[13] All who from the time of King Henry our grandfather up to our first coronation have been outlawed for a forest offence only shall be released from their outlawry without legal proceedings and shall find reliable pledges that they will not do wrong to us in the future in respect of our forest.

[16] No castellan or other person may hold forest pleas either of the vert or the venison but each forest-in-fee shall attach forest pleas of both the vert and the venison and present them to the verderers of the districts and when they have been enrolled and closed under the seals of the verderers they shall be presented to the head forester when he arrives in those parts to hold forest pleas and be determined before him.

[17] These liberties concerning the forests we have granted to everybody, saving to archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, knights, and other persons, ecclesiastical and secular, Templars and Hospitallers, the liberties and free customs, in forests and outside, in warrens and other things, which they had previously. All these aforesaid customs and liberties which we have granted to be observed in our kingdom as far as it pertains to us towards our men, all of our kingdom, clerks as well as laymen, shall observe as far as it pertains to them towards their men. Because we have not yet a seal we have had the present charter sealed with the seals of our venerable father the lord Guilo cardinal priest of St Martin, legate of the apostolic see, and William Marshal earl of Pembroke, ruler of us and of our kingdom. Witness the aforesaid and many others. Given by the hands of the aforesaid lord, the legate, and of William Marshal at St Paul's, London, on the sixth day of November in the second year of our reign.

25. Temporary instructions to justices in eyre because of prohibition of ordeal, 1219


The king to his beloved and faithful. . . justices itinerant in the counties of . . . and. . . . greeting. Because it was in doubt and not definitely settled before the beginning of your eyre with what trial those are to be judged who are accused of robbery, murder, arson, and similar crimes since the trial by fire and water has been prohibited by the Roman church, it has been provided by our council that, at present, in this eyre of yours, it shall be done thus with those accused of excesses of this kind: to wit, that those who are accused of the aforesaid greater crimes and of whom suspicion is held that they are guilty of that whereof they are accused, of whom also, in case they were permitted to adjure the realm, there would still be suspicion that afterwards they would do evil, they shall be kept in our prison and safely guarded, yet so that they do not incur danger of life or limb on our account.

But those who are accused of medium crimes and to whom would be assigned the ordeal by fire or water if it had not been prohibited, and of whom if they should

[16] Magna Carta, 1225

The further changes made in this reissue of the Charter compared with that of 1217 are shown in the same way as the differences between previous issues (cf. Nos 22 and 23 above). The modern clerical division of the text into clauses is again preserved, not because it is in this case the best possible, but because it is by now conventional and therefore necessary for ease of reference.

Henry by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy, Aquitaine, and count of Anjou, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, sheriffs, stewards, and servants and to all his bailiffs and faithful subjects who shall look at the present charter, greeting. Know that we, out of reverence for God and for the salvation of our soul and the souls of our ancestors and successors, for the exaltation of holy church and the reform of our realm, have of our own spontaneous goodwill given and granted to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons and all of our realm these liberties written below to be held in our kingdom of England for ever.

1 In the first place we have granted to God, and by this our present charter confirmed for us and our heirs for ever, that the English church shall be free and shall have all its rights undiminished and its liberties unimpaired. We have also granted to all free men of our kingdom, for ourselves and our heirs for ever, all the liberties written below to be held and by them and their heirs of us and our heirs for ever. [1217, c. 1]

2 If any of our earls or barons or others holding of us in chief by knight service dies, and at his death his heir be of full age and owe relief he shall have his inheritance on payment of the old relief, namely the heir or heirs of an earl £100 for a whole earl's barony, the heir or heirs of a baron £100 for a whole barony, the heir or heirs of a knight 100, at most, for a whole knight's fee; and he who owes less shall give less according to the ancient usage of fiefs. [1217, c. 2]

3 If, however, the heir of any such be under age, his lord shall not have wardship of