

Plea by Sir Thomas de la Roche to the king to get his men released from Willian de la Valence's prison

[French]

Thomas de la Roche shows to our lord the king and his council concerning the wrongs and damages being done to him by Sir William de Valence and his bailiffs, and how at the parliament of Michaelmas last past the aforesaid Thomas *complained about the imprisonments done to him*, for which he had a writ by order of our lord the king and his council.

The aforesaid Thomas took the letter of Sir William de Valence to his steward of West Wales, and when he delivered the letter to him, he [the steward] demanded that mainpernors come to the county [court] of the lord of Pembroke ready to receive decision and judgement. And this was done. But when the aforesaid Thomas came into full county [court], the aforesaid steward questioned the franchise which the aforesaid Thomas claimed to have pertaining to his free tenement, which is not held of him. And upon the charge of the aforesaid steward and his response, the aforesaid Thomas demanded decision and judgement. And he did not have this, and would have been arrested if he had not found twelve mainpernors to come to the next county [court] to answer to the charge. To which county [court] the aforesaid Thomas came and gave his reply to the steward's charge, and demanded a decision and judgement, but he was not able to have that, but stayed under mainprise from county [court] to county [court], and never had decision or judgement from the county [court], nor had deliverance by the king's command, or deliverance by any other means. Wherefore, the aforesaid Thomas prays to our lord the king, if it pleases him, and to his council, that he may wish to send a justice, at the charge of the aforesaid Thomas for giving it to him, so that enquiry may be made into these wrongs, and whether the aforesaid franchise is the right of the aforesaid Thomas or Sir William de Valence, for which franchise he has been attached and imprisoned.

In addition, the aforesaid steward has taken nine of the men of the aforesaid Thomas, and holds them in prison, that they could not have a gage or a pledge, because they came to an inquest at the command of the aforesaid Thomas. Whereupon he prays to our lord the king, if it pleases him, and to his council that he may ensure deliverance of the men aforesaid, so that it should be right.

[on dorse, Latin] He shall have a writ in Chancery.