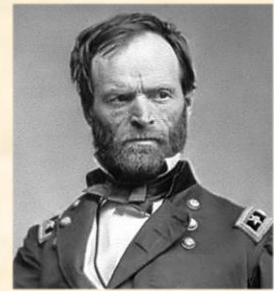


# The Provisions

The official newsletter of  
Simon de Montfort 2014

October 2013

This month 750 years ago saw the effective end of Montfort's first provisional government, presumably over a failure to reach an agreement on spoliation. To hear some modern historians tell it, Simon's March on London in 1263 was akin to Sherman's March to the Sea 601 years later. The supposedly immense swath of destruction wrought by the Marcher despoilers had to be addressed before there could be any real government under the Provisions. Of course, Edward was happy to poach the despoilers, to pardon and enrich them with soon-to-be new spoliation, and make sure the despoiled ended up with nothing. Others also jumped ship at this time, contends Marc Morris in *A Great and Terrible King*, simply to 'end the chaos Montfort had created.'



This guy knew a thing or two about spoliation

But for Edward, it was a matter of honour. Simon had 'besmirched' the dignity of the crown and therefore he had to be stopped. And if his Lusignan and Savoyard relatives got their lands and dignity back as well, so much the better.

It may be possible to associate Edward at this stage with honour, but what about virtue? Yes, according to Maurice Powicke, if deceit were involved. 'He was now sure of himself, and implacable; he had been humiliated, and his desire for vengeance combined with his revulsion of feeling against the cause of the

wretched Provisions to turn deceit into virtue.' These words come from Volume II of his monumental study of the period, ending what was a long search for both volumes at an affordable price, in this case £12.00. I have seen them



for as much as \$250. Next up is David Carpenter's *The Reign of Henry III* and a quick look shows that, even with a substantial markdown, it may be a while still.

If I may impose, [Simon de Montfort 2014](#) has a new e-petition on the home page that requires only a name and email for your 'signature'. It would be nice if you could give it your attention and spread the word about it among friends, students and colleagues. Even those convinced that Montfort was motivated by private grievances will have to admit that the movement he led, the first of its kind in English history, is just as much worth remembering.

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