appears by particulars specified in their account; and so they have fully answered for the said sum of 3982 marks 4s. 0d., whereof the said Master Rostand by authority and in place of the pope, has acquitted the said Masters B. N. and W. in the name of the church of Rome and of the king. All these things were done in the chamber of the said Master Rostand in the house of the bishop of Hereford, London, before these witnesses, to wit, John de Stela, priest, Master Fides the notary of Siena, Carlinus and Hugethus, citizens and merchants of Florence, and many others, in testimony whereof the seals of the king and Master Rostand were attached and I, John de Sancto Dimitrio, notary by imperial authority, was present at all these things, and by mandate of the said Master Rostand and at the prayers of the said Masters Bernard, Nicholas and William, I drew these things up in public form.

By Master Rostand this letter went forth.

Feb. 19. Appointment of A. countess of Devon, to hold the king's manor of Melkesham from the Purification, 41 Henry III, for life, rendering at the exchequer the ancient yearly farm, to wit, 48L blanc, and so that, after her decease, the manor revert to the king in as good a state as she received it in with as much land sown as she received. And the king wills that after her decease, her heirs can claim no right herein by reason of this grant.

H. de Wengham, dean of the church St. Martin, London, notifies to all persons that, whereas to treat of urgent business of his church he cited all the canons to appear in the chapter thereof on Monday before St. Barnabas the Apostle 1256 upon which day all sufficiently appearing, three only excepted being absent through contumacy, who living beyond seas have never presented themselves to the said church, Sir Simon de la Cope being also lawfully excused, and ratifying by express consent of the canons whatever was to be done, it was ordained in the chapter, with no one contradicting, in the following form:

Considering the deplorable state of the church and compelled by the special order of the king and patron of his church, the said dean, with the assent of the canons, ordains that as well himself as everyone of the present prebendaries shall confer the yearly value of their prebends, calculated according to the ancient taxation, in aid of their church, so that in the first year, one quarter, in the second year, the second quarter, in the third year, the third quarter, and in the fourth year, the fourth quarter, and in the case of prebends falling void the value of the whole year after the year of the decease shall be given so long as the church have need. And lest this statute touching void prebends, under colour of the church's need, shall be unduly protracted the said dean thinks fit to name the defects which most displease the king and patron and himself. First, even if we say nothing of the ugliness (deformitate) of the chapel of the glorious Virgin, the place of the same is so strait as not to contain the clergy of the church or even the Virgin's image, bare, because without a tabernacle, without impediment of light. Secondly, the wooden tower, uncovered all round, rotten and in ruins, threatens them with irreparable peril in their bells. Thirdly, the unfitness of the greater altar, the presbytery and choir without ceiling (celatura); the nave of the church without solid covering, the cloister in like case, ruinous on two sides, cause fear of greater danger and heavier expenses. Fourthly, and on no account to be omitted, the wretched and unheard of and odious