

THE FIRST GREAT CHARTER OF KING EDWARD I.

GRANTED OCTOBER 12, 1297.

(This charter is an inspeimus of the celebrated one granted by King Henry III. in the ninth year of his reign. It is word for word a copy of Henry's third charter just referred to, and therefore it is not necessary to set it out in full by printing what is in reality a duplicate. The first few lines of this charter, which explain what it is, I set forth, and also the conclusion, showing in the words used, the beginning and the ending, which is the only difference. This charter was granted on behalf of King Edward I. by his son Prince Edward, and a copy sent to King Edward at Ghent, who approved it there.)

EDWARD, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Aquitaine,
To all to whom these present letters shall come,—Greeting. We have examined the Great Charter of the Lord Henry, late King of England, our father, containing the Liberties of England in these words:—

(Here is inserted the Third Great Charter of King Henry III., dated February 11, 1224, in complete detail, word for word, without any change whatever, after which it concludes as follows:)

We, ratifying and approving these gifts and grants aforesaid, confirm and make strong all the same for us and our heirs perpetually, and by

tenor of these presents do renew the same: willing and granting for us and our heirs, that the Charter aforesaid in all and singular it's articles forever, shall be stedfastly and inviolably observed; and even although any article in the same Charter contained, yet hitherto hath peradventure not been kept. In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters Patents to be made. Witness, Edward our son, at Westminster, the Twelfth day of October, in the twenty-eighth year of our reign.