

The Provisions

The official newsletter of
Simon de Montfort 2014

March 2015

‘Lord, as long as you will be a good king and lord to us, we will be your faithful and devoted men.’ These were the words addressed to Henry by Thomas Fitz Thomas, the mayor of London, when he led the city’s aldermen to St. Paul’s to renew their oath of fealty on 17 March 1265. For Henry, the message was clear. It was no longer enough to be king, he had to be a good one as well if he wanted to keep the honours and privileges that went with the job. A week earlier in Westminster Hall, the king and his son made their formal declarations of assent to the arrangements that had been worked out, including the transfer of Edward to his father’s household and several ‘hostage’ castles to the government as surety for his good behaviour. With nine bishops on hand to excommunicate any and all transgressors against the Charters and Provisions, and Thomas de Cantilupe now serving as chancellor, it would seem that Simon de Montfort’s triumph was complete. His historic Parliament wrapped up and he left for Odiham to spend time with Eleanor and his family before taking the court to Northampton, where he had scheduled a tournament in April to replace the one cancelled the previous month. It was meant to mollify Gilbert de Clare, but the disgruntled earl had already retreated to the Marches to plan his next move, which would undo everything in six months’ time and leave Fitz Thomas locked up for his presumptuous words.



They wouldn’t lie to a bishop...not nine of them



The two Edwards

In addition to interviews for [Kasia Ogrodnik](#) and [Kathleen Neal](#), the virtual tour offered several new articles on themes only touched upon in the book. These include a look at [‘The Templar of Tyre’](#), whose chronicle of the Montfortian years has always been a curiosity, at the site run by Henry III biographer John Paul Davis. [All this parliament business](#) shows how Montfort’s contribution to Parliament was more than just summoning the burgesses. [Some songs of the noble Simon](#) for Edward II biographer Kathryn Warner recalls another curiosity, when that unfortunate king was entertained by women singing about Simon, but maybe the younger Edward really had his father in mind. Finally Eleanor of Castile biographer Sara Cockerill asks whether Montfort was in fact aiming for the throne itself. [The case against a King Simon](#) speaks for itself.