Fulbert of Chartres: setting forth the obligations between vassal and lord before 9 June 1021

To the glorious duke of Aquitaine, William, from Bishop Fulbert, with the support of his prayers.

Since you have asked me to write a few words concerning the oath of fidelity, I have briefly set down the following for you based on what I have read. He who swears fidelity to his lord should always keep these six terms in mind: safe and sound, secure, honest, useful, easy, possible. Safe and sound, that is, not to cause his lord any harm as to his body. Secure, that is, not to
Fulbert to Count Stephen of Troyes\footnote{Cf. Prosper, Liber sententiarum, c. lxxvi (ed. Gastaldo, CCL lxvii, 277).} before 9 June 1021

To the noble Count S\(\text{tephano)}\ from F\(\text{ulbert)}\, by grace of God bishop of Chartres, with the faithful service of his prayers.

If in electing a bishop for your city you were proceeding in accordance with the law, you would have our humble support so far as is just and proper. But now it is rumoured both in the court and outside that the clerk whom you wish to elect has lured your favour with the whistling of promises and the bird-like of money. These rumours also have it that he has seized control of the bishop’s palace and possessions though the king has not ordered it and the bishops of the province have not given their consent.