

# The Provisions

The official newsletter of  
Simon de Montfort 2014

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Under pressure from Henry and the papal legate, Louis finally broke his silence and set the date of 8 August 1264 for a peace conference in Boulogne. The situation in the marches forced the Montfortians to ask for a delay, but the legate, furious at being kept out of England, demanded they admit him by the end of the month, restore Henry to power, and renounce their allegiance to the Provisions, or face excommunication. He also mentioned in passing that the Mise of Lewes had never even been considered by the French court, nor would it ever be. It was perhaps in response to this curt dismissal that the 'Peace of Canterbury' was drawn up on 15 August and sent to Louis for his approval. It reiterated that the Ordinance was now the law of the land, and would remain so as long as the terms of the Mise remained unfulfilled, even if Henry died in the meantime. As might be expected, Louis was contemptuous of their intention to impose a frame of government that abolished absolute kingship. 'I would rather break clods behind a plow,' said the king who washed the feet of paupers, 'than subject myself to this sort of rule.'



Louis would rather plow  
than be answerable for  
his actions



The website of the UK Parliament offers [Stories from Parliament](#), a learning resource meant for schoolchildren and therefore done in comics-book style presentation. Fair enough, but did they have to go and make Simon look like the ogre below? And what's the point of calling Gilbert 'the Red' but giving him dark, swarthy features as well? It was probably because he had a nickname (Lionheart, Black Prince, it's a surefire way to be remembered) that Clare was even chosen to portray Montfort's trusted lieutenant in this short film. The man who denounced Simon as a foreigner out to promote his family's interests declares to the other barons, 'He stands up for England!' Henry is made to look like a slouching drunk when the bishop of Chichester, seen here as an uninspired hunchback, asks, 'So what shall I tell Montfort?' Henry growls, 'Tell him (*pregnant pause*) to prepare to die.'

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