

= Dictum of Kenilworth =

The Dictum of Kenilworth , issued 31 October 1266 , was a pronouncement designed to reconcile the rebels of the Barons ' War with the royal government of England . After the baronial victory at the Battle of Lewes in 1264 , Simon de Montfort took control of royal government , but at the Battle of Evesham the next year Montfort was killed , and King Henry III restored to power . A group of rebels held out in the stronghold of Kenilworth Castle , however , and their resistance proved hard to crush .

A siege of the castle was started , but through papal intervention King Henry later entered on a more conciliatory path . A commission was appointed to draw up an arrangement that would be acceptable to both sides . The resulting Dictum of Kenilworth offered the rebels the right to buy back forfeited estates , at prices depending on their level of involvement in the rebellion . After initial resistance , the terms were eventually accepted . By the summer of 1267 , the country was pacified , and this spirit of reconciliation would last until the 1290s . The Dictum of Kenilworth was later incorporated into the Statute of Marlborough .

= = Background = =

At the Battle of Lewes in 1264 , the rebellious barons , led by Simon de Montfort , had defeated the royal army and taken King Henry III captive . For the next year , the reins of government were in Montfort 's hands , but his support soon began to crumble . On 4 August 1265 Montfort faced an army led by Prince Edward (the later King Edward I) and the powerful earl of Gloucester , who had recently defected to the royalist side , at the Battle of Evesham . The battle resulted in a complete royal victory ; Montfort was killed , and King Henry III was restored to full power .

Part of the rebellious forces held out , however , and their stronghold was the virtually impregnable Kenilworth Castle . In the summer of 1266 , a siege of the castle was initiated , but the effort proved futile . There were rumours that Montfort 's son Simon was planning an invasion of England from Normandy , and this was the hope that the rebels hung on to . It was in this situation that the papal legate Ottobuono Fieschi exerted his influence , to make the king pursue a more conciliatory policy . In August , the king summoned a parliament at Kenilworth , where the siege was ongoing . He commissioned a number of earls , barons and bishops to draft a treaty of reconciliation .

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The commission was created by parliament appointing three bishops and three barons , who then selected one more bishop , two earls , and three more barons . The final committee consisted of the bishops of Exeter , Bath and Wells , Worcester and St. David 's , the earls of Gloucester and Hereford , and six barons . This committee was given until All Saints Day (1 November) to come up with provisions for a settlement . The result , known as the Dictum of Kenilworth , was made public on 31 October 1266 .

The primary point of the Dictum was the re @-@ establishment of royal authority . The Provisions of Oxford , that had been forced on the king , were repudiated , and it was made clear that the appointment of ministers was entirely a royal prerogative . King Henry in turn reconfirmed Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest . Measures were taken to renounce the increasing veneration of the fallen Simon de Montfort , whom some were already starting to consider a martyr and a possible saint .

The rebels had previously been completely disinherited , and their land taken into the king 's hands . The Dictum instead extended a pardon , and restored land to their previous owners , contingent on payment of certain penalties that were proportional to the level of involvement in the rebellion . It was traditional to value land at ten times its annual yield , and most of the rebels were subsequently fined at half of this amount : five times the annual yield of their lands .

Robert Ferrers , Earl of Derby , was singled out in particular for his central involvement in the rebellion , and for him the multiple was seven rather than five . The same was the case for Henry de

Hastings , who was the commander of Kenilworth Castle . Those who had not taken part in the fighting themselves , but had incited others to rise up against the king , were fined at two year 's value , while those who had been compelled to fight , or played only a minor part , had to pay one year 's value of their land . The proceedings from the fines were awarded to royal supporters , some of whom had already been awarded parts of the rebels ' land , and now had to give it back .

= = Aftermath = =

Hostilities did not end with the publication of the Dictum . The garrison at Kenilworth refused to accept the terms given , and held out until 14 December , when deprivation forced them to surrender . In April 1267 , the earl of Gloucester ? who had been central both to the royal victory at Evesham and to the drafting of the Dictum ? turned against the king . He occupied the city of London , and set himself up as the champion of the disinherited . After negotiations involving both Edward and Ottobuono , Gloucester relented , and by June a settlement was reached . Gloucester had forced a change to the conditions of the Dictum , whereby the disinherited were allowed to recover their lands before they had paid their fines rather than after ; an arrangement that made repayment much easier . In the summer of that year , Prince Edward moved at the Isle of Ely , where the last of the rebels still held out , and forced them into submission under terms favourable to the rebels .

In November 1267 , parliament met at Marlborough . Here an important provision was issued that would become known to history as the Statute of Marlborough . This statute incorporated the clauses of the Dictum of Kenilworth that dealt with the restoration of royal power , and reconciliation between the loyalists and the rebels . The Statute of Marlborough became a basis for royal government , and the relationship between the king and his subjects , and as such the Dictum lived on in English constitutional history .

The spirit of peace and reconciliation established by the Dictum of Kenilworth lasted for the remainder of Henry III 's reign and into the 1290s . In 1270 , Prince Edward left the country to go on crusade in the Holy Land . When his father died in 1272 , Edward felt in a safe enough position to wait until 1274 before returning home to claim the throne .