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LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY

02/05/1332

The Bailiff of Doccombe is requested to deal gently with the tenants as to their payments. He is instructed not to allow any free man to hold land in the manor but to assign it to all only to the villains of the Convent.

TRANSLATION

Letter sent to Henry of Lappeflode concerning our tenants of Doccombe

'Greeting and everlasting joy [to you]. You must well remember how, lately, you sent us a roll containing the names of our bondmen at Doccombe, and the taxation of the movable goods of each, which on the whole amount to a hundred shillings, a copy of which roll we send to you enclosed within these letters.

And because we were at first informed by you of fifty shillings, of which fifty we remitted ten shillings only (as we find by our memoranda), and have received the forty shillings by the hand of John Kyngwill, we desire that you respite the fifty shillings, which are in arrear, in consideration of their poverty, until Michaelmas next coming. This being so, because we have heard that one John Whitehead, who is a freeman, holds twenty acres of our land at a

certain rent and service, we desire that the said land may be transferred to John Kyngwill, or to some other bondman of ours, provided they make an acknowledgement for the admission, on such terms as you see is for the best; and that this land, nor any other of our bondland, be not given to any freeman.

And we pray you to certify us personally at the above-mentioned feast of all that you, on mature consideration, have done concerning these things; or, failing this, that you cause us to be certified by some go-between as early as you can. Adieu, &c.

Given at Canterbury May 2nd 1332.'