

CHARTER OF EXEMPTION FROM OFFICE OF SHERIFF, &c.

[READ DEC. 20, 1849.]

Sir William Calthorpe, of Burnham Thorp, in Norfolk, to whom the subjoined Charter was granted, was the only son of Sir Oliver Calthorpe and Isabel his wife, daughter of Sir Robert Bacon, by Isabel his wife, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir Bartholemew D'Avilers, of Arwarton, in Suffolk. Sir William married, first, Elinor, daughter of Sir John Mauteby, a member of a knightly family long seated at Maltby or Mawtby, in Norfolk. He married, secondly, Sybill, daughter and heiress of Sir Edmund de St. Omer, of Outwell, in Norfolk, and relict of Sir John Wythe, Lord of Hepworth, near Ixworth, in Suffolk, with Smallburgh and Worstede, in Norfolk. The different branches of the Calthorpe family, which subsequently became seated in Suffolk and other counties, originated from these two marriages. Sir William Calthorpe died Dec. 20, 1428, and was buried in the nave of Burnham Thorp Church, where a handsome monumental brass still exists to his memory.

Henricus dei gracia Rex Anglie & Francie & Dominus Hib'nie. Omnib' Balliuis & fidelib' suis ad quos p'sentes l're p'uen'int, salutem. Sciatis q'd de gracia n'ra sp'ali concessimus p' nobis & heredib' n'ris dil'co & fideli n'ro Will'o de Calthorp, chiualer, q'd ip'e ad totam vitam suam hanc h'eat lib'tatem videl't q'd non ponat' in assisis, iuratis, attinctis, inquisic'oib' seu recognic'oib' aliquib' licet tangant nos vel heredes n'ros. Et q'd non fiat Maior, Vicecomes, Escaetor, Coronator, Justiciarius pacis seu laborator'* aut alius Justiciarius quicumq', Collector, Assessor, Taxator, Sup'visor aut Contrarotulator decimar' quintar' decimar' seu alicuius alt'ius subsidij quote siue taxe cuiuscu'q', nobis concessa aut nobis vel heredib' n'ris concedende, Arrarator, Triator, siue ductor ho'i'm ad arma hobelarior' vel sagittarior', nec alius, officarius, balliuis, aut minister n'ri vel heredum n'ror' quicumq' cont' voluntatem suam. Et ideo vobis mandamus q'd ip'm Will'm cont' hanc concessionem n'ram non molestetis in aliquo seu g'uetis. In cuius rei testimoniu' has l'ras n'ras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ip'o apud Westm' vicesimo nono die Junij anno regni n'ri s'c'do. P' br'e de priuat' sigillo. BILLYNGFORD.

Indorsed. Ista carta allocat' & irrotulat' coram d'no Rege t'mino s'c'i Hillar' anno r'i Henrici quarti post conq' quarto. Rot'lo primo int' pl'ita Reg' &c.

* Justices of Labourers were Justices heretofore appointed to redress the forwardness of labouring-men, that would

either be idle or have unreasonable wages.—See *Cowell's Interpreter*.

[*Translation.*]

Henry, by the Grace of God King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland.

To all Bailiffs and other our faithful subjects to whom these present letters shall come, greeting.

Know ye, that we of our special grace have granted for us and our heirs to our beloved and faithful William de Calthorp, knight, that he may during his whole life have this liberty, viz., that he be not put upon any Assizes, Juries, Attaints, Inquisitions, or Recognitions whatsoever, although they regard us or our heirs. And that he be not Mayor, Sheriff, Escheator, Coroner, Justice of the Peace or of Labourers, or other Justice whatsoever, Collector, Assessor, Taxor, Supervisor or Controller of tenths, fifteenths, or any other subsidy, quota or tax whatsoever to us granted, or to be granted to us or our heirs, Arrayer, Trainer or Leader of men at arms, horsemen, or bowmen, nor other officer, bailiff, or servant of us or our heirs whatsoever, against his will. And, therefore, we command you that you do not molest, nor aggrieve, the said William, contrary to this our grant.

In testimony whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself at Westminster, the 29th day of June, in the second year of our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

BILLINGFORD.

Indorsed. This Charter is allowed and enrolled before our Lord the King, in the term of St. Hilary, in the fourth year of King Henry the fourth after the Conquest. In the First Roll among the Pleas of the Crown, &c.

Seal in white wax from the Bretigny matrix†, very imperfect.

AUGUSTINE PAGE.

† By the treaty of peace made at Bretigny in 1360, Edwd. III. renounced his pretensions to the crown of France; and a new great seal was made with the legend "Edwardus dei gracia Rex Anglie, d'nis Hibernie et Aquitannie." This seal is very handsome. Tabernacle-work divides the seal into three large compartments and four narrow compartments alternately; King in the centre on throne, with lions seated on each side of him in the narrow com-

partments; then shields of arms of France and England suspended in the lateral large compartments, and lastly two warriors or guards in the small outside compartments. After the treaty was set aside in 1369, the same design with "Rex Francie et Anglie," was used till the end of the reign of Henry VI. Henry IV. had a new and much richer seal made, and these were the only two great seals used by that King.—*Archæological Journal*, ii. 30.