

ANGLO-NORMAN TEXTS

A ROYAL LOAN

Two documents from Bishop Walden's register

By UNA C. HANNAM, M.A.

The documents given here *in extenso* have previously appeared in a calendared form in the Society's *Transactions* for 1953 (Vol. XI, Part II, pp. 132-133, 136). The subject of both documents is the same, namely the raising of a loan on the strength of a moiety of taxation payable by the clergy which would fall due in about three months' time. The circumstances which necessitated such a loan have already been described in the *Transactions* (*Ibid*, pp. 126-127).

In this transcription the spelling of the originals has been exactly preserved but capitals and punctuation have been modernised for the sake of clarity.

WRIT I

TRANSCRIPT IN EXTENDED ANGLO-NORMAN

(*St. Paul's Cathedral Library. Register of Bishop Roger Walden, Fo. 8—8 v.*)

(Fo. 8). Litera ad mutandam pecuniam pro rege Thomas permissione diuina Cantuariensis archiepiscopus, tocius Anglie primas et apostolice sedis legatus venerabili fratri nostro domino Rogero, dei gratia Londoniensi episcopo, salutem et fraternam in domino caritatem. Literas domini nostri regis sub signeto suo, ob iminentes necessitates regni et ecclesie Anglicane, nobis transmissas XVta die instantis mensis Septembris circa horam nonam recepimus, in hec verba. Tresreuerent piere en dieu et nostre tres chier et tresame cousin, nous vous saluons souvent dentier cuer. Et certainement (sumes) enformez coment noz nouelx du pays de Gascoigne que plusours noz chastelx y sont assieges par autres noz enemys de France et par noz rebelx en celles parties, ennemys de France sont en Gales en confort de noz rebelx en celles parties, et y font mesmes noz rebelx et ennemys la destruccion, mal damage et greuance, quils purront, et ensy est que pour resister a leur malice sumes de present a nostre citee de Hereford, ou nous auons eu issint que si socour et aide de gentz darmes et archiers et auxi de monoye ne soient illeokes enuoiez en haste, icelle pays est en point destre

ANGLO-NORMAN TEXTS

TRANSLATION

The documents given here *in extenso* have previously appeared in a calendared form in the Society's *Transactions* for 1953 (Vol. XI, Part II, pp. 132-133, 136). The subject of both documents is the same namely the raising of a loan on the strength of a moiety of taxation payable by the clergy which would fall due in about three months' time. The circumstances which necessitated such a loan have already been described in the *Transactions* (*Ibid*, pp. 126-127).

In this transcription the spelling of the originals has been exactly preserved but capitals and punctuation have been modernised for the sake of clarity.

WRIT I

Letter for the borrowing of money for the king Thomas by divine permission archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England and legate of the apostolic see to our venerable brother the lord Roger, by the grace of God bishop of London, greeting and brotherly affection in the Lord. We have received letters of our lord the king under his signet, on account of the imminent necessities of the kingdom and English church, conveyed to us the 15th day of the present month of September (15 September, 1405) about the ninth hour, in these words. Most reverend father in God and our dearest and much loved cousin, we greet you repeatedly with a whole heart. And we (have been) reliably informed how our enemies from France are in Wales to help our rebels in those parts, and our same rebels and enemies are creating there destruction, great havoc and loss, as they are able, and so it is that in order to withstand their wickedness we are at present at our city of Hereford, where we have had tidings from the country of Aquitaine that several of our castles there are being besieged by others of our enemies of France and by our rebels in those parts, so that if help and assistance of men at arms and archers and also of money are not quickly sent there, that country is at the point of being lost, which God forbid.

perdue, que dieu defend. Et pour ceo que lendemain prendrons nostre chemyn oue nostre host vers les ditz parties de Gales, pour y faire, oue la grace de dieu, tielle resistance a noz ditz enemys et rebelx y esteantz, que si apres nostre retour souffisantz garnisons y soient mys, mesme nostre pays serra en meillour gouernance quelle nad este cy deuant en temps passe et tout nostre royaume en auera greindre quiete quil nad ev deuant ces heures, pour les quelles garnisons mettre et gentz darmes et archiers enuoier oue monoye pour socour et saluacion de nostre dite pais de Guyene, considerees les tresgrandes coustages et expenses queux nous avons fait pour la garde du meer et du pays de Gales et auxi pour le chastisement de noz rebelx deinz nostre royaume, come notoirement il est conuz parmy tout nostre roiaume suisdit, nauons de present aucune notable somme de monoye; et ycestes matiers declarees as seignurs, chiualers et tout nostre conseil y esteantz a present, et consideree que sanz cheuance de monoye deinz troyz sepmaignes afaire ne purrons ordeigner pour les matiers suiditz, et que a plesance de dieu et pour seurtee de ceux qi nous ferent tiel cheuance ne sauons trouer autre voie de cheuance que par seurtee de les moytees des dysmes et quinzisme a nous darrainement grantees par les lays payable a le feste de seint Martin proschein venant, et de la moytee de la dysme a nous grante par la clergie de vostre prouince payable a la feste de Noel alors proschein ensuant, auons fait faire commissions a toutes les countees de nostre royaume pour nous faire cheuance, cestassauoir en chescun countee dattante de somme come les moitees de les dysmes et quinzisme des lays amontera, les quelles sommes, si dieux plect, nous seront paieez le xxvime iour de cest present moys de Septembre proschein venant. Si nous considerantz les matiers suiditz et en especial coment sanz tiel cheuance, sibien la suisdite nostre duchie de Guyene, come le dit pays seront vraisiblement en voie de perdicion, et nostre royaume en grand peril, le quel peril nous sauons de certain que vous, ne nul de noz foialz lieges soeffrer veullez en aucun manere, vous prions trescherement de cuer et sicome vous desirez la saluacion de noz duchie et pays suisditz et la quiete de nostre roiaume veues cestes, escrire veullez a toutes les euesques de vostre province quilz, cessantes toutes excusations et delaies, facent venir deuant lour officers ou commissairs en chescun archidiaknee en lour ditz diocises a tantz des persons, sibien prelatz religious come personnes seculiers, plus riches et sufficeantz deinz chescun archidiaknee en lour ditz diocises, come nous purront apprestre en ceste nostre necessitee a tante de somme de monoye come la moitee de la dite demy disme amontera en mesme lerchediaknee, et mesme la somme paier prestement en main, et de eux a ce faire inducer et exciter par tielles voies possibles et resonables quilz le

And (it is) for this reason that tomorrow we shall make our way with our army towards the said parts of Wales, to set up there, with the grace of God, such resistance to our said enemies and rebels being there, that if after our return adequate garrisons be put there, our same country will be in better order than it has been aforetime in time past and our whole realm will have greater peace than it has had before this time. To establish these garrisons and to send men at arms and archers with money for the assistance and saving of our said country of Aquitaine, having considered the very great costs and expenses which we have borne for the defence of the sea and of the land of Wales and also for the punishment of our rebels within our realm, as it is publicly known throughout all our aforesaid realm, we have no sufficient sum of money. So, declaring these matters to the lords, knights and all our council there being present, and considering that without a loan of money within three weeks we shall not be able to arrange for the aforesaid matters, and that for the pleasure of God and for surety of those who shall make us such a loan we cannot find another way of loan than by surety of the moieties of the tenths and fifteenth lately granted to us by the laity payable at the feast of saint Martin next coming (11th November, 1405) and of the moiety of the tenth granted to us by the clergy of your province payable at the feast of Christmas then next following, we have caused commissions to be made to all the counties of our realm to make us a loan, to wit in each county so great a sum as the moieties of the tenths and fifteenth of the laity will amount to, the which sums, if it please God, shall be paid to us the 26th day of this present month of September next coming. So we, considering the aforesaid matters and especially how without such a loan both the aforesaid our duchy of Aquitaine and the said country [of Wales] will probably be on the road to perdition and our realm in great peril, the which peril we know for certain that you, nor any of our faithful lieges would wish to allow in any way, we pray you very dearly from the heart and as you desire the saving of our duchy and country aforesaid and the peace of our realm, when you have seen these presents, to write to all the bishops of your province that they, ceasing all excuses and delays, cause to come before their officers or commissaries in each archdeaconry in their said dioceses as many of the more rich and wealthy persons, both religious prelates and secular parsons, within each archdeaconry in their said dioceses, as shall be able to lend us in this our necessity as great a sum of money as the moiety of the said half tenth shall amount to in the same archdeaconry, and to pay the same sum promptly into hand, and to induce and excite them to do this by such possible and reasonable means as may make them do it without fail, making for their surety the collectors of the said moiety

facent sans defaute, faisant pour lour seurtee les coillours de la dite moytee en chescun archidiaknee en vostre dite province par toutes voies possibles de resone estre (Fo. 8v.) obligez as persones des queux ycelle monoye serra ensy appromptee pour les sommes issint par eux apprompteez, et sur ceo faisantz liueree a mesmes les coillours tailles datante de monoye come la moitee amontera en chescun archidiaknee pour lour descharge finale de la moitee auant dite, ensi vous aient, treschier cousin, en ceste partie que les sommes ensi apprompter, come dit est, puissent estre paies et deliueriez le xxvime iour de cest present moys de Septembre a nostre citee de Wyrcestre as tresorers de noz guerres darrainement assigneez en nostre darrain parlement tenuz a Couentre pour les defenses et guerres suisditz, et nemye en autre oeps destre emploiez. Et enou(l)tre, vous prions que pour leffectuel exploit de cest bosoigne veuillez auxi enuoier a noz chiers et foialx Thomas Brokhilt, William Makenade, John Colepeper, nostre visconte de Kent, Johan Halsham, noz commissioners en countee de Kent et as autres noz commissioners et noz autres countees presde vous, quils facent due et effectuel execucon de noz commissions a eux directez en celle partie, et nostre siegnur, tresreuerent pere en dieu et nostre treschier et tresame cousin, vous ait toutdys en sa seinte garde. Donne soubz nostre signet a nostre citee de Hereford le viiie iour de Septembre suisdit. Et semblable cheuance ordeigner veuillez estre faite en vostre diocise pour amour de nous et sicome nous nous fions entierment de vous. Donne come desuisdit. Quocirca vobis committimus et mandamus quatinus literas vestras singulis coepiscopis, confratribus et suffraganeis nostris harum seriem continentes, cum omni celeritate possibili, transmittere curetis, ut tenore literarum regiarum predictarum per eorum quemlibet diligenter inspecto, indilate faciat vnusquisque quod est suum. Vosque, quatenus in vestris ciuitate et diocesi vobis incumbit, eciam faciatis in omnibus quod est vestrum. Datum in manerio de Mortelake xvto die dicti mensis Septembris circa horam vesperorum anno domini millesimo ccccmo quinto et nostre translationis anno nono.

WRIT II

(*St. Paul's Cathedral Library. Register of Bishop Roger Walden, Fo. 14v.*).

(Fo. 14v). Litera de priuato sigillo pro pecunia mutanda Reuerent pere en dieu, come nous considerans coment les tresorers de noz guerres ont paieez, ace quils dient, toutes les sommes de deniers par eux receuz des grantes a nous faices en nostre darrein parlement, et coment aussi nous auons paieez tous les deniers prouenantz des reuenues de

in each archdeaconry in your said province by all possible ways in reason to be responsible to the persons from whom this money shall be thus borrowed for the sums so borrowed by them, and on this, making delivery to the same collectors taxes of as much money as the moiety shall amount to in each archdeaconry for their final discharge of the aforesaid moiety. Thus you, dearest cousin, may help in this matter [to ensure] that the sums to be thus borrowed, as is said, can be paid and delivered the 26th day of this present month of September at our city of Worcester to the treasurers of our wars lately appointed in our last parliament held at Coventry for the defences and aforesaid wars, and not employed in other use. And further, we pray you that for the effective execution of this task you will likewise send to our dear and faithful Thomas Brokhilt, William Makenade, John Colepeper, our sheriff of Kent, John Halsham, our commissioners in the county of Kent and to our other commissioners and our other counties near to you, that they make due and effective execution of our commissions directed to them in this matter, and our lord, most reverend father in God and our dearest and much loved cousin, have you always in his holy keeping. Given under our signet at our city of Hereford the 8th day of September aforesaid (8 September, 1405). And order a like loan to be made in your diocese for love of us and as we trust you completely. Given as above. Therefore we charge and command you to take care to send your letters to each of our fellow bishops, brothers and suffragans containing the purport of these presents, with all possible speed, so that, the purport of the aforesaid royal letters having been diligently examined by everyone of them, each one shall without delay perform what is his duty. And you, in so far as it is incumbent upon you to your city and diocese, also in everything do what is your duty. Given in our manor of Mortlake the 15th day of the said month of September about the hour of vespers in the year of the Lord fourteen hundred and five and the ninth year of our translation.

WRIT II

TRANSLATION

Letter of the privy seal for the borrowing of money Reverend father in God, as we considering how the treasurers of our wars have paid, according to what they say, all the sums of money received by them from the grants made to us in our last parliament, and how also we have paid all the sums coming from the revenues of our realm in the mean time, both on the wars which we have had since then and still have and on the undue costs and expenses that we have had for the punishment of certain

nostre roiaume en le moien temps, sibien pur les guerres quelles nous avons euz puis encea et vncore avons come pur les excessiues coustages et expenses quez nous avons euz pur le chastiment de certains noz rebelx deinz mesme nostre roiaume, et enou(l)tre, considerantz coment ore tard a nostre citee de Hereford sur nostre chemyn vers les parties de Gales nous vindrent tielles nouelles de nostre duchie de Guyene que pur les guerres que y sont a present en la saluacion de mesme nostre duchie, nous couiendra enuoier a icelle nostre duchie vne conuenable compaignie de gentz darmes et archiers et aussi aucune somme de monoye dont ils purront estre refresshez en leur deseases, et comentz aussi a nostre retour des dices parties de Gales il nous couiendra mettre garnisons en mesmes les parties pur la saluacion dicelles, et issint pur les causes suisdices nous couient de faire grande cheuance de monoye, et veullantz pur lease et quiete de vous et de noz autres lieges faire mesme la cheuance de les moitees de les disme et quinzisme a nous grantees par les lays en dit parlement et de les dismes a nous aussi grantees par le clergie, escript auons au tresreuerent pere en dieu, nostre treschier cousin, lerceuesque de Cantirbirs, pur vous escrire de faire venir deuant voz officers certains prelatz religious et autres persons de seinte esglise de les plus riches et suffisantz de chescun archidiaknee deinz vostre diocise, pur nous apprestre atant de monoye come la suisdiche moitee de la dice disme amontera en mesme larcediaknee, et repaiement auoir de mesme la moitee de disme, sicome nous pensons que par mesme les lettres vous purra apparoir pluis au plain. Si vous prions trescherement et de cuer que de mesmes les lettres et mandementz issint a vous a adresser facez tiele execucion que de mesme la somme cheuance nous soit faite, et icelle somme issint cheuee nous soit enuoiee a nostre citee de Wircestre a toute haste possible, par ensi que a pluistard ele soit illeoques prestement le vynt et sisme your de ceste presente moys de Septembre sanz defaute, et ce ne veuillez lesser sicome vous desirez la saluacion de nous et de vous et de noz roiaume, duchie et pays suisditz. Donne souz nostre priue seal a nostre citee de Hereford, le ix iour de Septembre.

rebels of ours within our same realm, and further, considering how now recently at our city of Hereford on our way towards the parts of Wales there came to us (such) tidings from our duchy of Aquitaine that, for the wars that are there at present for the saving of our same duchy, it will behove us to send to that our duchy a fitting company of men at arms and archers and also a sum of money by which they may be renewed in their distresses, and how also at our return from the said parts of Wales it will behove us to put garrisons in the same parts for their safety, and thus for the aforesaid reasons it behoves us to raise a large loan of money, and wishing for the peace and quiet of you and of our other lieges to raise the same loan on the moieties of the tenth and fifteenth granted to us by the laity in the said parliament and on the tenths also granted to us by the clergy, we have written to the very reverend father in God, our very dear cousin, the archbishop of Canterbury, to write to you to make to come before your officers certain religious prelates and other parsons of holy church of the richer and more substantial of each archdeaconry within your diocese, to lend us as much money as the aforesaid moiety of the said tenth will amount to in the said archdeaconry, and to have repayment from the same moiety of the tenth, as we think will appear clearer to you by the same letters. So we beg you very dearly and from the heart that you will make such execution of the same letters and mandates so to be despatched by you, that the loan of the said sum should be made to us, and that sum so borrowed may be sent to us at our city of Worcester with all possible despatch, so as that at the latest it may be here promptly on the twenty sixth day of this present month of September (26 September, 1405) without fail, and do not neglect this as you desire the saving of us and of you and of our realm, duchy and country aforesaid. Given under our privy seal at our city of Hereford the 9th day of September (9 September, 1405).