

COVENANT MADE BETWEEN KING JOHN AND
THE BARONS,IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXECUTION OF THE MAGNA
CHARTA.

THIS is the Covenant made between our Lord John of England on the one part, and Robert Fitzwalter, elected Marshal of God and of the Holy Church of England, and Richard Earl of Clare, Geoffrey Earl of Essex and Gloucester, Roger Bigod Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, Saher Earl of Winchester, Robert Earl of Oxford, Henry Earl of Hereford, and the Barons underwritten: That is to say, William Marshall the younger, Eustace de Vescy, William de Mowbray, John Fitz Robert, Roger de Mont-Begun, William de Lanvalay, and other Earls and Barons, and Freemen of the whole Kingdom on the other part: Namely, That they the Earls and Barons and others before written, shall hold the custody of the City of London in bail from our Lord the King, saving that they shall clearly render all the debts and revenues within the same, to our Lord the King, until the term of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the seventeenth year of his reign.

And the Lord of Canterbury shall hold in like

manner of bail from our Lord the King, the custody of the Tower of London, to the aforesaid term, saving to the City of London, its liberties and free customs, and taking his oath in the keeping of the said Tower, that our Lord the King shall in the meanwhile not place a guard nor other forces in the aforesaid City, nor in the Tower of London.

And that also within the aforesaid term the oaths of the twenty-five Barons be tendered throughout all England, as it is contained in the Charter granted concerning the liberties and security of the kingdom; or to the attorneys of the twenty-five Barons as it is contained in the letters granted concerning the election of twelve knights for abolishing evil customs of the forests and others. And, moreover, within the said term, all the other demands which the Earls, Barons, and other freemen do ask of our Lord the King which he himself has declared to be granted to them, or which by the twenty-five Barons, or by the greater part of them, shall be judged proper to be granted, are to be given, according to the tenor of the said Charter. And if these things shall be done, or if our Lord the King, on his part shall agree to do them, within the term limited, then the City and Tower of

London shall at the same term be delivered up to our Lord the King, saving always to the aforesaid City, its liberties and free customs as it is before written. And if these things shall not be done, and if our Lord the King shall not agree to do them within the period aforesaid, the Barons shall hold the aforesaid City and the Lord Archbishop the Tower of London, until the aforesaid deeds shall be completed. And in the meanwhile all of both parts shall recover the castles, lands, and towns which have been taken in the beginning of the war that has arisen between our Lord the King and the Barons.