leirwite, and flemenswite, and flemenfrit, and breach of prison, and murder and robbery, and as regards money which pertains to murder or robbery, and forestal in season and out of season along with all causes which are existing or can exist." Amongst other

concessions, they were freed "from all aids of the Crown," &c., "from hidage and tax on ploughs, and from Danegelt and homegelt and wapentake and tallage, &c.," "from the production of Domesday book (for purposes of taxation) and from wardage and wardpeny, and from averpeny and hundredpeny and bordhalfpeny and tithingpeny and from all taxes for constructing castles, parks, walls, fishponds and bridges," &c. There was to be no tax upon waggons going through the forest or other hindrance. They were to be allowed to take wood out of all their own (!) wood for their own and their men's uses whenever they might wish. They were to be freed from the obligation of cutting their dogs' feet (*de canum expeditacone*). The "cutting of their dogs' feet" refers to the general obligation incumbent upon owners of dogs who came within the forest-laws to expeditate or cut out the ball of the dog's foot,—to protect the King's game. The ball of the foot (it may be interesting to notice) was not, however, taken out of mastiffs, but the three claws on the right side of the fore-foot were to be cut off by the skin once in every three years. If any of the men of the Priors or Monks of Hurley, not being Counts or Barons, who for any crime of his deserved to lose his life or limb, either had run away or had refused to stand his trial, or had committed any other offence for which he ought to lose his chattels, whenever justice ought to be administered either in the King's own court or in any other court, the chattels were to be made over to the Priors and Monks aforesaid. All persons were forbidden thereafter to oppress or disturb the aforesaid Prior and Monks, or to molest or injure them or to allow any one to do so. The Charter concludes as follows:—"All these aforesaid [privileges] we grant and confirm to them in pure and perpetual alms with all liberties and free uses which the Crown can confer in favour of any Religious House—for the love of God and for the soul of the Lord King John, our father, and for the souls of all our ancestors and successors; and we forbid under [the penalty] of forfeiture to us that any Justice, Sheriff, Constable, Forester, or their servants interpose themselves against this our Charter in respect of their lands, rents, possessions and woods, whether in great matters or in small, and [we forbid] that they transgress against them or against their men in any particular, inasmuch as we have taken them and all their effects and possessions under our guardianship and special protection." And then follows a number of witnesses.

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July, 1897.

[Mr. Wethered sends us the following *Glossary* of above, drawn up by himself:—*Soke*—a liberty granted by the King. *Sake*—jurisdiction in matters of dispute. *Tol*—duty on imports. *Team*—the right of compelling a person to name the man from whom he has received stolen or lost property. *Infangen-theof*—the power of taking and judging a thief *within* the Lord's Manor. *Out-fangen-theof*—the power of taking and judging a thief *without* the Lord's Manor. *Weregeld-theof*—a fine for the escape of a thief. *Hamsoken*—the liberty and privilege of a man's own house. *Grithbreche*—breach of the peace. *Blodwite*—the fine imposed for drawing blood. *Infang*—"quietantia prioris prise ratione convivii." *Forfang*—the taking of provision from any one in fairs or markets before the King's purveyors are served with necessities for His Majesty. *Fithwite*—fine for breaking the peace. *Flirhwite*—a fine in the King's Court in a suit. *Ferdwite*—a fine imposed upon persons for not going forth on a military expedition. *Angwite*—a fine for not performing a vexatious service which tenants were obliged to pay their lords. *Flemenswite*—liberty to seize the chattels of a fugitive. *Flemenfrit*—the receiving or relieving of a fugitive or outlaw. *Forestal*—the buying or bargaining for any corn, cattle, &c., by the way as they come to fairs or markets to be sold. *Danegelt*—a rate of 1s. or 2s. on every hide of land, imposed upon the Saxons by the Danes. King Ethelred being sore pressed for money, on account of the attacks of the Danes, heavily charged his people with *danegelt*, which he paid to the Danes to secure peace. *Hornegelt*—a tax within a forest, to be paid for horned beasts. *Wapentake*—this word seems to be of Danish origin. When England, or part of it, was first divided into hundreds (which probably were divisions consisting of 100 families each) the chief man or high constable went into a field on horseback with a pike in his hand, and all the chief men met him with their lances and touched his pike as a sign of unity (*weapon* and *tactus*—weapon-touched is the origin of Wapentake as a word). *Tallage*—specially an aid demandable of demesne lands at the will of the lord. *Averpeny*—money paid towards the King's averages or carriages, or to be freed thereof. *Hundredpeny*—money collected by the sheriff or lord of the hundred. *Bordhalfpeny*—a small customary payment to the Lord of the Town for setting up boards, tables, booths, &c., in fairs and markets. *Tithingpeny*—a tax due from the tithing or otherwise].

