

## 1894 PAPAL LETTERS RELATING TO ENGLAND 541

Illud operata est nuper in nobis dextera manus Excelsi quod nos plurimum obstupescere cogit et dicere cum propheta 'Dextera Domini fecit virtutem, dextera Domini exaltavit me.' Cum enim de ipsis Dei provida pietate nobis concessus fuisse bonus pater et prudens, Gregorius recolende memorie, illum postmodum brevi temporis intervallo rebus humanis exemit, nosque et fratres nostros de sua absentia plurimum contristavit. Set attendentes quod dispositioni eius non potest aliquo modo resisti, qui constituit terminos hominum et mensurabiles posuit dies illius, quique facit ea, que vult, nec illi quisquam audet dicere Cur ita facis? Die tertio defunctionis ipsius predecessoris nostri, rite prius omnibus celebratis, fratres nostri ad insufficientiam nostram oculos levaverunt, et sicut placuit Domino imposuerunt onus apostolatus humeris nostris. Speramus tam[en] de misericordia Ihesu Xpi quod per orationes et merita bonorum virorum, nobis constitutis in tanto regimine, vires et scientiam pro benignitate solita ministrabit. Rogamus igitur fraternitatem vestram et monemus in Domino, quatinus matri vestre sancte Romane ecclesie devoti more solito existatis et subditos vestros ad servandam ei devotionem et reverentiam inducatis. Ipsum etiam, ex cuius prudentia ad officium sumus apostolatus assumpti, devote atque humiliter exoretis ut ad regendam ecclesiam suam nos virtute sua corroboret et confirmet; nobisque concedat ea in hoc ministerio iugiter operari, per que status universalis ecclesie reformatur in melius et nos in extremo examine Deum invenire propitium valeamus. Dat. Pisis.

British Museum, Royal MS. 10, A, II. fol. 62, v.

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NOTE ON MAGNA CARTA.

In the valuable 'Histoire de Rouen pendant l'Epoque Communale' of M. Chéruel (1849) there is found this passage on our Henry II: *Ce prince fut, en effet, un des souverains du xii<sup>e</sup> siècle qui comprit le mieux l'importance d'une union intime entre les villes et la royauté . . . il affranchissait toute la Normandie des abus féodaux les plus exorbitants* (i. 21). This is followed by a summary of a charter of liberties granted to the duchy, as the author held, about the time of Henry's accession. Extracts are given from this charter, for which the reader is referred to Brusselle's treatise, 'De l'Usage des Fiefs.' This work, which bears the date 1750, gives the charter in full at the head of its evidences, and assigns it to about 1155. It proves, however, to be nothing but a corrupt version of the Magna Carta of Henry III. 'Normandy' has been substituted for 'England' throughout, and the king's *arvus*, which refers, of course, to Henry II, is taken to mean Henry I. So really singular an error fairly deserves to be set on record. J. H. ROUND.

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