Verba Vana: Empty Words in Ricardian
London

Volume II

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Thesis presented for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
March 2012

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2 vols
Appendices - Contents

Notes to Appendices .................................................................................................................. 302

Appendix 1 – The Stores of the Cities ...................................................................................... 304
  1a) Text and Translation ............................................................................................................ 304
      Text ...................................................................................................................................... 304
      Translation ............................................................................................................................. 305
  1b) Additional Comments on Stanza 1 ...................................................................................... 307
  1c) The Stores’ description of Lincoln: A Walking Tour? ......................................................... 311

Appendix 2: The Variable Fortunes of Nicholas Exton ............................................................ 321
  2a) Nicholas Exton’s indecentibus verbis .................................................................................. 321
      Text ...................................................................................................................................... 321
      Translation ............................................................................................................................. 324
      Manuscript Image ................................................................................................................. 327
  2b) Nicholas Exton’s Slander ...................................................................................................... 328
      Text ...................................................................................................................................... 328
      Translation ............................................................................................................................. 331
      Manuscript Images .............................................................................................................. 333
  2c) Nicholas Exton’s Pardon ....................................................................................................... 335
      Text ...................................................................................................................................... 335
      Translation ............................................................................................................................. 337

Appendix 3 – John Godefray’s False ‘cappes’ ................................................................. 339
  Text ...................................................................................................................................... 339
  Translation ............................................................................................................................... 341

Appendix 4 – John de Stratton’s Forgeries .............................................................................. 343
  Text ...................................................................................................................................... 343
  Translation ............................................................................................................................... 345
Appendix 5 – Richard Norbury, John More, and John Northampton’s Insurrection ................................................................. 347
  Text ................................................................................................................. 347
  Translation ...................................................................................................... 351

Appendix 6 – Brembre’s Proclamations .......................................................... 354
  6a) Proclamation 1 ......................................................................................... 354
     Text ............................................................................................................. 354
     Translation ................................................................................................. 356
  6b) Proclamation 2 ......................................................................................... 358
     Text ............................................................................................................. 358
  6c) Proclamation 3 ......................................................................................... 359
     Text ............................................................................................................. 359
     Translation ................................................................................................. 360
  6d) Proclamation 4 ......................................................................................... 361
     Text ............................................................................................................. 361
     Translation ................................................................................................. 362
  6e) Proclamation 5 ......................................................................................... 363
     Text ............................................................................................................. 363
     Translation ................................................................................................. 364
  6f) Proclamation 6 ......................................................................................... 365
     Text ............................................................................................................. 365
     Translation ................................................................................................. 366

Appendix 7 – The 1388 Guild Petitions .......................................................... 367
  7a) The Pinners’ Petition ................................................................................. 367
     Text ............................................................................................................. 367
     Translation ................................................................................................. 369
  7b) The Founders’ Petition ............................................................................. 371
     Text ............................................................................................................. 371
     Translation ................................................................................................. 374
  7c) The Drapers’ Petition ............................................................................... 376
     Text ............................................................................................................. 376
     Translation ................................................................................................. 379
7d) The Painters’ Petition...........................................................................381
   Text ......................................................................................................381
   Translation ..........................................................................................385
7e) The Armourers’ Petition ......................................................................388
   Text ......................................................................................................388
   Translation ..........................................................................................392
7f) The <...>steres’ Petition ......................................................................395
   Text ......................................................................................................395
   Translation ..........................................................................................398
7g) The Goldsmiths’ Petition .....................................................................400
   Text ......................................................................................................400
   Translation ..........................................................................................404
7h) The Saddlers’ Petition .........................................................................408
   Text ......................................................................................................408
   Translation ..........................................................................................412
7i) The Cordwainers’ Petition ...................................................................416
   Text ......................................................................................................416
   Translation ..........................................................................................420
7j) The Embroiderers’ Petition ..................................................................424
   Text ......................................................................................................424
   Translation ..........................................................................................427
7k) The Mercers’ Petition...........................................................................430
   Text ......................................................................................................430
7l) The Cutlers, Bowyers, Fletchers, Spurriers, and Bladesmiths’ Petition ....435
   Text ......................................................................................................435
   Translation ..........................................................................................441
7m) The Leathersellers and Whittawyers’ Petition ....................................446
   Text ......................................................................................................446
   Translation ..........................................................................................451
7n) The Tailors’ Petition ............................................................................456
   Text ......................................................................................................456
   Translation ..........................................................................................458
7o) The Anglo-Norman Mercers’ Petition (Partial Transcription) ..............460
Appendix 8 – The Mercers’ Petition and the Embroiderers’ Petition Side-by-Side ................................................................. 462

Appendix 9 – Anti-Victualler Statute ................................................................. 468
  Text ........................................................................................................... 468
  Translation ............................................................................................... 469
  Manuscript Images .................................................................................. 470

Appendix 10 – Table of Correspondences among the 1388 Guild Petitions ...... 473
  Table 4 – The Correspondences amongst the 1388 Guild Petition .......... 473
  Notes to Table 4 ....................................................................................... 474
  Key to Petitions ....................................................................................... 474
  Key to Accusations .................................................................................. 475

Appendix 11 – A document associated with the Leathersellers and Whittawyers’ Petition ......................................................... 477
  Text ........................................................................................................... 477
  Translation ............................................................................................... 478

Appendix 12 – Official Responses to John Constantyn’s Execution .......... 479
  12a) Brembre’s Petition ........................................................................... 479
      Text ........................................................................................................ 479
      Translation ............................................................................................ 480
  12b) Royal Warrant .................................................................................. 481
      Text ........................................................................................................ 481
      Translation ............................................................................................ 482
  12c) Royal Ratification in Letter-Book H .................................................. 483
      Text ........................................................................................................ 483
      Translation ............................................................................................ 485
### Appendix 13 – William Mayhew’s Protest

- Text .............................................................. 487
- Translation ..................................................... 489

### Appendix 14 – Further Images from *Letter-Book H*

- ....................................................................... 491

### Bibliography

- ................................................................. 498
  - Manuscript Sources ...................................... 498
  - Reference Works ........................................... 499
  - Primary Sources .......................................... 500
  - Secondary Sources ...................................... 507
Notes to Appendices

Transcription Practice

In producing these transcriptions, spelling and capitalisation from the original manuscripts has been retained. Most abbreviations are expanded and the expansions are given in italics. When dealing with non-standard abbreviations, spellings are taken either from the usage elsewhere in the document or from the headwords in the *RMLW, AND* and *MED*. Some proper nouns are left unexpanded, with the missing expansion being indicated by an apostrophe. Superscript letters are silently lowered, while interlineal additions are enclosed within carets ^ ^ . Where the originals contain punctuation, this has been retained but modernised. No new punctuation has been introduced. No attempt has been made to capture the layout of the original text, beyond retaining paragraph divisions. The beginnings and endings of marginal glosses are indicated by <marginated>.

Where the manuscripts have been damaged reasonable attempts have been made to recreate the sense of the original. Conjectural recreations are enclosed within < > . Where missing material can be supplied from other documents (as in the case of the 1388 petitions), this material is enclosed in { }. Parts of the original which can no longer be recreated are indicated by <...>. Editorial comments are placed in footnotes.

Translation Practice

Every Latin and Anglo-Norman transcription also includes a translation into modern English. These translations are not an attempt to produce a smooth and readable rendering of the originals. Rather, these serve as reading aids to faithfully and literally capture the sense of the originals. Any additional words added for clarity are indicated by { }. The translations have been freely re-punctuated to aid the sense.

In producing these transcriptions and translations, I have made use of: Charles Trice Martin, *The Record Interpreter: A Collection of Abbreviations, Latin Words and Names Used in English Historical Manuscripts and Records* (Chichester: Phillimore, 1910); *Revised Medieval Latin Word-List from British and Irish Sources* *with Supplement*, prepared by R. E. Latham (London: Oxford University Press, 1980); Alan Hindley, Frederick W. Langely, Brian J. Levy, *Old French-English Dictionary*


In deciphering the dates referred to the in the texts, I have made use of *A Handbook of Dates: For Students of British History*, ed. by C. R. Cheney, rev. by Michael Jones, rev. edn (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

I originally produced transcriptions of several of the 1388 guild petitions for my MA thesis. For the purposes of this project, however, I have returned to the manuscripts and created transcriptions from afresh.

**Introductory Notes**

For each text included I provide a brief introduction giving a date, source and details of any previous editions. Where I transcribe loose documents I give two sets of measurements in centimeters: the first measures the size of the parchment (width by length); the second measures the size of the written space (width by length). The length of the written space is measured from the top of a minim in the first line to the bottom of a minim in the last line.

Where relevant, each appendix also has specific notes pertinent to the document being transcribed.
Appendix 1 – The Stores of the Cities

1a) Text and Translation

Date: Late fourteenth century
Language(s): Latin, Middle English
Source: Trinity College, Cambridge, MS O.9.38, f. 16v.
Note to Appendix: I include here a new transcription recording my reading of the poem (which differs only slightly from Rigg’s edition). In this transcription, I have replicated the distinctive manuscript layout, which places the names of each city in the left margin.

Text

Hec sunt londonis, pira pomaque regia thronus
Londonis Chepp, stupha, coklana, dolium, leo verbaque vana
Lancea cum scutis hec sunt staura ciuitatis
Capitulum kekus, porcus, fimus eborecus
<Eb>oracus Nal, nel, lamprones, kele & mele salt salamones
Ratis cum petys hec sunt staura ciuitetis
Hec sunt lincolne, bow, bolt, & bellia bolne
Lyncolne Ad monstru scala, rosa bryghta, nobilis ala
Et bubulus flatus hec sunt staura ciuitatis
Hec sunt norwycus, panis ordeus halpenypkys
Norwycus Clausus posticus, domus habrahe, dy²r³ȝt quoque vicus
fflynt valles, rede thek, ciuitatis optima sunt hec
Contreye mirum, sopanedula tractaque wyrum
Coventrye Et carmen notum noua stipula pedula totum
Cardones mille, hec sunt insigni a villia
Hec sunt brystollys ȝ ladelys doȝelys quoque bollys
Brystollys Burges negones karine clocheriaque chevones
Webbys cum rotis hec sunt staura ciuitotis
Hec sunt cantorum iuga dogmata bal baculorum
Cantuarum Et princeps tumba, bel, brachia, sulsaque plumba
Et syserem potus hec sunt staura ciuitotis
Translation

Note to Appendix: The *Stores of the Cities* is a poem which resists simple translation. For the sake of clarity, I offer here a possible translation of the poem, but this should be read alongside Rigg’s notes on the entire poem and my detailed comments on stanzas one and three which follow. In translating stanzas 2 and 4–7 I mostly follow Rigg; where I differ from his translation I offer brief explanatory footnotes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>London’s</th>
<th>Cheapside, the Stews, Cock Lane, the Tun, the Lion, and empty words, Lance and shields. These are the stores of the city. Chapter, rubbish, pig, mud: York’s.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>York’s</td>
<td>Nail, needle, lampreys, net and meal, salt, salmon, Rats with pets. These are the stores of the city. These are Lincoln’s: Stonebow, bolt, and large bell,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln’s</td>
<td>Steps to the cathedral, bright rose-window, noble aisle, And bovine wind. These are the stores of the city. These are Norwich’s: barley-bread, halfpenny pies,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich’s</td>
<td>Close gate, Abraham’s Hall, dirt street Flint walls, red thatch. These are the best of the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coventry’s</td>
<td>And a famous legend, a new steeple, a whole font,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1 Rigg translates ‘nal’ as *awl*, but does express some uncertainty about the phrase ‘nal, nel’. It would seem to me that this line is all about fishing: it mentions needles (used to make nets), nets, salt fish, salmon, and lampreys. As such, ‘nal’ could be read as *nail*: the *MED* gives ‘nail(l)e’ as an alternative spelling of ‘nail (n.).’ While nails may not be a crucial attribute of the fisherman, we do have records of ‘iron nails’ being sold alongside ‘salt fish’ and ‘salt’ at a fish-market. For details, see Eileen Power, *Medieval English Nunneries: c.1275-1535* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1922), p. 139.

2 Rigg translates ‘kele’ as *broth*. The *MED*, however, offers ‘[a] net’ as a definition for ‘calle (n.)’ (alternatively spelt ‘kel’ or ‘kelle’). Given this line’s emphasis on fishing, this strikes me as a more plausible interpretation.

3 Given the context, it is tempting to read ‘mele’ as *mealworm*. But I can find no evidence to support this reading.

4 Rigg offers *soaps, needles* as a speculative translation for *sopanedula*. This reading is plausible given that the *Stores* has already mentioned needles. However, the manuscript does record this as a single word implying some connection between the two terms. *RMLW* offers *white* as a translation for ‘nedulus’, which raises the possibility of reading this phrase as ‘white soap’. ‘Nedulus’ is by no means a common Latin word and I do not want to push this argument too far. It is, though, notable that white soap was sold in Coventry: see Charles Phythian-Adams, *Desolation of a City: Coventry and the Urban Crisis of the Late Middle Ages* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979), p. 29.

5 Rigg does not offer a translation for ‘pedula’. The *RMLW* directs the reader to *pes*, a word with many definitions, including ‘pedestal (of font)’. This definition is compelling, particularly if we
A thousand cards. These are the marks of the city.

These are Bristol’s: ladels, barrel-plugs, bowls,

Niggardly citizens, boats, bell-towers and beams,

Webs with wheels. These are the stores of the city.

These are Canterbury’s: eternal dogmas, a bundle of pilgrim-staffs,

And the primate, tomb, bell, beer-producing grain,⁶ pickled plums

And the drink sicer. These are the stores of the city.

accept Rigg’s argument that ‘nova stipula’ refers to the spire of St Michael’s Church, begun in 1373 and completed by 1395. For, a manuscript list of the mayors of Coventry records that mayor John Crosse, in 1394, ‘built the font in St. Michael’s’. This line could thus be referring to the new features of St Michael’s (and would mirror a similar line in the poem focusing on Lincoln’s cathedral), and would suggest a date for the poem shortly after 1395 (once both the steeple and font were completed). However, this reading is speculative. For a transcription of the mayoral list, see: William Dugdale, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*, rev. by William Thomas, 2nd edn, 2 vols (London: John Osborn and Thomas Longman, 1730), I, 148. For St Michael’s spire, see T. G. Bonney, *Abbeys and Churches of England and Wales: Descriptive, Historical, Pictorial* (London: Cassel, 1887), pp. 78-80.

⁶ *RMLW* offers ‘reliquary’ as an alternative definition of ‘bracch/ium’. I follow Rigg here with ‘beer-producing grain’, but I suspect that the *Stores*-poet is deliberately punning on the twin meanings of ‘brachia’ to link the religious aspects of the opening of this stanza with the alcoholic references that follow.
1b) Additional Comments on Stanza 1

Note to Appendix: I offer here some slightly lengthier notes on the first stanza of the *Stores of the Cities*, as this is the stanza that has particularly influenced this project.

*pira pomaque*: Rigg reads ‘pira pomusque’. In the hand of the *Stores*’ scribe, the respective bowls of the grapheme ‘a’ and the ‘–us’ abbreviation mark are identical. The only difference is the abbreviation mark’s diagonal descender. In the manuscript, there is what appears to be a diagonal line below the bowl which follows ‘pom’. However, upon closer inspection this line is actually just a blotch on the manuscript: it does not actually connect to the base of the bowl. The reading is thus simply pomaque.

Rigg resists reading this line literally. He reads both as singular nouns and offers the speculative translation of ‘sceptre and orb’. If the nouns are read as plurals, however, the literal reading of ‘pears and apples’ becomes more plausible. Apples and pears do seem to have been grown in the city, both for profit and consumption.¹ In addition, as Melitta Weiss Adamson suggests, much of the fruit sold in the city was ‘brought in from the countryside or [...] grown in the suburbs’.² This fruit could have been grown in the gardens which literally surrounded the city and were leased by the civic officials to citizens, or in the more substantial gardens found around Westminster.³ Regardless of where the fruit was sourced, however, apples and pears were evidently on display in the city. The poem’s opening may thus be read as a straightforward reference to the natural produce of the city.

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¹ Barron reminds us that ‘[m]edieval London was a city of gardens and open spaces’; see her *London*, pp. 252-55. Fruit trees would be found most notably in the large gardens belonging to the nobility and to the gardens attached to the many religious houses in the city. For example, the financial accounts of the Earl of Lincoln from 1295-96 lists the profits that he made from selling pears and apples, among other fruits, grown in his garden in Holborn. C. C. Dyer suggests that the Earl’s land would have included ‘hundreds of fruit trees’. See C. C. Dyer, ‘Gardens and Garden Produce in the Later Middle Ages’, in *Food in Medieval England: Diet and Nutrition*, ed. by C. M. Woolgar, D. Sarjeantson and T. Waldron (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 27-40 (p. 28). Individual Londoners would have had smaller gardens, but still seemed to grow fruit trees, although our knowledge of these mostly comes through references in the courts following transgressions. For example, in 1363 Margery de Honylane complains of fruit from her garden being stolen due to a disrepaired wall, while in 1376 a similar complaint is made by William and Felicia Chaloner. See *London Assize of Nuisance, 1301-1431: A Calendar*, ed. by Helena M. Chew and William Kellaway (London: London Record Society, 1973), p. 519, 609.


**Dolium**: ‘dolium’ is one of the more straightforward words in the poem for, as Rigg notes, it translates as “the Tunne”, the prison situated in Cornhill. Stow described the Tun, built in 1282, as ‘a prison for night walkers, and other suspicious persons’, and this remained one of its functions throughout the years of its use. For example, in 1388 William Stofford and Alice Hoo are ‘taken in adultery’ in the night and carried to the ‘dolium’ on Cornhill to await their appearance before the mayor the following day. However, in the late fourteenth century, the Tun also became a ‘destination in the punishment process’, and people who had been convicted of a crime – often, but not always, some form of illicit sexual practices – were processed there ‘in broad daylight and with musical accompaniment’. So, Northampton decreed that any ‘advoutur’ [adulterer] found guilty ‘soit amesne a Newgate, et dilloques ove ministalcie parmy Chepe, tanqe le tonel sur Cornhull’ [should be brought to Newgate, and from there with minstralcy through Chepe, up to the Tun on Cornhill]. The ‘Tun’ was eventually replaced in 1401 with a ‘Cesterne for sweet water’. While ‘dolium’ here does refer to the prison, it is worth noting the origins of the prison’s name: it was named ‘because the same was builded somewhat in fashion of a Tunne standing on the ende’. The Latin ‘dolium’ and the vernacular ‘Tun’ to refer to a cask of (typically) wine was still commonly in use in the late fourteenth century: for example, the *Cutler’s Petition* refers to ‘le Tonnel dautre tiel vin’ and the parliament rolls refer to ‘unum dolium vini’. I would argue there’s some punning here: the *Stores*-poet’s mention of ‘dolium’ is followed immediately by a mention of ‘leo’. If ‘leo’ is read as a reference to a public house – a place which

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4 Rigg, ‘Stores’, p. 132.
6 *CLBH*, p. 339.
7 Rexroth, *Deviance and Power*, pp. 176-77.
8 This text from *Letter-Book G*, f. cxlvii is transcribed in Rexroth, *Deviance and Power*, pp. 347-49 (p. 349). The translation is my own.
9 Stow, *Survey of London*, I, 190-91. Rigg uses the Tun’s closure as a *terminus ad quem* for the poem’s composition. Rexroth has challenged this view, arguing that while “the Tun” cased to be a special prison for sex crimes [...] it continued to be associated with them” (*Deviance and Power*, p. 187, fn. 288). However, Rexroth offers no evidence for this view, while a search of the civic letter-books give no examples of the Tun’s use after 1401.
11 For the *Cutlers’ Petition*, see Appendix 71, section 10; *PROME*, III, 591.
would regularly receive tuns/dolia – it would seem plausible to assume that the Stores-poet is playing with the twin meanings of ‘dolum’.

**leo**: Rigg says of ‘leo’ that it refers either to ‘the Lion tower’, or ‘another prison’ or ‘a pub’. Rigg notes that no prison of this name existed in London in the fourteenth century, while the Lion Tower in the Tower of London does not match the sense of the line. Rigg cites one example of a pub – the ‘Lion Inn […] near the river by Charing Cross’. However, there is another London pub which goes unnoticed by Rigg that fits the context of this line more smoothly: ‘the Lion’ (sometimes called ‘le lyon on the hoop’, or ‘le lyoun’), an inn situated on the south side of Cheapside between Gropecunt Lane and Popkirtle Lane. Anne Sutton has argued that such taverns occupied a crucial place in political and literary culture in the city: she suggests that the large taverns on Cheapside ‘could have been a venue for the sieges of the London Puy or for discussions of policy regarding the English wool staple’, while they may also have housed ‘[m]eetings of the Mercers as a commonalty’. While Sutton views the Tumbling Bear, a tavern adjacent to the Lion, as the likeliest place for such meetings, she gives the Lion as ‘another possible venue for the Puy’.

The historical record is somewhat unclear on the exact nature of the Lion. In 1345, this site is said to contain a ‘wine-tavern (taberna vini) called la Lyoun, with all the shops in front, solars, and cellars’. It may be that the tavern was situated in a recess behind the shops, although it is also possible that it was situated in the cellar. By 1398, the site is described as ‘one tenement with a cellar, called le lyon on the hoop’. While a tavern is no longer explicitly mentioned as part of the site, the resilience of the ‘le lyon’ name implies that this property still functioned as a tavern. In the late fourteenth century, the site was owned by William de Thame, citizen and

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13 Rigg, ‘Stores’, p. 133.
15 Sutton, Mercery, p. 72.
17 Keene and Harding, ‘St. Pancras Soper Lane 145/37’, Gazetteer.
18 There was a similar property in the parish of St Mary le Bow, which Keene and Harding seek to recreate: They suggest ‘[t]here were shops on the Cheapside frontage; behind them was a seld; the tavern probably occupied a cellar below the seld and the shops, and associated with it were solars which were probably above the seld and shops’. See Keene and Harding, ‘St. Mary le Bow 104/32’, Gazetteer.
19 Keene and Harding, ‘St. Pancras Soper Lane 145/37’, Gazetteer.
fishmonger, and his wife Juliana, although in 1389, at least parts of the property were rented to Henry Bamme, citizen and goldsmith.\textsuperscript{20} We can imagine the London was a prominent building and, given the fact of its geographical proximity to the ‘doliuim’ and the fact of its location on Cheapside, this strikes me as the most plausible way of interpreting the \textit{Stores} ‘leo’.

\textsuperscript{20} Keene and Harding, ‘St. Pancras Soper Lane 145/37’, \textit{Gazetteer}. 

1c) The Stores’ description of Lincoln: A Walking Tour?

Notes to Appendix: This appendix argues that the stanza of the Stores of the Cities describing Lincoln functions as a walking tour of the city, noting the key landmarks any visitor to the city would encounter. This argument is peripheral to my overall dissertation, although as it offers some possible new evidence for the date of the poem’s composition, it is a useful inclusion here.

bow, bolt

Rigg comments that these terms ‘probably refer to archery’, although he does mention in passing the famous Stonebow, the arch that was the first architectural feature of the city travellers from the south would encounter.

Lincoln does not appear to have been notorious for archery. The Stonebow, however, was a dominant feature of civic life: as well as providing access to the city from the

Fig. 1 – The Stonebow today. The building was substantially rebuilt in 1520, and has had further additions and alterations over the ensuing years.
south, the chambers above the Stonebow formed the city’s guildhall, where the meetings of the civic government were held from as early as the thirteenth century. By 1390 the original ‘Gildhalle’ had been torn down and, while ‘another hall is there begun, loftier and more convenient’ progress was slow and the king had to issue a command compelling Lincoln citizens to contribute towards the new building. This command appears to have been ignored; another command was issued three years later in 1394, but a new Guildhall was not fully erected until 1520. Interestingly, in the years between 1394 and 1520, the Stonebow ceases to be a topic of particular controversy and it appears to have been neglected by the civic officers. Evidently some sort of building remained at the south of Lincoln: Richard Gurnham asserts that the ‘lower sections’ of the current Stonebow were in place by 1400 and, given the king’s reference to the ‘Gildhalle’ having been torn down, it may only have been parts of the upper chambers that were dilapidated. Certainly, the survival of the bell forged in 1371 to sit atop the Stonebow suggests that some structure existed in the fifteenth century. The Stores-poet could thus have encountered a building here throughout the fifteenth century, and so his reference to the Stonebow does not firmly date the poem. However, it is interesting to note that in 1394 in Lincoln, the Stonebow was the site of some popular controversy which appears to have faded during the fifteenth century. This controversy – along with possible visual signs of the new, loftier building, construction of which had begun – may have drawn the Stores-poet’s attention to this building. If we take ‘bow’ to refer to the Stonebow, then ‘bolt’ could be read as synechdochically referring to a gate, the Stonebow being the ‘principal gate of the city’.  

3 Stocker, ‘Lincoln Stonebow’, p. 98.
4 Richard Gurnham, A History of Lincoln (Chichester: Phillimore, 2009), p. 73.
bellia bolne
The meaning of ‘bellia bolne’ is unclear. Rigg reads ‘bolne’ as a Middle English word meaning ‘large’ (although the MED gives the definition ‘swollen’), and I cannot think of a more plausible interpretation of the word. Rigg offers several interpretations for ‘bellia’, two of which strike me as being particularly intriguing: ‘bell’ and ‘thornback (fish)’

Fig. 2 – The Stonebow’s bell. In the top right-hand corner of this image can be seen the frame within which the Stonebow bell hangs

The reading ‘bell’ would fit with what we know about the Stores-poet’s interests, as elsewhere in the poem he mentions a ‘bel’ [bell] (1.20) and a ‘clocheria’ [belltower] (1.17). Rigg cites one of Lincoln’s bells: the precursor to the Old Tom which weighed 7807 pounds. However, it is worth noting that the Stonebow also had its own ‘mote-bell’ which is the ‘oldest in England, marked 1371’ and contains a Latin inscription naming the mayor – ‘WILLI BEELE’ – and instructing that the bell should be rung at the beginning and end of council meetings. It should be noted this

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6 s.v. ‘bolni (adj.)’, MED.
7 A description of the bell, along with the Latin inscription, appears in Stewart and Cooke, Stonebow, p. 5.
bell is not ‘bolne’: it is only twenty and a half inches in diameter, and it is shaped like any other bell. However, it was visible from the street, it was heard regularly throughout the day, and it was closely associated with the Guildhall, so it may be what the Stores-poet is referring to here.

Fig. 3 – Fish Pedicures at the Stonebow. Where once we ate fish, now fish eat us.

A second possible interpretation of ‘bellia’ is ‘thornbacks’, a type of fish.9 The Stores-poet has an interest in fish, and elsewhere names ‘salamones’ and ‘lamprones’ amongst others (1.5). Once a visitor to Lincoln had passed through the Stonebow, they would find themselves on the main marketstreet leading up to the castle. Here, fish – amongst much other produce – would be for sale.

Ad monstrum scala

Any visitor to Lincoln cannot but notice the steep incline from the base of the hill to the castle on the summit. The main road is accurately if unimaginatively called ‘Steep Hill’, with the gradient being at times as much as 1 in 4 (and being 1 in 12 on average).10 However, in both the medieval and modern period this steep hill was not the only way to the summit: there were also a set of steps – known as the Greestone Stairs linking the lower city to the cathedral.

Fig. 4 – The Greestone Stairs, leading from the lower city to the south side of the cathedral.

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9 s.v. ‘bellium’, RMLW. This definition is found only in a glossarial entry from 1570; Latham cannot find any actual usage of the word.
The modern Greestone stairs are somewhat abbreviated: Hill suggests their medieval forebears continued further south towards the river.\textsuperscript{11} They have also, of course, been relaid since the fourteenth century.

It is this line that originally caused me to think about these lines as a walking tour: the \textit{Stores} typically shuns prepositions (the only other one is an ‘a’ in line 15). The use of ‘[a]d monstrum’ here is significant as it suggests movement, a movement up the stairs towards the cathedral.

\textbf{rosa bryghta}

Once the Greestone stairs are surmounted, you arrive on the southeastern edge of Lincoln cathedral, and one of the first things you can see is the rear of one of the cathedral’s rose windows.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{Lincoln_Cathedral_Rose_Window.jpg}
\caption{Lincoln Cathedral’s Rose Window. As seen from the outside having climbed the Greestone Stairs.}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{11} Hill, \textit{Medieval Lincoln}, p. 150.
Lincoln cathedral has two rose windows opposite each other – the Dean’s Eye of the main north transept (installed in the thirteenth century) and the Bishop’s Eye of the main south transept (installed in the 1330s).\textsuperscript{12} It is notable, however, that the Stores-poet only mentions one. This might be explained if we imagine the poet approaching the cathedral from the south, where he would only see the one window, rather than both.

\textbf{Fig. 6 – The Bishop’s Eye Window taken from within the cathedral}

\textit{nobilis ala}

Rigg translates this as ‘noble aisle’ but offers no commentary on it. The translation ‘noble aisle’ strikes me as entirely plausible, and would fit within the framework of a walking tour: having seen the rose window from the outside, our itinerant poet then moves into the cathedral itself. However, I can find no particular significance to this aisle in the late fourteenth century. There were no augmentations made to it or the wider cathedral. The only possibly interesting addition to the aisle is the tomb of Katherine Swynford, who died in May 1403. Swynford had close connections to Lincoln, while it was in Lincoln Cathedral that she married John of Gaunt in 1396.\textsuperscript{13}

\textsuperscript{12} Gurnham, \textit{History of Lincoln}, p. 58.
Either the death or the marriage could have prompted the *Stoæs*-poet to reflect on the aisle. However, it may be that no historical event prompted the reference, and the line simply serves to complete the line and provide a rhyme for ‘scala’.

Fig. 7 – The Ceiling of the South Aisle of Lincoln Cathedral
**Et bubulus flatus**

Rigg delicately translates this as ‘breathing of cattles’; I have translated it more straightforwardly as ‘bovine wind’. One of the remarkable features of Lincoln is the view from atop the castle walls looking west across Lincolnshire. While today the immediate area surrounding the castle is built up, beyond this are fields with only the occasional conurbation and smoke stacks. The expansiveness of this view (helped by Lincolnshire’s flatness) would have been even more pronounced in the fourteenth century. Without a doubt, therefore, people standing atop Lincoln would have seen (and smelt) cattle in the fields to the west, and this sensory overload would probably have merited description. However, from standing atop the castle walls, what struck me above all else was the wind: the exposed nature of Lincoln means it does get buffeted by strong winds to the point where walking along the castle walls becomes difficult. Given the strength of the wind, it would not surprise me if the Stores-poet was punning on ‘wind’ here. The phrase carries with it a sensory overload: the sight of pasture lands, the feel of the wind on your face, and the smells of nature.

![The View from the Castle](image)

*Fig. 8 – The View from the Castle*

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14 This expansiveness is difficult to capture in a single photograph, but I do think it is as ‘tangible’ a feature of Lincoln as the Stonebow or the Greestone Stairs.
15 Rigg notes that the ‘permanent pasture land was in the West of the city, and gave rise to names like “Oxpasture”’. Rigg, ‘Stores’, p. 134.
16 It should be noted that I visited Lincoln at the same time that Hurricane Katia was moving across Europe, which may have had some impact on the wind strength in Lincoln.
Conclusion

This appendix serves two purposes. Firstly, it has sought to argue that the description of Lincoln provided by the *Stores*-poet functions as a walking tour of the city. The visitor to Lincoln arriving from the South passes through the Stonebow and hears the bell ringing and walks through the fish market. The visitor is then confronted by a steep incline and elects to climb their Greestone steps which bring him to the south side of Lincoln cathedral where he can see part of the Bishop’s Eye window. The visitor then enters the cathedral, looks again at the Bishop’s Eye window and then walks up the cathedral’s aisle. Exiting the cathedral, the visitor finds themselves exposed to the elements, and cannot escape the wind and the smells of the countryside.

Secondly, it has sought to add to our understanding of the poem’s date. If we accept the view that the stanza functions as a walking tour, this makes my interpretation of ‘bow’ as referring to ‘Stonebow’ more plausible. The Stonebow was a site of activity and controversy in the early- to mid-1390s. Given the Stonebow, given possible references in the stanza on Coventry to St Michael’s steeple and font (completed in 1395 and 1394), and given the reference to London’s ‘Tun’ (replaced in 1401), we could posit a very specific date range for the poem of 1395-1401.
Appendix 2: The Variable Fortunes of Nicholas Exton

2a) Nicholas Exton’s *indecentibus verbis*

Date: August 1382  
Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin  
Source: *Letter-Book H*, f. cliv  
References: See *CLBH*, pp. 196-97  
Notes: This entry is crossed out (see fig. 9). Some letters are obscured as a result. The entry includes three marginal glosses, two of which (1 and 3) are written by a single scribe and appear at the top and bottom of the entry respectively. A third marginal gloss (2), which is written in another hand, is a later addition and appears towards the middle of the entry. The entry is written as a single paragraph; for ease of referencing, I here add sectional breaks marking the moments when the entry interpolates another text.

Text

1. <marginated>amocio Nicholi Exton’ ab officio aldermani<marginated>

2. <marginated>Causa qua trahitur p’ postea fol clxxv<marginated>

3. <marginated>eleccio Gilberiti manfeld in aldermano<marginated>

4. Memorandum quod in congregacione Johannis Norhampton’ maioris & aldermanorum London’ ac aliorum proborum Communiairorum certorum misterum pro diuersis negotiis Ciuitatem predictam tangentibus summounitorum & in Camera superiori Guyhalde eiusdem Ciuitatis die mercurij proximo ante festum sancti laurencij anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi sexto¹ congregatorum ad instan<ci>am eorumdem communiairorum per communem narratorem dicte Ciuitatis supplicatum f<iu>it predictis maioris & aldermanis quod Nichus Exton’ aldermanus Ripe Regine pro diuersis & pluribus verbis indec<e>ntibus prefato maioris dictis ab officio suo aldermani exoneretur &c qui quidem Nicholus tunc in eadem Camera presens ho<e>

¹ i.e. Wednesday 6th of August 1382.
audiens & videns similitur peciit se ab eod<e>m officio exonerari &c. Et quia dicti maior & aldermani cum communi consilio Ciuitatis predicte inde plenius vol<u>erunt consuli judicium inde respectuatur vsque ad proximo commune consilium &c. Ad quem diem videlicet die sabati in <vi>gilia sancti laurencii predicte2 in eadem Camera presentibus superdictis maiore aldermanis & toto communi consilio Ciuitatis communiiarii tunc ibidem presentes protulerunt per eundem communem narratorem dictis maior & aldermanis quandam billam in hec verba

5.
A lours treshonurez soueraignez maire & aldermans supplient les comunes primement que Nichol Exton’ soit deschargez del office de ald<e>manrie come ils ont autrefoith supplie & c<o>nte il pria lui mesmes nadgaires a vous sires & ala commune disant al ho<u>re qil auoit offert vne grosse somme de deners pur auoir este d<e>schargez al temps de son elecioun, et coment que les causes de leur demande ne soient desclarrez en ne les <as>semble ala commune que ceste lour supplicacioun suffit a icel depuis qils desirent cel descharge & le dit Nichol le desire auxint.

6.
Q<u>a billa v<is>a & intellecta, quia ijdem maior & aldermani de iudicio inde reddendo plenius voluerunt ausari, et quia <i>dem Nicholus tunc non fuit presens <i>udicium inde ponitur in respectu<m> vsques ad proximo commune consilium ex tunc tenendum videlicet diem sabati in crastino assumpciones <b>eate marie virginis tunc proximo future3 <e>t super hoc preceptum fuit Johanni Duston’ seruienti Camere quod premuniret eundem Nicholum essendi tunc in Camera predicta coram dictis maiore aldermanis & communi consilio auditure iudicium suam. Ad quem diem in presencia dictorum maioris & aldermanorum & tocius communis consilij <in> eadem Camera communiiarii dicti communis consilii protulerunt quandam aliam billam in hec verba

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2 i.e. Saturday 9th of August 1382.
3 i.e. Saturday 16th of August 1382.
7.
A lour tresholdour souerayns mair & aldermans supplient les communes dauoir execucioun fait sur lour bille susmys a vous seignour en le darrein commune conseil tochant le descharge de Nichol Exton’.

8.
Qua billa simul <c>um prima visa & intellecta et licet idem Nichol ad domum suam in London’ per seruientem predictam premunitus fuisset essendi tunc ibidem auditure iudicium suum prout per eundem seruement testatur <i>dem tamen Nicholus non venit set se absentauit &c. Super quo quia idem Nicholas certa verba indecentia alias vt predic<i>ur prefato maiori dixit et quia tam predicti communiairiij quam ipsumet Nicholus pecierunt quod ipse exo<ner>ari posset ab officio predictur Ideo ex dictorum maioris aldermanorum communis consilij pleno concensu Consideratum est quod idem Nichus amoneatur & exo<ner>etur ab officio predicto secundum formam & tenorem prime bille superdicte &c. Et sic inde exoneratus est & loco suo in eodem officio Gilbertus maunfeld electus est Aldermanus Warde predicte.
Translation

1. The removal of Nicholas Exton from the office of alderman.

2. The reason why it is crossed out <...> after, folio clxxv.

3. The election of Gilbert Manfield as alderman.

4. Be it remembered that in a congregation of John Northampton, mayor, and of the aldermen of London and other good commons of certain mysteries summoned for various matters concerning the aforesaid city and convened at the request of the same commons in the chamber above the Guildhall of the same city on Wednesday next before the feast of Saint Laurence in the sixth year of the reign of King Richard the Second, it was requested by the Common Pleader of the said city to the aforesaid mayor and aldermen that Nicholas Exton, alderman of Queenhithe, should be discharged from his office of alderman on account of various and many unbecoming words uttered to the said mayor, etc. The which Nicholas, then present in the same chamber, hearing and seeing this, similarly sought to have himself discharged from the same office, etc. And because the said mayor and aldermen wished more fully to have consulted thereupon with the common council of the aforesaid city, the judgement thereupon was respited until the next common council, etc. At which day, specifically Saturday on the vigil of the aforesaid Saint Laurence, in the same chamber, in the presence of the abovesaid mayor, aldermen and all the commons of the common council then present in that place, they brought forward by the same Common Pleader to the said mayor and aldermen a certain bill, in these words:

5. ‘To their most honourable lords, the mayor and aldermen, the commons pray firstly that Nicholas Exton should be discharged from his office of alderman; as they have previously prayed and related, he himself lately prayed to your lords and to the
commons saying at that time that he offered a large sum of money to have been discharged at the time of his election. And, albeit the causes of their demand should not be declared to the commons in the assembly, this, their petition, suffices for this, since they desire that discharge and the said Nicholas desires it also’.

6. The which bill seen and understood; because the same mayor and aldermen wished more fully to be advised thereupon about rendering judgement, and because the same Nicholas was not then present, judgement thereupon is respited until the next common council to be held after that time, specifically Saturday on the morrow of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary then next following; and upon this, John Duston, servant of the chamber, was ordered that he should forewarn the same Nicholas to then be in the aforesaid chamber before the said mayor, aldermen and the common council to hear his judgement. On which day, in the presence of the said mayor and aldermen and all the common council, in the same chamber, the said commons of the common council brought forward a certain other bill, in these words:

7. ‘To their most honourable lords, the mayor and aldermen, the commons pray to have execution made upon their bill put to your lord above in the last common council, touching the discharging of Nicholas Exton’.

8. The which bill together with the first, seen and understood. And although the same Nicholas was instructed by the aforesaid servant at his house in London to then be there to hear his judgement – as is sworn by the same servant – nevertheless, the same Nicholas did not come, but absented himself, etc. Upon that, because the same Nicholas said certain other unbecoming words (as is aforesaid) to the aforesaid mayor, and because both the aforesaid commons as well as Nicholas himself requested that he should be discharged from the aforesaid, therefore with the consent of the said mayor, aldermen, and the full common council it is agreed that the same Nicholas should be admonished and discharged from the aforesaid office according to the form and tenor of the abovesaid first bill, etc. And thus thereupon he is
discharged and Gilbert Maunfeld is elected alderman of the aforesaid ward in his place in the same office.
Fig. 9 – *Letter-Book H*, f. cliv
2b) Nicholas Exton’s Slander

Date: 25 November 1384
Language(s): Latin
Source: Letter-Book H, f. clvii-clviiiv
References: See CLBH, pp. 204-05
Notes: This entry is crossed out in the letter-book (see Figs 10-11). The second marginal note is a later addition.

Text

1. <marginated>Judicium inprisonamenti pro Nicholo Exton’<marginated>

2. <marginated>quere causam cancellatae postea fol clxxvi<marginated>

3. Quia ad parliamentum domini Regis Ricardi secundi tentum apud Westm’ post festum sancti Michalis anno regni sui sexto¹ Nicholus Exton’ Civis & piscenarius London’ ibidem cum multis piscenatiis sibi adherentibus pluribus vicibus veniebat & contra maiores aldermannos & c<ommuni>tatem Ciuitatis predicte quasi cum eis pareyam faciendo accessit contra libertatem suam et in quantum in ipso fuit adnulling ordinaciones &² in Ciuitate predicta per eosdem maiores & aldermannos pro communi utilitate factas Et etiam pronunciabat & dicebat coram o<m>nibus dominis regni ibidem congregatis quod iidem maior & aldermanni ordinauerunt quod nullus misteri piscenariorum London’ emeret aliquos pisces friscos alicubi super c<o>steras maris vbi nulla talis ordinacio facta fuit & sic super eosdem maiores & aldermannos menciebatur in pleno parliamento &c. Et i<n>super allegebat in dicio parliamento quod vbi concessum fuit per dictos maiorem & aldermannos quod forinseci ducentes pisces London’ ad vendendos dictos piscorem possent talliare & scindere & particulariter sic cissos vendere cuilibet eos ementi eadem ro<...>ne videbatur ei vtile & profituum toti communitati regni quod quilibet extraneus posset infra eandem Ciuitatem omnidas alias

¹ i.e. 29th September 1382.
² The scribe appears to have skipped a word following ‘&’ here.
mercandisas vendere particulariter ad retalliam quod dictum expresse sonabat contra libertatem Ciuitatis London’ & dampnum omni civium eiusdem manifestum &c. Et insuper idem Nicholus in eodem parliamento coram militibus Comitatuumn in refectorio abbatis Westm’ dixit quod si ipse inuentus extitisset in domo sua London’ nocte precedentii rapi & duci debuisset precepto maioris per medium de chepe vt latro vel cissor bursumum. Et quia maius cum aldermannnis inde ausamentum habere voluit sumonire fecit dictos aldermannos contra diem mercurii proximo ante festum sancti Edmundi Regis anno vi predicto & quibus in Camera Gihalde London’ congregatis & de materia predicta interloquentibus altercacio inde inter eos oriebatur aliquibus eorum videntibus quod de verbis & factis dictis seu factis in parliamento non potuerunt hic terminari nec iudicium inde reddi aliis ante videbatur iudicium inde hic reddi posset &c. Super quo maior & diversi aldermanni tunc fuerunt <i>nproposito eundi ad dominum Regem & consilium suum vt per eos consulii & suisari possent quale iudicium inde reddere deberent qui quidem Nicholus in eadem camera tunc present hoc perciendi peciit quod ipse admiitti posset ad ponendum se in graciam maioris & per e<um> & aldermannos secundum eorum discretionem adiudicari &c Rogando quod dixit maior & aldermanni non accederent ad dominum Regem & consilium suum pro iudicio super eum reddendo. Ad cuius rogatum quia ipse tam verba quam facta predicta ei superius imposita non dedicit set ea cognouit & inde ponit se in graciam Curia &c Ideo vt alij de consiliariibus faciendis se precauerent Consideratum est per Curia quod idem Nicholus Habeat imprisonamentum per vnum anum proximo futurum nisi verbiorem graciam inde interim habere possit &c. Et etiam quos ipse de libertate sua Ciuitate predicte abuidicetur ad quam non reueniet sine assensu maioris aldermannis & communis consilii eiusdem Ciuitate, quod quidem imprisonamentum postea eodem die ad requisicionem aldermannorum ei condonatur &c. Postea die lune proximo ante festum sancte Katerine virginis tunc proximo sequens dictus Nicholus manu captus est per Johanne Wroth Johanne Kirketon’ Willemum Stachesden’ & Thomam Lincoln’ quod ipse se decetero bene & pacifice se geret domino Regi & populo suo & omnibus ministris Ciuitatis predicte sub pena mill’ marc’ soluendi Camerare Ciuitatis London’ qui pro tempore fuit; ad opus communitatis in casu quo ipse in aliquo promissorum deliquerit & inde libere convincatur &c. Et ad dictam solutam

3 i.e. Wednesday 19th November 1382.
4 i.e. Monday 24th November 1382.
faciendam si convictus fuerit vt premittitur tam idem Nicholus quam manucaptores sui predicti & quilbet eorum per se concedit soluere.
Translation

1. Judgement of imprisonment for Nicholas Exton

2. Find the cause of the cancellation below, folio clxxvi.

3. Because at the parliament of the lord King Richard the Second, held at Westminster after the feast of Saint Michael in the sixth year of his reign, Nicholas Exton, citizen and Fishmonger of London, came there on many occasions with many fishmongers, his adherents, and opposed the mayor, aldermen, and commons of the aforesaid city, as if making a division among them; he came against his franchise and, as much as he was able, annulling ordinances made by the same mayor and aldermen in the aforesaid city for the common good. And likewise he pronounced and said before all the lords of the realm gathered there that the same mayor and aldermen ordered that no guild of fishmongers of London should buy any fresh fish anywhere on the coasts of the sea, when no such order was made. And thus upon that he lied about the mayor and aldermen in full parliament, etc. And in addition, he alleged in the said parliament that whereas it was granted by the said mayor and aldermen that foreigners leading fish to London, to sell the said fish, could cut and tear and particularly sell those thus cut in any way thereby gaining <...> It seemed to him useful and profitable to all the commons of the realm that any sort of foreigner could sell throughout the same city all other merchandise, particularly by retail; that declaration resounded expressly against the freedom of the city of London and in manifest damage to all the citizens of the same. And in addition the same Nicholas in the same parliament, before the knights of the shires in the refectory of the abbey of Westminster said that if he, discovered, should have emerged from his house in London the preceding night he ought to have been seized and led by the order of the mayor through the middle of Cheapside like a brigand or cutter of purses. And because the mayor wished thereupon to have the advice of the aldermen, he did summon the said aldermen on Wednesday next before the feast of Saint Edmund the king in the aforesaid sixth year, etc., and with those gathering in the chamber of the
Guildhall of London and remarking concerning the aforesaid matter, an altercation thereupon arose among them, with some of them considering that they could not conclude or render a judgement concerning the said words and deeds said and made in the parliament, {and} to others it seemed that a judgement could be rendered thereupon, etc. Upon that the mayor and various aldermen then proposed going to the lord the king and his council so they might be advised and counselled by them concerning what judgement they ought to make thereupon; the which Nicholas, then present in the same chamber, perceiving this, begged that he might be permitted to place himself in the grace of the mayor, and by him and the aldermen be judged according to their discretion, etc., asking that the said mayor and aldermen should not approach the lord the king and his council for rendering a judgement upon him. To the which prayer they granted because he did not deny the aforesaid words and deeds put by him above, but acknowledged them and put himself thereupon in the grace of the court. And that they should prevents others from making such council, it is decided by the court that the same Nicholas should have an imprisonment for one future year unless he might have thereupon a gracious word in the meantime, etc. And also he should be deprived of his liberty of the aforesaid city, and not return without the agreement of the mayor, aldermen and common council of the same city, the which imprisonment afterwards on the same day was suspended at the request of the aldermen. Afterwards on Monday next before the feast of Saint Katherine the Virgin then next following the said Nicholas was mainprised by John Wroth, John Kirketon, William Stachesden and Thomas Lincoln that he should henceforth carry himself well and peacefully to the lord the king and his people and all the officers of the aforesaid city upon the penalty of paying to the work of the community one thousand marcs to the chamber of the city of London, that was for that time, in the event that he might fail of his promises in any way, and he was freely sworn thereupon. And he swears by him and each of them to make the said payment if he should be convicted, as was above put by the same Nicholas as well as his mainprisers.
Manuscript Images

Fig. 10 – *Letter-Book H*, f. clvii
Fig. 11 – Letter-Book H, f. clvii
2c) Nicholas Exton’s Pardon

Date: 20 June 1384
Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: Letter-Book H, f. clxxvi
References: See CLBH, pp. 233-34
Notes: I include here an extract from a lengthier entry concerning unrelated business. Sections 3 and 4 appear as a single paragraph in Letter-Book H. I split them here for ease of reference.

Text

1. <marginated> Adnullacio quorumdam iudiciorum super Nicholum Exton’ redditorum tempore Johannis Norhampton maior <marginated>

2. As mair & alderman de la Citee de londres supplie Nichol Exton’ que come nadgeirs Johan Norhampton’ lors esteant mair de la dite citee le dit Johan errenousement & saunz iouste & resonable cause le samadi en lendemayn dil assumpcioun de nostre dame lan du regne nostro seignur le Roi qorest sysme remua & deschargea le dit Nichol del office de alderman en la garde de la Ryne la Royn en Londres ou il estoit alderman come plus a plein piert en ceste liuree deuant cestassauoir le foil cliiij.

3. Et auxint supplie le dit Nich as ditz mair & aldermans que come le dit Johan Norhampton’ a dit temps de son mairalte le meskerdi proschien deuant le feste de seint Edmond le Roi lan sisme avantdit errenousement & nient duement lui foriugga de ses franchises & libertees de la Cite de londres & saunz cause resonable lui fist estre lies al chamblein de la Guihall de londres en mill’ marcz come plus pleinement piert en mesme ceste liure le foil clvij que pleise as ditz mair & aldermans considerer les causes des ditz iugementz comprises es ditz record & les matiere diceux & danuller les ditz iugementz ensi errenousement & nient duement renduz & restituter le dit Nicholas a ses franchises & libertees de mesme la citee & lui refaire franc dicle auxi entierement & en mesme la manere come il feut a deuant non obstant les

1 i.e. Saturday 16th August 1382.
2 i.e. Wednesday 19th November 1382.
ditz iugementz ensi renduz & retrere le paine des mill marcz issint faite saunz cause resonable.

4.
Les queux suggestiouns & prieres par monseignour Nichol Brembre mair & aldermans plusours foitz viewes & entendues & especialment al commune conseil des ditz mair alderman & communes somons & assembles pur commune conseil de la ditz Citee tenuz le lundi le xx iour de Jun lan de regne nostre ^dit^ seignour le Roi septisme³ plenerement declarez ou le dit Nichol assigna par erours en ceo que le dit Nichol fuist foriugge de as aldermanrie nient duement & auxint foriugge de ses franchises & libertees de la dite Citee a cause qil pursuist a son lige seignour a Westm’ dauoir remedie son dit lige seignour des tortz & male gouernance que le dit Johan Norhampton’ adonques meir esteant fesoit a dit Nichol & autres de la dite Citee. Et auxint fesoit a dit Nichol estre lies en m’ marcz saunz cause resonable en ses pointz & autres contenuz es ditz recordz il erroit et sur ceo lez dites supplicacioons & errours assignes par le dit Nichol & les ditz recordz viewes & pleineament entendues semble a nous mair aldermans commune conseil susditz & a toute la court que le dit Nichol par les errours assignes par lui & autres errours contenuz en mesme les records feut errenousement foiuges de sa aldermanrie & franchise & libertees de la dite cite & la dite reconissance de m’ marcs saunz due & resonable cause faite. Par qui a garde de la court que le dit Nichol soit restitut a ses franchises & libertees de la dite Citee si entierment & pleinement come il les awoit a deuant non obstant lez ditz iuggementz & que la dite reconissance de m’ marcz soit tret & adnulli par touz iours & par null tenuz. Et outre ceo nous mair & aldermans & commune conseil auuanditz resceuoms & restituoms le dit Nichol estre franc homme de la dite Citee & as a dite franchise plenerement en touz points estre restitut el mestier de pessonerie & dauoir & vser & enioyer touz maneres franchises & libertees de mesme a citee selonc la custume de la dite Citee. Et sur ceo les ditz records & reconissance autrefoith faitz par comandement des ditz mair & aldermans & commune conseil sont tretz & adnullis.

³ i.e. Monday 20th June 1384.
Translation

1.
The annulment of a certain judgement rendered upon Nicholas Exton in the time of John Northampton, mayor.

2.
‘Nicholas Exton prays to the mayor and aldermen of the city of London how that lately John Northampton, then being mayor of the said city, the said John erroneously and without a just and reasonable cause, on Saturday the morrow of the assumption of our lady in the sixth year of the reign of our lord the present king, removed and discharged the said Nicholas from the office of alderman in the keeping of Queenhithe in London where he was aldermen, as plainly appears above in this book, that is to say on folio 154’.

3.
‘And also the said Nicholas prays to the said mayor and aldermen how that the said John Northampton at the said time of his mayoralty, on the Wednesday next before the feast of Saint Edmond the king in the aforesaid sixth year erroneously and unduly deprived him of his franchises and liberties of the city of London, and without reasonable cause made him to be bound to the chamberlain of the Guildhall of London in the sum of one thousand marcs, as more plainly appears in this same book on folio 157. May it please the said mayor and aldermen to consider the causes of the said judgements comprised in the said record and the matter of which, and to annul the said judgements thus erroneously and unduly rendered, and to restore the said Nicholas to his franchises and liberties of the same city and to also re-make him entirely free of the same, and in the same manner as he was before, not withstanding the said judgements thus rendered and to withdraw the penalty of a thousand marcs thus made without reasonable cause’.

4.
The which suggestions and prayers fully seen and understood by Sir Nicholas Brembre, the mayor, and the aldermen, and especially by the common council of the said mayor, aldermen and the commons summoned for {that} common council of
the said city held Monday the twentieth say of Jun in the seventh year of the reign of
our said lord the king. {It} was fully declared that the said Nicholas was badly
treated in that the said Nicholas was removed from the aldermanry unduly and also
removed from his franchises and liberties of the said city for the cause that he sued to
his liege lord at Westminster in order to have a remedy from his said liege lord for
the wrongs and bad governance that the said John Northampton, then being mayor,
did to the said Nicholas and others of the said city. And also he made the said
Nicholas be bound ove r in the sum of a thousand marcs without reasonable cause, he
erred in these points and others contained in the said records. And upon that the said
supplications and errors specified by the said Nicholas and the said records, viewed
and plainly understood together by us, the aforesaid mayor, aldermen, common
council and all the court, that the said Nicholas, by the errors given by him and other
errors contained in the same records was erroneously removed from his aldermanry
and the franchise and liberties of the said city, the said surety of a thousand marks
{was} made without due and reasonable cause. So may it please the keeping of the
court, that the said Nicholas be restored to his franchises and liberties of the said city
as completely and plainly he had before, notwithstanding the said judgements, and
that the said surely of one thousand marcs should be overruled and annulled for all
days and not be held. And further that we, the mayor and alderman and aforesaid
common council, do receive and restore the said Nicholas to be a free man of the
said city and to the said franchise entirely in all points, to be restored to the mystery
of fishmongers and to have and use and enjoy all manner of franchises and liberties
of the same city according to the custom of the said city. And upon that, the said
records and surety previously made, by commandment of the said mayor and
aldermen and common council are overwritten and annulled.
Appendix 3 – John Godefray’s False ‘cappes’

Date: 19 August 1394
Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: Letter-Book H, f. cclxxxviii
References: See CLBH, pp. 403-04

Text

1. <marginated>Judicium & combustio de falsis cappes</marginated>

2. Quia per Thomam Horwode Willelmus Langelee Thomam atte Wode et Ricardum Herlawe magistros & supervisores hurariorum datus fuit Roberto Pell comun Narratori Ciuitatis London’ intelligi quod quidam Johannes Godefray Pynner fuit Cappes videlicet xxiiii ad vendendum qui sunt false & deceptorie facte; & cas tam in merrato quam in domo sua vendidit in decepcionem communitatis & scandalum tocius mistieri predicti. Vnde predictus Robertus qui sequitur tam pro maiore & communitate quam pro mistera predicto petit ipsud predictus Johanne Godefray premuniatur essendi hac in Camera Guyhalde Ciuitatis predicte coram maior & aldermannus ad certum diem per eos prefingendum &c super quo preceptum est Johannum Parker seruienti Camere quod preminiat eundem Johannem Godefray essendi hic &c. quintodecimo die Augusti Anno regni Regis Ricardis secundi decimo ottauo1 ad respondendum de premisisis &c. Qui quidem Johannes Godefray tunc venit & super premisisis allocutus dicit quod cappes predicte sunt bone & sufficientes & non false & deceptorie facte prout ei imponitur &c. Et predictus Robertus dicit quod ipse sunt false & deceptorie facte in damnum preuidictum tocius communatis &c. Et petit quod inquiratur prout Curia considerat &c. Et super hoc quia in ordinacione mistieri predicti irrotulatur irrotulatur2 in hustengo London’ de placitis terre tento die lune proximo ante festum sancte margarete virginis anno regni Regis Edwardi auti domini Regis nunc tricepimo sexto3 expresse continetur quod si aliquod opus falsum in eodem mistero unueniri contigerit & hoc per probos homines de mistero predicto quam alios probos homines mercatores Ciuitatis predicte

1 i.e. 15th of August 1394.
2 The repetition appears in the manuscript.
3 i.e. Monday 18th of July 1362.
noticiam misteri predicte habentes probatum fuit quod tunc illud falsum opus combureretur & ille qui illud faceri solueret Camerario Ciuitatis predicte ad opus communitatis xx s &c. Ideo preceptum est eidem seruienti quod summa xii probos homines vnde vna medietas sit de Cappers & altera de haberdasshers qui vtuntur vendere tales cappes Ita quod fuit hic decimo none die Augusti tunc proximo &c. ad certificandum Curia vtrum cappes dicti Johannis Godefray sunt false & deceptorie necne &c. Idem dies datus est tam predicto Roberto qui sequitur &c quam predicto Johanneum Godefray &c ad quem diem venerunt hic tam predictus Robertus quam Johannes Godefray in propria persona sua &c. Et iuratores predicte videlicet Henricus Offyngton Laurencius Godechep Johannes Lapford Thomas Walsyngham Johannes atte Wode Radulfhus Bristowe Johannes Lounge Johannes Bate Johannes ffroweyn hureres Johannes Wallow Thomas Church Walterus Causton Johannes Done Johannes Goodburgh Johannes Bokel Johannes Reynold & Willelmus atte Gate haberdasshers. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predicte Cappes sunt false & deceptorie facte in decepcionem comunitatis. Ideo consideratum est quod dicte cappes comburentur in Chepa. Et quod dictus Johannes Godefray soluat Camerarro Ciuitatis predicte xx s secundum ordinacionem predictam &c.
Translation

1.
The judging and burning of false caps.

2.
Because by Thomas Horwode, William Langelee, Thomas atte Wode and Richard Harlowe, masters and supervisors of the cap-makers, it was given to Robert Pell, common sergeant of the city of London, to understand how a certain John Godefray, Pinner, made caps, specifically twenty four, to sell, which where made falsely and deceitfully; and he sold this as well in the market as in his house, to the deception of the community and scandal touching the aforesaid mystery. Whence the aforesaid Robert – who pursues on behalf of the mayor and community as well as on behalf of the aforesaid mystery – requests that the aforesaid John Godefray should be warned to be here in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the aforesaid City before the mayor and alderman on a certain day to be given by them, and upon that it John Parker, servant of the chamber, was ordered that he should command that the same John Godefray be here, etc. on the fifteenth day of August in the eighteenth year of the reign of King Richard the Second to respond concerning the aforesaid, etc. The which John Godefray then came and, addressed concerning the above mentioned, said that the aforesaid caps were made well and sufficiently – and not falsely and deceitfully, as is alleged of him, etc. And the aforesaid Robert said that they are falsely and deceitfully made to the aforesaid damage touching the community etc. And he requests that the court investigates just as it should be examined, etc. And upon this, because within the ordinances of the aforesaid mystery enrolled in the husting court of London concerning pleas of land held Monday next before the feast of Saint Margaret the Virgin, in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of King Edward, grandfather of the lord the present King, are expressly contained that if any false work in the same mystery should happen to be discovered – and this proven by the good men of the same mystery as well as by other good men, merchants of the aforesaid city having the acquaintance of the said mystery – then that false work would be burnt, and the one who made that should pay to the chamber of the aforesaid city to the work of the community, twenty shillings, etc. Thus is is ordered by the same servant that a total of twelve good men – of which one half should be Cappers and the others
of the haberdashers, who are accustomed to sell such caps should be here on the
nineteenth day of August then next to certify in the court whether the caps of the said
John Godefray are false and deceitful, or not, etc. The same day was given as well to
the aforesaid Robert – who pursues, etc. – as to the aforesaid John Godefray, etc., On
the which day the aforesaid Robert as well as John Godefray in his proper person
and the aforesaid jurors – specially Henry Offyngton, Laurence Godechep, John
Lapford, Thomas Walsyngham, John atte Wode, Ralph Bristowe, John Lounge, John
Bate, John Froweyn, cap-makers, John Wallok, Thomas Churche, Walter Causton,
John Done, John Goodburgh, John Bokel, John Reynold, and William atte Gate,
haberdashers – came there. The said upon their oaths that the said caps were falsely
and deceitfully made to the deception of the community. Thus it is judged that the
said caps would be burnt in Cheapside. And that the said John Godefray should pay
to the chamber of the aforesaid city twenty shillings according to the aforesaid
ordinance, etc.
Appendix 4 – John de Stratton’s Forgeries

Date: 1382
Language(s): Latin
Source: Letter-Book H, f. cxliii
References: See CLBH, p. 181; abbreviated translation in Memorials, p. 459

Text

1.
<marginated>Judicium pilorum pro quadam lettra false facta & fabricata</marginated>

2.
Placita tenta in camera Guyhalde Ciuitatis London’ coram maiore & aldermannis secundum consuetudinem dicitse Ciuitate die lune proximo ante festum Annunciationis beate marie virginis anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi quinto.1

3.
Johannes de Stratton’ de Comitatu Norff attach fuit ad respondendum tam maiori & Communitate london’ quam Thome pottesgrave Ciuis & hostillar us london’ de placito decepcionis & falsitatis &c. Et vnde idem Thomas qui tam predictis maiore & Communitate quam pro se ipso sequitur dicit quod cum quidam Johannes Croul de Godmechestre die lune proximo ante festum sancti Petri aduinucla proximo preterito2 misisset eidem Thome london’ in parochia sancti Benedicti de Grascherche quandam lettram continentem certum consilium & diuersa intersigna inter eos ibi eodem die dicitus Johannes Stratton’ videns & legens eandem lettram cepit vnam copiam inde in tabulis suis &c. super quo ipse ymaginando ad decipiendum dicit Johanne Croul & Thomam fauxit & fabricauit vnam aliam lettram continentem eadem intersigna in dicta prima lettra specificata & per eandem lettram deceptorie vt predictur factam & fabricatam infra breve tempus postea iuit sub nomine eiusdem Thome ad dictam Johanne Croul fingendo ipsum ei per dictam Thomam fore missiuii & de eodem Johanne Croul tunc cepit xiii marc’ argenti & eas penes se retinuit false & deceptorie &c qui quidem Johannes de

---

1 i.e. Monday 24th of March 1382.
2 i.e. Monday 31st of July 1381.
Stratton’ eodem die coram dicitis maiore & aldermannois allocutus qualiter se velit inde acquietare &c qui gratis cognouit false & decepcionem predictas in forma prenotata in omnibus per ipsum esse factas et vt alii de huius false & decepcionem se precauerent per consuetudinem Ciuitatis predicte ^in^ casibus consimilibus vsitatur consideratum est quad idem Johannes Stratton’ ducatur ad prisonam de Neugate & abinde eodem die cum tubis & fistulis ducatur per Chepe vsque ad collistrigium super Cornhull & super illud ponatur per vnam horam dici & tunc reducatur vsque prisonam predictam ibidem moraturus vsque crasstimum diei predicti quo de iterum ducatur ab inde cum tubis & fistulis vsque collistrigium predictam & per vnam horam diei super illud ponatur &c & tunc reducatur vsque prisonam predictam ibidem moratuturus^{3} donec eidem Thome satisfecit &c xiii marc’ predictis quas per considerationem curie idem Thomas versus ipsum recuperauit &c.

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^{3} Possible scribal error for ‘moraturus’.
Translation

1. Judgement of the pillory for certain letters falsely made and forged.

2. Pleas held in the chamber of the Guildhall of the city of London before the mayor and aldermen, according to the custom of the said city, on Monday next before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary the Virgin in the fifth year of the reign of King Richard the Second.

3. John de Stratton, from the county of Norfolk, was attached to respond – as well to the mayor and the community of London as to Thomas Pottegrave, citizen and innkeeper of London – concerning a plea of deception and of fraud, etc. And thereupon the same Thomas – who pursues as well for the aforesaid mayor and community as for himself – says that a certain John Croul of Godmechestre, on the Monday next before the feast of Saint Peter’s Chains last passed, sent to the same Thomas of London, in the parish of Saint Benedict of Grascherche, a certain letter containing certain counsel and various countersigns between them. There, the aforesaid day, the said John Stratton, seeing and reading the same letter, took a copy from that into his writing tablets, etc. Upon that, scheming within himself to deceive John Croul and Thomas, he counterfeited and forged another letter containing the same countersigns specified in the said first letter. And through the same letter – deceitfully made and forged as is said before – he went within a short time under the name of the same Thomas to the said John Croul pretending that he himself had been sent to him by the said Thomas, and from the same John Croul he then took 13 marks of silver, and he falsely and deceitfully retains the same. The same John de Stratton, on the same day, before the said mayor and aldermen, questioned as to how he wished to acquit himself thereupon, etc., freely recognised the aforesaid wrong and deception, in the form noted above, were in all manners made by him. And so that other such falseness and deception should be prevented it is decided – by the custom of the aforesaid city, as has been practised in similar cases – that the same John Stratton should be taken to the prison of Newgate and from there the same day,
with trumpets and pipes, he should be taken through Cheapside all the way to the pillory upon Cornhill, and be placed upon that for one hour of the day, and then be taken back to the aforesaid prison, to remain in that place until the morrow of the said day, when he was again to be taken from there, with trumpets and pipes, all the way to the aforesaid pillory and be put upon that for one hour of the day, etc., and then be taken back to the aforesaid prison to remain in the place until he might satisfy, etc., the same Thomas for the aforesaid thirteen marks which, through the consideration of the court, the same Thomas received against him, etc.
Appendix 5 – Richard Norbury, John More, and John Northampton’s Insurrection

Date: 12 September 1384  
Language(s): Latin, Anglo-Norman  
Source: Letter-Book H, f. cxc  
References: CLBH, pp. 264-65  
Notes to Appendix: This entry follows an account of the letters patent issued on the 9th September appointing several men (named below) as Justices for the delivery of Richard Norbury, John More, and John Northampton. Sections 2-5 of this transcription appear as a single paragraph in Letter-Book H; for ease of reference I’ve added the divisions here.

Text

1.

2.

¹ i.e. Monday 12th of September 1384.  
² i.e. Thursday 11th of February 1384.
suburbiis predictis prius mane aperta postea cito in signum insurrectionis
claudebantur & serra fuerunt & populum in quantum in eis fuit congregauerunt
ymaginando & conspirando felonice & proditorie mortem dicti Nicholi maioris &
quotandum aldermannorum & aliorum proborum hominis & sapientem eiusdem
Ciuitatis et ad feloniam predictam perficiendam in quantum in eis fuit in voluntate
exciterunt contra pacem & statutum domini Regis & corone sue regie & tam in
perdicionem dictorum Ciuitatis & suburbiorum qua libertatis & gubernacionis
eotundem nisi remedium cuius per prefatos maiorem & aldermannos & alios
sapientes eiusdem Ciuitatis deo dante manu forti tunc apponebatur. Que quidem
congregaciones et conuenticule turbacio rumor tumultus & insurrectio predicte
extiterunt tam in affraiamentum & commocionem tocius bone comunitatis
predictorum Ciuitatis & suburbiorum quam Cancellariam Thesaurum & Justiciarios
domini Regis & Baronum suorum de scaccario & omni aliorum de consilio ipsius
domini Regis in eisdem Ciuitate & suburbij & partibus circumvininis hospitatis
nece non omni aliorum negotia ipsius domini Regis magnatum dictorum et
magistrorum suorum & sua in Turris ipsius domini Regis apud Westm’
prosequencium. Et predictus maior hoc audito assumpsit se cum plures aldermannos
& alios sapientes dictorum Ciuitatis & suburbiorum forti manu armatos venerunt in
Westchepe predictam ad pacem & tranquillitatem dicte domini nostri Regis &
Ciuitatis & suburbiorum suorum predictorum conservandum & ad dictas
insurreccionem congregaciones & conuenticule cessandum & pacificandum prout
tenebantur & eis necessarie oportebat. Et quod predictis Johannes Norhampton’ de
eo quod ipse fuit abetattor & consulens & auxilians ad dictas insurreccionem
congregaciones & conuentriclas sic felonice & proditorie subortas perpetratas &
factas die Jouis predicto.

3.
Quod quid indicamentum dominus Rex inter alia vna cum breve predicto misit coram
prefatis Justiciariis hic sub pede sigilli sui mandans vt hijs visis vtterius ad
deliberacionem prisione predicte de prefatis Ricardo & alijs predictis in prisiona
predicta detentis procederent &c modo venit coram prefatis Justiciariis hic per
Constabularium Turris predicte de mandato domini Regis ducti qui alias in custodia
sua per preceptum ipsius Regis & consilij sui commissi fuerunt. Et predictus
Ricardus Norbury & Johannes More instanter per justiciarios allocuti sunt

348
separatim qualifier de felonii & proditoriis predictis vnde ipsi sic superius indicati sunt se velint acquietare predicti Ricardus Norbury & Johannes More separatim gratis concedunt & expresse cognoscunt quod ipsi sunt culpabiles de felonii & proditoriis predictis vnde ipsi sic superius indicati sunt. Ideo consideratum est quod iudem Ricardus Norbury & Johannes More a predicta Turri per medium Ciuitatis London’ superdice vsque ad Tyburn’ distrahantur & ibidem suspendantur & inquiratur de terris & catallis suis &c. Et quia predicti Ricardus Norbury & Johannes More de principali facto feloniarum & proditorum predictarum in forma predicta iam committi sunt predictus Johannes Norhampton’ instanter allocutus est qualifier de abetto consilio et auxilio predictis se velit acquietare qui quidem Johannes Norhampton’ gratis concedit & expresse cognoscit quod ipse culpabile est de abetto consilio & auxilio predictis ad felon’ & prodict’ predictas felonice & proditorie faciendas in forma qua ipse superius indicatus est. Ideo consideratum est quod idem Johannes Norhampton’ a predicta turri per medium eiusdem Ciuitatis vsque ad Tyburn’ predicte distrahatur & ibidem suspendatur & inquiratur de terris & catallis suis &c. Et super hoc venit Michael de la Pole domini Regis Cancellarius & protulit quedam brevia domini Regis de priuato sigillo suo signata voluntatem domini Regis in hac parte continencia Justiciis hic directa videlicet vnum breve pro prefato Ricardo Norbury in hec verba

4.
Richard par la grace de dieu Roy dengoletterre & de ffrance & Seignour dirland’ a nostre chier & loial Johan de Montagu seneschal de nostre hostell’ & a ses compagnions assignez par nostre commissioun dessouz nostre graunt seall a delierer la prisone de nostre Toure de loundres de Richard Norbury mercer et dautres esteantz en mesme la prisone salutem. Combien que par vertue de nostre dit Commissioun la dit Richard areignez deuant vous des certies felonies & tresons soyt par vous adiuggez a la mort solonc la ley de nostre roialme, nientmains de nostre grace especiale nous volons & vous mandons que vous surseiez de faire mettre en execucioun le dit jugement tanque vous nous eueons autrement signifiez nostre volunte. Done souz nostre priue seal a Westm’ le xii iour de Septembre lan de nostre regne septisme.3

3 i.e. Saturday 12th of September 1383.
5.
Translation

1.
Delivery from prison in the Tower of London, made there before the aforesaid John de Montague, Steward of the Household of the lord the king, Robert Tresilian, Robert Belknap, David Hanemere, John Holt, William de Burgh, Walter Clopton, and William Rikhil, justices of the lord the King, etc., according to the tenor of the aforesaid letters patent of the lord the king, on Monday next after the feast of the Nativity of the blessed Virgin Mary, in the eight year of the reign of King Richard II after the Conquest.

2.
Richard Norbury, Mercer, John More, Mercer, and John Northampton, Draper, indicted before Nicholas Brembre, mayor of the city of London, by virtue of a certain writ of the lord the king sent to him, in that the aforesaid Richard Norbury and John More, on Thursday the eleventh day of February in the seventh year of the reign of King Richard the Second after the Conquest, feloniously and treasonably with others, whose names are not known, rose up against Nicholas Brembre, mayor of the city of London, the aldermen, and the other governors of the same city; and they stirred up many others with them to rise up, against the statute of the king and his royal crown and against the control of the peace of the aforesaid city, through which incitement and rising up they made many conventicles, congregations, and covins, as well in the parish of St Mary at Bow as elsewhere in various parts of the same city and in the suburbs of the same. As a result of which, the doors and windows of many houses and shops in Westcheap, Bugerow, Fleet Street and elsewhere in the city and aforesaid suburbs (which) earlier in the morning were open, were soon afterwards shut and they were locked, as a sign of the rising up; and, as much as was in them, they assembled the people, feloniously and treasonably scheming and conspiring towards the death of the said mayor Nicholas, and of certain of the aldermen and of other good and wise men of the same city; and to execute the aforesaid felony, they, as much as was in them, willingly rose up against the peace and the statute of the lord the king and his royal crown as well to the destruction of the city and the suburbs, as to the liberties and governance of the same, unless, God willing, a remedy was then applied, with strong hand, by the said
mayor and aldermen and other wise men of the same city. The which aforesaid congregations and conventicles, turbulence, rumour, commotion and insurrection incited fear and agitation as well touching the good community of the aforesaid city and suburbs as to the Chancellor, Treasurer, and the justices of the lord the king and his barons of the exchequer, and all the others of the counsel of the lord the king himself loding in the same city and suburbs and parts neighbouring and also all the others pursuing the business of the lord the king himself, of his said magnates and of his masters in the tower of the lord the king himself at Westminster. And the aforesaid mayor, having heard this, assembling within himself many aldermen and other wise {men} of the said city and suburbs came, with strong hand, armed, into the aforesaid Cheapside to preserve the peace and tranquility of the said lord our king and of his aforesaid city and suburbs, and to end and pacify the said insurrection, congregations, and conventicles, just as they were bound to do and was vitally necessary to them. And that the said John Northampton was himself an abettor and counsellor and helper to the said insurrection, congregations, and conventicles thus feloniously and treasonably formed, made, and carried through on the aforesaid Thursday.

3.
The lord the king sent this indictment with, among other things, the aforesaid writ, before the aforesaid justices with his command under the foot of his seal. These inspected further, they proceeded to deliver from the aforesaid prison the aforesaid Richard and the aforesaid others detailed in the aforesaid prison, etc. And now they came here before the aforesaid justices, {brought} by the aforesaid constable of the Tower commanded by the demand of the lord the king, those who were previously committed into his custody by the order of the king himself and his council. And the aforesaid Richard Norbury and John More individually were urgently addressed by the justices as to how they would wish to acquit themselves concerning the aforesaid felonies and treasons in which they are thus indicted above; the aforesaid Richard Norbury and John More individually freely conceded and clearly acknowledged that they are culpable concerning the aforesaid felonies and treasons in which they are thus indicted above. Therefore it is agreed that the same Richard Norbury and John More should be dragged from the aforesaid Tower through the middle of the abovesaid city of London all the way to Tyburn, and there be hanged, and be
examined concerning their lands and chattels, etc. And because the aforesaid Richard Norbury and John More are now committed in the aforesaid manner concerning the principal making of the aforesaid felony and treason, the aforesaid John Northampton was urgently addressed as to how he would wish to acquit himself concerning the aforesaid abetting, counselling and helping; the which John Northampton freely conceded and clearly acknowledged that he is culpable concerning the aforesaid abetting, counselling, and helping to the aforesaid felonies and treasons feloniously and treasonably made in the manner that is judged above. Therefore it is agreed that the same John Northampton should be dragged from the aforesaid Tower through the middle of the same until all the way to the aforesaid Tyburn, and there be hanged, and be examined concerning his lands and chattels, etc. And upon this came Michael de la Pole, Chancellor of the lord the king, and produced a certain writ from our lord the king sealed with his privy seal touching the lord the king’s wishes in this case directed here to the justices, specifically one writ for the aforesaid Richard Norbury in these words:

4. ‘Richard, by the grace of God king of England and of France and lord of Ireland, to our dear and lawful John de Montagu, steward of our household, and to his companions assigned by our commission under our great seal to deliver from the prison of our Tower of London Richard Norbury, Mercer, and others being in the same prison, greetings. Although by virtue of our said commision, the said Richard addressed before you concerning certain felonies and treasons was judged by you to the death according to the law of our realm, nevertheless by our special grace we wish and we command that you cease to put in execution the said judgement until we have signified our wishes. Given under our privy seal at Westminster, the 12th day of September in the seventh year of our reign.’

5. And concerning the aforesaid John More a certain other similar writ. And concerning the aforesaid John Northampton, a certain other similar writ. By reason of these writs concerning the execution of the aforesaid judgement made upon Richard Norbury, John More, and John Northampton is stayed until etc., according to the tenor of the aforesaid writs, etc.
Appendix 6 – Brembre’s Proclamations

6a) Proclamation 1

Date: 5th June 1378
Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: Letter-Book H, f. lxxxvi
References: See CLBH, p. 92

Text

1. 
<marginated>Proclamacion que
que nul voise wakerant apres x de la clocke
que tauerner ne braceour tiegne huis ouert apres le dit temps
item que chescun eit ewe esteante en vessel deuant son huys
item que nul face congregacion ne couyne<marginated>

2. 
Soit proclamacion faite que nul soit si hardy daler wakerant deinz la Cite ne suburbe
diceles apres x de la clocke dil ne soit homme de bone fame ou seruant alant el
seruice son mestre & ce oue lumere sur peyne denprisonement & fyn faire solonc
lauys du mair forbris ministres de la Cite & gentz assignez de faire les gaytes es
gardes de la Cite.

3. 
Item que nul taurner ne braceour tiegne huys ouert apres mesme le temps sur
mesme la peyne.

4. 
Item que chescun homme destat eit deuant son huys vne kene ou tyne pleyne dewe
esteante par iour & nost pur la seccheresse en ce temps deste par quele en cas que
sodeyn feu auerisist que dieu deffende la Cite purroit le plus tost socorn & eide & le
dit feu esteynt.
5.
Item *que nul face congregacion ne couyne par noet ne par iour par quele la pes nostre seignour le Roi & de la Cite purroit estre enfreynte, riote ou contek auscunement sourdre sur peyne denprisonement & de quant qil purra forfaire deuers nostre seignour le Roi & la Cite

6.
Ista proclamacio *facta fuit in vigilia Pentecost anno Regni Regis Richardi Secundi primo.*¹

¹ i.e. Saturday 5th of June 1378.
Translation

1.
Proclamation that:
That no-one should come wandering after ten o’clock.
That innkeeper nor brewer should hold open {his} door after the said time.
Also that every man should have water in a vessel before his door.
Also that no-one should make a congregation or covin.

2.
May proclamation be made that no-one should be so bold as to go wandering within the city or suburb of the same after ten o’clock, unless he was a man of good fame or a servant going in the service of his master with a torch, upon the penalty of imprisonment and to make a fine according to the laws of the mayor, except for the leaders of the city and men appointed to keep the gates and watches of the city.

3.
Also that no innkeeper nor brewer should hold open his door after the same time upon the same penalty.

4.
Also that every man of position should have before his house one pitcher or barrel full of water by day and night because of the dryness in times of hot weather; by which in the event that a sudden fire might happen (which God forbid), the city would as soon as possible be helped and aided, and they might extinguish the said fire.

5.
Also that no-one should make a congregation nor a covin by night nor by day, by which the peace of our lord the king and of the city might be hindered, {or} riot or discord in any way raised, upon the penalty of imprisonment and of however much that he would forfeit to our lord the king and the city.
6.
This proclamation was made on the vigil of Pentecost in the first year of the reign of King Richard II.
6b) Proclamation 2

Date: Late-1383, early-1384. This text has no dating clause nor any internal clue as to its date. In Letter-Book H, this proclamation appears between an entry dated to the 27th of November 1383 and one dated to the 20th of January 1384. The entries in the letter books are not presented in perfect chronological order, and some entries appear significantly misplaced. However, there is no reason to assume this entry has been displaced, and given that it coincides with Brembre’s second stiny as mayor.

Language(s): Middle English, Latin

Source: Letter-Book H, f. clxxii

References: Transcribed in A Book of London English, pp. 31-32; Memorials, pp. 480-81. See also CLBH, p. 226.

Text

1. <marginated>Proclamacio de congregacionibus conuenticlis & conspiracionibus non faciendis</marginated>

2. The mair shirreues and aldermen and alle other wyse wyth hem that habbeth the gouernaille of the Citee vnder oure lige lورد the kyng by vertue of the chartre of oure franchise Comaundeth in the kynges bihalf and on hire owene also that noman make none congregaciouns conuenticules ne assemblies of poeple in priue nen apert Ne nomore craftes than other men with oute leue of the mair Ne ouermore in none manere ne make alliances confederacies conspiracies ne obligaciouns forto bynde men to gidre forto susteyne eny querelles in lyuyngge and deyengge to gidre vpon peyne of enprisonement vche man that is yfounded in swich defaute and his body at the kyngges wille and forfaiture of al that he may forfaite ayens oure lorde the kyng as wel in tenementz as in catel and ouermore the mair shirreues and aldermen willeth & graunteth power to euery fre man of the Citee, as wel as to officers, that yef eny man of hem may aspie any swich congregaciouns or couynes in gaderyng or ygadered to areste hem & eche persone of hem and brynge hem also blyue to fore the mair yef he is at leiser or elles to Neugate in to tyme that the mair may attende ther to.
6c) Proclamation 3

Date: 15th August 1384. The day and month is given in the proclamation. The proclamation appears in *Letter-Book H* among other materials from 1384.
Language(s): Anglo-Norman
Source: *Letter-Book H*, f. clxxx
References: See *CLBH*, p. 247.

Text

1.  
<marginated>*Proclamation* *que* null face *congregation* *ne assemble* *Ne que* null gite robouse en thamise walbrok ne flete*<marginated>

2.  
Puis *apres* en la feste dil *assumpcioun* *nostre* dame² *proclamation* *fuist* fait en manere *que* ensuyt Soit *proclamation* *fait* *que* null manere des gentz de quel condicioun qils soient nient plus gentz dascun mister *que* autres ne fassent congregacioun couyne ne assemble en priue ne apert, ascun part en nulle manere, sannz licence ou cone de meir ou de son lieutenant, sur peyne de forfaiture de corps & des biens & de qanque ils purront forfaire enuers *nostre* *seignour* le Roi & la citee & qi *que* face acontrarie soit pris maintenant & mys en prisone tanque *nostre* dit *seignour* le Roi en eit fait sa volente de lui ne *que* nul ne voise wakerant en la ffranchise de la Citee apres ix de la clokke fors ministres de la dite Citee & ceux *que* vount oub eux pur sauve garde de la pees sur peyne auandtite. Et *que* nullui ne gite ne mette ne face gitter ne mettre nulles ionkes fyens robouse estreym nautre chose *queconque* en leawe de thamyse walbrok, ne fflete sur peyne denprisonement & de faire fyn a volunte des mai & aldermans.

² i.e. 15th of August, which in 1384 was a Monday.
Translation

1.
Proclamation that no-one should make a congregation nor an assembly, and that no-one should throw rubbish into the Thames, Walbrook, or Fleet.

2.
Then afterwards, on the feast of the assumption of our lady, a proclamation was made in the manner that follows: ‘May proclamation be made that no manner of men of whatever condition that they should be, neither the great men of any mystery nor others, should make a congregation, covin, nor assembly, in private or openly, in any part, in no manner, without licence or permission of the mayor or of his lieutenant upon the penalty of forfeiture of body and goods, and of all they might forfeit to the our lord the king and the city. And anyone who should act to the contrary should be immediately taken and put in prison until our said lord the king should have delivered his intention to them. And that no-one should come wandering in the franchise of the city after nine of the clock except for the leaders of the said city and those that should go with them for the safekeeping of the peace, upon the aforesaid penalty. And that no-one should throw or put or should cause to throw or put any junk, droppings, rubbish, litter, nor any other thing whatsoever in the water of the Thames, Walbrook, or Fleet, upon the penalty of imprisonment and to make a fine to the wishes of the mayor and aldermen’.
6d) Proclamation 4

Date: 20th September 1384  
Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin  
Source: Letter-Book H, f. clxxxv  
References: CLBH, p. 249

Text

1.  
<marginated>Proclamaciou que nulluy ne face congregacioun<marginaled>

2.  
Nous comandoms depar nostre seignour le Roy que nulles maneres des gentz nient plus hommes que femmes de quelle condicioun qils soient ne facent congrégacioun couine ne conventicule quelconque en priue ne en apert pur nulle sute ne pur autre chose faire sannz conge & assent des mair & Aldermans sur peyne de forfaiture de qanque ils purront forfaire enuers nostre dit seignour le Roi en corps & en biens.

3.  
Memorandum quod ista proclamacio facta fuit in vigilia sancti Mathei anno regni regis Ricardi secundii octauo.³

³ i.e. Tuesday 20th of September 1384.
Translation

1. Proclamacion that no-one should make a congregation.

2. We command on behalf of our lord the king that no manner of people – no more men than women, of whatever condition that they might be – should make a congregation, covine or conventicle whatsoever, privately or openly, for no purpose, nor make any other thing without the knowledge and agreement of the mayor and aldermen, upon the penalty of forfeiture of all that they might forfeit in body and in goods to our said lord the king.

3. Be it remembered that this proclamation was made on the vigil of Saint Matthew in the eighth year of the reign of King Richard the Second.
6e) Proclamation 5

Date: September/October 1385. This proclamation is undated. It appears in Letter-Book H amongst entries from October 1385 and it may reasonably be assumed this proclamation dates from shortly before the mayoral elections of that year.

Language(s): Anglo-Norman

Source: Letter-Book H, f. cxcvi

References: CLBH, p. 274

Text

1. 

<marginated>Qe nul viegne al eleccioun de meir sil ne soit somons ne face congregacioun &c en destourbance de la pes<marginated>

2. 

Pur ceo que auant ses houres en diuerses temps as elecciouns des mair & viscontes par multitude de poeple des gentz que ne sont pas somons sibien des seruantz come estrangers & gentz nient enfranchises venantz ala Guihalle grant cry & clamour ount este en tielx elecciouns si bien en grant affray des seignours & autres repeirantz a la dite cite come des bones gentz dicelie par qui nous comandoms si bien depar nostre seignour le Roi come par nous mesmes que null ne soit si hardi de aprocher ne venir ala dite Guihalle a iour del eleccioun de mair sinoun les mair aldermans & bones gentz somons a yceo. Ne que null ne face congregacioun assemble signe ne continance que puisse soner en destourbance de la peas de la dite eleccioun ne encontre la gouernance de la dite Citee sur Peyne de forfaiture de qanque ils purront forfaire a nostre dit seignour le Roi.
Translation

1.
That no-one should come to the election of the mayor unless he should be summoned, nor make a congregation, etc., to the disturbance of the peace.

2.
Because that before these times, in various periods, the elections of the mayor and sheriffs have been by the multitude of people, of men that were not summoned, as well as by servants as strangers and men not enfranchised, coming to the Guildhall for such elections {with} great cry and clamour, as well to the great fear of the lords and others repairing to the said city, as to the good men of the same. So we command, as well on the part of our lord the king as on the part of us, that none should be so bold as to approach or come to the said Guildhall on the day of the election of the mayor, except for the mayor, aldermen, and the good men summoned to that. And that none should make a congregation, assembly in sign or appearance that might resound to the disturbance of the peace of the said election, or against the governance of the said city, upon the pentalty of foreiture of all that they might forfeit to our said lord the king.
6f) Proclamation 6

Date: October 1386. This proclamation appears immediately prior to an entry confirming Exton’s election to the mayoralty and we can assume the proclamation was made in the run up to that election.

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin

Source: Letter-Book H, f. cciv

References: CLBH, p. 289

Text

1. <marginated>Quod nullus sit ad eleccionis maioris nisi illi qui sunt sumoniti pro eadem <marginated>

2. Pur ceo que auant ses houres en diuerses temps as elecciouns des mair & viscountes par multitude de poeple des gentz que ne sont pas somons sibien des seruantz come estraungers & gentz nient enfranchises venantz ala Gihalle grant cry & clamour ount este en tielx elecciouns sibien en grant affray des seignours & autres repeirantz ala dite Citee come des bones gentz dicele. Par quoi nous comandons sibien depar nostre seignour le Roi come par nous mesmes que null ne soit si hardy de aprocher ne venir ala dite Gihalle a iour del eleccioun de mair sinoun les mair aldermans & bones gentz somons a iceo. Ne que null ne face congregacioun assemble signe ne continance que puisse soner en destourbance de la pees ne de la dite eleccioun encountre la gouernance de la dite Citee sur peyne de forfaiture de canque ils purront forfaire enuers nostre dit seignour le Roi.
Translation

1. That no-one should be at the election of the mayor except for those who are summoned for the same.

2. Because that before these times, in various periods, the elections of the mayor and sheriffs have been by the multitude of people, of men that were not summoned, as well as of servants as of strangers and men not enfranchised, coming to the Guildhall for such elections with great cry and clamour, as well to the great fear of the lords and others repairing to the said city, as to the good men of the same. So we command, as well on the part of our lord the king as on the part of us, that none should be so bold as to approach or come to the said Guildhall on the day of the election of the mayor, except for the mayor, aldermen, and the good men summoned to that. And that none should make a congregation, assembly in sign or appearance that might resound to the disturbance of the peace or of the said election, against the governance of the said city, upon the pentalty of foreiture of all that they might forfeit to our said lord the king.
Appendix 7 – The 1388 Guild Petitions

7a) The Pinners’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/21/1003
Manuscript: 46cm x 20.6cm [40.2cm x 15.4 cm]. Condition very good; part of left margin missing, but no text lost; some creasing to right margin obscuring some words.

Text

1. A tresexellent & trespuissant seignour nostre tresredote seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours diceste present parlement. Suppliant <tre>shumbllyment sez pouerez ligez Pynneres de sa Citee de loundres & se pleignount vers Nichol B<em>embre chivaler & autres sez acomplices de soun assent Deceo que le dite seignour Nichol ou lassent de les autres queux feurent d<e son> ass<ent acc<r>ocha sur luy Roial poair de ceo que par la ou ad estez vsee en la dite Citee tout temps dount nule memoire ne court & par lour charter des Roys grauntez & confermez qaunt le maire de loundres serra eslutz y serra esluz par la c<ommunealte &> fran<k> gentz du dite Citee la les auantditz seignour Nichol & les autres sez acomplices par lour conspiracie & faux yimaginacion pour destruire bonez gentz du dit Citee & le bone gouernaile <enco>unte la fraunchise dicell fisrent s<o>mo<undre> {certeins gentz queux} feurent de lour assent al Gyhalle de la dite Citee en la ffeste de seint Edward Ian du regne nostre seignour le Roy qorest eoptisme¹ pour eslire vn meire. Et le dite seignour Nichol par assent de toutz les autres fist crier en diu<er>ses parites {du dite Citee &} ch<ar>ger chescun home de la dite Citee sur peyne demprisonement & sur le peyne de quanques quils purroient forfaire devers le Roy que nul ne serroit si hardy destre al dite ellectionoun fors ceux que feurent somouns & ceux que feurent somouns par lour assent. Et mesme le lour a cele ellectionoun que fuist fait encuentre lour frfrauanchise le dite seignour Nichol & les autres de soun assent ordeynerent certeinz gentz si bien foreyns come d<...>² a graunt nombure les queux feurent armez al Gyhall de loundres pour faire cele ellectionoun & pour auoir mys a mort toutz autres gentz queux

¹ i.e. 13th of October 1383.
² An unclear new word appears to be written over an erasure.
ne furent pas somouns sils euesent la venuz pour la dite ellection. Parquei plea a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les tresnoble & sagaz seignours en ceste present parlelement diceste horrible chose faite encuentre ley & corone ent faire due remedie pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

2. <It>em les ditz suppliantz se plaignount vers le dite seignour Nichol deeco quil oue lassent des autres auantditz de sa couyg<ne> accrocha sur luy Roial poair deeco quils conspirerent & ymaginerent pour auoir mys al mort plusours bones ge<ntz> de l<oun>dres <&> pour ceo quils ne purroient faire cele chose sannz ascun cause ils conspirent eux enditer de felonie ou de tresoun & mistrent sur les enquestes de eux enditer ceux que feurent del affinite & assent du dite seignour Nichol & se<s> a<co>mplices & queux feurent de male fame come ouertement serra prouez si les enditemens feurent deuant vous. Qe plea a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz de ceste horrible matiere ent faire due remedie & charger Nichol Exton ore maire de loundres fa<ire> venir deuant vous <to>utz les enditemens queux sount en sa garde en auaantage du Roy pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

3. <It>em les ditz suppliantz suppliount que lestatut fait al parlement tenuz a Westm’ lan du regne nostre dite seignour le Roy sisme3 que comence en ceste paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum quod nec in ciuitate London’ nec in alii <ciuitatibus bur>gis villis vel portibus maris par totum regnum predictum aliquis vitallarius officium iudiciale de cetero habeat exerceat neque ocupet quouismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum reperiri non <poterit> dum tamen idem Iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit ab exercicio vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victullium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesser & se abstineat pro se & suis omino ab eodem la contrarie de quel estatut est vsee en mesme la Citee. Qe plea a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz graunter que le dite estatuit soit tenuz si bien en la dite c<ite>e come aillours & meyntenant mys en execuciuon nient encontrar esteant ascun estatut ou ordinance fait a lencountre de puys en cea.

3 i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1382).
Translation

1.
To the most excellent and most powerful lord, our most dread lord the king, and to
the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor
lieges the Pinners of his city of London, and they complain against Nicholas
Brembre, knight, and others, his accomplices of his party, thereof: that the said Sir
Nicholas, with the agreement of the others who were of his party, accroached to
himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in the said city from time
immemorial – and granted and confirmed by their charter of kings – {that} when the
mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by the commonalty and free men
of the said city, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas and the others, his accomplices, by their
conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy the good men of the said city and
the good governance, against the franchise of the same – summoned certain men
who were of their party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward,
in the seventh year of the reign of our lord the present king, in order to elect a mayor.
And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of all the others, proclaimed in various
parts of the said city and charged each man of the said city – upon the penalty of
imprisonment and upon the penalty of all that they could forfeit to the king – that no-
one should be so bold as to be at the said election except for those who were
summoned, and those who were summoned were summoned by their agreement.
And the same day at that election that was made against the
ir franchise, the said Sir
Nicholas and the others of his party ordained certain men, foreigners as well as <...>
to a great number, the which were armed at the Guildhall of London in order to make
that election and in order to have put to death all other men who were not summoned
if they should have come there for the said election. So may it please our said lord
the king and the most noble and wise lords in this present parliament of this horrible
thing, made against the law and the crown, to thereof make due remedy, for God and
as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with
the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power
in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of
London; and because they could not do that thing without some cause, they
conspired to indict them of felony or of treason, and they appointed as officers of the
inquests to indict them those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir
Nicholas and his accomplices, and who were of bad renown – as openly will be
proven if the indictments were before you. So may it please our said lord the king
and the aforesaid lords of this horrible matter to thereof make due remedy and to
charge Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, to make come before you all the
indictments which are in his keeping, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a
work of charity.

3.
Also the said suppliants pray concerning the statute made at the parliament held at
Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the king that begins in
these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London
nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid
kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in
any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot
be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office,
utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their
victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”;
the contrary of which statute is practised in the same city. So may it please our said
lord the king and the aforesaid lords to grant that the said statute should be held as
well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution against any statute
or ordinance being subsequently made to the contrary in any way.
7b) The Founders’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/21/1002
Manuscript: 45.2cm x 26.2 cm [39.2cm x 17.1cm]. Condition very good; upper left corner missing, but minimal damage to the text; slight creasing and blackening to right-hand margin obscuring some text.

Text

1.
A tresexellent & trespuissant seignour nostre tredote seignour le Roy & As Tresnobles & tresages seignours diceste present parlement.

<S>upplient treshu[m]blement sez pouerez ligez ffoundours de sa Citee de loundres & se pleignont vers Nichol Brembr chivaler. Qe come le dite seignour Nichol oue ses acomplis que furront de sout assent accrocha sur l<uy> Roial poair Deceo que par la ou astee vsee en la dite Citee toutz temps dount nule memoire ne court & par lour chartre des Roys grauntes & confermez qaunt le maire de loundres serra esl<ut>z y serra eslu par la communealte du dite Citee & nemye par estrangers ne par vitailers la les auant ditz seignour Nichol & les autres sez acomplis par lour conspiracie & faux ymaginacioun pour destruire bonez gent de diu<erses mistiers du dite Cite<e> encoun<tre> l<a> {franchise} dicell fisrent somondre certeinz gentz queux feuront de lour assent ala Gyhall du dite Citee en la ffeste de seynt Edward le Roy lan du regne nostre seignour le Roy qorest setisme for eslire vn maire. Et le dite seignour Nichol par as<sent de> ses acomplys fist criez en diu<erses parties du dite Citee & charger chescun homme de la dite Citee que fuissent eouersours sur peyne demprisonement & sur la peyne de quanque ils purront forfaire devers le Roy que nul ne serroit si hardy destre al dite eleccioun fors ceux que feuront somouns & ceux que feurent somouns feurent somouns de lour assent. Et mesme le iour a cele elleccioun que fuist fait encuentre lour ffraunchise le dite seignour Nichol ordeig<ner>ont certeinz gentz s<i bie>n foreyns come vitaillers du dite Citee a graunt noumbr<e> les queux furent armez ala Gyhall de loundres pour faire cele elleccioun & pour aouir mys au mort toutz autres gentz queux ne feuront s<omouns si>ls eussent la venuz pour la dite elleccioun. Parquei plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les tresnobles & sages seignours en ceste present parlement de ceste horrible

\(^4\) i.e. 13th of October 1383.
chose faite encuentre ley & la corone ent fait due remedie pour dieu & en eoure de cha<rite>.

2. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol deceo quil ouse lassent des autres auant ditz de sa Couygne accrocha sur luy Roial poair deceo quils conspierent & ymaginerent pour auoir mys au <mort> p<lu>sors bones gentz de loundres & pour ceo quils ne puuroient faire cele chose sannz ascun cause ils conspierent de eux enditer ou enpecher par leur fauxe couygne auant quils de<br>meire qorest nous certefia en place de record que <a>sc<uns> du dite Citee furrount enditez ascuns empeches & ascuns appelles de felonie au quel enditement faire le dite seignour Nichol oue ses acomplys mistrent sur les enquestes de eux enditer ceux que furent del affinite & assent du dite seignour Nichol & queux feuront de male fame come ouerement serra prouez si les enditemens feurent deuant vous. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seigneours auant ditz de ceste horrible matiere ent faire due remedie & char<ger> Nichol Exton’ ore meire de loundres de faire venir deuant vous toutz les enditemens oue les enditours toutz les empechemens oue les empechers queux souent en sa garde ou de sa conisaunce en auant<ge du Roy {pur dieu} & en eoure de charite.

3. Item les ditz suppliantz suppliount que lestatut fait al parlement tenuz a Westm’ lan du regne nostre dite seignour le Roy sisme que comence en ceste paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum quod nec in Cuiitate London’ nec in aliis Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portibus maris par totum regnum predictum aliquis vitallarius officium Iudiciale decetero habeat exercceat neque ocupet quouismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum reperiri non pot<erit> dum tamen dem Iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit ab exercicio vitallaruii sub pena forisfacture victualium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesset & se abstineat pro se & suis omino ab eodem la contrarie de quel estatut est vsee en mesm<e> la Citee. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seigneours auant ditz graunter que le dit estatut soit tenuz sibien en la dite Cite come aillours & meyntenant mys en

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3 Possible scribal error for ‘faire’.

6 i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1382).

7 Possible scribal error for ‘idem’.
execucion pour les grauntz extorciouns que est fait de iour en autre & qe ne so<it>
lessez pour ascun estatuit ou ordinance fait al encountre de puys en cea.
Translation

1. To the most excellent and most powerful lord, our most dread lord the king, and to the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the Founders of his city of London, and they complain against Nicholas Brembre, knight: that the said Sir Nicholas, with his accomplices who were of his party, accroached to himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in the said city from time immemorial – and granted and confirmed by their charter of kings – {that} when the mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by the commonalty of the said city, and not by strangers or victuallers, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas and the others, his accomplices, by their conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy the good men of various mysteries of the said city, against the franchise of the same – summoned certain men who were of their party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward the King, in the seventh year of the reign of our lord the present king, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of his accomplices, proclaimed in various parts of the said city and charged each man of the said city who were workers – upon the penalty of imprisonment and upon the penatly of all that they could forfeit to the king – that no-one should be so bold as to be at the said election except for those who were summoned, and those who were summoned were summoned by their agreement. And the same day at that election that was made against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas ordained certain men, foreigners as well as victuallers to a great number, the which were armed at the Guildhall of London in order to make that election and in order to have put to death all other men who were not summoned if they should have come there for the said election. So may it please our said lord the king and the most noble and wise lords in this present parliament of this horrible thing, made against the law and the crown, to thereof make due remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

2. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of
London; and because they could not do that thing without some cause, they
conspired to indict or impeach them by their aforesaid false covin; so the present
mayor informed us in the place of record that some of the said city were indicted,
some impeached and some appealed of felony. To make which indictment, the said
Sir Nicholas with his accomplices appointed as officers of the inquests to indict them
those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir Nicholas and who were of bad
renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments were before you. So may it
please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of this horrible matter to thereof
make due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, to make
come before you all the indictments with the indicters, all the impeachments with the
impeachers which are in his keeping or of his knowledge, to the advantage of the
king, for God and as a work of charity.

3.
Also the said suppliants pray concerning the statute made at the parliament held at
Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the king that begins in
these words: “Also it is ordained and establushed that neither in the city of London
nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid
kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in
any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot
be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office,
utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their
victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”; the
contrary of which statute is practised in the same city. So may it please our said
lord the king and the aforesaid lords to grant that the said statute should be held as
well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution because of the
great extortions that are made from {one} day to another, and that it should not be
abandoned because of any statute or ordinance being subsequently made to the
contrary in any way.
7c) The Drapers’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/94/4664
Manuscript: 43.4cm x 28.1 cm [35.5cm x 19cm]. Condition very good; top right-hand corner missing with some damage to the opening of each line of the first paragraph.

Text

1.
A tresexcellent & trespuissant seignour nostre seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours de cest present parlement.

<Supplien>l humblement ses poueres liges Drapers de sa Citee de loundres & se pleynont vers seignour Nichol Brembre chivalet & sez acomplices & autres de son assent, de ce que le dit seignour Nichol oue lassent {des autres} <queux> x furent de son assent accrocha sur lui Roiale poair de ce que encontre lour chartre des Roys graunte & conferne de lour fraunchise de la dite Citee & en mayntenance de sa <...>

<so>mondre fist certeins gentz que furent de son assent al Gyhall du dite Citee en le feste de seint Edward lan le Roy qorest viij⁸ pur eslire vn mair. Et le dit seignour Nichol par {assent des} autres queux furent de son assent fist crier en diverses parties du dite Citee & charger chescun homm du dite Cite sur payne denprisonement & sur la payne quanqils pourroient <forfai>re deuers le Roy que nul ne serroit si hardy destre al dite eleccions fors ceux que furent somonez & ceux qui furent somouns furent somouns par lour assent. Et mesme le iour a cel<e> eleccioun {que} <fui>st fait encontre lour fraunchise le dit seignour Nichol & les autres de son assent ordeynerent certeins gentz sibien foreins come autres a graunt nombre les queux furent arme<z> al <Gy>hall de loundres pour faire cele eleccioun. Par qui pleise a nostre dit seignour le Roy & lez tresnobles & sages seignours en ceste present parlement des ceste horrible chose faite encontre la <co>rone <...> faire due remedy pour dieu & en eoure de charitee.

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⁸ i.e. 13th of October 1384. The other petitions date this event to 1383, so this seems to be a scribal error.
2. Item les ditz suppliants se pléynent vers le dit seignour Nichol de ceo quil oue lassent des autres ses acomplis acrrocha sur lui Roiale poair en ceo quil venoit en Chepe oue grau<nt> multitude dez gentz armez a graunt affray & doude de touz bons gentz du dite Citee. Et apres pour malice prist diuerses gentz du dit mistier & eux mis en prisone a grant doute <de> lour vies & perde de lour b<ie>ns sanz repouns ou ley. Issint qil & lez autres de son assent acrrocherent sur eux Roiale poair encontre la corone nostre dit seignour le Roy que pleise a nostre <dit> seignour le Roi & lez seignours auandtitz de ceste chose fait encontre la corone & ley de terre ent faire solonc ce qils ont deserui pour dieu & en eoure de charitee.

3. Item lez ditz suppliantz se pléynent vers le dit seignour Nichol de ceo quil oue lassent des autres auandtitz de sa couygne acrrocha sur lui Roiale poair de ceo qils consipierent & ymaginerent pour auoir mis a mort plusours bons gentz de loundres et pour ce qils ne pourroient faire celle chose sanz ascuns cause ils consipierent d<e> eux enditer de felonie & tresoun & mistrent sur lez enquestes de eux enditer ceux qi furent del affinitee & assent le dit seignour Nichol & queux furent de male fame come ouerement serra prouez si lez enditemetz furent deuant vous. Que pleise a nostre dit seignour le Roi & les seignours auan<td>itz de ceste horrible matier ent f<ai>re due remedie & charger Nichol Exton ore Meir de loundres de faire venir deuant vous touz lez enditemetz oue lez enditours queux s<on>t en sa garde en aua<un>tage du Roy pour dieu & en eoure de charitee.

4. Item lez ditz suppliants se pley<ne>nt vers le dit seignour Nichol & ses acomplis que come estatut fuit fait au parlement tenuz a Westm’ lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roi sisme9 <que> commenc<ez> en cestes paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum quod neque in Ciuitate London’ nec in aliis Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portubus maris par totum regnum {predictum} <a>li<q>uis vitallarius officium judiciale decetero habeat exerceat neque occupet quovis modo in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum reperiri non p<oteri>t dum tamen idem

9 i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1382).
Iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit ab exercicio vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victuallium suorum sic venditorum pentius cesset & se abstineat pro se & s<u>is omino ab eodem la quel seignour Nichol & ses acomplices lestatut auantdit ont contrerez a graunde damage de touz les Communues du dite Citee <que> ple<i>se a nostre dit seignour le Roi & les seignours auantditz graunter que le dit estatut soit tenuz sibien en la dite Citee come aillours & mayntenant mis en exec<u>cion> nien<t> encontre esteant ascun estatut ou ordinance fait en la countre depuis encea.
Translation

1.
To the most excellent and most powerful lord, our lord the king, and to the most
noble and wise lords of this present parliament pray humbly the poor lieges the
Drapers of his city of London, and they complain against Sir Nicholas Brembre,
knight, and his accomplices and others of his party, thereof: that the said Sir
Nicholas, with the assent of others who were of his party, accroached to himself
royal power in that he summoned – against their charter of their franchise of the said
city granted and confirmed by kings, and in maintenance of <...> – certain men who
were of his party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward, in the
seventh year of the present king, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas,
by the agreement of others who were of his party, proclaimed in various parts of the
said city and charged each man of the said city – upon the penalty of imprisonment
and upon the penalty of all that they could forfeit to the king – that no-one should be
so bold as to be at the said election except for those who were summoned, and those
who were summoned were summoned by their agreement. And the same day at that
election that was made against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas and the others
of his party ordained certain men, foreigners as well as others to a great number, the
which were armed at the Guildhall of London in order to make that election. So may
it please our said lord the king and the most noble and wise lords in this present
parliament of this horrible thing, made against the crown <...>, to make due remedy,
for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with
the agreement of the others his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in
that he came into Cheapside with a great multitude of armed men, to the great fright
and fear of all the good men of the said city. And after, for malice, he took various
men of the said mystery and put them in prison to the great fear for their lives and
loss of their goods, without the judgement of the law. In that way he and the others
of his party accroached to themselves royal power against the crown of our said lord
the king. So may it please our said lord the King and the aforesaid lords of this thing
made against the crown and the law of the land to thereof act according to that which they have deserved, for God and as a work of charity.

3.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of London; and because they could not do that thing without some cause, they conspired to indict them of felony & treason, and they appointed as officers of the inquests to indict them those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir Nicholas, and who were of bad renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments were before you. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of this horrible matter to thereof make due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, to make come before you all the indictments, with the indicters, which are in his keeping, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a work of charity.

4.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas and his accomplices that, whereas a statute was made at the parliament held at Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the King that begins in these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”, the which Sir Nicholas and his accomplices have opposed to the great damage of all the commons of the said city. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to grant that the said statute should be held as well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution against any statute or ordinance being subsequently made to the contrary in any way.
7d) The Painters’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/21/1004
Manuscript: 38cm x 36.6cm [32cm x 32.6 cm]. Condition very good; damage to left-hand margin, with some text lost in bottom left-hand corner.

Text

1. A tresexcellent & trespuissant seignour nostre tresredote seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sagez seignours diceste present parlement.

Suppliant treshumblement sez poueres liges Peyntours de sa Citee de Loundres & se pleingount vers Nichol Brembre chiualer & autres ses acomplices de soun assent de ceo que le dite seignour Nichol oue les autres queux feurent de soun assent accrocha sur luy Roial poair de ceo que par la ou ad estez vsee en la dite Citee toutz temps dount nule memoire ne court & par lour chartre des Roys grauntes & confermez qaunt le maire de loundres serra esluz y serra esluz par la communealte & ffraunk gentz du dite Citee, la les auan<1> ditz seignour Nichol oue les autres ses acomplices par lour conspiracie & faux yimaginacioun pour destruire bones gentz du dite Citee & encountre la franchise dicell fisrent somondre certeins gentz queux feurent de lour assent al Gyhall du dite Citee en la feste de seynt Edward le Roy lan du regne nostre seignour le Roy qorest eoptisme pour eslire vn maire. Et le dite seignour Nichol par assent de toutz les autres fist crier en diuerses parties du dite Citee & charger chescun homme de la dite Citee sur peyn demprisonement & sur peyne de quamque quils purroient forfaire deuers le Roy que nul serroit si hardyestre al dite elleccioun fors ceux que feurent somouns & ceux que feurent somouns feurent somouns par lour assent. Et mesme le iour a cele elleccioun que fuist fait encontré lour ffraunchise le dite seignour Nichol & les autres de soun assent orderront certoine gentz si bien foreyns come autres a graunt noumbr les queux feurent armez en la Gyhall de loundres pour f<ai>re cele elleccioun & pour auoir mys au mort toutz autres gentz queux ne feurent pas somouns sis eussent la venuz pour la dite elleccioun. Parquei plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les tresnobles <&> sagez seignours en ceste present parlement diceste horrible chose fait encuentre ley & la corone ent due remedie faire pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

10 i.e. 13th of October 1383.
2. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol deceo quil oue lassent des autres sez acomplices accrocha sur luy Roial poair enceo quil venoit en chepe oue graunt multitude des gentz armez a graunt doute & affray des toutz bones gentz du dite Citee & moultz autres gentz de mesme Citee emprisona a graunt doute de lour vies & perde de lour biens sannz response de ley. Issint quil & les autres accrocherent sur eux Roial poair encuentre la Corone nostre dite seignour le Roy. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour & les seignours auant ditz de ceste chose fait encuentre la corone & ley de terre ent faire solonc ceo quilz ount deseruy pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

3. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol de ceo quil oue lassent des autres auant ditz de sa couygne accrocha sur luy Roial poair deceo quilz consipirerent & ymaginerent pour aavoir mys au mort plusieurs bones gentz de loundres & pour ceo quilz ne purroient faire cele chose sannz aucun cause ils consipirerent de eux enditer de felonie & tresoun & mistrent sur les enquastes de eux enditer ceux que feurent del affine & assent du dite seignour Nichol & queue feurent de male fame come ouertemement serra prouez si les enditemens f<eu>rent deu<a>nt vous. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz diceste horrible matier ent faire due remedie et charger Nichol Exton ore maire de lo<u>ndres de faire venir deuant vous <t>out<z> les enditementz queue souuent en sa garde en auauntage du Roy pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

4. Item les auant ditz suppliant\textsuperscript{11} se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol deceo quil oue lassent des autres auant ditz de sa couygne accrocha sur luy Roial poair de ceo quils fisre<nt grau>nt assembles en diueries lieux de la dite Citee par diuere foitz par diueries gentz de la dite Citee & la consipirerent entre eux coment quils purroient meyntener lour fauxine quils <eussent adeu>ant comencez pour destruir ceux que pleignont ore & tous autres queue feurent enditez par lour faux yimaginacioun & conspiracie, ffeust ordeigne par lour commune assent de prendres <de> les auant

\textsuperscript{11} Possible scribal error for ‘suppliantz’.

382
ditz gentz queux feurent de lour assent a ceste fauxime meyntener grant sommes dargent la quel torcenouse prise ad este continue du temps que John’ Northampton fe<u>st oustee de soun office & le dite seignour Nichol Brembre esltuz par le manere il est dist auant tanque en cea & vnqore est continue. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz que ceste faux co<n>n>spiracie & ymaginacioun soint puniz solon ceo quil ad deseruy come le ley de terre demaunde pour dieu et en eoure de charite.

5.
Item les ditz suppliantz suppliont que lestatut fait al parlement tenuz a Westm’ lan du regne nostre dite seignour le Roy sisme\(^{12}\) que comence en ceste paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum quod nec in c\(<\)uii\(>\)tate London’ nec in aliis Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portibus maris par totum regnum predictum aliquis vitallarius officium Iudiciale de cetero habeat exerceat neque ocupet quouismodo nisi \(<\)in vi\(>\)llis vb\(<\)i alia\(>\) persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum reperiri non poterit dum tamen idem iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit ab exercio vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victualium suorum \{sic venditorum\} \(<\)pen\(>\)itus cesset & se abstineat pro se & suis omino ab eodem la contrarie de quel estatut est vsee en mesme la Citee. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz graunter que le d\(<\)ite\(>\) {estatut soit tenuz} \(<\)i\(>\)bien en la dite Cite come ailllours & meyntenant mys en execucio
nient encontrar esteant ascun estatuit ou ordinance fait en le countrie de p\(<\)u\(>\)ys en cea.

6.
{Item monstront} \(<\)le\(>\)s ditz suppliantz que come vn liure appell le Jubilee feast en la chaumrbe de la Gyhall de la dite Citee en quel plusours \& pour la greyn dre partie de tous les bones \{articles compiles\} par longe \& aunciene experience tochant le bone gouernayle de mesme la Citee alobseruance des quel articles les meir, Recordour, audermanz \& les bones \{communes de mesme\} la c\(<\)it\(>\)ee estoient iurrez \& soleient estre de temps en temps, mesme ceste liuere puys la ffest de pasque

\(^{12}\)i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1383).
darrein passez\textsuperscript{13} par couygne & ordinance d\textless a\textgreater scuns en temps {du mair qorest est} ars a graunt damage de la gouernance du dite Citee entemps a venir.

\textsuperscript{13} Easter fell on the 7th of April in 1387. The order to burn the book was made on the 12th March (\textit{CLBH}, p. 303). The entry in \textit{LBH} suggests that the book was burnt the same day (\textit{Memorials}, pp. 494-95), but the petitions suggest it happened the following month.
Translation

1.
To the most excellent and most powerful lord, our most dread lord the king, and to the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the Painters of his city of London, and they complain against Nicholas Brembre, knight, and others, his accomplices of his party, thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the others who were of his party, accroached to himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in the said city from time immemorial – and granted and confirmed by their charter of kings – (that) when the mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by the commonalty and free men of the said city, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas with the others, his accomplices, by their conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy the good men of the said city and against the franchise of the same – summoned certain men who were of their party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward the King, in the seventh year of the reign of our lord the present king, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of all the others, proclaimed in various parts of the said city and charged each man of the said city – upon the penalty of imprisonment and upon the penalty of all that they could forfeit to the king – that no-one should be so bold as to be at the said election except for those who were summoned, and those who were summoned were summoned by their agreement. And the same day at that election that was made against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas and the others of his party ordained certain men, foreigners as well as others, to a great number, the which were armed in the Guildhall of London in order to make that election and in order to have put to death all other men who were not summoned if they should have come there for the said election. So may it please our said lord the king and the most noble and wise lords in this present parliament of this horrible thing, made against the law and the crown, to thereof make due remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that he came into Cheapside with a great multitude of armed men to the great fear
and fright of all the good men of the said city; and he imprisoned many other men of
the same city to the great fear for their lives and loss of their goods, without the
judgement of law. In that way he and the others accroached to themselves royal
power against the crown of our said lord the king. So may it please our said lord and
the aforesaid lords of this thing made against the crown and the law of the land to
thereof act according to that which they have deserved, for God and as a work of
charity.

3.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with
the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power
in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of
London; and because they could not do that thing without some cause, they
conspired to indict them of felony or treason, and they appointed as officers of the
inquests to indict them those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir
Nicholas, and who were of bad renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments
were before you. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of
this horrible matter to thereof make due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now
mayor of London, to make come before you all the indictments which are in his
keeping, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a work of charity.

4.
Also the aforesaid suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he,
with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal
power in that they made large assemblies in various parts of the said city, during
various times, of various men of the said city; and there they conspired amongst
themselves how they could maintain their falseness that they had before begun in
order to destroy those who complain now and all the others who were indicted by
their false scheming and conspiracy. It was ordained by their common agreement, in
order to maintain this falseness, to take from the aforesaid men who were of their
party great sums of money, the which wrongful taking has been continued from the
time that John Northampton was removed from his office and the said Sir Nicholas
Brembre {was} elected by the manner that is said before until now, and still is
continued. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords that this
false conspiracy and scheming should be punished according to that which it has deserved, as the law of the land demands, for God and as a work of charity.

5. Also the said suppliants pray concerning the statute made at the parliament held at Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the king that begins in these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”; the contrary of which statute is practised in the same city. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to grant that the said statute should be held as well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution against any statute or ordinance being subsequently made to the contrary in any way.

6. Also the said suppliants show how a book called the Jubilee was made in the chamber of the Guildhall of the said city, in which {were} many – and for the greater part of all – the good articles compiled by long and ancient experience, touching the good governance of the same city, to the observance of which articles the mayor, recorder, aldermen and the good commons of the same city were sworn and were accustomed to be {sworn} from time to time. The same book, after the feast of Easter last passed, by covin and ordinance of some, in the time of the present mayor, is burnt to the great damage of the governance of the city in times to come.
7e) The Armourers’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/21/1005

Manuscript: 44.1cm x 33.8cm [38.1cm x 27.1cm] Condition very good. Top left-hand corner lost with some damage to text. Right-hand margin blackened and creased obscuring some of the text.

Text

1.

A nostre tresexcellent & trespuissant seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & s<a>gez seignours de ceste present parlement.

Suppliant tresholdemment ses poueres ligez Armurerers de sa Citee de loundres & se pleignont vers Nichol Brembre chivaler & autres sez acomplices de son assent

Deceo que le dite seignour Nichol ou lass<ent> de sez acomplices accroch<a> {sur luy} <roia>1 poair Deceo que par la ou ad estez vsez en la dite Citee de loundres tout temps dount nul memoire ne court & par lour chartre du Roys grauntez & confermez quant le meire de loundres serra <es>luz y serra es<luz>z {par le} communealte & frank gentz du dite Citee la les auant ditz seignour Nichol & ses acomplices par lour conspiracie & faux yimaginacioun pour destruire touz eouerours du dite Citee <&> en<count>tre la ffraunchise dicell fisrent somondre {certain gentz} queux furent de lour assent a la Gyhall du dite Citee en la ffeste de seynt Edward le Roy lan du regne nostre seignour le Roy qorest oeptisme14 pour esliere vne meire. Et le dite seignour Nichol par assent de les autres fist cri<er> en diuers<es> parties du dite Citee & charger chescun homme de la dite Citee sur peyne demprisonement & sur le peyne de quanque quils purront forfaire deuers le Roy que nul ne serroit si hardy destre al dite ellecioun fors ceux que furont <somou>ns ceux que furent somouns feurent somouns par lour assent. Et mesme le lour a cele ellecioun que fuist fait encontre lour fraunchise les dite seignour Nichol & les autres de sou<br>n assent ordeineront certeins gentz sibien foreyns <com>e autres <a> grant nombre les queux feurent armes ala Gyhall de loundres pour faire cele ellecioun & pour auoir mys au mort toutz autres gentz queux ne feurent pas somouns sils eussent la venuz pour la dite eleccion. Parquei plese a nostre di<te seignour> le Roy & les

14 i.e. 13th of October 1383.
tresnoble & sagez seignours en ceste present parlement de ceste horrible chose fait
encountre ley & corone ent faire due remedie pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

2. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol deceo qu'il oue
lassent des autres ses acomplices accrocha sur luy Roial poair enceo que venoit en
chepe <...>15 oue graunt multitude des gentz armez auxi <b>ien fore<yys> {come}
autres a graunt doute des bonez gentz du dite Citee & a graunt affray. Et apres pour
malice prist certeins gentz du dite mestier & les emprisona greuousement a graunt
doute de lour vies & perd de lour bienz sannz re<sp>onse {de ley}. Issint qu'il &
les autres accrocherent sur eux Roial poair enceo qu'ils conspirent & ymaginerent pour auoir mys a mort plus<ours> {bones} gentz de
loundres & pour ceo quils ne purroient faire cele chose sannz ascun cause ils
conspirent de eux enditer de felonye & mistrent sur les enquestes de eux enditer
ceux que furent del aff<ini>te du dit {seignour Nichol} & assent16 & queux furent de
male fame come ouertement serra proues si les enditemenz feurent deuant vous. Qe
plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz diceste
chose faite encountre la corone & ley de la terre ent faire solo<ne> {ceo quils} ount
deseruy pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

3. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dite Nichol deceo qu'il oue lassent des
autres auant ditz de sa Couygne accrocha sur luy Roial poair deceo quils
conspirerent & ymaginerent pour auoir mys a mort plus<ours> {bones} gentz de
loundres & pour ceo quils ne purroient faire cele chose sannz ascun cause ils
conspirent de eux enditer de felonye & mistrent sur les enquestes de eux enditer
ceux que furent del aff<ini>te du dit {seignour Nichol} & assent16 & queux furent de
male fame come ouertement serra proues si les enditemenz feurent deuant vous. Qe
plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz de ceste horrible
matier ent faire due remed<ie &> ch<arger> Nichol Exton ore meire de loundres de
faire venir deuant vous toutz les enditemens queux souent en sa garde en auauntage de
Roy pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

4. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol deceo qu'il oue
lassent de les autres auantditz de sa Couygne accrocha sur luy Roial poair deceo
quils fisrent grauntz assembles en diuerses lieux de la {dite Citee} par diuerses foitz

15 One word is erased in the manuscript.
16 Possible scribal error for ‘affinite & assent du dit seignour Nichol’.
des diuerses gentz de la dite citee & la conspirerent entre eux coment quils purroient meyntener lour fauxe quils eussent adeuant comensez pour destruire ceux que pleignant ore & tous autres queux feurent en ditez par lour fauxe yimaginacion & conspiracie ffeust ordeignez par lour commune assent de prendre de les auant ditz gentz queux feurent de lour assent a ceste fauxe meyntener grauntz sommes dargent; la quel torcenoisse prise ad estee con- tinue du temps que John’ Northampton fuist oustee de sou office & le dite seignour Nichol esluz par le manere il est dist auant tanque en cea & vnoqre est continue. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz que ceste & yimaginacion soit puniz solonc ceu ad deseryu come le ley de terre demande pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

5.
Item les ditz suppliantz suppliount que lestatut fait al parlement tenuz a Westm’ lan du regne nostre dite seignour le Roy sisme que comence en ces paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum quod nec in Ciuitate London’ nec in Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portibus maris par totum regnum predictum aliquis vitallarius officium Judiciale de cetero habeat exerceat neque occupet quouismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum reperiri no poterit ditem Iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo stetit ab exercicio vitallarius sub pena forisfacture victuallium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesset & se abstineat pro se & suis o mino ab eodem la contrarie de quel estatut e<nt en> ordi- nance fait a lencountr de puys en cea.

6.
Item monstront les ditz suppliantz que come vn liure appelle le Jubilee fuist en la chambre de la Gyhall de la dite Citee en quel plusours & pour la greyndre partie des toutz les bones articles compiles par long & bone les sages du dite Citee tochant la bone gouernaile de mesme citee & profit de les communes abolseruance

17 i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1383).
des quel articles les maire, Recordour, Audermanz & les bones communes de mesme la Citee estoient iurrez & soleient {estre de temps en temps} mesme ceste liure puys le feste de pasque darrein passez\textsuperscript{18} par couygne & ordinance dascuns en temps du maire qorest est ars a graunt damage de la gouernance de mesme la Cite en temps a venir.

\textsuperscript{18} Easter fell on the 7th of April in 1387. The order to burn the book was made on the 12th March (CLBH, p. 303). The entry in LBH suggests that the book was burnt the same day (Memorials, pp. 494-95), but the petitions suggest it happened the following month.
Translation

1.
To our most excellent and most powerful lord the king, and to the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the Armourers of his city of London, and they complain against Nicholas Brembre, knight, and others, his accomplices of his party, thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the agreement of his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in the said city of London from time immemorial – and granted and confirmed by their charter of kings – {that} when the mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by the commonalty and free men of the said city, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas with his accomplices, by their conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy all the workers of the said city and against the franchise of the same – summoned certain men who were of their party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward the King, in the seventh year of the reign of our lord the present king, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of the others, proclaimed in various parts of the said city and charged each man of the said city – upon the penalty of imprisonment and upon the penalty of all that they could forfeit to the king – that no-one should be so bold as to be at the said election except for those who were summoned; those who were summoned were summoned by their agreement. And the same day at that election that was made against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas and the others of his party ordained certain men, foreigners as well as others, to a great number, the which were armed at the Guildhall of London in order to make that election and in order to have put to death all other men who were not summoned if they should have come there for the said election. So may it please our said lord the king and the most noble and wise lords in this present parliament of this horrible thing, made against the law and the crown, to thereof make due remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that he came into Cheapside with a great multitude of armed men, foreigners as well as others, to the great fear of all the good men of the said city, and the great fright.
And after, for malice, he took certain men of the said mystery and grievously imprisoned them to the great fear for their lives and loss of their goods, without the judgement of law. In that way he and the others accroached to themselves royal power against the crown of our said lord the king. So may it please our said lord and the aforesaid lords of this thing made against the crown and the law of the land to thereof act according to that which they have deserved, for God and as a work of charity.

3.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of London; and because they could not do that thing without some cause, they conspired to indict them of felony, and they appointed as officers of the inquests to indict them those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir Nicholas, and who were of bad renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments were before you. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of this horrible matter to thereof make due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, to make come before you all the indictments which are in his keeping, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a work of charity.

4.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power in that they made large assemblies in various parts of the said city, during various times, of various men of the said city; and there they conspired amongst themselves how they could maintain their falseness that they had before begun in order to destroy those who complain now and all the others who were indicted by their false scheming and conspiracy. It was ordained by their common agreement, in order to maintain this falseness, to take from the aforesaid men who were of their party great sums of money, the which wrongful taking has been continued from the time that John Northampton was removed from his office and the said Sir Nicholas Brembre {was} elected by the manner that is said before, until now, and still is continued. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords that this conspiracy and
scheming should be punished according to that which it has deserved, as the law of the land demands, for God and as a work of charity.

5. Also the said suppliants pray concerning the statute made at the parliament held at Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the king that begins in these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”; the contrary of which statute is practised in the same city. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to grant that the said statute should be held as well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution against any statute or ordinance being subsequently made to the contrary in any way.

6. Also the said suppliants show how a book called the Jubilee was in the chamber of the Guildhall of the said city, in which {were} many – and for the greater part of all – the good articles compiled by long and good <...> the wise of the said city, touching the good governance of the same city and profit of the commons, to the observance of which articles the mayor, recorder, aldermen and the good commons of the same city were sworn and were accustomed to be {sworn} from time to time. The same book, after the feast of Easter last passed, by covin and ordinance of some, in the time of the present mayor, is burnt to the great damage of the governance of the city in times to come.
7f) The <...>steres’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/199/9925
Manuscript: Condition very poor. A substantial proportion of this petition is now lost: the bottom sections are entirely missing, as is a substantial amount from both the left and right margins. The text that has survived contains blemishes and substantial fading throughout.

Note to appendix: The loss of the opening of the petition means we are unable to discern the guild’s name: all we know is that it ends ‘steres’. The identity of this guild is unclear, and identifying the guild is problematised by the frequency with which guild professions end in ‘-steres’. For example, the guild in question could be, amongst other possibilities, the <pater>nosteres, the <uphol>steres, or the <arbale>esteres, or the <tape>steres. None of these appear to be obvious candidates, and as such I continue to refer to this petition as by the <...>steres.

Text

1. {A tresexellent & trespuissant} seignour nostre tresredote {seignour le} Roi & as tresnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement. {Suppliant treshumblement ses poveres liges} <...>steres de sa cite de loundres & se pleignont vers Nichol Brembre chivaler & les a<com>plies que f<eur>ent de soun assent d<e c>e que le {dite seignour Nichol oue les autres queux feurent de son assent accroacha sur luy roial power deceo que par la ou ad} estee vsee en la dite citee tout temps dount nule memoire ne court & par les chartre de roy {grauntez} &

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19 Paternosters made paternosters or rosaries. The typical spelling is ‘paternosrer’; see, for example, Memorials, p. 20. However, the form paternoster is recorded in the name ‘Andrew Paternoster’ (CLBB, p. 4), and in the description of ‘Geoffrey Bonere’ as a ‘paternoster’ (CLBG, p. 114). The paternosters’ guild had no particular political potency; in the 1380s, they only ever had one representative on the Common Council (Bird, Turbulent London, pp. 123-30).
21 For the name, see CLBB, p. 10; Memorials, p. 574. This appears to be a fairly obscure guild, and seems like an unlikely possibility.
22 The MED defines ‘tapistere (n.)’ as a ‘maker or seller of tapestries, tapestry weaver’. The MED notes the word derives from tapicer, which is the common term used to describe tapestry-weavers in the civic records. This guild is a particular plausible candidate for producing the petition, as the tapicers were a politically-dominant guild. They had 16 representatives on the common councils held between 1381-87 (Bird, Turbulent London, pp. 124-30). They thus were on a political par with the Painters (11 representatives) and the Armourers (13 representatives), the two guilds who produce petitions of a similar length. However, I have been unable to find extensive examples of the use of the spelling ‘tapisteres’ or ‘tapesteres’ (made problematic by its overlap with ‘tappester(e (n.), ‘one who sells ale’, MED), and without such proof I am unwilling to definitively assign this petition to them, even though they are the most likely candidate.
confermez quant le maire de londres {serra esluz y serra esluz par la communealte 
& ffrank gentz du dite citee la les avant ditz seignour} Nichol & les autres s<es ac>complices par lour conspiracie & faux yimaginacion pour <de>struire bones 
gents de dite citee {& rencontre la franchise dicell fisrent somoundre certeins gentz 
queux feurent de leur assent al Gyhall du} <dit>e citee <en> le ffeste {de seynt Edward} le Roi lan du regne nostre seignour le Roi <eop>tisme23 pour eslire <un> 
maire. Et le dite seignour Nichol par assent de tous le<s> {autres fist crier en 
diverses parties du dite citee & charger chescun homme de la dite citee sur} peyne 
demprisonment & sur la peyne <de> quanque <quils pour>roient <for>faire 
<de>uers le Roy que nul serroit si har<dy> destre <al dite> ellection {fors ceux que 
feurent somouns & ceux que feurent somouns feurent somouns par leur assent. Et 
mesme le iour a cele ellection que fuist fait} <enc>ountre lour ffrauenschise le dite 
seignour Nichol & les autres de son assent ordi<ner>ent certeins ge<nts> {sibien 
foreyns come autres a graunt nombre les queuz feurent armez en la Gyhall} de 
loundres pour faire cele ellection {& pour auoir mys au mort toutz autres gentz 
queux ne feurent pas somouns sils eussent la} venuz pour le dit ellection par {quei 
plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les tresnoble & sagez seignours en ceste 
present parlement} dicest horrible chose fait encontre ley {& la corone} ent due 
{remedie faire pour dieu & en eoure de charite}. 

2. 
{Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dite seignour} <Nic>hol de ceo quil oue 
lassent des autres sez acompliess accrocha sur <lui roial> poair en ceo quil venoit en 
chepe oue grant multitude des <...> dite mistier a grant doute de lour vies & perde 
de lour bienz sa<nz respon>se en loy issint quil & les autres accrocheront sur eux 
roial poair {encountre la corone nostre dite seignour le Roy. Qe plese a nostre dite 
seignour & les seignours auant dite de} <ces>te chose fait encontre la corone & ley 
de la terre ent fai<re solon> ceo quils ouunt deser<vy> pour dieu & en eoure de 
charite.

3.

23 i.e. 13th of October 1383.
{ Item les ditz suppliants se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol de ceo quil oue } "assent de les autres auant <dite> de sa co<uy>gne <acc>rocha sur luy roial poair deceo quils <cons>pir<erent & ym>aginerent {pour auoir mys au mort plusieurs bones gentz de loundres & pour ceo quils ne pourroient faire cele chose sannz ascun cause ils} conspirerent de eux de enditer f<e>lonie & treson & mistrent sur les {enquestes de eux enditer ceux que} feurent {del affinite & assent du dite seignour Nichol & queux feurent de male fame come ouertement serra prouez si les} "temens feurent deuant vous. Que plese a nostre dite seignour le roi {& les seignours auant ditz diceste horrible matier ent faire due remedie & charger Nichol Exton ore mair de loundres de faire venir deuant vous toutz les enditementz queux} souent en sa garde en aun<ta>ge du <roy> pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

4.

<...> accrocha sur luy <...>.
Translation

1.
To our most excellent and most powerful lord, our most dread lord the King, and to the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the <...>steres of his city of London, and they complain against Nicholas Brembre, knight, and his accomplices who were of his party, thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the others who were of his party, accroached to himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in the said city from time immemorial – and granted and confirmed by their charter of the king – {that} when the mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by the commonalty and free men of the said city, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas and the others, his accomplices, by their conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy the good men of the said city and against the franchise of the same – summoned certain men who were of their party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward the King, in the seventh year of the reign of our lord the King, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of all the others, proclaimed in various parts of the said city and charged each man of the said city – upon the penalty of imprisonment and upon the penalty of all that they could forfeit to the king – that no-one should be so bold as to be at the said election except for those who were summoned and those who were summoned were summoned by their agreement. And the same day at that election that was made against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas and the others of his party ordained certain men, foreigners as well as others, to a great number, the which were armed in the Guildhall of London in order to make that election and in order to have put to death all other men who were not summoned if they should have come there for the said election. So may it please our said lord the king and the most noble and wise lords in this present parliament of this horrible thing, made against the law and the crown, to thereof make due remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that he came into Cheapside with a great multitude of <...> said mystery to the great
fear for their lives and loss of their goods, without the recourse to law. In that way he and the others accroached to themselves royal power against the crown of our said lord the king. So may it please our said lord and the aforesaid lords of this thing made against the crown and the law of the land to thereof act according to that which they have deserved, for God and as a work of charity.

3.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of London; and because they could not do that thing without some cause, they conspired to indict them of felony, and they appointed as officers of the inquests to indict them those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir Nicholas, and who were of bad renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments were before you. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of this horrible matter to thereof make due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, to make come before you all the indictments which are in his keeping, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a work of charity.

4. 
<...> accroached to himself<...>
7g) The Goldsmiths’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/198/9882
Manuscript: 38.8cm x 31.2cm [35.6cm x 28.3 cm]. Condition poor; damage to left margin; substantial fading and blemishes throughout.

Text

1. A tres excellent & trespuissant seignour nostre tresdoute seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & tressages seignours diceste present parlement.

{Supplient} <tre>shumblement ses pouerez liges les Orfeuers de sa Citee de londres & <se> pleignont vers Nicholl Brembre Chiualer que come le dit monseignour Nicholl en sa mairalte lan du <re>gne nostre dite {seignour le roy primer} 24 demaunda as wardeins d)u dite mistier pour la chartre a eux par les nobles progenitours nostre dite seignour le Roy graunteez & confermez, en quele chartre feust {grauntez} <diu>erses choses come pleinement piert par la {copie annexe diceste a quel temps les} <war>deins du dit mistier {respondirent au} <d>it monseignour Nicholl quils ne voloient lour d<ite> chartre <a> lui deliuerer sanz comandement du {Roy ou de} p<ar>lement & <le> quel {Nichol mavasaunt eux hidousement} <qu>il voleit luy desmettre de son <espei>e & fa<ire leu>er tout la dite Citee sur la dit mistier a graunt doute de lour vies et <...> que les <...> deliererent a luy lo<ur chart>re la quelle {il ad} dite<ine>z & vinq<o>re detient en preiudice de la Corone nostre dit seignour le <R>oi> {et a graunt damage & vilenye} du dit mestier <...> cee que la loy demande p<our di>eu {et en eoure de charite}.

2. {Item les ditz suppliants} se pleignont vers le dit monseignour Nicholl & autres ses acom<pl>ices <de> son assent de cee que le dit monseignour Nichol <oue> lassent {de les autres queux} feurent de son assent accrocha sur luy roial poair <de> c<eo> que par la ou {ad} <e>stes vs<ee en> la dite Citee tout temps dount nul memoir ne court & par lo<ur> chartre des Roys graunteez & <con>fermez quant le mair {de londres serra eslutz y} serra {eslutz} par la communeelte du dite Citee la les auantditz

24 i.e. 1377-78.
{seignour Nichol and les autres} ses accomplices par leur conspiracie & faux ymagina<cion> pour destruire bones gentz du dite Citee & encontre tre la fran<chise> {dicell fisrent somondre certeins} gentz queex furent de leur assent a la Gyhall {de la dite citee en la} ffecte de seint Edward le Roy lan du regne nostre seignour <le> R<y> y qorest se<pt>isme²⁵ pur esliure <vn> mair {Et le} dite seignour Nichol par asse<nt> {de toutz les} autres fist criez en diuier ses par<ies> du {dite citee} & charger chescuns home de la dite Citee sur peyne demprisonement & su<r> la p<eyne> {de quanque} quils <pour>roint for<faire> deuers {le Roy que nul ne serroit si hardy destre al dite ellection} fors ceux que feurent s<u>mons et {ceux que feurent somouns} feurent somouns par leur assent et mesme le iour a celle election {que fuist fait} encont<re leur> franchise le {dite seignour Nichol & les autres de son assent} <ordeign>erent certeinz gentz sibien f<orey>ns come {autres a graunt noumbre} les queux furent armez a la Gyhall de londres pur faire celle elec<tion &> pur auoir {mys} au mort touz {autres gentz queux ne furent pas somouns} sils eussent la {venuz} pur la dite electioum {par que please a nostre dite seignour} le Roy & les tresnobles & sages seignours en ceste present parlement de ceste horrible chose fait encontre ley & {la corone ent faire due remedie pour dieu & en} eoure de charite.

3.
{Item les ditz suppliants} se pleignont vers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceo quil oue lassent des autres ses accomplices <ac>crocha sur l<uy> {roial poair enceo quil venoit en Chepe oue} <graun> t mul<titude d>es {gentz armez a} graunt do<ute> d<e> {tous les} bones {gentz du} dite Citee et apres myst Richard Merdon & R<{...}> <...>dernesse Or<feue>re en prison & feuront <...> quel <...> <Nic> holl pour punisser <...> Citee horriblement par quel empris<onmen>t <...> sont mort <...> poair encontre la corone <...> dite seignour le R<oy> <...> auantditz <...> ent faire {solonc} ceo quils dese<rvy> {pour dieu & en eoure de} <char>itee.

4.
{Item les ditz suppliants se pleignont vers le dit seignour Nichol} d<eeco> quil {oue lassent des autres ses complices de} sa couygne {accrocha} s<ur> luy <ro>ial

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²⁵ i.e. 13th of October 1383.
po<air> {deceo} quils {conspirerent &} <y>maginerent pur aoir m<ys> {a mort plusieurs bones gentz de la} <ci>tee de lond<re>s <&> pour {ceo quils} ne p<urroient faire ce le chose san<z> ascuns cause ils consirerent de eux en<di>ter de {felonie &} <mist>rent {sur les enquestes de eux} endit<er ce eur x que feu<re>nt del affinite & assent {du dite seignour} <Nic>ho<l> {& queux feuront de male fame} come ouertement serra proue si les enditements feurent deuant {vous} Q<ue> p<lese> {a nostre dit seignour le Roi & les seignours} auantdit> {diceste horrible matier} ent faire {due remedie & charger Nichol Exton ore maire de} londres de faire venuz deuant vous tous enditements queux {sount en sa garde} <e>n aua<ntage> {du Roy, pour dieu et en eoure de charitee}.

5.
{Item les ditz suppliants se pleignont vers le dit seignour} <Nic>holl {deceo} <qu>il oue <l>assent d<e>s autres auantditz {de sa} <couple>gne <accroc>ha sur {luy roial} poair <de>ceo quils fisrent {grant} <a>semble<ees> {en diuere lies} de la dite cit<e>e par diuerses {foitz par diuerses gentz de la dite citee & la conspirerent entre eux comen ils} <pu>rroient meintener lour fau<xi>e quils eussent {a} <deua>nt {comencez pour destruire} ceux que pl<eign>ont {ore & tous autres} <queu>x fe<uren>t {enditez par lour ymaginacion & conspiracie ffeust ordeyne par lour commune} assent de prendre de les {auant ditz gentz} queux f<eurent> d<e> {lour assent a} ce<st>e fauxime {meintener grant sums} <darge>nt la q<uel> {torcenouse prise ad estee continue du temps} que Jo<hn> Norham<pton> {feust oustee de son} office et le dit monseignour Brembre {eslutz} par la manere il est dit <aua>nt {tanque en} cea & vnqore est <con>tinue {Que} plese a {nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz que ceste faux} cons<piracie> & ymagination s<oi>t {puniz} solon ceo quil ad deservy come la ley de la terre demande, pu<r di>eu & en {eoure de} charitee.

6.
{Item les ditz suppliantz suppliont que lestatut fait al parlement tenuz} a Westminster lan du reg<ne> {nostre dite} seignour le Roy <s>isme26 que comence en {cestes} pa<roles> {Item ordinatum est & statum} quod nec in ciuit<ate>

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26 i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1382).
Lon<don’> {nec in alys ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portibus maris} par t<otum> regnum predictum aliquis vitallarius officium iudiciale decetero habeat exercerat neque ocupet quovis<odo {nisi in} villis {vbi alia persona sufficiens} ad huius statum habendeum <per> non poterit {dum tamen} idem iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit <a>b exce<rcicio> vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victu<a>l<ium> {suorum sic venditorum penitus} cesserat & se abstineat pro se & suis <om>ino ab eodem la cont<rari>e de q<uel> {estatut est} vsee en mesme le dit cite. Que plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant {dit} granter que le dit estatut soit tenuz siben> en la dite citee {come} aillours et <meyntena>nt mys en exe<ucion> nient contre {ascun} estatu ou ordinance faite {en le countre de puys en cea}.

7.
<tem monstrent les ditz suppliants que come vn liure appelle le <Jubilee> feust en la chaambre la Gyhall de la dite citee enquel <plus> sour<s> {&} pour la greindre <e>xperience tochant la bone gouernaille de mesme la citee alobservauce des quels articles les mair {recordour} audermans & les bones {communs} de mesme la citee esoient iurrez & soleient estre de temps {en temps} mesme {ceste} liure {puis} le fe<ste> de pasque darrein pas<ss>ez 27 par couygne & or<dinance> dascuns en temps {du mair} qorest est ar<s> a graunt {damage} de la {gouernance} en mesme la citee entemps {a venir}.

27 Easter fell on the 7th of April in 1387.
Translation

1. To the most excellent and most powerful lord, our most dread lord the king, and to the most noble and most wise lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the Goldsmiths of the city of London, and they complaint against Nicholas Brembre, knight, how the said Sir Nicholas, in his mayoralty in the first year of the reign of our said lord the king, demanded the wardens of the said mystery for the charter granted to them and confirmed by the noble forebears of our said lord the king, in which charter various items were granted, as plainly appears by the copy attached to this. At which time, the wardens of the said mystery answered the said Sir Nicholas that they would not deliver their said charter to him without the commandment of the king or of parliament. The which Nicholas threatened them horribly that he would drive them out by his sword and make all the said city to rise upon the said mystery, to the great fear for their lives and <...> delivered to him their charter, which he has withheld and still withholds to the detriment of the crown of our said lord the king and the great damage and harm of the said mystery <...> that which the law demands, for God and as a work of charity.

2. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas and others his accomplices of his party thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his party, accroached to himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in the said city from time immemorial – and granted and confirmed by their charter of kings – that when the mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by the commonalty of the said city, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas and the others, his accomplices, by their conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy the good men of the said city and against the franchise of the same – summoned certain men who were of their party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward the King, in the seventh year of the reign of our lord the present king, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of all the others, proclaimed in various parts of the said city and charged each man of the said city – upon the penalty of imprisonment and upon the penalty of all that they could forfeit to the King – that no-one should be so bold as to be at the said election
except for those who were summoned, and those who were summoned were
summoned by their agreement. And the same day at that election that was made
against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas and the others of his party ordained
certain men, foreigners as well as others, to a great number, the which were armed at
the Guildhall of London in order to make that election and in order to have put to
death all other men who were not summoned if they should have come there for the
said election. So may it please our said lord the king and the most noble and wise
lords in this present parliament of this horrible thing, made against the law and the
crown, to thereof make due remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

3.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with
the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in
that he came into Cheapside with a great multitude of armed men to the great fear of
all the good men of the said city; and after he put Richard Merdon and R<...> <...>
derness, Goldsmith, in prison, and they were <...> Nicholas in order to punish <...>
city horribly; through which imprisonment <...> are dead <...> power, against the
crown <...> said lord the King <...> aforesaid <...> to thereof act according to that
which they deserve, for God and as a work of charity.

4.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with
the agreement of the others, his accomplices of his covin, accroached to himself
royal power in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many
good men of the city of London; and because they could not do that thing without
some cause, they conspired to indict them of felony, and they appointed as officers
of the inquests to indict them those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir
Nicholas, and who were of bad renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments
were before you. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of
this horrible matter to thereof make due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now
mayor of London, to make come before you all the indictments which are in his
keeping, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a work of charity.
5. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power in that they made large assemblies in various parts of the said city, during various times, of various men of the said city; and there they conspired amongst themselves how they could maintain their falseness that they had before begun in order to destroy those who complain now and all the others who were indicted by their false scheming and conspiracy. It was ordained by their common agreement, to maintain this falseness, to take from the aforesaid men who were of their party great sums of money, the which wrongful taking has been continued from the time that John Northampton was removed from his office and the said Sir Brembre {was} elected by the manner that is said before until now, and still is continued. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords that this false conspiracy and scheming should be punished according to that which it has deserved, as the law of the land demands, for God and as a work of charity.

6. Also the said suppliants pray concerning the statute made at the parliament held at Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the king that begins in these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”; the contrary of which statute is practised in the same said city. So may it please our said lord the King and the aforesaid lords to grant that the said statute should be held as well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution against any statute or ordinance being subsequently made to the contrary in any way.

7. Also the said suppliants show how a book called the Jubilee was in the chamber of the Guildhall of the said city, in which {was} many – and for the greater part of all –
the good articles compiled by long and ancient experience, touching the good
governance of the same city, to the observance of which articles the mayor, recorder,
aldermen and the good commons of the same city were sworn and were accustomed
to be {sworn} from time to time. The same book, after the feast of Easter last passed,
by covin and ordinance of some, in the time of the present mayor, is burnt to the
great damage of the governance of the same city in times to come.
7h) The Saddlers’ Petition

Languages: Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/20/999
Manuscript: 38.5cm x 44.8cm [33cm x 39.6cm]. Condition poor; approximately one-quarter of the manuscript now lost.
References: Previously translated in John W. Sherwell, A Descriptive and Historical Account of the Guilds of Saddlers of the City of London (London: Harrison, 1889), pp. 41-44.

Text

1.
A Tresexellent & trespuissant seignour nostre tresredote seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours diceste present parlement.

Suppliant treshumblement ses pouerez ligez Sellers de loundres & se pleignont vers Nichol Brembre chivaler que come le dite monseignour Nichol en sa mairalte lan du regne nostre dite seigneur le Roy primere<de>maunda as Wardeins du dite mistier pour la chartre a eux par les nobles progenitours nostre dite seignour le Roy graunteez & confermez en quel chartre furront grauntez diuerses pointz en distruccioun des deceits par diuerses foreyns fait come pleynement piert par le copie annexe aiceste a quel temps les gardeins du dite mestier respondirent au dite seignour Nichol quils ne voleient lour dite chartre a luy deliverez sannz comandement du Roy ou de parlement. Le quel Nichol manasaunt eux hidousement quil voleit luy dismettre de soue espeie & faire leuer toute la dite Citee sur la dite mestier pour doute de quel chose & en saluaciuon de lour vies delierent a luy lour charte le quel il ad deteiniz & vnquore detient en prejidice de la corone nostre dite seignour le Roi & a graunt damage & vilenyue du dit mestier. Qount ils priount remedie & sur luy c<e>o que le ley demaunde pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

2.
Item les ditz suppliants se pleignont vers le dite seignour Nichol & autres ses accomplic<e>s de soue assent de ceo que le dite seignour Nichol oue lassent de les autres de soue assent auant ditz accrocha sur luy Roial poair de ceo que par la quil ad estee usee en la dite citee tout temps dout nule memoire ne court & pour lour

28 i.e. 1387-88.
29 A possible scribal error for ‘diceste’.
chartre des Roys grauntez & confermez quant le maire de loundres serra eslutz y serra eslutz par la communealte & frank gentz du dite Citee la les auant ditz seignour Nichol & les autres ses accomplies par lour conspiracie & fauxe yimaginacioun pour destruire bones gentz du dite citeit & encontre la ffrainchise dicell fisrent somondre certeins gentz queux furent de lour assent ala Gyhall de la dite Citee en la ffeste de seint Edward le Roy lan du regne nostre seignour le Roy quorest eoptisme pour eslire vn maire. Et le dite seignour Nichol par assent de toutz les autres fist crier en diuerses parties du dite Citee & charger chescun home de dite Citee sur peyne demprisonement & sur la peyne {de quanque} <pourroie>nt forfaire deuers le Roy que nul ne serroit si hardy destre al dite ellecioun fors ceux que feurent somouns & ceux que feurent somouns feurent somouns par assent du dite seignour Nichol & ses {autres et mesme le} iour a cele ellecioun que fuist fait encontre lour fraunchise le dite seignour Nichol & les autres de soum assent ordeigneront certeins gentz sibien foreyns come autres a graunt {noumbre les} <queu>x furent al Gyhall auantdite <pour> faire cele elecioun & <pour> aouir mys au mort toutz autres gentz queux ne furent pas somouns si ils vssent la venuz pour la dite eleccioun. Par quei plese {a nostre dite seignour le} <R>oy & les t<esn>obles & sagez seignours en ceste present parlement de ceste horrible chose fait encontre ley & la corone ent faire due remedie <pour> dieu & en eouere de charite.

3. {Item les ditz} <supplian>tz se pleignont deuers le dite seignour Nichol deceo quil ounge lassent des a<u>tres ses accomplies accrocha sur luy Roial poair ence<o> quil venoit en chepe oue graunt multitude des gentz {armez a graunt} doute de tous les bones <gentz> du dite <Cit>ee & illoques ad mys a mort John Costantyn Cordewaner. Et apres vient as schopes des diuerses gentz de sell<ers> & eux manasa dauoir <...> en mesme la manere pour quel ascun de eux f<uyw>erent hors de la dite Cite & ne cosoient illoques venir pour doute de perdre lour vies. Et apres le dite seignour Nichol prist certeinz gentz <...> <me>stier & eux mist en prisoun sannz ascun response ou ley a graunt doute de lour vies & perde de lour biens. Issint quil & les autres de soum assent accrocherent sur eux Roial poair {encontre} 1<a> c<oro>ne nostre di<te> seignour le Roy. Qe plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy &

30 i.e. 13th of October 1383.
les seignours auantditz diceste chose fait encuentre la corone & ley de terre eux faire solon ceo quils ouunt deseruy (pour dieu & en eoure) de c<haritee>.

4.

{Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dit} seignour Nichol deceo quil oue lassent des autres ses complices & Couygne accrocha sur luy Roial poair deceo quils consprirerent {& ymaginerent pour auoir mys a mort plusieurs} <bo>nes gentz de loundres & pour ceo quils ne purroient faire cele chose sannz ascun cause ils consprirerent de eux enditer de felonie {& treson & mistrent sur les enquestes de eux enditer} ceux que feuront del affinite & assent du dite seignour Nichol & queux feuront de male fame come ouertement serra prouez {si les enditemens feurent deuant vous. Qe plese a nostre} dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz diceste horrible matiere ent faire due remedie & charger Nichol Exton’ ore maire {de loundres de faire venir deuant vous toutz les enditemetz} queux sount e<n> sa garde en auantage du Roy pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

5.

{Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont vers le dit seignour Nichol deceo quil oue lassent des} autres auant ditz de sa Couygne accrocha su<l> luy Roial poair deceo quils fisrent grauntz {assembles en diuerses lieux de la dite citee par diuerses foitz par diuerses gentz de la dite} <Cite>e & la consprirerent entre eux coment ils purroient meytntener lour fauxime quils vssent {adeuant commenza pour destruire ceux que pleignont ore & tous autres queux feurent enditez par} lour ymaginacioum & conspiracie fe<ust> ordeignez par lour commune assent de prendre {de les auant ditz gentz queux feurent de lour assent a ceste fauxime meytntener graunt somes} dargent la quel torcenouse prise ad estee continue du temps que John’ Norhampton {feust oustee de son office et le dite seignour Nichol Brembre eslutz par le manere il est dist auant tanque en cea & unqore} est continue. Que plese a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz que ceste {faux conspiracie & ymagnacion soit puniz solon ceo quil ad deservy come le ley de terre demaunde} pour dieu & en eoure de charite.

31 Scribal error for ‘ent’.
6.

{Item les ditz suppliantz suppliont que lestatut fait al parlement tenuz a Westm’ lan du regne nostre dite seignour le Roy zus que commence} <e>n cestes paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum {quod nec in aliis ciuitatibus burgis villis vel portibus maris par totum regnum predictum aliquis vitallarius officium} <Iudici>ale de cetero habeat exercerat neque ocupet {quovismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum reperiri non poterit dum tamen idem iudex pro tempore quo in} <offici>o illo steterit ab exercicio vitallarii sub {pena forisfacture victualium suorum sic venditorum penitus ceset & se abstina pro se & suis omino ab eodem la contrarie de quel estatut est use} <e>n mesme la Citee. Qe plese {a nostre dite seignour le Roy & les seignours auant ditz graunt que le dite estatut soit tenuz sibien en la dite citee come aillours & meyntenant nys en} <execu>cioun nient rencontre {esteat ascun estatut ou ordinance fait en le countre de puys en cea}.

7.

{Item monstront les ditz suppliantz que come vn liure appell le Jubilee feust en la chaumbre de la Gyhall de la dite citee en quel plupours & pour la greyndre partie de} toutz les bones {articles compiles par longe & aunciene experience tochant le bone gouernayle de mesme la cite alobseruance des quel articles les meire, recordour} audermans & les {bones communes de mesme la citee estoient iurrez & soleient estre de temps en temps mesme ceste liuer puis la ffeste de pasque darrein passez par couygne} & ordinance {dascuns en temps du mair qorest est ars a graunt damage de la gouernance du dite citee entemps a venir}.

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32 i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1382).
33 Easter fell on the 7th of April in 1387.
Translation

1.
To the most excellent and most powerful lord, our most dread lord the king, and to the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the Saddlers of London, and they complain against Nicholas Brembre, knight, how the said Sir Nicholas, in his mayoralty in the first year of the reign of our said lord the king, demanded the wardens of the said mystery for the charter granted to them and confirmed by the noble forebears of our said lord the king, in which charter various items were granted towards the distruction of the deceits made by various foreigners, as plainly appears by the copy attached to this. At which time, the wardens of the said mystery answered the said Sir Nicholas that they would not deliver their said charter to him without the commandment of the king or of parliament. The which Nicholas threatened them horribly that he would drive them out by his sword and make all the said city to rise upon the said mystery. For fear of which thing, and in saving of their lives, they delivered their charter to him, which he has withheld and still withholds to the detriment of the crown of our said lord the king and to the great damage and harm of the said mystery. So they ask for a remedy and upon him that which the law demands, for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas and others his accomplices of his party thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the agreement of the aforesaid others of his party, accroached to himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in the said city from time immemorial – and granted and confirmed by their charter of kings – {that} when the mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by the commonalty and free men of the said city, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas and the others, his accomplices, by their conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy the good men of the said city and against the franchise of the same – summoned certain men who were of their party to the Guildhall of the said city on the feast of Saint Edward the King, in the seventh year of the reign of our lord the present king, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of all the others, proclaimed in various parts of the said city and charged each man of the said city – upon the penalty of imprisonment and
upon the penalyy of all that they could forfeit to the king – that no-one should be so bold as to be at the said election except for those who were summoned, and those who were summoned were summoned by the agreement of the said Sir Nicholas and his others. And the same day at that election that was made against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas and the others of his party ordained certain men, foreigners as well as others, to a great number, the which were at the aforesaid Guildhall in order to make that election and in order to have put to death all other men who were not summoned if they should have come there for the said election. So may it please our said lord the king and the most noble and wise lords in this present parliament of this horrible thing, made against the law and the crown, to thereof make due remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

3. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that he came into Cheapside with a great multitude of armed men to the great fear of all the good men of the said city; and there he has put to death John Constantyn, Cordwainer. And after they went to the shops of various men of the Saddlers, and threatened them to have <...> in the same manner, because of which some of them fled outside of the said city and would not come there for fear of the losing their lives. And after the said Sir Nicholas took certain men <...> mystery and put them in prison without any judgement or law, to the great fear for the lives and loss of their goods. In that way he and the others of his party accroached to themselves royal power against the crown of our said lord the king. So may it please our said lord and the aforesaid lords of this thing made against the crown and the law of the land to thereof act according to that which they have deserved, for God and as a work of charity.

4. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of the others, his accomplices of his covin, accroached to himself royal power in that they conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of London; and because they could not do that thing without some cause, they conspired to indict them of felony and treason, and they appointed as officers of
the inquests to indict them those who were of the accord and party of the said Sir
Nicholas, and who were of bad renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments
were before you. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of
this horrible matter to thereof make due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now
mayor of London, to make come before you all the indictments which are in his
keeping, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a work of charity.

5.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with
the agreement of the aforesaid others of his covin, accroached to himself royal power
in that they made large assemblies in various parts of the said city, during various
times, {of} various men of the said city; and there they conspired amongst
themselves how they could maintain their falseness that they had before begun in
order to destroy those who complain now and all the others who were indicted by
their false scheming and conspiracy. It was ordained by their common agreement, to
maintain this falseness, to take from the aforesaid men who were of their party great
sums of money, the which wrongful taking has been continued from the time that
John Northampton was removed from his office and the said Sir Nicholas Brembre
{was} elected by the manner that is said before until now, and still is continued. So
may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords that this false conspiracy
and scheming should be punished according to that which it has deserved, as the law
of the land demands, for God and as a work of charity.

6.
Also the said suppliants pray concerning the statute made at the parliament held at
Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the king that begins in
these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London
nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid
kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in
any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot
be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office,
utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their
victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”; the
contrary of which statute is practised in the same city. So may it please our said
lord the king and the aforesaid lords to grant that the said statute should be held as well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution against any statute or ordinance being subsequently made to the contrary in any way.

7.
Also the said suppliants show how a book called the Jubilee was made in the chamber of the Guildhall of the said city, in which many – and for the greater part of all – the good articles compiled by long and ancient experience, touching the good governance of the same city, to the observance of which articles the mayor, recorder, aldermen and the good commons of the same city were sworn and were accustomed to be {sworn} from time to time. The same book, after the feast of Easter last passed, by covin and ordinance of some, in the time of the present mayor, is burnt to the great damage of the governance of the city in times to come.
7i) The Cordwainers’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/20/998
Manuscript: 34.6cm x 37.2cm [30.1cm x 30.7cm]. Condition excellent.

Text

1. A tresexcellent & tresgracious seignour nostre tresdoute seignour le Roy & as tresnobles seignours diceste present parlement. Suppliont treshumblement ses pouerez liges les Cordewaners de sa Citee de londres come vn des membres de mesme la Citee & se pleignont deuers monseignour Nicholl Brembre Chualer de cee que la ou del temps douent nulle memoire ne court & par vertue des diverses chartres par nostre dit seignour le Roy & ses nobles progenitours grauntteez & confermeez ad esteu vsee que la electioun du maire de la dite Citee deusse estre franchement fait chescun an le iour de seint Edward le Roy34 par bone & peisible aduys de les plus sages & loialx de mesme la Citee & nemye autrement la le dit monseignour Nicholl ou lassent des autres ses accomplices lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy septisme35 quant Johan Norhampton’ feust oustee de son office, oue forte main debat & graunt multitude des gentz encontre la peas par auisement purvoiez feust fait maire du dite citee a tresgraunt destructioun des plusieurs bones liberteez franchises & aunciens custumes de mesme la Citee encontre la ley de la terre & lour chartres auantditz come ouertement est conu. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz faire punir & chastier le dit monseignour Nicholl & autres ses accomplices come celuy qad acrochee sur luy roial poair danientre & destruire les leyes & vsages auantditz sanz assent de nostre dit seignour le Roy & del parlement pur dieu & en oeure de charitee.

2. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de cee qil oue lassent des ses accomplices acrochant sur luy roial poaire lan auantdite venoit en

34 i.e. 13th of October.
35 i.e. 1383-84.
Chepe oue graunt nombre des gentz armeez a graunt doute des bones gentz du dite Citee et illecoques sodeynement sanz droit ioustice & proces du ley fist coper la teste dvn Johan Costantyn Cordewaner du dite Citee et plusieurs du dit mistier myst en prison a graunt doute de leur vyes perde de leur biens & damage de leur corps sanz responce encontre droit & resoun. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz ordeigner punissement sur le dit monseignour Nicholl & ses acomplies solonc ceo qils ouent deseruyz pur dieu & en oeure de charitee.

3.
Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceo qil oue lassent des ses acomplises conspirantz par leur faux yimaginacioun la veigle de seint Edward le Roy lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy septisme fist proclamer que nul soit si hardy de venir a la Guyhall du dite Citee pur faire la electioun de leur maire fors ceux qi feurent pur ico somons les queux fuerten somons par soun assent et auxi adonques proclamee feust que nul voyse armeez en la dite Citee sur grief forfaiture; le quel monseignour Nicholl la noet ensuant fist carier a la dite Gyhall graunt quantite darmure oue quele sibien foreins come autres feurent armeez en la dite Gyhall lendemain pour la dite electioun faire & certeins abussheiments des gentz armeez feurent illecoques myses. Et quant les bones gentz de la dite Citee la venoient pour la dite electioun faire solonc la franchise & launciene custume de dite Citee, les auantditz gentz armeez sailleront sur eux oue graunt noise criantz tuwez tuwez leur pursuiantz hydousement, parount les ditz bones gentz pour paour de mort se fuwyrent & ascondirent en mesons & autres liewes secretz come en terre de guerre et adonques estirent le dit monseignour Nicholl pour mayre et issint la mailraltee du dite Citee depuis le dit temps tanque enceae ad estee tenuz par conquest & maistrie. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz diceste horrible chose faite encontre la Corone & la franchise du dite Citee ent ordeigner <due> remedie pur dieu & en oeure de charitee.

4.
Item le auantditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceo qil oue assent des autres ses acomplices acrochant sur luy roial poair conspirerent &

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36 i.e. 13th of October 1383.
ymagineront pour auoir mys a mort plusieurs bones gentz du dite Citee, et pur ceo qils ne purroient ceo faire sanz cause, ils les fesoient enditer de felonie, & lour enditours feurent del affinitee & assent le dit monseignour Nicholl & gentz de male fame come serra notoirement provez si les dites enditemenzt feussent deuant vous. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz sur ceste horrible matiere due remedie faire et charger Nicholl Exton’ ore maire du dite Citee de faire venir deuant vous touz les enditemenzt queux feurent prises en auantage du Roy pour dieu & en oeure de charitee.

5.
Item les auantditz suppliantz monstront coment le dit monseignour Nicholl & ses acomplices quant ils auoient enditeez graunt some des gentz du dite Citee pour37 lour faux ymaginacioun & conspiracie suyrent a nostre dit seignour le Roy pur vne chartre de pardon la quele feust a eux graunteez come par la copie dicelle plus au plein poet apparer, la ou ceux qi feurent enditeez nauoient mye conussance de la dite chartre. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz diceste faux ymaginacioun & conspiracie ordeigner due remedie pour dieu & en oeure de charitee.

6.
Item les auantditz suppliantz suppliont que lestatu est au parlement tenuz a Westm’ lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy sisme que commence en cestes paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum quod nec in Ciuitate london’ nec in aliis Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portubus maris par totum regnum predictum aliquis vitallarius officium iudiciale decetero habeat exercceat neque occupet quouismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum reperiri non poterit dumbamen idem Iudex pro tempore quo in officio steterit ab exercicio vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victuallium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesset & se abstineat pro se & suis omino ab eodem la contraire de quel estatut est vsee en mesme la Citee. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz comander que le dit estatut soit tenuz sibien en la dite Citee come aillours & meintenant mys en execuciooun pour dieu & en oeure de charitee.

37 Possible scribal error for ‘par’.
7.
Item les auantditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers Nicholl Exton’ ore maire de londres fait par electioun de monseignour Nicholl Brembre & ses acomplies encontre la franchise & frank electioun du dite Citee de ceo que la ou feust compris en vne liure que feust appellee le Jubilee touz les bones articles appurtenantz al bone gouernaille du dite Citee et le dit Nicholl maire monseignour Nicholl touz les Audermans & bones communiers du dite Citee feurent iurrez de les tenir & sustenir as touz iours al honour de dieu & profit de commune poeple le quel liure le dit Nicholl Exton’ & ses acomplises ount ars sanz consent de la bone commune du dite Citee a graunt destruction & anientissement des plusours bones liberteez franchises & costumes de mesme la citee. Qe plese a nostre dit seigneur le Roy & les seignours auantditz faire punir les ditz Nicholl Exton’ monseignour Nicholl & lour acomplies come ceux qount acrochee sur eux roial poair de anientre & destruire les bones leyes & aunciens costumes auantditz pur dieu & en oeure de charitee.
Translation

1.
To the most excellent and most gracious lord, our most dread lord the king, and to the most noble lords of this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the Cordwainers of his city of London, as one of the members of the same city, and they complain against Nicholas Brembre, knight, thereof: that, whereas since time immemorial – and by virtue of various charters granted and confirmed by our said lord the king and his noble forebears – it has been practised that the election of mayor of the said city ought to be freely made each year on the day of Saint Edward the King, by the good and peaceable advice of the most wise and lawful {men} of the same city, and not otherwise, the said Nicholas with the agreement of the others his accomplices in the seventh year of the reign of our said lord the king, when John Northampton was removed from his office with strong hand, strife, and a great multitude of men against the peace, through prepared deliberation, was made mayor of the said city to the very great destruction of many good liberties, franchises and ancient customs of the same city, against the law of the land and their aforesaid charters, as openly is known. So may it please our said lord and the aforesaide lords to act to punish and admonish the said Sir Nicholas, and others, his accomplices, as he that accroached to himself royal power to annul and destroy the aforesaid laws and practices without the agreement of our said lord the king and of the parliament, for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of his accomplices, accoraching to himself royal power, in the aforesaid year came into Cheapside with a great number of armed men, to the great fear of the good men of the said city; and there, suddenly, without rightful justice and the process of law, he cut off the head of one John Constantyn, Cordwainer, of the said city, and he put many of the said mystery in prison, to the great fear for their lives, loss of their goods, and damage to their bodies, without recourse, against right and resaon. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to ordain a punishment upon the said Sir Nicholas and his accomplices according to that which they have deserved, for God and as a work of charity.
3. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with
the agreement of his accomplices, conspiring by their false scheming the eve of Saint
Edward the King in the seventh year of the reign of our said lord the King,
proclaimed that no-one should be so bold as to come to the Guildhall of the said city
to make the election of their mayor except for those who were summoned by the
foregoing, the which were summoned by his agreement; and also it was then
proclaimed that no-one should come armed into the said city upon a great forfeit.
The which Sir Nicholas, the following night, carried to the said Guildhall a great
quantity of armour, with which foreigners as well as others were armed in the said
Guildhall the day after in order to make the said election, and certain ambushes of
armed men were placed there. And when the good men of the said city came there in
order to make the said election according to the franchise and the ancient custom of
the said city, the aforesaid armed men sprang out upon them with a great noise
shouting “Slaughter! Slaughter!”, threateningly chasing them. Whereby the said
good men fled for fear of death, and hid in houses and other secret places as in a land
of war; and they then elected the said Sir Nicholas as mayor. And in that way the
mayoralty of the said city, since the said times until now, has been held through
conquest and force. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of
this horrible thing made against the crown and the franchise of the said city to
thereof ordain due remedy, for God and as a work of remedy.

4. Also the aforesaid suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he,
with the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accoraching to himself royal
power, conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of the
said city; and because they could not do that without a cause, they indicted them of
felony, and their indicters were of the accord and party of the said Sir Nicholas, and
{were} men of bad renown, as will be notoriously proven if the said indictments
were before you. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to
make upon this this horrible matter due remedy and to charge Nicholas Exton, now
mayor of the said city, to make come before your all the indictments which were
taken, to the advantage of the king, for God and as a work of charity.
5. Also the aforesaid suppliants show how the said Sir Nicholas and his accomplices, when they had indicted a great number of men of the said city by their false scheming and conspiracy, sued to our said lord the king for a charter of pardon, the which was granted to them as can plainly appear by the copy of the same. However, those who were indicted did not have knowledge of the said charter. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords of this false scheming and conspiracy to ordain due remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

6. Also the aforesaid suppliants pray <that> the statute made at the parliament held at Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the King that begins in these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”; the contrary of which statute is practised in the same city. So may it please our said lord the King and the aforesaid lords to command that the said statute should be held as well in the said city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution, for God and as a work of charity.

7. Also the aforesaid suppliants complain against Nicholas Exton, now made mayor of London by the election of Sir Nicholas Brembre and his accomplices, against the franchise and free elections of the said city, thereof: how that it was comprised in a book called the Jubilee all the good articles appertaining to the good governance of the said city, and the said mayor Nicholas, Sir Nicholas, all the aldermen, and the good commoners of the said city were sworn to hold and to uphold them, for all days, to the honour of God and profit of the common people; the which book, the said Nicholas Exton and his accomplices have burnt, without the consent of the good
commons of the said city, to the great destruction and annulment of many good liberties, franchises and customs of the same city. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to act to punish the said Nicholas Exton, Sir Nicholas, and their accomplices, as those who accroached to themselves royal power to annul and destroy the aforesaid good laws and ancient customs, for God and as a work of charity.
7j) The Embroiderers’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/20/1000
Manuscript: 29.5cm x 43.7 cm [24.9cm x 30.7cm]. Condition excellent.

Text

1. A tresexcellent & tresgracious seignour nostre tresdoute seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & tressages seignours esteantz en ceste present parlement. Suppliunt tresholdemement ses poueres liges les Brouderers de sa Citee de londres come vn des membres de mesme la Citee & se pleignont deuers monseignour Nicholl Brembre chiualer de ceo que la ou del temps dount memoria ne court par vertue des diuerses chartres ^par^ nostre dit seignour le Roy & ses nobles progenitours a la dite Citee graunteez & confermez ad estee vsee en la dite Citee que lelection de lour maire deusse estre franchement fait chescun an le iour de seint Edward le Roy38 par bone & peisible aduys de les plus sages & loialx de mesme la citee. La le dit monseignour Nicholl par assent des ses acomplices lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy septisme39 oue fort main & debat & graunt multitude du poeple encontre la peas par auisement purvoiez feud fais maire du dite citee a tresgraunt destruction des plusieurs bones liberteez franchises & custumes de mesme la Citee, encontre lour chartres auantditz come ouertement est conuuz. Que plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz faire punir le dit monseignour Nicholl come celuy que acrocha sur luy roial poair pour anientre & destruire les bones leyes & vsages auantditz sanz assent de nostre dit seignour le Roy & <le> parlement pur dieu et en oeure de charitee.

2. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceo qil lan <au>auantdiz encontre la peas nostre dit seignour le Roy & sanz cause pour sustenir ses tortz & fauexeteez acrochant a luy roial poair fist diuerses armeez en la dite citee par noet & par iour par40 fauement destruire les loialx liges nostre seignour le Roy

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38 i.e. 13th of October.
39 i.e. 1383-84.
40 Possible scribal error for ‘pour’.
du dite Citee et ascuns mist au mort ascuns fauxement emprisona & ascuns fist fuwyrm hors du dite citee & plusieurs autres tortz & meschiefs fist come ouertement est conu. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz ent oderigner due punissement pur dieu & en oeure de charitee.

3.
Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceeq ile lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy septisme\textsuperscript{41} encontre la franchise du dite citee & pur sustenir ses fauxeteez fist proclamer que nul soit si hardy de venir a la Gyhall du dite citee pour eslire le maire fors ceux qi feuront somouns, les queeux feurent somouns par son assent et auxi adonques proclamanee que nul voisist en la dite citee armeez sur grief forfaiture le quel monseignour Nicholl la noet deuant la iour del electioun du maire fist carier graunt quantite darmure en la dite Gyhall oue quelle sibien foreins come autres feurent armeez en la dite Gyhall lendemain pour la dite electioun faire, et certeins embussementz des gentz armeez feurent myses illoques encontre sa proclamatioun. Et quant les bones gentz de la dite citee la venoient pour la dite electioun faire solonc le franchise d\textless e\textgreater a la dite citee, les auantditz gentz armeez sailleront hors sur les ditz bones gentz oue graunt noyse criantz tuwez tuwez hidousemement lour pursuivant\textlesss z\textgtrou\textlesss t les ditz bones gentz pour paoir de mort se fuwyrent & ascondirent en mesons & autres lieux secretz come en terre de guerre, et issint le mairalte du dite citee ad estee tenuz come par conquest & maistrie depuis le dit temps tanque encea. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz ent ordigner due remedie pur dieu & en oeure de charitee.

4.
Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceeq que a quel heure que ascun du dite citee par cause du service ou ascun autre lise comandement aprocha a ascun seignour a qi le dit monseignour Nicholl ne vorroit que sa fauxine feuisse conuz maintenant chescun tiel home deuoit estre par le dit monseignour Nicholl empesche qil estoit faux a le conseil du dite Citee & ensy au Roy. Et si la fauxine du dit monseignour Nicholl feusse contredit par nous Brouderers ou ascun autre mistier de la dite citee en general ou si ascun mistier sa

\textsuperscript{41} i.e. 1383-84.
dite mistier vorroit contresteere ou eux assembler pour leur necessitee ou profit come toutdys ad estee vsee, tantost ils deussent estre empeschez & enditez qils vorroient leuer encontre la peas et plusieurs bones gentz de la dite citee ore sont enditeez & ouverture desclaundrez & tenuz disloialx & tretours a nostre dit seignour le Roy. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz estre owel juge que les ditz suppliantz pourroient estre provez ou disprovez solonc la veritee de leur faitz et comander que les dites enditements puissent estre mesmez deuant vous pur dieu & en oeure de charitee.

5.
Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignont deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceo que quant les ditz bones gentz feurent desclaundrez come deuant est dit le dit monseignour Nicholl Brembre disoit ouverture que si ascunz de eux lour vorroit rendre coupable a nostre dit seignour le Roy de fauxetee, mesme nostre seignour le Roy lour ent serroit grace & a luy serroit bon seignour. Et si ascunz des ditz bones gentz quont estee & toutdys par la grace de dieu serront loialx feusse si hardy de offrer la prove pur sa loialttee, maintenant le dit monseignour Nicholl acrochant a luy roial poair luy comanda a prisoun nemy convut & sanz response issint que ascuns murrirent en mesme la prisone. Et iasoit que brief nostre dit seignour le Roy venoit au dit monseignour Nicholl pour emirer le dit emprisonne en la Chauncellarie ensemblement oue la cause de sa detene, il ceo faire ne voloit en nulle manere en graunt despit des roailx mandementz. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz ordeigner punissement sur le dit monseignour Nicholl come appent en ceo caas pour dieu & en oeure de charitee.

6.
Item suppliont & treshumblement requeront a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours auantditz les desserditz brouderers que sils ou ascun de eux soient ^a vous^ empeschez dascun tort ou fauxetee par suggestion dascuny qils purront estre gracieusement acceptez de faire lour excusacioi desicome ils serront tronz loialx a nostre dit seignour le Roy & la Citee auantditz. Entendantz tresgraciosues seignours que les dites tortz & fauxeteez par le dit monseignour Nicholl feurent faitz en la dite Citee, la plus graunt partie ou touz des ditz suppliants diceo non sachantz ou encontre lour volunteer.
Translation

1.
To the most excellent and most gracious lord, our most dread lord the king, and to the most noble and wise lords being in this present parliament pray most humbly the poor lieges the Emboirderers of his city of London, as one of the members of the same city, and they complain against Sir Nicholas Brembre, knight, thereof: that, whereas since time immemorial – {and} by virtue of various charters granted and confirmed to the said city by our said lord the king and his noble forebears – it has been practised in the said city that the election of their mayor ought to be freely made each year on the day of Saint Edward the King, by the good and peaceable advice of the most wise and lawful {men} of the same city, the said Sir Nicholas with the agreement of his accomplices in the seventh year of the reign of our said lord the King, with strong hand, strife, and a great multitude of people, against the peace, through prepared deliberation, was made mayor of the said city to the very great destruction of many good liberties, franchises and customs of the same city, against their aforesaid charters, as openly is known. So may it please our said lord and the aforesaide lords to act to punish the said Sir Nicholas as he that accroached to himself royal power to annul and destroy the aforesaid good laws and practices without the agreement of our said lord the king and the parliament, for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, in the aforesaid year, against the peace of our said lord the king and without cause, in order to sustain his wrongs and deceits, accoraching to himself royal power, made various armies in the said city by night and by day in order to falsely destroy the lawful lieges of our lord the king {and} of the said city; and some he put to death, some falsely imprisoned, and some fled outside of the said city, and he made many other wrongs and mischiefs, as openly is known. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to thereof ordain due punishment, for God and as a work of charity.
3. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, in the seventh year of the reign of our said lord the king, against the franchise of the said city, and in order to sustain his deceits, proclaimed that no-one should be so hardy as to come to the Guildhal of the said city in order to elect the mayor except for those who were summoned, the which were summoned by his agreement; and also he then proclaimed that no-one should come armed into the said city, upon severe forfeiture. The which Nicholas, the night before the day of the election of mayor, carried a great quantity of armour into the said Guildhall, with which foreigners as well as others were armed in the said Guildhall the day after in order to make that election, and certain ambushes of armed men were placed there against his proclamation. And when the good men of the said city came in order to make the said election according to the franchise of the said city, the aforesaid armed men sprang out upon the said good men with a great noise shouting “Slaughter! Slaughter!”, threateningly chasing them. Whereby the said good men fled for fear of death, and hid in houses and other secret places as in a land of war. And in that way the mayoralty of the said city has been held as if through conquest and force since the said times until now. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to thereof ordain due remedy, for God and as a work of remedy.

4. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that whenever some {people} of the said city, because of service or any other lawful commandment, approached to any lord to whom the said Sir Nicholas did not want his deceit to be known, anon each such man ought to be impeached by the said Sir Nicholas that he was false to the council of the said city and thus to the king. And if the deceit of the said Sir Nicholas was refused by we embroiderers or any other mystery of the said city in general, or if any mystery would oppose his said mystery or assemble themselves for their necessity or profit – as always has been practised – they were immediately impeached and indicted that they would rise up against the peace; and many good men of the said city are now indicted and openly slandered and held disloyal and traitors to our said lord the king. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords to be an impartial judge that the said suppliants
could be proved or disproved according to the truth of their acts, and command that the said indictments should be brought before you, for God and as a work of charity.

5.
Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that when the said good men were slandered, as is before said, the said Sir Nicholas openly said that if any of them would give themselves up as guilty to our said lord the king of a deceit, our same lord the king would thereof be gracious to them and would be a good lord to him. And if any of the said good men – who are, and always by the grace of God will be, lawful – was so bold as to offer the proof for his loyalty, forthwith the said Sir Nicholas, accroaching to himself royal power, commanded him to prison not convicted, and without a defence. In that way some perished in the same prison. And when a writ of our said lord the king came to the said Sir Nicholas in order to judge the said imprisoned in the Chancellery together with the cause of their detention, he would not do that in no manner, in great contempt of the royal commandments. So may it please our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords, to ordain a punishment upon the said Sir Nicholas, as belongs in this case, for God and as a work of charity.

6.
Also the aforesaid Embroiderers pray and most humbly require our said lord the king and the aforesaid lords that if they or some of them be impeached to you of any wrong or deceit by the accusation of anyone, that they would be graciously accepted to make their excuse, since they will be found lawful to our said lord the king and the aforesaid city. Understand most gracious lords that the said wrongs and deceits were made by the said Sir Nicholas in the said city; the very great part, or all, {of} the said suppliants were thereof ignorant or {it was} against their wishes.
7k) The Mercers’ Petition

Language(s): Middle English, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/20/997
Manuscript: 34.5cm x 55.6cm [31.4cm x 48.5 cm]. Condition excellent.

Text

1. "To the moost noble & Worthiest Lordes moost ryghtful & wysest conseille to owre lige Lorde the Kyng, compleyne if it lyke to yow the folk of the mercerye of London, as a membre of the same citee, of many wronges subtiles & also open oppressiouns ydo to hem by longe tyme here before passed.

2. Of which oon was where the eleccioun of mairaltee is to be to the fre men of the citee, bi gode & paisible auys, of the wysest & trewest, at o day in the yere frelich, there nought withstondyng the same fredam or fraunchise, Nichol Brembre wyth his vpberers, purposed hym the yere next after John Northampton mai r of the same citee, with stronge honde as it is ful knoen, & thourgh debate & strenger partye, ayeins the pees before purueyde, was chosen mair, in destruccioun of many ryght.

3. ffor in the same yere the forsaid Nichol with outen nede ayein the pees, made dyuerse enarmynges bi day & eke bi nyght, & destryyd the kynges trewe lyges, som with open slaughtre, some bi false emprisonementz, and some fledde the citee for feere, as it is openlich knoen."
4. And so furthermore for to susteyne thise wronges & many othere, the next ye<e>e after the same Nichol ayeins the forsaide fredam & trewe comunes, did crye openlich that no man sholde come to chese her mair but such as were sompned, & tho that were sompned were of his ordynaunce & after his auys. And in the nyght next after folwyng he did carye grete quantitiee of armure to the Guyldehalle, with which as wel straungers of the contree as othere of with jinne were armed on the morwe, ayeins his owne proclamatioun that was such, that no man shulde be armed. & certein busshmentz were laide that, when free men of the Citee come to chese her mair breken vp armed, cryinge with loude voice sle, sle, folwyng hem, wherthough the peple for feere fledde to houses & other <hidy>nges as in londe of werre, adradde to be ded in comune.

5. And thus yet hiderward hath the mairaltee ben holden as it were of conquest or maistrye, & many othere offices also. So that what man pryue or apert in special that he myght wyte, grocchyng pleyned or helde ayeins any of his wronges, or bi puttyng forth of whom so it were, were it neuer so vnpreuable, were apeeded, & it were displesyng to hym Nichol, anon was emprisoned. And though it were ayeins falshede of the leest officer that hym lust meyteigne, was holden vntrewe lige man to owre kyng for who reproued such an officer maynteigned bi hym, of wronge or elles, he forfeited ayeins hym Nichol, & he vnworthy as he saide, represented the kynges estat. Also if any man bi cause of seruyce or other leueful comaundement, approched a lorde, to whic<e> he Nichol dradde his falshede to be knowe to, anon was apeeded that he was false to the conseille of the Citee, & so to the kyng.

6. And yif in general his falsenesse were ayeinsaide, as of vs togydre of the mercerye, or othere craftes, or ony conseille wolde haue taken to ayeinstande it, or as out of mynde hath be vsed, wolden companye togydre hooe lawfoul so it were, for owre nede or profite, were anon apeeded for arrysers ayeins the pees & falsly many of vs that yet stonden endited, and we ben openlich disclaundred, holden vntrewe & traitours to owre kyng, for the same Nichol sayd bifor mair, aldermen, & owre craft, bifor hem gadred in place of recorde, that xx or xxx of vs were worthy to be drawen &
hanged. The which thyng lyke to yowre worthy lordship, by an euen juge to be
proued or disproued, the whether that trowthe may shewe, for trouthe amonges vs, of
dewe or elles no man many day dorst be shewed. And nought oonlich vnshewed or
hidde it hath be by man now, but also of bifice tyme the moost profitable poyntes of
trewe gouernance of the Citee, compiled togidre bi longe labour of discrete & wyse
men, wyth out conseille of trewe men, for thei sholde nought be knoen ne
contynued, in the tyme of Nichol Exton mair, outerliche were brent.

7.
And so ferforth falsehede hath be vsed that oft tyme he Nichol Brembre saide in
sustenaunce of hys falsheede, owre lige lordes wille was such, that neuer was such, as
we suppose. He saide also whan he hadde disclaundred vs, which of vs wolde yelde
hym false to his kyng, the kyng sholde do hym grace, cherise him & be good lorde
to hym. And if any of vs alle that wyth goddes help haue & shulle be founden trewe
was so hardy to profre prouyng of hym self trewe, anon was comaunded to prisone
as well bi the mair that now is as of hym Nichol Brembre bificent.

8.
A<n>d we haue be comaunded oft tyme vp owre ligeaunce to vnnedeful & vnleueful
dyuerse douynges, and also to wythdrawe vs, bi the same comaundement f<ro>
thynges nedeful & lefful, as was shewed whan a companye of gode women, there
men dorst nought, trauailleden barfote to owre lige lorde, to seche grace of hym for
trewe men as they supposed, for thanne were such proclamacions made that no man
ne woman sholde approche owre lige lorde for sechyng of grace & ouermany other
comaundementz also, bifton & sitheen bi suggestioun & informacions of suche that
wolde nought her falsnesse had be knoen to owre lige lorde. And lordes by yowre
leue, owre lyge lordes comaundement to symple & vnkonnyng men is a gret thyng to
ben vsed so famulerlich, with outen nede, for they vnwyse to saue it, mowe lyghtly
ther ayeins forfait.

9.
ffor thy graciouse lordes lyke it to yow to take hede in what manere & where owre
lige lordes power hath ben mysused by the forsaid Nichol & his vpberers, for sithe
thise wronges before saide han ben vsed as accidental, or comune braunches outward,
it sheweth wel the rote of hem is a ragged subiect or stok inward, that is the
forsaid Brere or brembre, the whiche comune wronge vses, & many other, if it lyke
to yow, mowe be shewed & wel knowen bi an indifferent juge & mair of owre Citee,
the which wyth yowre ryghtful lordsship ygraunted for moost pryncipal remdye, as
goddes lawe & al resoun wole, that no domesman stonde togidre juge & partye,
wronges sholle more openlich be knowe, & trouthe dor apere. And ellis, as amonge
vs, we konne nought wyte in what manere without a moch gretter disese, sith the
gouernaunce of this Citee standeth as it is bifor saide & wole stande whil vittaillers
bi suffraunce presumen thilke states vpon hem, the which gouernaunce of bifor this
tyme to moche folke yhidde & sheweth hym self now open whether it hath be a
cause or bygynnyng or dyuysioun in the Citee & after in the Rewme, or no.

10.
Wherfore for grettest nede as to yow moost worthy, moost ryghtful & wysest lordes
& coseille to owre lige lorde the kyng, we biseche mekelich of yowre gra<ce>
coreccioun of alle the wronges bifore sayde & that it lyke to yowre lordsship to be
gracious menes to owre lyge lorde the kyng, that suche wronges be knowen to hym,
& that we mowe shewe vs & sith ben holden, suche trewe to hym, as we ben, & owe
to ben.

11.
Also we biseche vnto yowre gracious lordsship that if any of vs in special or general
be apeched to owre lige lorde or to his worthy coseille, bi comunyng with othere, or
approchynge to owre kyng as wyth Brembre or hys abettours with any wronge
wytnesse beryng, as that it stode other wyse amonges vs here, than as it is now
proued it hath ystonde, or any other wronge suggestioun, by which owre lige lorde
hath ybe vnleefullich enfourmed, that thanne yowre worshipful lordship be such,
that we mowe come in answer to excuse vs. ffor we knowe wel as for by moche the
more partye of vs and, as we hope for alle, alle suche wronges han ben vnwytyng to
vs, or elles outerlich ayeins owre wille.

12.
And ryghtful lordes for oon the grettest remdye with othere forto ayeinstonde many
of thilke diseses afore saide amonges vs, we prayen wyth mekenesse this specialich,
that the statute ordeigned & made bi parlement holden at westmystre in the sexe yere of owre kyng now regnynge, mowe stonde in strengthe & be execut as wel here in london as elles where in the rewme, the which is this, Item ordinatum est & statutum quod nec in ciuitate Londoniorum nec in alys Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portibus maris par totum regnum predictum, aliquid vitallar officium judiciale decetero habeat exerccean neque occupet quouismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huius statum habendum repbergeri non poterit dum tamen idem judex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit, ab exercicio vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victualium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesset & se abstineat pro se & suis omnino ab eodem & c.
7l) The Cutlers, Bowyers, Fletchers, Spurriers, and Bladesmiths’ Petition

Languages(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/21/1006
Manuscript: 44.9cm x 51.1cm [39.1cm x 43.5cm]. Condition poor; parts of the left side destroyed obscuring the opening words of each line; large hole in right-hand margin effecting text in three paragraphs.

Text

1. <...> Roi nostre tressoueraigne & liege seignour Et as tresnobles & p<ui>ssantz seignours de cest present parlement
   <...> <me>stiers de Coutellers Bowyers ffletchers Esporiors & Bladesmythes de loundres enuers monseignour Nichol Br<em>bre que come sur ceo que lan du Roy nostre dit souurain seignour sisme Johan Norh<em>ampton> <...> encontre le fest de seint Edward lan deserdit42 fist garnir les bonnes & franches gentz de mesme la Cite comme la ffranchise est & vsage de mesme la Citee destre a le Gildhalle en mesme la monseignour Nichol ouec ses complices mesme le iour imagenant a destruire la bonne gouvemance de la dite Citee ordeyna certayins mesfesours de son assent armes pour yceluy iour eslire le dit monseignour {Nichol en maire du dite Cite} <...> dit Roy nostre dit seignour & la franchise de lour dite Citee Et aucuns de son assent qui ouec luy yfurent presens baternet & trayrent certaynes certaines43 gens ainsi que les bones qui y furent pour <...> pas demourer pour doubte de lour vies sique le dit monseignour Nichol fut esleu en son primer an en quel temps il acrocha sur lui Royal pouuoir encontre la Coronne du Roy nostre dit seignour <...> {Pour quoi} <p>lese a vos tre droiturelle seignours ordener & fere deu remedie sur ceste horrible materе pour dieu & en oeure de charite.

2. <...> suppliantz de ce que le dit monseignour Nichol ouec lassent dautres ses com<pl>ices acrocha sur lui Royal pouuoir de ce que par la ou il a este vse en

42 i.e. 13th of October 1382. The scribe appears to have written ‘sisme’ in error. It should be ‘septimse’.
43 Scribal error.
loundres du temps dont memoire ne court & par lour {chartre des roys grauntez & confermez quant le mair de} <l>oundres sera esleu il sera esleu par toute la communale de la Citee deserdite & la les auantdis monseignour Nichol & les autres ses dis complices par lour conspiracie & fauxe yimaginacioun pour destruire le {bones gentz du dite citee &} <encont>re la franchise fyerent somondre certaines gens qui furent de lour assent destre a le Gildhalle de loundres en le feste de saint Edward le Roy lan du regne du Roy nostre dit seignour septisme {pour esliere un maier Et le dit} monseignour Nichol par lassent de toutz les autres a lui complices fist crier en diuerses parties de loundres & charger chescun homne de la Citee sur paine de emprisonement & sur la paine quil {pouroient forfaire deuers le Roy que nul serroit} si <har>dy destre a la dite eleccioun forspris ceux qui furent somonez les queux furent somounez par lour assent. Et mesme le iour a celle eleccioun que fist faite encontre lour franchise <le> dit {seignour Nichol & les autres de son} <ass>ent ordeinerent certaines gens auxi bien foraines come deseines a celle eleccioun les queux furent armes a le Gildhalle de loundres pour faire celle eleccioun & pour auoir mis {a mort toutz autres gentz queux ne feurent pas} <sum>ounez & ils yeussent venuz pour la dite eleccioun. Pour quoi plese au Roy nostre dit souurain seignour & aux dis tresnobles & puissans seignours de ceste present parlement de cest<e horri>ble {chose fait encontre ley &} la coronne <ord>einer & fere due remedie pour dieu & en oeure de charite.

3. <...> <mo>nseignour Nichol de ce qu'il ouec lassent des dis ses complices acrocha sur lui Royal pouuoir en ce qu'il vient en Chepe oue grant multitud de gens {armez a graunt doute & affrai de toutz les bones gentz} <d>u dite Ci<ee & pluser gens de mesme la citee furent enprisonnues a grant doubte de lour vies & grans perdes de lour biens & damage de lour corps sanz response pour quoi pl<ese> {au Roy nostre dit souurain seignour & aux dis} <tresnob>les & puissans seignours de ceste present parliement de ceste chose faite encontre la Coroune du Roy nostre dit seignour & les loyes de son Royalme ordeiner & fere punir les dis mesfe<sours> {pour dieu & en oeure de} <ch>arite.

44 i.e. 13th of October 1383.
4. <...> supplians vers le dit monseignour Nichol de ce qu'il ouec lassent & aide des dis ses complices acrocha sur lui Royal pouuoir en ce quils consipirent & ymaginerent {pour auoir mys au mort plusieurs bones gentz de} <loundr>es et pour ce quils ne pouroient fere celle chose sans aucun cause ils consipirent des eux enditer de felonie & mistrent sur les enquestes pour enditer ceux qui fueroient de {affinite & assent du dite seignour Nichol & queux feurent de male} <fam>e <co>mme il sera ouuertement prouuee si lez enditemens fuissent deuant vous. Par quoy plese au Roy nostre dit souurain seignour & aux deserdis tresnobles & puissans seignours de ceste present {parliamant de ceste chose} or<deiner> & fere deu remede & y charger Nicholas Exton’ ore maire de loundres de fere venir deuant vous touz les enditemens acusemens & apels esteans en sa garde en au<antage {du Roy} <pou>r dieu & en eour>e de charite.

5. <...> vers le dit monseignour Nichol de ce qu'il ouec lassent & aide des dis sez complices acrocha sur lui Royal pouuoir en ce quils firent vne grande assemblee e<n> {diuerses lieux de la dite citeit par diuerses} f<oitz> {par} <dier>ses gens de la dite Citee & la consipirent entre eulx comme ils pourroient maintenir lour fauxine quils eusent au deuant commencez pour destruire les present pla<ignonts> {& tous autres queux} <feur>ent endites par lour fa<x>e yimaginacioun & conspiracie; fut ordene de lour commun assent prendre des dites gens qui furent de lour assent a y celle fauxine grandes sommes dargent ce<...> torcenouse prise dargent a este c<on>tine de le temps que Johan Northampton’ fut ouste de son office & le dit monseignour Nichol esleu par la manere deserdite tanque en ca et encea {et unqore est continuez par le dit Nicholas Exton} qui ore est et lez autres qui feu<rent> de son assent. Par quoy plese au Roy nostre dit souurain seignour et aux dis tresnobles & puissans seignours de ceste present parliement ordener que ceste fa<x>e cons<piracie> {& ymagination susdites furent} punyz solonc la loy & que les ma<If>er sours ont deserui pour dieu & en oeure de charite.
6. <...> les dis supplians *que* le statut fait au parlement tenu a Westm’ lan du regne du Roy nostre dit sourrain seignour qui ore est sisme*45 que commence en ces parolles Item ordinatum est {& statutum quod} nec in aliis Ciuitatibus burgi<s> villis vel portubus maris par totum regnum predictum aliquis vitallar officium Iudiciale neque ocupet quouismodo, nisi in villis vbi alia persona {sufficiens ad huius statum} habendum reperiri non poterit dum ta<m>en idem Iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit exercicio vitallatii sub pena forisfactur victualium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesset & se {abstineat pro se & suis omino} ab eodem le contraie du quelle estatut est vse en mesme la dite Citee. Que plese au Roy nostre dit souurain seignour & aux deserdis seignour de ceste present parliem ent que le <d>it es<stat>ut {soit tenuz sibien en} <me}sme la Citee comme aillours & maintenant mis en execucion pour dieu & en oeure de charite.

7. <...> <suppli>lians coment le dit monseignour Nichol & les autres sez dis complices quant ils auoient enditez grant nombre de gens de la Citee de lo<ndres> par lour fauxe ymaginacion & conspiracie {le dit monseignour Nichol} & lez deserdis sez complices suyrent au Roy nostre dit tressourain seignour pour vne chartre des pardoun la quelle lour fut ottroye solon la pourport de la Copie dycelle chartre, la quelle Cop<i>e a <...> Roy que ceux qui furent enditez nauoient mye coigneissance de la chartre. Par quoy plese au Roy nostre dit tressourain seignour & aux dis tresnobles de cest present parliement sur ceste fauxe {ymaginacion &} <conspir>acie ordener & fere deu & couenabla remedye p<ou>r dieu & en oeure de charite.

8. <...> <suppli>ans sez plaignent vers Nicholas Exton ore maire de loundres par eleccioun du dit monseignour Nichol Brembre & ses complices encontre nostre franchise & franche eleccion que la ou fut co<mp>ris {en un} liu<re> <app>elle <la> Jubile tous les bons Articles appourtenans au bon gouvemaille de la dite Citee <&> a tous ces Articles comprises dedens tel liure furent <iu>rez ycellui Nicholas

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*45 i.e. 1382-83 (the statute was enacted in 1382).*
monseigneur Nichol Brembre William <Chey>ne tous les A<u>dermens & tous les bons communs de sustenir mesmes Articles pour ten<u> jours al honnour de dieu & le proufit du commun peuple le quel liure le dit Nicholas Exton & ses {complices ars sanz} la consent de la bonne commune de la dîte Citee sique par ce a le dit Nicholas ouec lassent de sez di<s> complices acroche sur lui Royal pouuooir encontre la Corone & son serement. Par quoy plese au Roy {nostre} dit souurain seignour & aux tresnobiles seignours de cest present parliement ordene & fere de cest horrible trespas deu remede pour dieu & en oeure de charite.

9.
Item les auantdis supplians suppliont que Nicholas Exton’ ore maire de loundres soit descharge de son Office pour ce qu’il fut forsuige en la Gyldhalle de loundres de tous maneres de Offices pour tous iours <et> pour ce qu’il ne fut esleu comme la loy de la franchise de la dîte Citee voet sinoun par le dit monseignour Nichol & par certaines gens de lour assent pour ce que le dit Nicholas Exton veut sustenir lez <fau>et<sees &> extor<cions> qui furent comences par le dit monseignour Nichol & les autres de son affinite comme dist est. Par quoy soit il ouste de son dit Office pour dieu & en oeure de charite.

10.
{Item} lez dis supplians suppliont que William Cheyne Recordour & hugh ffastolf <vi>scount de loundres soient descharges de lour Offices pour tous iours pour ce quils furent complices au <di>t monseignour Nic<hol> <...> les poins deserdis & autres.

11.
<Item m>onstr<e>nt les auantdis supplians que come il fut ordene par lestatut en vn parlement tenu a Westmonstre lan quint de Roy nostre dit seignour qui ore est46 que nul Tonnol de meillour vin de Gascoigne de Oseye ou <de>spaygn ne serroit vendu a pl<us> haut prix que c s & autres Tonnels de commun vin de mesmes les pays pour meindre prix solon la value comme pour sept mars six mars et demi & six mars et le <to>nnol de meillour vin de la Rochel <pour> six mars et le Tonnel dautre tiel

46 i.e. 1381-82.
vin de meindre pris soloun la value come pour v mars & demi cynk mars quatre mars & demi & quatre mars et pipes & au tres ve sselz de <mein>dre quantite solon <l>a qua<Tn>te> ycelles vins soient venduz aux dis paix, soloun lafferant des tonnelx comme pleinement piert par le dit estatut, <Tou> sa les maires & viscountez qui ont estre en lo ndres depuis en ca <...> le dit esta<tit> <...> <...> dos & souffers tous les vendours de vins vendre au contraire dycellui estatut Concelant le proufit du Roy de lez forfactour a grant d<amag>e de tous les <seignours> {et le} <com> un peuple de tout le <re>yme. Que plese a vostre haute discretion & droiturelle seignours considerer les poins & matieres desus exprimees y ordener ^le^ remede que ent appor<ent <...> solon lez loys <d’Ang> leterre et sur ce le dit estatut soit renouuelle en cest present parliement pour dieu & en oeure de charite.
Translation

1. <...> king, our most sovereign and liege lord, and to the most noble and powerful lords of this present parliament
<...> mysteries of the Cutlers, Bowyers, Fletchers, Spurriers, and Bladesmiths of London against Sir Nicholas Brembre, how – in the sixth year of the King, our said sovereign lord – around the {time of} the feast of Saint Edward in the aforesaid year – John Northampton <...> warned the good and free men of the same city, as is the franchise and custom of the same city, to be at the Guildhall on the same <...>, the same day, Sir Nicholas, with his accomplices, scheming to destroy the good governance of the said city, prepared certain malefactors of his party, armed for that day, in order to elect the said Sir Nicholas as mayor of the said city <...> said king, our said lord and the franchise of their said city. And some people of his party who were present with him assaulted and dragged certain certain men, so that the good men who were there in order to <...> not remain, for fear for their lives, so that the said Sir Nicholas was elected to his first year, in which times he accroached to himself royal power, against the crown of the king, our said lord <...> So may it please your just lords to ordain and make due remedy on this horrible matter, for God and as a work of charity.

2. <...> pray thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the agreement of others, his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that whereas it has been practised in London from time immemorial – and granted and confirmed by a charter of kings – {that} when the mayor of London will be elected he will be elected by all the coomonalty of the aforesaid city, the aforesaid Sir Nicholas and the others his said accomplices, by their conspiracy and false scheming – in order to destroy the good men of the said city and against the franchise – summoned certain men who were of their party to be at the Guildhall of London on the feast of Saint Edward the King, in the seventh year of the reign of the king, our said lord, in order to elect a mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the agreement of all the others, accomplices to him, proclaimed in various parts of London and charged each man of the city – upon the penalty of imprisonment and upon the penalty of what they would forefeit to the king – that none should be so bold as to be at the said election except for those who
were summoned, the which were summoned by their agreement. And the same day 
at that election which was made against their franchise, the said Sir Nicholas and the 
others of his party prepared certain men, foreigners as well as denizens to that 
election, the which were armed at the Guildhall of London in order to make that 
election and in order to have put to death all other men who were not summoned if 
they should have come there for the said election. So may it please the king, our said 
sovereign lord, and the said most noble and powerful lords of this present parliament 
of this horrible thing made against law and the crown to ordain and make due 
remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

3. 
<...> Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement of his said accomplices, 
accroached to himself royal power in that they came into Cheapside with a great 
multitude of armed men, to the great fear and fright of all the good men of the said 
city, and many men of the same city were imprisoned, to the great fear for their lives 
and great loss of their goods, and damage to their bodies, without recourse. So may it 
please the king, our said sovereign lord, and the said most noble and powerful lords 
of this present parliament of this thing made against the crown of the king, our said 
lord, and the laws of his realm, to ordain and act to punish the said malefactors, for 
God and as a work of charity.

4. 
<...> suppliants against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement and 
help of his said accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that they 
conspired and schemed in order to have put to death many good men of London; and 
because they could not do that thing without some cause, they conspired to indict 
them of felony, and they appointed as officers of the inquests to indict {them} those 
who were of the accord and party of the said Sir Nicholas, and who were of bad 
renown – as openly will be proven if the indictments were before you. So may it 
please the king, our said sovereign lord, and the aforesaid most noble and powerful 
lords of this present parliament of this horrible thing to ordain and make due remedy 
and to charge Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, to make come before you all 
the indictments, accusations, and appeals being in his keeping, to the advantage of 
the king, for God and as a work of charity.
5. 
<...> against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that he, with the agreement and help of his said accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that they made a large assembly in various parts of the said city, during various times, {of} various men of the said city; and there they conspired amongst themselves how they could maintain their falseness that they had before before begun in order the destroy the present complainers and all others who were indicted by their false scheming and conspiracy. It was ordained by their common agreement, for this falseness, to take from the said men who were of their party great sums of money <...> wrongful taking of money has been continued from the time that John Northampton was removed from his office and the said Sir Nicholas {was} elected by the aforesaid manner until now, and still is continued by the said Nicholas Exton, who now is, and the others who were of his party. So may it please the King, our said sovereign lord, and the said most noble and powerful lords of this present parliament to ordain that this aforesaid false conspiracy and scheming should be punished according to the law and that the malefactors <...> have deserved, for God and as a work of charity.

6. 
<...> the said suppliants concerning the statute made at the parliament held at Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the King that begins in these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”; the contrary of which statute is practised in the same city. So may it please the king, our said sovereign lord, and the aforesaid lords of this present parliament that the said statute should be held as well in the same city as elsewhere and forthwith put into execution, for God and as a work of charity.
7. suppliants how the said Sir Nicholas and the others, his said accomplices, when they had indicted a great number of men of the city of London by their false scheming and conspiracy, the said Sir Nicholas and the aforesaid, his accomplices, sued to the king, our said most sovereign lord, for a charter of pardon, the which was granted to them, according to the purport of the copy of that charter, the which copy to king, those were indicted did not have knowledge of the charter. So may it please the king, our said most sovereign lord, and the said most noble {lords} of this present parliament upon this false scheming and conspiracy to ordain and make due and appropriate remedy, for God and as a work of charity.

8. suppliants complain against Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, by election of the said Sir Nicholas and his accomplices, against our franchise and free election, that whereas it was contained in a book called the Jubille all the good articles pertaining to the good governance of the said city, and to all the articles contained within such a book were sworn that Nicholas, Sir Nicholas Brembre, William Cheyne, all the aldermen, and all the good commons, to sustain the same articles for all days, to the honour of God and the profit of the common people, the which book the said Nicholas Exton, and his accomplices, burnt without the consent of the good commons of the said city, so that by that the said Nicholas, with the agreement of his said accomplices, accroached to himself royal power against the crown and his oath. So may it please the king, our said sovereign lord and the most noble lords of this present parliament to ordain and make due remedy for this horrible trespass, for God and as a work of charity.

9. Also the aforesaid suppliants pray that Nicholas Exton, now mayor of London, be discharged from his office because he was forsworn in the Guildhall of London from all manner of officers for all days, and because he was not elected as the law of the franchise of the said city wills, but by the said Sir Nicholas and by certain men of their party because the said Nicholas Exton would sustain the falsenesses and extortions which were begun by the said Sir Nicholas and the others of his accord, as is said. So may he be removed from his said office, for God and as a work of charity.
10.
Also the said suppliants pray that William Cheyne, Recorder, and Hugh Fastolf, sheriff of London, should be removed from their offices for all days, because they were accomplices to the said Sir Nicholas <...> the aforesaid points and others.

11.
Also the aforesaid suppliants show how it was ordained by the statute in a parliament held at Westminster in the fifth year of the king, our said lord who now is, that no tun of the better wine of Gascony, of Oseye, or of Spain should be sold at a higher price than 100s., and other tuns of common wine of the same countries for a lesser price, according to the value, like for seven marks, six and a half marks, and six marks, and the tun of better wine of the Rochelle for six marks, and the tun of other such win of lesser price, according to the value, like for five and a half marks, five marks, four and a half marks, and four marks, and pipes and other vessels of lesser quantity according to the quantity of the same wines, should be sold at the said prices, proportionate to the tuns, as plainly appears by the said statute. All the mayors and sheriffs who have been in London since <...> the said statute <...> suffered all the vendors of wine to sell to the contrary of that statute, concealing the profit to the King from the forfeitures, to the great damage of all the lords and the common people through all the realm. So may it please your most discrete and just lords to consider the points and matters expressed above and ordain the remedy that thereof pertain <...> according to the laws of England, and that the said statute should be renewed in this present parliament, for God and as a work of charity.
7m) The Leathersellers and Whittawyers’ Petition

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/21/1001B
Manuscript: 32.7cm x 48.8cm [29.2cm x 44.7cm]. Condition good; some substantial fading obscuring parts of the text; small horizontal tear in the middle of the manuscript obscuring some words.

Text

1.
A nostre tresexcellent & tresredoutes seignour le Roy et as tresnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement.

Monstrent l<...> <...>t & lour pleinent les bones gentz lieges nostre dit seignour le Roy des mestiers de Lethersellers & Whyttawyers de la Cite de londres vers seignour Nichol Brembre chiualer que par la ou Johan Norhampton’ estoit maire en la dite Cite de londres en lan nostre seignour le Roy qorest qui dieux garde sisme, le dit Johan Norhampton encontre le feste de seint Edward 48 <...> soum maiautee bien p’s acomplives cestassauoir lan nostre dit seignour le Roy sepitsme 49 fist garnir les bones gentz franks de meisme la Cite solonc la f<franchise &> vsage dicelle, destre a la Guyhald du dite Cite en meisme le feste de Seint Edward pour y eslire adonqes vn maire pour auoir la gouernaille de m<eis>me la Cite desouth nostre dit seignour le Roy pour lan ensuiyant; la le dit seignour Nichol oue ses acomplives & adherentz accrochant sur luy roial poair & ymaginant pour destruyre les bones <...> & gouernance de mesme la Cite, le iour de Seint Edward susdit ordeigna certeins malfesours a graunt nombre queux furent de son assent armez a feer de guerre pour estre a la dite Guyhald pour eslire le dit seignour Nichol en maire du dite ^Cite^ et issint forciblement les ditz malfesours eslirent le dit seignour Nichol en maire de meisme la citee pour lan queux ensuyant sanz la commune vois des bones gentz du dite Cite encontre la corone nostre dit seignour le Roy & la ffranchise de meisme la Cite. Et estre cee as<...>uns qils furent a la dite Guyhald de lassent du dit seignour Nichol pour la cause susdite bateront greuousement treteront & defouleront certeines bones gentz en franchisez en la dite C<ite> venuz a la dite Guyhald par voie de paix pour duement auoir fait la eleccioun de lour maire come ils soleient faire deuant; issint que les dites bon<es> {gentz} pour <dou>te de mort noeseront pas demourer

47 i.e. 1382-83.
48 i.e. 13th of October.
49 i.e. 1383-84.
sur leur eleccioun <...> diloeeqs en saluacion de leur <v>ies a tresgraunt affray de meismes les bons gentz. Que please a nostre dit tressexcellent & tresredoute seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement de ceste horrible matiere ordeigner & faire due remedie solon ley & justice pour dieu & oeure de charite.

2.
Item <...> leur p<lei>nont vers <le d>it seignour Nicholl Brembre de ceo que le dit seignour Nichol oue lassent de les autres ses acomplices accrocha sur luy roial poair en ceo quil venoit en Chepe le dit an septisme oue graunt multitude des gentz armez a f<ee>r de guerre a graunt doute & affrai de toutz les bones gentz du dite Cite et sur ceo sanz <...> plusours <ge>ntz des ditz mestiers & les emprisona en moult graunt duresse a graunt doute de leur vies & a graunz perde de leur biens <& da>mage de leur corps sanz les soeffrer venir pour estere a leur response. Et issint le dit seignour Nichol & les autres accrocheront sur eux roial poair encontre la corone nostre <dit> seignour le Roy. Par quoy please a nostre dit tressexcellent & tresredoutes seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement de ceste horrible chose faite encontre <la co>rone & la ley de la terre faire due remedie solonc ceo qils ount deseruy pour lamour de dieu & en oeure de charite.

3.
Item leur pl<einant> <...> auantditz compleinantz vers le dit seignour Nichol Brembre de ceo que par la ou les bones gentz de sa dite Cite par vertue de leur franchises & chartres a eux graunt<ez> & confermez par nostre dit seignour le Roy & ses tresnobles progenitours q<ue>ux d<ieu>x assoille soleient chescun an le iour Seint Edward par commune vois des bons gentz enfranchises en la dite Cite peisiblement sanz destourbances faire vs<...> avoir leur frank elecc<iou> dun mair qui leur sembloit distret sufficeant & able pour auoir la garde & gouvernaille d<e> dite Cite desouth nostre seignour le Roy pour lan ensuyant l<a> le dit seignour Nichol oue les autres ses acomplices & a<d>herentz accrochant sur luy roial poair pour maintegner & continuer les malices appensez yimaginant la distruccioun des bones vsages profitables gouvernances & reules de la dite Citee encontre la paix & le corone nostre dit seignour <le> Roy & l<e> franchise de la dite cite, le iour de <sei>nt <Ed>ward lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy qorest septisme fist
ass\<e>mbles a la Guyhald de la dite Cite graunt <mul>titude des gentz armez a feer de guerre sibien foreyns pour la gre\<yndre par>tie personnes <...> autres de soun assent. Et illoeqes oue g\<rau>nt <...> rumour & horrible noise forciblement eslirent l\<e dit> seignour Nichol en m\<eir> du dite Citee pour le s\<...> an a graunt doute & affray de toutz les bons gentz de meisme la C<ite> issint qils noeseront pour paour de mort approcher a la dite G\<uyh>ald pour vsor lour franc el\<eccioun> auantdite. Et p\<ar> quoi please a treshaut roiale mages\<tee> nostre dit seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement <...> <...>oir due remed\<ie> & <...>cement solonc ceo que le cas require pour dieu & en oevre de <char>ite.

4.
Item les au\<antdi>tz compl\<ai>nant lour pleining vers le dit seignour Nichol {Brembre} de ceo que le dit seignour N\<ic>hol oue lassent de les autres ses acomplices accrocha \{sur\} <lu>y roial poair consipirent & ymaginerent pour auoir <my>s a la mort plusours bones & l\<oi>alx g\<en>tz de la dite Citee de londres. Et pour ceo qils ne pourroient c\<ele> chose faire sanz ascune cause ils feyneront & faux ymagin\<erant> & co\<...>ent d\<en>diter les d\<i>tes bones gentz de felonie & <...> pour les charter des queux enquestes les gentz furent de lour affinite & assent et furent auxi de male fame come ouertement serta proeue si les enditem\<ents feu>ssent deua\<nt> vous. Par quoi please \<a> tresgracios <...>esse nostre d\<it> seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement de charger Nichol Exton ore maire de la dite Citee d\<e>e faire venir deuant vous <tous qu>els end\<item>entz accusanentz & appealz queux sont en sa garde et sur <...> de ceste horrible fait due remedie faire solonc ley & droit pour dieu & <en> oeure de charite.

5.
Item lour pleinant les \<su>sdit compleinantz vers le dit seignour N\<i>chol Brembre \<de c>e\<o> que le dit seignour Nichol oue lassent de les autres ses acomplices acrocha sur luy roial poair e\<n> ceo qils fu\<rent> grantez assemblez en diuerses lieuz de la dite Citee par diuerses foitz des diuerses gentz de meisme la Citee, & la consipireront \<ent>re eux com\<ent> ils pourroient susteigner & \<mein>tener lour fauxines que eux adeuaut comen\<cez> pour destr\<uire ceux> qui
pleinont & toutz les autres qui furont enditez par leur f<aux>ymaginacioum & conspiracie et sur ceo <...> ordeingee par leur commune assent de prendre de les a<uantd>itz gentz de leur affinitee & assent a leur fauxines susteigner vne g<raunt>t somme de <...> gentz de leur assent a eux graunt les queux le dit seignour Nichol & les autres ses acomplices torce<nouse> <...> <tor>cenouse ount c<ontin>uez de <temps> que Johan Norhampton <...> fuit oustez de son office de maire<autee> et le dit seignour Nichol <Brem>bre l<es>z parle manere <co>me deuant est dit tanque en cea et vnq uore est continuez par le dit Nichol Exton’ ore maire du dîte Citee <&> par les <...> de son assent<...> graunt damage & empouericement des bones gent<z> de meisme la Citee. Par quoi please a nostre dit tresexcellent seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement de graunter & ordeigner que ceste <...>cesse <...> outrement <...> au profit du commune poeple de la dite <Citee> <...> que les fauxes conspiracies & yimaginacions susdites furent punyz solonc leur desert come ley & droit demande<z> pour {dieu} & en oeure de charite.

6.

Item les auantditz compleinantz suppliont a nostre dit tresexcellent & tresredoute seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & sages seignours du ceste present parlement que lestatut fait au parlement tenuz <a> Westm’ lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy qorest sisme que <comen>ce en ceste paroles Item ordinatum est & statutum quod nec in Ciuitate london’ nec in aliis Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portibus maris pro totum regnum predictum alixuis <vit>allarius officium judiciale de cetero habeat exerceat neque ocupet quouismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens <a>d huuius statum habendum reperiri non poterit dum tamen idem iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit ab exercicio vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victualium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesset & se abistineat pro se & suis omino ab eodem, le contraire de quel estatut est vse en la dîte Cite a graunt damage du poeple. Qe plese <que> mesme <l>estatut soit tenuz & gardez sibien en meisme la Cite come aillours & maintenant mys en execucioum au profit du poeple pour dieu & en oeure de charite.
7. Item monstrent les ditz compleinantz coment le dit seignour Nichol Brembre & les autres de son assent apres ceo qils auoient enditez graunt nombre des bones gentz de la dite cite de londres par lour fauxes ymaginaciouns & conspiracie come dit est par deuant, suyeron a nostre dit tresredoutes seignour le Roy qorest pour vne chartre de pardon la quelle chartre <a eu>x fait grauntes come par la copie dycelle a ceste bille queux pleynement appiest,\footnote{This charter may survive; see Appendix 10 for the possible text.} la ou ceux qui furent ens<y> enditez {navoient mye} <cognis>cance de la chartre auantdite. Par quoy please a nostre dit tresexcellent & tresredoutes seignour le Roy & as trespnobles & sages seignours de ceste present parlement de celle sub<tile> fauxine ymagine faire solonc loy & droit come bone vous semblera en destruccio\u00e7\u00e1n des tielx tortz & fauxines de ce e<n> auant pour dieu & en oevre de charite.

8. Item monstrent les avantditz <com>pleinantz que come il y a<...>oit vn liuere appelle le Jubilee en la Chambre de la dite Guyhald de londres deniz quel liuere plusieurs & pour la greindre partie des toutz les bons articles custumes & vsages ordeignez & establiz deuant ces heures par <...> & discrecioun touchant la bone reule & gouernaille du dite Cite feurent compiles & comprises al observance des queux articles custumes & vsages come ceux que feurent loialx droitoure\u00e7\u00e1ls & profitables les mair Recordour Aldermannes & les bons comunes de <meis>me la Cit<e> <e>stoient iurrez & <sole>ient estre du temps en temps pour les ex<...> garder, la le dit liuere puis le feste de pasque darrein passez\footnote{Easter fell on the 7th of April in 1387.} par de dit Nichol Exton’ ore maire du dite Citee & ses acomplices est ars <...> mount & degastez a graunt defesance & damage en temps a venir de la bone reule & vs<...> de la Cite auantdite.
Translation

1.
To our most excellent and most dread lord the king, and to the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament, show <...> and their complaint, the good men, lieges of our said lord the king, of the mysteries of Leathersellers and Whittawyers of the city of London against Sir Nicholas Brembre, knight, how that John Northampton was mayor in the said city of London in the sixth year of our lord the present king – whom God save – {and} the said John Northampton, before the feast of Saint Edward <...> his mayoralty good <...> accomplices, namely in the seventh year of our said lord the king warned the good free men of the same city, according to the franchise and practice of the same, to be at the Guildhall of the said city on the same feast of Saint Edward in order to elect then a mayor to have the governance of the same city under our said lord the king for the following year; there, the said Sir Nicholas, with his accomplices and adherents, accroaching to themselves royal power and scheming to destroy the good <...> and governance of the same city, the said day of Saint Edward, arranged certain malefactors to a great number – the which were of his party {and} armed, to the fear of war – to be at the said Guildhall in order to elect the said Sir Nicholas as mayor of the city. And thus forcibly the said malefactors elected the said Sir Nicholas as mayor of the said city, against the crown of our said lord the king and the franchise of the same city. And, furthermore, some who were at the said Guildhall of the party of the said Nicholas, for the abovesaid cause, grievously beat, dragged, and stamped on certain good men of the franchise of the said city {who} came to the said Guildhall with voice of peace to have duly made the election of their mayor, as they had done before; in that way the said good men, for fear of death, would not stay at their election <...> there in saving of their lives, to the very great fear of the same good men. So may it please our said most excellent and most dread lord the king and the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament, concerning this horrible matter to ordain and make sue remedy, according to the law and justice, for God and as a work of charity.

2.
Also <...> their complaint against the said Sir Nicholas thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accroached to himself
royal power in that he came into Cheapside in the said seventh year with a great multitude of armed men, to the fear of war {and} to the great fear and dread of all the good men of the said city; and upon that, without <...> many men of the said mysteries, and imprisoned them to the very great harshness, to the great fear for their lives and great loss of their goods and damage to their bodies without the permit to come to make their response. And in this way the said Sir Nicholas and the others accroached to themselves royal power against the crown of our said lord the king. And so may it please our said most excellent and most dread lord the king and the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament, of this horrible thing made against the crown and the law of the land, to make due remedy according to that which they have deserved, for the love of God and as a work of charity.

3.
Also their complaint <...> aforesaid complainants against the said Sir Nicholas Brembre thereof: that, how that the good men of the said city, by virtue of their franchises and charters granted to them and confirmed by our said lord the king and his most noble forebears – whom God save – should each year on the day of Saint Edward by the common voice of the good men enfranchised in the said city, peaceably without disturbances, to make <...> have their free election of a mayor who seemed sufficient and able to have the keeping and governance of the said city under our lord the king for the following year. {However} the said Sir Nicholas with the others, his accomplices and adherents, accroaching to himself royal power, in order to maintain and continue the planned wrongs, scheming towards the destruction of the good practices, profitable governance, and rules of the said city, against the peace and the crown of our said lord the king and the franchise of the said city, the day of Saint Edward the king in the seventh year of the reign or our present king, assembled in the Guildhall of the said city, to the fear of war, a great multitude of armed men foreigners as well as for the greater part people <...> others of his party. And there, with great <...> rumour and horrible noise, they forcibly elected the said Sir Nicholas as mayor of the said city for the <...> year, to the great fear and dread of all the good men of the said city, so that they would not, for fear of death, approach the said Guildhall in order to practice their aforesaid free election. And so may it please the most high royal majesty, our said lord the king, and the most noble
and wise lords of this present parliament <...> have due remedy <...> according to that which the case requires, for God and as a work of charity.

4. Also, the aforesaid complainants, their plaint {make} against the said Sir Nicholas Brembre thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the assent of the others, his accomplices, accroached to him royal power, conspiring and scheming in order to have put to death many good and lawful men of the said city of London. And, because they could not do that thing without some cause, they dissembled and falsely schemed <...> to indict the said good men of felony and <...> for the charter, of which inquests the men were of their accord and party, and were also of bad fame as openly will be proved if the indictments were before you. So may it please our most gracious <...> our said lord the king and the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament to charge Nicholas Exton, now mayor of the said city, to make come before you all the indictments, accusations, and appeals which are in his keeping and upon <...> concerning this wrong made, to make due remedy according to the law and right, for God and as a work of charity.

5. Also, their plaint, the aforesaid complainants {make} against the said Sir Nicholas Brembre thereof: that the said Sir Nicholas, with the agreement of the others, his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that they made large assemblies in various parts of the said city, at various times, of various men of the said city, and there they conspired amongst themselves how they could sustain and maintain their wrongs that they before began in order to destroy those who complain now and all the others who were indicted by their false scheming and conspiracy. And upon that <...> ordained by their common agreement to take from the aforesaid men of their accord and party to sustain their wrongs, a great sum of <...> men of their party to them granted a great <...> the which the said Sir Nicholas and the others his accomplices wrongful <...> wrongful has continued from the time that John Northampton <...> was ousted from his office of the mayoralty and the said Sir Nicholas Brembre {was} elected by the manner as is said above, until now, and still is continued by the said Nicholas Exton, now mayor of the said city. And by the <...> of his party <...> great damage and impoverishment to the good men of the same
city. So may it please our said parliament to grant and ordain that this <...> to the profit of the common people of the said city <...> that the abovesaid false conspiracies and schemes should be punished according to their desert, as the law and right demands, for God and as a work of charity.

6. Also the aforesaid complainants pray to our said most excellent and most dread lord the king and to the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament concerning the statute made at the parliament held at Westminster in the sixth year of the reign of our said lord the king, that begins in these words: “Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found, provided that the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same”, the contrary of which statute is practised in said city to the great damage of the people. So may it please that the same statute be held and kept as well in the same city as elsewhere, and forthwith put into execution to the profit of the people, for God and as a work of charity.

7. Also, the said complainants show how the said Sir Nicholas Brembre, and the others of his party, after they had indicted a great number of good men of the said city of London by their false scheming and conspiracy, as it said before, they sued to our said most dread lord the present king for a charter of pardon, the which charter was granted to them, as plainly appears by the copy of the same {attached} to this bill; but those who were indicted did not have knowledge of the aforesaid charter. So may it please our said most excellent and most dread lord the king and the most noble and wise lords of this present parliament of this subtle wrong, to act according to the law and right, as seems good to you, to the destruction of many falsenesses and wrongs henceforth, for God and as a work of charity.
8.
Also the aforesaid complainants show how there <...> a book called the Jubilee in the chamber of the said Guildhall of London, within which book many, and for the greater part of all, the good articles, customs, and practices ordained and established before these times by <...> and discretion touching the good rule and governance of the said city were compiled and contained, to the observance of which articles, customs, and practices to those who were lawful, righteous and profitable, the mayor, recorder, aldermen and the good commons of the same city were sworn, and were accustomed to be from time to time for the <...> to keep; {but} the said book after the feast of Easter last passed is burnt by the said Nicholas Exton, now mayor of the said city and his accomplices <...> and disgust, to the great defiance of damage in times to come, of the good rule and <...> of the aforesaid city.
7n) The Tailors’ Petition

Language(s): Latin, Anglo-Norman
Source: TNA, C 49/10/3
Manuscript: 38.9cm x 12.7cm [35.5cm x 8cm]. Condition excellent.
References: Transcribed and translated in I. S. Leadam and J. F. Baldwin, Select Cases Before the King’s Council, 1243-1482 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1918), pp. 74-76.

Text

1. Item les ditz suppliantz soy pleignont vers Nichol Brembre de ceo qil ouesque les autres ses acomplices accrocha sur luy roiale poair de ceo que par la ou vne chartre par le progenitour nostre seignour le Roy feust grante a le mestier de Taillours de londres com par le copie de mesme la chartre pleinement fait mencione la quale copie si ensuit Edwardus dei gracia Rex angl’ & ffranc’ & dominus hibern’ Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint salutem. Inspeximus litteres patentes quas nos nuper sub sigillo nostro quo tunc vtebamur in Angl’ fieri fecimus in hec verba. Edwardus dei gracia Rex angl’ dominus hibern’ & dux aquitan’ Omnibus ad quos presentes littere peruenerint salutem. Supplicarunt nobis cissores & armurarii linearum armaturarum Cuiutatis nostre London’ per peticionem suam coram nobis & consilio nostre in presenti parliamento nostro exhibitam quod cum ipsi & antecessores sui de eisdem mesteris in Cuiutate predicta semper hastenus a tempore quo non extat memoria Gildam suam infra eandem Cuiutatem semel in anno habere & tenere & in eadem Gilda mesteras suas regulare & statum seruientum suorum de eisdem in mesteris ordinare et defectus eorumdem corrigere et emendare pro communi vtilitate tam hominum eiusdem Cuiutatis quam ad eandem confluencium consueuissent & iam per aliquod tempus omnes illi qui de mesteris illis se esse dixerint tam extranei quam alij shopas in Cuiutate predicta pro eorum voluntate ceperint & mesteris illis vsi fuerint per huius extraneos irregulatos & de eorum defectibus non correctos damna quam plurima pluribus tam de Cuiutate illa quam ailiis pluries euernerint in scandalum proborum hominun de eisdem mesteris velimus Gildam predictam approbare & eam hominibus de mesteris predictis in dicta Cuiutate commorantibus confirmare sibi & successoribus suis imperpetuum obtinendam Nos eorum supplicacioni in hac parte annuentes predictam Gildam tenore presentium acceptamus & approbamus. Volentes & concedentes pro nobis & heredibus nostris
quod homines de mesteris predictis in Ciuitate predicta & successores sui Gildam suam semel in anno prout antiquitus fieri consueuit habere & tenere & in ea mesteras suas ordinare & regulare & defectus servientum suorum predictorum per visum maioris Ciuitatis predicte qui pro tempore fuerit vel alicuius quem loco suo ad hoc deputauerit & per probiores & magis sufficientes homines de mesteris illis corrigere et emendare possibilit pro ad maiorem utilitatem Communlitas populi nostri viderint faciendum. Et quod nullus infra libertatem Ciuitatis predicte mensam vel shopam de mesteris illis teneat nisi sit de libertate Ciuitatis illius Nec aliquis ad libertatem illam pro mesteris illis admittatur nisi per probos & legales homines de eisdem mesteris testificetur quod bonus fidelis & ydoneus sit pro eisdem. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Westm’ x die marciij anno regni nostro primo.52 Nos autem tenorem litterarum nostrarum predictarum sub sigillo quo nunc vtimur in Angl’ duiximus exemplificandum. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud langle vj die ffeb’ anno regni nostri Angl’ quintodecimo regni vero nostri ffranc’ secundo53 la quale chartre le dit seignour Nichol Brembre prist hors del possession du dit mestier encontre la corone nostre seignour le Roy & vnqore detient la dite charte. Par quoy pleise a nostre tresexcellent & tresredoute seignour le Roy & as tresnobles seignours de cest present parlement de cest horrible trespass fait encontre la corone nostre seignour le Roy & la ley de terre faire due remedie en oeure de charite.

52 i.e. 10th of March 1327.
53 i.e. 6th of February 1341.
Translation

1.
Also the said suppliants complain against Nicholas Brembre thereof: that he, with the others his accomplices, accroached to himself royal power in that a charter was granted by the forebear of our lord the king to the mystery of the Tailors of London as, by the copy of the same, the charter fully made mention; the which copy follows here: ‘Edward, by the grace of God King of England and France, and master of Ireland, to all whom the present letters will come, greeting. We have examined the letters patent which recently we – under our seal which was used at that time in England – caused to be made in these words: “Edward, by the grace of God King of England, master of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to all whom the present letters will come, greeting. The Tailors and Armourers of the Linen-Armoury of our city of London, prayed publicly to us by means of their petition presented to us and to our council in our present parliament that, whereas hitherto they themselves and their predecessors of the same mysteries in the aforesaid city always, since time immemorial, had become accustomed to have and hold their guild within the same city once a year and, within the same guild, to regulate their mysteries and to set in order the condition of their servants in the same mysteries, and to correct and amend the failings of the same for the common good of the people of the same city as well as of those who flock together as part of the same {guild}. And now during some time all those – foreigners as well as others – who have declared themselves to be of those mysteries have willfully seized shops in the aforesaid city, and those mysteries have been practised by these disorderly foreigners; and by their uncorrected failings many financial losses have happened to many of the city as well as to others, to the scandal of the honest men of the same mysteries. We wish to commend the aforesaid guild and reassure the men of the aforesaid mysteries residing in the said city that they will be held to themselves and to their successors in perpetuity. We in this office, assenting to their supplication, accept and commend the aforesaid guild by the tenor of the present. Willing and conceding for us and our heirs that the men of the aforesaid mysteries in the aforesaid city and their successors – just as formerly has happened – have and hold their guild once in a year and within the same {guild}, to set in order and regulate their mysteries and correct and amend the failings of their aforesaid servants, by means of the sight of whoever was mayor of the aforesaid city
at the time – or some other who was deputised to his place for this {purpose} – and by means of the honest and most capable men of those mysteries, just as might have seemed to the greater good of the community of our people. And also that no-one should hold a counter or shop of those mysteries within the freedom of the aforesaid city, unless he should be of the freedom of that city. Nor should anyone be admitted to that freedom on behalf of those mysteries unless he should be testified to by the honest and lawful men of the same mysteries that he is good, loyal and qualified for the same. In witness of that thing we have caused to be made these, our letters patent. By the witness of me myself at Westminster on the tenth day of March in the first year of our reign.” We commanded also that the tenor of our aforesaid letters should be copied under the seal that now is used in England. In witness of that thing we have caused to be made these, our letters patent. By the witness of me myself at Langley54 on the sixth day of February in the fifteenth year of our reign in England, truly the second of our reign in France.’ The which charter the said Sir Nicholas Brembre took outside of the possession of the said mystery, against the crown of our lord the king, and he still withholds the said charter. So may it please our most excellent and most dread lord the king and the most noble lords of this present parliament of this horrible trespass made against the crown of our lord the king and the law of the land to make due remedy, as a work of charity.

54 Leadam and Baldwin gloss ‘Langle’ as King’s Langley in Hertfordshire.
7o) The Anglo-Norman Mercers’ Petition (Partial Transcription)

Language(s): Anglo-Norman, Latin
Source: TNA, SC 8/277/13829
Manuscript: 34.5cm x 24.1cm [31.2cm x 21.9cm] Condition very poor. Much of the text has faded beyond legibility, while there are also substantial blemishes and holes in the text. Parts of the left-hand side of the petition have also been lost. I include here a very fragmentary transcription of the petition; it is possible that someone with better Latin and French may be able to recreate more of the original text. In approaching this text, I have been aided by the catalogue record on the National Archives site. As this piece is so fragmentary, I do not include a translation.

Text

1. A tresexcellent <...> seignour le Roi & as tresnobles seignours <de> cest present parlement Suppliant treshumblemment <...> les ge<ntz> <...> la merceree de la Citee de Londres come membre de mesme la Citee ce <... > tresnoble seignour & le <... > choses par loial gouernaunce de toute la commun <...>.

2. <...> la principale que lestatut fait par nostre dit tresredoute seignour le Roi <au> parlement <...> a Westm’ lan du <...> <re>gne sysme <...> tiele Item ordinatum est & statutum <quod> nec in <ciuitate Lon>don nec in aliis ciuitatibus Burgis Villis vel portubus maris <par> totum regnum p<redictum aliquis> vitallarius offi<cium> Judiciale decetero habeat excerceat neque occupet quouismodo nisi in villis <vbi alia persona sufficiens as huius statutum habendum> reperiri non poterit <dum tamen idem iudex pro tempore> quo in officio illo steterit ab exercicio <vita>IIarii s<ub pena forisfacture victua>IIium <suorum> sic venditorum penitus cesset & se abstineast pro se & suis omino ab eod<em> <...> londres come aillours <...> la roialme <...> force de <...> qil estoit par gran<...> de s<...> & ordeigne si profitablement come <...> <...>ussent estre gouerne<...> estre gouernours a graunde <...> entre nous & toute la Roialme

3. Item p’<...>ment a mesme le parlement suisdit <...> vitaille sibien pess<...> douce puise paisiblement <...> a <...> la Citee & la <...> <...> sibien par foreyns come par
denizeins du dite Citee <...> vse deuant <...> & graunde profit del commune de <...> la Citee & le Roialme

4. 
<Item> <..> celluy que ser<...> de mesme la Citee <...> descharge de mesme loffice <...> ensuivant <...> gouernaunce par vn mair esteant en office de mairalte plus que <...> sonen Nichol Exton par tiele continaunce torts ma<...> ad ore <...> pro<...> a graunde de <...> de nous <...> sil ne <...> tresnobles loialx & sages

5. 
<Item> soit endite<z> <...> apelles <...> verrai cause sibien de traison come dautre felonie & abette <.> proc... <...> graunde destructioun <...> de loialte. Qe plese a <n>ostre dite seignour le Roi dordeigner <...> Iuges de oyer <...> les enditements appelles <...>.
Appendix 8 – The Mercers’ Petition and the Embroiderers’ Petition

1. A tresexcellent & tresgracious seignour nostre tresdoute seignour le Roy & as tresnobles & tressages seignours estanz en este present parlament. Suppliantz tressemblablely ses poueres liges les Brouderes de sa Citee de londres come vn des membres de mesme la Citee & se pleignant deuers monseignour Nicholl Brembre chinaler de cee que la ou del temps dondt memoire ne court par vertu des diverses chartres *par* nostre dit seignour le Roy & ses nobles progenitors a la dite Citee granteez & confernez ad estre visee en la dite Citee que lelection de leur maire deuusse estre frankement fait chesun an le jour de saint Edward le Roy par bone & peisible aduys de les plus sages & loials de mesme la citee. La le dit monseignour Nicholl par asent des ses acompanyes lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy septisme onq fort main & debat & grant multitude du peuple encontre la peas par auisement purvoiez feust maire de la dite citoie a tresgrant destruction des plusieurs bones libertez franchises & custumes de mesme la Citee, encontre leur chartres auvantditz com ouvertament est conuiz. Qe plesez a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seigneurs auvantditz faire pour le dit monseignour Nicholl comme cettz que acrocha sur luy royal pour pour aumenter & destruire les bones leyzes & visages auvantditz sauz assent de nostre dit seignour le Roy & *te*: parlament pur dien & en oueure de charteet.

2. Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignant deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de cee qu’l an <au< quantidit encontre la peas nostre dit seignour le Roy & sanz cause pour sustenir ses tortz & fauteez acrochant a luy royal pour fist diverses armeez en la dite citoie par noet & par tour par fauxeument destruire les loials liges nostre seignour le Roy du dite Citee et ascuns mist au mort ascuns

3. <T>o the moost noble & Worthiest Lordes moost ryghtful & wysest counsell to owre lige Lorde the Kyng, compleyne if it lyke to yow the folk of the mercerye of London, *as* a <membre of the same citoie>, of many wronges subtiles & also open oppressions ydo to hem by longe tyme here before passed.

2. Of which oon was where the *election* of mailette is to be to the fre men of the citoie, bi gode & paizable anys, of the wysest & truest, at o day in the yere freilich, there nought withstanding the same freddam or franchize. Nichol Brembre wyth his vpberers, purposed hym the yere next after John Northampton maier of the same citoie, with stronge honde as it is ful knowen, & though debate & stronger partye, ayenys the pees before purueyde, was chosen maier, in destruction of many ryght.
fauxement emprisona & ascundis fist fuwyg hors du dite citée & plusieurs autres torts & meschefs fist comme ouvertement est connu. Que plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours autantdiz est ordonner due punishment pur dieu & en œuvre de charitée.

3.
Item les ditz suppliantz se pleignent deuers le dit monseignour Nicholl de ceo qui lan du regne nostre dit seignour le Roy septisme encontre la franchise du dite citée & pur susteiner ses fauxetez fist proclamer que nul soit si hardy de venir a la Cyhall du dite citée pour estre le maire lors ceux qui feuront somoymes, les queux feurent somoymes par son assent et aux adonques proclamee que nul voirsit en la dite citée armeez sur grief forfaiture le quel monseignour Nicholl la noet devant la ior del electio deu la mair fist carant quantite darrume en la dite Cyhall oue quelle sibien foreins come autres feurent armeez en la dite Cyhall lendemain pour la dite electio faire, et certeins embussementz des genstz armeez feurent myses illoques encontre sa proclamatio. Et quant les bones gentz de la dite citée la venoient pour la dite electio faire solonc le franchise d<e> la dite citée, les autantdiz gentz armeez sailleront hors sur les ditz bones gentz oue grant noysse criantz tuvez tuvez haidousmour leur pursuivant<z> par ouent les ditz bones gentz pour paier de mort se fuwyrent & ascondirent en mesons & autres lieux secretz comme en terre de guerre, et issant le maitaltye du dite citée ad estee teniz come par conquest & maistrie depuis le dit temps tanque ensea. Que plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours autantdiz est ordonner due remedie pur dieu & en œuvre de charitée.

bi false emprisonementz, and some fledde the citée for feere, as it is openlich known.

4.
And so furthermore for to susteyne thise wronges & many othere, the next ye<e> after the same Nichol ayeins the forside fredam & treve communes, did crye openlich that no man sholde come to chese her maire but such as were somnped, & tho that were somnped were of his ordyname & after his anys. And in the nyght next after folwyng he did carve grete quantitee of armure to the Gyrdehalle, with which as wel stranglars of the contree as othere of with june were armes in the morwe, ayeins his owne proclamatio that was such, that no man shalde be armes. & certein busshmentz were laide that, when free men of the Citee come to chese her maire broken vp armed, cryinge with loude voice ste sle folwyng hem, wherthough the peple for feere fledde to houses & other <hidy>nges as in londe of werre, adradde to be ded in commune.
4.
Item les ditz suppliants se plaignont deuers le dit monseigneur Nicholl de ceo que a quel heur que ascun du dite citee par cause du service ou ascun autre lise comandement aprocha a ascun seignour a qui le dit monseignour Nicholl ne vorroit que sa fausine feusse conu maintenant chescun tiel home destoit estre par le dit monseignour Nicholl empesche qu'il estoit faux a le conseil du dite Citee & ensy au Roy. Et si la fausine du dit monseignour Nicholl feusse contredit par nous Broderers ou ascun autre mistier de la dite citee en general ou si ascun mistier sa dite mistier vorroit contrestere ou eux assembler pour leur necessitee ou profit comme toudys ad estre vsee, tantost ils deuissent estre empeschez & enditez qils vorroient leur encontre la peus et plusieurs bones gentz de la dite citee ore sont enditeez & outrement desclaudierez & temz disloialx & tretours a nostre dit seignour le Roy. Qe plese a nostre dit seignour le Roy & les seignours acoustz ditz estre owel juge qe les ditz suppliants pourroient estre prueba ou disprovez solnce la veritee de leur faiz et comander que les dites enditements puissent estre mesmez devant vous pur dieu & en oucre de charitee.

5.
And thus yet hiderward hath the mailalte ben holden as it were of conquest or maistrie, & many other offices also. So that what man pryue or apert in special that he myght wyte, grocyng pleyned or helde ayeins any of his wronges, or bi putting forth of whom so it were, were it net so unpreutable, were apecched, & it were displeysing to hym Nichol, anon was emprisoned. And though it were ayeins falshe of the leest officer that hym lust mynteigne, was holde vntrue lige man to owre kyng for who reproued such an officer mynteigne bi hym, of wronge or elles, he forfeited ayeins hym Nichol, & he unworthy as he saide, represented the kynges estat. Also if any man bi cause of servyce or other leueful comandement, approched a lorde, to which lord-e he Nichol dradde his falshe to be knowe to, anon was apecched that he was false to the conseille of the Citee, & so to the kyng.

6.
And yif in general his falseness were ayeinsaide, as of vs togydre of the merceyve, or otheres craftes, or any conseille wolde hauent to ayenstande it, or as out of mynade hath be vsed, wolden companye togydre how lawfull so it were, for owre nede or profite, were anon apecched for arrysers ayeins the pees & falsy many of vs that yet stonden endited, and we ben openlich disclaudiured, holde vntrue & traitours to owre kyng, for the same Nichol sayd bifor maour, aldermen, & owre craft, bifor hem garded in place of recorde, that xx or xxx of vs were worthy to be drawn & hanged. The which thyng lyke to owre worthy lordship, by an owel juge to be proved or disproved, the whether that troughte may shewe, for troughte amonges vs, of fewe or elles no man many day dorst be shewed. And nought oonlich vnsheved or hidde it hath be by man now, but also of biore tym the most profitable poyutes of trewe governance of the Citee, compiled togydre bi longe
5.
Item les dit suppliants se plaignent deus les dit monseigneur Nicholl de ceo que quant les dit bones gentz feurent desclaundrez com demant est dit le dit monseigneur Nicholl Brembre disoit ouvertement que si aszunz de eux lour vorroit rendre caulabile a nostre dit seigneur le Roy de faustetee, mesne nostre seigneur le Roy lour ent serroit grace & a luy serroit bon seigneur. Et si aszunz des dit bones gentz quant estee & toutz pors la grace de dieu servroient loialz feusse si hardy de offrer la proeve pur sa loialtee, mainteint le dit monseigneur Nicholl acrochant a luy roial pour luy comanda a prisoun nemye commut & sanz response issint que aszunz nutrivan en mesne la prisoun. Et razoit que brief nostre dit seigneur le Roy venoit au dit monseigneur Nicholl pour emprisonne en la Chaunlocker ensemelment que la cause de sa detene, il ceo faire ne voloit en nulle manere en grant despiz des roialz manementz. Que plese a nostre dit seigneur le Roy & les seignours amandtiz ordeigner punissement sur le dit monseigneur Nicholl com apent en ceo caus pour dieu & en oeuvre de charitee.

7.
And so ferforth falschede hath be vsed that oft tymce he Nichol Brembre saide in sustenancel of hys falschede, owre lige lordes wylle was such, that neuer was such, as we suppose. He saide also whan he hadde disclaundre vs, which of vs wolde yele hym false to his kyng, the kyng shold de hym grace, cherise hym & be good lorde to hym. And if any of vs alle that wyth goddes help haue & shulle be founded trewe was so hardy to profe prouyng of hym self trewe, anon was comanded to prisoun as well bi the mai that now is of hys Nichol Brembre biforn.

8.
As aforesaid we haue be comanded off tymce vp owre ligeance to vnaediful & vnnetiful dynere doynages, and also to wythdrawe vs, bi the same comandement f-ro thynges needeful & lefful, as was shewed whan a companye of gode women, there men dorst nought, traulleden barfote to owre lige lorde, to seche grace of hym for trewe men as they supposed, for thanne were such proclamation made that no man ne woman shold approche owre lige lorde for seying of grace & owernaym othere comandemntz also, bifore & sithen bi suggestioun & informacion of suche that wolde nought
her falsnesse had be known to owre lige lorde. And lordes by yowre lene, owre lye lorde comandement to symple & vulconning men is a gret thynge to ben vsed so famulerlich, with outen nede, for they vnwyse to saue it, mowe lyghtly their ayens forfait.

9.
ffor thy gracionsse lorde lyke it to yow to take hede in what manere & where owre lige lorde power hath ben mysused by the forsaid Nichol & his yphencers, for sythen thesse wronges before saide han ben vsed as accidental, or common branches outward, it sheweth wel the rote of hem is a ragged subiect or stok inward, that is the forsaid Breere or bremere, the whiche common wronge vses, & many other, if it lyke to yow, mowe be shewed & wel known bi an indifferent juge & maire of owre Citee, the which wyth yowre ryghtful lorde ship ygranted for most pryncipal remedie, as goddes lave & al resoun wole, that no donesman stonde to gide juge & partye, wronges sholle more openlich be knowe, & trouth dor apere. And ells, as amonge vs, we honne nought wyte in what manere without a much greter diexe, sith the gouernancie of this Citee stonde th as it is bifor saide & wole stonde whil vitalliers bi suffraunce presumen thilke states vpon hem, the which gouernancie of bifor this tymne to moche folke yhilde & sheweth hym self now open whether it hath be a cause or bygynnyng or dyuysion in the Citee & after in the Rewme, or no.

10.
Wherfore for grettest nede as to yow moost worthy, moost ryghtful & wysest lorde & counsell to owre lige lorde the kyng, we biseche mekelich of yowre g-ra-ce- coreccioin of alle the wronges before sayde & that it lyke to yowre lorde ship to be gracions menes to owre lye lorde the kyng, that suche wronges be known to hym, & that
6. Item suppliants & teshumbement requerent a nostre dit seigneur le Roy & les seignours auzaut zitz les desserditz brouderers que sils ou ascun de eux soient a vous empeschez dascun tort ou fausette par suggestion dascuny qils purent estre graciosement acceptez de faire lour excusacion descome ils seront trouz loialx a nostre dit seigneur le Roy & la Citee auizaut zitz. Entendantz tresgraciosues seignours que les dites tortz & fausettez par le dit monseigneur Nicholl feurent faizt en la dite Citee, la plus granz partie ou toun des ditz suppliants diceo non sachantz ou encontre lour volunteez.

we move shewe vs & sith ben holden, suche trewe to hym, as we ben, & owe to ben.

11. Also we biseche vanto yowre gracious lordship that if any of vs in special or general be apecthed to owre lige lorde or to his worthy conseille, bi comynnyng with other, or approaching to owre kyng, as wyth Brembre or lys abettours with any wronge wytynesse beryng, as that stode other wyse amonges vs here, than as it is now proved it hath ystonde, or any other wronge suggestion, by which owre lige lorde hath ybe vnleeffullich entoumed, that thanne yowre worshipful lordship be such, that we move come in answer to excuse vs. for we knouwe wel as for by moche the more partye of vs and, as we hope for alle, alle suche wronges han ben vnwytyng to vs, or elles outerlick ayeins owre wille.

12. And ryghtfull lordes for oon the gretest remedye with other forto aynestonde many of thilke disesex afore saide amonges vs, we prayen wyth mekenesse this specialich, that the statut ordeigned & made bi parlament holden at westynstre in the sexte yere of owre kyng now regnynge, move stonde in strengthe & be exeunt as wel here in london as elles where in the rewe, the which is this, Item ordinatium est & statutum quod nec in ciuitate Londiniorum nec in alys Civitatis Burgis villis vel portibus maris par totum regnum predictum, alius vitallar officiun judiciale decetelo habeat exercet neque occupet quosimodo nisi in villis ubi alia persona sufficens ad luxum statum habendum reperciri non poterit dum tamen idem judex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit, ab exercicio vitallarii sub pena forisfacture victualium suorum sic venditorum peunitus cesser & se abstinere pro se & suis omnino ab eodem & c.
Appendix 9 – Anti-Victualler Statute

Date: 24th October 1382
Language(s): Latin
Source: Letter-Book H, f. clviii
See also: CLBH, p. 206; the statute is 6 Richard II, st. 1, cap. 9, see Statutes, II, 66

Text

1. <marginated>quod nullus statum iudicium excertens sit vitellarius</marginated>

2. Item ordinatum est & statutum est quod nec in Ciuitate London’ nec in aliis Ciuitatibus Burgis villis vel portubus maris per totum regnum predictum alicuis vitallarius officium iudiciale decetero habeat excerceat neque occupet quouismodo nisi in villis vbi alia persona sufficiens ad huiusmodi statum habendum reperiri non poterit. In quo tamen casu idem iudex pro tempore quo in officio illo steterit ab excercio vitallarii sub pena forisfature victuallium suorum sic venditorum penitus cesse & se abstoneat per se & suis omino ab eodem.
Translation

1. 
<marginated>That no-one exercising a judicial position should be a victualler<marginated>. 

2. 
Also it is ordained and established that neither in the city of London nor in other cities, boroughs, villages or ports of the sea, throughout all the aforesaid kingdom, may any victualler henceforth hold, practice, or occupy judicial office in any way, except in villages where some qualified person to hold this position cannot be found. Yet in which case, the same judge, for the time that he remains in that office, utterly ceases from the practice of a victualler upon the penalty of forfeiture of their victuals sold in such a way, and that he abstains, for him and all his, from the same.
Manuscript Images

Fig. 12 – Letter-Book H, ff. clviii–clix
Fig. 13 – *Letter-Book H*, f. clviii (the anti-victualler statute)
Fig. 14 – Letter-Book H, f. clviiiiv (detail of a statute’s ‘Item’). This image does not fully do justice to the distinctive appearance of this ‘Item’.
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Table 4 – The Correspondences amongst the 1388 Guild Petition

Appendix 10 – Table of Correspondences among the 1388 Guild Petitions
**Notes to Table 4**

Table 4 records the correspondences amongst the 1388 guild petitions. The top row abbreviates the names of the petitions and the left-hand column abbreviates specific accusations (to decode these see the following two pages). The numbers in the body of the table refer to the paragraph of each petition within which the accusation can be found. Where the petitions share a similar way of phrasing an accusation, these numbers appear unbracketed. Where these petitions appear to follow the same model but contain substantial alterations, these numbers appear bracketed. On several occasions two or more petitions share an accusation but do not contain any verbal overlaps (suggesting they were not following the same model). Where no verbal overlaps are present, these are listed in the table in distinct rows. Their shared content is indicated by their being listed under the same letter (so, for instance, petitions listed under A¹ and A² level the same accusation at Brembre but share no distinct phraseology).

**Key to Petitions**

- PiP – The *Pinners’ Petition*
- FoP – The *Founders’ Petition*
- DrP – The *Drapers’ Petition*
- PaP – The *Painters’ Petition*
- ArP – The *Armourers’ Petition*
- stP – The *<...>stere’s Petition*
- GoP – The *Goldsmiths’ Petition*
- SaP – The *Saddlers’ Petition*
- TaP – The *Tailors’ Petition*
- LeP – The *Leathersellers and Whittawyers’ Petition*
- CuP – The *Cutlers, Bowyers, Fletchers, Spurriers, and Bladesmiths’ Petition*
- CoP – The *Cordwainers’ Petition*
- EmP – The *Embroiderers’ Petition*
- MeP – The *Mercers’ Petition*
- ANMeP – The *Anglo-Norman Mercers’ Petition*
Key to Accusations

A\(^1\) – On Brembre’s seizing of the guild’s charter
A\(^2\) – On Brembre’s seizing of the guild’s charter
B\(^1\) – On Brembre’s election which was made against the franchise and custom of the city; his men dragged, assaulted and intimidated good men of the city
B\(^2\) – On Brembre’s election which was made contrary to the city’s customs and charters; he summoned his supporters to the election; armed men were placed in the Guildhall
B\(^3\) – On Brembre’s election which was made contrary to the city’s customs and charters; he used strong arm tactics
C – On Brembre’s intimidatory actions in Cheapside
D – On Brembre’s formation of armed forces in the city and his threatening people
B\(^4\) – On Brembre’s summoning only his supporters to the election; armed men were placed in the Guildhall; citizens were attacked
E – On Brembre being elected by horrible noise and violence
F\(^1\) – On Brembre’s production of biased indictments
G – On Brembre’s suing for a charter of pardon, unbeknownst to those indicted
H – On Brembre’s formation of assemblies and extraction of money to maintain his wrongs
I\(^1\) – On the need to reinforce the statute forbidding victuallers from holding judicial office
J\(^1\) – On Nicholas Exton’s burning of the Jubilee Book
J\(^2\) – On Nicholas Exton’s burning of the Jubilee Book
K – On Brembre’s impeachment of anyone opposed to him
L – On Brembre’s encouraging people to admit their guilt, and commanding them to prison
M – On proclamations made forbidding anyone to approach the king; the king’s name abused
N – On Brembre’s nature as the ‘briar’ damaging civic life
O – On recent life in London (a summative paragraph)
I\(^2\) – On the need to reinforce statute forbidding victuallers from holding judicial office
P – On the need to allow those impeached to defend themselves
Q – On Exton’s false election and the need to remove him from office
R – On William Cheyne’s and Hugh Fastolf’s aiding of Brembre and the need to remove them from their offices
S – On wine sellers trading contrary to a statute
I³ – On the need to reinforce statute forbidding victuallers from holding judicial office
T – On the need to reinforce the statute permitting free trade in victuals
U – On the need to ensure mayors should not hold two consecutive terms
F² – On Brembre’s production of biased indictments
V – On the need to reinforce all statutes concerning victuals
Appendix 11 – A document associated with the Leathersellers and Whittawyers’ Petition

Date: ?1383-86, ?1388. The date is uncertain and depends what this text exactly is (see discussion below).
Language(s): Latin
Source: TNA SC 8/21/1001A
Manuscript: Very poor. This text survives as only a stub, and much of the text is missing. Due to the missing text, it is unclear what this document is. The Leathersellers and Whittawyers do state in their petition that Brembre sued to the king ‘pour vne chartre de pardon la quele chartre <a eu> x fait grauntes come par la copie dycelle a ceste bille queux pleynement appiest’ (7m.8). This text may, therefore, be a copy of the charter of pardon which would have been issued between 1383 and 1386 and copied out by the Leathersellers and Whittawyers in 1388. But this remains speculative.

Text

1.
Ricardus &c omnibus balliuis & fidelibus suis <...> amicicia & concordia inter ipsos ligeos nostros <...> predicta vnde quedam <...> consilium <...> contra statutum nostram & <...> eiusdem Ciuitatis exceptis illis qu<...> <...> ad se obediendi & ad pacem nostram <...> nos pertinet pro omnimodis prodicionibus & fel<oniis> <...> regiam magestatem infra Ciuitate predicta <...> indictari vel occasionari eadem de causa poterunt <...> super premisisis & quolibet premissorum concedimus <...> In cuius &c Teste &c apud Westm’ xxii die <...>.
Translation

1. Richard, etc., to all his bailiffs and faithful <...> friendship and concord between these our lieges <...> aforesaid thereof a certain <...> counsel <...> against our statute and <...> of this city, except those <...> to the obeying of this, and to our peace <...> belongs to us for all kinds of treasons and felonies <...> royal majesty between the aforesaid city <...> might be indicted or prosecuted for the same cause <...> we grant upon the above said and any part of the aforesaid <...> In which, etc., by the witness, etc., at Westminster on the 22nd day <...>
Appendix 12 – Official Responses to John Constantyn’s Execution

12a) Brembre’s Petition

Date: The exact date is uncertain. It was evidently produced sometime between the execution of Constantyn on the 11th of February 1384 and the issuing of the royal writ on the 4th April (see appendix 11b)
Source: TNA, SC 8/183/9147
Language(s): Anglo-Norman
Manuscript: Condition very good; some blackening to right-hand margin obscuring some words.

Text

1.
A nostre seignour tresredote seignour le Roi supplient voz liges Nichol Brembre mair Aldermans & Viscountes de vostre Citee de Loundres que please a vostre Roiale mageste & pour greindre <...> denforcer la gouernaille de la dite Citee en temps auenir & de rebuken & esvaier touz conspiratours & confeduratours des malueises conuenitcles & congregacions de aultres mesfesours par qui ascunche chose purroit sourdir encountre vostre pees de mesme la Citee ou de la franchise dicelle ou en les parties envrion en temps <...> ratifier & confermer par voz lettres patentes desouth vostre graunt seal le record process & iugement qore tard estoit donee en la Guyhalle de vostre dite Citee sur Joh<n Costantyn> Cordewaner qestoit pris en alant conseillaunt confortant & fesaunt aultres gentz de clore lour shopes & de les exciter destre aherdauntz as malueyetseetes pourpose<e> en <le> graunt rumour affray turbacion & insurreccion pourposee felonousement & en partie comencee encountre vostre pees & la gouernaille de la dite Citee, le joedy la vn<decimo> iour de feuer’ darrein passee & estoit mesmes vn des primers que closa ses huys & ses shopes en Bogirowe & en seintlaurenceslane donant as aultres ensam<ple> & fresshement sur ceo arraine & par tesmoignes iurez & examinez & par sa conussance par iugement mys ala mort & decolle grantant par vous & vos heirs que <nul> de vos ditz liges ne nul de lour heirs ne autre persone queconques esteant partie as ditz iugement & execucion ne soient molesteez empescheez ne ent en autre manere greue par vous ou par vous heirs pur le dit iugement ou execucion dyvelle. Et sur ceo commander voz honnurable lettres des voz tresgraciosues volunteers a vostre chauncellar.
Translation

1.
To our lord, the most dread lord the king, pray your lieges Nicholas Brembre, mayor, the aldermen, and sheriffs of your city of London that it might please your royal majesty, and for the greater <...>, to enforce the governance of the city in times to come, and to rebuke and drive away all the conspirators and confederates of wicked conventicles and congregations of other malefactors, through which any thing could arise against your peace of the same city or of the franchise of the same or in the surrounding parts <...>, {and} to ratify and confirm by your letters patent under your great seal the record, process and judgement which recently was given in the Guildhall of your city upon John Constantyn, Cordwainer, who was taken in going about counselling, advising and making other men close their shops, and to incite them to be adherents to the purposed falsities, to the great rumour, commotion, disturbance and insurrection, feloniously devised, and in part commenced, against your peace and the governance of the said city on Thursday the 11th of February last passed. And the same was one of the first that closed their doors and their shops in Budge Row and in Saint Laurence’s Lane, giving to others an example, and upon this {he was} immediately arraigned and by witnesses sworn and examined, and by his own acknowledgement, was by judgement put to death and beheaded. May you grant for you and your heirs that none of your said lieges nor their heirs or other persons whatsoever, being a party to the said judgement and execution, should be molested, impeached or in any other manner thereof be grieved by you or by your heirs as a consequence of the said judgement or the execution of the same. And upon this to entrust your honourable letters, of your most gracious will, to your chancellor.
Date: 4th April 1384
Language(s): Anglo-Norman
Source: TNA, C 81/1341
Manuscript: 36.3cm x 14.3cm [29.4cm x 1.6cm]. Condition very good.

Text

1.

<...> Nous vous envoiez closeinz cestes vne supplicacioun a nous baillee depar noz bien amez liges les meair Aldermans & viscountes de nostre Citee de loundres touchante ce quin Johan Constantyn Cordewaner y estoit nadgaires par ijugement decollez, et sumes enforme que le dit Juggement & lexecucion dycell se firent en seurtee de nostre paix & en distourbance del <...> & insurreciounz purposes & en partie comencees destre monstrees de fait en nostre dite Citee sicome en la dite supplicacion est contenz plus aplein. Sur quoi nous nous1 agreons bien que le dit Johan estoit ensi mort et volont que sur ce facez fere noz lettres souz nostre grant seal sur le purport de la supplicacion avantdite doun souz nostre signet a nostre Chastel de Berkhamstede le quart Jour daprill.

---

1 The repetition of ‘nous’ appears in the manuscript.
Translation

1.
We send to you enclosed with these a supplication delivered to us by our beloved good lieges, the mayor, aldermen and sheriffs of our city of London, touching upon one John Constantyn, Cordwainer, who was lately beheaded by judgement, and we are informed that the said judgement and the execution of the same were made to the guarantee of our peace and to the destruction of the <...> and the insurrection purposed, and in part begun to be declared to be made in our said city, just as it contained more fully in the said supplication. Upon that we fully agree that the said John was thus killed, and we will upon that that you cause to be made our letters under our great seal on the purport of the aforesaid supplications. Under our signet at our castle of Berkhamstead on the fourth day of April.
12c) Royal Ratification in *Letter-Book H*

Date: 4th April 1384  
Language(s): Latin  
Source: *Letter-Book H*, f. clxxiv


**Text**

1. <marginated>ratificacio execucionis judicii pro morte johannis costantyn</marginated>

2. Richardus dei gracie rex Anglie & ffrancie & duc hibernie omnibus balliuis & fidelibus suis ad quos presentes littre peruenereint salutem Supplicarunt nobis dilecti ligei nostri Nicholas Brembre maior ac vicecomites & aldermanius Ciuitatis nostre london’ vt cum nuper iminente quadam magna turbacione populi nostri contra pacem nostram in ciuitate predicta quidam Johannes Constantyn Cordewaner eundo consulendo confortando & faciendo gentes dicte ciuitatis shopas suas claudere & iniquis propositis in rumore commocione turbacione & insurrectione ibidem felonice propositis & in parte die iouis vndecimo die ffebruarii proximo preteritio inceptis contra pacem nostram & sanam gubernacionem dicte Ciuitatis inherere excitando captus fuit vt vnus illorum qui primo shopas & fenestra sua clausit aliiis prebendo examplum & super hoc recente arenatum & per testes iuratos & examinatos ac cognicionem suam iudicialitum morti commissus & decollatus extitit velimus iudicium in has parte redditum ac recordum & processum inde habita in Gildehalla nostra london’ in exemplum roborandi extunc gubernacionem dicte Ciuitatis ac reprobandi & terrendi conspiratores & confederatores huiusmodi Conventiculorum & congregacionum & omnes alios malefactores per quos quoque contra pacem nostram dicte Ciuitatis vel libertatis eiusdem aut in partibus circumvicinis impostorum oriri poterit ratificare & confirmare. Nos pro eo quod sumus informati quod iudicium predictum & execucio eiusdem pro securitate pacis nostre & destruccionis riote & insurreccionis propositarum & in parte inceptarum in ciuitate
noura predicta que ibidem de facta fuerunt ostense facta fuerunt execucionem dicti
iudicij gratam habentes & acceptam iudicium predictum necnon recordum &
processum inde habita vt predictum est pro nobis & heredibus nostris ratificamus &
per presentes confirmamus nolontes quod alijus predictorum maioris
vicecomitatus & aldermannorum vel alijus heredum suorum seu alia persona
quecumques dictis judicio & execucioni pars assistens occasione dicti iudicii ac
execucionis eiusdem per nos vel heredes nostras molestentur inquietentur alijualiter
seu grauentur. In cuius rei testimonium has lettrias nostras fieri fecimus patentes
Teste me ipso apud Westm’ quarto die Aprilis anno regni nostri septimo.\(^2\)

per lettram de signeto

martyn

\(^2\) i.e. 4th April 1384.
Translation

1. Ratification of the execution and judgement to death of John Constantyn.

2. Richard, by the grace of God King of England and France, and Duke of Ireland, to all his bailiffs and faithful men to whom the present letter will come, greeting. Our beloved lieges, Nicholas Brembre, mayor, and the sheriffs and aldermen of our city of London beseech us concerning how recently in the aforesaid city, a certain John Constantyn, Cordwainer – threatening a certain great disturbance of our people, against our peace – going about advising, encouraging and making men of the said city close their shops and inciting {them} to partake in the wrongs put forward, to the rumour, commotion, disturbance, and insurrection feloniously devised and in part begun in that very place on Thursday, the 11th day of February last, against our peace and the sound governance of the said city, was seized as the one of them who first shut his shops and window, making an example to the others. And upon this he was arraigned and by witnesses sworn and examined, and by his own acknowledgement he was by judgement put to death and beheaded. We wish, on what appears in this case, to ratify and confirm the judgement, record, and process thereupon made in the Guildhall of our London, as an example of henceforth reinforce the governance of the said city and to condemn and deter the conspirators and confederators of these conventicles and congregations and all other malefactors through whom anything might arise against our peace of the said city and the liberties of the same, and also in neighbouring parts. Because we are informed that the aforesaid judgement and the execution of the same were made for the preservation of our peace and the destruction of riots and insurrections purposed and in part begun there in our aforesaid city, which were shown, {and} thinking that the execution and the said judgement {was} acceptable and pleasing, we ratify and confirm by the present for us and our heirs the said judgement and also the record and process made thereupon as is said, unwilling that any of the aforesaid mayor, sheriffs and aldermen, or any of their heirs, or whatever other people party to {or} assisting in the said judgement and execution, should be molested, impeached or in any way grieved by us and our heirs on account of the said judgements and
executions. In witness of which thing, we have caused to be made these our letters. By the witness of me myself at Westminster on the fourth day of April in the seventh year of our reign.
Appendix 13 – William Mayhew’s Protest

Date: May 1384
Language(s): Latin
References: CPMR, pp. 50-51.

Text

1. Decimo octauo die maij anno regni regis Ricardi secundi septimo Willelmo Mayhew grocer allocutas fuit coram dicte maiore & aldermannis de eo quod ipse dixit quod judicia quo dicti maior & aldermanni dederunt & fecerunt nec fuerunt bona & mala & quod Ciuitas London’ male fuit regulata & etiam quod Johannes Costantyn Cordewaner qui nuper decollatus fuit in Chepe per insurrectione quam ipse & alij complices sui fecerunt in London’ xi die fier’ ultimo preterito in magnum affrainingentum tocius Ciuitatis predicte & suburbiorum suis false & iniquis condamnatus fuit ad mortem per dictas maiorem & aldermannos &c qui quidem Willelmo cognouit eadem verba se dixisse & inde ponit se in gratiam curia &c. Et quia maior & aldermannus auisari voluerunt de judicio reddendo idem Willelmo committeratur priseque quouaque auisari fuerunt &c. Postea xxvj die maij tune proximo sequenti idem Willelmo ductus fuit coram eisdem maiore & aldermannis &c. Et pro eo quod dicta verba per eundem Willelmu sic vt predicitur dicta false & maliciose dicta fuerunt & in dedecus & obprobrium maioris aldermannorum & aliorum gubernatorem dicte Ciuitatis expresse sonabant et vt alij de consiliaribus verbis <...> assensu dictorum maioris & aldermannorum consider est prout in casu consimili pluris ante a secundum consuetudinem dicte Ciuitatis adiuicat tur fuit quod idem Willelmo habeat imprisonamentum per vnum anum proximum post xvij die maij predicte & in fine dicti <...> in exitu suo a prionama faciat finem pro contemptu secundum ordinacionem maioris & aldermannorum qui pro tempore fuerunt nisi verbis se in gratiam interim habere posset &c. attamen postea eadem die ex gracion dicti maioris & ad requisicionem plurimorum aldermannorum & aliorum proborum hominum idem Willelmo manuovaptus est per Adam de Sancto juone & Henricus Perot quod ipse se bien & pacifice gerebat erga domini Regem & populum suum & omnes ministros dicte Ciuitatis & quod nulla talia verba vel eis consumlia

1 i.e. 18th May 1384.
2 A tear in the parchment obscures several words here.
impostorem dicat sub pena x librarum qua idem Willelmo concedit solvere
camerario Civitatis predicte qui pro tempore sunt in casu quo in aliquo
promissorum deliquerit & inde convincatur &c. Et ad premissa fideliter faciendam
& conservandam & ad manucaptores suos predictos servandum indemnas juratus
est &c. Et vlans ex gracia dicti maioris soluit Ricardo Odyham camerario London’
demi marc’ de fines &c. Et sic conliberatus est &c.
Translation

1.
On the eighteenth day of May in the seventh year of the reign of King Richard the second, William Mayhew, Grocer, was charged before the said mayor and the aldermen thereof: that he said that the judgements which the said mayor and aldermen gave and made were bad and not good and that the city of London was badly ruled, and also that John Constantyn, Cordwainer – who recently was beheaded on Cheapside for the insurrection the he and his other accomplices made in London on the eleventh day of February last, to the great fear touching the aforesaid city and its suburbs – was falsely condemned to death by the said mayor and the aldermen, etc. The which William acknowledged he said the same words, and thereupon he put himself on the mercy of the court, etc. And because the mayor and aldermen wished to be advised concerning the rendering of a judgement, the same William was committed to prison until they were advised, etc. Afterwards, on the 26th day of May then following, the same William was led before the said mayor and aldermen, etc. And because the words said by the same William were – as is said above – falsely and maliciously said, and expressly resounded to the shame and disgrace of the mayor, aldermen and other governors of the said city, and so as to <> by the agreement of the said mayor and aldermen it is considered and judged, as in many similar cases before, according to the custom of the said city, that the said William should have imprisonment for one year next after the aforesaid eighteenth day of May, and at the end of the said <...>, at his exit from the prison, he should make a fine for contempt, according to the ordinance of the mayor and aldermen who served for that time, unless he should have grace concerning these words in the meantime, etc. And yet afterwards, on the same day, by the grace of the said mayor and at the request of many aldermen and other good men, the same William was mainprised by Adam of Saint Ives and Henry Perot because he had carried himself well and peacefully towards the lord the king and to his people and to all the officers of the said city, and that he should not henceforth utter such words or similar, under the penalty of forty pounds, the which William agreed to pay to the chamber of the Guildhall of the aforesaid city in the event that he might fail of his promises in any way, and thereupon he was convicted. And he was sworn to faithfully make and preserve, and to save his aforesaid mainprisers. And by the grace of the said mayor,
he paid Richard Odyham in the Chamber of London half a mark as a fine, etc. And thus was he released, etc.
Appendix 14 – Further Images from *Letter-Book H*

Fig. 15 – *Letter-Book H*, f. clxxi’-clxxii
Fig. 16 – Letter-Book H, f. clxxii (detail of the mayoral surname headings)
Fig. 17 – Letter-Book H, f. clxvii–clxviii
...
Fig. 19 – *Letter-Book H*, f. lix
Fig. 21 – Letter-Book H, f. cciv
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    SC 8/21/1005 (The Armourers’ Petition)
    SC 8/21/1006 (The Cutlers, Bowyers, Fletchers, Spurriers, and Bladesmiths’ Petition)
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