

We Ourselves were there, as is more fully contained in the Letters Patent which the said *Robert* has had from Us: and it shall be your business to cause to come to *Berwick* as great a quantity of victuals and other things as are necessary for the sustenance of the men who dwell there and elsewhere in those parts in Our Service for the protection and defence of the same Marches. We command charge and strictly enjoin you in the Fealty which you owe to us and by as much as you can forfeit to Us: to straightway send and cause to come to *Berwick* and elsewhere towards those parts corn and all manner of victuals and other things necessary for the sustenance of the men who remain there, responsible for the protection and defence of the Marches aforesaid. You shall also be obedient and responsive to the said *Robert* and to his commands as you would be to Ourselves: if we should be there present, and act in this matter with great pains and fully as the same the said *Robert* shall say, charge, and cause you to know, by his letters or in any other manner as by Us and according as he shall ordain. IN WITNESS &c. To last as long as the said *Robert* shall be Our Captain and Our Lieutenant in the parts aforesaid. Given at Southwark the first day of March [1300].

**R**OBERT FITZ-ROGER and his son, *JOHN DE CLAVERING*, were summoned by Writ, dated 26th September, 1300, to the Parliament at *Lincoln* on the 20th January, 1301: which had been convoked principally to consider the Papal Claim to Temporal Dominion over the Realm of *Scotland*.

This Parliament has become historically memorable as the occasion upon which the celebrated REMONSTRANCE, generally known as 'THE BARONS' LETTER,' was addressed to the POPE by the assembled Barons on the 12th February, 1301. This document appears to have been prepared in triplicate, and to each of the copies the seals of the Barons then present were, with a few exceptions, appended. One of these copies is supposed to have been despatched to *Rome*; the other duplicates have since been preserved in various Record repositories, and are at present in the Public Record Office. Of one copy a *collotype* facsimile is here given, which illustrates its fragmentary condition at this time. The other copy in the Record Office is even more obliterated and indistinct than the copy here reproduced.

In this document *ROBERT FITZ-ROGER, LORD OF CLAVERING*, is recorded as being present in Parliament; but his seal does not appear to be among the remains of the seals which were formerly affixed to the duplicate copies, from which they have long since broken away and are now kept separate.

The occasion of this Remonstrance may be briefly stated to have been the Claim of POPE BONIFACE THE EIGHTH to Temporal Dominion over the Realm of *Scotland* as a fief of the Holy See; and it is in every respect a most remarkable document. In the absence, probably by destruction, of the Rolls of Parliament of that period, this document is believed to be the only proof now producible of a person's having sat in Parliament at that time upon summons by the King; which proof of sitting in Parliament is absolutely necessary to legally establish a Claim to a Barony by Writ.

The tenor of this document also, is very remarkable; and it is expressed in language the most laconic and significant. Through it we may in imagination, see the Barons in Parliament assembled at *Lincoln*, perhaps in the Cathedral or Chapter House there, and the Papal Letters being exhibited and carefully explained, probably by the Archbishop or the Chancellor, in their midst; with their glances of mute astonishment upon each other, and upon this strange missive, containing such an unheard-of and preposterous claim.

But recovering from their surprise, they indite or seal, with all becoming and worshipful humility, such a Reply—at its conclusion a very baying of the Barons—as would appear to have convinced the Pope of the futility of his Claim; of which the following is a Translation:—