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LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY

DOCCOMBE MARCH 1332

The bailiff of Doccombe is asked to be patient with the tenants in their payments.

TRANSLATION

Letter sent by the Prior Richard to Henry de Lappeflode about the taxation of our tenants at Doccombe

'To our very dear and well-beloved in God H[enry] de Lappefiode, etc. Richard by God's permission, etc. greeting, etc. Whereas we have found in our private memoranda all the discussion which took place between us and you, previous to your departure from us, concerning the taxation of our bondmen of Doccombe, we pray you not to take to heart all that has been reported to us by our bondmen, whether by letter or by word of mouth; for this is the truth as we gather it: that the said bondmen were taxed according to your statement at fifty shillings, afterwards reduced to forty shillings (at your request and through our favour), provided that the forty shillings be paid to us at next Easter, and if it be not so paid then this remission to be void.

And although you be at present moved against and angry with them for their illwill, we pray you, by this holy season of Lent, that

you set this matter aside until you come to us, unless you can, by just and honest process, prove the case which you allege you have against them; and if you can do so, then we desire that they shall make atonement and be tried in our Manor-Court; and if they fail of payment of the forty shillings on the day assigned, then let them be distrained for the whole aforesaid tax (without remission). Adieu, etc.'