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LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY

Doccombe 3 JULY 1322

The Moreton[hampstead] lord, Sir Hugh de Courtenay, is reminded by Prior Henry that he has once acquiesced in the exemption of the tenants of Doccombe from taxation; and he is asked to observe this exemption. He is reminded that William de Tracy gave this manor to the Canterbury Convent as an atonement for his part in the murder of Archbishop Becket.

TRANSLATION

'To the noble and his well-beloved in God, Sir Hugh de Courtenay, [from] Henry, Prior of the Church of Canterbury, greeting, and health of body and soul. Sire, if you remember we once upon a time showed to you at London the charter of William de Tracy, and the confirmation by King Henry, of a little estate which the said William gave to our Church and us at Dockumbe, in pure and perpetual alms, on account of the death of Saint Thomas. And, Sire, at that time, and we thank you for it, you sent and commanded by your letters to your officers in that country, that they should leave us and our tenants quit of all kinds of claims and demands. And therefore, very dear Lord and brother in God, again we pray you, that for the love and devotion which you bear to the glorious Saint Thomas, that you will be pleased to send and command by your letters to your officers in those parts, that they are

not to inflict hardship, nor trouble, nor injury, upon our said Church nor upon us, nor upon our poor tenants, contrary to the will of God and of the said holy body of Saint Thomas. And if you wish a second time to see our said charters, you shall see them willingly whenever you will, either at London or elsewhere in our parts. Adieu, etc. Given at Canterbury, the 3rd day of July, in the year of grace 1322.'