EDWARD II.—PART II.

Membrane 26.

Nov. 28.

Inspeximus and confirmation of the under-mentioned charter, dated 2 September, 36 Henry III., and ordinance of the same king making provision for the security of the men of the marsh of Romenhale, co. Kent. As, from a time whereof memory does not exist, all distraints should be made by twenty-four lawful men of the marsh of Romenhale, elected and sworn for the purpose, upon all those who held lands and tenements in the marsh to repair its walls and watergangs against the inroad of the sea and the danger arising therefrom, and also upon all those who were bound and held to the repairing of the said walls and watergangs, king Henry III. granted to the same twenty-four jurats that for the security of the marsh they might make such distraints, provided that the distraints were made equally according to the parts, greater or lesser, which the men held in the marsh and according to which they were bound in that behalf. He further granted that no sheriff of the county of Kent, nor any other of his bailiffs, should in any manner meddle with the distraints made by award of the jurats, for should any one bring to the king a complaint against the awards, he would cause justice to be done to the complainant in his court, and he reserved justice therein to himself, or his especial mandate. Afterwards, upon information that the jurats were unable, by reason of the resistance of some of the men of the marsh, who were bound to carry out repairs of the walls and watergangs according to the extent of the lands and tenements which they held, to make the said distraints, whereby the walls and watergangs remained unrepaired, to his great loss and that of the men of the marsh, king Henry III. appointed Henry de Bathon, 42 Henry III., his justice to hear and determine the contentions which had arisen between the twenty-four jurats and the said men touching such repairs, and also to provide for the security and defence of the marsh against the inundation of the sea and fresh waters, by making the repairs of the walls and watergangs. Henry de Bathon was to certify king Henry III. of what he did therein, so that the king might order the same to be enrolled. By authority of this commission, Henry de Bathon, on Saturday next after the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, 42 Henry III., being then at Romenhale, there being associated with him Nicholas de Handlo and Alvred de Dene, and the sheriff of the county of Kent also assisting him, and the council of the commonalty of the men of the marsh also intervening, and no one opposing, ordered as follows, viz., that twelve lawful men should be chosen by the entire commonalty of the marsh, viz., six of the fee of the archbishop of Canterbury and six of the barony, who, being sworn, should measure the walls, both new and old, and those which ought to be constructed; that the measurements should be made by one and the same perch, viz. by the perch of twenty feet; and that afterwards the same jurats in like manner should measure by the same perch all the lands and tenements which being within the marsh were subject to danger, which measurements having been made, the twenty-four jurats previously elected by the commonalty should order, regard being had to the extent of the walls, lands, and tenements which were in danger, how much should pertain to each person for the maintenance and repairs of the walls, so that in proportion to the number of acres in danger, a proportionate part of the works should be assigned to each person; further, that the assignment should be made of certain places so