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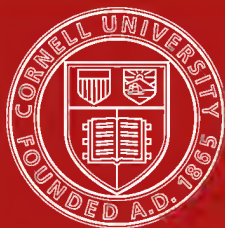
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ANTIQUITIES OF SHROPSHIRE.

*ONLY 300 COPIES PRINTED.*



ANTIQUITIES  
OF  
SHROPSHIRE.

BY  
THE REV. R. W. EYTON,  
RECTOR OF RYTON.

————— Non omnia grandior ætas  
Quæ fugiamus habet.

VOL. I.

LONDON:  
JOHN RUSSELL SMITH, 36, SOHO SQUARE.  
B. L. BEDDOW, SHIFFNAL, SALOP.

MDCCLIV.

A  
RBS



TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

**ROWLAND, VISCOUNT HILL,**

BARON HILL OF ALMAREZ, OF HAWKSTONE, AND OF HARDWICKE,

LORD LIEUTENANT AND CUSTOS ROTULORUM

OF THE

**County of Salop,**

AS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A NAME,

WHICH, WHILE LONG AND INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH

**Shropshire and its History,**

HAS BEEN NO LESS IDENTIFIED WITH PATRIOTIC PRINCIPLES AND NOBLE DEEDS,

**THIS WORK,**

WHICH HE WAS THE FIRST TO ENCOURAGE, IS, WITH HIS LORDSHIP'S PERMISSION,

INSCRIBED,

BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

**THE AUTHOR.**



# LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

## VOL. I.

1. Between pp. 16 and 17. MAP OF PART OF SHROPSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE,  
AND WARWICKSHIRE.
2. To face page 42. CHANCEL DOOR, South Side, Morville. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
3. — — — PILLAR and CAPITAL, Morville. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
4. — — — CHANCEL ARCH, Morville. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
5. — — — FONT, Morville. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
6. To face page 66. BILLINGSLEY CHURCH. F. S. A. *del.*
7. To face page 116. CHANCEL, Quatford. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
8. — — — FONT, Quatford. Rev. J. Brooke, *del.*
9. — — — INCISED SLABS, Quatford. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
10. To face page 146. UPTON CRESSETT CHURCH. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
11. — — — FONT, Upton Cressett. Rev. J. L. Petit, *del.*
12. — — — DOOR-WAY, Upton Cressett. F. S. A. *del.*
13. To face page 208. HEAD OF DOOR-WAY, Aston Eyre. F. S. A. *del.*



# Antiquities of Shropshire.

BY

THE REV. R. W. EYTON,

*Rector of Ryton, Salop.*

VOL. I.

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Quæ fugiamus habet.

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## P R E F A C E.

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IN deciding on a plan for the present work, the author has felt his greatest difficulty to exist in producing that combination<sup>1</sup> which, while it need not offend the mere antiquary, may also be attractive and useful to those local readers, who feel a pride or an interest in the County to which they belong.

Large in extent,<sup>2</sup> important in position, rich in fertility and productions, beautiful and varied in scenery, Shropshire has ever been inhabited by a race of men characteristic for uniformity of principle and energy of action.

Great in its antecedents, and not unfortunate in its present, it may be no bad omen of its future, that those who have chief concern in its welfare be the slowest of all men to adopt any theory which identifies patriotism with a contempt of the past. Much does the antiquary congratulate himself in having chosen a field of research which promises such unusual advantages of encouragement and sympathy.

The present series of volumes on Shropshire Antiquities will relate mainly to the interval which elapsed between the Norman Conquest and the death of Henry III.

<sup>1</sup> The documents which furnish nearly all the knowledge we possess of the earlier Anglo-Norman period are written in base Latin: the use of contracted forms is also general, though the forms themselves are various, no two scribes employing exactly the same. Translations more or less literal have therefore been given in the text, whilst the original has been added in a note, wherever its meaning was doubtful

or unexpressible in another language. In the latter case all contractions have been resolved.

<sup>2</sup> Shropshire, with the exception of Wiltshire, is the largest of the inland counties of Great Britain. Its limits will have sometime been greatly in excess of that county. Its ancient position, on a hostile frontier, is that more particularly alluded to in the text.

That period involved two centuries of years, a succession of eight Kings, and the lives of six generations of Princes of the Norman dynasty.

The contemporary *Chronicles* are not numerous, but wherever their aid has been available for the present work, they have been consulted. Their testimony is however seldom of local interest, as none of them, except Ordericus, had any connexion with Shropshire, and his was chiefly that of birth.

As regards national records, a short account of those which have reference to the period must be given, if only in explanation of the more summary mode of citing them which will be adopted in the sequel.

*Domesday Book*, or at least its general character, is known to all. This great territorial record was compiled by itinerant commissioners, in the years 1085-6, and the result of their labours returned into the King's Court at Winchester, in the Easter of the latter year. Its evidence in regard to Shropshire is most satisfactory, whether we apply such external tests as remain to us, or look to the better guarantee of internal consistency. The printed edition is a very creditable *fac-simile* of the original, at least as far as this county is concerned.

The national record, which comes next, both in point of date and importance, is the series of *Pipe Rolls*. The earliest of these Rolls is of the 31st year of Henry I (A.D. 1130), but unfortunately any portion thereof relating to Shropshire is either lost or never existed. The next Roll belonged to the 1st year of Henry II, but it is lost, and its former existence is only known by its having been epitomized by a later officer<sup>3</sup> of the Exchequer. The Pipe Rolls, from the 2d year of Henry II, to the end of the period with which we are concerned, still contain all that was ever entered<sup>4</sup> on them relative to Shrop-

<sup>3</sup> Alexander de Swereford—who, at the time he made this abstract, viz. A.D. 1230, was Archdeacon of Salop (Lichfield diocese).

<sup>4</sup> It is a very usual subject of regret amongst antiquaries, that the Pipe Roll of

1 Henry III is lost from the series; such regret might be extended to the Roll of 18 John as well as to the Roll of the latter half of King John's 17th regnal year; though the absence of these seems not to have been observed. It is probable how-

shire. They are the accounts of the sheriffs of counties, of that revenue for which each was annually responsible at the King's Exchequer, and they include statements of the expenses of those officers in the Royal service.

The Record, commonly called the *Liber Niger*, or Black Book of the Exchequer, is mainly the result of an order made in the year 1165, or beginning of 1166, on every tenant in capite of the Crown, to return a list before the first Sunday of Lent (March 17th, 1166), of all who held under him by knight's service, stating whether such tenure was of old or of new feoffment, that is, whether it had existed from the days of Henry I, or had arisen since. Subject to this order, there was a return made and enrolled of the following Shropshire baronies, viz.: that of Fitz-Alan, Castle Holgate, Clun, and Lacy, and of some tenures of less extent; but we miss from the record any statement of the Domesday Baronies of Corbet, Mortimer, Say of Richard's Castle,<sup>5</sup> and several other lesser, but then existent fiefs. Hearne's printed transcript of this document is unusually faithful as regards Shropshire, but several entries are distinguished in the original, by being written in a different hand and paler ink than the general matter. They were in fact supplementary, but Hearne's transcript takes no notice of this important distinction.

The *Rotuli Literarum Patentium*, or Patent Rolls, are copies

ever, that, owing to the disturbed state of the kingdom at the time, the business of the Exchequer was totally suspended, and consequently that these Rolls never existed. The Shropshire Pipe Rolls of the preceding and subsequent years supply some evidence of this fact which will be stated hereafter. Here it is sufficient to point out the general value of these records as tests of historical accuracy, for the national vanity of our Chroniclers has led them to understate the disorganization which prevailed at the period.

<sup>5</sup> Osborn Fitz-Hugh, the then Baron of Richard's Castle, made a return; but it was informal, and so was sent back to be

amended. William de Beauchamp, who had charge to see to its correction, was Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcester-shire; yet the note of this transaction is erroneously given in the '*Liber Niger*,' under Northamptonshire. Osborn Fitz-Hugh's amended return nowhere appears. The statement as to this barony, which is inserted under Herefordshire, is of the supplementary character noticed in the text. Hearne's reading thereof is, however, so incorrect as to leave it unintelligible. (*See* Hearne's *Liber Niger*, vol. i, pp. 159, 217.) The true reading is reserved for its proper place.

of such writs of the Crown as were engrossed on open sheets of parchment, and had the seal of the Sovereign pendent at the bottom. These writs have usually a public address or direction as to their execution, though they may treat of the concerns of an individual. They comprise documents on every variety of subject,—prerogative, revenue, judicature, treaties, safe-conduct, liberties, offices, wardships, ecclesiastical dignities, pardons, liveries, licences, creations of nobility, &c. They exist no earlier than for the third regnal year of King John (commencing May 3d, 1201), and from that time downwards, but not in quite an uninterrupted succession.

The *Rotuli Literarum Clausarum*, or Close Rolls, were writs of the Crown, which were folded up, sealed on the outside, and usually addressed to individuals. Their subject was as diversified as that of the Patent Rolls. They exist from the sixth year of John (June 1204), but not continuously.

The *Rotuli Chartarum* are the contemporaneous registers of Royal Grants of lands, dignities, liberties, and privileges. They commence with the first year of King John (A. D. 1199), and, with the exception of a few years, are preserved for the whole period with which we are concerned.

The *Oblata* and *Fine Rolls* constitute one series, commencing at the same period as the last. They are records of sums of money offered to and accepted by the Crown, when a subject had to negotiate any favour or feudal right.

The *Placita* and *Assize Rolls* are records of proceedings in the Courts of Law. No arrangement of these Rolls, founded on a distinct principle, has yet been made, and it is not easy to devise a plan for such arrangement. In general they are badly and inaccurately written, and ill preserved. More than half also are lost. Those which remain are, nevertheless, of the greatest importance, as containing information which no other source can supply. They contain minutes of trials both civil and criminal; at Westminster, and in the provinces; before the King himself, his council, and his justiciars. The present Deputy Keeper of the Rolls, edited for the Record

Commission all that was supposed to remain of them, for the reign of Richard I, and the first year of King John, but a few undated Rolls escaped observation, owing probably to the faulty arrangement which is not yet rectified. Two of these undated, and therefore unprinted, Rolls contain however internal proof of date, and of being earlier than any others. Nothing whatever remains of this kind which can be attributed to an older date than the reign of Richard I.

The *Pedes Finium*, or *Final Concords*, are records of the terms on which any real or fictitious suit at law was compounded between the litigants. These documents are supposed to have been originally in triplicate. A copy was allotted to each of the according parties, whilst the third was retained as a record by the Crown. Their preservation is extremely accidental, but a few remain of the time of Henry II. Copies of many are preserved in Monastic chartularies, and other depositories, the originals of which are no longer existent in the proper custody.

The *Escheat Rolls*, otherwise called *Inquisitiones post mortem*, are chiefly records of the writs addressed by the Crown to the proper officer, to summon a jury when the death of any tenant *in capite* involved a right of wardship, or marriage, or a fine by such tenant's successor for livery. The returns of these juries also form part of the Record, and usually contain statements as to the extent and value of the deceased's property, its tenure, and the name and age of his heir. In some cases the writ is lost,<sup>6</sup> whilst the return is extant, and *vice versâ*. But these Rolls only commence in the reign of Henry III, and even then are not well preserved. The Inquisitions of this and the succeeding reign frequently involve matters which are not comprehended in the above description, such as perambulations of forests and inquests of the class afterwards entitled *ad quod damnnum*.

<sup>6</sup> The printed Calendar of these documents notices the absence of some which an earlier index had registered as in the proper custody. One such I have myself

found in the British Museum. It is the Inquisition of 31 H. 3, No. 42, and is to be found in Harl. Chart. 45. a. 33.

By *Chartæ Antiquæ* are generally understood, those copies of certain ancient charters which are enrolled at the Tower. These are not all royal charters. Similar documents existent at the British Museum and elsewhere, and to which the same title would be equally applicable, shall be described when quoted hereafter, by the place of their custody.

The *Red Book of the Exchequer* (*Liber Ruber Scaccariv*), a volume of great interest and most varied contents, was compiled previous to the year 1246. When quoted in this work, it will be so as a collection of scutage-rolls, of lists of knights' fees and serjeantries, and of abstracts of Pipe Rolls.

The *Testa de Nevill* is also a compilation of similar matters. As regards Shropshire it contains lists of tenures by serjeantry, of other tenures *in capite*, of the knights' fees constituting particular baronies, also notices<sup>7</sup> of churches, wardships or marriages of the King's gift, and scutages. These documents are of the reigns of John and Henry III.

The *Hundred Rolls* for Shropshire are of two kinds, and relate to two periods, viz., the years 1255 and 1274. The former is chiefly a territorial record, specifying the tenure and extent of each manor in a given Hundred,<sup>8</sup> its privileges and liabilities as ascertained by Jury. The latter is an inquisition by similar Juries of Hundreds as to frauds on the Crown Revenue, or oppressions of the people by public officers.

The *Placita de quo warranto* were legal proceedings instituted by the Crown with reference to frauds thus or otherwise ascertained or suspected. A series of such trials was held in Shropshire in time of Edward I.

The *Forest Rolls*, preserved at the Chapter-House, Westminster, contain pleas and proceedings before the Justices of the King's Forests in their respective circuits. Mixed with

<sup>7</sup> A part of these transcripts is clearly taken from Assize Rolls. Thus we have a fragment of a Shropshire Assize Roll of date A.D. 1227, and the original of which is lost.

<sup>8</sup> Boroughs and liberties, where extra-

hundredal, are also reported of. The Shropshire hundred of Brimstree is unnoticed in each of these Surveys, but the rolls of many other counties are far more incomplete than that of Shropshire.

them are perambulations of forests, where a boundary was in question, and documents relating to other questions of Royal demesne. A very early forest roll for Shropshire is preserved. It is undated, but belongs to the year 1180<sup>9</sup> or 26 Hen. II, and is in perfect condition.

The *originalia Rolls* seem to be a series of memoranda of matters connected with the constant or casual revenue of the Crown. They were preserved in the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer's Office, as belonging to that department of the Exchequer called the Exchequer of Account. They commence with the 11th year of Henry III (A.D. 1226).

A book commonly called *Kirby's Quest*,<sup>10</sup> and of which the original and constituent documents are supposed to be lost, seems to contain a series of extracts from the Escheat Rolls; but its more valuable and distinctive feature is a statement of tenures in different Counties and Hundreds, as they existed in time of Edward I. The survey of Shropshire is very full, and stands a most valuable continuation of the series formed by *Domesday*, the *Liber Niger*, the *Testa de Nevill*, and the *Hundred Rolls*.

In further continuation of this series there was a record of the time of Edward II, commonly called the *Nomina villarum*. The contents of this are similarly to be gathered only from transcripts, and those very inaccurate.

A few minor records remain to be noticed. The *Rotuli de*

<sup>9</sup> This date is proved in a curious but most satisfactory way. At the foot of the Roll, the sum of amercements levied on this occasion is stated as £58 4s. 6d., and an additional sum of £55 is entered as accruing from the sale of lead, the produce of the King's mines at Shelve. In his account for the fiscal year ending Michaelmas, 1180, Hugh Pantulf, then Sheriff of Shropshire, acknowledges each of these sums as due to the Crown, and he discharges the debt in subsequent years. The Sheriff's account further supplies the name of the justice of the forest who held these pleas, and which is not

given on the Roll itself. It was Thomas Fitz-Bernard. (Mag. Rot. Pip. 26 Hen. II, Salopeser.)

<sup>10</sup> John de Kirby, whose name is associated with these inquests, was treasurer to King Edward I at the time they were taken. He presided himself over the inquests in Devonshire, but the justiciars who visited Shropshire and Staffordshire were Richard de Stanford, Clerk, and his fellows. I have two original parchment rolls of tenures nearly contemporary but not identical with *Kirby's Quest*. They extend only to the Hundreds of Bradford and Pimhill.

*dominabus et pueris et puellis* are a record of marriages and wardships of the King's gift as ascertained in certain counties by Itinerant Justices in the year 1185 (31 Hen. II). Shropshire was not thus visited, but we obtain information as to certain persons connected with the County, and which, as relating to so remote a period, it would be vain to expect elsewhere.

The *Liberate Rolls* are entries of the different precepts which were in fact the warrants of the fiscal Officers of the Crown in their payment of pensions, stipends, and other state expenses, constant or occasional. They remain of the 2d, 3d, and 5th years of John, when their matter becomes involved in the *Close Rolls*, and they are discontinued. They recommence in the tenth year of Henry III, and continue till the reign of Henry VI.

The *Miscæ Rolls* are accounts of the daily expenses of the King's Court. Only two exist, those of the 11th and 14th years of John.

The *Præstita Rolls* were records of advances out of the Royal Treasury for a specific purpose, or on loan. They exist only for five years of John, viz.: the 7th, 12th, 14th, 15th, and 16th years of his reign.

With regard to ecclesiastical matters and possessions, there are no national records of the early date contemplated in this work, at least none of an exclusively ecclesiastical character. But whereas documents of a later period have, where places rather than persons are concerned, a wide retrospective significance, I shall frequently quote certain national records, which treat of the temporal and spiritual possessions of the Church. The principal of these will be three :—

1st, *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, a survey and valuation taken between A.D. 1288 and 1292, on occasion of Pope Nicholas IV having granted in the former year, to King Edward I, the tenths of all ecclesiastical income in England for six years to come. These annual tenths were usually payable to the See of Rome, though in a previous instance they had been granted,



for three years, to King Henry III. The object for which Edward I was to employ them was a Crusade. His temporary interest in the matter occasioned a Royal Commission, which surveyed the Church's possessions throughout the realm; and this valuation governed all ecclesiastical taxes, whether payable to King or Pope, till the reign of Henry VIII. It was in fact the *Domesday* of the Church, and from it we not unfrequently get the earliest notice of our parochial existence and relations.—

2dly. The Record printed under the title *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, or Inquests of the Ninths, purporting to be a valuation taken A.D. 1341, through every parish in the kingdom, of the ninth of certain stock in such parish. This tax was the country contingent of a general subsidy granted by parliament in support of the wars of King Edward III. The ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, in a parish, was expected to equal the ecclesiastical valuation of glebe, and tithes in general; so that Pope Nicholas' *taxation* was in effect the basis of the calculation: but this assessment was made in each case by a jury of parishioners, and where their return differed from the *taxation*, they stated the local or temporary causes which produced the discrepancy. Hence the Record embodies a variety of local and statistical information, quite accidental to a fiscal document.—

3dly. The *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, or great Ecclesiastical Valuation of Henry VIII, which had its origin in this way. When the King had succeeded in depriving the Papal See of all revenue derivable from his realm of England, his next care was to secure to himself, in some form or other, the income thus disengaged.

The Parliament which met on 3d Nov., 26 Henry VIII (A.D. 1534), granted to the Crown the annual tenth of all ecclesiastical income whatsoever. The institution thereupon of a Royal Commission, or Commissions, resulted in the general valuation before us. This Record is printed in six folio volumes, and Mr. Hunter's Introduction, embodied in the sixth volume, is an able account of many further particulars.

The whole or parts of other Records, above described, have been printed, chiefly by order of the late Record Commission, whose powers seem to have been withdrawn precisely at the time when they were in most efficient exercise. When a document is quoted in the following pages, which has been thus well edited, reference will often be made to the page of the printed book, rather than to the original *folio* or *membrane*.

I cannot dismiss this notice of the public Records of the kingdom, which, according to the liberal system adopted by the present Master of the Rolls, I have had the privilege of consulting or transcribing free of expense, without expressing my sense of the ready and accommodating spirit with which the Officers of each department have facilitated my researches. Something of this is, I understand, the result of general directions; but I speak of a uniform civility and readiness to assist, which is not required, and could not be enforced by any system of rules.

Passing now from national Records to those of a more local character, the first which have to be mentioned are the *Diocesan Registers*. These, unfortunately, do not much affect the period with which we are chiefly concerned. The *Lichfield Registers* commence with that of Bishop Walter de Langton, who was consecrated 22d Dec., 1296: the *Hereford Registers*, with that of Bishop Thomas de Cantilupe, consecrated 8th Sept., 1275.

The former I have had every facility for consulting, through the united kindness of the Bishop, the Registrar, and Deputy-Registrar of the Diocese. I had already extracted the Shropshire entries of the three earlier<sup>11</sup> Registers when my progress

<sup>11</sup> The Harleian MSS. 3868 and 4799, now in the British Museum, and some time in possession of Peter le Neve, were undoubtedly, at a still earlier period, part of the Diocesan Registers of Lichfield. They contain documents of extreme antiquity and interest. They are not, like the later Registers, continuous records of the Diocesan transactions, but appear rather to be enrolments of certain documents exhi-

bited at Episcopal visitations, in proof of various rights and titles to Church property. Duplicates of many entries are to be found in Monastic Chartularies, but where the latter are lost or inaccessible, the information supplied by these Registers is invaluable.

Further, on fly-leaves or other (originally) vacant spaces of the first Lichfield Registers have been transcribed a few

was stopped, not immediately, because the Registers refer to a period later than that in hand, but from finding that the work had been already done by another. All extracts necessary to a County History, and which the *Registers* either of Lichfield or Hereford could supply, were taken by the late Rev. J. B. Blakeway, and may be found among his MSS. in the Bodleian Library.

Of *Monastic Chartularies*, there are four only known to be in existence, which relate to the greater religious houses of Shropshire. They are of Shrewsbury, Haughmond, and Lilleshall Abbeys, and of Wombridge Priory. The Shrewsbury and Wombridge Chartularies are in the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart., of Middle Hill, Worcestershire, whose liberality in allowing access to his valuable collections is too well known to need mention here. For my knowledge of the contents of these two Chartularies I am however indebted to Mr. George Morris, of Shrewsbury, whose extracts from them, while in the hands of a former owner, have been obligingly lent me, and are amply sufficient for my present purpose.

The *Haughmond Chartulary*, in possession of Andrew William Corbet, of Sundorn, Esq., is open to my inspection, through permission of its owner; but Mr. Morris's extracts have similarly been available to me, and contain all that I can at present wish to derive from this source. There is a fragment of a different Chartulary of Haughmond in the British Museum, which, with many other documents there, I have either copied or carefully consulted.

To the *Lilleshall Chartulary* and other documents in possession of his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, I have also leave of access; but the references, which I am at present enabled to make to the former, are by means of extracts taken long since, and to be found in the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, and the Diocesan Registers.

charters of much earlier date than the general contents of the series. This probably was by procurement of parties interested in the preservation of these older	documents, or possibly by the spontaneous diligence of some clerk anxious to rescue the remains of an earlier and perishing Record.
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The *Chartularies* of *Wenlock Priory*, and of *Buildwas Abbey*, are lost, or, at least, have not been heard of in this country since the dissolution. Of the former, a few items may be gathered from the *Monasticon* and other quarters. The loss of the latter may be much more satisfactorily supplied from various sources. It is not impossible that a connected Chartulary of either house may yet be found in some foreign depository. Some inquiries in that direction have however been hitherto unsuccessful.

For assistance in the loan of private deeds and documents, I must leave all detailed acknowledgment to the sequel, and I have reason to anticipate considerable aid of this kind from several sources. Already I have received valuable contributions from the Rev. J. Brooke, of Haughton; R. H. Cheney, Esq., of Badger; R. Gardner, Esq., of Leighton; and W. W. How, Esq., of Shrewsbury.<sup>12</sup>

I omit to particularize several promises of most efficient aid in the illustrative department of this work, simply lest some unforeseen hindrance may occur to one or other of my expectations. I must be similarly guarded as to some architectural notices which I have hope of obtaining from a well-known authority<sup>13</sup> in such matters. My business here is merely to disclaim all personal credit for either kind of contribution.

Maps will be given which will follow the territorial arrangement of *Domesday*, as far as that can now be ascertained,

<sup>12</sup> I have further to add to this list of benefactors, the names of the Rt. Hon. Lord Forester, Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart., T. C. Whitmore, Esq., W. Wolryche Whitmore, Esq., and George Pritchard, Esq., who have given me every facility for consulting and transcribing documents in their possession. At Willey is a register of Wenlock Priory, chiefly in the handwriting of the two Priors, who preceded John Baylis, the last who enjoyed that dignity. The volume is extremely valuable, not only as furnishing in its various rent-rolls much of topographical information, but as containing several

earlier documents transcribed, I presume, with reference to some current question of title or prescriptive right.

<sup>13</sup> The Rev. J. L. Petit,—who already favours me in a way which I must acknowledge both gratefully and openly. His notices of the earlier ecclesiastical remains at Morville, Quatford, and Upton Cresset, which will appear forthwith, are the result of a recent visit to those places, undertaken expressly for my assistance. The illustrations also, which bear his name, are presented by him to the work in their finished state.

and, where doubt exists, the whole question will be stated in the text. The tables of *Domesday Hundreds* which will accompany these maps, are intended further to illustrate the state of things at the time of that survey.

With regard to former works on the same or cognate subjects, I shall have most frequent occasion to refer to—

The *History of Shrewsbury*, in 2 vols. (1825), by the late Ven. Archdeacon Owen, and the late Rev. J. B. Blakeway.

The *Sheriffs of Shropshire* (1831), a posthumous work of the Rev. J. B. Blakeway. And to the

*Antiquities of Shropshire* (1844), by T. F. Dukes, Esq.

I shall not hesitate to borrow from these works whatever I may find in them necessary to the completeness or illustration of the subject in hand; but it is more with reference to objections which I shall have to make to some of their contents that I wish here to speak and to apologize. The self-reliance which such objections may be construed to imply will only be apparent, for of all names associated with our local history and antiquities that of Mr. Blakeway has ever seemed to me entitled to an increasing reverence.

The *History of Shrewsbury*, the joint work of himself and Archdeacon Owen, is, I imagine, of the very highest order of excellence; and that not merely topographically, but as furnishing those very elements towards a general History of England which ought to be ready and available to the national historian, whenever one competent to the greater undertaking shall arise.

The objections which I speak of are then only to matters of detail, on which it is impossible for one person at any one time to attain perfect accuracy. Herein Dugdale himself, though ignorantly criticised in his day, was no exception to the general rule, that antiquarian truth must be progressive, and so never complete. The smallest change of premises will often largely affect a conclusion, and a dozen established facts assume a totally new complexion, by the addition of one hitherto uncertified. I close this digression with a simple

acknowledgment which I trust will excuse reiterated apologies in the sequel. It is only where some further fact, apparently unknown to Mr. Blakeway, may happen to occur to me, or where my greater leisure, and more limited sphere of inquiry may enable me to devote much attention to points, which in his varied researches he was obliged to treat summarily, that I would venture to express a difference of opinion.

I have one more profession to make. It is as to the limits which I propose between an indulgence in conjecture, and an avoidance of difficulties. The former is the stigma of the old school of heralds and antiquaries; the latter is more likely to be the error of modern inquirers. And the reason of both is apparent. The former expected and gained everything by flattery and invention; the latter write under surveillance of a searching, if not over-active, spirit of criticism. Conjecture is to be avoided till all available resources of knowledge have been exhausted, but any attempt to solve a still remaining difficulty is excusable; and an acknowledgment of a difficulty, wherever one occurs, is a duty, even though it may provoke a suspicion of ignorance unfavourable to the author. A difficulty evaded is only a difficulty postponed; but a difficulty confessed is a mark for future inquiry, more skilful, more active, or more fortunate, than the one in hand.

I cannot conclude without some acknowledgment of what I owe to a Society of living Antiquaries, whose writings I shall frequently have recourse to, and the very mention of whose names is a condemnation of that wretched economy which suspended the operations of the Record Commission, and so deprived the public of services which may never again be at command. Some personal obligations, and a wish to avoid all appearance of flattery, prevent my saying more in connexion with the names of Sir Francis Palgrave, Thomas Duffus Hardy, Esq., and the Rev. Joseph Hunter. I am not so withheld in speaking of the works of the late Thomas Stapleton, Esq., my extreme admiration of which, as it is associated with no personal feeling, so can it no longer wear

even an appearance of flattery. His commentary on the *Rotuli Normanniæ* is a model of antiquarian criticism; and mention of that particular work is less out of place here, because it contains the only correct accounts of two great families early connected with Shropshire, those of its Norman Earls and of the Mortimers.

And now, having taken full advantage of that license to speak in the first person which is usually allowed to a Preface, I commit my work to the indulgence of its readers, little doubting that a liberality, kindred to that which has already welcomed an unknown author with a subscription list of more than a hundred names, will double that number, and be yet further extended to a judgment of his labours when published.

ROBERT W. EYTON.

RYTON RECTORY,

*Sept. 26th, 1853.*







MAP  
OF PART OF  
**SHROPSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE  
& WARWICKSHIRE.**  
ILLUSTRATIVE OF DOMESDAY BOOK

**SHROPSHIRE**

Manors in Ancestrea Hundred . . . . . Red as . . . . . Morville  
Manors in Patinton Hundred . . . . . Green as . . . . . Madeley  
Manors in Buschurch Hundred (detached) Blue as . . . . . Sidbury

**STAFFORDSHIRE**

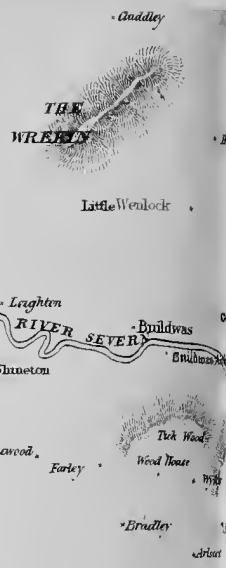
Manors in Saisdone Hundred . . . . . Yellow as . . . . .

**WARWICKSHIRE**

Manors in Stanlei Hundred . . . . . Brown as . . . . . Quat

Manors, Townships &c. adjacent to, involved in,  
or of later origin than the above . . . . . Black

Scale - Half an Inch to a Mile







## THE MAP.

THE foregoing Map is chiefly intended to show the *Domesday* divisions of that part of the County with which our survey begins. It contains two entire Shropshire Hundreds, viz., *Alnocestreu* and *Patinton*; and the *Domesday* Manors, forming, or probably forming, each of these Hundreds, are printed in two different colours (*red* and *green*).

There was also a Shropshire Hundred of *Bascherch* at the time of *Domesday*, the bulk of which lay north and north-west of Shrewsbury, and so, very distant from the quarter of our present inquiries. But this Hundred had two detachments, curiously involved in different parts of *Alnocestreu* Hundred. The Manors forming each of these detachments are printed in a third colour (*blue*).

The County of Salop now contains several Manors which at the time of the Norman Survey were members of other Counties. Some of these must come under early consideration. Such of them as contributed, in 1086, to form the Staffordshire Hundred of *Saisdone*, are printed in a fourth colour (*yellow*); such as were members of the more distant Warwickshire Hundred of *Stanlei*, in a fifth colour (*brown*). Lest, at this early stage, the allegation of such eccentric divisions should provoke a suspicion of inaccuracy, it is better to state that they can all be accounted for, and exactly on the same principle as that which Dugdale laid down long ago, when he met with similar *phenomena* in his Survey of Warwickshire. An explanation in each instance will be offered in its proper place.

Lastly, names marked on the Map in *black* ink are of five different classes, viz. :—

1st. Adjunctive terms employed at a later period than *Domesday* to distinguish Manors of the same name. Such are the terms *Much* and *Little* prefixed to the two Wenlocks—*George* and *Burnell* affixed to the two Eudons; and so forth.

2dly. Names of Manors existent at the time of *Domesday*, but belonging to other Hundreds than those above-named, and which will be properly distinguished in future Maps. Such are Stottesden, Buildwas, &c.

3dly. Townships or Hamlets involved in various *Domesday* Manors, but which have no specific notice so early, *e.g.*, Astley Abbots, Tasley, &c.

4thly. Places of later origin than *Domesday*, as Bridgnorth.

5thly. Names of rivers, streams, hills, forests, or woods, few of which are mentioned in *Domesday*, though of course all existed under some name or other. These land-marks, more or less enduring, are necessary to any Map, and their names, wherever printed, are only meant to render the whole intelligible. In these cases, and for the same purpose, the modern name is employed. For instance, the Brown Clee Hill is so printed, though I suppose one part of that name to be extremely recent. Not so the Wrekin, whose modern name is but a revival, after some disuse, of its oldest appellation. Yet, if our Map had described the Wrekin as *Mount Gilbert*, that term, though perhaps the most proper when speaking with reference to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, did not, that we know of, exist in the eleventh; and its use, even if chronologically accurate, would have interfered with that perspicuity which is so essential to this kind of illustration.

## TABLE OF THE DOMESD

Domesday Name.	Saxon Owner, T. R. E.	Domesday Tenant in Capite.	Domesday Mesne, or next, Tenant.	Domesday Sub-Tenant.
Albriestone . . . . .	Algar & Godhit	Rogierius Comes	Normannus . . . . .	.. . . .
Estone . . . . .	Elric . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Rainaldus Vicecomes .	Tochil . . . . .
Estone . . . . .	Sessi . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Idem . . . . .	Alcher . . . . .
Beghesovre . . . . .	Bruniht . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Osbernus . . . . .	Robertus . . . . .
Bispetone . . . . .	Turgod . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Normannus . . . . .	.. . . .
Broctone . . . . .	Bruniht . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Osbernus . . . . .	.. . . .
Bosle . . . . .	Gethne . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Helgotus . . . . .	.. . . .
Dehocsele . . . . .	Ecclesia Sanctæ Milburgæ . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Ecclesia Sanctæ Milburgæ . . . . .	.. . . .
Eldone . . . . .	Æluuard . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Rainaldus Vicecomes .	.. . . .
.. . . .	Ulchetel . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
.. . . .	Archetel . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
Faventrei . . . . .	Uluet . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Walchelinus . . . . .	.. . . .
.. . . .	Ælnoi . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
.. . . .	Ordui . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
.. . . .	Ordric . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
Fuloordie . . . . .	Elmund . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Rainaldus Vicecomes .	Radulfus . . . . .
Gleslei . . . . .	Eluuard . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Azo . . . . .
Etone . . . . .	Turgod . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	.. . . .
Etone . . . . .	Turgod . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Gerardus . . . . .	Willielmus . . . . .
Madolea . . . . .	Austin . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Helgotus . . . . .	Ricardus . . . . .
Middeltone . . . . .	Edric . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Rainaldus Vicecomes .	{ .. Alcher } { .. Albert }
Membrefeld . . . . .	Rex Edwardus . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Ecclesia Sancti Petri Capellani Comitum . . . . .	{ .. Ricardus Pincerna }
Aldeberie . . . . .	Eluuard . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Rainaldus Vicecomes .	Radulfus . . . . .
Pichetorne . . . . .	Ecclesia Sanctæ Milburgæ . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Ecclesia Sanctæ Milburgæ . . . . .	.. . . .
Ruitone . . . . .	Wiuar . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Osbernus . . . . .	.. . . .
.. . . .	Bricstual . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
Stochetone . . . . .	Eduin . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Gerardus . . . . .	Hugo . . . . .
.. . . .	Ordui . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
Sudtone . . . . .	Comes Morcar . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Idem . . . . .	.. . . .
Ultone . . . . .	Elmund . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Rainaldus Vicecomes .	.. . . .
Wilit . . . . .	Hunmit . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Tuold . . . . .	Hunmit . . . . .
MANORS PROBABLY IN ALNODESTREU, BUT WHO				
Bolebee . . . . .	Stenulf . . . . .	Rogierius Comes	.. . . .	.. . . .
Catinton . . . . .	Godeva Comitissa . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
Donitone . . . . .	Eduinus Comes	.. Idem . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
Ardintone . . . . .	Ecclesia Sanctæ Milburgæ . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
Tuange . . . . .	Morcar Comes	.. Idem . . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .
MANOR PROBABLY IN ALNODESTREU, BUT WHO				
Cerlecote . . . . .	Elsi . . . . .	.. Idem . . . . .	Helgotus . . . . .	.. . . .

## HUNDRED OF ALNODESTREU.

Domesday Features.	Domesday Hidage.	Domesday Reference.	Modern Hundred.	Modern Name.
Silva in manu Regis	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides . . .	fo. 259, a. 2	Brimstree . . . .	Albrighton.
.....	1 hide . . . .	255, a. 2	Stottesden . . . .	Aston Botterel.
Molendinum . . . .	2 hides . . . .	Ibidem.	Ibidem . . . . .	Aston Eyre.
Silva . . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	fo. 257, b. 2	Brimstree . . . . .	Badger.
Silva . . . . .	1 hide . . . .	259, a. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Bishton.
.....	1 virg. 8 acr. . . .	257, b. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Brockton.
.....	1 hide . . . .	258, b. 1	Wenlock . . . . .	Broseley.
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	252, b. 2	Brimstree . . . . .	Deuxhill.
Silva . . . . .	2 hides . . . .	255, a. 2	Stottesden . . . .	Eudon Burnell.
.....	2 hides . . . .	257, b. 1	Ibidem . . . . .	Faintree.
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	255, a. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Fulwardine.
Presbiter. Molend :	2 hides . . . .	Ibidem.	Ibidem . . . . .	Glazeley.
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	Ibidem.	Brimstree . . . . .	Hatton ?
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	fo. 259, a. 1	Ibidem . . . . .	Hatton ?
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	258, b. 1	Stottesden . . . .	Meadowley.
.....	2 hides . . . .	255, a. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Middleton Scriven.
{ Ecclesia . . . . . }	12 hides . . . .	253, a. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Morville.
{ 18 berewichæ . . }				
{ Molendinum . . }	1 hide 3 virg.	255, a. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Oldbury.
{ Silva . . . . . }				
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	252, b. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Pieckthorn.
Molendinum . . . .	5 hides . . . .	257, b. 2	Brimstree . . . .	Ryton.
.....	1 hide . . . .	259, a. 1	Ibidem . . . . .	Stockton.
.....	4 hides . . . .	Ibidem.	Ibidem . . . . .	Sutton Maddock.
Silva . . . . .	3 hides . . . .	fo. 255, a. 2	Stottesden . . . .	Upton Cresset.
.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	258, a. 1	Wenlock . . . . .	Willey.
	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides 8 acr.			

## HUNDRED IS NOT STATED IN DOMESDAY.

{ Presbiter . . . . . }	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	fo. 254, a. 1	..... ?	.....
{ Præpositus . . . }	1 hide . . . .	Ibidem.	Stottesden . . . .	Chetton.
{ Molendinum . . }				
{ Silva . . . . . }	3 hides . . . .	fo. 253, b. 2	Brimstree . . . .	Donnington.
{ Molendinum . . }				
{ Silva . . . . . }	5 hides . . . .	254, a. 1	Stottesden . . . .	Eardington.
{ 5 Salinæ in Wich }				
{ Burgum de	3 hides . . . .	253, b. 2	Brimstree . . . .	Tong.
{ Quatford . . . }				
{ Nova domus . . }				
{ Molendinum . . }				

## HUNDRED IS MISSTATED IN DOMESDAY.

.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ hide . . . .	fo. 258, b. 1	Stottesden . . . .	Charlcott.
	58 $\frac{1}{2}$ hides 8 acr.			

## TABLE OF ALNODESTREU HUNDRED.

Whereas, in the foregoing Map, the modern orthography has been substituted for that of *Domesday*, the 1st column of the annexed Table supplies the latter, as far as this Hundred is concerned.

The 2d column gives the Saxon owner of each Manor in time of King Edward the Confessor—T. R. E. (as *Domesday* abbreviates “Tempore Regis Edwardi.”)

The 3d column gives the tenant *in capite* of 1086, who, in Alnolestreu Hundred, was uniformly the Norman Earl (Roger de Montgomery).

The 4th column gives the tenant or tenants holding, in 1086, immediately under the Earl, and whether individual or corporate. If the Earl held the whole or part of the Manor in demesne, and had therefore no tenant, such fact is marked in this column by a horizontal line.

The 5th column gives the under-tenant (holding under the Earl’s tenant), where any such is named in *Domesday*.

The 6th column enumerates certain features or adjuncts of some *Domesday* Manors, often useful as evidence of identity, such as Churches, Priests, Provosts, Berewicks,<sup>1</sup> Mills, and Woods.

The 7th column gives the *Domesday* hidage of each Manor, that is, such capacity as each Manor was rated at for the assessment called Danegeld. Sometimes a portion of this hidage is stated in *Domesday* to be free from that impost (*non gildabilis*), but this exemption does not occur in Alnolestreu Hundred. The *Domesday* hidage of Manors is very important, as it formed the basis of later taxes than the Danegeld, and so is often a guide in questions of identity. The *Domesday* hide of this Hundred is computed<sup>2</sup> at 240 acres of the period; the virgate (or yard-land) of the same Record at 60 acres. These acres however will have been somewhat larger

<sup>1</sup> Corn-farms.

<sup>2</sup> This is advanced as an average rather than an invariable estimate, and subject to a special question whether the hide, even if originally an actual measure, was so practically. For instance,—suppose

two Manors of equal areal extent, but extremely different agricultural value—I cannot think that the *Domesday* hidage (a basis of taxation then and afterwards) would in such cases be equal.



than our modern statute acres, though not so much larger than an older and ruder mode of mensuration might reconcile and account for.

The 8th column gives reference to the folio, page, and column of the printed *Domesday*, which faithfully represents the original in this particular.

The 9th column gives the modern Hundred of each Manor, except where such Manor's identity is uncertain, in which case the space is filled up with a note of interrogation.

The 10th and last column gives the modern name of each Manor, as in the Map; but where doubt exists as to identity, such doubt is marked by a note of interrogation after the surmised name. If the identity cannot even be surmised, the same note occupies the space alone.

The whole contents of the *Domesday* Hundred are added together at the foot of the table; but this is in prospect of a future question, to the solution of which such calculations will contribute their share.

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## Alnodestreu Hundred.

THIS Hundred, variously written by the Norman<sup>1</sup> Scribes of *Domesday* as that of Elnoestrul, Elnoelstruil, Elnoelstrui, Elnoelstui, or Alnodestreu, owed the latter part of its name, perhaps, to a *vill* or *tre* of British origin, whereat in succeeding times some Saxon Ælnoth may have presided as *Ealdorman*, over the *folkmote* or hundred-court of the district. The locality of such a British *vill* cannot now be surmised, as probably its existence, and certainly its conjectured importance, had ceased before the days of King Edward the Confessor.

In his reign (A.D. 1042-1065), the Hundred of Alnodestreu had its centre or *caput* at Membrefeld (Morville), where consequently that local jurisdiction will have been exercised which, together with the Manor, realized an annual revenue of £10. The proportion between the *Curial* and Manorial income is not stated in *Domesday*; but two-thirds of the former, whatever it was, belonged to the Crown, and the other third to the Earl of Mercia.

When in the year 1086, the *Domesday* Survey was taken, the collective value of Morville Manor and its attached Hundred of Alnodestreu was a little in excess of the Saxon valuation, viz. £10. 8s. 6d. The Norman Earl (Roger de Montgomery) was now entitled to the whole profits<sup>2</sup> of the hundred-court, which are

<sup>1</sup> The *Domesday* Commissioners for Worcestershire and other, probably adjoining, Counties, were Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, Earl Walter Giffard, Henry de Ferrers, and Adam, brother of Eudo the King's Sewer.—(*Cotton MSS., Tib. A. xij.*) They were all Normans.

<sup>2</sup> In the age immediately succeeding that of which we are treating, the distinctive badge of Earldom was a right to a third part of the revenue arising from such pleas of the Crown as were held in the

County or City whereof the Earl took title. But I suppose that Earl Roger's tenure in Shropshire was like that of the Earl of Chester in his County, and will best be described by the term *palatine*. The chief features of such tenure were, that the judicial revenue of County, Hundred, and Borough Courts was not, as in Saxon, or as in subsequent times, divided between the Crown and the Earl in proportion of two to one, but belonged wholly to the Earl. Pleas of the Crown, therefore, did

estimated at £3, but that sum probably included the income of such portion of the Manor as was retained by the Earl in demesne.

As regards the boundaries of the *Domesday* Hundred of Alnodestreu, they will best be understood by a perusal of the accompanying Map. It lay in a scattered form, being broken up by isolated portions of the Hundreds of Bascherch and Patinton; nor was this a solitary instance of those eccentric territorial divisions which at the period in question must have been productive of great inconvenience. A thorough change in this respect was effected in Shropshire before the accession of Henry II (1154), but by which of his four predecessors cannot be determined on positive evidence. There are however some negative considerations, which it may be worth while to offer on the matter. The reigns of William Rufus and Stephen were not likely to have been productive of any great internal reforms of this kind. The last two years of William the Conqueror (or such part of two years as elapsed between the completion of the *Domesday* record and his death), left him little leisure for English affairs, to say nothing of the County of Salop being at that time exempt from all subsidiary exercise of royal prerogative. On other grounds such a reform might have been expected, almost as a corollary of the *Domesday* Survey; but then it would hardly have escaped the notice of those contemporary Chroniclers, who have dwelt so much on the adjuncts of that great territorial record.

King Henry I inherited much of the administrative ability of his Father. Thirty years of his reign were years of uninterrupted tranquillity as regarded this County. His powers of interference in all its internal affairs were unlimited, and his ministers were men of great capacity and energy. To his reign then may be ascribed the change, which rearranged the divisional system of the County, as well as its external boundaries.

The feature of this change, which we have at present to do with, is, that the Hundred of Alnodestreu was swept away, and came to

not exist in Earl Roger's principality. Similarly, no writ of the King would be cognizable, or, as the term went, "current" in any lands of Earl Roger's tenure, except the "writ close," *i. e.*, addressed to the Earl himself. Against a subject thus powerful, in case he were refractory or rebellious, the King had no legal and

summary remedy, till he had been tried by his peers, or refused to undergo such trial after due summons.

Thus the fealty which the Earl of Shrewsbury owed to the King of England was much what was claimed from the latter, as Duke of Normandy, by the King of France.

be represented by portions of the Hundred of Stottesden, Brimstree, and Munslow, none of which had any existence at *Domesday*.

A second but more partial change in the reign of Richard I assigned that part of Alnodestreu Hundred, which meanwhile had been in Munslow Hundred, and one Manor (Badger), which had similarly been in Brimstree Hundred, to the then newly-created liberty of Wenlock. In the latter case (the assignment of Badger to Wenlock liberty), the anomaly produced was exactly of the kind which the first reform was clearly intended to remove.

With regard to the Manors which appear on the face of the *Domesday* Record, as members of Alnodestreu Hundred, they are enumerated in the Table already given.

Only one of them is of doubtful identity, viz. Etone.

The *Domesday* Survey does not specify the Hundreds of many Manors, which were of the Norman Earl's demesne. A probability that four of these unclassified Manors were in the Hundred of Alnodestreu will be stated under their respective notices. A fifth Manor, similarly of the Earl's demesne, and written "Bolebec" in *Domesday*, is not identified, and therefore its position in this hundred is matter of the merest conjecture.

A seventh Manor, "Cerlecote," is assigned in the printed *Domesday* to the Hundred of "Recordin;" nor is the original record in this instance misrepresented. It is nevertheless quite clear that such assignment was in the first case, a mere scribal inaccuracy, which will be noticed in its proper place, and would not have been mentioned here, but to explain the appearance of the Manor of Charlcott in the annexed Map and Table of the Hundred of Alnodestreu.

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## Morville.

WHEN the *Domesday* Survey was taken, the Manor of *Membrefelde* remained, as in Saxon times, the *caput* or centre of the Hundred of Alnodestreu. Its relations in that respect have been already spoken of, and it remains further to describe its state as a Manor.

Manorially then, at the time of *Domesday*, Morville was in a condition of uncompleted, but then meditated change. Beyond the transfers then contemplated, a lapse of twenty years brought about other changes of tenure and condition not then to be expected.

No wonder then that a comparison of its *Domesday* state and limits with those of a subsequent date should involve much research in the first instance, some conjecture in the next, and perhaps little of positive conclusion in the last. Even the starting point—the evidence of *Domesday* as to this Manor, is in one respect obscure, in another false, and in a third silent. Much of this was doubtless a result of the condition of the Manor at the time; but after thus deciding on the inadequacy of this paramount authority in the case in question, we have little other evidence to guide us except that which proves, though it does not correct, the errors of the greater record.

That which *Domesday*<sup>1</sup> tells us consistently is as follows:—The whole Manor of Membrefelde contained twelve hides of land

<sup>1</sup> The *Domesday* notice of Morville, with the contractions resolved, is as follows:—

Ipsē Comes tenet Membrefelde cum xviii berewichis. Rex Edwardus tenuit. Ibi xii hidæ. Una ex his berewichis, Calvestone, de i hidâ, est in Wircestrescire. De hâc terrâ iiii hidæ sunt in dominio, et ibi ii carruæ, et vi aliæ carruæ possent esse. Ibi ix villani et vi bordarii cum iiii carrucis, et adhuc duæ aliæ possent esse. Ibi iiii bovarii.

Huic Manerio pertinet totum Alnodes-

treu Hundredum. Duo denarii erant Regis Edwardi, et tercius Comit̄is. Inter totum reddebat x libros. Modo, quod Comes habet valet iiii libros.

Ecclesia hujus Manerii est in honore Sancti Gregorii, quæ tempore Regis Edwardi habebat de hâc terrâ viii hidas, et ibi serviebant viii canonici. Hanc ecclesiam cum v hidis terre tenet ecclesia Sancti Petri de Comite. In dominio sunt ibi ii carruæ et iiii aliæ possunt esse. Ibi ix villani et unus bordarius et iiii pres-

and involved eighteen "berewicks" or members, in the shape probably of villages or hamlets.

Of these twelve hides, we are told first, that the Norman Earl held four in demesne; but what appears to be a supplementary note, indicates that two out of the said four hides were held under the Earl by Richard Pincerna. The whole four had been, in the Confessor's time, of the King's demesne.

The remaining eight hides had under the same Monarch formed the endowment of the Collegiate Church of St. Gregory of Membrefelde, in which "were ministering eight Canons."

The Norman Earl had however undertaken the duty, or business, of remodelling this ecclesiastical foundation. He had granted the Church and five of the eight hides of land to his recent monastic establishment at Shrewsbury; with the other three hides he had benefited his own private Chaplains.

Summarily then, in 1086, the Earl held this Manor and hundred *in copite* of the Crown. Of the Manor he retained two hides in demesne; two hides were held under him by Richard Pincerna, five by the Monks of Shrewsbury, and three by his own Chaplains.

The relative value, cultivation, and occupation of these respective portions, may also be gathered from *Domesday*. In demesne (two hides) there were two ox-teams and work for six more. There were nine villains and six boors with three ox-teams, and there was a capability of maintaining two more ox-teams. There were also four neat-herds. The annual value of this, including however the revenue of the Hundred-Court, was £3.

The five hides, held by the Monks of Salop, employed in demesne two ox-teams, and might employ four more. But nine villains, one boor, and three priests, had nine teams thereon. There were also four neat-herds, and a Knight who held a whole hide under the Monks at a rent of four shillings per annum. The gross annual value of these five hides was £3. 17s.

As to the three hides which the Earl's Chaplains held, they were underlet to five freemen (homines). There was arable land sufficient for six ox-teams, but only two were in employ. The annual value of these three hides was £3. 1s. 6d.

byteri cum ix carrucis, et iiii bovarii; et unus miles tenet i hidam, reddensiiii solidos monachis. Totum hoc valet lxxvii solidos.

Reliquas iiii hidas tenent capellani Comitibus et v homines de eis. Terra est vi carrucis. Ibi sunt ii carrucæ. Totum valet lx solidos et xviii denarios.

De ipsâ terrâ hujus Manerii tenet Ricardus Pincerna ii hidas et ibi habet i carrucam et ii servos et vii villanos cum i carrucâ, et molendinum reddens x summas annonæ. Ibi ix carrucæ plus possent esse. Valet xx solidos.—*Domesd.* fo. 253, a. 2.

The two hides held by Richard Pincerna had in stock one ox-team, but two serfs and seven villains had another team. There was work for nine more such teams. Hereon also was a mill rendering ten horse-loads of grain. The whole tenure was worth 20s. annually.

Here we may notice that the land requiring most team-labour was that assessed as least valuable; also that the Monks applied more such labour to their tenement, in proportion to its requirements, than did the Chaplains, and the Chaplains more than the lay-tenant.

The Earl's demesne cannot be brought into this calculation, owing to its precise value not being specified. It however required more team-labour than any of the other tenements, and received less in proportion to its requirements than the land of the Monks, but more than that of the others.

Something must now be said of the locality of these respective tenures, a subject which will involve statements or surmises as to those eighteen berewicks, which were members of this Manor in 1086. *Domesday* itself supplies the name of one of these berewicks. It was "Calveston, in Worcestershire." This item of *Domesday* geography, though suspected to be far from accurate, is useful in its way, as confirming our accounts<sup>2</sup> as to the mode in which that survey was taken. There can be little doubt that the locality indicated was Cold Weston, a township very far to the south-west of Morville, yet at least eight miles removed from the nearest point of Worcestershire.

The names of eight more of these berewicks may be gathered from an early and important charter of Salop Abbey, described in the monastic index as the charter<sup>3</sup> of King William I, and indeed confirmed as such by King Edward III.

<sup>2</sup> The Commissioners who travelled through the country to take the survey examined whom they chose; such as Sheriffs, Barons, Reeves of Hundreds, Priests, Bailiffs, and even Villains, but the detailed information seems generally to have been derived from the answers of Jurors empanelled from each Hundred. Thus an inaccurate reply might very probably be given as to any locality which lay beyond the limits of the particular Hundred then under notice of the Com-

mission.—(*Vide MSS. Cotton., Tib. A. vi, fol. 38.*)

<sup>3</sup> This charter stands No. 34 in the Abbey Chartulary, and as recited and confirmed by succeeding Kings, is given in the Patent Roll of 1 Hen. VI, part 5, memb. 19. The original Latin is printed in the *New Monasticon*, vol. iii, p. 521, numb. x; and a comment on its nature and contents may be seen in the *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, pp. 15-16.

It is very common to hear the term

These berewicks were as follows: Astley, Little Astley (*alia Estleia*), Norley, Crofte, Haughton, Kingslow, Harpsford, and Billingsley. The charter quoted also mentions the *vill* of Weston, which probably was only the Cold Weston mentioned above. It further describes some other "possessions" of the Church of Morville, viz. Newton, Tugford, and Fertecote; but, in so far as it

"forgery" applied to these early charters, and the historians of Shrewsbury, usually most impartial, speak of "the fabrication of charters" and "pretended charters" as common things, and as applicable to the document before us. It is because the evidence afforded by these early charters is either exceedingly valuable or extremely delusive that I have given, at different times, great attention to the subject, and venture now to express an opinion in favour of their general honesty and truth, and condemnatory of all harsh terms whatsoever as applied to them. The truth is, that a later age has misunderstood the very nature of these early charters, and has consequently judged of them by a false standard. The charter before us belongs to a class very common at the time, and which may be called "recitatory," and, if it may be allowed to speak for itself, will suggest the following idea of its formation. Certain persons interested in the welfare of Shrewsbury Abbey (the Abbot, perhaps, and one or two literate monks), think it expedient, both for the security of their titles, and as an incentive to future benefactors, to draw up a written statement of grants which, within their knowledge, have been made to their house. In this work they partly rely on their own recollections, but chiefly on written documents which they have before them, and which relate to those benefactions in detail. The extracts from these vouchers are easily distinguishable, in such documents, from the explanatory or connective words employed by the compilers. When the whole is finished, an opportunity is sought for sending the digest to the King's Court, in order to secure the royal confirmation. Perhaps the Abbot himself is going thither, as did Fulchered, first Abbot of Shrewsbury, to

the Court of William Rufus, at Gloucester, in July 1100. The document is offered to the royal consideration, perhaps accompanied by vouchers, but more certainly with a pecuniary recommendation. The routine was, that the King laid it before his Council, or referred it to his Chancellor. On a favourable report thereof, the King directs the latter to affix the great seal, and perhaps a sentence expressive of the royal concurrence. The distinguishing feature of this mode of proceeding was, that the charter confirmed was drawn up by the grantees, not by the grantors, nor yet by an officer of the Court. The probability is, however, that some test of good faith was supplied, such as the production of vouchers. At all events, these charters were very common, and their efficacy admitted in the law courts of succeeding reigns, as well as in the great conveyancing department of Chancery. Such a document is No. 34 of the Salop Chartulary, and the critical mistake of the Shrewsbury historians is that they have treated it as a document in which they have assumed the King himself to be the narrator throughout.

Looking alone to the internal evidence of this document, I cannot omit to state a doubt whether the confirming sentence was by the Conqueror or his son Rufus. The monk who wrote the Index of the Salop Chartulary, more than 200 years after, attributed the deed to the former, and Edward III's *inspeximus* calls the King who confirmed, his "progenitor," a term which literally could not apply to Rufus. Neither of these considerations would weigh with me against evidence of another kind, and that, which I think further affects the question, shall be offered in a place where it is more relevant to the text.



describes them as possessions involved in Earl Roger's grant to Salop Abbcy, it is probably in error as to circumstance. That at the time this charter was written, the Church of Morville had acquired an interest in each of those three *vills* is very likely, but that such interest was derived in two cases from other sources than Earl Roger's grant, and did not amount to possessions in the third, and that in none of the three was any interest of St. Gregory of Morville, so existent as to warrant our inclusion of them among the *Domesday* berewicks of that Manor, are matters which will have to be treated of under the respective titles of those townships. As yet, therefore, only eight of Morville's seventeen unnamed berewicks have been realized, with any show of certainty. Perhaps such places as Rode, Stanley, Dunvall, Colemore, may have been esteemed berewicks, and may be left under this conjectural head till in the following pages, they shall each receive a notice and the reader judge whether they or some others, such as Severn (now Severn Hall), Rucroft, Cantreyn, &c., best deserve a place among the uncertain berewicks of the *Domesday* summary.

Five berewicks yet remain, and with something of a better title to be placed on this conjectural list. They are Underdon, Bridgewalton, Lyc, Tasley, and Henley.

And now, to apportion a series of half-conjectured berewicks so as to tally with the inaccurate, or deficient, or superfluous statement of *Domesday*, is a matter of extreme difficulty, but yet a necessary part of our professed plan.<sup>4</sup>

It must first be mentioned, that the three hides, which at the time of *Domesday* were tenanted by Earl Roger's chaplains, had been by him granted in remainder to Shrewsbury Abbey, as part and parcel of the original Church of St. Gregory. This remainder was to, and did,<sup>5</sup> take effect after the deaths of the then incumbents. Of course it is impossible<sup>6</sup> to distinguish now between the five hides, which in 1086 had already gone to the Monks of Shrewsbury, and the three hides, which under the same grant were shortly to revert

<sup>4</sup> See Preface, page 14.

<sup>5</sup> See page 32.

<sup>6</sup> In the *History of Shrewsbury* (vol. ii, p. 22) one of these reversionary prebends is conjectured to have been "Morville Home," and that Ricardus Capellanus de Meilnil Hermer, its supposed incumbent, was so entitled by some scribe ignorant of the meaning of "Morville Home." This

is quite a mistake. Meilnil Hermer is not the name of the Chaplain's prebend, but of himself, and it was very usual thus to insert a man's calling between the two parts of his name. So Ricardus Capellanus de Meilnil Hermer means nothing more than Richard de Meilnil Hermer, Chaplain. Mesnil Hermer was a Norman name.

to that Abbey. The collective eight hides may however be estimated as thus involved :—

One hide at Calveston (Coldweston).

Five hides in Astley, that is, in Astley Abbots and its adjuncts, viz. Little Astley, Nordley, Crofte, Haughton, Kingslow, Rode, Stanley, Dunvall, Colemore, Severn, Rucroft, Cantern, &c.

One and a-half hides at Billingsley.

Half a hide in Morville itself (including, perhaps, Harpswood).

Such then were the eight ecclesiastical hides, supposed to be implied by the five and three hides of the *Domesday* Survey.

There are yet four hides to be allocated. These are stated in the first instance to be held by the Earl in demesne ; but two of them, in a notice which appears to be supplementary, are said to be the tenure of Richard Pincerna.

To deal with the latter first, it must be submitted, that no two hides within any supposable area of Morville Manor ever descended as a tenure, immediately under the Earl (or his ultimate representative, the Crown) to any imaginable heir of Richard Pincerna. But we know that Tasley was in the area of the *Domesday* Manor of Morville, that it has no distinctive notice in that record, and that it constituted a Manor of two hides at a later period. We also know that in its adjunct, Henley, Warin the Sheriff had a seignoral interest before *Domesday*, and that in the usual course of Warin's succession a correspondent interest to that which he had exercised appears, after *Domesday*, vested in Fitz-Alan, and this both in Henley and Tasley. At the intermediate period, viz. 1086, this interest was almost uniformly represented by Rainald, the Sheriff, Warin's successor and Fitz-Alan's antecessor :<sup>7</sup> yet *Domesday* says nothing of Rainald being a tenant under the Earl anywhere in Morville Manor. It may therefore be presumed, that the two hides, said to be held by Richard Pincerna immediately under the Earl, were in Tasley and Henley, but that they were held by the said Richard, of Rainald the Sheriff, and by Rainald of the Earl.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> I use the word "antecessor" rather than "ancestor" advisedly, because we usually associate a descent by blood with the latter term, an idea which, in the present instance, would be erroneous.

<sup>8</sup> Similar as to Cold Weston.—The Knight who held one hide of the Monks

might have been under-tenant there. The same Jury however which said that Cold Weston was in Worcestershire was probably not in a condition to give very accurate information to the *Domesday* Commissioners as to how it was held.

To conclude with the two hides which, in 1086, were still of Earl Roger's demesne, they must be allocated as follows, that is to say, partly in Astley (if Hugh, son and successor to Earl Roger, be truly stated to have granted tithes of his demesne of Astley, to Salop Abbey); partly in Aldenham, Underdon, Bridgewalton, and Lye, and even in Morville itself, as will appear hereafter.

Earl Roger's demesne in this Manor will also have extended in a direction which then had no specific name or occupaney. Northward of Morville, and surrounded by localities which either were members of Morville, or else had a distinctive notice in *Domesday*, there was a wide, barren rock, somewhat elevated above the surrounding country in general, and naturally fortified on three sides by ravines and valleys of greater or less depth. On the fourth or eastern side, it overhung the channel of the river Severn, at a still more commanding height. This rock or platform, then so insignificant, had once perhaps been the site of a Saxon fortress, but if so, its importance was only traditionary, and the fortress itself a ruin. Yet was this unnamed locality destined, within twenty years after *Domesday*, to become the scene of great local and national events. First, it was to be the site of a Castle of uncommon strength, the work of the last Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, whose engineering skill was as famous as his cruelty and ambition. Such a combination it was, which served to fortify Bridgnorth in a space of time otherwise incredibly short. The result proves how judiciously the site was selected, and how efficiently occupied, for there, within the same period of twenty years, the chief power<sup>9</sup> of the kingdom, though marshalled under the eye of an able and warlike Monarch, was to receive a sturdy though temporary<sup>10</sup> check, from the foresight of the rebel Earl, and the valour of his dependants. This spot, naturally unnoticed in *Domesday*, as part of the Earl's demesne in Morville Manor, will, in regard of its subsequent importance, demand a separate and more prominent notice in the sequel.

Having now sketched the presumed *area* of the *Domesday* Manor of Morville, it is necessary to speak further of its details.—The chief feature here was THE CHURCH.

<sup>9</sup> "Totius Angliæ legiones" are the words used by Ordericus.—(*Vide Normannorum Scriptores*, page 807 A.)

<sup>10</sup> The siege of Bridgnorth lasted three weeks.—(*Ordericus, ibm.*)

## THE CHURCH.

A Collegiate Church of the usual Saxon character,<sup>11</sup> had existed at Morville in the days of King Edward the Confessor. It was in honour of St. Gregory. Its endowment was eight hides of land, and it was served by eight Canons. The forfeiture of the Saxon Earls, Morcar and Edwin, A. D. 1071, was probably in the first instance subversive of this foundation, but before A. D. 1086, the Norman Earl had devoted the whole of these possessions to an ecclesiastical purpose. He had bestowed the Church and five hides on Shrewsbury Abbey, and three hides on his domestic Chaplains; but with a proviso as regarded the latter, "that as fast as the Clerks (or life-tenants) died off, the Abbey should appropriate their Prebends." Thus undoubtedly did Shrewsbury Abbey become at some time possessed of the Church and eight hides which had formed the Saxon establishment. We are fortunate in having a record of the lapse of one of these Prebends, and of some difficulty which the Abbey experienced in establishing its reversionary claim. Between the years 1108 and 1113, Richard de Meilnil Hermer, a Chaplain, died, having been first shorn a Monk of Salop. His son, Hubert, claimed his father's Prebend as his inheritance, but King Henry I enjoined Richard, Bishop of London, then Viceroy or Steward of this County, to hold trial thereupon. The consequence was the defeat of the claimant, the King himself apparently sitting in Court, and attended by the chief Barons of the County. We learn from this, that Earl Roger's Chaplain was, as might be expected, a Norman, Mesnil Hermer being a Norman town and giving name to a Norman family. It also would appear that celibacy was at this period either not incumbent on the Norman Canons, or that these Morville Chaplains of Earl Roger were not esteemed regular Canons or amenable to the rules which governed such collegiate bodies.

Besides the lapse of these Prebends, the Church of Morville had at this period been otherwise endowed; or, at least, grants which had been made to Salop Abbey, were considered appanages of its subject Church of Morville. Such were the grants of a great part

<sup>11</sup> Vide *Hist. Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, page 2; and *Archæologia Cambrensis*, New Series, No. xiv, page 100.

of Tugford (perhaps including Fertecote, a *vill* not at present traced) by Warin the Sheriff, and his successor Rainald, previous to 1086. Such also was the grant<sup>12</sup> of tithes of his demesne in Astley, by Earl Hugh de Montgomery, if indeed this were the origin of that undoubted right of the Abbey. Moreover, Warin's grant of the tithes of the whole *vill* of Weston, and of two-thirds of the tithes of his demesne of Henley, and Earl Hugh's grant of two-thirds of the tithes of his demesne of Neuton, and perhaps of Lye, will belong to the same category.

Consistently with the above, a suit which, between 1108 and 1113, arose between William, son of Rainer de Tangelanda (Thonglands), and the Abbey, about the continuance of a lease of Fertecote, will have primarily been a question as to the Abbot's rights in a part of his Morville fief. So also the suit which, between 1113 and 1121, arose between the Abbey and Rainald, son of Turstin Buich, as to the right of the latter to hold, in fee and inheritance, land near Bridgnorth and the Severn, of which his father had had a life-lease. The latter suit ended in the sickness and retraction of Rainald, his being shorn a Monk of Salop Abbey, and dying not long after his father.

<sup>12</sup> The Charter here quoted stands No. 5 in the Salop Chartulary, and is printed in the *New Monasticon*, vol. iii, p. 520. I have quoted it, though believing it to be one of the most unfortunate pieces of evidence which remains on the folios of a most valuable record. That it was framed to establish an unfounded right to any one of the various gifts which it recites is not, I believe, the case, and so far the term "forgery," though applicable to it on some grounds, should be explained. There can be little question, from other evidence, that Earl Hugh granted or confirmed, or sanctioned, all that the Charter conveys. Nor is the alleged attestation of Warin the Sheriff, who was dead long before Earl Hugh's succession, a material objection, seeing that attestation of these early Charters does not imply the then presence of the witness, so much as an assertion on the part of the writer of the Charter that that witness had been a witness, or a party to the transfer, all of it or part of it, at one time or other. But the main objection to this Charter is that Earl Hugh is

made to speak in the first person throughout, and ends by professing to seal it with his own seal, while it is quite certain that no such Charter was written in his day, or sealed with his seal, while living. This point is settled by internal evidence. The Earl talks of his demesne of "Astley, near Bruge," whereas Bruge was a nameless and barren rock in his day, and probably involved in the very demesne of Astley, which he is speaking of. He also grants other tithes as of his own demesne, where demesne he never had, though the Abbey certainly had other title to these very tithes, and Earl Hugh may have confirmed such title, and I believe did. The formula too of "Hii testibus," which introduces the witnesses' names, is of a later age than Earl Hugh's. The best and the worst to be concluded of this Charter is that it is a clumsy attempt of some Monk to improve a title which needed no such fortifying; and if any seal of Earl Hugh was ever attached to the document (which I doubt), such affix was only not a great fraud because it was a greater folly.

At this period, or more precisely A.D. 1118, the Monks of Salop had built a new<sup>13</sup> Church at Morville; and Geoffry (de Clive), Bishop of Hereford, attended to its consecration. We should neither have known this fact nor its date, but for an awful accident which followed, and which drew the attention of contemporary Chroniclers<sup>14</sup> to the circumstances. The day had been unusually fine, and those who had flocked to the ceremony of consecration were on their way home. A tremendous thunder-storm came on. Seven of the travellers, two of them females, were sheltering in one spot. The women were struck by the lightning and killed; the men had a narrow escape with life, and five horses belonging to the party perished.

After the rebuilding of the Church for a period of twenty years, we can trace nothing directly of the Church of St. Gregory, its possessions, or its interests; indeed the whole history of the County is involved in a similar obscurity. In the year 1121-2, or else in 1126-7, King Henry I, being then at Norton (near Cundover), issued a general precept<sup>15</sup> to Riehard (de Capella), Bishop of Hereford, commanding him that he cause the Abbot of Salop to enjoy all such Churches, lands, &c., in his Diocese, as the Abbot's predecessors had enjoyed. This precept may have been connected with the following circumstances.

It would seem that ever since the foundation of Salop Abbey, the Norman Abbey of Seez had laid claim, if not to the house itself as an *affiliation*, yet to certain of those possessions, whereto the latter exhibited an independent title. This probably arose from Shrewsbury Abbey, having been built and first occupied by Sagian Monks, imported from Earl Roger's Norman fief. The two first Abbots of Shrewsbury came also from Seez, and no one can read Earl Roger's foundation Charter, a document of indubitable authority,<sup>16</sup> without seeing that it was framed in antagonism to some such claim

<sup>13</sup> The architectural notice of the present Church of Morville, with which I am favoured by the Rev. J. L. Petit, and which is given below, renders it probable that nothing whatever of this structure of 1118, beyond the materials is now existent.

<sup>14</sup> Vide *Flor. Contin.* ii, 72.

<sup>15</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 47.

<sup>16</sup> This Charter stands No. 2 in the Chartulary, and is printed in the *New*

*Monasticon*, vol. iii, page 519. In the *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, pp. 11-15, an opinion generally favourable as to its genuineness is expressed, but some objections are also stated. I can only say, with regard to the latter, that, after a careful comparison of the document with *Domesday*, and other evidence in the Chartulary, I cannot find grounds for one of them. It will be time to answer these objections when the specific subjects on which they

as that of Seez, actual or prospective. As regards the possessions of Morville Church a claim had thus been made on its Manor of Billingsley; and successfully too, for the foreign Abbey appears to have been seized thereof, when about A.D. 1147 the claims of both houses were adjudicated upon by Robert de Betun, Bishop of Hereford. The composition<sup>17</sup> which ensued left Billingsley in possession of the Abbey of Seez. Thus Salop Abbey will have lost a Manor of about one and a half hides in extent, and so, nearly a fifth of the eight hides to which it had been entitled by force of Earl Roger's original grant of Morville Church, and its appurtenances.

The manorial possessions of the latter, or at least what remained uncontested of them, will about this time, or rather sooner, have become more immediately subject to Salop Abbey, in consequence of arrangements which must now be mentioned; and we may here dismiss any detailed account of separate Manors or townships, leaving to such as demand it a future and distinct notice.

The more comprehensive subject which now arises is a jurisdiction, rather parochial than manorial, and which Morville Church had doubtless exercised in Saxon times, and contrived to retain or regain after the Conquest. In all Alnodestreu Hundred, *Domesday* tell us but of one Church then existent, viz. that of St. Gregory. Whatever qualification<sup>18</sup> we may put upon this feature of the record, it is certain that the parish of St. Gregory extended far beyond its manorial interests, and involved a very important spiritual jurisdiction. It was about the year 1138, that Robert de Betun, the Diocesan, sympathizing, as he said, with the necessities of Salop Abbey, granted<sup>19</sup> to that house an appropriation of its Church of *Momerfeld*, enjoining however that it should be colonized with Monks from Shrewsbury, changeable at the Abbot's discretion.

are raised come under review. The objection which is made as regards Morville is, that the Earl grants the Church of *Momerfeld*, with all the land which the Clerks held. He means by the Clerks his own Chaplains, not the Saxon Canons, as the historians of Shrewsbury have presumed. On this ground they attack the Charter as contradictory to *Domesday*, which speaks only of five-eighths of such land having been granted to the Abbey. This is however merely saying that *Domesday* is silent as to the directions of the

Earl with respect to the other three reverend eighthths, to which I reply that *Domesday* had nothing to do with such matters. It treats of possessions, not remainders.

<sup>17</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 337.

<sup>18</sup> The mention of a priest at Glazeley and Chetton may perhaps be taken to imply the existence of Churches, and if there were not Churches at Tong and Donington in 1086 (as *Domesday* implies), there were within ten years of that date.

<sup>19</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 334.

The object of the latter proviso was ostensibly, "a full discharge of the duties of hospitality there, in proportion to the local means."

Morville thus became a Priory, and subject most directly to Salop Abbey. Its ecclesiastical rights, with which alone the Bishop had to do, were no longer matters of local concern or exercise. They were transferred to the Chapter-House at Shrewsbury. The Bishop's Charter proceeds to specify what they were, and they must be enumerated here.

1. A pension of 6*s.* 8*d.* from the Chapel of Billingsley, and half the corn-tithes of the same *vill*. Thus, though the Manor belonged to Seez, the parochial jurisdiction remained with Morville Church, and was now to be transferred to Salop Abbey. In other words, a Chapel had been some time built and endowed at Billingsley, in the parish of St. Gregory. St. Gregory had probably given up half the corn-tithe as an endowment, retaining however the other half, and exacting a pension of half a merk as a token of subjection to the Mother Church.

2. A pension of 5*s.* from the Chapel of Oldbury; an acknowledgment of parochial subjection quite independent of any territorial right.

3. A pension of 6*s.* 8*d.* from Tasley Chapel, a case like the last.

The Charter then mentions certain pensions accruing to Salop Abbey, from other sources (*alias debitas*), *i. e.*, such as did notarise from the appropriation of the rights of St. Gregory. But it further confirms the tithes of Astley, both of the Abbot's own demesne there, as well as those granted by others (seemingly an allusion to Earl Hugh's grant), also two-thirds of the tithes of the Lords of Henley, Neuton,<sup>20</sup> and Upton,<sup>20</sup> all which were probably appurtenant primarily to the Church of Morville, though the Charter does not say so.

So then, at this date (1138), in the parish of St. Gregory, three subject Chapels had been founded since *Domesday*, *viz.* at Billingsley, Oldbury, and Tasley. Within a year or two Robert Fitz-Aer founded<sup>21</sup> another at Aston Aer, endowing it himself with sixty acres of land, a house, and all tithes of his demesue. Within ten years two other such Chapels had been built, *viz.* at Aldenham and

<sup>20</sup> These places I take to be Neenton and Upton-super-Edge (afterwards Upton Cresset), but I cannot trace the original grant of tithes in either. At Neenton however Salop Abbey possessed a subse-

quent ecclesiastical interest of a kind which was not unusually a result of a primary possession of tithes.

<sup>21</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 346.



Underdon, with different endowments; and the same Bishop again confirming<sup>22</sup> to Salop Abbey, and addressing his Dean and Chapter of Hereford, tells them that he has consecrated so many Chapels as a "protection for the poor, and having respect to the warlike troubles of the time," and he enjoins that all these Chapels "be still subject to the Mother Church of Morville, so that, on great festivals, the people shall attend the latter, and the Priest of the latter shall, if he so wills, have the bodies of the dead carried thither for burial." The Bishop further stipulates that the endowments of these Chapels (the lands and tithes given to them) shall always be at the disposal of the Mother Church. He also charges his own successors not to require more than he had appointed in the way of Episcopal dues, "lest," says he, and the expression is significant, "what I have done in defence of the poor prove an injury to the Monks."

Again, the same Bishop consecrated on October 14th<sup>23</sup> (the year unmentioned), a *new* Chapel at Astley Abbots, for there seems to have been one before, but probably disused; and this Chapel was endowed, by the Abbot of Salop himself, with half a virgate of land (30 acres), a house and *assart-land*, worth 4s. per annum. No tithes were given up for this endowment.

Here then were seven Chapels in one great parish, nearly all of them consecrated by a single Bishop, and their endowments and relations to the Mother-Church definitely settled. And this was in the stormy reign of Stephen, a time little likely, one would imagine, to have excelled in works of peace and charity. Without forgetting the great influence which is ever assuaging human evil with some correlative of good, we may classify the subordinate agents in this local change, and judge of each by his conduct. The Bishop was the prime mover of the work, and he was one who has been chronicled in other and independent records<sup>24</sup> as a friend of the poor and oppressed, the opponent of power whenever associated with wrong, and a great personal sufferer for such his integrity. Then there are the Abbot and Monks of the great Benedictine House, at Shrewsbury, yielding a not very ready sympathy to the movement, and carefully protecting their own interests throughout. Lastly there are the Barons and Knights of the County, endowing

<sup>22</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 333.

<sup>23</sup> "The day of St. Calixtus."

<sup>24</sup> See his life printed in the *Anglia*

| *Sacra*; also the History of Lanthony  
| Abbey (in the *Monasticon*) and the *Gesta*  
| *Regis Stephani*.

Chapels out of their own means,<sup>25</sup> when the spiritual superintendence of the district was directly acknowledged to be the charge of an establishment already endowed.

Morville, simply as a Cell or Priory, and shorn of all its original influence, remained subject to Shrewsbury Abbey till the Reformation. Its ancient dependencies, as the Church of St. Gregory, rendered whatever allegiance was due, substantially and probably immediately to the Abbot, who held his privileged Court at Astley, without interference of the Prior of Morville, other than as a subordinate.

The names of no Priors<sup>26</sup> of Morville occur, where they might be most expected, in the Salop Chartulary. In Michaelmas Term, 1220, John Prior of *Momerefeld* appeared in the Courts at Westminster as the Abbot's Attorney in a law-suit.

In 1255 the jurors, empanelled to answer certain questions as to tenures and privileges in the Hundred of Stottesden, reported as follows:—that the Abbot of Salop was Lord of part of Momerefeld; that his share was one carrucate, which he held in demesne; that he owed no suit for the same (to County or Hundred Court); that he had thereof the King's charter, and that his *feoffor* was Earl Roger. "And," say the jurors, "the said *vill* was never hidaged," by which they must have meant, never assessed according to any separate hidage, which was likely enough, as it was subject to no assessment of those which were chargeable on the hidage of manors. We may however estimate the carrucate which Salop Abbey had in Morville itself, as something like half a hide, and this both with reference to the previous survey of *Domesday* and a subsequent statement<sup>27</sup> as to acreage.

<sup>25</sup> The Chapels of Billingsley, Oldbury, Aston Aer, and Aldenham, were founded or endowed by *laics*, and probably Tasley. The great injustice which resulted in such cases was that in process of time the Abbey engrossed the greater share of these endowments, leaving but a slender pittance to the Incumbents, whereas of course a local benefit was the primary object of the Founders.

<sup>26</sup> May 28th, 1253, John Wallensis, Prior of *Momerefeud*, connived at the introduction into his Priory of part of a hind which Walter Baldwin, of Norley, and Roger Dunfowe had unlawfully taken.

Before the case came before the Justices of the Forest, viz., Feb. 3d, 1262, this Prior was dead. *Placita foreste apud Salop*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 4.

John Perle occurs as Prior, June 16th, 1353 (Vide infra).

<sup>27</sup> The *carrucate* itself is never once mentioned in the Shropshire *Domesday*. The word abbreviated thus, *caṛ*, *caṛ*, is always *carruca*, an ox-team. Elsewhere in *Domesday* (as fol. 269 b.) the word, similarly abbreviated, stands oftenest for *carrucata*, and in one entry is so written in full. But *caṛ*, as an abbreviation of *carruca*, is used on the very same page. As regards

In 1280, the Abbot of Salop was receiving a pension from the Church of Morville, as distinct from the Priory, under the usual system of exaction. It was two merks (£1. 6s. 8d.) per annum, and John Archbishop of Canterbury sanctioned it, by deed<sup>28</sup> of August 23d in that year.

In 1291, the Church of Morville, with three of its Chapels, Astley, Aston Aer, and Billingsley, was valued as realizing to the Incumbent £17. 6s. 8d. per annum; but how this valuation was made up, and what were the services thus remunerated, does not appear.

The pensions deriveable, at the same date, from the Chapels of Oldbury and Tasley, were estimated as part of the income of the Prior.

In 1341, the parish of Morville was assessed as follows: its *taxation* or ecclesiastical value, including Chapels, was 26 merks (£17. 6s. 8d.); but the assessors of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, in the same parish, rendered account only of £10. 3s. 4d.; "so much less than the Church valuation, because there had been a common murrain in this year; and because small tithes, offerings, and other profits go to make up the higher *taxation* and are not comprised in this; and because many tenants have thrown up their holdings through poverty; and because there are two *carrucates*, and one *noke* of land (within the parish), which belong to the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, of Brugg, and pay nothing towards said ninth. But in the said ninth are included the temporalities of Salop Abbey, which are taxed like other (tenures) within the parish."

#### INCUMBENTS OF MORVILLE.

Of the early incumbents of this Church I can say but little. I have only found two of the 13th century, and both of them have merely the title of Chaplain. Roger, the earliest of these Chaplains, was Father of that Richard, whom I shall mention hereafter as

Shropshire, I do not suppose that any invariable or ascertained *ratio* can be established between the *Domesday* measurement by the hide, and the later computation by the carrucate. The computation, given *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, pp. 8-9, proceeds on the erroneous sup-

position that the carrucate occurs as a land-measure in the Shropshire *Domesday*.

<sup>28</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 62,—but the sum was probably made up by the pensions from subject Chapels.

marrying Sibil, the widow of Robert de Teneray, and confirming her grants to this Church.

Later in the century, Richard, Chaplain of Morville, attests a grant by Hugh, Lord of Upton (Cresset), to Morville Church, which I shall have occasion to notice hereafter.

The earlier Registers of Hereford exhibit no instance of a presentation to this office, neither is it mentioned in the *Valor* of 1535.

In 1545, as will presently appear, the officiating Minister here is styled merely Curate, and his stipend, chargeable on the Priory, was £5. 16s. 0½*d.* per annum.

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FINALLY, to show the ever varying combination which, under the monastic rule, confused both territory, tithes, Church, Chapels, and Priory, we may add an account of the state of things, such as the Reformation found and left them, here.

Previous to July 30th, 1529, Richard Marshall, alias Baker, twenty-eighth Abbot of Shrewsbury (if the list<sup>29</sup> be correct) had resigned, for on that day the election of his successor Thomas Boteler, twenty-ninth and last Abbot, received the Royal assent.

The resigning Abbot had a pension of £40 per annum assigned him by his Convent. To make up that sum a deed<sup>30</sup> under the Convent seal, passed 22d October, 1529, granting to him, *inter alia*, for term of life, the Cell or Grange<sup>31</sup> of Morfield, with all its lands, meadows, pastures, and other hereditaments, both temporal and spiritual. We learn from a valuation of subsequent date (June 16th, 1545), and made by Royal Commission, both the gross and net value of the premises thus conveyed, and further, in what they consisted. This last record or "extent" of Morville Priory must be briefly given. It was on this wise:—

<sup>29</sup> *Hist. Shrewsbury*, ii, 130.

<sup>30</sup> Vide *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. ii, pp. 289-291, where these particulars are printed from records in the Augmentation Office.

<sup>31</sup> Morville was still sometimes called a Priory, and the retired Abbot its Prior. Leland, who travelled this way from Wen-

lock at the time, says, "I sawe a litle Priory or Cell called Morfeilde on the right hand as I entred this village." (*Hearne's Itinerary*, vol. ii, p. 102.) For the title of Prior, as applied to Marshall, and other particulars about him—(See *Hist. Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 134, note 3.)

	£.	s.	d.
Rent of the site of the Cell or Grange with all its houses, kitchen, pasture, barns, stables, buildings, &c., in a state of utter ruin, with one small garden, one orchard, four stews, and the land and soil within the site and precinct of said Grange, per annum . . . . .	0	10	0
Rent of 92 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of arable, meadow, grass and pasture land, in diverse fields and enclosures . . . . .	7	17	5
Rent of two tenements (in one of which Richard Marshall seems to have resided) <sup>32</sup> . . . . .	0	13	4
Rent, or farm, of the tithes of grain and hay in Moreffeld, Walton, Lye, Kyndesley, Aldenham, Harpsford, Haughton, Crofte, and Underdon, and	21	0	0
Rent of the tithe of wool and other produce of the whole parish of Morfeld . . . . .			
	<hr/>		
	£30	0	9

The outgoing<sup>33</sup> were :

	£.	s.	d.
Salary of the Curate of Morefelde . . . . .	5	16	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salary of the Curate of Wheaton Aston . . . . .	5	16	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bishop of Hereford's visitation fees . . . . .	0	17	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sinage and proxes (synodals and procurations) . . . . .	0	13	4
Comissary of the Diocese . . . . .	0	6	8
	<hr/>		
	13	9	10 $\frac{1}{4}$

So that the net annual value, as stated in the document referred to, was . . . . . £16 10 10 $\frac{3}{4}$

On December 4th, 1545, the reversion of these premises was granted by the Crown to John Dudley, Viscount Lisle, and Lord Admiral of England, but such reversion would not, in the ordinary course, have taken effect till May 1558, on the 7th day of which month Richard Marshall was buried at St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth. The Lord Lisle had however sold the reversion long before, and

<sup>32</sup> Richard Marshall however lived at Bridgnorth for a time before his death, if I rightly interpret the somewhat ambiguous notice of him last referred to, but which is explained differently by the historians of Shrewsbury.

<sup>33</sup> Yet in a return of the income of his Abbey, for the year ending Michaelmas 1534, the Abbot of Salop includes an

annual pension of £8 received from the Prior of Morville (*Valor Eccles.* iii, 190), which, if correct, will have been a further charge on Marshall's income. And indeed, when Salop Abbey was surrendered (Jan. 1540), a pension of £10 was allotted to him by the Crown, as if his pension of £40 were not yet made up elsewhere.—(Vide *Hist. Shrewsb.* ibm.)

perhaps Marshall, his life interest, for there is an entry on the *originalia*<sup>34</sup> returns of 37 Hen. VIII (1545-6), as to "Roger Smyth, of Brydgnorth, doing homage for the premises."

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#### ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS OF THE OLD CHURCH.

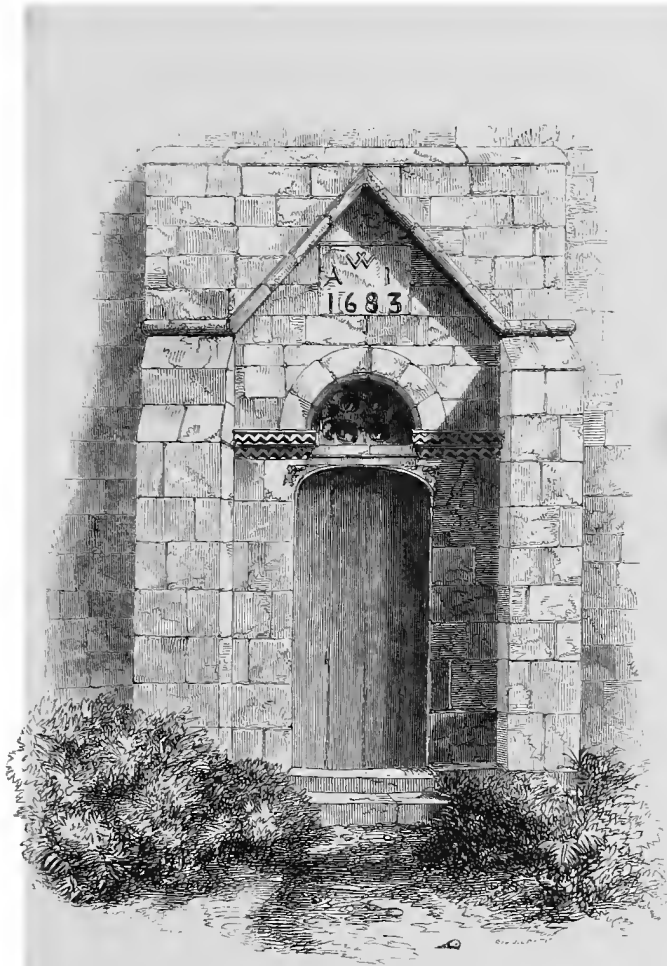
The earliest architectural features appear to belong to the latter part of the 12th century. The tower has very thick walls, and the Norman flat buttress or pilaster at the angles. Its upper part is of a much later date. The arches which separate the nave from the aisles are semicircular: their mouldings indicate a transitional period, when the pure Norman style was beginning to make way for the Gothic which succeeded it. We have many buildings which may be referred to this interesting epoch in architecture; they sometimes exhibit the tendency to change in the form of the arch, as at Buildwas; and sometimes in the mouldings, while the arch continues to be semicircular. Sometimes it is shown both by the arch and its mouldings, but then some mark or other rarely fails to occur by which the date may be detected.

Here we find a convex moulding, the section of which represents the form of a pointed arch; this I think does not occur in earlier work.

The piers are of a somewhat uncommon plan, namely, a square, in the sides of which are engaged shafts, or semi-shafts whose section is an ogee-pointed arch; the form of the abacus is octagonal. The Chancel-arch is semicircular; its western face exhibits a shaft with an enriched capital, and two double rows of billets, those of the inner row being smaller than we usually find in Norman work. On the north side of the chancel is a door or porch, with a semicircular arch under a plain gabled canopy. Above the arch is a stone, bearing the date 1683; but as there can be no doubt that the string-courses, from which the arch springs, and the sculpture in its head, are as early as the 12th century, this date probably refers

<sup>34</sup> *Originalia*, 37 Hen. VIII, rot 23, quoted *Monast.* iii, 517, note (e).—The Record itself has since been examined. It is *Orig.* 37 H. VIII, p. 3, *Rot.* 23. The King, for a fine of £4. 17s., grants to John Viscount Lisle, that he may, by fine to be levied at Westminster, grant the pre-

mises before recited, and the reversion of Marshall's life interest therein, to Roger Smyth, of Bridgnorth, to hold to said Roger and his heirs, of the King and his heirs, by accustomed services. Given at Westminster, 18th February, anno 37 (1546).



CHANCEL DOOR, SOUTH SIDE, MORVILLE.



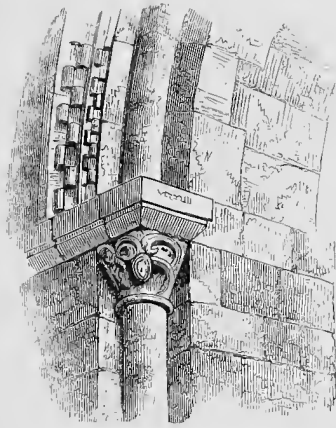




*Rev. J. L. Petit.*

PILLAR AND CAPITAL, MORVILLE.

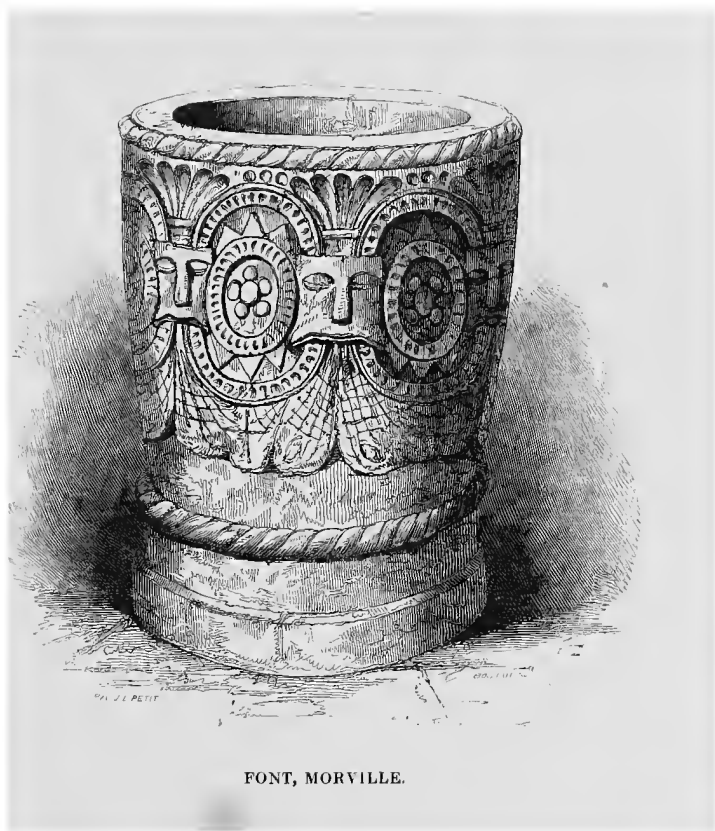




*Rev. J. L. Petit.*

**CHANCEL ARCH, MORVILLE.**





FONT, MORVILLE.



to some general repair of the Church, or to the re-arrangement of the door itself, the opening of which, beneath the old arch, is evidently modern.

The Font, which is circular and without any shaft, is covered with rude sculpture, to which I do not see any reason to assign an earlier date than to the oldest parts of the Church, though it is just of that character that might induce an antiquary to class it among very old specimens, without any fear of being met by a decided proof to the contrary. It is a curious and interesting relic, worthy of careful preservation.

J. L. PETIT.

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We have now treated of Morville as the caput of a Saxon and *Domesday* Hundred, as centre of a great Manor, and Mother-Church of a still greater Parish. We have seen it lose all these dignities and become ecclesiastically a very mean Priory or Cell of Shrewsbury Abbey, manorially a small tenement of less than a hundred acres, and as a seat of provincial government, nothing.

We may now dismiss the subject and revert to its manorial adjuncts, if our identification of them at the time of *Domesday* may, for the present, be accepted as probable.

First on the list will stand Astley, sometimes called Astley Brug, but with a better note of distinction.—

#### ASTLEY ABBOTS.

This township engrossed to itself at a very early period the manorial dignity of Morville, as far as the interests of Salop Abbey were concerned.

When spoken of as a Manor of five hides, as in 1255, it must be taken to involve a great proportion of the seventeen unnamed *berewicks* of *Domesday*. Little Astley, Norley, Croft, Haughton, Kingslow, Road, Stanley, Dunvall, Colemore, Severn Hall, Cantreyn, Rucroft, and Bunewall,<sup>35</sup> are hamlets, messuages, or tenements found at diverse period as members of this Manor, and some nine or ten of them will have been of the *Domesday berewicks*. Of them more in detail hereafter.

If Earl Hugh granted to Salop Abbey tithes of his demesne of

<sup>35</sup> The Hays, Deepdale, Haseldene, also occur, and others of still less note.

Astley, as alledged, that demesne will probably have lain in the direction which was afterwards occupied by the town of Bridgnorth.

At the northern extremity of its Manor of Astley, the Abbey seems to have early made an acquisition of some importance in those days.

Between the years 1135 and 1141 (because subsequently to the death of Henry I, and previously to the Empress' confirmation<sup>36</sup> thereof), Hamon Peverel granted the "fishery and passage" of Sutton. This will have been a right of weir and ferry in the river Severn, probably at the point where the Manors of Apley and Sutton Maddock now converge on the eastern bank of that river. About the same time<sup>37</sup> Robert, Bishop of Hereford, appropriating Morville Church to Salop Abbey, includes a pension of eight shillings arising from its subject Chapel of Estley. He also confirms all the tithes as well of the Abbot's demesne of Estley, as those "anciently given by others in the same parish."

About the year 1160,<sup>38</sup> Robert, Abbot of Salop, with consent of his Chapter, granted to Philip Fitz-Stephen and his heirs, the fishery of Sutton (piscariam de Sutuna) and the land, of which Richard and Hugh were tenants, near the fishery. The annual rent reserved was 1s. 4d., payable at Michaelmas. The witnesses of this feoffment have reference to the locality. They were Richard the Priest of Hestlee (Astley), Hugh Piscator (Fisher) of Brugg, Alexander the Forester, Ralph son of Ordrie, Alduin de Harpesfort (Harpswood), and Bermer de Norlee (Nordley).

In 1180, among those amerced<sup>39</sup> by the Justices of the Forest, then visiting this County, were several of the Abbot of Salop's tenants at Astley and Norley. The subject of these ameracements was certain *purprestures* and tillages within the limits of the King's forest of Shirlet. Among the names are Albinus, Robert de Bonewell, Reginald de Haleton, William de la Rode, Andrew, Richard the Provost, and Robert Wendae, each of whom was more or less connected with the local history of the Manor. The Provost named was probably the Bailiff of the Abbot of Salop.

About the year 1225 a grant<sup>40</sup> to Morville Church is fortified by oath of the grantors, taken "before Brother John de Egeton, then

<sup>36</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 40. There was at this period no bridge over the Severn between Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth. One at Atcham was made early in the next century.

<sup>37</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 334.

<sup>38</sup> *New Monasticon*, vol. iii, p. 522, No. xiv.

<sup>39</sup> *Placita Forestæ* (Chapter-House, Westminster, No. i.)

<sup>40</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 104.



Seneschall, and Brother William de Penkridge, Monks, and before the full Court of the Lord Abbot of Salop, at Astley."

In 1255 the Jurors who took inquisition<sup>41</sup> of the tenures in Stottesden Hundred, before the King's Commissioners, say that the "Abbot of Salop is Lord of Astlegh by gift of Earl Roger. Therein are five hides of land which the said Abbot holds, nor does he any suit; and he has the King's warrant." Hugo de Kynsedel (Kinslow), one of the Abbots feoffees, was himself of the Jury on this occasion.

21st May, 1256. The Abbot had the King's charter<sup>42</sup> of free-warren in all his demesne lands. "Astley" is mentioned among them.

November 30th, 1274. Another tenant of the Abbot here, viz. Simon de Sabrina, was of the jury<sup>43</sup> which attended at Salop to make report to a Royal Commission on several matters relating to Stottesden Hundred.

There is a record<sup>44</sup> written apparently about the end of the thirteenth century, and which takes note of certain villages, woods, &c., pertaining to the custody of the King's forest (hayæ), of Schirlet, and which had been disafforested by perambulation made thereof." Among them are Colemore, Stanleye, Rucroft, Medewegrene, Contreyne, the messuage of Simon de Sabrina (now Severn Hall), Northleye, Astley Abbots, La Dunfowe (now Dunvall), La Rode (now Road or Rhodes), Kinsedeleye (now Kingslow), Tasley, Crofte, Haleygton (now Haughton), Momerfeld, Lee (Lye), Underdone, Walton (now Bridgewarton), and Harpesford.

About the year 1267,<sup>45</sup> Philip, Lord of Baggesovere (Badger), for the sum of four merks, sold to William Abbot, and the Convent, of Salop, all the land which he had in their Manor of Astlee, with all his rights in rents, homages, reliefs, escheats, &c., which land he held (of them) at 5s. rent. The object of this sale or surrender, though itself of some interest, is not to our present purpose. Suffice it here to say that this Philip, Lord of Badger, was also Forester of the fee in the King's forest of Schirlet, and lineal descendant of that Philip Fitz-Stephen, whom we have seen becoming the Abbot's tenant here a century before. Whether the premises

<sup>41</sup> *Hundred Rolls*, vol. ii, p. 81.

<sup>42</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 53. This document, which ought to appear on *Rot. Cartarum*, 40 Hen. III, is thus preserved, the Charter Rolls of that year being lost.

<sup>43</sup> *Hundred Rolls*, vol. ii, p. 107.

<sup>44</sup> *Forest Rolls*, Westminster, Salop, No. iii.

<sup>45</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 145.

granted to Philip Fitz-Stephen were identical with those surrendered, or, what is more probable, part of them, we cannot decide; but a glance at the Map will show how relevant to his official duties must have been the ferry of Sutton to that Forester of Shirlet, whose residence and lands were at Badger and Ackleton.

In 1284 there was an inquisition<sup>46</sup> of the kind afterwards classified as "*ad quod damnum*," relating to the Abbot of Salop, as Lord of Astley juxta Brug, making assarts in Shirlet forest.

In 1291 we have a valuation of the Abbot's temporal interests here:—

He had four carrucates of land (in demesne), estimated as annually worth (at 13s. 4d. per carrucate)	£ s. d.
He had a parcel of meadow-land worth	2 13 4
A mill	0 3 4
In rents	0 13 4
In pleas and perquisites (of the Manor Court)	11 2 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
His revenue here will therefore have been	£15 0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$

We have other valuations of this Manor, which, though made more than two centuries afterwards, may be given here if only for comparison. In the year<sup>47</sup> ending Michaelmas 1535, this Manor appears to have realized to the then Abbot a net revenue of about £27. 11s., but 14s. of tithes are among the receipts, whilst a chief-rent to the Crown of 2s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and a bailiff's salary of £1 constitute the abatements. The profits of Court are not estimated.<sup>48</sup>

Six years later the *Ministers' accounts* give the annual value of this possession of the dissolved Abbey of Salop as £32. 9s. 4d., but that sum includes both the profits of Court (£2. 10s. 4d.) and tithes (£2. 14s.).

Before we leave this Manor a statement must be added which, while it concerns a considerable tenure therein, also embodies some

<sup>46</sup> *Escheats sive Inquisitiones post mortem*, 12 Ed. I, No. 60.

<sup>47</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, pp. 189, 190.

<sup>48</sup> A rental of the possessions of Salop Abbey between the years 1487 and 1491, is quoted *Hist. Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, pp. 508, 509. The income derivable from Astley is stated at £25. 2s. 8d., "but," say

the Editors, "under this head are included items quite unconnected with Astley, as Albyns, Kakeweche, Nordley, Depedale, Tasseley, &c." I presume that the statements in the text exhibit a very close connexion between Astley and most of these places. The same Roll estimates the tithes of Astley at 45 shillings per annum.

particulars of law proceedings extracted from the very earliest of our Judicial Records.

A person, whose name is written Robert Wendac, has been already mentioned as concerned here in 1180. In June, 1194, Cecilia and Sibilla, apparently daughters and co-heirs of this Robert, who seems also to have been son of another Robert (whose name is written "Wandard"), were sued<sup>49</sup> for the inheritance of the latter by William Savage, alleging himself to be son of another William Savage, eldest son of said Robert Wandard. The Record is not very clear on all points, but the progress of the cause was nearly as follows:—

On June 6th, 1194, the defendants Cecily and Sibil, with their husbands William Turald and Geoffry de Molendino, had *essoign* in the Court at Westminster till July 1st following. The ground of *essoign* appears to have been the sickness of Cecily, for on the day appointed (July 1st),<sup>50</sup> four *visors* who ought to have been in Court to testify their view of the infirmity of Cecilia de Cantinunt (a corruption of Cantreyn or Cantern) came not. They were summoned again for *one month of Michaelmas*, and at the same time<sup>51</sup> Geoffry and Sibil appointed William fitz Turald (Cecilia's husband) their attorney, to win or lose (*ad lucrandum vel perdendum*).

On October 27th, the cause<sup>52</sup> came on for hearing. The lands in dispute were two carrucates in Estlee, with three messuages and ten acres in Bruge (Bridgnorth). Each party seems to have pleaded a right founded on the primogeniture of either of the two sons of Robert Wandard, the defendants adding, in confirmation, their possession of other lands in Bruge, similarly derived. The defendants required "view" thereof, which the Court granted, and adjourned the case till the *quinzaine* of St. Martin, and such view was to be taken in the interim. On November 24th, 1194, three of the four knights appointed to take this view certified<sup>53</sup> to the Court their discharge of such duty; but the case did not end here,

<sup>49</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Trin. Term, 5 R. I, memb. 3 recto. The date of the Roll is assigned from its internal evidence. It is that described in the *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, pp. 96, 97, as "incerti temporis Regis Ricardi." In consequence of its date not being inscribed, this Roll has escaped the notice of the Editor of the

*Rotuli Curie Regis*, the first volume of which purports to be a transcript of all existent judicial records of that reign. See Preface, p. 5.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 5 dorso.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 3 recto.

<sup>52</sup> *Rotuli Curie Regis*, vol. i, p. 14.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 73.

for on the following <sup>54</sup> day William fitz Turald again had *essoign*, and the cause was adjourned till the *octaves* of Hilary (January 20th, 1195). The minutes of that term and many subsequent terms are lost, and we can only conclude from the record of a suit many years afterwards, that the defendants did not lose all if any of the premises.

In Michaelmas Term, 1221, <sup>55</sup> Geoffry (de Molendino) and Sibil fitz Robert (so written in this case) being dead, and Richard de Kinsedel (Kinslow), second husband of Sibil, surviving, William, the son of Geoffry and Sibil, being then a minor, sued said Richard for a mill and eighteen acres here, the right of his mother. Richard pleaded his marriage of Sibil, and that, having had children by her, he was entitled by *custom of England* to her inheritance for his life. The plaintiff William rejoined with two pleas: one that Richard's children were not by his mother Sibil, but by a later wife; the other that Richard was a *villain*.<sup>56</sup> The truth of one or both of these last assertions is apparent from the sequel, for Richard, though in possession, resigned his claim for half a merk (6s. 8d.)

#### THE CHURCH OF ASTLEY ABBOTS.

There will have been a Church or Chapel here within half a century after *Domesday*, for Robert de Betun<sup>57</sup> appropriating Morville Church to Salop Abbey about A. D. 1138, included a pension of 8s. arising from its subject "Chapel of Estleya."

The same<sup>58</sup> Bishop, when he consecrated a new Chapel and Cemetery here shortly after, speaks of the previous dependence of the Chapel on Morville Church, and directs that it continue. The Abbot of Salop's endowment of the new foundation has already been stated, and it would seem that for a time such endowment will have been unrevoked. However about 1217,<sup>59</sup> Hugh (de Mapenore), Bishop of Hereford, granted to Morville Priory an appropriation hercof, saving the life interest of Gerard de Egymendune (Edgmond), the then Incumbent. This grant, though preserving the name of an early Rector, probably placed again at the discretion of the Abbot his predecessor's endowment; and indeed there is no

<sup>54</sup> *Rotuli Curie Regis*, vol. i, p. 126.

<sup>55</sup> *Flacita apud Salop*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 4, verso.

<sup>56</sup> One whose tenure was in *villanage*, and who, so far from being able to possess

land, was transferable himself as part and parcel of the appurtenances.

<sup>57</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 334.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 343.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 347.

subsequent mention of this Chapel from this time till the dissolution, except as in most dependent connection with Morville Church. The valuation of 1535 does not even mention it.

#### INCUMBENTS OF ASTLEY.

After Gerard de Egymendune's Incumbency, the officiating minister here like him at Morville seems to have been entitled "Chaplain."

Henry Chaplain of "Esteleg" was father of that Joseph who will appear elsewhere as grantee of Henry de Bunewall and Robert de Teneray in the Manor. About September, 1258, Richard Chaplain of "Esteleg" attests a Salop charter, relating to land in Astley.

The earliest notice on the Diocesan Register is of date June 16th, 1353, when John Perle, Prior of Morville and Proctor of Salop Abbey, admitted before the Bishop, at his Visitation of Morville, that the Abbot was bound to find and maintain a Chaplain in the Chapel of Astley, dependent on Morville Church. The admission argues the previous neglect of such duty, or at least an attempt to evade it;—another hint as to the way in which the Monastic Houses of that period attended to the spiritual interests of their dependents.

#### ASTLEY PARVA,

Called also "alia Estleia" and "parva Estleham," was one of those adjuncts of Morville which Earl Roger's grant, as interpreted by the confirmation of King William, conveyed to Salop Abbey.

About A. D. 1220, the Abbot seems to have added to his demesne by purchase from and exchange with two of his tenants here. He paid<sup>60</sup> Geoffry, the Irishman (le Hyreis), of Brug three and a half merks for a *culture* under Little Estleham (Astley Home), and gave<sup>61</sup> Henry le Map half a virgate in Nordley, and a meadow between Henley and Kingslow-bridge, to hold for a rent of 2s. 8d. in exchange for his tenancy in Little Estleg.

#### NORDLEY OR NORLEY.

This *vill* was similarly involved in Earl Roger's grant. A family, taking its name from the place, seems to have held the principal

<sup>60</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 147.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 153.

tenancy here under Salop Abbey. Bermer de Norlec has already<sup>62</sup> occurred about 1160, and Andrew de Norley, or a succession<sup>63</sup> of Andrews, occurs from 1180 for more than seventy years.

In November, 1221,<sup>64</sup> the Abbot of Salop was sued by William Fitz-Walter for disscising him of his free tenement here; but in vain, for the cousins of William proved him to be a *villain*.<sup>65</sup>

By inquest<sup>66</sup> held at Astley, on "*quasi modo geniti*" Sunday, 1 Edw. I (April 16th, 1273), after death of Henry le Forcer, Lord of Linley, and a tenant *in capite* at Brockton, it was found that he held in *socage* here of Salop Abbey, paying an annual rent of 8s., and doing suit thrice a year at the Abbot's Court of Astley. Consistently with this there are deeds<sup>67</sup> in the Salop Chartulary, which evidently passed in Astley Abbots Manor-Court, and which are attested by members of this family.

#### CROFT.

This place, also involved in Earl Roger's grant, gave name to certain tenants thereof under Salop Abbey.

September 26th,<sup>68</sup> 1199, Nicholas de la Rode having impleaded William de Crofte, the tenant, for a virgate of land here, relinquished his claim by *final concord* at Salop Assizes, receiving 10s. In October, 1203,<sup>69</sup> this virgate became again a subject of litigation. William de Crofte having enfeoffed Richard de Crofte therein, the latter, as tenant, was sued at Salop Assizes by writ of *mort d'ancestre* for the same. The plaintiff, Reginald de Crofte, alleged that his father (another Reginald) had died seized thereof, and that he was his heir. Richard de Crofte, the defendant, called to *warrantry* William de Crofte, who duly appeared and established his title by producing in Court the fine, or "*chirograph*," of 1199. Reginald was then asked by the Court why, on the occasion of that fine being *levied*, he did not put in his claim. His answer was, that he was then in Cheshire; and so he was nonsuited.

<sup>62</sup> Vide page 44.

<sup>63</sup> *Forest Roll* at Westminster. *Salop*, No. 1. *Salop Chartulary*, *passim*, and Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>64</sup> *Salop Assize Roll*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 3 recto.

<sup>65</sup> Vide page 48, note 56.

<sup>66</sup> *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 1 Ed. I. No. 47.

<sup>67</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, Nos. 145-151-274 b.

<sup>68</sup> *Pedes finium*, 1 John.

<sup>69</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 4 dorso.

This William de Crofte appears a few years later<sup>70</sup> in attendance on the Abbot's Court at Astley, and one of both his names attests a deed<sup>71</sup> there at the end of the century, viz. 25th May, 1298.

But about the middle of the 13th century the Abbot had a clerical tenant here, of great wealth and still greater notoriety.

The earliest occurrence of Master Walter le Palmer, of Brug, is his being enfeoffed<sup>72</sup> by Sibil de Halchtun (Haughton), widow, in an acre of land in Haughton, which was already bounded on two sides by lands of his tenure, and on a third by a meadow which separated Kinslow and Croft.

In the year 1255<sup>73</sup> the possessions of this Master Walter le Palmer, at Church Stretton and Bridgnorth, had been seized into the King's hands under the following circumstances. He stood indicted for entertaining one Roger de Kinver, an outlaw, and also for the murders of Matilda, aunt of John de Gatacre, and of William Kilmayn. His Father, Hamon le Palmer, seems to have been implicated. Walter however contrived to free both himself and his Father from all liability to the civil power, by large pecuniary offerings (*oblata*), in which the Abbot of Buildwas was his surety. His guilt however is more clearly proved, than by the suspicion which his large *fine* alone would warrant. He was put upon his trial<sup>74</sup> in the Crown Court, at Salop Assizes, in January, 1256. The Official of the Bishop of Coventry demanded that he be surrendered to the spiritual power, being a Clerk. The King's Justices acquiesced, but directed the Jury first to give their verdict, on the Crown prosecution, "to the end," says the record, "that it may be known what kind of character is thus surrendered." The jury pronounced him guilty of the murder of Matilda, but not guilty of the other offences. It being also found that he had *lay* possessions, all that the Justiciars could do was to order the Sheriff to seize the same on behalf of the Crown. His fate in the Ecclesiastical Court does not appear, but there is a full record of his ultimate composition with the civil power. What with replevying his lands and chattels, compounding for the non-appearance of Hamon, his Father, at the Assizes, and his fine for his said Father's lands and chattels; he appears on the Pipe Roll,<sup>75</sup> of Michaelmas, 1256, as having been

<sup>70</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 137—if I rightly date the deed, e. 1215.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 274 *b*.

<sup>72</sup> Charter in the possession of the Rev. J. Brooke, of Haughton.

<sup>73</sup> Salop Assize Roll, 40 Henry III, (Placita Coronæ Rot. 4 dorso, & 10 recto.)

<sup>74</sup> Salop Assize Roll, 40 Henry III, memb. 10 recto.

<sup>75</sup> *Mag. Rot. Pip.* 40 Hen. III, Salop.

amenable to the Crown in various sums, amounting in the whole to £51. 13s. 4d. Of this debt he had already paid £43. 6s. 8d. into the King's Treasury, £5. to Remigius de Arundel, the Sheriff's Clerk, and owed only £3. 6s. 8d. His payment of this balance is the last item on the Sheriff's accounts of the year.

We have one more local reminiscence of this individual. In November, 1260, as tenant of a messuage and one carrucate of land in Crofte, he compounded by payment of 26 merks (£17. 6s. 8d.), a claim which one Alan Strannelone had made on the same. This *fine*<sup>76</sup> was levied at Westminster, and appears to be the termination of a real suit.

#### HAUGHTON—

Another member of Astley, gave name to the family of that Reginald de Halctun, who has already been mentioned as subject in 1180 to the amercement of the Justices of the Forest. But the principal tenant here, in the beginning of the next century, was Robert de Teneray, in right of his wife Sibil, daughter and heir of "Floria de Halectun." This Robert de Teneray having a temporary lease of some tenement in Kinslow, and exercising a presumed right of pasture in that *vill*, was disseized of the latter by Geoffry de "Kynesle," the principal owner there. His action<sup>77</sup> of *novel disseisin* against said Geoffry was tried at Salop Assizes, in November, 1221, and failed, inasmuch as his interest in Kinslow was a terminal one, and did not amount to a *free tenure*. This Robert de Teneray and Sibil his wife occur about the same time, as granting a life-lease<sup>78</sup> to one Joseph fitz Henry, of a house and land in "Halechtone." Sibil also, now a widow, enfeoffed<sup>79</sup> the Priory of Morville in the same and other lands here, by two separate deeds, the last of which reserves a rent of 15 pence to herself. This reserved rent she, by a further deed,<sup>80</sup> quitted to the Priory, whose obligation in lieu thereof was to pay 2 pence annually towards lighting the Church.

Again, the same Sibil, now remarried to Richard, son of Roger

<sup>76</sup> *Pedes finium*, 45 Hen. III. I shall have again to speak of this Master Walter le Palmer in another connexion. He was member of a family, which, at this period, was by far the wealthiest and most important within the Borough of Bridgnorth, and whose purchases and interests

are the prominent feature of a large collection of documents at Apley Park.

<sup>77</sup> *Salop Assize Roll*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 4 recto.

<sup>78</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, No. 99, b.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibidem*, Nos. 100, 102.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 99.



formerly Chaplain of Morville, joins her said husband in confirming<sup>81</sup> and increasing former grants, and the Monks are to pay 2 pence annually towards specified lights in the Church, and 2 pence more to Richard and Sibil, or their heirs. This was the grant before alluded to, as confirmed by oath of the grantors in the Abbot's Court at Astley, and in presence of his Seneschal.

It is further possible, that this Sibil may be she who enfeoffed<sup>82</sup> Master Walter le Palmer here, as mentioned under Croft; but, if so, that grant will have been in her second widowhood.

### KINGSLOW OR KINSLOW.

A family of some wealth and importance, in the 13th century, held here under the Abbey.

Geoffry de Kynsedel stands high in a list<sup>83</sup> of the Abbot's Court at Astley, which dates about 1215.

November, 1221.—He was gainer of the suit<sup>84</sup> of *novel disseisin*, by which Robert de Teneray (before mentioned), and Albinus de la Rode, sought to establish a right of pasturage here.

About the same period, either singly, or with Hugh his son, he is witness to a number of charters affecting the Manor of Astley.

About the year 1226,<sup>85</sup> Hugh de Kynsedeleg attests a charter to Salop Abbey singly. In Michaelmas Term, 1230, he was under prosecution,<sup>86</sup> as a partizan of Walter de Clifford, in an assault on the men of the Priory of Wenloek. He is a very frequent witness of deeds in the Salop Chartulary at this period, and one<sup>87</sup> of which is dated 1252. In 1255, he was one of the jury who made inquest<sup>88</sup> as to the state of the Hundred of Stottesden, before the King's Commissioners. In January, 1256, at Salop Assizes, he fined<sup>89</sup> half a merk for some *replevin*, Bertram de Burgo being his surety.

On January 20, 1257, a writ<sup>90</sup> of the Crown directed inquest to

<sup>81</sup> *Ibidem*, Nos. 102, 104. One of the lights mentioned is the "rota," or great chandelier, and hence Mr. Blakeway argues the existence of some ecclesiastical splendour in the Priory Church of the period. (*Parochial Notices*, vol. ii, p. 48, in *Bibl. Bodl. Oxon.*)

<sup>82</sup> Charter in the possession of the Rev. J. Brooke, of Haughton.

<sup>83</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 137, quoted above, page 51, note 70.

<sup>84</sup> *Salop Assize Roll*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 4 recto.

<sup>85</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 280.

<sup>86</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Mich. Term, 14 & 15 Hen. III, memb. 10 recto.

<sup>87</sup> Salop Chartulary, Nos. 141, 149, &c.

<sup>88</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 81.

<sup>89</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>90</sup> *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 41 Hen. III, No. 37.

be made as to his property, whether it was sufficient to oblige him to take Knighthood. The Jurors reported his land as worth 100 shillings yearly, less 14s. 1d., his quit-rent to Salop Abbey, but they understood that he had lands in Norfolk, worth £10. per annum, but they knew not for certain.

In February, 1262, having been amerced<sup>91</sup> by the Justices Itinerant, for having hounds within precincts of the Royal forest without warrant, he is pardoned.

September, 1272.—He is reported by the Stottesden Jurors, as not duly attending<sup>92</sup> the Assize-summons.

On June 6th, 1300, a second Geoffrey de Kynsedelewe occurs,<sup>93</sup> as a Verderer of the King's forests, and on March 29th, 1303, the same Geoffrey attests a Charter<sup>94</sup> of Salop Abbey, which concerned Astley Manor.

#### ROAD OR RHODES—

Was another member of Astley, and gave name to a family who held therein under Salop Abbey. Of this family, Albinus<sup>95</sup> and William<sup>95</sup> occur in 1180, Nicholas<sup>96</sup> 1199, and again<sup>97</sup> in 1202, when he had been amerced for *disseisin* by Geoffrey fitz Piers, Chief Justice of England. Albinus occurs<sup>98</sup> in 1221, and towards the middle<sup>99</sup> of the century. He attests one<sup>100</sup> deed as Dominus Albinus, which probably shows him to have been a Knight. Richard, William, and Simon, also attest deeds<sup>101</sup> relating to Astley, or are mentioned therein. Some Albinus of this family will have given name to the tenement called The Albynes, which in the thirteenth century had in turn given a surname "*de Albynes*" to a resident there.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>91</sup> *Forest Pleas at Salop*, No. iv, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>92</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso. "Non venit primo die."

<sup>93</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, No. 279.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 274.

<sup>95</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, No. i, memb. 1.

<sup>96</sup> *Final Concord*, 1 John.

<sup>97</sup> *Mag. Rot. Pip.* 4 John, Salop.

<sup>98</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 4.

<sup>99</sup> Charter in the possession of the Rev. J. Brooke, of Haughton.

<sup>100</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, No. 143.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibidem*, Nos. 140, 141d, 103, 274.—  
And Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>102</sup> 11 Apl. 1258. There was a suit of *mort d'ancestre* in progress between Adam de Albyns and Walter de Bruges about land in Astley (*Rot. Pat.* 42 H. 3. dorso). It was to be tried by Giles de Erdinton, &c., specially appointed for the cause. See also *Salop Chartulary*, No. 274, dated Feb. 29, 1303, the grantor being John de Albyns.

## STANLEY,—

Now Stanley Hall, was once a hamlet appurtenant to the Abbot's Manor of Astley. The holder hereof, Stephen de Stanley, surrendered<sup>103</sup> his tenancy to Salop Abbey in the end of 1252, he and his wife Juliana becoming, in consideration thereof, "guests<sup>104</sup> of that house." Stephen's surrender is in terms importing a considerable transfer. He conveys "lands held by him at that present as well as those which he had set to *ferm* to others, also his men and rents, and his wood, in the hamlet of Stanley, within Astley Manor." On his death some time after, his widow Juliana quitted all claim<sup>105</sup> of dower in the premises, as she was indeed bound to do by the terms of the former covenant. Thus then Stanley will have become demesne of the Abbey.

## DUNFOWE.

This member of Astley must be treated of under its ancient appellation, as its identity with Dunvill is not quite a matter of certainty. A few members of a family taking name from hence shall be mentioned in the way that they are variously written.

October 1st, 1203, the King's Justices being in *Eyre*<sup>106</sup> at Salop, Richard Dunfow *essoigned* himself by Alexander Dunfow, for non-attendance at the *common summons* (to serve on juries, &c.)

About 1215, Henry, son of Edric de Rewin, with his wife Sibil, daughter of Richard le Dunfou, became life-tenants of a part of the Abbot's demesne at Astley.<sup>107</sup>

Simon Dunfothe attests an Astley deed,<sup>108</sup> which passed soon after; and in September, 1231, Simon de Dunfawe had been amerced half a merk for *vert*.<sup>109</sup>

<sup>103</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 149 b.

<sup>104</sup> For an explanation of this term I refer to *Hist. Shrews.* ii, 100, 101, 102, where also will be found a transcript of the deed (No. 141 a, of the Salop Chartulary) which fixes the terms of the Abbot's grant for maintenance of Stephen and Juliana, and a very sufficient commentary on the whole transaction. Stephen's surrender stands No. 149 b of the Chartulary, and his widow's *quit-claim*, No. 141c, though I incline to date the latter somewhat later than the Historians of Shrewsbury, and

think that Stephen and Juliana enjoyed the hospitality of the Abbey jointly for near twenty years.

<sup>105</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 141 c.

<sup>106</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. I, dorso.

<sup>107</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 137.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 146.

<sup>109</sup> Pipe Roll, 15 Hen. III, Salop.

*Viride* or *vert* was any trespass on the material of a forrest, such as cutting trees, boughs, or turf.

So *venacio* (venison) was a trespass on the game.

November 12th, 1240. Simon le Dunnowe, as tenant of a messuage and five acres in Astley, had been impleaded<sup>110</sup> under writ of *mort d'ancestre* by Milisent, daughter of Alexander de Dunnowe, who now remits her claim for two merks.

May 25th, 1298. Richard de Donfowe attests a deed<sup>111</sup> at Astley which speaks of Richard de Deonewall (Dunvall) being a tenant there, and it is by no means impossible that the same person should have been thus variously written in one deed. In a *final concord*<sup>112</sup> of November, 1258, the place is written Dunfowe, and, in the deafforestation<sup>113</sup> described under Astley, La Dunfowe is named between Astley and Rode. If Dunvall were a different place the only indication thereof has been already submitted.

There were in the thirteenth century several tenants of the Abbey at Shrewsbury, who were of this family and whose name is written with similar variations.

#### COLEMORE.

Of this adjunct of Astley Abbots, little more can be said than that at one time it was held by a family of some importance, and which will have to be noticed elsewhere.

About A.D. 1215,<sup>114</sup> Thomas de Bardeley appears as attendant on the Abbot's Manorial Court at Astley, and some years later Thomas de Berdelei sold<sup>115</sup> to the Abbey for eight merks, "all the fee which he had in the Manor of Estleg, viz. in Colemer."

May 25th, 1298. John, son of Simon de Colesmere, appears<sup>116</sup> as a purchaser in Astley from Simon del Hay.

#### SABRINA OR SEVARNE,—

Now Severn Hall.<sup>117</sup> The earliest tenant of this member of Astley, who has occurred, was Stephen.—Stephen de Sabrina was in attendance at the Manorial Court of the Abbot above mentioned.<sup>118</sup> After this the tenancy seems to have descended through three or four generations,<sup>119</sup> all bearing the Christian name of Simon. At Salop Assizes,<sup>120</sup>

<sup>110</sup> *Pedes finium*, 25 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>111</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 274 *b*.

<sup>112</sup> *Pedes finium*, 43 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>113</sup> Forest Rolls at Westminster, *Salop*, No. 3.

<sup>114</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 137.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 144.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 274.

<sup>117</sup> Called in the Forest Perambulation

before quoted, "the messuage of Simon de Sabrina." Forest Rolls at Westminster, *Salop*, No. 3.

<sup>118</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 137.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibidem*, Nos. 153, 141 *b* & *d*, 148, 149, 138, 140, 143, 152*b*.

<sup>120</sup> *Salop Assize-Roll*, 56 Henry III, memb. 13 recto.

in September, 1272, the Abbot of Salop sued Nicholas, son of one of these Simons, for a messuage and four acres of land in Astley. The question was, whether Simon de Severne the father had been enfeoffed twenty years before by Adam, Abbot of Salop, without consent of his Convent, or, as the defendant pleaded, by Nicholas, son of Richard de Astley? The result, which was to be settled by jury, does not appear. On November 29th, 1274, Simon de Sabrina<sup>121</sup> was one of the jurors who had to report on the state of the Hundred of Stottesden. Among their presentments was one alleging the venality of William Le Enfant, the King's bailiff of the Hundred, who had accepted from Simon himself<sup>122</sup> a bribe of 4s. Simon, it seems, had been put on the list of those liable to serve as *regarders* of the King's forest, but was released for the bribe in question.

Simon de Sabrina occurs a frequent witness in manorial deeds of this period and that immediately following, when such documents began to be dated. I find him thus attesting in the years<sup>123</sup> 1288, 1293, 1297, 1298, and 1302.

On February 15th, 1303, he would appear<sup>124</sup> to have deceased, for on that day Symon, son of Symon de Sevarne, sells to Nicholas Rondulf of Brug, and Alice his wife, and their heirs, all his lands and tenements of Sevarne in the Manor of Astley Abbots, with all his woods, &c., and the land which Richard de Donfowe and Agnes, his wife (probably widow of the last Simon), hold, of the dower of Agnes,—to have and to hold of the chief Lords of the fee (the Abbot and Convent of Salop) to Nicholas and Alice, and the heirs of Nicholas. This deed is dated at "Sevarne." The purchaser was a man of some wealth and influence in the Borough of Bridgnorth. He served as bailiff of the same in the years<sup>125</sup> 1309, 1310, and 1311, and again in 1317 and 1322.

In October, 1305, I find the Vendor of the last deed repurchasing<sup>126</sup> a small tenancy of an acre of land in the "fields of Sevarne;" otherwise the interest of the family here would appear to have vanished.

<sup>121</sup> Hundred Rolls, vol. ii, pp. 107, 109.

<sup>122</sup> The Jurors employed on these occasions were not, as now, selected with reference to any presumed impartiality, but rather the contrary. Their previous knowledge of facts made them the more eligible. The Sheriff or other Officer who had to summon them was generally ordered

to select those "qui melius sciant rei veritatem." They were in fact Witnesses rather than Jurors.

<sup>123</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 274, and Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>124</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>125</sup> Charters, Ibidem.

<sup>126</sup> Charter, Ibidem.

## CANTREYN OR CANTERN.

The judicial proceedings detailed under Astley Abbots probably relate to the family which, as tenants of Salop Abbey, had the chief interest in this locality. Consistently with that account persons bearing the name of Cantreyn, and who are frequently recurring in the manorial charters of Astley, appear also in contemporary deeds which concern property within the walls of Bridgnorth. The name of Wendac also will have passed through some generations within the Borough. In default of evidence sufficient to establish a connected pedigree, a few notices of persons bearing either name, and doubtless deriving from a common ancestor, shall be given.

William de Cantereya appears in the Abbot's Court <sup>127</sup> at Astley, about A.D. 1215. William and John occur in a deed <sup>128</sup> a little later; and then Richard and William, either singly or in conjunction, in a number of deeds, which appear to belong to the earlier half of the thirteenth century. William de Cantreyn further occurs in 1258 and 1265, as a witness in the Manor and in many undated deeds of the Borough which belong to that period. At Salop Assizes, 1272, he was defendant in a suit <sup>129</sup> about some annual rent, wherein the prosecutor, Henry le Carpenter, failed to appear.

November, 1274, he was a Juror on the Borough inquest, which reported on the conduct of the local Officers of the Crown, and he, or one of his name, occurs in deeds of the years 1288, 1293, 1302, 1305, 1311, and 1326, and which variously relate to the Manor of Astley or the Borough of Bridgnorth.

Again William Fitz-Geoffry, who has already occurred as a minor in 1221, occurs later in the century as William Fitz-Geoffrey de Cantreyn, and as a different person from William de Cantreyn who attests the same deed.<sup>130</sup> The two I take to be the representatives of the two co-heiresses before mentioned, daughters of Robert Wendac. About the same time John, son of William de

<sup>127</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 137.

<sup>128</sup> Ibidem, No. 99, b.

<sup>129</sup> Salop Assizes, 56 Hen. III, memb. 12, recto.

<sup>130</sup> The deed is as follows:—Stephen, son of Godith de Nortleg (Norley), sells to Rog. Fitz-Simon, of Brug, for 43s. five acres in Norley Fields, bounded by lands of the Lord Abbot of Salop, Master Walter

Palmer, Henry de Haverbache, &c. Rent  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  Witnesses, Sym de Sabrina, Wm. de Cantrene, Hen. de Colemor, Wm. f. Galf de Cantrene, Rich. de Nortle, Reg<sup>d</sup>. de la Rode, &c. The seal, of green wax, represents a hind. The legend gives the name of the grantor's Father. It is "Sigill' Stephani fil Henrici." (*Charter at Apley Park.*)

Cantreyne,<sup>131</sup> is mentioned, and in 1273 Philip, son of Alexander de Cantreyne,<sup>132</sup> was a proprietor within the Borough, and in 1297 Robert, son of John de Cantreyne,<sup>132</sup> within the Manor.

With regard to the perpetuation of the name of Wendac,—William, Roger, and Nicholas<sup>132</sup> occur successively within and without the Borough, and the last before A. D. 1251, when Reginald le Gaugy, his fellow-witness, had been murdered; of which more elsewhere. Also William, son of William Wendac, occurs<sup>132</sup> about the middle of the century. These, or some of them, I suppose to have represented William Savage, the litigant of 1194.

### RUCROFT.

The land called Rewin, or Runin, was the subject of a decision,<sup>133</sup> about A. D. 1215, by the oft-mentioned Abbot's Court at Astley. The land was thereby assigned to the Abbot, as of his demesne, whilst Henry Fitz Edric,<sup>134</sup> the claimant, was to enjoy it for life, with remainder to his wife, for her life. For this he paid a fine of 16*s.* 4*d.* for entry, and was to pay a rent of 4*s.* 4*d.* during the term of tenancy.

Whether this place were identical with that afterwards called Rucroft, or not, little remains to be said of either. William, son of Daniel,<sup>135</sup> of Brug, was chief owner in the latter (spelt Ruicroft), about 1275. He grants a croft therein, but with a special *warrantry*, which shows both an insecurity of title, and that he had other land "within the fee of Brug" (the Borough liberties), by which he could amend any defect thereof. The witnesses are persons having interest either in Astley Manor or the Borough, or both, *e. g.*, William de Kantrey, Nicholas Palmer (nephew of Hamon before mentioned), Symon de Sabrina, Nicholas del Hay, Nicholas de Stanley, &c.

All I can say further of this tenement is, that Rucroft and Meadowgreen<sup>136</sup> follow Stanley, and precede Cantreyne in the enumeration of *vills*, &c., which pertained to the *custody* of Shirlet forest, and which were exempted by the *perambulation* before alluded to.

<sup>131</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>132</sup> Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>133</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 137.

<sup>134</sup> In 1180, one Edric had fined with the Justices of the forest for an *imbladement*, apparently in this district. (Forest

Rolls at Westminster. *Salop*, No. 1.) He may have been Father of this Henry.

<sup>135</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>136</sup> Forest Rolls at Westminster. *Salop*, No. 3.

## BUNEWALL, now BINNALL.

The early history of this *vill* involves the quotation of a series of charters, highly illustrative of each other, and throwing some light both on the conveyancing practice of the period, as well as on the system of nomenclature which described the same person by sundry names in different, and even in the same, documents.

Robert de Hastings, *alias* Hedding or Hedinges, was some time Rector of Oldbury. As Robert de Halecton, Allechtone, or Aluhton (a name probably derived from some Haughton in Shropshire, where he may have resided), he occurs almost as frequently as under his first designation. Like other Ecclesiastics of wealth and position, he seems to have been involved in secular affairs, and like other Priests, bound to celibacy, to have observed his vow at the expense of his morality.

The first local notice which we have of him is in a deed<sup>137</sup> whereby John Smith (Faber) sells to Robert de Eddinges all the land which he held by inheritance in the Manor of Estleg, for 16 shillings. The witnesses of this deed are Hugh de Lacy, Abbot of Salop, and Roger de Begesour (Badger), whose attestations, combined with evidence now to be offered, will mark the document as having passed probably in the last five years of the 12th century.

Becoming thus a tenant of Salop Abbey, this Robert appears interested in the concerns of that house as follows:—

About A.D. 1197, as Robert de Hastings, he attests a certificate<sup>138</sup> of Bishop William de Vere, as to the admission of a Chaplain, at presentation of the same Abbot Hugh, to the Chapel of Eston (Aston Aër).

At the same time, or, more precisely, between the years 1193 and 1204, as Robert de Hedinges, he attests a composition<sup>139</sup> between the same Abbot and John de Kilpec touching the Advowson of Norbury (Staffordshire).

Again, between the years 1197 and 1213, as Robert de Heding, he attests a grant<sup>140</sup> of Robert, Bishop of Bangor, to Salop Abbey.

Further, when Thomas de Costentin confirmed, about the same period, his ancestors' endowments of Oldbury Chapel, he (Thomas) adds the grant<sup>141</sup> of a croft, whereon Robert de Hedeng, Rector of

<sup>137</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 150 c.

<sup>138</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 342; and the original document in the possession of Mr. George Morris, of Shrewsbury.

<sup>139</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 81.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 185.

<sup>141</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 299 b.



the said Chapel, had built a house; and the first witness of this confirmation is the Rector himself, under the designation of Robert, Clerk of Halecton (*i. e.* Robert de Halecton, Clerk).<sup>142</sup>

But to return to his local interests in Astley Manor: Having purchased the inheritance of John Faber therein, as above, he enfeoffed <sup>143</sup> one Hugh Knight (Miles) in the same, for an entrance-fine of 8*s.*, and an annual rent of 3*s.* 6*d.* The witnesses of this deed of "Robert de Hasting" were Geoffry de Kinsdeleg (Kinslow), Nicholas de la Rode, &c.

Again, as Robert de Allechton, he is described as having conferred,<sup>144</sup> on his son Richard, land which he held in the Manor of Estleg, of John Faber, at a penny rent; the meaning of which is probably, that John Faber's original sale involved a covenant for the payment of a penny rent, and also that Robert's conveyance to his son Richard was not of the fee-simple, but of the rent and other rights accruing from the previous grant to Hugh Knight.

Such rent and seignorial rights, the said Richard, describing himself as son of Robert de Allechton, sold <sup>145</sup> to Salop Abbey, for 24 shillings, reserving the penny rent due to John Faber and his heirs; and this grant, purporting to be simply a transfer of the land, rather than the grantor's claims thereon, was attested by Geoffry de Kinslow, Hugh his son, and Richard and William de Cantreyn.

And Robert de Alechtone, the Father, confirmed <sup>146</sup> this sale by Richard his son, in a further deed, tested by Geoffry de Kinslow, Richard and William de Cantreyn, and Simon Bungi.

The sum of 24 shillings thus expended by Salop Abbey was part of a bequest left by Henry de Norton, a Monk, for the special service of the Altar of St. Mary in the conventual Church of Shrewsbury. We have seen that the annual product will have been a rent of 3*s.* 6*d.* payable by Hugh le Knight, the tenant. Whatever the revenue, it became, between the years 1223 and 1228, the subject of a peculiar bargain,<sup>147</sup> the parties to which were, ostensibly, Henry, the then Abbot of Salop, and the previously endowed Altar: in other words, the Abbot, by formal deed, assigned a rent of 3 shillings elsewhere, to furnish altar-lights, and took in exchange (and I suppose for more general purposes) "the land purchased from Richard, son of Robert de Aluhton, parson of

<sup>142</sup> For this usual transposition, see p. 29, note 6.

<sup>143</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 151 *b.*

<sup>144</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 142.

<sup>145</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 142.

<sup>146</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 154.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 209.

Aldebury, in our manor of Estleg, with the money bequeathed by Henry de Norton to same Altar.”

The Abbot's object in this ostensible exchange was evidently to increase his demesne in the Manor of Astley. This appears from a further deed,<sup>148</sup> whereby Hugh le Knight (the tenant) granted to the Abbey all his *fee* in Bunewell, which he bought from Robert de Hastings, to hold for ever. The witnesses of this deed are as of the last, except that Simon Bungi is exchanged for, or called, Simon Dunfothe.

The whole of these transactions will have passed between the years 1195 and 1228; and we thus obtain the names of several persons contemporarily interested in the Manor of Astley, and further, a well-authenticated instance of the method by which a seignoral Lord might contrive to reassume a tenement, though alienated by a double subinfeudation.

But there was also a family resident here which took name from the place. At the *forest-pleas*<sup>149</sup> of 1180, Robert de Bonewell was fined 12*d.* for a *purpresture*<sup>150</sup> in Norley. In 1209 Richard de Bernewell is named as paying for *imbladement*,<sup>151</sup> within *regard*<sup>152</sup> of Shirlet forest. Again, early in the same century, Henry de Bunewell granted<sup>153</sup> to Joseph, son of Henry Chaplain of Astley (already mentioned under Haughton), half a *vivary* in said Henry de Bunewell's garden, and 2½*d.* rent receiveable from Richard de Wichard and Andrew de Northleg. These premises the grantee transferred<sup>154</sup> to Salop Abbey, calling the former Vendor “Henry Fitz-Richard de Barnewell;” a transfer which was followed by a further grant<sup>155</sup> to the same house by Henry Fitz-Richard himself, viz. of land on each side the said *vivary*,<sup>156</sup> “with the fountain which was below his house, reserving to himself liberty to drink thereat.”

In February, 1262, Simon de Bonewell<sup>157</sup> was convicted of

<sup>148</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 146.

<sup>149</sup> *Placita forestæ, Salop.* No. 1.

<sup>150</sup> *Purpresture* was any encroachment on royal demesne, whether forests, waters, or roads. The forest *purpresture* occurs most frequently.

<sup>151</sup> *Imbladement* was the sowing, with any kind of grain, lands within bound of a royal forest. It might be with license, and for a stipulated rent per acre.

<sup>152</sup> *Regard*—was the *view* or jurisdiction of those officers of the forest who were called *Regarders*.

<sup>153</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 149 *a.*

<sup>154</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 138.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 148.

<sup>156</sup> “*Vivarium*,”—a place where any animals were kept alive for occasional use. Hence the word may sometimes be translated a paddock, but most frequently it signifies a fishpond or stew. The synonyme, *Servarium* (a preserve), is used in the case before us.

<sup>157</sup> *Forest Pleas, Salop*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 4, recto.

forest trespass perpetrated nearly nine years before, viz. in May, 1253.

Later in the century an exchange between William Fitz-Henry de Bunewall and Walter Fitz-Richard de Bunewall mentions the adjoining land of Nicholas Fitz-Richard de Bunewall and is tested (*inter alios*) by Richard de Bunewall. Also Margery of the Fount of Bunewalle, widow, sells to the same Walter Fitz-Richard a house and croft in the vill of Bunewall, and this deed is likewise tested by Richard de Bunewall.

On October 25th, 1293, the above-named Nicholas Fitz-Richard grants to Walter, his brother, two acres in the fields of Bunewall, towards Harebaeche, rendering a pepper-corn to the grantor, yearly, at Easter, and  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  rent to Richard de Balle de Bunewalle, whom I take to be the person elsewhere called Richard de Bunewalle and holding over the grantor. Attestations by the same Richard dated May 25th, 1298,<sup>158</sup> and May 27th, 1302,<sup>159</sup> and another grant from Nicholas to his brother Walter, dated November 14th, 1311,<sup>159</sup> are all that I have further to mention with reference to this name and locality.

#### THE HAYE.

This member of Astley gave name to a resident family, of whom Alan de Haya occurs in 1226; Nicholas de la Hay frequently in the middle of the century; Robert de la Hay, in 1297; and Simon del Hay, in 1298. Nicholas appears to have held under the descendants of one Gilbert Sadoc, a man largely interested in the concerns of Salop Abbey early in the century, and of whom I shall have to speak elsewhere. The interest of his representatives in the Haya seems to have been bought up by the Abbey about A.D. 1270, when Nicholas de Hay will have become the immediate tenant of the chief Lords, the Abbot and Convent of Salop.

#### DEEPDALE.

A few deeds in the Salop Chartulary show the re-assumption by the Abbey of a small tenement thus named, the first tenant of which was one Roger Dod, whose son Richard<sup>160</sup> occurs as exchanging his inheritance in Astley Manor for the inheritance of Thomas Dod. Again Thomas Dod exchanges<sup>161</sup> eighteen and a half acres in Astley

<sup>158</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 274 b.

<sup>159</sup> Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>160</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 150 b.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 152.

Manor with Salop Abbey, receiving eighteen and a half acres in Northley. A grant <sup>162</sup> from Emma, daughter of William Faber, to Richard her brother, is followed by one <sup>163</sup> from the same Richard to Richard de la Rode, son of Alan de Erdinton, wherein the locality (viz. Deepdale) and Roger Dod, the former owner, are mentioned. The last grantee sold <sup>164</sup> the premises, or rather his interest therein, to Salop Abbey, before the year 1258.

About the same period one Nicholas de Deepdale <sup>165</sup> appears attesting manorial deeds.

There were other and probably still smaller tenements appertaining to this Manor of Astley, such as Haseldene, Kakeweche, Haverbache, *alias* Harebache, and Medowgrene, but of which I have neither ascertained the locality nor know of any point of interest connected with them.

#### BILLINGSLEY.

The signification of the last syllable of this name depends on its origin, whether British or Saxon. The British *lle* is identical with the French *lieu* and Latin *locus*, a place; the Saxon *ley* signifies untilled ground. The termination is found associated with words of either language, as Ar-ley which is British, and Billings-ley which is Saxon. The Dukes of Saxony, from the tenth to the twelfth century, were descended from Billing, a noble of Lunenburg.

Here in 1055, <sup>166</sup> or at least at a place written *Biligesleage*, *Bylgesleage* or *Bylgeslege*, Harold, as general of King Edward, came to conference and peace with Griffin, Prince of Wales, and Algar, the rebel Earl of Mercia.

The Manor has already been spoken of as a member of Morville, and involving one and a half of the eight ecclesiastical hides mentioned in *Domesday*. Its transfer to the Norman Abbey of

<sup>162</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 141 b.

<sup>163</sup> Ibidem, No. 141 d.

<sup>164</sup> Ibidem, No. 140.

<sup>165</sup> Ibidem, No. 149, and Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>166</sup> Vide *Flor. Wygorn. Sim Dunelm*, and the *Saxon Chronicle*, sub anno. The learned editor of the latter identifies the place with Bilsley, Gloucestershire. Harold came to the conference from fortifying

Hereford; Griffin apparently from South Wales. Earl Algar had in pay a fleet of Irish pirates, which after the conference sailed down (devecta est) to Legecestra, which (being Chester) will make it probable that the said fleet was in the Dee. Billingsley in Shropshire will therefore have been more central with reference to all these localities than any other place of similar name.

Seez, with other alleged possessions of Shrewsbury Abbey about A.D. 1147, has also been noticed. With respect to the justice of these claims of Seez, the Salop Chartulary of course supplies partial information, but that they were not quite unfounded may be inferred from the fact that Earl Hugh de Montgomery, as well as his brothers Earls Robert and Roger, did at some time make English grants to the Norman Abbey, and that such grants were confirmed<sup>167</sup> by Pope Innocent II, on May 3d, 1139. It is further noticeable how the Bishop of Hereford's adjudication<sup>168</sup> on the subject followed the Papal Bull within eight or nine years.

The immediate tenants of this manor under the Norman Abbey were a family named de Beysin or le Beysin,<sup>169</sup> of knightly degree, and possessed of considerable property elsewhere in the County. We need here therefore only mention such points as connect them with the place.

In 1255, the jurors<sup>170</sup> of Stottesden Hundred made the following return as regarded Byllingelegh; that Robert de Beyssin was Lord; that he was a minor in ward to Sir William Freville, by grant of Sibyl Giffard, to whom, after death of her husband, Adam, the King had given the wardship; that the Manor contained one and a half hides, owed suit to the Hundred Court twice in the year, but not to the County Court, nor was it liable to *stretward* or *motfee*. "And the said Robert de Beyssin holds it *in capite* of the Abbot of Sesse for six merks (£4.) annually."

This wardship had fallen to the Crown eleven years before, viz. on the death<sup>171</sup> of Adam de Beyssin, December 13th, 1243. The right of the Crown thereto arose from a tenure *in capite* by the deceased at Wrickton and Walkerslow.

10th July, 1260. Robert de Beysin had a suit of *novel disseisin*

<sup>167</sup> *Hart. MSS.* No. 3764, fo. 15. Chartulary of Lancaster Priory.

<sup>168</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 337.

<sup>169</sup> A letter of Mr. Langley, the Antiquary, among the muniments at Willey, insists on the propriety of writing the name "Le Beysin," signifying "The Blind." Erdeswick's etymology is quoted, and very properly discarded in a notice by Mr. Blakeway (*Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p. 48). I have found the name written as Mr. Langley suggests in coeval documents,—but only twice.

<sup>170</sup> *Hundred Rolls*, vol. ii, p. 82, where,

however, the printed book has the Abbot of "Messe" as chief lord. This arose from the initial S and M, in use at the period, being very similar.

<sup>171</sup> *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 45 Hen. III, No. 47; and 47 Hen. III, No. 26. Hence it will be seen that the printed Calendar of *Inquisitiones post mortem* is by no means a safe guide as to the date of death. In the present instance, it would lead to errors of 17 and 19 years respectively, besides leaving it supposable that two deaths were the subjects of inquiry.

against William de Ebroicis (Devereux) and Matilda his wife, concerning this Manor. Egidius de Erdinton and other Justices were deputed by letters patent, of that date, to try it.

By inquisition ordered May 4th, 1261, the jurors reported the age of Robert de Beysin, the heir, to have been 19 years on February 2d preceding; and a second inquisition, which sat March 3d, 1263, reports him as of full age, gives the date of his Father's death (as above) and the same statement as to wardship, and mentions the tenure of Billingsley under the Abbot of "Ses," by rent of six merks.

In 12 Edw. I (1284), Matilda de Ebroicis<sup>172</sup> (Devereux) had an assize of *novel disseisin* against Walter de Beysin which concerned a tenement here.

In 3 Edw. II (1309-10), Walter de Beysin had died<sup>173</sup> seized of an interest here.

In March, 1316, the *feodary*<sup>174</sup> of 9 Edw. II gives Alice Beysin as Lady of Billingsley.

#### THE CHURCH

Was originally a Chapel, subject to Morville, as being, though at least six miles distant, within the boundaries of that extensive parish. The lay founder of this Chapel was Herbert de Castello, Lord of Castle Holgate, who endowed<sup>175</sup> it in the beginning of Stephen's reign with twelve acres of land and a mansion. What interest the Lords of Castle Holgate could have here, I cannot determine. None descended to their successors either in this or any adjoining Manor. Possibly Herbert might have been tenant here under Salop Abbey before the Manor was lost by that house; possibly being of the dominant political party, as there is other reason to believe he was, he may have had a temporary jurisdiction in a case of disputed territory.

When, about A. D. 1138, Robert, Bishop of Hereford, appropriated Morville Church to Salop Abbey, he mentions<sup>176</sup> a pension of half a merk, and half the corn-tithe of this *vill*, as due to the mother-Church from this Chapel. In another deed,<sup>177</sup> he mentions

<sup>172</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl.

<sup>173</sup> *Inquis. post mortem*, 3 Ed. II.

<sup>174</sup> The document usually called *Nomina Villarum* (vide page 7). *Parliamentary*

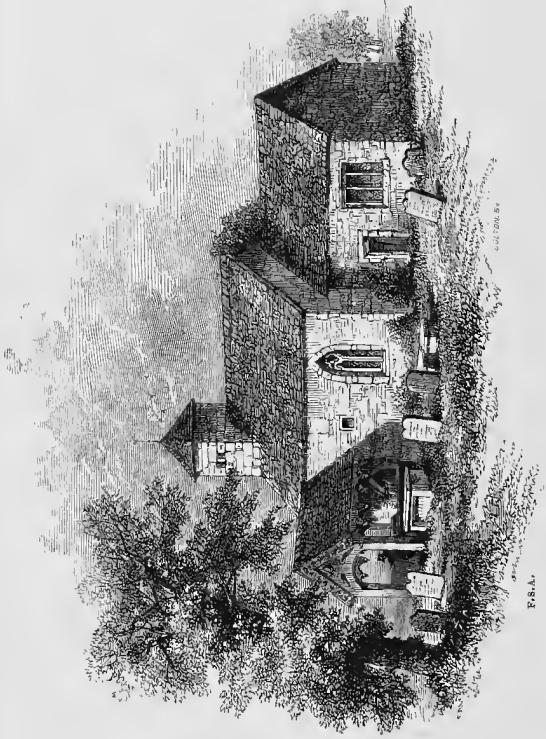
*Writs*, vol. 4, p. 398.

<sup>175</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 333.

<sup>176</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 334.

<sup>177</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 333.





BILLINGSLEY CHURCH.



its subjection again, and that it was one of those Chapels which he had consecrated to meet the existing troubles. His arbitration,<sup>178</sup> which subsequently awarded the Manor to Seez, did not affect the Church or its endowments.

But a document,<sup>179</sup> which must date within the earlier half of the 13th century, exhibits this Church or Chapel as portionary.

Within that period, there was a dispute between Adam de Beysin and Salop Abbey, relative to the right of presentation to this Chapel. The result was, that Adam was to present to the portion of Robert de Beysin whenever vacant, saving to the mother-church of Momerfield half a merk annual pension, and half the tithe of wheat and other ecclesiastical dues, and twenty pence of the *pence of St. Peter*.

Pope Nicholas' Taxation,<sup>180</sup> about A. D, 1291, values Morville and its subject Chapels, in gross, at £17. 6s. 8d. The Vicarage of Billingsley was not assessed, as not being of £4. annual value. No distinctive mention of the Church occurs in the taxation<sup>181</sup> of 1340, it being probably assessed under Morville. The first admission<sup>182</sup> of an Incumbent which occurs on the Hereford Registers, is of date February 27th, 1322, when Ralph Sagon, Priest, had been presented by the Abbot and Convent of Salop.

#### COLD WESTON, ALIAS WESTON.

This place probably derived its name as lying west of the Great Clee Hill, as did Aston Boterell, formerly Eston, from lying to the east thereof. The omission<sup>183</sup>, or use of the first part of the name seems to have been arbitrary. Its meaning and reference to the locality are obvious.

The evidence regarding this Manor and Parish is so extremely inconclusive, that I venture only to give such notices as I am convinced belong to it, without distinguishing them from those which may possibly refer to another locality. The study of a later epoch

<sup>178</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 337.

<sup>179</sup> *Salop Abbey*. Leiger Book, fo. 239.

<sup>180</sup> *Tax. P. Nich.* p. 166, where one entry spells the place Bylyteleye.

<sup>181</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*.

<sup>182</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl. Oxon.

<sup>183</sup> So the *vill* described Hatton in 1211

(*Testa de Nevill*, p. 56) is identical with the *vill* called Colde Hatton in 1255 (*Rot. Hund.* ii, 55). Also the *vill* usually written Norton, in Oxfordshire, is in 1218 written Calde Norton, and is now Cold Norton. So too the *vill* now called Coalbrook dale was Caldebrok in 1301 (*Salop Chartulary*, 279).

may resolve all doubt. At present I can only advance a series of quotations, leaving all inferences to those who may choose to draw them without such further evidence.<sup>184</sup>

In 1086, Calvestone, a *berewick*<sup>185</sup> of one hide, appurtenant to Morville, is said to be in Worcestershire. At the same time a certain Knight held a Morville hide under the Monks of Salop, paying them a rent of 4*s*.

King William's charter<sup>186</sup> mentions Westona, after Tugford and Fertecote, as one of the possessions of Morville Church involved in Earl Roger's grant to Salop Abbey.

There was some time a charter,<sup>187</sup> by Osbert de Tugford, to Salop Abbey, relative to five *nokes* of land in Coldeweston.

January, 1256. Richard Tyrel had disseized<sup>188</sup> Richard de Possethorn of a water-mill in Cold-weston, but having improved the said mill, damages are not given.

20th May, 1259. Giles de Erdinton, &c., are Justices assigned to try a cause of *novel disseisin*, prosecuted by Thomas de Thonglands against Will le Enfant and others. A tenement in Cold-weston was the subject of litigation.

August, 1267. Roger Tyrel had disseized<sup>189</sup> William de Forde of two merks annual rent in Coldeweston.

November 12th, 1272. A fine<sup>190</sup> was levied between the Abbot of Salop, plaintiff, and Roger Tyrel, of four years' arrears of one merk annual rent, whereof was suit at law. The Abbot remits the arrears, Roger covenanting to pay for the future.

26th October, 1291. The inquest<sup>191</sup> on the death of Philip de Bagesover (Badger) returns, *inter alia*, that he held half a carrucate in Coldeweston under Laurence de Ludlow, at a penny rent, and it was worth 10*s*. per annum: also that he held in the same a *place* of land of the honour of Castle Holgate at a rent of 1*s*. 6*d*., which was its full value.

<sup>184</sup> Warin the Sheriff gave before 1086 tithes of the whole *vill* of Weston to Salop Abbey (Salop Chartulary, No.3), and these tithes are confirmed by subsequent deeds of two Bishops of Hereford. I cannot think that Cold Weston was the locality of these grants, neither can I suggest an alternative. I merely mention the fact here lest I should lose an opportunity of stating it at all, or appear to have overlooked it.

<sup>185</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 253, a 2.

<sup>186</sup> *New Monasticon*, iii, 521, x.

<sup>187</sup> Salop Chartulary. Index.

<sup>188</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 7, recto.

<sup>189</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, apud Salop, 51 Hen. III, memb. 4, recto.

<sup>190</sup> *Pedes finium*, 57 Hen. III. Salop.

<sup>191</sup> *Inq. post mortem*, 19 Ed. I.

In 6 Ric. II (1382-3), among the items assigned<sup>192</sup> as dower to Joan, widow of Sir John de Ludlow, a rent of 6s. 8d. in Coldweston, receiveable from Richard de "Weston," was included.

#### THE CHURCH.

There was some time a quit-claim<sup>193</sup> by Roger Tyrel to Salop Abbey, relative to the Church of Coldwestone. In 1291, the Church of Coldwestone,<sup>194</sup> in the Deanery of Ludlow, was unassessed, as being of less than £4. annual value; but the Abbot of Salop received therefrom a pension of 3s. per annum, which was decimable (assessable to the tax).

In 1340, the Church of Coldweston stood taxed at £4. 3s., but the assessors of the ninth<sup>195</sup> (of corn, wool, and lamb) render account of only 4s.; so little in proportion to the taxation, "because the said Chapel is in a waste place. There was once abundance of cattle there, but they had long been decreasing by reason of the murrain which prevailed in the district. Moreover there are only two tenants there, living by great labour and in want, and others have absconded to avoid the tax, as many throughout the country have done; and the said Chapel has been presented, within this very year, to four Parsons, but none of them would stay."

The first Incumbent mentioned in the Hereford Registers<sup>196</sup> is Walter de Ireon, Acolyte, admitted January 24th, 1310, at presentation of the Abbey and Convent of Salop.

#### MORVILLE (*continued*).

Having now completed a notice of all that was involved in those eight hides of Morville, in which Salop Abbey is presumed to have been interested, either in possession or remainder, at the time of *Domesday*, we proceed to the two hides which are concluded to have been, at the same period, of the Norman Earl's demesne.

These are supposed to have been involved in part of Astley, in

<sup>192</sup> *Ibidem*, 6 Ric. II. Calendar, vol. iii, p. 49. The original is nearly illegible, but Mr. Sharpe, who, at the time I made this extract, was "locum tenens" of Mr. Hardy, at the Tower, took much pains to decypher the passage for me. The point is of course that Cold Weston was written

occasionally, "Weston," at a comparatively late period.

<sup>193</sup> Salop Chartulary. Index.

<sup>194</sup> Pope Nic. Taxation, p. 166.

<sup>195</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 188.

<sup>196</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl. Oxon.

the site of Bridgnorth and in Underdon, Walton, Lye, and Morville itself; perhaps also in Harpsford, and in Aldenham.

What was thus held in Astley has been already treated of. What was held in Morville enabled the Earl himself, when A.D. 1086 he founded the Collegiate Church of Quatford, to grant two-thirds of the tithes of *Membrefelde* to that establishment.

What remained in Lye perhaps enabled Earl Hugh to grant<sup>197</sup> two-thirds of the tithes of his demesne of *Lia* to Salop Abbey, and it is possible that some such grant conveyed a similar proportion of the tithes of Underdon and Walton, perhaps also of Harpsford.

No further diminution of their demesne of Morville, than by these grants of tithes, was made by the Norman Earls. On their forfeiture, A.D. 1102, whatever they had held in demesne became thenceforth demesne of the Crown.<sup>198</sup> Such parts of this land as stood in Morville, Underdon, Walton, Lye, and perhaps Harpsford, were at some early and unrecorded period granted, by the Crown, to the Collegiate Church of St. Mary Magdalene,<sup>199</sup> in the Castle of Bridgnorth, and continued to form the three prebends of Morville, Walton, and Underdon in that establishment. Of these we will now speak, first collectively and then separately.

In 1255, the tenure<sup>200</sup> of these Canons of St. Mary Magdalene in Morville Manor was estimated at 3½ virgates, and they were free of all *suits of Court*.

In 1341, their tenure<sup>201</sup> in Morville parish was stated as 2 carrucates and 1 *noke*, and it was free from the tax of *the ninth* then to be levied.

<sup>197</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 3; but another locality is, with equal probability, intended.

<sup>198</sup> Sometimes called "*vctus domini cum Coronæ*," sometimes "*Escaeta Roberti de Belesme*." The presumed palatine power of the Norman Earls will probably make the former expression most accurate as far as affected the practical exercise of the Crown's jurisdiction; nevertheless, it is

not verbally correct, for ancient demesne of the Crown was really what in other counties was classified as "*Terra Regis*" in *Domesday*, but of which there was none in Shropshire.

<sup>199</sup> To which the Collegiate Church of Quatford was transferred.

<sup>200</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 82.

<sup>201</sup> *Vide supra*, p. 39.

PREBEND <sup>202</sup> OF MORVILLE.

23d January, 1204. King John, at Westminster,<sup>203</sup> informs the Dean and Chapter of Brug, that he has conferred on his Clerk, Master John de Leicester, that Prebend in the Church of Brug which had belonged to the Prior of Mount-Walter in Champagne, and they are to receive him as their fellow-Canon.

30th November, 1205. King John presents<sup>204</sup> H., Archdeacon of Stafford, to the Prebend which was Master John de Leicester's.

23d March, 1208. H., Archdeacon of Stafford, having resigned, Walter de Castello is presented<sup>205</sup> to his vacant Prebend; and the Dean and Chapter are to assign him a stall in the Choir, and a seat in the Chapter.

11th July, 1233. Bernard de Grimesby is presented<sup>206</sup> to the Prebend in the Church of Brug which Roger de Lacoc had held, and the Constable of Brug is to induct him.

20th April, 1246. Henry de Langele is to have<sup>207</sup> Osbert de Maidenestan's Prebend in the King's Chapel of Brug. The Constable is to induct him.

In 1255, Henry de Langele is Prebendary<sup>208</sup> of Momerfeud, and his preferment valued at £5. per annum (7½ merks); but another

<sup>202</sup> Though the Prebendaries named in this and the subsequent lists were undoubtedly Dignitaries of the Collegiate Church of St. Mary Magdalene, I cannot affirm, in each case, that they have been rightly classed under their respective Prebends. Where precise evidence was unattainable I have been guided by probability, but a confusion of the Prebendaries of Morville with those of Walton may very possibly remain, as well as other errors of this kind.

<sup>203</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 5 John, memb. 3.

<sup>204</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 6 John, memb. 6. This was Henry de London, who from his archdeaconry was promoted in 1213 to the Archiepiscopal See of Dublin. He was presented to Worfield Church by King John on the same day as that on which he was collated to the Prebend of Brug. He had been earlier (13 Aug. 1203) made Dean of St. Mary's, Salop, a dignity which

he held with his Archbishoprick till 1226, contrary to the axiom laid down, *Hist. Shrewsb.* ii, 325. (Vide *Rot. Claus.* ii, 161.) He occurs repeatedly as a Justiciar, sitting in the *Curia Regis*, during the first ten years of King John.

<sup>205</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 9 John, memb. 2, and *Rot. Cart.* 9 John, memb. 1. This Walter de Castello had been Clerk to Robt. de Vipont, Sheriff of Notts, in the previous year. (*Rot. Claus.* i, 91.)

<sup>206</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 17 Hen. III. Master Roger de Lacoc was a physician, and occurs as receiving favours from the Crown in 1223 and 1224. (*Rot. Claus. sub annis.*)

<sup>207</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 30 Hen. III, *sub die*. Osbert de M. was probably a relation of Ralph de Maidstone, who, from being Dean of Hereford and Archdeacon of Chester, became Bishop of the former in 1234.

<sup>208</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59, 83.

valuation at the same time, by different jurors, rates it at 14 merks (£9. 6s. 8d.)

22d August, 1263. William de Fiscamp, the King's Physician, is to have that Prebend of Brug which Henry de Langley, deceased, lately held.<sup>209</sup>

In October, 1272, "William de Feckham" is returned<sup>210</sup> as holding the Prebend of Momerfelde, in the King's free Chapel, in the Castle of Brug. The value of the said Prebend is stated to be ten merks (£6. 13s. 4d.)

17 Edw. I (1288-9). Nicholas Brun is presented to a Prebend here.<sup>211</sup>

In the valuation<sup>212</sup> of 1291 (when Nicholas Bruyn was holding this Prebend) its income was ostensibly as follows:—

	s. d.
At Momerfelde, thirty acres of land, worth	
4d. per acre per annum . . . . .	10 0
Meadow-land, averaging in six years the annual value of . . . . .	4 5½
Rents and "operaciones" . . . . .	13 10
Total	£1 8 3¼

But this valuation includes only the temporalities of the Prebend.

At the Salop Assizes,<sup>213</sup> Michaelmas, 1292, "Nicholas le Breyn" was returned again as holding this Prebend, and its value estimated at ten merks (£6. 13s. 4d.)

35 Edw. I (1306-7). The Prebend of Morville is given to W. Bedewine.<sup>214</sup>

11 Edw. II (1317-8). The Prebend of Morville was granted<sup>215</sup> by the Crown to H. de Luthgarshal.

In 1535, one named Fisher was possessed of this Prebend.<sup>216</sup> Its value in glebe-lands and other things is put at £6.

<sup>209</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 47 Hen. III, *sub die*.

<sup>210</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso.

<sup>211</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 17 Ed. I, memb. 11.

<sup>212</sup> *Pope Nicholas's Taxation*, p. 162.

<sup>213</sup> *Placita de Juratis et Assisis*, 20 Ed. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>214</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 35 Ed. I, memb. 43.

<sup>215</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 11 E. II, pt. 1, memb. 8.

<sup>216</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 210.

## PREBEND OF

## WALTON, BRIDGE-WALTON OR BRIDGE-WARTON.

The earliest notice of this Prebend occurs in a very ancient document<sup>217</sup> preserved in the Chartulary of Salop Abbey, wherein G. (probably Geoffry) Dean, and the Chapter of Hereford inform Roger Canon of Brug, that they have received a mandate of the Apostolick See, in form following, &c. The Papal Instrument alluded to and quoted is probably of Pope Alexander III (1159-1181), who has heard that the Abbot of Salop has been despoiled of the tithes of Walton without sentence (*judicio*) or reasonable cause, and that Roger Canon of Brug unjustly detains the same. The Dean and Chapter are appointed Commissioners to investigate the case, and they order the said Canon to appear in the Chapter-House at Hereford, on *-idus Febr.* (the year unmentioned).

About A. D. 1173, William de Petraponte<sup>218</sup> (Pierrepoint) was presented by King Henry II to one of the Prebends of the Church of Bruges. His subsequent dispute (*circa* 1180) with the Lord of Tasley as to a question of boundary, will be detailed hereafter, but must be mentioned here, merely to show that the Prebend of William de Pierrepoint must have been either Bridge-Walton, or Morville, as none other abutted on Tasley Manor.

In October, 1203, William de Pierrepoint still holding<sup>219</sup> this Prebend, the dispute was renewed, when amongst the defendant's

<sup>217</sup> No. 349, which I date between 1159 and 1173. Mr. Blakeway has, however, referred the transaction to the papacy of Alexander IV, who sat from 21 Dec. 1254 to 25 May, 1261, during the whole of which period Anselm, or Anselm, was Dean of Hereford, and Peter de Auhucun Prebendary of Walton. (Vide *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl.)

<sup>218</sup> This William de Perepunt is last witness (about 1175) to a very curious deed or certificate, in possession of Mr. George Morris, whereby John le Strange (the first) notifies his remembrance of (the first) William Fitz-Alan's grant of Wroxeter Church to Haghmon Abbey, in 1155. This deed is also transcribed in the Haghmon Chartulary, and will have to be noticed hereafter, not only from its

interest in other relations, but because the date I assign to it is very different from that hitherto received. (Vide *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, i, 79.)

About 1176 the same Wm. de Petraponte attests a charter of Guy le Strange, then Lord of Badger. This document, in possession of R. H. Cheney, Esq., will also be often alluded to hereafter. Suffice it here to point out that these attestations of the deeds of the Stranges probably arose from a relationship to Simon de Pierrepoint, who was John le Strange's contemporary feoffee at Glazeley. In 1180 this Wm. de Pierrepoint was amerced 10 merks by the justice of the forest. (*Plac. Forestæ*, No. 1, Salop.)

<sup>219</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 4 dorso; but *vide infra* under Tasley.

statements is one to the effect that he was presented to his Prebend thirty years before, by King Henry II. (Hence the date of his induction given above.)

This cause was adjourned *sine die* and we hear no more of it, but the Prebendary in question will have survived eleven years longer, for it was not till January 7th, 1215, that King John presented<sup>220</sup> John, son of Peter Saracen, a Roman Citizen, to the vacant stall of William de Perpunt. Letters ordering his admission were, in this instance, addressed to the Chapter and Proctor.

On 15th August, 1238, John de St. Amand was presented<sup>221</sup> by King Henry III to the vacant Prebend of John Sarracen, and the Constable of Bruges is to induct him.

In 1255, the jurors for the Manor (Liberty) of Bridgnorth, and those for the Hundred of Stottesden, made different presentments<sup>222</sup> as to the value of this Prebend, the former returning it at ten merks annual value, the latter at fourteen. The Incumbent at this period was Peter de Albescun (though one return gives his name as Avelun).

Aug. 13th, 1256. Peter de Aubucun, at Mamerfeld, renounces<sup>223</sup> all claim to the great and small tithes of Walton, in the parish of Mamerfeld, which were in dispute between him and Salop Abbey, the latter claiming them in right of Morville Church.

In February, 1262, Peter de Abisun, Canon, was amerced<sup>224</sup> by the Justice of the Forest, then visiting the County, in the sum of 40s., for *default*.

At the Assizes<sup>225</sup> of October, 1272, the same Peter de Abezun

<sup>220</sup> Rot. Pat. 16 John, memb. 8. Peter Saracen occurs in King John's pay, in 1214 (Rot. Pat. 16 John, memb. 15), and on August 17 in that year the King had ordered Peter, Bp. of Winchester, to assign to John, his son, the first vacancy of 25 merks annual value, which should fall to the King's gift.

On the 27th July, 1215, the same John was presented to the Church of Skenefrith, Heref. Dioc. (Rot. Pat. 17 John, memb. 18); and on 16th Aug. 1216, had letters of protection from his Royal Patron, dated at Brug (Ibm. memb. 5). The Father continued in the favour and pay of Hen. III, and the son became Dean of Wells, (in

1242, says Le Neve, but) before January, 1238 (Rot. Pat. 22 Hen. III).

<sup>221</sup> Rot. Pat. 22 Hen. III, *sub die*. John de St. Amand was probably related to Almaric de St. Amand, a person of some note in this reign, and for some years Sheriff of Herefordshire, (Dug. Bar. Tit. St. Amand).

<sup>222</sup> Rot. Hund. ii, 59, and 83.

<sup>223</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 98.

<sup>224</sup> *Placita forestæ*, Salop, No. 4, memb. 5 dorso.

<sup>225</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Henry III, memb. 49 dorso. He is reported on the same roll as non-attendant at the Assizes.



is returned as holding this Prebend, which in this instance the jurors valued at fifteen merks per annum.

In 1284, John de Henedon is returned on a Roll <sup>226</sup> of tenures in Stottesden Hundred, as holding Walton of the King *in capite*. He was, I presume, <sup>227</sup> the Prebendary.

In 1291, Robert de Turberville had <sup>228</sup> this preferment. The value of its temporalities in land, meadows, rents, &c., is stated at £1. 4s. 7d.

At Salop Assizes <sup>229</sup> (Michaelmas, 1292), the same Prebendary was returned as in office, but his Prebend valued at eighteen merks (£12.)

1 Edw. II (1307-8). The Prebend of Walton is granted <sup>230</sup> to the Dean of Brug.

In March, 1316, John de Ker occurs <sup>231</sup> as Lord of Walton, in the Hundred of Stottesden. I suppose him to have been the Prebendary thereof.

11 Edw. II (1317-8). This Prebend is granted <sup>232</sup> to William de Sheynton.

1st January, 40 Edw. III (1367). Richard de Beverle was presented <sup>233</sup> by the Crown to this Prebend.

In 1535, one named Mubber <sup>234</sup> was holding it. Its value in glebe-land and other things is stated at £6.

### PREBEND OF UNDERDON OR UNDERTON.

About A.D. 1138, Robert, Bishop of Hereford, had consecrated a Chapel <sup>235</sup> here, which one Gilbert (probably the Prebendary of the time) had endowed with half a virgate of land and a mansion.

About the same time that Roger, Prebendary of Walton, was at issue with Salop Abbey, as to the tithes of that *vill* (*i.e.* between 1152 and 1173), one Reginald will have held this Prebend <sup>236</sup> and

<sup>226</sup> *Kirby's Quest*, sub hundredo de "Stotesdon."

<sup>227</sup> I now find his presentation, dated 3 Sep. 1275, as John de Hoveden, Clerk of the King (Edw. I), who gives him the Prebend late Peter de Abbezoun's. Vide Rot. Pat. 3 Ed. I, memb. 10.

<sup>228</sup> *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, p. 162. One Robert de Turberville was lately dead in 9 Ed. II (1315-6), and the King's Escheator beyond Trent ordered to seize his lands. Vide *Originalia*, sub anno.

<sup>229</sup> Plac. apud Salop, 20 Ed. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>230</sup> Rot. Pat. 1 Ed. II, memb. 18.

<sup>231</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, p. 398.

<sup>232</sup> Rot. Pat. 2 Ed. II, pt. 1, memb. 19.

<sup>233</sup> Rot. Pat. 40 Ed. III, p. 2, memb. 6.

<sup>234</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 210.

Heref. Dioc. Stottesden Deanery.

<sup>235</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 333.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 350.

been involved in a similar dispute ; for Thomas, <sup>237</sup> Prior of Hereford, certifies that he was present in the Chapter of Hereford when Reginald, Canon of Brug, acknowledged the right of the Monks of Salop to tithes of the demesne of Hundredon, and gave them up to G. the Dean, <sup>238</sup> who, with his Chapter, acting as delegates of the Apostolick See, invested <sup>239</sup> therewith William, Prior of Salop, in name of said Monks.

24th June, 1200. John de Gray, Archdeacon of Gloucester, having resigned his Prebend in the Church of Brug, King John, then at Chinon, to make up an annual rent of fifty merks, assigns<sup>240</sup> it for life to Master Thomas de Argentol, Clerk to the King himself, and to "the King's most illustrious Lord, the King of France."

This Thomas was also presented, by King John, to the Church of Salkeld (Cumberland), but probably lost both preferments on the rupture with Philip Augustus. His successor, at Salkeld, was Master Matthew, the King's physician, presented <sup>241</sup> by King John on 6th March, 1205. The same Matthew will probably have succeeded, with a better title, to this Prebend, for on 13th February, 1209, the King presents <sup>242</sup> William de Sancto Maxentio, his Clerk, to the Prebend held by Master Matthew.

On 12th December, 1222, Henry III presents <sup>243</sup> Robert de Alrecumb to the Prebend of Underdun, in the Chapel of Brug, which Jocas, Chaplain of Ranulf Earl of Chester, had held. The Constable will induct.

27th February, 1238. The King presents <sup>244</sup> William de Burgo

<sup>237</sup> Thomas Carbonel, Prior of St. Guthlac's—chosen Abbot of Gloucester, Oct. 1179.

<sup>238</sup> Geoffry, Dean of Hereford, I suppose. He occurs 1173.

<sup>239</sup> Perhaps this was during the vacancy caused by the death of Robert Abbot of Salop, in 1167, at which time also the See of Hereford was entering on a seven years' vacancy.

<sup>240</sup> Rot. Cartarum, 2 Joh. memb. 29. John de Gray was consecrated Bishop of Norwich in September following. He was an eminent Justiciar, and being elected Abp. of Canterbury in 1205, was set aside by the Pope.

<sup>241</sup> Rot. Pat. 6 Joh. memb. 3 & 2. The first instrument says that the Church is vacant, the second only bestows its reve-

nues on Master Matthew ; and long after (viz. 12 Sep. 1214) King John restored it to Thos. de Argentol, "whoever be in possession," the King being exonerated of all obligation to account for the receipts *ad interim*. (Vide Rot. Pat. 16 Joh. memb. 12.)

<sup>242</sup> Rot. Pat. 10 Joh. memb. 2. Wm. de Saint Maixent was probably a Poitevin. He occurs in 1213 as in employ of Peter Bishop of Winchester, Chief Justice of England (Pat. 15 Joh. memb. 9), and frequently on the Close Rolls from 1205 to 1214 (Rot. Claus. vol. i, passim).

<sup>243</sup> Rot. Pat. 7 Hen. III, sub die. Jocas had probably been presented by the Earl, during his Shrievalty, and in succession to Wm. de St. Maixent.

<sup>244</sup> Rot. Pat. 22 Hen. III, sub die.

to the Prebend which R. de St. Alban had had; and the Constable of Brug is to induct him.

In 1255, Master Guy de Palude is Prebendary<sup>245</sup> here, and its value rated by the two juries, before mentioned, at 12 or 21 merks. Part of the income belonging to this Prebend was tithe of a merk value, arising from Walter de Clifford's demesne of Corfham,<sup>246</sup> which tithe, with 16 pence more, William de Ros, Rector of Diddlebury, had withdrawn for 7 years past.

21st May, 1256. Reymund Massan is presented<sup>247</sup> to the Prebend which Guy de la Palude had held.

In October, 1272, Adam de Fyleby is Prebendary<sup>248</sup> of Underdon, and his preferment valued at 15 merks.

In 1291, John Bruyn has this Prebend,<sup>249</sup> and its temporalities are valued as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
15 Acres of land at Underdon, value, at 6d. per acre . . . . .	0	7	6
Meadow-land, worth £2. in 6 years, and so averaging, per annum . . . . .	0	6	8
Rents assized, and Mill . . . . .	1	11	2
Total value	£2	5	4

At Salop Assizes<sup>250</sup> (Michaelmas, 1292), "John le Breyn" (the same Prebendary) is returned as in office, but his preferment valued at 18 merks (£12.)

In 8 Edw: II (1314-5), Theobald de Tretis, Prebendary<sup>251</sup> of Underdon, in the Chapel of *St. Leonards*,<sup>252</sup> has a suit of *novel disseisin* against Thomas Dunstan, about a tenement in Underdon.

In March, 1316, William, Parson of "Quatorp,"<sup>253</sup> is Lord of the *vill* of Underdon, in Stottesden Hundred.

<sup>245</sup> Rot. Hund. ii, 59, 83.

<sup>246</sup> Earl Roger's foundation of Quatford Church included some tithes at Corfham and Culmington. (Transcript in possession of the Rev. G. L. Wasey.)

<sup>247</sup> Rot. Pat. 40 Henry III (sub die).

<sup>248</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dors. He is also absent from the said Assizes. He had been presented in 1257 to the Church of Chelemodeston (Norwich Dioc.) by Hen. III (Rot. Pat. 41 Hen. III.)

<sup>249</sup> *Pope Nich. Taxation*, p. 162.

<sup>250</sup> *Placita de Juratis et Assisis*, 20 Ed. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>251</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl. Oxon.

<sup>252</sup> Sic,—but read St. Mary Magdalene.

<sup>253</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, p. 398. The word printed "Quatorp" is probably so written in the very inaccurate document which is there edited. It may be doubted whether Quat or Quatford is the place intended. I should have said the latter, had not Quatford Church been generally connected with another Prebend.

1 Edw. III (1327-8). This Prebend is granted<sup>254</sup> by the King to Ralph Blunt.

5 Edw. III (1331-2). It is granted<sup>255</sup> to Walter de London.

6 Edw. III (1332-3). It is granted<sup>256</sup> to Nicholas de London.

9 Edw. III (1335-6). It is granted<sup>257</sup> to G. Chilcheheth.

11 Edw. III (1337-8). It is granted<sup>258</sup> apparently to Walt de London.

17 Edw. III (1343-4). It is granted<sup>259</sup> to John de London.

23 Edw. III (1349-50). It is granted<sup>260</sup> to William Lambheth.

In the year 1535 the name of the Prebendary here was \* \* \* Barley. Its value is returned<sup>261</sup> at £6. per annum.

#### THE CHAPEL.

No mention of the Chapel of Underdon, other than that above quoted, has occurred. Its foundation on Prebendal lands, held immediately of the Crown, will probably have been nugatory, unless confirmed by the King. We have no evidence of such confirmation, and even if it were obtained from King Stephen, his act, of this kind, will hardly have bound his successors.

#### HARPSFORD, ALIAS HARPSWOOD.

This *vill* is mentioned in King William's charter<sup>262</sup> to Salop Abbey, as one of the adjuncts involved in Earl Roger's grant of Morville Church to that house. The attestation of Alduin de Harpesfort to a very early deed of Salop Abbey (c. 1160), already quoted,<sup>263</sup> seems to favour this assumption. If thus involved, we miss any subsequent notice of the place, probably as being comprised in that part of Morville itself which remained in connexion with the Church, and was not transferred to Astley Manor. But it must be noticed that the situation of Harpsford associates it much more with that district, which having been demesne of the Norman Earls became the endowment of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene. Its tithes appear,<sup>264</sup> in time of Henry VIII, as belonging to Salop Abbey, but are mentioned in such connexion as to leave it uncertain whether they were tithes of the Abbot's own territory or not.

<sup>254</sup> Rot. Pat. 1 Ed. III, pt. 1, memb. 24.

<sup>255</sup> Rot. Pat. 5 Ed. III, pt. 2, memb. 18.  
and 25.

<sup>256</sup> Rot. Pat. 6 Ed. III, pt. 2, memb. 13.

<sup>257</sup> Rot. Pat. 9 Ed. III, pt. 1, memb. 14.

<sup>258</sup> Index of presentations apud Turrin  
Lond.—but *Quere*.

<sup>259</sup> Rot. Pat. 17 Ed. III, pt. 1, memb. 30.

<sup>260</sup> Rot. Pat. 23 Ed. III, pt. 1, memb. 32.

<sup>261</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 210.  
Heref. Dioc. Stottesden Deanery.

<sup>262</sup> *New Monasticon*, iii, 521, x.

<sup>263</sup> *Vide supra*, page 44.

<sup>264</sup> *Coll. Top. and Gen.* vol. ii, 289, 290.  
*Vide supra*, page 41.

The tithes of the *vill* of Moreffeld, of Walton and Leye, of Kyndesley, Aldenam, Harpiford, Haughton and Crofte, Underton, and of Morfeld parish, are enumerated in the order quoted; and Walton, Leye, Aldenam, and Underton, were not of the Abbot's fee, whilst Morville (part), Kinslow, Haughton, and Croft, were. No inference can therefore be drawn from this source as to the ownership of Harpsford.

LYE, alias LEYE, now LYE-FARM.

Though this was doubtless of the Prebendal lands of St. Mary Magdalene of Bridgnorth, it is not quite clear that it belonged wholly to one particular Prebend, or, if it did, which that Prebend was.

The *vill* is usually mentioned next to Walton, a circumstance which, as well as its situation, would associate it with that Prebend. However, in 1291, part of the temporalities of the Prebend of Underton consisted of a mill; <sup>265</sup> and this I think must have been Lye Mill. All that has further occurred relative to the place has been mentioned above.

ALDENHAM.

As Aldenham was undoubtedly in the *Domesday* Parish of Morville, so also was it in all probability a member of the *Domesday* Manor, and part of those two hides which the Norman Earl retained in demesne. Its isolation in respect of other lands so retained is remarkable, and may be accounted for by its proximity to Shirlot <sup>266</sup> Forest, which I suppose was as great an object of interest to the Earls in their day, as to the Kings who came after.

The family of Baskerville were, from the earliest times, the immediate tenants of the Crown in this Manor, but as they had other lands <sup>267</sup> in Shropshire with which they were more personally connected, we will here treat of their feoffees at Aldenham, a

<sup>265</sup> Vide *supra*, p. 77.

<sup>266</sup> Neither this nor any other of the (afterward Royal) forests of Shropshire is mentioned in *Domesday*; yet I conclude that they all existed and were of the demesne of the Earl. *Domesday* was chiefly an estimate of the productive capabilities of land, its population, and the live stock which it did or might maintain.

Therefore forests, in their very nature, were alien to the chief objects of the Survey. Hence the omission. The woods mentioned in the *Shropshire Domesday* are appurtenances of particular Manors with which they descended, and whose value they increased.

<sup>267</sup> Vide *infra* under Pickthorne, Northwood, &c.

family which took its name from the locality. The older name of the place was "Aldreham," from two Saxon words, the first of which signifies an alder-tree, the last a home or sheltered habitation.

About A. D. 1138, Fulcoins, whom I take to have held here under Baskerville, endowed<sup>268</sup> a chapel at Aldreham with sixty acres of land and a mansion. It was in "the parish of the Church of Mamerfeld," and was consecrated by Bishop Robert de Betun, like other Chapels, because of the troubled state of the country.

About the same time and on occasion of a similar foundation by Robert Fitz-Aher in the neighbouring village of Aston, Fulcaius de Aldreham appears among the witnesses of the Charter<sup>269</sup> of endowment. In 1180 amongst those in this quarter who were fined<sup>270</sup> for *imbladements* by the Justice of the King's Forest the name Folqui appears.

Early in the 13th century William de Aldeham attests one of Sibil de Teneray's Charters<sup>271</sup> to Morville Priory.

September 29th, 1231. William de Aldenham had fined<sup>272</sup> with the Crown in a sum of 100*s.* It was for purchase of five acres of the wood of Chirlet (Shirlot) which he had assarted by license of the Verderers of the Forest. He will also pay 5 shillings annual rent for the same, and already renders account of two years' arrears of such rent. This annual rent would seem to have varied, for at Michaelmas, 1252, I find the Sheriff<sup>273</sup> accounting (on behalf of William de Aldingham) 7*s.* 6*d.* for rent of five acres of the "King's demesne in Aldingham," and, it is added, that the said William is "to be quit of waste and regard."

In 1255, the Jurors of Stottesden Hundred reported<sup>274</sup> of this *vill* as follows:—William de Aldenham is Lord, and there is here one virgate of land which the same William holds *in chief* of Walter de Baskerville, rendering one merk yearly to the same Walter, who is in custody of Sibil Giffard by grant of the King. And the said William owes suit<sup>275</sup> of Court to the Hundred twice in a year, viz. at the *tourn* of the Sheriff.

<sup>268</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 333.

<sup>269</sup> Charter in the possession of Mr. G. Morris.

<sup>270</sup> *Forest Roll* at Westminster, *Salop*, No. 1, memb. 2.

<sup>271</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 103. Vide *supra*, p. 52.

<sup>272</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 15 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>273</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 36 Hen. III, Salop.

"Waste" was the fine for destroying underwood.

<sup>274</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 82. Stottesden.

<sup>275</sup> Attendance at the Sheriff's *tourn* was obligatory on the freeholders of a Hundred in general. Exemption was matter of special grant or prescription. The *Tourns* were the Court-Leet of the County as the County Court was the Court-

Further, he holds one *assart* under the *haye* <sup>276</sup> of Schyrlet rendering to the Exchequer 7 shillings yearly.

In January, 1256, William de Aldenham was one of the Jurors of the Hundred <sup>277</sup> who sat at Salop Assizes, and again in January, 1257, he was on the inquest <sup>278</sup> as to the property of Hugh de Kinslow.

At the Forest-pleas of February, 1262, he appears <sup>279</sup> as one of the Regarders of the forests of Morf and Shirlet, and was, like many others, fined half a merk by the Justices for *making a bad return*. <sup>280</sup> At the same time William le Wauwar of Aldenham, who ought to have been at the Assizes, was *essoigned*, because dead. <sup>281</sup>

On March 13th, 1262, William de Aldenham sat with the Verderers and Foresters of the County on an Inquisition <sup>282</sup> held at Bridgnorth, and which was to decide some forest question relating to Middleton Priors.

At Salop Assizes, August, 1267, Adam Fitz-David, the tenant, having been impleaded, <sup>283</sup> under writ of *mort d'ancestre*, for a *noke* of land in Stevinton, loses the cause; but he having called to *warrantry* William de Aldenham (his feoffor, I suppose), and said William, being of full age and having come forward with such *warrantry*, the Court decided that the latter was to make good the loss of the former. This William I take <sup>284</sup> to have been son of the William before named.

Baron. The Sheriff presided, and made circuit or *turn* through the Hundreds, holding this Court in each. The jurisdiction of County and Hundred Courts was the same as to causes and offences, but different as to territory. The Sheriff in early times might hold his Tourns when and where he chose. He was interested in the amount of fines which were levied on non-attendants. Therefore Magna Charta limited the Sheriffs' Tourns to two in a year, one after Easter, the other after Michaelmas.

<sup>276</sup> Haya (literally an inclosure or hedge) is the term usually applied to some smaller forests, such as Shirlet was.

<sup>277</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 40 Hen. III, Salop, memb. 12 recto.

<sup>278</sup> *Inquisitions*, 41 Hen. III, No. 37. Vide *supra*, page 53.

<sup>279</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, Salop, memb. 12 recto.

<sup>280</sup> *Ibidem*, 5 recto. "Pro scripto suo

male facto." I suppose the duty of the Regarders was to draw up a report of imbladements, purprestures, &c. in their district, and present it to the Justices of the Forest when the latter visited the County.

<sup>281</sup> *Ibidem*, 1 recto. The Roll contains a long list under the title "Essonia Mortis." Among the names is Roger Corbet of Hadley, and one or two others whom we know to have died shortly before this circuit, otherwise I should not have guessed the nature of this peculiar list.

<sup>282</sup> *Esch.* 46 Hen. III, No. 31.

<sup>283</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 51 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>284</sup> At the same Assizes there was a trial, whether William de Aldenham and William his son had disseised Michael, son of Henry Geune, of a messuage and 9 acres in Aldenham. The verdict was in the affirmative. *Salop Assizes*, 51 Hen. III, memb. 8 recto.

At the Assizes of September, 1272, he was of the Stottesden Jury<sup>285</sup> and under the name of William Fitz-William de Aldenham was impleaded<sup>286</sup> by Robert Jude, William Wychard, and Michael Geune, for three parts of a messuage and three carrueates (save one and a half virgates) in Aldenham. William Fitz-William failed to appear, and so the land was to be seized into the King's hand, and the cause adjourned till the *morrow* of St. Martin (November 12th). Afterwards, however, he appeared, but not being able to excuse his former default was adjudged to be *in misericordia*.<sup>287</sup> At the same Assizes the above-named William Wychard was sued<sup>288</sup> by Richard Wychard for a tenement in Aldenham. This prosecution was however withdrawn.

On November 12th, 1272 (the day of adjournment of the former case), a fine<sup>289</sup> was levied at Salop between Malcolumb de Harley, complainant, and Robert Jude, William Wychard, and Michael Geune, deforciant, by Richard de Acton (their attorney, I suppose). The premises were those before recited in Aldenham, and the suit, thus terminated, was one of warantry. The deforciant acknowledged the right of Malcolumb, as arising by their own gift, and he was to hold the premises, to himself and heirs, rendering to Robert Jude and his heirs one rose yearly, and one rose to William and Michael, and doing accustomed service to the Lords of the fee. For this fine, Malcolumb gave one *sore* sparrow-hawk.<sup>290</sup>

On November 27th, 1274. William de Aldenham sat as a

<sup>285</sup> *Salop Assize-Roll*, 56 Hen. III, *Placita Corona*, memb. 21 recto.

<sup>286</sup> *Salop Assize-Roll*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 4 dorso.

<sup>287</sup> *Misericordia*, *amercement*, and *fine* are terms nearly allied and often confounded, but having, I believe, a technical distinction. An offender was said to be "in misericordia" (at the mercy of the Court) when convicted of an offence, the penalty of which was yet to be settled. The term *amercement* (originating in the same idea of *merci*) indicates a further process, viz. the penalty, as assessed by the Court or other competent authority. The term *fine*, when applied to a pecuniary penalty, and as distinct from *amercement*, indicates a penalty, not arbitrary, but already fixed by statute.

The "misericordia" above by no means

implies sentence in the suit, but only a liability to penalty for non-appearance.

<sup>288</sup> *Salop Assize-Roll*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>289</sup> *Final Concords*, 56 Hen. III, Salop. I imagine that the deforciant having found it difficult to prosecute their claim against William de Aldenham, disposed of their interest to Malcolumb de Harley, who, I think, was a lawyer.

<sup>290</sup> An acknowledgement very usual in cases, like the above, where the fine levied was the termination of a fictitious suit. I suppose the payment of the hawk was as imaginary as the suit. A *sore* hawk was however one in its first plumage (from the French *sor* or *saw*, English, *sorrel*, i.e. reddish-brown). A stag in its fourth year was also called *sore*—a similar allusion to its colour.



Juror<sup>291</sup> on the Inquisition into the state of Stottesden Hundred, A. D. 1278, the Sheriff of Shropshire is to seize<sup>292</sup> into the King's hand all lands whereof William de "Audeham" died possessed, he having held of the King *in capite*.

John de Aldenham, successor of William, occurs very soon afterwards as attesting a Quatford Charter.<sup>293</sup>

About 1284, the same John is returned<sup>294</sup> as holding Aldenham under "Walter de Baskerville, of the fee of Pickthorn."

At the Assizes of October, 1292, he sat as a Juror<sup>295</sup> for Stottesden Hundred.

Aldenham was one of the *vills* entered<sup>296</sup> as disforested in the latter part of the 13th century; and in the great perambulation<sup>297</sup> of A. D. 1300, some parts of the boundaries of the King's Hays of Shirlet, have reference to what has been said above.—The forest was limited in one direction by the "assarts which John de Haldenham holds at a rent of the Lord the King," in another by "Wichardesok," that is, Wichard's Oak.

#### THE CHAPEL.

I have already mentioned the only notice which we have of this early foundation. It existed in all probability for a very short time, even if it was completed; nor can I make out that Shrewsbury Abbey ever appropriated any part of the endowment of, or received any pension from, this Chapel. The Abbey's possession, in 1529, of the tithes of grain, hay, and other produce in Aldenham, was probably the result of Earl Hugh's long antecedent grant of the tithes of his demesnes. We have had former hints<sup>298</sup> that such grant must not be limited by the express words of Earl Hugh's Charter as preserved in the Monasticon.

#### BRIDGNORTH.

Of the two *Domesday* hides which constituted the demesne of the Norman Earls in Morville Manor, it only remains to notice that tract of land which afterwards was occupied by the Castle and

<sup>291</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 107.

<sup>292</sup> *Originalia*, 6 Edw. I, *Rot.* 21.

<sup>293</sup> Charter at Dudmaston.

<sup>294</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* Stottesden Hundred. Vide *infra* under Pickthorn.

<sup>295</sup> *Placita de Juratis et Assisis*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 51 recto.

<sup>296</sup> *Forest Rolls* at Westminster, Salop, No. 3.

<sup>297</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 279.

<sup>298</sup> Vide pp. 44, 70. The Charter was a forgery, but I have said before that the gifts it alleges were really made by Earl Hugh or others.

Borough of Bridgnorth, and which indeed was all that ultimately continued in demesne of the Crown.

As, however, the foundation of Bridgnorth was subsequent to *Domesday*, it may be consistent to postpone this subject for the present, not by any means that its importance is to be underrated, but rather because it affords matter for most diligent and exclusive consideration.

Something, however, may here be said as to a Saxon foundation of the 10th century, variously described as a borough or a fortress, and assigned by very equally divided opinions to two localities, viz., Bridgnorth and Quatford.

The claim of Bridgnorth has been already alluded to,<sup>299</sup> but only in such a way as to leave the question open. This, however, is the proper place to give some account of the said Saxon foundation, if Bridgnorth were indeed its site; but I must again postpone the subject, thinking, indeed, that Bridgnorth has a better claim than Quatford, but convinced that a third locality, Oldbury, was after all the real one.

#### TASLEY.<sup>300</sup>

Lost among the *Domesday* contingents of Morville Manor come the two hides alleged to have been held by Richard Pincerna immediately of the Norman Earl.

A probability, that, at the time of that Survey, Rainald the Sheriff was *mesne* tenant between the Earl and Richard Pincerna, has been fully stated before,<sup>301</sup> as also that the said two hides were in Tasley and Henley.

Rainald's presumed interest here, like all his *seigneuries*, whether in Shropshire, Staffordshire, or elsewhere, descended to Fitz-Alan. In what course this happened is nowhere positively and authentically stated, and any conjecture on the subject must remain till we come to speak at large of a house whose vicissitudes are an integral portion of the History of England, and whose power and influence in

<sup>299</sup> Vide *supra*, page 31.

<sup>300</sup> The termination of this name has already been explained. The word *tas* signifies a heap or bundle. It is still used in Kent for a mow of corn. It has its equivalent both in Saxon and French. Chaucer uses the word *taas* for a heap (of dead bodies).

Another word, *tasel*, I take to be the

original of *tassel*, *teazle*, and probably *thistle*. From the old way of spelling "Tassele" I should judge this to be the word thus compounded with *le* or *ley*. Some plant of the *teazle*, or *thistle* tribe will, in that case, have given name to the locality.

<sup>301</sup> Vide *supra*, page 30.

Shropshire have never been equalled by any other since the forfeiture of its Norman Earls.

Of Richard Pincerna, assumed to have been Rainald's under-tenant in 1086, nothing further occurs. The next, in his relative position, and as tenant of Fitz-Alan here, should be one of those who are named in the *Liber Niger* (1165) as holding by service of one *muntator*<sup>302</sup> (equal to half a Knight's fee) of the said barony of Fitz-Alan. Which of those, thus holding, was Lord of Tasley, is not apparent<sup>303</sup> either from the list itself or any other forthcoming evidence. We have it however upon record that the tenant, thus holding Tasley, died during the minority of young Fitz-Alan, that is, before A. D. 1175, and that the heir, Roger Corbet, was then under age. The wardship of this heir, and custody

<sup>302</sup> Vide *Liber Niger*, vol. i, p. 142—where Hearne has a long note, attempting to define, but more successfully obscuring the peculiar nature of this tenure under the Barony of Fitz-Alan. His affectation of expounding, in classical and idiomatic Latin, a matter difficult in itself and every way unclassical in its associations, is but a pedantic substitute for the explanation which he was unable to supply, and, as transcriber of a record, was not called upon to offer. The question is of course the etymology of the word "muntator," which Hearne will have to be equivalent to "mundator," and to mean primarily, a *moundman*, *miner*, or *pioneer*, and he even suggests a tenure of about 200 acres as the muntator's fief. He then talks about the term as referable to naval matters, and finally proposes it as synonymous with "vir montanus" a *mountaineer*,—"a signification," says he, "most aptly squaring with that part of Shropshire which is recovered from the Welsh and abounds in mountains." Passing the question whether any of Fitz-Alan's tenants in the Welsh Marches are registered in the *Liber Niger*, I shall not, at least after quoting Hearne, seem superlatively absurd if I hazard another etymology. I suppose the word to be equivalent to *munitator* and coined from *munitio*—a fortress. If so, its meaning will be—one whose service was to do ward at his Lord's Castle. We shall see how apposite such an interpretation

will be in case of many a tenure under Fitz-Alan, the *caput* of whose barony was Oswestry.

<sup>303</sup> There are three names on the list of Fitz-Alan's tenants, whose lands, held in 1165 by service of 1 *muntator* each, I have nothing which enables me to identify. They are Roger Walensis, Nicholas Mautcovenant, and John de Hanewode. The first of these I should conjecture to have been Lord of Tasley, had not the Historians of Shrewshury (vol. i, p. 80, note 3) suggested that he (Roger Walensis) was identical with Roger de Powis. The latter was certainly never Lord of Tasley; nor yet can I find that he or his descendants ever held anything under Fitz-Alan. On the other hypothesis (that Roger Walensis was a different person from Roger de Powis, and, if so, possible Lord of Tasley in 1165) it will still remain unsettled whether he were the father of Roger Corbet and himself a Cadet of the Baronial House of Caus, or whether, dying without issue, his estate passed to Roger Corbet as his nearest of kin. Certain it is that Roger Corbet had Tasley by inheritance, but whether through his Father or Mother we cannot say, nor can we point out his degree of connexion with the House of Caus. Contemporary with him was another Roger Corbet, I say another because the latter was a younger brother of Richard Corbet (of Wattlesborough, I suppose), and could not in the ordinary course

of his lands, fell to the Crown in virtue of its temporary seizure of Fitz-Alan's barony. King Henry II granted it to Thomas Fitz-Odo, otherwise called Thomas de Chabbenour, and, in one<sup>304</sup> instance (as having this wardship), Thomas de Tasley. Of this Thomas much more will be said elsewhere, but here only that which he had to do with Tasley.

During his custody thereof, a suit about thirty acres of land arose between him and one who was officiating as Priest of the Prebend, then held by William de Pierpoint in the Collegiate Church of St. Mary Magdalene, in Bridgnorth Castle. King Henry II issued a precept ordering *perambulation* to be made between the lands of the Prebend and the *lay-fee* of Tasley. Thomas Fitz-Bernard, then Chief Justice of the King's Forests, had it in charge to effect this *perambulation*, which, with other evidence, will decide the date of the transaction as having been in 1180 or 1183. The result was in favour of the Church, as might be expected, seeing that the Crown had a permanent interest in the integrity of its own Prebend, but only a temporary one in Roger Corbet's Manor.

Twenty years afterwards, when Roger Corbet, then of age, attempted by process of law to oust the same William de Pierpoint, the latter, *inter alia*, alleged this earlier settlement of the question. Corbet's rejoinder was to the effect that Thomas Fitz-Odo (called Thomas de Tasley) had not rightly represented him (or had wronged him) in the former cause. The case was dismissed *sine die*. This trial took place at the Salop Assizes in October, 1203; but Corbet had attained his majority some time previously, and had increased his importance by marriage with an heiress, who brought the Lordships of Hadley and High Hatton, in Shropshire, of King's Bromley, in Staffordshire, and the patronage of Wombridge Priory, to him and his descendants.

His career was short, but it will not be inconsistent with the importance of his successors if their descent, and a few notices<sup>305</sup> both of him and them, be here inserted.

His marriage with Cecily, daughter and sole heir of Alan de

inherit such a fee as Tasley. Yet these two brothers, Richard and Roger, may have been sons of different mothers, and the mother of Roger, the youngest, may have been heiress of Tasley.

<sup>304</sup> Vide *infra*.

<sup>305</sup> Mr. Blakeway's conjectures on the early history of this family (see *Sheriffs*,

p. 42) are put forward with confessed doubt and under a deficiency of documents. They are not fortunate. One page of Shaw's *History of Staffordshire*, on the same subject, contains at least nine controvertible errors. Erdeswick says little, but that little involves its own contradiction.

Hadley, was the advancement above alluded to, and will have taken place about A.D. 1190. This Lady was as notable in her ancestry as in her inheritance. Paternally she was descended<sup>306</sup> from the Peverels, and her mother was a Pantulf.

Her husband, Roger Corbet, occurs first (and probably in his capacity as Patron of Wombridge Priory) in a deed,<sup>307</sup> which must have passed about A.D. 1194, whereby Walter de Dunstanville, Lord of Ideshal, makes a considerable grant to that House.

Again, about A.D. 1195, Roger Corbeth attests an agreement<sup>308</sup> between the Abbot of Shrewsbury and John le Strange, and which evidently passed in the *County Court* at Salop. Soon after, and in a most prominent position, Roger Corbet attests a grant<sup>309</sup> to Wombridge by John de Cumbrey; and another<sup>310</sup> by Griffin, son of Gervase Goeh, Lord of Sutton, to the same house.

At the Salop Assizes of October, 1203, Roger Corbet sat as a Juror<sup>311</sup> with others of his rank, and on several important trials. But his chief concern on this occasion will have been in the cause<sup>312</sup> mentioned above, and which, as far as a translation will allow, shall be given as it is recorded:—

“There is *venue of assize* to take cognizance (*assisa venit recognitionis*) whether thirty acres in Tasseleg, which Roger Corbet claimeth against William de Petraponte, be the *lay fee* of said Roger, or *frank almoign* appertaining to the aforesaid William’s Church of Bruges. And William appeareth and saith—that the said land is appertaining to his Prebend which he has in the Church of Bruges, and which he holds by gift of King Henry, Father of the Lord the King, and has held for thirty years past; and that, before he was presented to said Prebend, the said Prebend was seized of the premises, so that, in his opinion, this assize neither can be nor ought to be taken without the Lord the King (being a

<sup>306</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Michaelmas Term, 37 Hen. III, memb. 6 dorso.

<sup>307</sup> This deed stands No. 46, under the title ‘Prior’s Lee,’ of the Wombridge Chartulary. The witness’s name is written in the Chartulary, “Robert Corbet de Hedleia”—a mere scribal error, and of a kind in which, unfortunately, the whole of that Record abounds.

<sup>308</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 16, but this Roger Corbeth may have been the younger brother of Richard Corbet, of Wattlesborough.

<sup>309</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. Tit. Lega Prioris, No. 43. John de Cumbrey was Lord of the neighbouring *vill* of Lee, which took its distinctive name of Lec-Cumbrey (now Lee-gomery) from his family.

<sup>310</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. Tit. Brocton, No. 87. Suttou Maddoek was so called afterwards, from Maddoe, son of this Griffin.

<sup>311</sup> *Placita apud Salop*, 5 John, memb. 4 reeto, &c.

<sup>312</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 4 dorso.

party). Moreover, the same William saith that he has no Church in Bruges, but only a certain Prebend in the Church of Bruges. Further he saith, that, by precept of the Lord King Henry, there was sometime perambulation made, between one Thomas de Tassele and the Priest of the said William, in presence of Thomas Fitz-Bernard, thereunto assigned, and in presence of many others, and that in virtue of such perambulation the aforesaid land remained with his Prebend; and if, after this (statement), the trial ought to proceed, he (William) will not decline it (*non refutabit eam*).”—

“And Roger (Corbet) saith nothing to contradict the statement of said William, nor saith he anything but that the forementioned Thomas, between whom and William the said perambulation took place, was his wronger <sup>313</sup> (*fuit ablator suus*).”

The decision of the Court on this cause was “*remanet sine die*.”

We hear no more of the suit, and little more of the plaintiff, who died within a few months, leaving Cecily his widow and an infant son, Thomas, surviving.

Before May 9th, 1204, Cecilia de Hadley had offered <sup>314</sup> to King John sixty merks and a palfrey, by way of fine, for having seizin of the Manor of Bramley (Bromley Regis, Staff.), whereof she had been disseized by Geoffry Fitz-Piers, the Justiciar (Chief Justice of England). And she covenants to render for the same £4 per annum, and the service of a tenth part of a Knight (as the King's Charter, which she has, specifies <sup>315</sup>). Her fine also was, that she might marry at her own pleasure, and “have custody of her son and his marriage, so that he be not disparaged.”

The King's charter <sup>316</sup> alluded to bears date at Southwick (Hants) and is as follows:—“John D. G., &c. Know ye that we have restored and conceded, and by this present charter confirmed to Cecily de Hedley, the whole Manor of Bromley, with its appurtenances as her right and inheritance, to hold to her and her heirs, of us and our heirs, for ever, rendering thereof, to us, four pounds yearly and performing thereof, to us, service of the tenth

<sup>313</sup> It does not seem quite clear what this expression implies—whether that Thomas de Tasley was at the time (*i. e.* circa 1180) unjustly occupying the whole Manor to the exclusion of the heir, or that he sacrificed the rights of his ward in this particular matter.

<sup>314</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 6 John, *Salop.* Inter. *Nova oblata*. This fine is thus only preserved, for the *Oblata or Fine Rolls* of

the 5th year of John, in which the transaction took place, are lost.

<sup>315</sup> These words were no part of the original fine, which, of course, preceded the Charter, but only a part of the subsequent record of debt. Therefore they are put in *parentheses*.

<sup>316</sup> *Rot. Cartarum*, 6 John, memb. 4. Page 129 of the printed volume.

part of one knight's fee, for all service, custom, and demand, pertaining to that Manor. Wherefore we will, &c. Dated 9th of May, in the fifth year of our reign." (May 9th, 1204.)

Within four months after the granting of this charter, a fine<sup>317</sup> appears on the Rolls whereby "Baldwin de Hodnet gives (to the King) sixty merks for having to wife Cecily who had been wife of Roger Corbet, with her land. And the Sheriff (of Staff.) has mandate to take security from him (Baldwin) as to the payment of the said sixty merks." Here the record is abruptly broken off, and there is a mark of cancellation added, for which a reason or reasons are subjoined in two contemporary notes. The first of these notes says briefly: "Because above by the Wife herself;" the second more fully: "It is cancelled here because the same fine is elsewhere (entered), viz., in the Roll of Fines of the fifth year." These fines of the fifth year, we have already said, are lost; nor do we in this instance need them. The truth is, that Cecily had married to Baldwin de Hodnet, and the latter had assumed her liabilities to the Crown.

On the 8th of September, 1204, King John granted a further Charter<sup>318</sup> to Cecily de Hedley, owing to some misunderstanding or informality about the first. This second Charter is dated at Oseney, and is generally as the first, but omits all correspondent mention of knight's service, and substitutes the following:—"And let it not be to the injury of William Fitz-Alan, of whom said Cecily holds a knight's fee, that we have given her to Baldwin de Hodnet, and that our former Charter (granted to her about Bromley) hath expressed the aforesaid service (£4 rent) and also a service of one tenth of a knight's fee.

On September 29th, 1204, Cecilia de Hadley is entered on the Sheriff's account<sup>319</sup> as owing £4 of the rent of the Manor of Bromley (her first year's rent).

On September 29th, 1205, Baldwin de Hodnet is pardoned<sup>320</sup> ten merks of his wife's debt to the Crown, and she is charged £8 for two

<sup>317</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 6 John, memb. 14. Printed volume, page 214.

<sup>318</sup> *Rot. Cartarum*, 6 John, memb. 11. Page 137 of the printed volume. I have done the best I can to give a translation of this Charter, which is not grammatical in its construction. Its meaning is more obvious. The tenure of Bromley under the Crown was by a fee-farm rent, not by knight's service, whereas Cecily's tenure at Hadley, under Fitz-Alan, was of the

latter class. Her remarriage therefore and the wardship of her heir belonged to Fitz-Alan, and the acceptance of her Fine by King John, as well as his consequent Charter, was an injury to her suzerain. Fitz-Alan's remonstrance probably produced the second Charter, which is merely a *memorandum* lest the first should constitute a precedent.

<sup>319</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 6 John, Salop.

<sup>320</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 7 John, Salop.

years' rent of Bromley; but a memorandum is added to the latter entry, stating that she is answerable to the Sheriff, and that he accounts (in his general receipts) "*in corpore comitatús.*"

Bromley Regis thus continued to be held of the Crown by Cecilia and many generations of her heirs;—but we must revert to the more immediate history of Tasley.

At Salop Assizes, November, 1221, Margery de Chabbenour names <sup>321</sup> an attorney in her suit about dower against Baldwin de Hodnet and his wife. At the same time Baldwin de Hodnet and Cecilia his wife name <sup>322</sup> their attorney against Margery de Chabbenour. The cause between them is also stated, as follows: <sup>323</sup> Margery, widow of Thomas Fitz-Odo, sues Thomas Corbet for a third of two parts of the Manor of Tasseleg, and sues Baldwin de Hodnet and Cecily his wife for a third of the third part of the same Manor. Her suit is for dower. It proves that Thomas Corbet was of age, and had succeeded to Tasley, his paternal inheritance; while his mother Cecily was still living and holding her dower therein, as derived from Roger Corbet, her former husband. For a third of their respective interests they are impleaded by Margery de Chabbenour, and the progress of the cause will show on what grounds. Baldwin and Cecilia, on their parts, called Thomas Corbet to warrantry. He appeared, vouched the warrantry, and, on the part of himself and them, further called to warrantry John Fitz-Alan (his suzerain). A day was given to the parties at Warwick, on the morrow of St. Hilary (January 14th, 1222).

On the said day, at Warwick, <sup>324</sup> John Fitz-Alan *essoigned* himself in the plea of dower against Margery de Chabbenour, in which Thomas Corbet called him to warrantry. The cause was adjourned to *fifteen days of Easter*, then to be heard at Westminster. Some further and unrecorded adjournments will have taken place, but we have fortunately a record of the final hearing as it took place at Westminster in Hilary Term, 1223. The process was as follows: <sup>325</sup> "A Jury comes here to say, if Thomas Fitz-Odo, formerly husband of Margery de Chalbenour, held, on the day he espoused her, the Manor of Taslegh in fee, so that he could dower her in one-third thereof or not; or if the said Thomas held it of the bailiwick of the

<sup>321</sup> *Salop Assize-Roll*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 2 dorso. Something is added to this entry, which, except that it contains the name of Corbet, is unintelligible.

<sup>322</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 3 recto.

<sup>323</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 7 recto.

<sup>324</sup> *Esson apd. Warw.* in crast. Sti Hil. 6 Hen. III, memb. 1 recto.

<sup>325</sup> *Placita apd. Westm.* de termino Sti Hillarii, 7 Hen. III, memb. 12 dorso.



Lord King Henry, the King's grandfather, whilst William Fitz-Alan, father of John Fitz-Alan, was under age, and in custody of the King, together with that land. Because both John Fitz-Alan, against whom the aforesaid Margery claims the said third in dower, and she herself have put themselves on this Jury."

"The Jurors do not understand that Thomas could dower Margery, because he did not so hold as that he could dower her, for he had no ingress except through the Bailiffs of King Henry when William Fitz-Alan was under age." It was decided (by the Court) that John be herein *quiet* and Margery *in misericordia*.

We must again revert to the Salop Assizes of November, 1221, when Thomas Corbet was party to another suit.<sup>326</sup> The Abbot of Shrewsbury sued him for a quarter of a virgate in Kinslow and a similar quantity of land in Midwele (Meadowley) in right of his Church. Thomas pleaded that he ought nor to answer, because, in Kinslow, he neither held nor claimed anything; and this the Abbot could not deny. So Thomas was declared *quit*.

It is probable that very soon after this time Thomas Corbet's mother died. Her inheritance did not, however, immediately devolve to him, for having been also a mother by Baldwin de Hodnet, her second husband, the latter will have held it for life.

He, however, was dead also before January 21st, 1225.<sup>327</sup> At this juncture the question naturally arose as to who was Cecilia de Hadley's heir. The Sheriff of Staffordshire had the King's precept to hold inquest thereon, which being done and returned to Court, the King issued a mandate<sup>328</sup> to the same Sheriff ordering him to give Thomas Corbet *seizin* of Bromley, taking security from him for his *relief*, which was £4. This mandate bears date 19th February, 1225. There is abundant evidence not only of Thomas Corbet having held Bromley,<sup>329</sup> but also of his succession to Hadley, High Hatton, and the patronage of Wombridge Priory.

He stands first witness of a grant<sup>330</sup> to the latter house which bears date about 1228-9.

There are three lists of John Fitz-Alan's Barony in the *Testa de Nevill*,<sup>331</sup> nearly contemporary with each other and of date about 1240-1. In one of these Thomas Corbet is entered as holding Tasley by service of half a knight; in the other two, Thomas Corbet of

<sup>326</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 7  
recto.

<sup>327</sup> *Rot. Fin.* vol. i, pp. 124, 125.

<sup>328</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 125.

<sup>329</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 52.

<sup>330</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. Tit. Upington, No. 182.

<sup>331</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 44, 47, 49.

Tasley is returned as holding Hatton and Hadley by a whole knight's fee.

It would seem to be he who in 1242, having been *fermor* of Hintlesham (Suffolk), and being put in charge at the Exchequer for £50. on that account, gave the King a *palfrey* to have judgment thereupon.<sup>332</sup>

He died in 1247, holding the Manor of Bromley, *in capite* of the Crown, at a fee-farm rent of £4. The said Manor was worth £11.10s. per annum. His next heir was his son Roger, then twenty-five years of age.<sup>333</sup>

On the 28th of August, 1247, the King, at Windsor, received the homage of the said heir, and it was enjoined to Henry de Wingham and his *co-escheater* in Staffordshire to give him *seizin* of Bromley, taking security for a relief of ten merks (£3. 6s. 8d.), to be paid at Easter and Michaelmas, 1248.<sup>334</sup>

Roger Corbet, immediately on his succession, seems to have been involved in a dispute<sup>335</sup> with the Prior of Wombridge as to the right of patronage of that house. The details belong to another locality; but it may be here stated that the right under certain limitations was conceded to Corbet.

In 1255, the *status* of the Manor of "Tassele" is thus set forth by the Jurors of Stottesden Hundred.<sup>336</sup> "Roger Corbet is Lord, and there are here eight virgates (equal to two hides) of land. They do no suit either to County or Hundred nor pay *stretward* or *motfee* the Jurors know not by what warrant. And he holds in chief of John Fitz-Alan for half a knight's fee." These immunities are paralleled in no other of Fitz-Alan's neighbouring Manors. Doubtless they arose from the original tenancy of Richard Pincerna having been in the privileged demesne-lands of Morville Manor.

At the Salop Assizes of January, 1256, the Jurors for Bradford Hundred returned Roger Corbet among those who, being of full age and holding a whole knight's fee, were not yet knighted.<sup>337</sup>

<sup>332</sup> *Originalia*, 26 Hen. III, *Rot. ii, sub. tit.* Salop and Stafford.

<sup>333</sup> *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 31 Hen. III, No. 31.

<sup>334</sup> *Rot. Fin.* vol. ii, p. 18.

<sup>335</sup> *Pedes finium*, 33 Henry III, Salop.

<sup>336</sup> *Rot. Hundred*, ii, 82. *Stretward* and *Motfee* were both taxes, due to the Crown, and assessed on the hidage of Manors. The former was probably a rate for main-

tenance of the King's highways; the latter a contribution to the *folk-mote*, or Hundred Court. The non-liability of a Manor, as regarded *suit*, or actual attendance at County or Hundred Court, did not necessarily involve freedom from either impost.

<sup>337</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III. *Placita Corona*, memb. 7 dorso. His name is omitted in the similar list given in Mr. Dukcs' Introduction, page vii; but in

On the 15th of May, 1259, he was deceased, and the inquest<sup>338</sup> which sat on that day reported his tenure *in capite* at Bromley as well as that his son and next heir, Thomas, would be eleven years of age on the vigil of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 13), next coming.

On October 10th, 1259, the King's Mandate<sup>339</sup> to the Sheriff of Salop affirms, that, because of Roger Corbet's tenure *in capite* and death, first seizin of all his lands, of whomsoever held, pertains to the Crown: and therefore the Sheriff is to seize them into the King's hand and commit them to custody of the King's Escheator in the said County till the King command otherwise.

At the Forest Assizes of February, 1262,<sup>340</sup> and therefore during the minority of young Thomas Corbet, there was an Inquisition by the Vederers, Regarders, and Foresters of the County, as to "whether the wood of Tasley, which is called The Hoc, and is within the bounds of the King's Forest, be within *regard* or not." The decision was that it was out of *regard*, and always had been, and that the Lord of Tasley sold the vesture<sup>341</sup> of the said wood in portions, whenever he willed, and that the said wood is now being sold (*modo revenit*). At the same Assizes, and apparently in consequence of this verdict, several persons who stood on the list of ameracements<sup>342</sup> for *vert*, instead of having the usual fine of a shilling placed opposite their names have the words "extra regard" written instead, signifying their acquittal. Of these are William de Fraxino, of Tasley, Henry de Tassewood, William Granger de Tasley, Philip de Tassewood, and three others who seem to have been their pledges.

At the same Assizes,<sup>343</sup> Roger Corbet, of Hadley (having died nearly three years before), appears on the list, entitled "*Essonia Mortis*," as before alluded to. Also Duce Corbet, of Hadley, and Hugh Corbet, of Tasley, appear on the list of common *essoigns*. Lastly,<sup>344</sup> Edelina, widow of Roger Corbet, of Hadley, is put in

Shaw's List (*Hist. Staff.*, vol. i, Appendix to *Gen. Hist.*, page xv) he is returned as holding £60 of lands by Knight's service.

<sup>338</sup> *Inquisitiones post mortem*, 43 Hen. III, No. 17.

<sup>339</sup> *Rot. Fin.* vol. ii, page 312.

<sup>340</sup> *Placita Foresta*, 46 Hen. III, Salop, No. IV, memb. 6 dorso. Tasley is one of the *vills* disforested in the perambulation of this period (vide *supra*, p. 45), but is not named in the greater perambulation of 1300 (Salop Chartulary, No. 279).

<sup>341</sup> Vestures were the proceeds of the soil whether cuttings, crops, or fruits. The original idea seems to have considered woods, corn, and grass as the clothing of the earth. The secondary idea is before us. The third coined the term *investiture*, that is, endowment with profits.

<sup>342</sup> *Placita Foresta* (*ut supra*), memb. 6 recto.

<sup>343</sup> *Ibidem*, 1 recto. Vide *supra*, page 81, note 281.

<sup>344</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 6 dorso.

charge for *imbladement* within *regard* of the Forest of Mount Gilbert (the Wrekin).

In 52 Hen. III (1267-8), Thomas Corbet, of Tasley, had the King's Charter<sup>345</sup> of free-warren in the Manors of "Hatton" and "Chuhinethe," Salop, if we consult the printed Calendar; but probably the original charter only specifies the single Manor of Hatton super Hineheth (as High Hatton was sometimes called).

At the Forest Assizes<sup>346</sup> of November, 1271, Thomas Corbet, of Hadley, was convicted of taking one stag, near Clotlegh (under the Wrekin).

At the County Assizes<sup>347</sup> of October, 1272, Thomas Corbet, of Tasley, acknowledges a debt of £5 as due to Adam de Chetwynd. At the same time he is returned<sup>348</sup> by the Stottesden Jurors as one of those who, being of full age and holding a knight's fee, was still not knighted; and he was also a defaulter in due attendance at the said Assizes.

About 1284, Thomas Corbet is returned<sup>349</sup> as holding Tasley of Richard Fitz-Alan of the honour of White Minster (Oswestry), by half a knight's fee, and said Richard holds of the King *in capite*.

Shortly afterwards, *Dominus* Thomas Corbet is witness to a Wombridge Charter,<sup>350</sup> which prefix to his name is usually taken to be equivalent to a title of Knighthood. At the Salop Assizes of October, 1292, he stood as pledge<sup>351</sup> for John Fitz-Philip, Lord of Bobington, then under prosecution of the Crown in a cause of *Quo Warranto*, and was himself made the subject of a presentment, which placed him in the same predicament.<sup>352</sup>

The Stottesden Jurors reported him as claiming to hold his free

<sup>345</sup> *Calendar Rot. Chart.*, page 96, memb. 6.

<sup>346</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, 56 Hen. III, Salop, No. 5, memb. 1.

<sup>347</sup> *Placita de Juratis et Assisis*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 1 dorso.

<sup>348</sup> *Ibidem*, *Placita Corona*, memb. 49 dorso.

<sup>349</sup> *Kirby's Quest*. Stottesden Hundred.

<sup>350</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, Tit. Brocton, No. 61.

<sup>351</sup> *Placita de Juratis et Assisis*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>352</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 20 recto. Roger Corbet's right of holding his Manorial Court twice a year, and judging offences within that Manor, was the correlative

of his freedom from suit of the Hundred Court. The privilege of assizing bread and beer (*emendæ assizæ panis et cervisæ*) was a right of prescribing a scale of weights and measures to those who sold such commodities within a Manor; or, perhaps, it was only a right of assessing and appropriating the penalties of those who transgressed the general statute of 51 Hen. III on the subject.

The hideous privilege, which follows in the text, requires no explanation, but will hardly have implied much at this period of history.

Wayf was a Lord's right to stolen goods abandoned, or *waved*, by any felon, within his Manor.

court twice a year, to have privilege of *assizing* bread and beer, to keep *gallows* and have *wayf* in his Manor of Tasley. The trial of this right was postponed; but he had another prosecution<sup>353</sup> against him, which is, perhaps, worth giving at length:—

“Richard de Prestone complaineth of Thomas Corbet, of Tassele, for that on the day of the Invention of the Holy Cross, in the eighteenth year of the King, he seized, or caused to be seized, by Peter de Tassele his servant, in Morfeld, sixteen ewe-sheep of 32*s.* value, and eleven wethers of 22*s.* value, and still unjustly detains the same, whereby said Richard says that he is damaged to the extent of 100*s.*, and thereof he produceth witnesses (*sectam*), &c. The same Richard de Prestone complaineth of William Crasset that on Wednesday, in the feast of the Decollation of St. John Baptist, in the King’s nineteenth year, he took two of said Richard’s cows, of 20*s.* value, and one heifer of half a merk value, and caused them to be driven to the Manor of Thomas Corbet de Tasley, at Adlee (Hadley), and there detains them; whereby he (Richard) hath damage of 40*s.*; and thereof he produceth witnesses.”

“And Thomas Corbet and William Crasset appear, and deny the violence and injury, &c. And Thomas Corbet saith that the sheep belonged to Richard Fitz-Thomas, his villain; and that he seized them as his own proper chattels, and in his own demesne, as he was well entitled to do. And hereof he puts himself upon the Country (a Jury); and Richard de Preston likewise (puts himself).”

“And William Crasset saith that Richard de Preston impleaded the aforesaid Thomas Corbet in the County (Court) for unjust seizure of said cows and heifer, and the result was that they were adjudged to Thomas Corbet as chattels of Richard Fitz-Thomas, his villain; and that under that decision he (William), as the King’s Bailiff, and by order of the Sheriff, seized them and delivered them to Thomas Corbet.”

(The sentence.) “Because William Crasset acknowledges the seizure, and now shows no warrant whereby he could have any authority to seize the said beasts or deliver them to Thomas Corbet, it is decreed that Richard de Preston do recover the cows and heifer, as against William Crasset, and his damages, which are taxed at two merks. And let William Crasset be kept in custody.”

“And as to the sheep (the Jurors find that) they were Richard Fitz-Thomas’s, and given by him into charge of Richard de Preston, and Thomas Corbet took them, the said Thomas not being seized

<sup>353</sup> *Placita de Juratis et Assisis*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 52, recto.

of Richard Fitz-Thomas as of a villain by whom he could claim to appropriate sheep as his own proper chattels. And because it is found by the Jury that Thomas Corbet seized them, &c., out of his demesne, &c., although they were Richard Fitz-Thomas's, of whom he was not possessed, as of a villain—it is decreed that Richard recover the sheep and his damages, which are taxed by the Jury at 30s., against said Thomas Corbet. And Thomas Corbet is *in misericordia*."

At Lichfield, on January 7th, 1293, Thomas Corbet was summoned by the Crown to show by what warrant<sup>354</sup> he claimed to hold pleas of the Crown, and have *free-warren, wayf, &c.*, in his Manor of Tasley. "And Thomas appears and says that as regarded pleas of the Crown, he claims two free courts in the year and to hold all pleas therein, which the Sheriff holds in his *tourns*, and to have *wayf* in the said Manor, because he says that he and his ancestors from time immemorial have held the said two Courts, and had the said *wayf*. And by that warrant he claims the said liberties." And Hugh de Louther, who prosecutes for the Crown, says that Thomas cannot claim such liberties from so long a time, because that in time of King Richard, ancestor of the King, that is, the men of the aforesaid Manor used to come to the *tourn* of the Sheriff, and there be amerced for *hue and cry* and for *bloodshed*, and used there to present *wayf* and *brewers* in the said Manor, until Thomas's ancestors occupied said liberties over the King's ancestors."

"Thomas rejoins with the assertion that both he and his ancestors, both before and ever since the time of King Richard, have had said liberties. And he asks that this may be inquired of (by Jury)."

"The Jury say upon their oath that Thomas and his ancestors from time immemorial have enjoyed the said liberties."

"Therefore Thomas, *sine die*, &c. as regards this matter, saving the King's right, &c. And as regards *free-warren* Thomas claims nothing. So let it remain to the King."

<sup>354</sup> *Placito de Quo Warranto*, p. 707. The privileges enumerated differ something from those mentioned before. Free-warren was a privilege, arising either by prescription or royal license, and which conveyed a right to certain animals, *feræ nature*, within a specified district. It did not extend to deer.

The amercement for "hue and cry" means the fine assessible on a Village or Manor for neglecting, when summoned, to

take part in pursuit of felons. Any manorial privilege connected with the subject was not the liberty of neglecting it, but of being amerced at home for such neglect, the Lord receiving the proceeds. Similarly as regards *bloodshed*, any quarrel or assault which ended in the drawing of blood was punishable by a proportionate fine, which, in this instance, the Lord of the Manor claimed to assess and appropriate.

A similar prosecution<sup>355</sup> of Thomas Corbet was gone into at Lichfield for exercise of certain liberties in his Manor of King's Bromley. Here he pleaded King John's Charter of the Manor to Cecily de Hadley and her heirs, and that such liberties were always annexed to the said Manor both before and since King John's grant. Hugh de Louthur denied that such liberties could attach to any Manor, or that any one could claim them without special warrant from the Crown, and whereas Corbet's Charter made no mention of such liberties, he asked judgment for the King. This cause was adjourned, to be heard before the King himself on the morrow of Ascension Day.

About this time Thomas Corbet had a suit<sup>356</sup> against Robert de Turbeville, Canon of St. Mary Magdalene, of Bridgnorth, about lands in Tasley, which said Robert claimed in right of his Prebend.

In 26 Edward I, 1298, a fine<sup>357</sup> was levied between Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, and Thomas Corbet, of Tasley, defendant, of the advowson of the Church and Manor of Tasley. The right remained to the Bishop and his heirs.

This fine implies, I presume, the sale of all Corbet's interest here, though the distinctive name of Corbet of Tasley<sup>358</sup> was retained by his family for some time after. We will follow the last, who properly bore that name, to the close of his career, which was near at hand. He accounts<sup>359</sup> as Sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire for half the fiscal year ending Michaelmas, 1298, and again, for the full year ending Michaelmas, 1299; but dying in office, his son and heir Sir Roger accounts for the half year ending Easter, 1300; the King's precept ordering the usual inquisition<sup>360</sup> on the death of a tenant *in capite*, issued May 10th, 1300. Two such were held, one at Hatton super Hyneheth, on June 13th following; the other

<sup>355</sup> *Placita de Quo Warranto*, p. 712.

<sup>356</sup> *Antiquities of Shropshire* by T. F. Dukes, Esq., page 262. Knowing that this Robert de Turbevill had the Prebend of Walton, and that an ancestor of Thomas Corbet's had a suit about land in Tasley with a former Prebendary of Bridgnorth, it becomes probable that the same premises were in dispute in each case, and that the Prebend concerned was in each case that of Walton. I shall therefore have rightly placed Wm. de Pierpoint in that dignity, a matter which, till now, was doubtful. Vide *supra*, p. 73.

<sup>357</sup> *Antiquities of Shropshire*. *Ibm.* Surely there is a mistake in the precept of King Edward I there quoted, whereby in his 29th year he respites "the demand made by summons of the Exchequer on Robert Corbet for the debts of Sir Thos. Corbet, of Tasley, his father, the said Robert" (it ought to be Roger) "having been in the King's service in Scotland."

<sup>358</sup> Vide *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, p. 717.

<sup>359</sup> *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p. 9.

<sup>360</sup> *Inquis. post mortem*, 28 Ed. I, No. 17.

at King's Bromley on June 9th. These inquests detail the whole property of the deceased, whether in Shropshire or Staffordshire, but of course Tasley is not on the list. His son and nearest heir was Roger Corbet, aged 27, at Michaelmas preceding (1299).—Both he and his descendants belong to a later epoch and another locality than those at present under notice.

#### THE CHAPEL OR CHURCH OF TASLEY.

About A.D. 1138, when Robert de Betun, Bishop of Hereford, granted to Salop Abbey an appropriation of the Church of Morville, he included certain pensions due from the Chapels subject to the said Church. Among the said pensions was one of half a merk due from the "Chapel of Tasseley."<sup>361</sup>

There is a certificate<sup>362</sup> in the Salop Chartulary as to an agreement, which must have been arrived at about A.D. 1190, and to which Hugh Abbot of Shrewsbury and the Lord William Fitz-Alan were chief parties. It concerned the land of Hinele (Henley) and the right of presentation to the Chapel of Tasley. It was agreed that William Fitz-Alan and his heirs should hold the land of Hinele with its appurtenances, paying a rent of 2s. per annum to the Abbot. It was also agreed that William Fitz-Alan was to have the right of presentation to Tasley Chapel, but that the Clerk then holding said Chapel, as well as his successors, was to pay an annual pension of half a merk to the Abbot and Convent of Shrewsbury, "that is to their Church of Momerfeld," and to do fealty to said Abbot, as regarded said payment, before institution. The Abbot granted to the said Parson of Tasley the tithes of Henley, the Parson paying 1s. annually for the same to the Abbot, and undertaking for himself and successors to swear fealty (in this matter) to the Church of Salop. The witnesses to this agreement were W. (Wm. de Vere) *d. g.* Bishop of Hereford, Master Robert of Salop (consecrated Bishop of Bangor in 1196-7), and Warin de Castello.

In 1293, the Church of Tasseley in Stottesden Deanery was not of £4 value to the Incumbent.<sup>363</sup> The portion (or pension) of the Prior of Momerfeld in the same is stated at 7s. 8d. (a remarkable verification of the document quoted above, which reserved two sums of 6s. 8d. and 1s. to the Abbot).

<sup>361</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 334.

<sup>362</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 106.

<sup>363</sup> Tax. Pap. Nich. page 166.



In 1341, the Chapel of Tasseley<sup>364</sup> is taxed (valued) at 6 merks 7s. 8d. (£1. 7s. 8d.) according to the old taxation (of Pope Nicholas), "but the Assessors and Vendors render account of 20s. for the ninth of grain, wool, and lamb in the same parish, so little in proportion to the taxation, because the grain is destroyed by great storms and a very bad season, and because there are no sheep (consequently), no wool or lambs in the said parish, and because the small tithes, the mill,<sup>365</sup> the offerings, the heriots, and the glebe of the said Church and other spiritualities go to make up the great (taxation or) sum, and which have no relation (to the present ninth) as by inquisition (is determined)."

#### INCUMBENTS OF TASLEY.

6 id. Dec. (Dec. 8) 1277. Sir Robert de Staunford, Chaplain, was admitted, on presentation of Sir Thomas Corbet of Tasley.

2 id. Feb. (Feb. 12) 1305. Malcolm de Kynsedelegh (Kinslow), Acolyte, was admitted, on presentation of Nicholas de Ebroicis (Devereux).

3 id. Oct. (Oct. 13), 1310. Geoffry de Kynsedel (Kinslow), Clerk, was admitted, on presentation of the same Patron.<sup>366</sup>

IT IS NOT ALWAYS that the generations of a family, of mere knightly degree, can be traced with certainty up to the beginning of the thirteenth century.

The latter half of the twelfth century is, in similar investigations, a limit not often surpassed with probable truth, whilst its earlier half is only a field for the wildest conjecture.

The following genealogy of the Corbets of Tasley, not trespassing either upon time or truth, will have the usual interest which attaches to the latter, and an important use beside. The alternate occurrence of two Christian names, and an unquestionable accuracy of date, render it peculiarly available for an ulterior purpose.—

Many an undated charter, attested by some representative of this

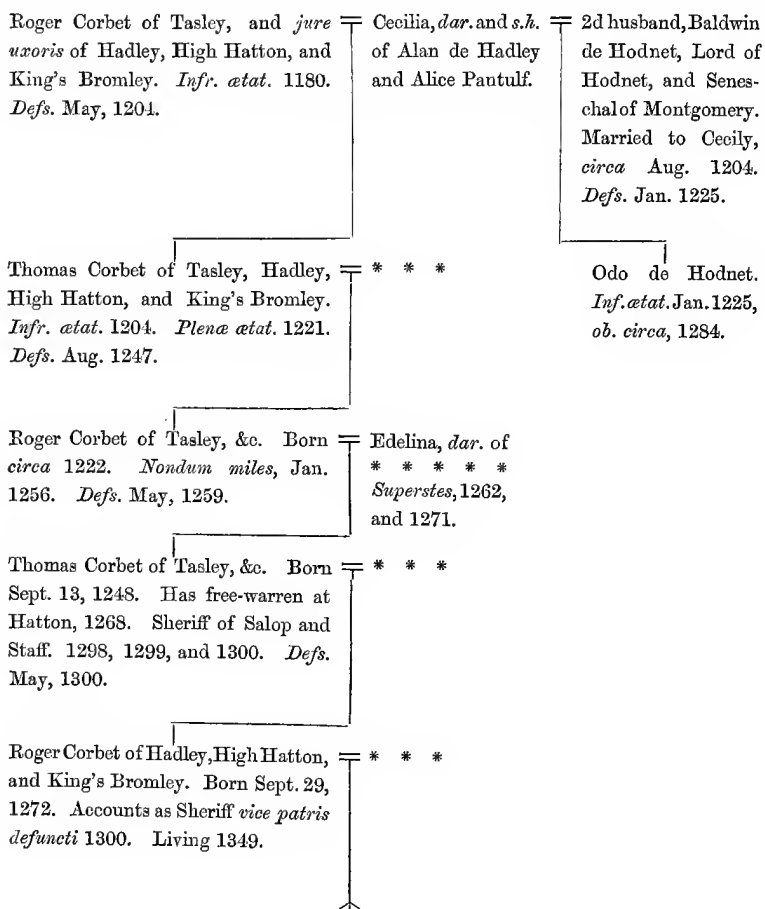
<sup>364</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, page 190.

<sup>365</sup> A mill is mentioned in *Domesday* as included in the tenure of Richard Pincerna.

<sup>366</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl. Oxon.

house, will be quoted hereafter, and its date proximately ascertained by aid of the subjoined pedigree.—

CORBET of TASLEY, HADLEY, HIGH HATTON, and KING'S BROMLEY.



ARMS OF CORBET, OF TASLEY, &c.

The Arms prominently borne by this branch of the Corbets (either singly or as a first quarter) were charged with two *bars*, a *canton*, and sometimes a *label*. These are understood to have been the arms of Hadley, but, if so, were probably borne only by Cecily, the

last of that house. The two *bars* (the chief constituent of the shield) were the bearing of Pantulf of Wem, of which family was Cecily's mother. Moreover, in Cecily de Hadley, we reach the earliest probable period at which armorial bearings were adopted by families of only knightly degree.

But the Corbets of Bromley bore occasionally, and as a quartering, what they must have held to be their paternal coat. It was charged with *three* ravens; a circumstance which should have its weight in any future conjecture as to their cadency from the parent house, or their relations to any other branch thereof.<sup>367</sup>

### HENLEY.

Of this *vill*, as has before been hinted, Warin, the Sheriff, was Lord before the time of *Domesday*. He gave,<sup>368</sup> towards the construction of Shrewsbury Abbey, two-thirds of the tithes of his demesnes of Henele, &c.; and this grant was recited and confirmed by Earl Hugh, if we may so far trust a less suspicious Charter than that before<sup>369</sup> alluded to.

About 1138, Robert (de Betun), Bishop of Hereford, confirming<sup>370</sup> to Shrewsbury Abbey, classifies under the head of tithes, which had been anciently given by great men in his diocese to the "sustentation" of said Abbey, two parts of the tithes of the Lord<sup>371</sup> (or demesne<sup>371</sup>) of Heneleg.

Between A.D. 1148 and 1164, G. (Gilbert), Bishop of Hereford, confirming<sup>372</sup> to the same Abbey "tithes granted in his diocese to the construction of the Church by good men," includes tithes of the demesne of Heneleg.

Ralph, the Dean, and the Canons of the Chapter of the Church of Hereford, inspected, recited, and confirmed<sup>373</sup> the last deed.

These tithes of Henley have already been mentioned as having been given up to the Incumbent of Tasley about A.D. 1190. The

<sup>367</sup> Vide Shaw's *Staffordshire*, vol. i, pp. 143, 144; and *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, p. 715.

<sup>368</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 3.

<sup>369</sup> Vide *supra*, page 33, note 12.

<sup>370</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 334.

<sup>371</sup> The contracted form of the original does not apparently make the choice between these two readings quite clear.

<sup>372</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 331. The Index of the Chartulary Assigns, this

deed to Bishop Geoffry (1115-1119), but against strong internal evidence. The inconsistency seems to have been recognized by Mr. Blakeway,—but in attributing the deed to Bishop Giles (de Braose) he seems to have forgotten that, in that case, the initial letter E would have been employed in a Latin deed, Egidius being the Latin of Giles (Vide *Hist. Shrews.* ii, 92).

<sup>373</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 332.

Abbey was to receive in lieu thereof 1s. yearly ;—and we must not forget that William Fitz-Alan, the then representative of the original grantor (Warin), was a party to this transaction.

There is a further document<sup>374</sup> on the Salop Chartulary, and one which probably alludes to a renewal of the dispute, between the Abbey and William Fitz-Alan, above mentioned. It is a certificate by Egidius (Giles de Braose), Bishop of Hereford, that disputed tithes of Weston and of the demesne of Henel belong to Salop Abbey. It must have passed in the beginning of the 13th century, and, as far as regards Henley, will constitute a further proof of the reality of certain early grants, which have (unfortunately for monastic reputation) been embodied in suspicious charters.<sup>375</sup>

<sup>374</sup> Ibidem, No. 352.

<sup>375</sup> The Charter (No. 3), which is here alluded to, is in many respects an improvement on No. 5, (described page 33), but is by no means clear from suspicion. The Earl professes to seal it with his seal and speaks in the first person; yet it is attested by Warin the Sheriff, who was dead at least eight years before Earl Hugh's succession, and by Richard, Bishop of London, who was not consecrated till ten years after Earl Hugh's death. Mr. Stapleton's remarks (*Rot. Norm.* I, lxxiv) which excuse certain inconsistencies in

the testing clauses of early charters will hardly extend to a case like this.

There is a third charter of Earl Hugh (No. 4 in the Salop Chartulary) which is very different from the two others in many respects, and especially in having a consistent testing clause. It is remarkable that this third charter was confirmed in its own terms, both by Henry I. and Stephen, and was afterwards cited in the Law-Courts; circumstances which I cannot find to have befallen the documents, which, from their internal evidence only, I have treated as suspicious.

## Eardington and Quatford.

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THE first name used generally to be written *Ardinton*, a word compounded of the Saxon *tun*, a town or inclosure, and *Harding*, its founder or early possessor.

A place in Warwickshire, which has settled into a similar modern form, stands in *Domesday*, with still greater etymological correctness, as *Hardintone*.<sup>1</sup>

The period and circumstance of Harding's interest here have no other record than is implied by his Saxon name.

In King Edward the Confessor's time this Manor belonged to *Saint Milburg*, that is, to the Monastic House at Wenlock, which was dedicated to her memory. On the forfeiture of the Earls of Mercia in 1071, and the consequent revolution in this County, the rights of St. Milburg at Eardington seem to have been disregarded, and the Manor appropriated by the Norman Earl himself. In 1086, like other Manors of the said Earl's demesne, its Hundred is not recorded, but situation and tenure are alone sufficient to place it in *Alnocestreu*.

It is noticed in *Domesday* thus:<sup>2</sup>—“The Earl himself holds Ardintone. Saint Milburg held it in time of King Edward. Here are 5 hides. In demesne there is 1 ox-team; and 4 serfs and 9 villains and 2 boors, with 3 ox-teams; and there may yet be 8 ox-teams (more employed). Here is a Mill worth 5s.<sup>3</sup> (annually),

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 243, a. 1. But Hardingestone (Northants), so written in *Domesday* (fo. 228, b. 1) and still so called, preserves the original name completely.

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 254. a. 1. Ipse Comes tenet Ardintone. Sancta Milburga tenuit tempore Regis Edwardi. Ibi v hidæ. In dominio est i carruca et iiii servi et ix villani et ii bordarii cum iiii carrucis et adhuc viii carrucæ possent esse. Ibi

molendinum de iiii oris et nova domus et burgum Quatford dictum nil reddens. Tempore Regis Edwardi valebat xl solidos. Modo xxx solidos.

<sup>3</sup> Literally “a Mill of 3 ounces,” that is, a Mill worth 3 ounces in money per annum. The *ora*, or nummular ounce, was the twelfth part of a pound, and so of 20 pence value.

and a Borough called Quatford paying nothing. In time of King Edward the (annual) value (of the Manor) was 40*s.*, now it is 30*s.*”

The Borough or Town of Quatford, and the Earl's Castle there (which, in its early stage, might very possibly be set down as merely a house), were therefore, in 1085, part of the Manor of Eardington, and destined in a short period to much greater importance. There is a legendary tale about Quatford, which is so perfectly consistent with *Domesday*, that, while adding to that Record an unusual interest, itself becomes stamped with a grand mark of probability. To arrive at this coincidence in due chronological order, we must first speak separately of Quatford, a place whose history will, for the present, take us back to a period much earlier than *Domesday*.

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## Quatford.

The name of this place is referable to the vast forest (*coed*) which thirteen centuries ago covered the whole adjacent district, and which has since been represented by the great, but never equal, Forest of Morf.

The British *Coed* is remembered in the name of another village, viz., Quat,—where, however, the uncompounded form has been curiously reassumed.

The Saxon era had accurately distinguished these two localities according to then existing circumstances. That part of the forest which was occupied as a village became *Cwattun* (*Cwattun*, *i.e.* Quat-town), and *Quatone* was accordingly the name of Quat when *Domesday* was written. Another part, not yet colonized, the Saxons called *Cwatford*, in allusion to an adjacent and passable part of the river Severn.

In the autumn of 896, King Alfred and the men of London blocked up, or stranded, a Danish fleet which had ascended the Thames and the Lea. The Danes, despairing of their ships, forsook them, sought an asylum for their wives in East Anglia, and marched overland to a place (afterwards<sup>4</sup>) called Quat-bridge, on the Severn.

<sup>4</sup> See the *Saxon Chronicle*, which says | *Cwatbruce be Seæpærn* (to Cwatbridge by (sub anno 896) that the Danes came æt | Severn). See also Florence of Worcester

Here they intrenched themselves and passed the winter. In the following summer (897) they separated; part of them returning into East Anglia, the others going into Northumberland.

No remains of this Danish fortification at Quatford are now traceable, and it may be doubted whether the exact spot occupied by their army was identical with the site of the present village. An adjacent ford of the Severn still retains the name of Danesford, and corroborates the story of their visit to the neighbourhood.

In the year 913, Ægelfleda, Queen of the Mercians, built a fortress in a place which, in Florence of Worcester's time, was called Brycge.<sup>5</sup>

who says, "locum qui Quatbrycge dicitur pedestres celeri fuga petunt."

I refer to both these authorities, because it is quite clear to me that though Florence of Worcester derived his information from a *Saxon Chronicle*, it was from a different MS. to any now extant; and, I almost dare add, a more authentic one. I cannot subscribe to all which the Editors of the *Saxon Chronicle* have claimed for it. If indeed it was originally the work of successive annalists, each giving the history of his own time, such original texts must in many instances have been interpolated by more modern transcribers. I believe we have a case before us. I cannot suppose for an instant that in the year 896 there was a bridge over the Severn at or near Quatford, nor that, if there were, would a contemporary Saxon have described it as "Cwathricge by Severn," words which are only referable to a period when there was both a bridge and a village in the locality.

The word "bridge" is therefore an interpolation by some one transcribing the older document at a time when there was a bridge at Quatford, and which was probably not till the end of the eleventh century.

Florence of Worcester, on the other hand, using the same original authority and writing, as we know, in the very beginning of the twelfth century, interpolates the same passage much more truly and intelligibly. He describes the Danes as flying to the *place* (not town) which is called Quat-bridge—that is, called so at

the time when he was writing. This is not the only instance which I have met with, where the *ipsissima verba* of Florence convey a truth not deducible from any extant copy of the *Saxon Chronicle*.

Again, if Quatford were only Quatford in 1085, and if the next ford of the Severn still witnesses the circumstance of the Danish visit in its name of Danesford, how is it supposable that such local advantages would have been memorialized, even in a name, at a period when (if we read the *Saxon Chronicle* literally) there was the adjacent and greater commodity of a bridge?

All we can safely conclude on this subject is then, that the Danes in 896, having lost their fleet, came and wintered in the forest by the Severn; and Florence of Worcester, two centuries after, understood the place then called Quatbridge, to have been the site of their encampment. Their object in coming to "the forest by the river" when they had lost their ships is obvious.

<sup>5</sup> Vide *Sax. Chron. sub anno* 912, and *Flor. Wigorn. sub anno* 913. Where again Florence is the most accurate. In rejecting Quatford as the Brug of Æthelfleda, we need not rely only upon a balance of conflicting testimony. Probability is also strongly in our favour; for we have every reason to believe that Quatford, or rather its site, as involved in Eardington, was part of the original endowment of St. Milburg. If so, there is little likelihood that a Saxon Queen should have intruded her Castle upon the domain of a Saxon

This foundation has often been identified with Quatford, so often, that, however erroneous the tradition be, it requires this passing mention. The best authority places Ægelfleda's foundation on the Western Bank of the Severn, and we must seek it there.

The next notice which we have of Quatford introduces the Legend already alluded to, and which, while it professes to tell how this spot was selected for the foundation of a great Collegiate Church, may inferentially be taken to account for the origin of both a Castle and a Borough.

This story is contained in a Chronicle, either written or procured to be written by John Bromton, Abbot of Jorval, in the reign of King John. As the whole passage is to our purpose it shall be given at length, and, as nearly as a translation will permit, in the writer's words. The death of Earl Roger de Montgomery having been described, the narrative proceeds as follows :<sup>6</sup>—

“This Roger in his lifetime and the said Adelissa his wife did build a church in honour of the blessed Mary Magdalene, in Quadford, in the county of Salop, one mile from Bruggenorth. Of which building the cause, as is said, was this :—When forsooth the said Lady Adelissa, at mandate of the said Earl her husband, was first coming to him from beyond sea into England, and was on her voyage, lo! such a storm of wave and wind shook the vessel that she and her suite, when now the mariners were in despair, looked for nothing but shipwreck. And when a certain priest of the said Countess, wearied by over-watching, had fallen, as God willed, into slumber, he saw in his sleep a certain matron standing nigh to him and speaking thus—‘If thy lady would wish to save herself and her attendants from the present dreadful danger of sea, let her make a vow to God and faithfully promise to build a church in honour of the blessed Mary Magdalene on the spot where she may first happen to meet her husband, the Earl, in England; and specially where there groweth a hollow oak and the wild swine have shelter.’<sup>7</sup>

“And when the priest awoke he told each particular of the vision

Saint, though the forest-loving Norman and the heathen Dane had less or no such scruple.

<sup>6</sup> *Chron. Joh. Bromton* inter x Scriptores, page 988.

<sup>7</sup> I take a liberty in the translation of this passage. The original is “Et præcipue ubi concava quercus cum tigurio porcorum crescit.” The visionary shed

may have been an artificial one. Some occasional receptacle will have been necessary for the vast herds of swine which were driven into the greater forests during the season of pannage. I do not remember that *Gurth* had such accommodation, but the house of *Cedric* was near enough to afford nightly shelter to him and his charge.



to his lady. Who, when she had heard and vowed to fulfil all things, the tempest being presently calmed, soon arrived with her attendants at the desired shore. And she, toiling through many days travel from the sea towards her lord, met him first at Quatford, which was then desert, in the spot where the very oak was growing and he hunting. And him she forthwith besought that he would aid her to fulfil the vow which she vowed in her danger as to building a Church in honour of the blessed Mary Magdalene. And he acquiescing in the vows of his wife built, with her, the aforesaid Church, which, though then he endowed it with great possessions, yet now with all its rights and appurtenances seemeth to be subject to the free Royal Collegiate Chapel situate in the Castle of Bruggenorth and endowed with one Deanery and five Prebends out of the aforesaid possessions. The which Deanery and Prebends the King indeed conferreth of his own right and custom; although, in nearly all other Collegiate Chapels, the Deans, being installed by the Sheriff at the King's collation, and inducted into corporal possession of the Deaneries, confer all Prebends in the same Chapels and install, induct, and visit the Prebendaries. But, in the aforesaid Chapel of Saint Mary Magdalene, the Dean confers no Prebend, nor visits Prebend or Prebendary; but each, in the corps of his own Prebend, hath and exerciseth plenary jurisdiction as well in things spiritual as in things temporal."

The whole of this narrative is credible in itself and minutely consistent with other ascertained facts; nor need we take exception even to the Priest's dream, for who knows not that the feverish sleep of over-fatigue will invest our previous hopes and anxieties with some garb of life-like reality. Moreover this Priest lived at a time when Priests were taught to believe in and to expect such special revelations of the divine will.

Parts of this story, nevertheless, require explanation; and the whole of it must be tested by other facts and dates before we admit it to that credence which the details of a legend most seldom deserve.

Mabil, first Countess of Earl Roger de Montgomery, was murdered at Buris, a town on the river Dive in Normandy, and buried on Dec. 5, 1082, at Troarn.<sup>8</sup> The Earl's second marriage to Adalais daughter of Ebrard de Pusey, one of the chief nobles of France, must have followed immediately; for their only son, Ebrard de Montgomery, was old enough to frequent the Court of William

<sup>8</sup> *Ordericus Vitalis*, page 578.

Rufus (who died in 1100) and to attest (as Ebrard Fitz Count) a charter<sup>9</sup> of Henry I, which must have passed in June 1107. Moreover Earl Roger mentions his Countess Adelais in a charter<sup>10</sup> which dates in or before 1085. The arrival of this lady in England will therefore have been in 1083-4. At that time Quatford was desert, and the Earl was hunting on the spot where afterwards stood the Church. This is in every way consistent with other facts, for we know that Quatford in after times, constituted a limit of the great Forest of Morf. That the Earl should found a Church at solicitation of his second wife is only an instance of what Ordericus says generally of this lady in contrast to the Countess Mabil,—“for she excelled in understanding and in piety, and oft persuaded her Lord to befriend Monks and to relieve the poor.” That the Earl, having resolved on such foundation, and in such a spot, should combine with it other plans, is most reasonable, for an isolated place of worship in Morf Forest would have been an idea little in keeping with a Collegiate Church, though well suited for a Hermitage or even a Monastery.

Hence we have the Borough and incipient Castle of 1085, recorded in *Domesday*; hence also the bridge which, in Florence of Worcester’s time, had caused the locality to be called Quat-bridge rather than Quat-ford. *Domesday* says nothing of the Church, but such an omission is perfectly reconcilable with the progress of a building not yet consecrated or endowed.

We next come to the ceremony of consecration and the contemporary charter of foundation. The very day of the former is fixed by an unvouched authority,<sup>11</sup> which is in itself of weight, and is supported by other evidence. The day thus given is July 22, 1086, and two independent facts corroborate it. Robert, Bishop of Chester, who (as we shall see) was present, was not nominated to his See till Dec. 25, 1085. It was also “in time of King William” (as the contemporary Charter declares), and this undistinctive appellation should mean the Conqueror rather than his son Rufus. These two considerations would reduce the date to 1086 or 1087. Moreover, July 22 (the day alleged) was St. Mary Magdalene’s Day. When an unvouched date will thus bear testing, it would be absurd not to adopt it.

<sup>9</sup> *New Monasticon*, vol. vi, p. 144, II.

<sup>10</sup> *Ord. Vit.*, page 579.

<sup>11</sup> A MS. notice of Albrighton, lent to me by the Rev. G. W. Woodhouse, and

understood to have been drawn up by the late Mr. Hardwicke of Bridgnorth—too good an antiquary to assign a date thus positively without sufficient grounds.

The foundation-charter, which is of the *recitatory* kind<sup>12</sup> in use at the time, must now be given as far as I can collect it from the only copy<sup>13</sup> which has reached me, and in absence of the invaluable original.

“In time of King William, Roger the Earl and Adelaysa the Countess, built a Church in Quatford in honour of our Lord Jesus Christ and Saint Mary Magdalene, and all the Saints of God. They gave Ardintone,<sup>14</sup> except the laud of Walter the smith and that land which lies between the water and the Mount nigh to the bridge, and except that land where the borough is built, and all its *hays* and *proper chaces* quit of all service and thing.”

(“Be it<sup>15</sup> known to all, that Roger the Earl gave Milinchope in exchange to St. Milburg for the claim which she had in Ardinton. There are witnesses—Godebald the priest, Richard de Belmcis, Herbert Grammaticus, Raynald Bailial, Roger son of Corbet.”) “And further, they gave the Church of Claverley and the land which pertains to it, with all the tithes, and the Church of Alvetheia (Alveley), \* \* \* Strata via, \* \* \* \* \* Norley (Nordley), and Bobinton, and of Laitonia the whole tithes, and the third part of the tithes of Membrefelde (Morville), Ceatintonia (Chetton), and Stotesden and Corfham and Culminton and Ciratonia (Siefton) : And tithes of the toll of this vill and the holding of market quit (of charge) : And to serve the Church they established there six<sup>16</sup> canons. And all these things did the Earl by concession of his sons, viz. Hugh and Philip, who were there present on the day of dedication, and on that day did give Burechote,<sup>17</sup> as a foundation-gift,<sup>18</sup> quit of everything (charge). There are witnesses,” &c.—

<sup>12</sup> Vide *supra*, page 28, note 3.

<sup>13</sup> Lent by the Rev. G. L. Wasey, and understood to have been taken from a MS. of the late Mr. Hardwicke of Bridgnorth. I have altered a few letters in the Latin copy, of no importance to the general sense, but only where the original had been manifestly mistaken.

<sup>14</sup> One great fact in favour of this Charter is its extraordinary agreement with *Domesday* and with probability. It speaks of Quatford only as a part of Eardington. The spot between the water (the Severn) and the Mount, which secured to the Castle the command of the bridge, and is still to be identified, the site of

the borough and probably the *hays* and *chaces* were all on the Quatford side of the river.

<sup>15</sup> This is evidently parenthetical, but yet in the nature of a title-deed to Eardington, and so very reasonably inserted.

<sup>16</sup> This again is perfectly consistent with Bromton's account, which has shown us that the Deanery (or sixth Canonry) involved nothing more than a titular superiority over the others.

<sup>17</sup> It is Burecot in Worfield Manor, and the latter was the only possession of Hugh de Montgomery in *Domesday*. *Domesd.* 248, b. 1.

<sup>18</sup> “In doario.” Doarium is explained

The list of these witnesses shall be given in full, together with those dates and facts which must stamp the whole account with a final seal of unquestionable consistency and truth. They were,—

WULSTAN, BISHOP OF WORCESTER.—The only English prelate who, having sat before the Conquest, survived the Conqueror. Hence his precedency on the list. He was now (1086) eighty years of age, but lived till 1095.

ROBERT, BISHOP OF HEREFORD.—Consecrated Dec. 29th, 1079; died June 26th, 1095. Much of the above-recited endowment lay in his diocese.

ROBERT, BISHOP OF CHESTER.—Robert de Limesey, nominated to his see on Dec. 25th, 1085; died Aug. 30th, 1117. Quatford was then in his diocese.

(The above “were there present to dedicate the Church.”)

HAMEFRID, ARCHDEACON.—Probably Heinfrid, who occurs<sup>19</sup> as Archdeacon of Hereford in 1109.

WILLIAM, ARCHDEACON.—Probably of Salop (Hereford diocese). Such an one was in office between 1108 and 1115.<sup>20</sup>

HERBERT GRAMMATICUS.—Archdeacon of Salop (Chester diocese). As Herbert Archdeacon he attested a charter<sup>21</sup> of Earl Roger to Salop Abbey, which must have passed between 1083 and 1086. He is also mentioned by Ordericus<sup>22</sup> as one of the wise and moderate men, or rather as one of three learned clerks whose society Earl Roger much affected, and by whose counsels he was advantageously guided.

OSBERT, ARCHDEACON—Whose Archdeaconry I am unable to assign, except that either he or the next witness was most probably Archdeacon of Stafford, seeing that Quatford was in that jurisdiction. No list of these dignitaries ascends early enough to solve this conjecture.

FREDERIC.—Evidently an Archdeacon, from his position on the list, but I cannot assign his province.

by Du Cange, “Donatio a fundatore facta ecclesie recens edificata.”

<sup>19</sup> Additions to Le Neve's *Fasti*, by T. Duffus Hardy, Esq.

<sup>20</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 22 Ed. III, part 3, memb. 34. I think Le Neve has made a mistake in putting him on the list of Archdeacons of Hereford in A.D. 1111.

<sup>21</sup> *Mon.* III, page 518, No. II, and page 522, No. X, where his fellow-wit-

nesses are Warin the Sheriff, Godebald the Priest, Roger Corbet, and others.

<sup>22</sup> *Ord.*, page 522, B. Mr. Blakeway, quoting this passage (*Hist. Shrews.* I, 37) has added a note (No. 4) wherein he has identified Herbert “the wise Clerk” with Herbert son of Helgot,—a mistake which it does not need the aid of the above Charter to correct.

ELIRICH, ARCHDEACON.—Perhaps Agelric, Archdeacon of Worcester,<sup>23</sup> in office 1089 and 1092.

GODEBALD, PRIEST.—Another of the “three wise clerks,” named by Ordericus<sup>24</sup> as Earl Roger’s companions and advisers. In 1085 he held Lilleshull, Uckington, Atcham, and Preston, of the Church of St. Alkmond, Shrewsbury.<sup>25</sup> To Preston he bequeathed its distinctive name of Preston Gubbalds. His possessions descended to “de Belmeis.”

RICHARD, MONK OF WENLOCK.—A house which Earl Roger had refounded in 1080.

RAYNOLD, OF ST. PETER’S, SALOP.—Originally a Monk of Seez, but whom Ordericus<sup>26</sup> mentions as having been sent, in 1083, to superintend the building of Salop Abbey.

RESTOLD, OF ST. PETER’S, GLOUCESTER.—Probably a Monk of that great Monastic House, then in Worcester Diocese.

OSBERT FITZ RICHARD.—Baron of Burford and Richard’s Castle; a tenant *in capite* in many counties, and holding, in 1085, Badger, Ryton, and Brocton under Earl Roger.<sup>27</sup>

ROGER DE LACI—Baron of Ewyas. A tenant both *in capite* and under Earl Roger in Shropshire. His nearest Manor to Quatford held, in 1085, of the Earl, was Higford.

ROGER CORBET.—Roger, son of Corbet, Baron of Cans; a frequent witness of Earl Roger’s charters. He is mentioned by Ordericus<sup>28</sup> as one of the men, faithful and very valiant, whom the Earl employed in government of his Province.

URSUS, SHERIFF — URSO D’ABITOT, Sheriff of Worcestershire and ancestor of Beauchamp. Besides a tenure *in capite* in several counties, he held Salwarp<sup>29</sup> in 1085 under Earl Roger.

HELGOT DE STANTON.—One of the Earl Roger’s Barons, and holding Stanton, Broseley, Meadowley, and many other Manors of the Earl in 1085. He was founder of Castle Holgate, and a great benefactor to Shrewsbury Abbey.

HERBERT HIS SON—who succeeded him not only in estate but in liberal grants to Shrewsbury Abbey.<sup>30</sup> He appears as an under-tenant in several *Domesday* Manors.

<sup>23</sup> Le Neve’s *Fasti*, page 302.

<sup>24</sup> *Ord.* page 522, B.

<sup>25</sup> *Domesd.* 253 a, 1.

<sup>26</sup> *Ord.* page 581.

<sup>27</sup> See Table, page 18.

<sup>28</sup> *Ord.* page 522, B.

<sup>29</sup> *Domesday*, 176 a, 1.

<sup>30</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, Nos. 1, 35, &c.

**NORMAN VENATOR.**—Held, amongst other Manors, Albrighton<sup>31</sup> of the Earl. He was a benefactor to Salop Abbey.

**ROGER HIS BROTHER.**—Called in *Domesday* Roger Venator. His fief under the Earl in 1085 included Beckbury.<sup>32</sup>

**ARTHUR, SHERIFF.**

**ADRIC DE WENLOCK.**—Edric, son of Aluric, held Burton under Wenlock Priory in 1085.<sup>33</sup>

**SIWARD.**—Probably Siward surnamed Grossus, a great assistant of Earl Roger in the foundation of Salop Abbey. He is mentioned more than once in *Domesday*.

**ALDRED HIS BROTHER.**—Siward had a son named Aldred,<sup>34</sup> whose disposition was other than friendly to religious endowments. I mention him merely to show the name in the family, not from any idea that Siward's son and brother have been confounded.

**AUGUSTINE.**—Earl Roger had a tenant in Sussex of this name.<sup>35</sup> Several Saxons, called Austin in *Domesday*, had held lands in Shropshire before the Conquest.

**TOCHI.**—Held, in 1085, Aston (Botterell) under Rainald the sheriff,<sup>36</sup> and Woodcote under Robert Fitz Tetbald,<sup>37</sup> who both held under the Earl.

**CORAM.**

**WARLANCE FITZ ALGAR.**

The Charter, after invoking a blessing on all promoters of this pious undertaking, concludes with an appalling malediction on any who should interfere with its endowments. At that period it was not deemed inconsistent thus to guard a foundation which had for its object the teaching of Christianity. Neither Papal Bull nor Norman Charter is to be accounted one whit less genuine for embodying such a supplement.

To Earl Roger, on his death in July 1094, succeeded his second son Hugh. The latter was slain in Anglesey in July 1098, when Earl Robert, his elder brother, who already had the Norman possessions of their father, purchased, from William Rufus, a succession to those in England. He it was who selected the spot afterwards called Bridgnorth as better fitted than Quatford for certain ulterior designs, which, though not of an ecclesiastical character, must have largely affected his father's foundation. To Bridgnorth he

<sup>31</sup> See Table, page 18.

<sup>32</sup> *Domesd.* fo. 259 a.

<sup>33</sup> *Domesd.* fo. 252 b.

<sup>34</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, No. 1.

<sup>35</sup> *Domesd.* fo. 25 b, 2.

<sup>36</sup> See Table, page 18.

<sup>37</sup> *Domesd.* fo. 256 b, 2.

transferred both Castle and Borough. The richly endowed Church naturally followed; but whether in his time, or by subsequent direction of King Henry I, we are not informed. It was already at Bridgnorth on the accession of Henry II. What we have further to say of Quatford will be chiefly as an appanage rather than the site of this great Collegiate establishment.

In the thirteenth century we have several notices of small occupations, both in Quatford and Eardington, and so on either or both sides of the river Severn. The persons thus interested were probably tenants of the Church. A few shall be mentioned here, and others reserved for Eardington, to which we shall shortly recur.

At Salop Assizes, Nov. 1221, Simon de Quatford sued Andrew de More for twenty acres here, alleging that Andrew obtained entry through William de More his father, which William was only tenant for a term by demise of Reginald de Quatford, Simon's father. Andrew pleaded that he was only tenant of half the premises, for that Alan de Pierpoint held ten acres thereof by gift of the same Reginald. Alan, being in Court, proved the truth of this by production of the deed of feoffment, whereupon Simon was non-suited.<sup>38</sup>

About the same time William Fitz Henry, of Brug (Bridgnorth), granted to William his son twenty-four acres in Quatford. There were witnesses to this grant, William Goldsmith (Aurifaber) and Adam Logain, Provosts of Brug, and Hamo le Palmer.<sup>39</sup>

About 1260, John Fitz William Fitz Henry, of the Castle of Brug, warranted to John de Exton, Clerk, twenty-four acres in Quatford, which said John de Exton had purchased of William brother of the *warrantor*. There were witnesses of this, William Bonami and Richard Ardnichun, Provosts of Brug. Walter Palmer and William Palmer.<sup>40</sup>

About 1280.<sup>41</sup> John de Exton, Clerk, surnamed Citator (the Summoner), sold to Richard Dammas, of Brug, Chaplain, land in the field opposite Quatford. There were witnesses of this, Symon, then Prior of the Holy Trinity of Brug, William Bonami and Roger Feyrchild, Provosts.

<sup>38</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 4 recto.

<sup>39</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl. This William Fitz Henry, otherwise called William of the Castle, was father also of John of the Castle, of Alan Fitz William (a murderer) and of Alice, wife of that

Reginald le Gangy who was murdered at Worfield *circa* 1250. I shall have to speak of them all again when I come to Bridgnorth.

<sup>40</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* *ibidem*.

<sup>41</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* *ibidem*.

Oct. 6, 1271. A fine<sup>42</sup> was levied at Westminster between Richard Dammas, of Bruges, Complainant, and Robert de Welbe and Agnes his wife, of twenty-four acres in Bruges, whereof was a plea of warranty. Robert and Agnes acknowledged the premises to be Richard's as of their own gift;—to have and to hold of Robert and Agnes and the heirs of Agnes; rendering to them one rose yearly, and to the chief lords of the fee accustomed services, for Robert and Agnes. For this Richard gave ten merks.

Later in the century, Sir Richard Dammas, Chaplain, attests<sup>43</sup> a Bridgnorth deed with Ralph Bolding and Robert Dyer (Tinctor), Provosts of Brug, and others.

Oct. 1292. At Salop Assizes<sup>44</sup> "Richard Dammas was bound down to answer to the Lord the King, for that when Nicholas Brun and Alice his wife, on Oct. 4, 1291, in the town of Brugges, in the Church of St. Leonard, in presence of Master Andrew de Tottenhale, Hugh de Wrottesley, and William Godewyn, had served the said Richard with a writ of the King forbidding him to prosecute further in Court Christian a suit concerning chattels and debts, which were neither of testament nor marriage, the aforesaid Richard, in contempt of the said precept, spat upon the writ and cast it under him and trampled it with his feet in contempt of the Lord King, of £1000, &c.

"Richard denies the whole charge, and puts himself on the country, &c. And Hugh (Hugh de Louter, the King's Attorney) does likewise. The Jurors say upon their oath that said Richard never spat upon the writ, nor trampled it, nor in any way treated it with contempt." So Richard was acquitted.

22 Ed. I (1293-4), Richard Dammas founded<sup>45</sup> a Chantry in the King's Free Chapel of Brugge, and endowed it with two messuages: one in the town of Bruges, the other in Netherton<sup>46</sup> by Quatford; also with sixty-five acres of land and half an acre of meadow.

Towards the end of the thirteenth century, Katherine,<sup>47</sup> relict of

<sup>42</sup> *Final Concords. Salop*, 55 Hen. III. I have quoted the fine at some length, as it is an undoubted specimen of that kind of fine which terminated a fictitious suit, and which was, in fact, nothing more than a safe and legal conveyance of premises sold. It is a common idea that all fines were of this nature, but up to this period it may safely be said that nine out of ten were terminations of real suits.

<sup>43</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>44</sup> *Placita de quo warranto*, page 679.

<sup>45</sup> *Pat.* 22 Edw. I, memb. 1.

<sup>46</sup> Netherton Lane (now disused) was part of the road which crossed the river Severn at Quatford.—*Rev. G. L. Wasey.*

<sup>47</sup> Charter in possession of W. W. Whitmore, of Dudmaston, Esq. This deed has an oval seal of green wax in good preservation. A female figure stands full-



Sir Alan de Glaseley, quit-claims for herself and heirs to Guy Lord of Glaseley and his heirs, all right in her land at the Nethereton in Quatford, which Alan her husband and herself had conjointly, by purchase from Henry de Glaseley, brother of said Alan. There were witnesses of this, Sir Henry de Mortimer, Sir Ralph d'Arras, Robert de Dodemaston, Fremonde de Erditon, John de Aldenham, Richard de la More, Roger Bonamy of Brug, and many others.

In 30 Ed. I (1301-2), Katherine,<sup>48</sup> widow of Alan and mother of Guy de Glaseley, held dower in the field of *Brug*, opposite Quatford.

Early, as I think, in the thirteenth century, Richard Botar of Quatford granted<sup>49</sup> to Maud his daughter, by Susanna his wife, two acres in the fields towards Quatford, of the fee of Linley, which he bought of William Fitz Tedbald. The rent was to be eightpence, payable to the grantor for life, and then to the lights of the blessed Virgin Mary of Quatford. Witness, Sir William de Chetinton, then Chaplain of Quatford.

#### QUATFORD PARISH CHURCH AND INCUMBENTS.

Though Quatford Church ceased to be Collegiate within a few years of its foundation, it nevertheless remained, having for its parish a district identical with the *Domesday* Manor of Eardington. The contrast which it thus presented to its former self is most remarkable. As a Collegiate Church its foundation rests on the clearest evidence: the earliest feature of its parochial state is two centuries of all but oblivion.

Sir William de Chetinton, its Chaplain, just mentioned, was probably the earliest Incumbent of whom we are likely to hear, and his Incumbency, if such it can be called, very much like that of the Chaplains of Morville and Astley Abbots, of whom we have heard already.

In 1255, Quatford is said<sup>50</sup> to be "a member of the Church of

forced with a scutcheon of arms on each side of the head. The dexter shield seems to have been charged with a lion rampant, the sinister with two lions passant (the bearing of Le Strange, who was mesne Lord of Glazeley).

<sup>48</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*, in Bibl. Bodl.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibidem.* Parochial Notices II, 340. The family of Linley had an interest in the Borough of Bridgnorth by special grant of King Henry II; and Sir William le

Forcer, a coheir of Linley, was concerned at Dudmaston in time of Edw. II. (Charter at Dudmaston). The grantor above (or his memorialist) has mistaken the Patron Saint of Quatford Church, unless indeed there were an Altar of the Virgin therein, to which he dedicated his endowment.

<sup>50</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 59.—A document of 1412-3, speaks of Quatford Chapel as annexed to the Deanery. (*Pat.* 14 Hen. IV. memb. 29).

Claverley," and the Church of Claverley was always attached to the Deanery or chief Prcbend of St. Mary Magdalene, of Brug. Whether this summary notice of Quatford alludes to the Church, or to some lands in the parish, does not appear from the context of the passage quoted.

In 1291<sup>51</sup> we just know that there was a Church here, from being told that it was not worth £4 per annum, and so not taxable.

Possible mention of another Incumbent here, in 1316, may have been already made.<sup>52</sup> If so, he was called *Parson*,—but that may have been the result of his more valuable preferment elsewhere.

In 1341, the village of Quatford<sup>53</sup> is mentioned as having been taxed to *the ninth*, according to the value of the Parish Church, and so excepted from the general taxation of Bridgnorth, though within the liberties of that Borough.

This separate taxation of Quatford does not however occur anywhere on the Roll. It was probably never levied, as we know from other authority<sup>54</sup> that the lands of St. Mary Magdalene paid nothing to this tax.

The 'Valor Ecclesiasticus' of 1535 makes no mention of Quatford Church in any relation whatever.

#### ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS OF THE OLD CHURCH.

The outside of this Church exhibits no architectural details earlier than about the fourteenth century, with the exception of a small window on the north side of the Chancel. The Chancel-arch is also of late Norman or transitional character; but there seems reason to believe that the present Church preserves the ground-plan of the original structure, I mean that which existed in the twelfth century, the western tower having been added at a later period; for the Chancel-arch is built of a sort of tufa,<sup>55</sup> and the same is found in the walls of both the Nave and Chancel, the masonry of which, near the ground, is such as we might look for in that period.

The tower, and some of the upper parts of the walls, including the windows, are of sandstone.

<sup>51</sup> Pope Nicholas' Taxation, page 166.

<sup>52</sup> Vide *supra*, page 77, note 253.

<sup>53</sup> *Inq. Nonarum*, page 191.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 190 and 194, *sub* Mo-  
merfeld and Claverley.

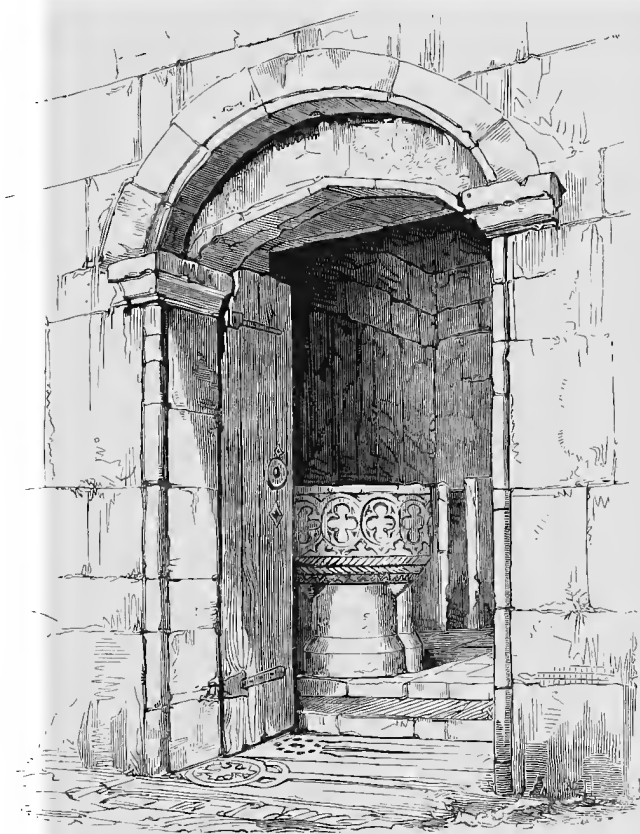
<sup>55</sup> Mr. Hartshorne says that this tufa  
"must have been brought hither up the  
Severn out of Gloucestershire, as the  
nearest deposit of that formation lies at  
Stroud." (*Salopia Antiqua*, p. 232).



*Rev. J. L. Petit.*

CHANCEL, QUATFORD.





*Rev. J. Brooke.*

**FONT, QUATFORD.**



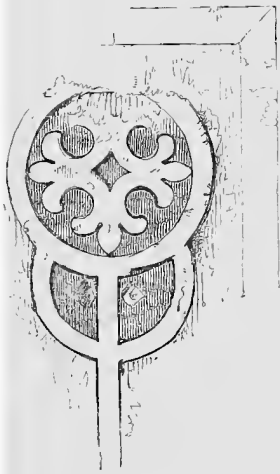


FIG. J. L. Pitt.



INCISED SLABS, QUATFORD.





The Font is a circular basin, on a cluster of four short massive shafts. The ornament with which it is enriched gives so completely the tracery and panelling of the fourteenth century, that I cannot refer it to any other period, and the material is sandstone, not the tufa of the Chancel-arch and walls. It is, however, not impossible that the ornament may have been sculptured upon an old and plain basin.

Near the door are some incised and sculptured slabs of stone, representing a sort of cross: they seem to have belonged to altartombs.

J. L. PETT.

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## Eardington.

We now recross to the western bank of the Severn, where lay the bulk of the *Domesday* Manor of Eardington. This we have already seen appropriated by the Norman Earl, and granted to his Church of Quatford, but not without a compensation to the Saxon house of St. Milburg, then represented by Wenlock Priory.

Eardington hereupon became divided into two portions, allotted to two stalls of the Earl's Prebendal Church. With one of these was associated the Church of Alveley,—and, consequently, that Prebend was usually called the Prebend of Alveley, while the other was always known as the—

### PREBEND OF EARDINGTON.

Ulger, the first whom I find with this preferment, lived in the time of King Henry II. As early as 1169, Hulger, the Clerk, was one of the *Visors* appointed<sup>56</sup> by writ of Richard de Luci to superintend works at the Tower of Brug. Ulger, variously called Clerk and Canon, discharged a similar trust in 1170 and four following years, under writs<sup>57</sup> both of Richard de Luci and the King.

<sup>56</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 15 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>57</sup> *Pipe Rolls*, 16 to 20 Hen. II, Salop. Visors or *viewers* were appointed by the Crown for various purposes. In the

present and similar instances their duty was not only to see that the works were properly performed, but to check the Sheriff's expenditure thereon.

Ulger's successor was R., son of Hugh Pantulf. As Hugh Pantulf was not married before 1170, the succession of his younger son (and he had several) to a Church dignity will probably have been at least thirty years later. R. Pantulf's tenure of this Prebend will also have been very brief; for, as we shall see presently, his predecessor's<sup>58</sup> name was used to describe the Prebend when his successor was appointed.

On Nov. 1, 1203, King John, then at Verneuil,<sup>59</sup> certifies Geoffrey, Bishop of Coventry, that "we have conceded, and, so far as the patron is concerned, given to Alexander, Chaplain of our beloved William de Breose, that Prebend in our Chapel of Bruges which is vacant and is of our donation, which Ulger, and after him R., son of Hugh Pantulf, held. So that," says the King, "Ralph de Cirencester, our Clerk, may hold that Prebend, paying thereof annually to said Alexander, as to the Parson, 100s. in name of pension. Wherefore we command you that you admit the said Alexander to the Parsonage, and the said R. to the perpetual Vicarage of that Prebend, and institute them on our presentation aforesaid."

2 Feb. 1206, King John, at Nottingham,<sup>60</sup> addressing the Dean of Brug, informs him that he has granted to Master John Wtheng that Prebend in his (the King's) Church of Brug, which is vacant and was Ulger the Canon's. The Dean is to admit him and do therein whatever pertains to him to do.

6 June, 1226. Henry de Cornhull, Chancellor of London, is presented<sup>61</sup> to that Prebend in the King's Chapel of Brug, which had been Master Wyteng's. The Constable of Brug is to induct him.

<sup>58</sup> Ulger, a Canon, was living in Oct. 1203, and possessed of a free tenement in Brokton, whereof William de Brokton had disseized him. (*Vid. Salop Assiz.* 5 John, memb. 4 recto).

<sup>59</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 5 John, memb. 6 recto. There are two points noticeable in this presentation:—1st, that the Peculiar Jurisdiction, afterwards so jealously guarded by the Crown, seems either forgotten or not fully established, otherwise a Bishop would not have been addressed: 2dly, that the Bishop addressed is of Coventry, showing that the ancient diocese of Chester crossed the Severn at this one point to include Eardington, a boundary which, though sometimes ignored, was again

recognized in the *Valor* of Henry VIII. The rights of the Peculiar Jurisdiction will have made the question practically unimportant; and hence perhaps the confusion.

<sup>60</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 7 Job. memb. 3. On the 26th of May following, Master John Witeing was appointed Justiciar to assess an aid in Warwickshire (*Rot. Pat.* 8 John, memb. 1). He was a Prebendary also of St. Paul's.

<sup>61</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 10 Hen. III. Henry de Cornhull, Chancellor of St. Paul's, held that office from 1217 for some years. He became Dean of that Church in 1244, and died April 9, 1254. (*Dugd. St. Paul's*, pp. 224, 232).

In 1255, Peter de Durham held this Prebend,<sup>62</sup> which the Jurors of Brug valued at ten merks (£6. 13s. 4d.) and the Jurors of Stottesden at seventeen merks (£11. 6s. 8d.) per annum.

In Oct. 1272, the same Peter was in possession, and the Prebend valued at 15 merks (£10). He is reported as a defaulter in attendance at the Assizes.<sup>63</sup>

In 1284, John de Lukes is returned<sup>64</sup> as holding half the vill of Herdington of the King *in capite*.

In 1291, "the portion of the Prebend<sup>65</sup> of Sir John de Luk in the parish of Quatford, the Deanery of Stottesden, and the Diocese of Hereford, is taxed (valued) at £1," but another part of the same record says that "John de Luke's Prebendary of Bruges has at Erdinton half a carrucate of land which, with its meadows, pastures, mill, perquisites, and all other profits, is worth £5. 6s. 8d. per annum." The former was the income of the Spiritualities, the latter of the Temporalities of his Prebend.

In Oct. 1292, the Jurors for Brug valued<sup>66</sup> John de Luke's Prebend of Erdyton at 14 merks (£9. 6s. 8d.).

In March, 1316, John de Luk is again returned<sup>67</sup> as Lord of Erdyngton.

In 10 Ed. III (1336), Nicholas de Roton was presented<sup>68</sup> by the King to this Prebend, and—

In 13 Ed. III (1339), Philip Wascon.<sup>69</sup>

2 Nov. 1395, Nicholas Rape having resigned, Guy More was presented<sup>70</sup> by King Richard II.

In 1535, William Hoorde is returned<sup>71</sup> as holding the prebend of Erdinton in the Archdeaconry of Stafford and Diocese of Coventry

<sup>62</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 59 and 83. This Peter de Durham had been in the employ of Henry de Cornhull as early as 1225 (*Rot. Claus.* II, 146). In August 1226, one Peter, a Chaplain, was Custos of Morville Bridge, and had the King's precept to the Forester of Shropshire to allow him timber for its repair out of Shirlet Forest (*Claus.* II, 135).

<sup>63</sup> *Salop Assiz.* 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso. He had previously, viz., at the Forest Assizes, 1262, been amerced 20 shillings for default (*Placita Forestæ.* Salop. 46 Hen. III, memb. 5 dorso).

<sup>64</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* Stottesden Hund.

<sup>65</sup> *Pope Nic. Tax.* 166, b., and 162, b., note k.

<sup>66</sup> *Plac. Coronæ.* Salop. 20 Ed. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>67</sup> *Nomina Villarum*, 9 Ed. II. (Parliamentary Writs, IV, 398).

<sup>68</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 10 Ed. III, pars 2, memb. 22.

<sup>69</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 13 Ed. III, pars 1, memb. 31.

<sup>70</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl.

<sup>71</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, III, 199, where the recognition of the original Diocese is to be observed.

and Lichfield. Its value in glebe lands is stated at £6. 13s. 4d., in other tithes and oblations at £3. 6s. 8d.,—giving a total of £10 per annum.

PREBEND OF ALVELEY.

In giving a list of the early Prebendaries of this other portion of Eardington we necessarily include some account of the Church of Alveley, whose Incumbents held this dignity.

The first whom I find thus beneficed was William le Strange, probably a near relation of Guy le Strange, who became Lord of Alveley by grant<sup>72</sup> of Henry II in 1155.

In Oct. 1203, Christiana, widow of Richard de Constantin, had disseized William le Strange of his free tenement in Erdinton since Michaelmas 1199. William recovered seizin and 3 shillings damages.<sup>73</sup>

In Nov. 1221, William le Strange was returned<sup>74</sup> as holding the Church of Alveley, having been presented thereto by King Henry II. It was worth 30 merks (£20). He will therefore have held this Prebend thirty-three years at least, but on Jan. 7, 1223, he had resigned, for on that day King Henry III conferred the Church on William de Harcourt, who will also have been related to one of the then co-heirs of Alveley Manor. On this occasion the Bishop of Coventry was ordered to institute.

Notwithstanding this resignation of William le Strange he was presented<sup>75</sup> at Salop Assizes in Oct. 1227 as holding the Church of Alveley. The mistake arose probably from the identity of Christian

<sup>72</sup> *Cart. Cotton*, xi. 14, in Brit. Mus.

<sup>73</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 4 recto. Christiana was probably at this period holding dower in the adjacent Manor of Oldbury.

<sup>74</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 9 dorso. This Prebendary was probably the same person with William le Strange, Dean of St. Mary's, Salop (*Hist. Shr.* vol. ii. p. 325); but I cannot think, as there surmised, that he was brother of Guy Hamo and John le Strange, nor that they had any brother William. The Charter to which Mr. Blakeway apparently refers for this relationship is an abbreviated one in Harl. MS. 2188, fo. 123, and gives John le Strange and William his brother as

witnesses; but the Chartulary at Sundorn, quoting, I think, the same original deed, has John le Strange and Wido (Guy) his brother as witnesses. A William le Strange is indeed a witness of two other deeds in the Haghmon Chartulary, and him I take to have been our Prebendary, and perhaps afterwards Dean of St. Mary's; but both these deeds passed after the deaths of Guy and John le Strange the elder. I think that there is a further mistake, in the *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, in giving this William a daughter; and that it was his sister who married Alan le Poer. (Vide Haghmon Chartulary, fo. 181).

<sup>75</sup> *Assize Roll*, incorporated in *Testa de Nevill*, p. 54.

name and the consanguinity of himself and his successor. Moreover these Prebendaries of Bridgnorth will not usually have been resident, but rather represented by their several Vicars. If so, the Jurors, who made these presentments at County Assizes, may very possibly have remained ignorant of the resignation of any Prebendary for some time after such event. We have already seen that their knowledge of the value of each Prebend was extremely inaccurate.

On 8 April, 1241, William de Haverhull was presented by King Henry III to the Prebend of Alvithel. The Constable of Brug had the King's precept to induct him.<sup>76</sup>

8 June, 1250. A precept issued to Robert de Brus, empowering him to try a cause of *novel disseisin* between this Prebendary and Madoc de Sutton about a tenement in Alvithleg.<sup>77</sup>

26 Aug. 1252. Alexander Fiscus (Physician) is presented to William de Haverhull's vacant Prebend in the Chapel of Bruges. The Constable is to induct.<sup>78</sup>

9 Sept. 1253. Henry de Wengham was presented to the Prebend which Alexander Fiscus had held. Precept accordingly issued to the Constable.<sup>79</sup>

In the Inquisitions of 1255, there were several presentments as to this Church and Prebend. The Alveley jurors said<sup>80</sup> that Henry de Wingham held the Church by the King's gift; that it belonged to a Prebend of the King's free Chapel, and was worth forty merks (£26. 13s. 4d. per annum). The Stottesden jurors said<sup>81</sup> the same in substance, but separately reported Sir Henry de Wyngesham's share of Erdinton as worth sixteen merks (£10. 13s. 4d.) They also said that "Sir Henry de Wengham and Peter de Durelm (Durham), Canons of Magdalene, are Lords of Erdinton, of the King's gift; wherein are six virgates of land; and they do no suit, nor pay stretward nor motfe, the jurors know not by what warrant." The jurors of Bruges said,<sup>82</sup> on the same occasion, that "Henry de Wingham holds one Prebend, viz. the Church of Alvitheley, with its member Remesleg (Romesley), and it is worth forty merks per annum."

<sup>76</sup> *Rot. Pat.*, 25 Hen. III.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibidem*, 34 Hen. III.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibidem*, 36 Hen. III.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibidem*, 37 Hen. III. Exactly ten years before (viz. Sept. 1243), this Henry de Wengham was serving the King in

Gascony, and received a written promise, dated at Bourdeaux, as to his future advancement. (*Rot. Pat.* 27 Hen. III).

<sup>80</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii. p. 73.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 82, 83.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 59.

Henry de Wengham had also been presented in this year to the Church of Worfield, and, when these inquisitions were taken, was nothing less than Lord Chancellor of England. After serving the Crown for some years in several minor capacities, and receiving a correspondent share of patronage, he was appointed<sup>83</sup> to the Chancellorship by patent of January 5th, 1255. He held this office till October 18th, 1260, a Custos being nominated during his occasional absence from Court, and once during his illness. On February 15th, 1260, he was consecrated Bishop of London, and died in October, 1262.

His successor in the Prebend of Alveley was Hugh de la Penne, appointed,<sup>84</sup> by letters patent to the constable of Bruges, on 28th December, 1260.

At Salop Assizes, October, 1272, Hugo de la Penne's Prebend of Alvitheleg was returned as worth sixty merks (£40 per annum). The Prebendary was also reported as a defaulter in due attendance<sup>85</sup> at the assizes. In 1284, Hugo de la Penne is returned as Lord of half the vill of Erdington.<sup>86</sup>

In 1291, amongst the spiritualities of the Deanery of Stottesden and diocese of Hereford, "the portion of the Prebend of Hugh de Penne in the Parish of Quatford" is valued<sup>87</sup> at £1, and his temporalities at Erdintone, consisting of land, meadows, rents, with "*operacionibus*" and perquisites, at £1. 18s. 6d.

At Salop Assizes, October, 1292, Hugo de la Penne's Prebend of Alvitheleye was returned<sup>88</sup> as worth eighty merks (£53. 6s. 8d. per annum).

23d February, 1328, Thomas Talbot, clerk, was presented<sup>89</sup> to this Prebend, and 19th September, 1334, he was promoted to the chief Prebend or Deanery.

In 5 Edw. III (1331), Richard Oweine's presentation<sup>90</sup> to this Prebend seems to have been revoked.

In 11 Edw. III (1337), G. Chilchethe, previously Prebendary of Underdon, was presented to this.<sup>91</sup>

<sup>83</sup> *Hardy's Chancellors*, p. 9.

<sup>84</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 45 Hen. III. This Hugh de la Penne was also Rector of Worfield, by the King's gift. (*Assiz. ap. Salop.* 56 Hen. III. memb. 22 dorso).

<sup>85</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso.

<sup>86</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>87</sup> *Pope Nich. Taxation*, 166, b. and

162, b. *Operaciones* were the works performed by inferior tenants in lieu of rent.

<sup>88</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>89</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 2 Ed. III, part i, memb. 29; and 8 Ed. III, part ii, memb. 25.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibidem*, 5 Ed. III, part i, memb. 33.

<sup>91</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 11, Ed. III, part 3, memb. 23, 30.

In the Inquisition of the Ninth, A. D. 1341, the assessors rated<sup>92</sup> “the two portions of the Church which were in Erdynton at 31 shillings for the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb in the same Parish.” This assessment is informal, as Eardington was not a parish, neither were the portionists or their tenants amenable<sup>93</sup> to the tax. If it means anything it relates to some tenure in Eardington Manor not held of the Church.

In 23 Edw. III (1349), Thomas Brember was presented to this Prebend.<sup>94</sup>

28 Oct. 1361, John de Buckingham was presented.<sup>95</sup>

40 Edw. III (1366), it was granted<sup>96</sup> to William of Wickham, who, in the following year, was consecrated Bishop of Winchester, and appointed Chancellor of England. He survived the period of his greatest advancement thirty-seven years. Who would know further of his genius, his honours, and his great munificence, may learn much at Windsor, Winchester, or Oxford, more still in the archives of a Nation, but most of all in the imperishable record of a venerated name.

Passing from the mention of princely sacrifice to a memorial<sup>97</sup> of another kind, we see (in 1535) the Prebend of Alveley, now ripe for confiscation, valued for King Henry VIII as follows:—

“John Belletour, Prebendary of the Collegiate Church of St. Mary Magdalene, has the Prebend of Alveley in the County of Salop, Archdeaconry of Stafford, and Diocese of Coventry and Lichfield; and it is worth annually, in the value of glebe land thereunto pertaining, £5. 6s. 8d.; and in other tithes, oblations, and emoluments, beyond expenses, £8.” Total value, £13. 6s. 8d.

Of tenants and their lands, in Eardington, held probably under one or other of the last-named Prebends, we have a few notices. The principal tenement concerned will be—

#### THE HAY.

Aug. 1226. Alan de Haya was pledge of Henry Fitz Thomas in a suit which the latter had against the Abbot of Salop, about land in Morville.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>92</sup> *Inq. Nonarum*, page 194.

<sup>93</sup> *Vide supra*, pp. 39 & 70.

<sup>94</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 23 Edw. III, part 3, memb. 1.

<sup>95</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl.

<sup>96</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 40 Edw. III, part 2, memb. 25. apud *Tanner, Notit. Monast.*

<sup>97</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, III, 199.

<sup>98</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, 10 Hen. III, memb. 4 dorso.

This Alan de Haya was probably the same with Alan de Erdinton, whose son Richard de la Rode has already<sup>99</sup> occurred as purchasing and selling land in Decpdale (Astley Abbots).

About the same time,<sup>100</sup> Thomas, son of Alan de la Hay, sold to Master Fremund de Erdinton all his land of the Hay,—the purchaser to pay 10s. rent to Thomas de Chabbenour, the Chief Lord.<sup>101</sup> Witness, Sir Thomas de Constantine.

The Stottesden Jurors of 1255, in answer to the inquiry as to "What spiritual persons (*virī religiosi*) or others prosecute laymen before the Judges Delegate or the Ordinaries," stated as follows; that, "Fremund de Erdinton summoned Richard de Waskebache, and Walter, his brother, because Richard's dog barked at him, and that for this cause he got 4s. from Richard and 2s. from Walter:"<sup>102</sup> also, that the same "Fremund summoned Juliana de Glaseley before the Judges Delegate in a plea of Covenant which was between them about half a merk, and got from her a whole merk."<sup>103</sup>

After this some notices occur of a family taken to be collaterally related to Fremund de Erdintou, if not his heirs.

In August, 1267, Stephen Spereman, and Emma his wife, had sued out a writ of *mort d'ancestre* against Reginald Reed, about a messuage in Brug, and had license to sue out a better writ.<sup>103</sup>

By deed, *sans date*, John del Hay demises to Fromund, son of Reginald de Erdinton, all his land in the Hay.<sup>104</sup>

About 1283, Thomas, son of Herbert de la Hay, grants<sup>105</sup> to Fromund, son of Reginald Red, of Erdinton, land at the Hay, with a capital messuage. Witnesses, Ralph de Arraz, Hugo de Dode-moneston, Nicholas le Palmer, of Brug.

<sup>99</sup> Vide supra, page 64, and also page 63, where, if the above be correct, I shall have named Alan de Haya under a wrong locality.

<sup>100</sup> *Otley Deeds*, quoted in *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl.

<sup>101</sup> This Thomas de Chabbenour was, I suppose, son of that Thomas Fitz Odo whom we have already had as Custos of the neighbouring Manor of Tasley in Henry II's time (Vide supra, page 86). His being called Chief Lord only implies that he held over the Vendor, and is quite consistent with his being himself a tenant of the Church.

<sup>102</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 83. The Judges of Ecclesiastical Causes are here distinguished into Ordinaries and Delegates. The former were Judges *ex officio*, as a Bishop in his diocese, or an Archdeacon in his Archdeaconry. The latter were appointed on special occasions. An appeal to the See of Rome generally resulted in the appointment of Judges Delegate to determine it.

<sup>103</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, apud Salop, 51 Hen. III, memb. 5 dorso.

<sup>104</sup> *Otley Deeds*, ut supra.

<sup>105</sup> *Otley Deeds*, ut supra.



11 Edw. I (1283), Fremund de Erdinton binds himself by deed to supply Thomas, son of Herbert, with all the necessaries of life.

About the same time Fremund de Erdinton attests an agreement<sup>106</sup> between the Abbots of Dieulaeres and Salop about lands in Lancashire.

Oct. 18, 1288. He attests, at Brug, a deed relating to land at Astley Abbots.<sup>107</sup>

17 Edw. I (1289), Richard, son of Reginald Rud, having recovered in the King's Court at Westminster, seizin of a messuage and carrucate in the More, near Erdington, against Fromund Rud, and the latter having, as alleged, redisseized him, mandate issues to the Sheriff to inquire if this be so, and to arrest the offender.<sup>108</sup>

Oct. 1292, Fremund de Erdinton was on the Jury for the Borough of Brug, which attended the Assizes.<sup>109</sup>

I have been thus particular to state all I could meet with relative to this Fremund, because he was one of the first recorded<sup>110</sup> Burgesses who was summoned to Parliament for Bridgnorth. With Andrew Bolding he was returned to the Parliament, which was to meet at Westminster on 13th November, 1295, but which was prorogued to November 27.

24 Edw. I (1296), Alice, daughter of Nicholas Cinevet, of Quatford, grants to Fromund, son of Reginald Rud, of Erdinton, eight ridges (seyliones) of land in the field towards the Hay, between the land of said Fromund and the road which leads to the ford of Severn, near the weir (gurgitem) of Quatford, and extending from Fromund's land to Hamstodeshal.<sup>111</sup>

Fromund is witness to a number of deeds<sup>112</sup> of this period which relate variously to lands in Bridgnorth and Astley Abbots, and passed at those places or at "Sevarne." Those dated are of Jan. 3, 1296; Sept. 26 and Oct. 4, 1297; Nov. 25, 1298; Dec. 24, 1302; Feb. 15, 1303; and Oct. 19, 1305.

In 28 Ed. I (1300), he was grantee<sup>113</sup> of Roger, son of Roger Chete, senior, of Brug, a culture in the fields of Brug, bounded by Morf Forest and the land of the Hospital of Saint John Baptist. This will have lain east of the Severn.

<sup>106</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 270.

<sup>107</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>108</sup> *Originalia*, 17 Edward I. Rot. 25.

<sup>109</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, Salop, 20 Ed. I, memb. 51 recto.

<sup>110</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, I, 41.

<sup>111</sup> *Otley MSS.* ut supra.

<sup>112</sup> Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>113</sup> *Otley MSS.* ut supra.

Sept. 19, 1304. He was foreman of the Jurors,<sup>114</sup> who sat at Bridgnorth, on an inquest of *ad quod damnum*, which concerned a purchase made by the Prior of Malvern in Quat.

In 2 Edw. II (1308), he was dead, having been seized of diverse lands and tenements in "Brugges juxta le Hay," and of 20 acres of land and 1 acre of meadow in Oldbury.<sup>115</sup> A part of this, viz., 4 acres in "Bruges juxta le Hay," was held *in capite*, and in Michaelmas Term of the same year, Reginald, his son and heir, paid 2*s.* relief thereof.<sup>116</sup>

In 1 Edw. III (1327), Hugh Mortimer, of Chelmarsh, granted to Reginald de la Hay, son of Fromund de Erdinton, all right in 15*s.* 6*d.* of that rent of 16*s.* 6*d.* which was due from said Reginald annually for land which he held of said Hugh in the Hay.<sup>117</sup>

In 3 Edw. III (1329), the same Reginald had a grant from Alan de Glazeley of a meadow, called the Ree, in the field of Brug.<sup>118</sup>

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## The More.

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### (THE MOOR RIDDING.)

THIS was a small tenement, which, though now combined parochially and manorially with Eardington, seems never to have passed, under any grant, to the Canons of St. Mary Magdalene, but to have constituted a separate tenure *in capite* of the Crown from the earliest recorded period.

The King's tenant here was a layman, who held by *petit serjeantry*.

Curious as some of these tenures were, the one under notice was distinguished by that extreme eccentricity which marks the very oldest. Its origin and meaning are alike lost in remote antiquity.

<sup>114</sup> *Inquisitions*, 32 Ed. I, No. 112.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibidem*, 2 Ed. II, No. 32.

<sup>116</sup> *Dukes' Antiquities*, page 51.

<sup>117</sup> *Otley MSS.* ut supra.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibidem*. I refer the reader to some later and interesting particulars relative to

the Hay Estate, in Mr. Dukes' *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Appendix, page xlii. Camden's identification of the estate with "Little Brugge" (there quoted) is, however, quite a mistake.

The most reasonable account of its nature seems to be this:—

The King's tenant at the More held his land (a virgate) by service of appearing yearly in the Exchequer, on the morrow of Michaelmas Day, with a hazel rod, of a year's growth and a cubit's length, and two knives. The Treasurer and Barons being present, the tenant was to attempt to sever the rod with one of the knives, which (apparently to prove the soundness of the rod) was to bend or break. The other knife was to do the same work at one stroke, and then be given up to the King's Chamberlain for royal use.

The only intelligible object of this service was, of course, that the King should be annually supplied with a knife of uncommon temper. We may conjecture endlessly and vainly as to how he came to look to his tenant of the secluded More for such an implement. Imagination presents some incident of a Royal Chase in the Forest of Morf or of Shirlet—some moment of kingly peril and opportune aid—a lost or broken *couteaux de chasse* replaced by the trusty blade of some watchful and well-rewarded follower.

The earliest recorded notice<sup>1</sup> of this tenure occurs on a Roll of Shropshire serjeantries, which is of date 13 John (1211). It merely says, that—

“Richard de (read *le*) Medler holds one virgate of land, and renders for the same annually, at the feast of Saint Nicholas (read *Michael*), two knives (knipulos).”

A second contemporary Roll<sup>2</sup> supplies the place of payment, viz., the Exchequer; a third<sup>3</sup> writes the name Richard le Mener.

In 1245 Nicholas de More is said<sup>4</sup> to pay at the Exchequer two knives (cultellos), one good, the other very bad, for certain land which he holds of the King *in capite* in More.

In 1255, the Stottesden Jurors report,<sup>5</sup> that “Nicholas le Medler holds one virgate in More *in capite* of the Lord King, rendering at the Exchequer two knives, one of which ought to cut a hazel rod (et alium splicantem in caso frisco<sup>6</sup>), and he does no other service for the said land.”

In Nov. 1274, Jurors of the same Hundred say<sup>7</sup> at length, that “Nicholas de la More holds one virgate in that vill of the Lord

<sup>1</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 56.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 417.

<sup>3</sup> *Red Book of Exchequer*, fo. cxxxvii.

<sup>4</sup> *Mich. Commun.* 29 Hen. III, apud Madox Excheq. 611, r. I need hardly point out that the names *le Medler* and *de More* describe the same persons.

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 108.

<sup>6</sup> Probably “plicantem” is the proper word, and refers to the other knife which ought to *bend*. The words “in caso frisco,” if they mean *in a new case*, must belong to the first knife.

<sup>7</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 108.

King *in capite* by serjeantry, of taking two knives to the King's Exchequer at the feast of St. Michael in each year; so that he ought to cut a hazel rod with one knife, as that the knife should bend (*plicare*) with the stroke; and again, he ought to cut a rod with the other knife."

The record of 1284 describes<sup>8</sup> Nicholas de la More as holding three parts of a virgate and two moors<sup>9</sup> by serjeantry, &c. The Jurors of October, 1292, say, that William de la More of Erdyn-ton holds one virgate in the More by serjeantry of taking two knives to the King's Exchequer on the morrow of St. Michael, and to cut with the same knives *two* rods of hazel.<sup>10</sup>

The best account of all<sup>11</sup> seems to be given under 3 Rich. II (1379), when Walter de Aldenham was holding the serjeantry. It is mainly the authority for what was stated at first about the tenure, except that it says that both knives were to be given up to the Chamberlain.

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## Bolebec.

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"THE Earl himself holds Bolebec. Stenulf held it in time of King Edward. Here is half a hide, geldable. There is arable land sufficient) for 1 ox-team. It was and is waste."<sup>1</sup>

Such is the *Domesday* notice of a Manor which follows Eardington and precedes Ovre in that survey. Several localities have at various times suggested themselves or been proposed as identicle with Bolebec. These, as I remember, were Boscobel, Boningale, Bold, Colebatch, and Bolas, none of which have any more apparent

<sup>8</sup> Kirby's *Quest*.

<sup>9</sup> The word is written *moreis*—for *mo-ras*, I presume.

<sup>10</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, Salop, 20 Ed. I, memb. 20.

<sup>11</sup> Vide Dukes' *Appendix to Antiquities of Shropshire*, page xxiv, where, I presume, the note referring to "Mich. Com. 3 Ed. I, Rot. 1, Salop," is a mistake for

the same Record of 3 Rich. II. The latter is the year given by Mr. Dukes on page xxvi of the same Appendix, to which I refer for a very able and interesting notice of this Serjeantry. The customs connected with it are traced down to a very recent period. A few dates and names, and the locality, are all that I have added to the previous account.

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<sup>1</sup> Ipse come stenet Bolebec. Stenulf te-nuit tempore Regis Edwardi. Ibi dimidia hida geldabilis. Terra est 1 carrucæ. Wasta fuit et est. (*Domesday*, fo. 254, a, 1.)

*Domesday* notice. However, the name of Boscobel belongs, I imagine, to a much more recent nomenclature, and the subsequent *status* of both Boscobel, Boningale, Bold, and Colebatch, excepts each of them from all probability of having been, like Bolebec, a demesne Manor of Earl Roger. This is not the case with Bolas; whose condition in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries was exactly that which we should have expected to result from such a *Domesday status* as that of Bolebec. But the last syllables of the two names have no etymological affinity, and Bolas is in the area of the *Domesday* Hundred of Recordine, through which the survey<sup>2</sup> of Earl Roger's demesnes had already passed before it arrived at Eardington. Lastly, Bolas was a much larger Manor than would consist with the type of Bolebec.

We have therefore to look elsewhere than to mere surmises for a probable solution of this difficulty.

As regards position in *Domesday Book*, Bolebec follows Eardington (a manor of Alnodestreu Hundred), and precedes Ovre (a manor of Conedovre Hundred); but the mention of Ovre in this place is both redundant and imperfect, for it is noticed more fully elsewhere,<sup>3</sup> and shown not to have been of the Earl's demesne. Its insertion here is therefore a mistake, and Bolebec becomes the last Manor of demesne; also, Eardington (which precedes it) remains the only guide to its proximate situation.

As regards etymology,—a *Domesday* manor, written *Bolebec*, would ordinarily become *Bolebatch*,—as the *Domesday* Huelbec and Polrebec have become Pulverbatch and Welbatch; but though many places in Shropshire have the final syllable required,<sup>4</sup> we look in vain for any *Bolebatch*.

It is now time to state that Bolebec is in every letter a purely Norman name. The *pays de Caux* had a town, a river, and a family so called. It is reasonable therefore to suppose that the name was affixed to some Shropshire locality by the Normans, which locality afterwards recovered its previous appellation.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The *Domesday* demesnes of the Earl were of two classes; first, those which King Edward had held, which are enumerated consecutively; secondly, those which the Mercian Earls or others had held, and which seem to be enumerated with some reference to position: at all events, no two consecutive Manors were so distant from each other as Bolas and

Eardington. It is further helieved that the silence of *Domesday* as to Bolas is to be accounted for rather than questioned; but of that hercafter.

<sup>3</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 259 b.

<sup>4</sup> There was a Wallsbatch near Eardington, but it never was a separate Manor; also a Picklebatch, similarly insignificant.

<sup>5</sup> Though Celt, Roman, Dane and Saxon

Further, we must look for the representative of Bolebec in some Manor afterwards retained in demesne by, or held *in capite* of the Crown. Such is the analogy observable in the Norman Earl's demesnes.

The name of the Saxon holder, Stenulf, will not give any additional clue, for it occurs nowhere else in the Shropshire *Domesday*.

Finally, the extent and condition of the Manor in 1086 was—half a hide of unvalued waste land.

Summarily, then, we must look for Bolebec in some half-hide of waste land, not far from Eardington, not retaining the name of Bolebec, yet not mentioned under any other name in *Domesday*—and after the Norman Earl's forfeiture held by, or immediately of, the Crown.

All these conditions, except that of extent, will be fulfilled in the Moor, as above described.

It is however always estimated at 1 virgate (*i.e.*  $\frac{1}{4}$  hide), an objection certainly to its comparison with Bolebec, but one which has a parallel in *many* undoubted cases of identity.

Again, the Moor was never involved in Eardington; for, if it had been, it would have passed under Earl Roger's grant to Quatford Church. Not being involved, it must be presumed to have had some distinct *Domesday* type? If Bolebec were not that type, what was?

Finally, when we see the waste state of the *Domesday* Manor perpetuated in the very name of Moor, and when we hear that the latest performers of that serjeantry (by which Moor was once held) were summoned by the Exchequer Crier, as "Tenants of a piece of waste ground called the Moors," to come forward to do their annual service in Court; <sup>6</sup>—if, after all this, we cannot accept the identity as proved, we need not at all events reject it till some more probable theory be advanced.

have left reminiscences of themselves in the local nomenclature of most districts of England, so much can hardly be said of the Normans. In old Shropshire they gave a name to Montgomery before *Domesday*, and to Caus after *Domesday*; both which names remain. Similarly (as I suppose) they gave a name (Bolhech) to the Moor, and a name (Dinan) to Ludlow. One of these also was earlier, the other later than *Domesday*; and both have vanished. I do not at present remember any other instance of a Norman name

having attached to a Shropshire locality. Dinan, I ought to add, belongs rather to Brittany than Normandy; but the difficulty of permanently fixing a foreign name on an Anglo-Saxon locality is established nevertheless.

<sup>6</sup> See Dukes' *Antiquities*, Appendix, p. xxvi. I must add an excuse for dwelling at such length on a trivial though perhaps curious question. *Domesday* is the text-book with which I set out, and the principles of investigation advanced under Bolebec must often recur in the sequel.

## Oldbury.

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WE have already ascertained that Ethelfleda, Queen of the Mercians, built in the year 913 a fortress on the western side of the Severn, in a place which Florence of Worcester marks as being in his time called Brycege. The passage of the *Saxon Chronicle* which relates to the same event will, so far as the use of the word Brycege goes, have been interpolated two centuries later than the event described. Its authority must therefore, as in a former instance, give way to that of Florence, who lived when the name of Bridge, or Brug, was first applicable to the locality of which he spoke, lived too on the same river, and within a distance of thirty miles from the spot.

Was then the site of Ethelfleda's fortress precisely that which was afterwards occupied by Earl Robert de Belesme? Florence, whom we have thus far upheld as the best authority, says so in the most distinct terms.<sup>1</sup> Perhaps, however, it will be no great inconsistency if we venture to vary from Florence's statement to the extent of about 200 yards in the direction of Oldbury.

It is to be observed, that the name Oldbury is nothing else than *old borough*, and that, in Ethelfleda's other foundations, a Borough was usually associated with a castle. Such were Bramsbury, Tamworth, Stafford, Eddesbury, Warwick, Chirbury, and Weardbury, whose names alone, where their locality is doubtful, are sufficient to prove the theory.

The bank which fronts the Castle Hill of Bridgnorth to the south, is in Oldbury Manor, and is distinguished by a large mound of earth, whose regular shape proves it to be artificial. The soil in

<sup>1</sup> *Flor. Wigom.* vol. ii. page 49. Arcem quam in occidentali Sabrinæ fluminis plagâ, in loco qui Brycege dicitur linguâ Saxonica, Ægelfleda Merciorum domina construxerat, Rotbertus de Belcasmo Ro-

geri Comitis filius, contra Regem Henricum ut exitus rei probavit muro lato et alto, summoque restaurare cepit. See also *Simeon Dunelm.* (Florence's Copyist), page 217.

several directions about this mound also bears traces of disturbance. Tradition has ascribed the whole creation to the parliamentary forces, who, after burning the town in Easter week, A.D. 1646, were occupied about another month in reducing the Castle. But the creation and use of this earthwork are two things which, however distinct in themselves, may easily have been confused by tradition. The spot still retains the name of 'the Old Castle,' and doubtless assumed its conical form ages before cannon were invented or Parliaments heard of.<sup>2</sup>

A deed<sup>3</sup> dated at Brug, in the year 1299, describes an acre of land in the fields of Oldbury, as bounded on one side by the lands of John de Oldbury; on another by the road which leads to Oldbury "under the Old Castle," and on a third by "the King's highway,"<sup>4</sup> opposite the meadow of William Selymon, of Brug." The locality is unmistakeable, as well as the fact, that in time of Edward I, the road from Bridgnorth to Oldbury went under what was then called the Old Castle. Now Bridgnorth Castle was the existent and garrisoned castle of that period; therefore, "the Old Castle" must have been a term describing something more ancient than Bridgnorth Castle.

Having now established in direction of Oldbury a Castle and a Borough, each respectively older than the Castle and Borough of Bridgnorth, we need not ask who founded them, or discuss the matter further.

Oldbury and its conical hill are reminiscences, verbal and material, of the Borough and Castle projected by Ethelfleda, Queen of Mercia, in A.D. 913.

This foundation will, however, have proved abortive, for in time of King Edward the Confessor (1043-1066), Ælward, a Saxon, to whom perhaps it had been granted in the intervening century, was seized of Oldbury, as well as of the neighbouring manors of Eudon (now Eudon Burnell) and Glazeley.

It was probably the failure of Ethelfleda's design, rather than

<sup>2</sup> There is little doubt that the Castle was cannonaded, and from this spot, than which none could be more eligible for such a purpose, even if the artificial elevation had been absent. The great engineering work of the Puritans, and which is recorded otherwise than by tradition, was not the raising of this mound, but sapping

the Castle Hill on its northern side. The latter, in fact, it was which compelled the ultimate surrender of the fortress.

<sup>3</sup> In possession of H. C. Taylor, Esq., of Chieknell.

<sup>4</sup> Not the present highway, which is quite modern, but the road called Oldbury Lane.



a comparison with any more recent foundation, such as Quatford, which gave to this locality the distinctive name of "Old."

The manor is noticed in *Domesday* as follows:—<sup>5</sup>

The same Rainald (the Sheriff) holds (of the Earl) Aldeberie and Radulf of him. Eluard held it and was free. Here are 1 hide and 3 virgates, geldable. In demesne there is 1 ox-team; and 7 serfs, 3 Frenchmen, 2 cottars, and 1 boor, with 2 ox-teams; and yet there may be two more such (teams). There is a mill of 2s. (annual value), and a wood which will fatten 100 swine. In time of King Edward it was worth 30s.; now it is worth 13s. He (Rainald) found it waste.

Of Radulf, the under-tenant, little more can be said, than that he also held Fulwardine, in this Hundred, of the same Rainald *Vicecomes* and Petton, in Baschurch Hundred, of Robert Pincerna. Finding each of these manors afterwards possessed by a family which took its name and origin from the Norman Côtentin,<sup>6</sup> we may conclude that Radulf was their ancestor. They subsequently acquired the Manor of Eaton, in Recordine Hundred, and left with it a memorial of their tenure, in the yet existing name of Eaton Constantine.

Nor was the change of Radulf's *Domesday* fief solely in the way of acquisition. His successor, perhaps his son, Hugh de Constantine, made a grant in Petton to Shrewsbury Abbey before 1121, but no further trace remains of their ancient interest in that manor. Reserving all general account of this family till we reach Eaton Constantine, we will here notice only their connexion with Oldbury.

In 1165, Helyas de Costetin held of Fitz Alan's Barony, by service of one knight's fee, and two *mantatores*.<sup>7</sup> Half a fee, equal to one *mantator*, will have been the contingent of Oldbury and Fulwardine towards their service.

<sup>5</sup> Isdem Rainaldus tenet Aldeberie et Radulfus de eo. Eluard tenuit et liber fuit. Ibi i hida et iii virgatæ geldabiles. In dominio est una carruca et vii servi et iii francigeni et ii cotarii et unus bordarius cum ii carrucis, et aliæ ii possent esse. Ibi Molendinum de ii solidis et Silva c porcis incassandis. Tempore Regis Edwardi valebat xxx solidos. Modo xiii solidos. Wastum invenit. (*Domesd.* fo. 255 a, 2.)

*Domesday* seems to speak of the waste state of a Manor, with reference to three periods; viz. the time of King Edward, the time of transfer from Saxon to Norman Lord, and the time when the Survey was taken. Oldbury seems to have been waste (utterly valueless) at the period of transfer; Bolebec, both then and when the Survey was taken.

<sup>6</sup> Vide *Hist. Shrewsb.*, vol. i. p. 26.

<sup>7</sup> *Liber Niger*, vol. i. p. 143.

At the Assizes of October, 1203, Christiana, widow of Richard de Constantine (probably having dower here), had disseized William le Strange of a tenement in Eardington. Her pledge for 3s. damages, and an amercement of one merk was Thomas de Constantine (her son probably).<sup>8</sup>

About 1240, Thomas de Costentin is returned as holding one Knight's fee in Eton and Aldebur under Fitz Alan.<sup>9</sup>

In 1255, the return of the Stottesden Jurors relative to this Manor was as follows:—"Thomas de Costentyn is Lord of Aldebyr', and holds immediately of John Fitz Alan; in which is one hide and half of land, and he does suit to the Hundred Courts, and pays the Sheriff 6d. for *stretward* and 1s. for *motfee*."<sup>10</sup>

At Salop Assizes, September, 1272. Thomas de Costentin was reported by the Stottesden Jurors as making default in due attendance.<sup>11</sup>

In 1284, Adam de Montgomery (who had married the daughter and sole heir of the last-named Thomas) is said to hold Hadebur, under Richard Fitz Alan, of the *honor* of White Minster (Oswestry), by one-third of a knight's fee.<sup>12</sup>

The Inquisition of 18 Edw. I (1290), on death of Adam de Montgomery, gives Oldebury as part of his tenure.<sup>13</sup>

In 32 Edw. I (1304), Owen (Andoenus) de Montgomery had the King's Charter of free-warren in Oldbury juxta Bruges.<sup>14</sup>

In March, 1316, the Bishop of Chester is returned as Lord of Oldbury;<sup>15</sup> but of this change elsewhere.

Some notices of inferior tenancies here are as follows:—

April 15, 1263. A fine was levied at Westminster between Johanna, widow of Hugh de Beckbury, complainant, and Master Walter le Palmer, tenant, of 1½ virgates in Oldebur, with which Hugh, Johanna's husband, had dowered her at the Church-porch when he espoused her, and whereof was suit-at-law between Johanna

<sup>8</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, 4 recto.

<sup>9</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 44, 48, 49.

<sup>10</sup> *Rot. Hund.*, vol. ii. p. 82. The change from the *Domesday* hidage is noticeable. The decrease of i virgate may partly be accounted for by the endowment of the Church, presently to be noticed.

<sup>11</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso.

<sup>12</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* The service due on Oldbury and Fulwardine, according to this return, was more than half a Knight's fee, i. e. 7/2ths of a fee. An Inquest of 21 Rich. II rates the two however at half a fee. (*Escheats*, vol. iii. p. 223.)

<sup>13</sup> *Escheats*, vol. i. p. 101.

<sup>14</sup> *Calendar Rot. Chart.*, p. 134.

<sup>15</sup> *Parl. Writs*, vol. iv. p. 398.

and Walter. Johanna remits her right to Walter and his heirs for 8 merks.<sup>16</sup>

June 23, 1297. John de Aldebur attests a deed at Holycote,<sup>17</sup> and is the person already mentioned as holding land here in 1299. The deed<sup>18</sup> thus quoted should be given more at length, especially as the descendants of this John de Oldbury came afterwards to hold the Manor immediately under Fitz Alan. "Know all men, &c., that I, Alan de Eudone, have granted to Richard de Stafford and Milisand my daughter, and their heirs, one acre of the lower part of a certain culture in the fields of Oldebur, between the land of John de Oldebur, on one side, and the road leading under the Old Castle, towards Oldebur, on the other. And it extends itself from certain parcels, which lie between it and my land, to the King's highway, opposite the meadow of William Selymon of Brug;—To hold of the Chief Lord of that fee, rendering to the said Chief Lord 10*d.* at Michaelmas and St. Mary in March, for all services, suits of Court, &c.—Witnesses: William de Mora, John Glydde, William Hobaud (of Harpesford), John de Oldebur, Richard Petyfit. Given at Brug, on Sunday, in the close of Easter, in the year of King Edward the twenty-seventh."

The tenure of Fromund de Erdinton here has already been noticed.<sup>19</sup>

#### THE CHURCH.

Oldbury was originally in the Parish of the Church of Morville, and will have continued without any separate place of worship till, in the beginning of Stephen's reign (c. 1138), Helyas de Constantine founded a Chapel, with a Cemetery, here, endowing it with half a virgate (about 30 acres) of land and a mansion.<sup>20</sup> This Chapel seems to have been consecrated by Bishop Robert de Betun with reference to the troubled state of the country. A pension, in token of subjection to the Mother Church, was secured by a further deed<sup>21</sup> of that Prelate, and remained for at least two centuries a receipt of Shrewsbury Abbey. Its amount was 5*s.* annually.

About A. D. 1200-1210, Thomas de Costentin grants to God and to St. Nicholas, and to the Chapel of Aldebury, half a virgate in

<sup>16</sup> *Pedes finium*, 47 Hen. III, Salop. This fine I take to be the end of a fictitious suit. The purchaser has occurred before. (Vide supra, page 51.)

<sup>17</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>18</sup> Charter at Chicknell.

<sup>19</sup> Vide supra, page 126.

<sup>20</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 333.

<sup>21</sup> Ibidem, No. 334.

the same vill, which his father and his ancestors had given. He also concedes the croft on which Robert de Heding, Rector of the said Chapel, had built a house.—Witnesses: Robert, Clerk of Halecton (the Rector himself under another name); Master Y, Dean of Stottesden; Walter, Chaplain of Eton (probably Eaton Constantine); Ansketill, Clerk of Brug (who will occur again), and others.<sup>22</sup>

In 1291, the Church of Holdebury, in the Deanery of Stottesden, is valued at £4. 13s. 4d., and the portion of the Prior of Momerfeld therein at 5s.<sup>23</sup>

In 1341,<sup>24</sup> the Church of Oldebur is taxed (valued) at 7 merks and 5s. (exactly the previous valuation of £4. 18s. 4d.).—

But those who assessed and sold the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, in Oldbury Parish, rendered account only of £1. 5s.; and the difference between the presumed tenth (or Church taxation) and the then assessable ninth arose in this way:—The estate (fundus) of the said Church, with the rents and lands annexed, was worth 40s.; the hay-tithe was worth 14s. 4d.; the small tithes and offerings were worth, with all other profits, 14s.<sup>25</sup>

In 1534,<sup>26</sup> William Brody, *alias* Weston, was Rector of this Church. Its value in glebe and all kinds of tithe is put at £5, from which no deduction, except 6d. for Archdeacon's Synodals, is claimed. The pension of 5s. appears no longer among the assets of Shrewsbury Abbey.

#### INCUMBENTS.

Robert de Hastings, *alias* Haughton, seems to have been Rector here in the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. All that is known of him has been already mentioned.<sup>27</sup>

In 1277, John, Rector of Oldbury, occurs.<sup>28</sup>

June 4, 1300. Master Luke de St. Leonard, Clerk, was ordained, and instituted to this Rectory, on presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Shrewsbury.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 299 h.

<sup>23</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.*, page 166.

<sup>24</sup> *Inquis' Nonarum*, page 190.

<sup>25</sup> The sum of these three items is £3. 8s. 4d., which, being deducted from the gross valuation, leaves a balance of £1. 10s. whereof 5s. was payable to the Mother Church. The ultimate balance of £1. 5s. was therefore taken to represent

the value of the great tithes in *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*; and of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, in the present.

<sup>26</sup> *Valor. Eccles.*, vol. iii. p. 210.

<sup>27</sup> *Vide supra*, pp. 60, 61.

<sup>28</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*, but with a doubt expressed whether Onibury be not the Church intended.

<sup>29</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*

## Fulwardine.

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Fulwardine, otherwise Fouswardine, is thus noticed in *Domesday*.<sup>1</sup> "The same Rainald (Vicecomes) holds (of the Earl) Fuloordie, and Radulf of him. Edmund held it and was a free-man. Here is half a hide geldable. In demesne is 1 ox-team; and 4 serfs, 1 villain, and 1 boor, with 1 ox-team; and there might be 1 ox-team more here. In time of King Edward it was worth 16s., and afterwards 6s.; now (it is worth) 10s."

We are told to accept the Saxon *peopði*, a field or farm, as the constituent of all such names as are compounded of *werth*, *worth*, *worthy*, *worthing*, or *wardine*.<sup>2</sup> What the prefix *fulle* may mean, in connexion with a field or a homestead, is matter for any latitude of conjecture. If taken to indicate size or importance, these are attributes which no memory or record<sup>3</sup> can connect with Fulwardine. The Saxon *ful* (*i. e.* foul) is, however, a term which may have been applied to any locality where the soil was of a tenacious quality, and is probably the other constituent of this name.

Edmund, the Saxon Lord of Fulwardine, also held Ulton (now Upton Cressett) in this Hundred. In 1086, Fulwardine was, like Oldbury, held by Radulf, under Rainald the sheriff; and, like Oldbury, it descended as a tenure of de Constantine, under Fitz Alan.

In 1165, it will have combined with Oldbury, to constitute half a fee of the service due from Helyas de Constantine to the latter barony.

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255 a, 2.

<sup>2</sup> *peopði* is also translated "homestead," "village;" and, by one authority, it means "a village at the head of a stream." No such peculiarity is observable in places the names of which are thus compounded. The sea-coast town of Worthing is perhaps the best instance of the contrary.

<sup>3</sup> Fulwardine, or, as the inhabitants call it, Fowwardine, is now a small tene-

ment, indistinguishably involved, both parochially and manorially, in Sidbury. The land attached to "Fowwardine farm" is about 80 acres; but the Rev. R. P. Thursfield, who favours me with this information, thinks that more land was formerly attached to the farm, and that he can trace in the farm-house remains which indicate the sometime existence of a mansion here.

In 1255, a Cadet of the Constantines appears to have been enfeoffed here; for the Jurors of Stottesden Hundred returned "Roger de Costentin as Lord of Fulesworth, in the which is half a hide of land, which the said Roger holds of Thomas de Costentin; and he does suit twice a year at the *tourn* of the Sheriff, and not to other Hundred Courts, nor to the County Court, the jurors know not by what warrant: and he pays towards *stretward* 2*d.* and towards *motfe* 4*d.*"<sup>4</sup>

In 1284, "Ralph de Araz and Matilda de Fulesworedin hold this manor of Adam de Montgomery, of the fee of Holdebur', by one-fourth of a knight's fee, and said Adam holds it of Richard Fitz Alan, and he of the King."<sup>5</sup>

Ralph de Arraz, thus mentioned, was contemporary Lord of Sidbury, and the latter manor is not mentioned on this record. Its tenure was also now, and long afterwards, quite distinct from Fulwardine. The Record quoted has therefore confused<sup>6</sup> the two manors, and it is probable that Fulwardine was held by Matilda de Fulwardine alone, under Adam de Montgomery, and by less than one-fourth of a knight's fee. It is, however, singular that a mere error should in some sort anticipate the modern combination.

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## Upton Cressett.

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ULTONE, UPTON WARIN. UPTON SUPER EDGE.

THE identity of Upton Cressett with the *Domesday* Ultone is not so obvious as to be assumed without explanation. The first question is, whether the printed *Domesday* is, in every letter, a faithful copy of the original? This being answered affirmatively,

<sup>4</sup> *Rot. Hund.*, vol. ii. p. 82. This Roger de Constantine was reported as a defaulter at the Assizes of January, 1256. (*Salop Assize Roll, Placita Coronæ*, memb. 2 dorso.)

<sup>5</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* Stottesden Hundred.

<sup>6</sup> In the time of Richard II (1397), Oldbury and Fulwardyn remained one tenure. John de Oldbury held both by half a fee, under the Earl of Arundel. (*Calend. Eschet.*, vol. iii, p. 223.)

the next question is, whether Upton be a corruption of the original name Ultone, or whether the *Domesday* scribe mistook the orthography in the first instance, and wrote Ultone when Uptone was pronounced? The first of these is most probable, if it be quite clear that the situation of Upton Cressett, when compared with other Uptons and with the surrounding district, is not sufficiently elevated to account for the name.<sup>1</sup>

In *Domesday*, Ultone is put down as containing 3 hides; but in 1255 Upton is rated at 3½ hides. Now this variation is in general an argument against any assumed identity; but, in the present instance, it will rather tell the other way; for most of the neighbouring manors changed their *Domesday* hidage (*e. g.* Meadowley, Chetton, Faintree, Glazeley, Oldbury, and Eudon Burnell), and Criddon (the next manor to Upton) had no *Domesday* type at all. Nor can we altogether balance these discrepancies, by supposing that what was lost to one manor was gained by another, for the figures will bear out no such assumption. It is clear then that the boundaries and contents of the manors in this quarter were not finally established at *Domesday*; or, if they were, that the Jurors or the Commissioners made or recorded statements with the same inaccuracy as that which has been noticed under Morville.

As regards the identity of Ultone and Upton, the negative proof must, therefore, suffice after all. If Rainald's *Domesday* Manor of Ultone, in Alnodestreu Hundred, does not correspond with Fitz Alan's Manor of Upton, in Stottesden Hundred, what nearer counterpart can be found for either?

In 1086, the status of the Manor is thus described.<sup>2</sup> "The same Rainald (the Sheriff) holds Ultone. Edmund held it, and was a free-man. Here are 3 hides geldable. In demesne are 2 ox-teams; and (there are) 3 serfs, 1 free neat-herd, 6 villains, 4 boors, and 1 radman, with 4 ox-teams, and yet there might be 4 other (such teams).

Here is a wood which will fatten 30 swine.

In time of King Edward it was worth 40s., and afterwards worth 10s. Now it is worth 25s."

Bishop Robert de Betun, amongst tithes in his diocese which had been granted to Salop Abbey (apparently before 1138), con-

<sup>1</sup> I have no recollection of Mr. Blake-way's notice of Upton (Cressett) as regards its *Domesday* state; but he cer-

tainly remarks on the incongruity between the name and situation.

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255 a. 2.

firms two-thirds of the tithes of the Lord (or Lordship) of Upton.<sup>3</sup> I know of no other Upton in Hereford Diocese in which such a grant can have been made, neither can I trace any subsequent evidence of it here.

Yet Alan de Opton, the contemporary Lord of this place, appears to have been interested in religious grants which concerned Salop Abbey, and he attests Robert Fitz Aer's endowment of the Chapel of Aston Aer at this very period.<sup>4</sup>

In 1165, the same or another Alan de Upton is recorded as holding under the Barony of Fitz Alan, by service of one *muntator*.<sup>5</sup> Undoubtedly the tenure was here.

In 1180, William Goiun (whom I take to be a succeeding Lord of Upton, called by his family name) was fined 3 merks by the Justices of the Forest for waste in Upeton;<sup>6</sup> and the same William Goon stands second witness to a very ancient and nearly coeval charter which relates to land in Corve (near Monk Hopton), and of which Robert Fitz Aer is first witness.<sup>7</sup>

His successor seems to have been that Hugh de Hupton who first appears in November, 1194, as Recognizor in an *assize* which concerned land in this quarter.<sup>8</sup>

At Salop Assizes, October 1203, he sat as a Juror in several causes, and was himself subject to an amercement of half a merk.<sup>9</sup>

10th May, 1220, he is named *visor* of timber, to be taken from the King's forests, for repairs of Bridgnorth Castle.<sup>10</sup>

In 1225, he occurs as having been *Agistator* of the King's forests.<sup>11</sup> In August, 1226, he sat on a great Inquest about Stiperstones Forest;<sup>12</sup> again, in 1229, he appears as *Agistator* of the Royal Forests,<sup>13</sup> and in October, 1237, as a Juror in a great trial about Shawbury, taken before the King at Worcester.<sup>14</sup>

In or about 1240, he is returned as holding half a fee in Opton, or Hupton, of Fitz Alan's Barony.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 334.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 346. The original deed in possession of Mr. George Morris.

<sup>5</sup> *Lib. Nig.* vol. i, p. 144.

<sup>6</sup> *Plac. Forestæ*, No. I, Salop.

<sup>7</sup> Charter in possession of Mr. George Morris.

<sup>8</sup> *Rot. Curie Regis*, vol. i, p. 123.

<sup>9</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 4 recto, and 6 dorso.

<sup>10</sup> *Claus.* vol. i, p. 418.

<sup>11</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 9 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>12</sup> *Plac. coram Rege*, 10 Hen. III, memb. 4 dorso.

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>14</sup> *Plac. coram Rege*, 21 Hen. III, memb. 1 dorso.

<sup>15</sup> *Testa de Nevill.* pp. 44, 49. A third and nearly contemporary list (p. 48) gives William de Upton as holding this half fee. This is a mere mistake; for in the same third list, Hugh de Upton is properly entered as Lord of Meadowley.



The next whom I find in this succession was Thomas de Upton, who, on 2d January, 1246, was a Juror in a great Inquest as to the Forest-rights of Thomas Corbet, of Cans.<sup>16</sup>

In 1255, the Stottesden Jurors returned Thomas de Upton (who was himself one of them) as Lord of Upton, in which were 3½ hides of land, which said Thomas held *in capite* of John Fitz Alan, for half a knight's fee; and he did suit to the Hundred Courts, and paid the Sheriff 1*4d.* for *stretward*, and 28*d.* for *motfee*, but he did no suit to County Court.<sup>17</sup> And shortly after this he will have died, not only as being on the list of February 3, 1262 (wherein persons then dead are entered on an essoign-roll, before described<sup>18</sup>), but because, in July, 1256, Hugh de Upton, and William de Upton, successor of Thomas, appear as concerned in an assize of *novel disseisin* in Upton.<sup>19</sup> This William de Upton was a Verderer of the Royal Forests. He occurs in that office 22 October, 1259,<sup>20</sup> and March, 1262,<sup>21</sup> and as a Juror in several<sup>22</sup> Inquisitions of January, 1259; September, 1263; and February 1, 1283; soon after which he must have died. This William, Lord of Upton, granted to Robert Niger, of Criddon, half a virgate in Stepleye. —Witnesses, Geoffry de Criddon, Hugh de Holicote (his son), Alan le Harpur.<sup>23</sup> His successor was John de Upton, who is returned about 1284 as holding *Hopton* of Richard Fitz Alan, by service of half a knight's fee.<sup>24</sup>

In Oct. 1292, this John served as a Stottesden Juror, and also on the Jury which tried *pleas of warranty* at Salop.<sup>25</sup> At the Assizes he was reported as of full age, and not yet knighted.<sup>26</sup> He occurs twice as a Coroner in 1297.<sup>27</sup> He was a Juror on the great Forest perambulation of June, 1300,<sup>28</sup> and in the following year was deceased (as will appear under Meadowley), leaving John, his son and heir, under age; but who had livery of Meadowley, Oct. 3, 1306.<sup>29</sup>

In March, 1316, this John is duly returned as Lord of Upton,

<sup>16</sup> *Inquisitions*, 30 Hen. III, No. 24.

<sup>17</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 82.

<sup>18</sup> Vide supra, p. 81, note 281.

<sup>19</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 40 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>20</sup> *Esch.* 43 Hen. III, No. 43.

<sup>21</sup> *Plac. Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III.

<sup>22</sup> *Escheats*, *passim*.

<sup>23</sup> Cressett Evidences, quoted in *Blake-way MSS.*

<sup>24</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>25</sup> *Plac. de quo warr.* page 674.

<sup>26</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, memb. 20 recto, 51 recto.

<sup>27</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*, as above, and Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>28</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 279.

<sup>29</sup> *Rot. Forinsec.* penes Rememratorem Regiæ.

in Stottesden Hundred.<sup>30</sup> He was living in 1244, and had by Jane, his wife, three sons, John, Guy, and Nicholas, and a daughter, Constance, who, marrying Thomas Cressett, left descendants; which descendants, after failure of the male line of "Upton," succeeded to this inheritance, and conferred on the Manor that distinctive name by which it is still known. The evidence regarding this family is sufficiently clear to warrant the insertion of a genealogical table of their descent; but previous to doing so it may be proper to give abstracts of certain charters quoted from the Cressett evidences, by Mr. Blakeway, in his MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.<sup>31</sup>

A deed of John, Lord of Upton (1283-1300), mentions Isabella, his wife, and John, his son, and is attested by Ralph de Arraz, Walter de Beysin, Richard Rector of Nenton, and Wydo de Glasele.

A deed, dated 18 Edw. III (1344-5), shows John, Lord of Upton, enfeoffing Guy, his son, and Margaret, wife of Guy, in lands lately held by John, son of the grantor.

In 36 Edw. III (1362-3), Guy, Lord of Upton and Stapley, grants to Nicholas, his brother, Stapley; which he, Guy, had by gift of John, their father.

In 40 Edw. III (1366-7), the same Guy grants to Sir John, Rector of Upton (in trust, I presume), the Manor and Advowson of Upton, and lands which Johanna, his mother, and Nicholas, his brother, held for their lives in Upton and Stapley.

In 46 Edw. III (1372-3), John atte Broke, Parson of Upton, releases the same to Hugh de Upton.

In 6 Ric. II (1382-3) Hugh de Upton enfeoffed<sup>32</sup> John de Westwode, Chaplain, in Upton, Stapley, Medeuleye, Lye, Criddon, and the Advowson of Upton. This was in trust; for the same year the said Feoffee granted the premises to Hugh de Upton, and Margaret, his wife, for their lives, with remainders over, viz. 1st, to Peter de Salford; 2dly, to Thomas Cresset, of Garmeston, and the heirs of his body; with remainder to Hugh de Dudmaston,

<sup>30</sup> *Parl. Writs*, vol. iv, p. 398.

<sup>31</sup> *Parochial History*, vol. iii, "Upton Cresset."

<sup>32</sup> This feoffment of 6 Ric. II was, in the following year (7 Ric. II), secured by fine between John de Westwode, Chaplain, and Hugh de Upton and Margaret his wife, defendants, of the Manor of

Upton juxta la Clee, to the use of Hugh and Margaret for lives, with remainder to Thomas Cresset, of Garmeston, and his heirs. (Vide Dukes' *Antiquities*, p. 259.) I should add, that Margaret was surviving in 21 Ric. II (1397-8), and holding Upton of Fitz Alan, by half a knight's fee. (*Cal. Esch.* vol. iii, p. 223.)

junior, and John de Sydenhale, and the heirs of Hugh; with remainder to the heirs of John de Sydenhale. The last remainder was to the right heirs of Hugh de Upton.

Another series of extracts<sup>33</sup> from Cressett evidences commences rather earlier, and is as follows:—

William Cytharista (Harper), of Upton, with consent of Matilda his wife, and Alan his son, grants to Ralph Pistor (Baker), of Upton, 1 virgate in Upton, which Albrea, his (the grantor's) grandmother, held.—Witnesses: William Fitz Aer, Anketill Clerk of Bruge.

Richard and Hugh, sons of Alan de Stapeleye, grant to John, Lord of Upton, a tenement, in Criddon, by concession of Henry the Chaplain, their uncle, to hold to John, and Joanna his wife, and Guy their son, rendering two pounds of wax yearly to the lighting of the Chapel of the Holy Virgin at Chetton.—Witnesses: Gwydo de Glaseley, Robert de Roshale, and John de Ludlow. This deed was probably of date between 1300 and 1310.

In 5 Edw. II (1311-12), Adam, son of William, Lord of Upton, grants to John, Lord of Upton, his nephew, a tenement in Criddon, which he (Adam) bought of Richard, son of Reginald Elyes, of Criddon. The grant is for the lives of Johanna the wife, and Guy the son, of the grantee.

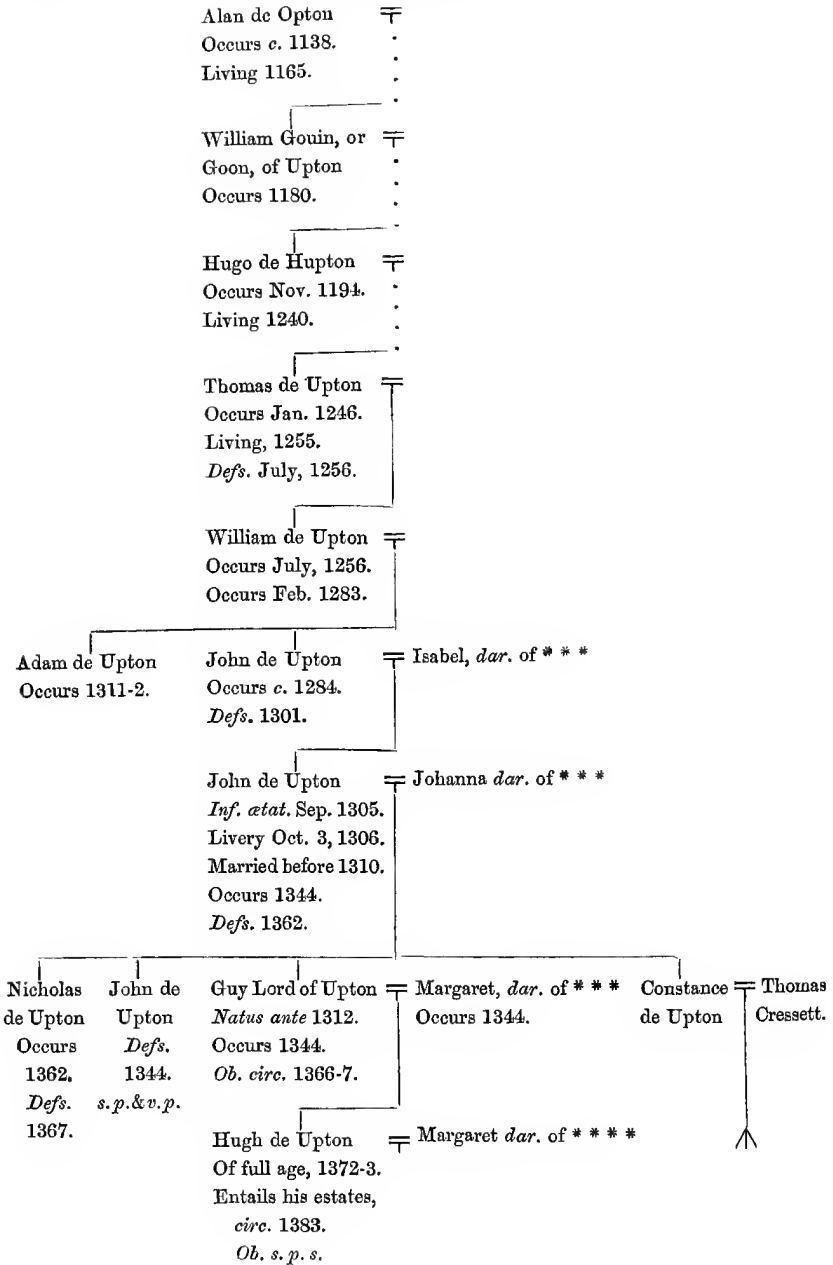
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The following GENEALOGY of the first LORDS OF UPTON, till the extinction of their male line, is inserted not with any idea of its completeness, but as containing only such particulars as have been collected from *first-rate* authorities. The Pedigrees given in *Heralds' Visitations* are usually much more diffuse. My object, in these cases, is to supply a statement independent of the Visitations, and in agreement with them or not, as the case may be. If found at variance with them, I leave such points to antiquaries who make genealogy a more exclusive study than would suit either the limits or the nature of a work like the present.

I must further confess that, supposing our subject were exclusively genealogical, few of the *Heraldic Pedigrees*, which refer to this early period, could be cited even as respectable traditions.

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<sup>33</sup> *Blakeway MSS., Parochial Notices*, vol. i, p. 146.



The notices of minor tenancies in this Manor relate principally to one family, holding apparently under the Lords of Upton, but itself of some consideration.

In November, 1221, Edith, widow of Herbert Pistor, sued William le Harpur (her step-son) for one-third of a hide in Upton, as her dower. William proved that Herbert, his father, obtained the land with a former wife, Dionisia, William's mother, so that a second wife could have no claim of dower therein.<sup>34</sup>

At the same time, Adam le Breton had a suit against William le Harpur, which he failed to prosecute. So he and his pledges (Hugh de Upton and Robert de Faintre) were amerced.<sup>35</sup>

The deed by which William Citharista (*i.e.* le Harper) enfeoffed Ralph Pistor here has been already set forth.<sup>36</sup> It must have passed about this time, for William Fitz Aer, the first witness, succeeded after 1221, and Anketill, Clerk of Brug, the second witness, has been already mentioned as attesting earlier in the century.<sup>37</sup>

Moreover, in August, 1226, William le Harpur was found to have disseized Ralph Pistor of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Upton (doubtless part of his previous grant), and had to pay 2s. damages.<sup>38</sup>

In December, 1250, Herbert Fitz Robert (le Bretun) had sued Alan le Harpur for *novel disseisin* in Upton,<sup>39</sup> and the cause being decided, a new writ was granted in 1252, whereby 24 knights were to retry it,<sup>40</sup> and convict the former Jurors (if their verdict proved false). Master Simon de Wanton was Justiciar in each case.

At Salop Assizes, January, 1256, it was decided, that Alan le Harpur had not disseized said Herbert of half a virgate in Upton, for that Herbert was a *villain*, as had previously been proved before Master Simon de Wanton. Alan was *quit*, and Herbert not amerced because of poverty.<sup>41</sup>

8 Nov. 1356, Giles de Erdinton was ordered to try this cause,—but the order is cancelled on the Roll,<sup>42</sup> obviously because the officials in London had entered it without adverting to its previous settlement in the country.

May, 1269, Alan le Harpur had a suit against William de Hupton

<sup>34</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 4 recto.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 7 recto.

<sup>36</sup> *Vide supra*, page 143.

<sup>37</sup> *Vide supra*, page 136.

<sup>38</sup> *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, p. 104.

<sup>39</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 34 Hen. III.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*, 36 Hen. III.

<sup>41</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 2 recto.

<sup>42</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 41 Hen. III, dorso.

(his Lord) for recovery of some right which he had been used to have in William's woods.<sup>43</sup>

In October, 1272, this Alan was one of the Jurors for Stottesden Hundred who served at Salop Assizes.<sup>44</sup> His attestation of a deed of William, Lord of Upton, about this time has already been noticed.<sup>45</sup>

#### THE CHURCH OF UPTON CRESSETT.

It is most probable that Upton was part of the great Saxon Parish of Morville. No Church was built here at *Domesday*, and the founder of one at any subsequent period must have entered into some composition with Shrewsbury Abbey on the subject.

We have pointed out<sup>46</sup> a right of tithes, in some Upton, of Hereford Diocese, as belonging to Salop Abbey early in Stephen's reign; and, though the right does not subsequently appear, nothing is more possible than that it was in this Upton, and that it was surrendered on the foundation of the Parish Church, of course for some ample consideration.

Passing the period when we have analogy only for a guide, we know that in January, 1259, an Assize of *darrein presentment* to Upton Church had then to be tried between William de Upton (then Lord of this Upton) and Richard Foliot,<sup>47</sup> whom I identify with a contemporary Rector of Chetton.

In 1291, the Church of Upton, in the Deanery of Stottesden, was taxed (valued) at £3. 6s. 8d. It was in the first instance assessed to the tenth (6s. 8d.), though under £4. annual value.<sup>48</sup> A note however states, that it was not elsewhere endowed, and in the end it appears to have been exempted.<sup>49</sup>

In 1341, the Church of Upton-super-Egge (Edge), in Stottesden Deanery, is entered as one whose taxation was 5 merks (£3. 6s. 8d.). The assessors of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, in the Parish, accounted only for 17s. The difference arose because there were only two fleeces of wool in the Parish; and no lambs; and "because the vill of Meduleye used to be taxed with Upton, and is

<sup>43</sup> *Plac. apud Gloucest.* 53 Hen. III, memb. 12 dorso.

<sup>44</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 21 recto.

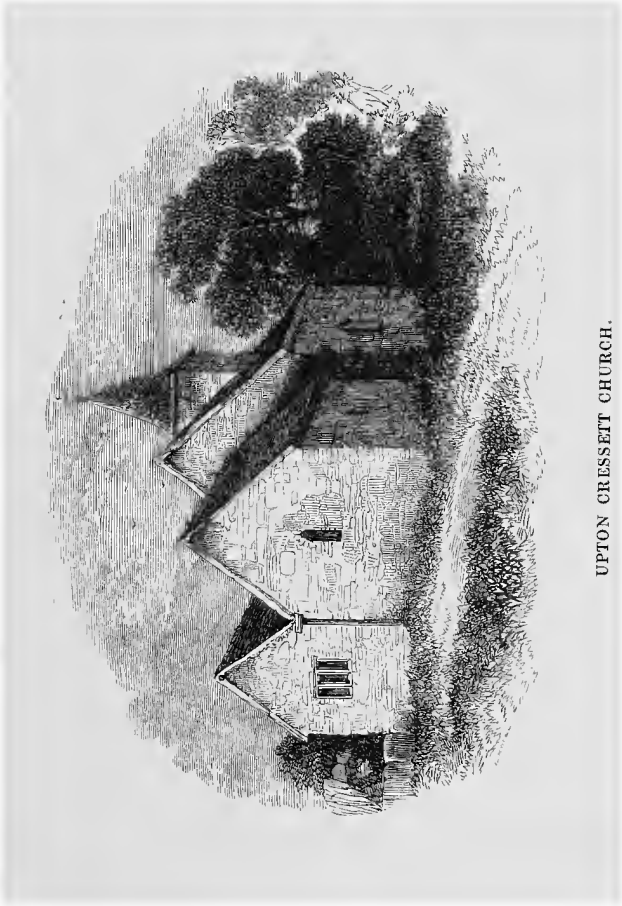
<sup>45</sup> Vide supra, p. 141.

<sup>46</sup> Vide supra, page 36, Note 20.

<sup>47</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 43 Henry III.

<sup>48</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.*, p. 166.

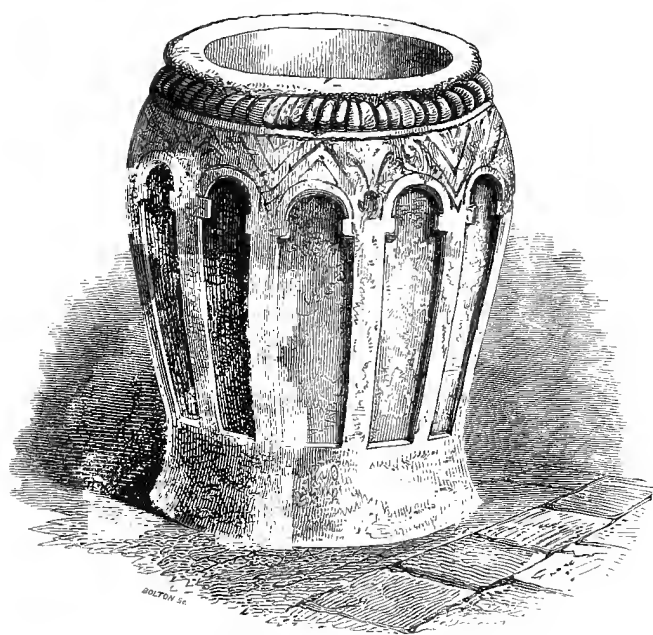
<sup>49</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 176, where two Churches, collectively assessed at £6. 13s., are excused in addition to the ten Churches previously excused. The two were Burwarton and Upton.



UPTON CRESETT CHURCH.







*Rev. J. L. Pettit.*

**FONT, UPTON CRESSETT.**





F.S.A.

DOOR-WAY, UPTON CRESSETT.



now taxed with the Church of Morville; and because 4 virgates lie untilled, and the tenants of the same have withdrawn, by reason of penury. Also the glebe, offerings, and other small tithes, go to make up the great sum (£3. 6s. 8d.), and are not calculated in the said ninth."<sup>50</sup>

In 1534, John ap Howel being Rector of Hopton Cressett, his preferment was valued, in glebe, corn, and other tithes and offerings, at £4. 15s. 8d.; which sum was liable to a charge of 6d. for Arch-deacon's annual synodals.<sup>51</sup>

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

Richard Nowe occurs as Parson of Upton Waryn in 28 Edw. III (1354-5).<sup>52</sup>

John, Rector of Upton, occurs in 29 Edw. III, and may have been the same as—

John atte Broke, the Rector of 46 Edw. III (1372-3).

#### ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS OF THE ORIGINAL CHURCH.

The Church of Upton Cressett, as originally built, might belong to any part of the twelfth century. It consists of a nave and chancel, separated by a rich round-headed arch of four orders, ornamented on the western face, principally with the Chevron.

The font is shaped like a jar, and ornamented with round-headed arches.

The east-window of the chancel is pointed. If this was its original shape, the date of the building will be thrown into a late part of the twelfth century.

The side-windows are round-headed.

A south aisle, of a late period, has been attached to the chancel.

J. L. PETIT.

<sup>50</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum*, 191. Though the tithes of Meadowley belonged in 1291 to Upton Church, and so contributed to its taxation or value, Meadowley itself was not detached from the Parish of Morville. So I interpret this passage. There must have been more than one transaction between the lay Lord of Upton and Meadowley and Salop Abbey, but I have met with no record of any, except one which will be given under Meadowley, and which is not pertinent to the present question.

<sup>51</sup> *Valor. Eccles.*, iii, 211.

<sup>52</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*, in Bibl. Bodl. This is the only instance in which the place has occurred to me as Upton Warin. If Mr. Blakeway be right in assigning the first entry above to this Upton, it can only have acquired the name of Warin from Warin the Sheriff, its possessor before *Domesday*, or else from some feoffee, probably as early as Henry the First's time.

## Meadowley.

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DUGDALE'S and the usual *dictum*, as to the termination *ley*, viz. that it must either be referred to the British *lle* (*locus*, a place), or to the Saxon *ley* (untilled ground), has been already recognised in two instances.<sup>1</sup> This theory is however found to be much too indefinite to remain content with.

The prevalence of the termination, its greater frequency in East Shropshire than in the West of the County, or even in Wales and Cornwall, and its being oftener associated with Saxon than British words, are reasons which make the Saxon termination most probable in cases which will at present occur to us. The only exception must be where the syllable is combined with another word obviously British.

But there is a great doubt whether the Saxon compound itself be always one and the same. If *ley* means "untilled ground," its entry into such names as Meadowley, Cornley, Oatley, Cloverley, and Ploughley, involves a simple contradiction. If it means "a plain," we yet find it in various names where it is anything but apposite. The truth seems to be, that there are two Saxon words which both enter into composition, and, being derived from a common root, have been confused.

The first, *lea*, is far the most common. It is Latinized *lega*, enters into Leighton, and is the termination of a host of names which our ancestors wrote with the final *leg*, rather than *ley*, Meadowley being one of the number. It is a doubt whether this Saxon word involved any idea as to tillage, or the nature of the surface in localities to which it attached. The word in its primary sense signified *law*, its secondary meaning was a district marked out by law or custom. Thus in Saxon usage it was nearly equivalent to our word "Manor."

Another Saxon word *læye*, *læyu* or *læppe* (a pasture or common), originated such a local name as Layston, in contrast to Leighton, and probably had the same root as our terms *lea*, *ley*, *leys*, and

<sup>1</sup> Vide *supra*, under Billingsley and Tasley.

*leazow*; and this root (the germ both of *leaz*, law, and *lære*, pasture) conveyed a common idea (viz. something fixed or laid down) to each derivative.

The meaning then of *Mædepe-leaz* is "the district of meadows," a much more intelligible idea than that of "untilled meadow ground," with which the old rules of investigation would have supplied us.

In *Domesday* the place is thus noticed.<sup>2</sup>—

Helgot holds (of Earl Roger) *Madolea*. Austin held it. Here is half a hide geldable. He (Austin) was a free man. Richard holds it of Helgot. There is (arable) land (enough) for vi ox-teams. In demesne is i team, and (there are) iii serfs and i radman, with half a team, and (there are) ii boors. In time of King Edward it was worth 30s. Now it is worth 11s. When (Helgot) received it it was worth 2s.

The name of Augustine or Austin naturally became common among the Christianized Anglo-Saxons. It was borne by more than one Shropshire landowner in the Confessor's time.

Of Helgot, the Norman Lord of Meadowley as of other Manors, we shall have often to speak. He was one of Earl Roger's Barons, and founder of the Castle which still bears his name.

Of Richard, his *Domesday* tenant at Meadowley, nothing positive can be stated, but there are circumstances in the subsequent history of the place which make it not improbable that he was no other than Richard de Belmeis. This person was certainly in Shropshire about the time of *Domesday*, and attested the Earl Roger's charter to Shrewsbury Abbey, which must have followed that Record very shortly, and which bespeaks some importance of position for each witness.<sup>3</sup>

He afterwards became Viceroy of the County, and Bishop of London. His temporal and ecclesiastical possessions in Shropshire were at his death considerable.

Meadowley may have been the germ of the former, and it certainly went in a succession analogous to the lay fiefs of Richard de Belmeis. Of him and his representatives we shall have much to say elsewhere.

The next notice after *Domesday* which we can associate with Meadowley belongs to the year 1165, when Ranulf de Belmeis

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 258, b, 1.

<sup>3</sup> He also attests a deed of the Earl's

already recited (Vide supra, p. 111) and proved to have passed in or about 1086.

appears as holding one fee of *old feoffment* under Herbert de Castello.<sup>4</sup> These two we know to have been the then representatives of Richard de Belmeis and Helgot, before mentioned.

In 1180, among fines imposed, by Justices of the Forest, on residents in this neighbourhood, Richard de Beaumes, a cadet of the family, and probably interested in Meadowley, was amerced 2s. for *waste*.<sup>5</sup>

But a subinfeudation of this Manor must have taken place at an early period, whereby the Lords of the neighbouring Upton will have acquired the substantive interest here. The mesne tenure of de Belmeis consequently receives little notice.

Hence we find that Hugh, Lord of Upton, early in the thirteenth century, granted to Morville Church a parcel of land in his vill of Medeweleg, to hold for ever, at a rent of 12*d.*—Witnesses: Hugh de Kinsedeleg, Richard then Chaplain of Mamerfeld, Andrew de Northleg.<sup>6</sup>

Hence also, in 1240, when Thomas Manduit held the Barony of Castle Holgate, Hugh de Opton or Upton is said to hold one fee thereof in “Medewelee or Medeweleg,”<sup>7</sup> the mesne tenure of Belmeis being ignored.

In 1255, however, Thomas de Upton is returned, by the Stottesden jurors, as holding vi. virgates of land under Roger de Beumes in Medwele. “And he did suit twice a year to the Court of William Manduit, at the Castle of Hologod, and he owed ward at that Castle in time of war for forty days, for the fee of one knight.”<sup>8</sup>

In 1284, when the Barony of Castle Holgate was in the family of Burnel, John de Hopton (*i. e.* Upton) is entered as holding Medeueleye of Robert Burnel by one knight’s fee.<sup>9</sup> Philip Burnel died in 1294, and amongst his Lordships which then passed to the Crown, during a minority of the heir, was Medewelley.<sup>10</sup> By reason of this temporary seizin of the Crown, and the corresponding death of the sub-tenant in 1301, the Escheator was ordered to take into

<sup>4</sup> *Lib. Nig.* i, 147.

<sup>5</sup> *Plac. Forest.*, Chapter House, Westm. No. 1, Salop, memb. 2. The places, if I rightly assign them to their owners, follow in this order:—Upton (Cressett), Abdon (Priors), Ditton, Wheathill, Meadowley, Barrow, Willey, &c.

<sup>6</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 105.

<sup>7</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 46, 48, 50.

<sup>8</sup> *Rot. Hund.*, ii, 82. Soon after this

period, the suit of Medueleg and Leye (Lye) was withdrawn from the Hundred of Stottesden. The King of Almain and the Templars who successively held the Barony of Castle Holgate thus interfered with the rights of the Crown (*Rot. Hund.* ii. 108. Vide *infra*, p. 157, under Bold).

<sup>9</sup> *Kirby’s Quest.*

<sup>10</sup> *Calend. Inquis.*, vol. i, 120.



the King's hand all the lands of which "John de Upton, who held of the heir of Philip Burnel," died seized.<sup>11</sup> In 30 Edw. I (1301-2) an Inquest was held as to the tenures of the late John de Upton. Meduleye and Upton are the two Manors enumerated; and mention is also made of the suit of Court which the deceased had owed to Castle Holgate.<sup>12</sup>

This John de Upton (as has been stated under Upton Cressett) also left a son under age, so that the Manor of Meadowley was in the King's hands for several years, except a third thereof, which the widow of the deceased Tenant had in dower. An escheator's account, which has occurred in a fragmentary Roll in custody of the Queen's Remembrancer, acknowledges 20s. to have been received "from two parts of the land which was John de Upton's in Maddeleye, and which was *in manu Regis* by reason of the minority of John, son and heir of John, who holds of the heir of Philip Burnel," &c. The receipt is for the period commencing Michaelmas, 1305, and ending October 3, 1306, when the heir had livery.<sup>13</sup>

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## Charlcott and Bold.

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Ceopl and cor, two Saxon words signifying an husbandman and his abode, constitute one of these names. The other, more simple still, is the Saxon Bold, a house or hall.

The two places formed one *Domesday* Manor, represented under Cerlecote, which, however, the Record would appear to classify in another Hundred than Alnodestreu.<sup>1</sup>

This must be explained.—The *Domesday* notice of Meadowley occupies four lines of the MS. Opposite the third of these lines is the marginal affix, "In Recordin Hund." (clearly out of place, and to be removed to a lower position.) By assigning it to the second

<sup>11</sup> *Originalia*, 29 Edw. I, *Rot.* 10.

<sup>12</sup> *Calend. Inquis.*, vol. i, 173. Where Meduleye has been printed Seduleye, ac-

ording to a common mistake before noticed (*supra*, p. 65, note 170).

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Forinsec.*, penes Remem. Reg.

<sup>1</sup> Vide *supra*, page 24.

line below that against which it stands, we have it opposite Cerlecote. It must, however, be still out of place, for no *vill* corresponding to Cerlecote can be traced in the area of the old Hundred of Recordin. By removing the affix two lines lower still, we have it in connexion with the Manor of Ofitone (Uffington), where its applicability can admit of no doubt.

After thus restoring an erroneous affix to its proper place in the margin, the *Domesday* notice of Cerlecote, as following Meadowley, will remain under Alnodestreu Hundred. There we find a place too (Charlcott) exactly reflecting the older name.

Bold is not mentioned singly in *Domesday*. It was in fact involved in Cerlecote; but, at a later period, Bold became the *caput* of the combined Manor, and Charlcott the member.

*Domesday* notices the whole thus :—<sup>2</sup>

The same Helgot holds Cerlecote (of the Earl), Elsi held it (in time of King Edward) and was free. Here is half a hide, geldable. There is (arable) land (sufficient) for 2 ox-teams. It is and was waste. It used to be worth 10s. (in time of King Edward.)

A Saxon Alsi (with the name written Elsi or Ælsi) was Lord of Corfton and Middlehope, in the adjoining *Domesday* Hundred of Culvestan; and whereas no such name appears in the Hundred of Recordin, we have herein a circumstance which increases the probability of our having rightly placed Cerlecote in Alnodestreu Hundred.

We will not yet speak of Helgot or his descendants otherwise than when they may occur as the seignoral Lords of Bold and Charlcott.

They seem to have granted a feoffment of this Manor at least as early as the time of Henry I, and their tenants thenceforth to have taken the local name.

The earliest tenant occurring in this position was probably that Odo de la Boude who stands the third of four witnesses to the deed whereby Herebert, son of Hologod, Lord of the Castle, enfeoffed Herlewyn de Butailles in Dudmaston and Posthorne.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 258, h. 1. The three periods of *Domesday* valuation are very observable in this entry, the time when the Manor *was* waste, being that at which it came to Helgot's hands.

<sup>3</sup> This charter is in possession of W. W. Whitmore, Esq., of Dudmaston.

There are many reasons for assigning it to a date anterior to the death of Henry I (1135). There are also objections to so early a date. Both shall be stated and the charter given in its proper place. It certainly passed in the twelfth century.

The *feodary* of 1165 gives R. de Holda as holding, by service of one knight, under Herebert de Castello. This fee was of old feoffment, and the name of the feoffee should be written R. de Bolda.<sup>4</sup>

About the year 1190 died one Robert de Girrhos, a person apparently of much consideration in Shropshire during the reigns of Stephen and Henry II. He was not only a tenant *in capite* of the Crown, but held under the two Baronies of Clun and Castle Holgate. His successor, another Robert de Girrhos, had not livery till some years after his death. In the interval the King's Escheator, or the Sheriff, accounts to the Exchequer for the profits of his lands. Most of them were held under Castle Holgate, which also was at the time in the King's hand. An Escheator's roll for the year 1195 is preserved, and contains that officer's receipt (*inter alia*) of 8s. of the *ferm* of Cherlecote, which was Robert de Girros', for a whole year, viz., from March 1194 to March 1195.<sup>5</sup>

In the *octaves* of St. Michael, 1200, in the King's Court at Westminster, a suit, wherein Herbert de la Bude was plaintiff against Alan de Mara, his brother, and Robert de Giros, was postponed till the *octaves* of St. Martin (Nov. 18), by writ of Geoffry Fitz-Piers<sup>6</sup> (then Chief Justice of England).

On the day of adjournment (Nov. 18), the Justices of the King's Bench have the King's mandate to adjourn the hearing of this cause, which concerned four *carrucates* of land in Boude, till the *octaves* of St. Andrew (Dec. 7); then to come before the King himself wherever he may be in England. And the Justices are to send this writ and the former writ (that of Geoffry Fitz-Piers) and a record of the plea.<sup>7</sup> On the day given (Dec. 7, 1200) King John was at Clarendon. Then and there, or shortly after, and elsewhere, he doubtless heard the pleadings which follow. "Herbert de Bouda sues for three hides in Bouda against Robert de Girros and Alan de Mara as his seizin and inheritance, which he (Herbert) entrusted to the custody of Alan; and the said Alan, for the sake of staving off and taking away the right of Herbert, committed them to Robert de Girros; and that such is the case, and that he (Herbert) was seized thereof as of fee, by taking *esplees* thereof, &c., he offers to prove by Adam de Kerleton, or by Henry de Witeleg. And Alan comes into Court and defends his right, and says that he

<sup>4</sup> *Lib. Nig. i, 147. apud* Hearne. The error is not one of the Editor. It is in the original also.

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Escaetarum, inter Rot. Pip. 7 R. I.*

<sup>6</sup> *Plac. apud Westm. Mich. Term,* 2 John (Office No. 13).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem* (Office No. 14).

has \* \* \* \* \*,<sup>8</sup> and he calls them to warranty. And afterwards he said that he had a warrantor, but he named no one. And Herbert petitions that it may be reckoned in his favour how the other had entered upon his reply without those charters (*cartillis*). And Robert de Girros was present and contradicted Herbert in no particular. A day was given to the parties in the *octaves* of Hilary (Jan. 20, 1201) to hear sentence before the Lord King, wherever he may be in England."<sup>9</sup>

On Jan. 20, 1201, the King was at Louth (Lincolnshire), and it was probably about that time that "Herbert de Bouda offered himself on the fourth day (after the day given) against Alan de la Mara and Robert de Giros, in a plea about three hides in Bouda.<sup>10</sup> The defendants came not nor essoigned themselves, and yet the day was given them *in banco*. The sentence was, that the land (in dispute) be taken into the King's hand, and the parties summoned to hear judgment at Midlent; and Herbert names as his attorney Henry de Witeleg."

At the time appointed (probably Midlent or March 4, 1201, when the King was at Brotherton, Yorkshire, or soon after), Herbert de Boud again appeared by his attorney *coram Rege*. The preliminaries were rehearsed, and the defendants not appearing it was ordered by the Court that Herbert should have seizin of the land *for default* of the defendants.<sup>11</sup>

At Shrewsbury Assizes, Oct. 1203, Herbert le Boude presented himself in due course against Richard Brcitone in a suit concerning one virgate in la Boude. The defendant not appearing, the land was seized into the King's hand, and he (the defendant) summoned to appear at Worcester before the same Justices on a future day.<sup>12</sup>

Early apparently in the thirteenth century Robert de Bolda gave and confirmed to Alan de la Mare his father's brother (*patruo suo*) for his homage and service and for 6*d.* rent, one virgate in Bold, half of which was held by Haer and half by Geoffry Ribel, with a messuage, croft, &c.—Witnesses: Thomas Mauduit (then Lord of Castle Helgot) and Robert his brother.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>8</sup> A word is defaced here, probably equivalent to "*cartillas*" below.

<sup>9</sup> *Placita coram Rege* (Office No. 49), memb. 6 dorso. This Roll is falsely dated of the 10th and 11th years of John. The internal evidence proves the date assigned above, but the Roll also contains Pleas heard by the King in Hilary and

Easter Terms 1201, and at various places.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 8 recto.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 10 dorso.

<sup>12</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 5 dorso.

<sup>13</sup> *Haughmond Chartulary*, fo. 37. *Tit. Bolda*, which is also the authority for the five following deeds.

Thomas Mauduit confirmed to Alan de la Mare the grant of Robert de Bolda his kinsman (*cognati sui*).—Witnesses: Robert Mauduit, Robert Gyros.

Alan de la Mare gave, to the sustenance of the sick brethren in the Infirmary of Haghmon Abbey, one virgate of land in Bolda which Haer and Geoffrey Ribel held, together with a messuage and croft which Edric held, a rent of 6*d.* at Michaelmas being reserved to the Lord of the said *vill*.—Witnesses: Thomas Mauduit, Robert his brother.

Adam, Lord of Bold, confirms the grant of Alan de la Mare to Haghmon Abbey, of a virgate in support of the Infirmary, and releases and quit-claims to the Abbey a rent of 6*d.* payable to the Lord of the *vill*. He also confirms the half virgate which William the miller held, and also four acres.—Witnesses: Sir Thomas de Costentin, John Fitz-Heri.

Robert de Bold releases the said four acres and all his claim in the said *vill* to Haghmon Abbey whereof there had been pleas before Thomas de Muleton, Maurice de Gant, &c., Justices Itinerant at Salop, in the eleventh year of King Henry son of King John.<sup>14</sup>—Witnesses: Roger the Dean, Hugh the Parson, Pain Carbonel.

The Abbot of Haghmon leases to William, son of Robert the miller of Bold, half a virgate and four acres, which his father Robert held of the Abbey. The lease is for life, at a rent of 3*s.* 6*d.*—Witnesses: Thomas Botterell, &c.

In 1240, Robert de la Beude, Boinde, or Baude, is represented as holding one fee of Thomas Mauduit's Barony in this locality.<sup>15</sup>

In 1255, the Stottesden Jurors returned as follows—

Robert de Bolde is Lord of Bolde, and holds *in capite* of William Mauduyt for one knight's fee: wherein is half a hide of land, and he does suit to the Hundred Courts, and pays the Sheriff 2*d.* *stretward*, and for *motfe* 4*d.*<sup>16</sup>

Robert de Bolde was himself of the Jury on this occasion. In the following year he was reported as one of those who, holding £15. of lands, was not knighted.<sup>17</sup>

Feb. 1262. This Robert having been a *Regarder* of the Forests of Morf and Shirlet, was fined for making a bad return.<sup>18</sup>

His successor seems to have been Adam de la Bold, who, on

<sup>14</sup> These justices were in eyre at Salop, in Oct. 1227 (*Fine Rolls*). The Assize Roll is lost.

<sup>15</sup> *Testa de Nevill*. 46, 48.

<sup>16</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 82, 81.

<sup>17</sup> *Dukes' Antiq.*, Intr., p. vii.

<sup>18</sup> *Plac. Forestæ*, 46 Henry III, memb. 6.

Jan. 26, 1270, sat as a Juror on the Inquest after the death of Robert Corbett of Chetton.<sup>19</sup>

Hugh Mortimer, of Chelmarsh, was sheriff of Shropshire from March, 1271, to January, 1273. His Under-Sheriff seems to have been John Baril, amongst whose extortions it is related that he took from Adam de Bold 20s., because Adam refused to present him to the Church of Bold.<sup>20</sup>

At the Assizes of Oct. 1272, this Adam was a defaulter in proper attendance. He was also reported as of full age, the holder of a knight's fee, and yet not a knight.<sup>21</sup>

Nov. 27, 1274, he sat as a Juror on the Inquest for Stottesden Hundred, and made complaint of the conduct of the Constable of Corfham, who took 10s. from him for postponement of a suit which he had against him about the enclosing of a wood, which Adam's ancestors had held enclosed just as it was now. The same Constable had also fined the *vill* of Bold 40s. because it disregarded a summons of his, which by right and custom it was not bound to regard.<sup>22</sup>

In 1284, Adam de Bolde is returned as holding Bold, by one knight's fee, of Robert Burnell, of the fee of Castle Hologod.<sup>23</sup>

At the Assizes of Sept. 1292, Adam de Bolde is returned as holding a knight's fee, being of age, and yet not a knight.<sup>24</sup> He occurs as a Juror 15 March, 1301;<sup>25</sup> and in 1306 Adam del Bolde was Manucaptor for Richard de Harley, Knight of the Shire;<sup>26</sup> and in March, 1316, Malcolumb, son of the said Richard, is returned as Lord of Bolde.<sup>27</sup>

Some further notices of events and persons connected with this Manor shall be given in order of time.—About 1210, a Charter of Thomas Mauduit to Salop Abbey is attested by Robert Mauduit, Robert de Girros, and Walter de Mara.<sup>28</sup>

In August, 1226, a trial came before the King at Salop, as to whether Warin junior (*juvenis*) de la Bolde had disseized Eva, widow of Richard de Den, of her free tenement in Den. Warin appears, and Eva then acknowledged that her husband, whilst

<sup>19</sup> *Escheats*, 54 Hen. III, No. 53.

<sup>20</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 109. Mr. Blakeway's list of Sheriffs at this period is both incomplete and inaccurate.

<sup>21</sup> *Assize Roll*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso.

<sup>22</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 107, 109.

<sup>23</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>24</sup> *Assizes*, 20 Edw. I, *Plac. Coron.*, memb. 20 recto.

<sup>25</sup> *Esch.* 29 Ed. I, No. 7.

<sup>26</sup> *Parl. Writs*, i, 480.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. iv, 398.

<sup>28</sup> *Salop Chart.*, No. 13, also No. 295.

living, had delivered the tenement to Warin, adding that it was her marriage portion. She is judged to be *in misericordia* for false claim.<sup>29</sup>

At Salop Assizes, January, 1256, Katherine, widow of Roger de Cherlescote, sued William de Cherlescote and several others for *thirds* of small tenements in Cherlescote and Bolde.<sup>30</sup> They however accorded their differences; and a fine passed Feb. 3, 1256, whereby William de Chercote, Roger de la Bolde, Henry de Sutbury (Sidbury), William le Chapclayn, John le Petit, Hugh de Hereford, Brice de Cleybury, and John de Dreyton, tenants, conceded thirds to said Katherine, in divers small parcels in Bold and Cherlecote for life.<sup>31</sup>

At the same Assizes, Roger, son of Roger de Weston, appeared against Roger le Mouner, of Clebyri, in a suit to oblige him to keep to his agreement about a moiety of Cherlecot Mill. The defendant appeared not, and having made previous defaults, the Sheriff was ordered to distrain, &c. till he appear.<sup>32</sup>

It appears that the King of Almain, during his seizin of the Barony of Castle Holgate, withdrew from the Hundred of Stottesden the suit of the *vill* of Bolde, and the suit of William Fitz Alan de Cherlecote, and of his under-tenants in Cherlecote, and appropriated the said suits to his own liberty of Castle Helgot.<sup>33</sup> The said King of Almain demised, about A.D. 1263, his interest in this Barony to the Templars, who, in November 1274, still withheld the same suits from Stottesden Hundred.

It also appears that Roger de Mortimer, of Wigmore, after the siege of Kenilworth (1266), amongst other encroachments on the rights of the Crown, withdrew from Stottesden Hundred the suit of William de Pilardinton and his under-tenants in the *vill* of Cherlecote.

William de Cherlecote occurs as a Juror, 2 Dec. 1259,<sup>34</sup> as Regarder of the King's Forests, Feb. 1262,<sup>35</sup> and as Juror<sup>36</sup> on a Forest Inquest, March 13, 1262.

About this time one Henry de Bolda occurs as witness to a Middleton-Priors deed.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>29</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, 10 Hen. III, memb. 4 dorso.

<sup>30</sup> *Assize Roll*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 9 dorso. This Katherine de Cherlecote seems also to have had an interest in Alveley (Rot. Pat. 41 Hen. III, dorso).

<sup>31</sup> *Pedes finium*, 40 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>32</sup> *Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, m. 15 dorso.

<sup>33</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 108.

<sup>34</sup> *Inq.*, 43 Hen. III, No. 32.

<sup>35</sup> *Plac. Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III.

<sup>36</sup> *Inq.*, 46 Hen. III, No. 31.

<sup>37</sup> Charter in possession of Robert Gardner, Esq., of Leighton.

On July 15, 1269, a fine was levied, at Northampton, "between Philip Fitz-William de Cherlecote, plaintiff, and William Fitz-Alan de Cherlecote, deforciant, of 1 messuage,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a carrucate, and 12*d.* rent, in Cherlecote and La Neuton (Newton, near Bold), whereof was a plea of covenant. William acknowledged the right of Philip, who granted a life-lease thereof to William, reserving an annual rent of 6*d.* and the services due to the Lord of the Fee. After death of William the premises shall revert to Philip and his heirs."<sup>38</sup>

At Salop Assizes, Oct. 1292, Philip de Cherlecote served on the Stottesden Jury, which reported William de Pylardinton and others as defaulters in due attendance.<sup>39</sup>

On 15 March, 1301, the Inquest on the death of Roger de Bagesore reported, that he had held (*inter alia*) half a virgate of John de Drayton, at Cherlecote, by service of 3*s.* 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per annum.<sup>40</sup>

#### THE CHURCH OF BOLD.

The earliest notice of a Church or Chapel here belongs to the year 1271-72, when Adam de la Bold refused to present an extortionate Under-Sheriff, John Baril, to the same.<sup>41</sup>

In 1291 the Church of Bolde, in Stottesden Deanery, was valued at £4. 6*s.* 8*d.* The Co-rectors of Castle Holgate seem also to have had three portions or pensions in this Church. The names of the then Portionists were Richard de Eyton, Matthew, and Robert, and their pensions, 3*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.* 3*d.*, and 3*s.* 3*d.*, respectively.<sup>42</sup>

The total valuation, thus made up, is repeated in the Inquisitions of 1341, where the taxation of Bolde Chapel is put at £4. 16*s.* 8*d.* But the assessors and vendors of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, in the Parish, valued such produce only at £2. 6*s.* 8*d.*; so much less than the taxation, because 2 virgates lie untilled in the parish, and the tenants have quitted through poverty; and because there are no sheep there; and because the small tithes, offerings, and glebe, and other profits of the Church, go to make up the taxation<sup>43</sup> (and are not to be reckoned in the ninth).

<sup>38</sup> *Pedes finium*, 53 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>39</sup> *Assize Roll*, 20 Ed. I, Plac. Coron. memb. 51 recto.

<sup>40</sup> *Escheats*, 29 Ed. I, No. 7.

<sup>41</sup> Vide *supra*, p. 156.

<sup>42</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.*, p. 166. See also the *Taxation* of the Church of Castle Holgate, in Wenlock Deanery (page 167 of the same Record).

<sup>43</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum* p. 190.



The *Valor* of 1534 mentions neither Church nor Chapel here; but among the Spiritualities of the White Nuns of Brewood was a pension of 6s. 8d. arising from Bolld "juxta Bottrell Aston."<sup>44</sup> Both Bould and Charlcott are now in the Parish of Aston Bottrell. Parts of the north, south, and west walls of the Chapel remain and are used as a wain-house.<sup>45</sup>

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## Faintree.

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THE name of this place will entitle it to a British origin. The last syllable, *tre*, so common in Wales and Cornwall, signifies a village or hamlet. As to *Fain*, *Faven*, or *Favon*, I suppose it to be the British *Ffaën* (a bean), or *Ffuon* (beans).

The etymological association between this place and Daventrey (Northants) is observable. The Daventrei and Faventrei of *Domesday* have become respectively Daintree and Faintree; the former being, however, only changed in pronunciation, while the latter is also written in the contracted form.

With regard to the *Domesday* state of Faintree, it is not easily deducible from the printed edition of that Record, inasmuch as notices of two other Manors are mixed up with this, and thus the whole passage is left unintelligible. A glance at the original shows, however, that a later scribe, using different ink, has added a supplement to the previous matter, and carelessly inserted the said supplement between two members of the same sentence. Thus, what is only marked as parenthetical in the original, by being written in a different hand, loses all distinctiveness whatever when printed in an uniform type and without annotation.

Renning the clauses which treat of Faintree in *Domesday* we learn as follows:—

The same<sup>1</sup> Walcheline holds Faventrei (of the Earl). Ulchetel, Archetel, Uluiet, Ælwi, Ordwi, and Ordric, held it, and those

<sup>44</sup> *Valor Eccles.*, iii, 194.

<sup>45</sup> *Dukes' Antiq. Shropshire*, Appendix, page xi.

<sup>1</sup> This Walcheline also held Grinshill under the Earl (*Domesd.* fo. 257, b. 1).

Thanes were free. Here are two hides, geldable. The (arable) land is sufficient for five ox-teams. In demesne there is one ox-team and a half; and (there are) one serf, two villains, and five boors, with two ox-teams. In time of King Edward it was worth 27*s.*, now (it is worth) 20*s.* He (Walcheline) found it waste.<sup>2</sup>

Walcheline's tenure here was either by serjeantry (a matter which *Domesday* omits), or became so in the time of Henry I, when tenants of the Earl became tenants *in capite*.

At all events, a Stottesden Jury,<sup>3</sup> two centuries after *Domesday*, calling a former, and probably this, tenant, "Walcheline de Fayntre," recorded his tenure to have been by the serjeantry which will presently be described.

The successor of Walcheline, one century after *Domesday*, was Robert de Fayntre, who occurs in November, 1194, as *recognizor*, in a trial which concerned land at Holicott, or in the neighbourhood.<sup>4</sup>

When, at Michaelmas, 1203, the Sheriff accounted for the fourth scutage of King John's reign, Robert de Fentre paid half a merk for his serjeantry, the said scutage being assessed at 2 merks on each knight's fee.<sup>5</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1204, and for King John's fifth scutage (which was 2½ merks on each knight's fee) Robert de Fenitree had paid 20*s.*<sup>6</sup>

In 1211, the serjeantry of Robert de Fayntre is returned as consisting in the service of one foot-soldier, with a bow and arrows, in the King's army in Wales.<sup>7</sup>

In November, 1221, Robert de Faintre was pledge of Adam le Breton, in a suit against William le Harper.<sup>8</sup> The latter was of Upton, in this neighbourhood.

In 1255, the tenure of this Manor was returned by the Stottesden Jurors as follows:—"Adam de Faintre is Lord of Faintre, and holds *in capite* of the Lord the King, for service of one *serjeant*, with bow and arrows, when the King shall be in North Wales. Wherein is one hide and a half of land: and he (Adam) does suit to the Hundred (of Stottesden), and pays to the Sheriff, for *stretward*, 6*d.*, and for *motfee*, 12*d.*"<sup>9</sup>

The diminution of half a hide from the *Domesday* measurement

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 257, b. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, Salop. emmb. 20 recto.

<sup>4</sup> *Rot. Curia Regis*, vol. 1, p. 123.

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 5 John, Salop.

<sup>6</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6 John, Salop.

<sup>7</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 55.

<sup>8</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 7 recto.

<sup>9</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 82.

is noticeable, but may perhaps be accounted for by a correspondent increase in the *hidage* of the neighbouring Manor of Chetton.

At the Assizes of January, 1256, Adam de Feyntre sat as a Juror for the Hundred of Stottesden.<sup>10</sup>

In February, 1262, he appears as one of the *Regards* of the King's forest in Shropshire.<sup>11</sup>

About 1267 he attests a grant of the Advowson of Chetton, to be hereafter noticed.<sup>12</sup>

On January 26, 1270, he sat as a Juror in the Inquisition as to the estate of Robert Corbet, of Chetton, then deceased.<sup>13</sup>

In 2 Edw. I (1274), Adam de Fayntre was himself dead, having been seized of this Manor.<sup>14</sup> His estate became divided amongst his five daughters and coheirs.

On November 27, 1274, in answer to a question as to the class of persons whose lands had been seized by the Officers of the Crown into the King's hands, the Stottesden Jurors stated, that the lands of Adam de Faintre, when he died, were so seized by Sir John de Erkalewe, then Escheator,<sup>15</sup> and who was still in office. But the Jurors did not know for certain how long the said Escheator held them in the King's hand, but they thought for six weeks.

The same jurors, in reply to a question as to the King's fees and tenants in this Hundred, answered that Richard de Holicote, Hugh le Massun, Peter Chamberlain (Camerarius), Henry le Taylur, and Margery, daughter of Adam de Faintru, hold the Manor of Faintru, of the Lord King *in capite* by serjeantry of finding one footman, with a bow and arrows, to go with the Lord King into Wales when he will levy war, and to stay there till he (the footman) hath shot away his arrows.

A further account of this Manor must involve some notice of each of the five coheireesses among whom it was divided on the death of their father, Adam de Faintru.

1. The eldest of these, Clemence, had married Richard de Holicote, and he, in 1274, had fined for relief of his share. Of this fine he rendered account in 1275.<sup>16</sup>

April 2, 1278. Richard de Holicote sat as a Juror at Brug in an

<sup>10</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III.

<sup>11</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>12</sup> Vide *infra*, under Chetton.

<sup>13</sup> *Inquis.* 54 Hen. III, No. 53.

<sup>14</sup> *Calendar of Escheats*, i, 51.

<sup>15</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 110.

<sup>16</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 3 Ed. I, Salop, quoting *Rot. Orig.* 2 Ed. I.

inquest as to the wastes committed in the Forests of young Richard Fitz Alan.<sup>17</sup>

About 1284 Richard de Holicote is returned as a coparcner in Faintre, but the equipment of the soldier, who was to attend the King in his Welsh wars, is stated to be a bow, three arrows, and a *galtrap* (*terpolus*).<sup>18</sup>

At the Assizes of October, 1292, the Stottesden Jurors gave a confused and inaccurate account of the serjeantries in their Hundred. The serjeantry at Faintre is however valued at 110s., and Richard de Holicote and Clemence his wife still retain their share, though there was some informality, which caused their land to be seized into the King's hand, and them to replevy it, by payment of a merk, till the next Parliament.<sup>19</sup>

In 25 Edw. I (1297), the *Originalia* Rolls contain a precept to the Escheator to seize into the King's hand the lands and tenements which were Clemence's, late the wife of Richard de Holicote.<sup>20</sup> In that year too there was an Inquest as to the same Clemence and her license to alienate one messuage and half a carrucate of land in Faintre.<sup>21</sup>

In March, 1316, John de Knokyn is returned as sole Lord of Faintre,<sup>22</sup> and an Inquest on his death in 14 Edw. II (1320-1) would seem to imply his possession of most of the Manor;<sup>23</sup> but these particulars belong to a later era.

2. Henry le Taylor (*alias* Cissor) who married Alice, the second daughter and coheir of Adam de Faintre, fined for his relief in 1274, and appears like Richard de Holicote on the Pipe Roll of 1275. He was living in October, 1292, and holding his share of Faintre,

<sup>17</sup> *Inquisitions*, 6 Ed. I, No. 90.

<sup>18</sup> *Kirby's Quest*. The word *terpolus* or *tribulus*, which I translate *galtrap*, or *caltrap*, seems to have had more than one meaning. Its primary form was probably the Greek *τριβόλος*, an aquatic plant, which produced a prickly nut of a triangular shape. In its secondary sense it was the name of an implement, used in war, to impede the movements of cavalry, and which consisted of four iron spikes, so attached to a centre as that, any three resting on the ground, the fourth pointed upwards. A missile, of the same shape

and name, seems also to have been used in sieges, and was impelled by a machine called *tribuchulus*. I also think that the *terpolus* above was a missile, but not of so large a kind.

<sup>19</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, Salop, memb. 20 recto. Richard de Holicote was himself on the jury which made these presentments (Ibm. memb. 51 recto).

<sup>20</sup> *Originalia*, 25 Ed. I.

<sup>21</sup> *Inquisitions*, 25 Ed. I, No. 85.

<sup>22</sup> *Nomina Villarum*.

<sup>23</sup> *Inquisitions*, 14 Ed. II, No. 31 (Calendar).

but his wife was dead. He too, on this occasion, had to pay a fine till some question as to his tenure was settled by Parliament.<sup>24</sup>

3. Peter le Chamberlain, who had married Isabel, the third daughter and coheir, appears in 1274 and 1275 as offering and paying a fine for his relief. However, the Records of Trinity Term, 15 Edw. I (1287), are quoted, as showing this same Peter then coming to the Exchequer, and fining half a merk for relief of his share of Faintre, which he holds by serjeantry of Ushery (*hostiarie*) to the King in his army.<sup>25</sup>

In 1292, Peter le Chamberlyn was dead, but Isabella his wife held 1 carrucate (except  $\frac{1}{2}$  a virgate and 3 acres), and the tenure was worth 46s. per annum. She was obliged to join in a fine to prevent the seizure thereof into the King's hand.<sup>26</sup>

4. Margery, the fourth daughter of Adam de Faintre, has been already mentioned, as if unmarried, in November, 1274. In 1275, however, her husband, Henry de la Porte, accounted for her relief.

On March 22, 1278, William de Stapele having represented to the King, that, when he had purchased half a virgate in Fayntre of Margery, *fifth* daughter of Adam de Feyntre, the Sheriff of Salop (being also Escheator of the County) had ejected him, the King desires a Jury to be summoned to report the particulars. The said Jury sat on April 29th following, and returned the service due on the said land as one-fifth of a soldier in Wales, stated its annual value to be 9s. 9d., and that Margery had enfeoffed said William therein; nor did the Jurors think the said land to be an escheat of the King's, nor that his allowance of said sale would be to the King's injury.<sup>27</sup>

In 1292 two tenures are recorded in Fayntre, but it is doubtful which of them represents the share under notice. Warin de Middleton holds half a virgate of the annual value of 5s. : William de Wrocwardyn and Emma his wife, hold half a virgate and 3 acres, of 6s. annual value. Both tenures had something informal in them, probably as involving a transfer unsanctioned by the Crown. Their temporary seizure was the consequence.<sup>28</sup>

5. The fifth (or fourth) daughter of Adam de Faintre was wife of Hugh de Massun (or le Mazun) in November, 1274.

<sup>24</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, ut supra.

<sup>25</sup> *Madox Exchequer*, 220, q., quoting *Trin. Comm.*, 15 Ed. I.

<sup>26</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, ut supra.

<sup>27</sup> *Inquisitions*, 6 Ed. I., No. 75.

<sup>28</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, ut supra.

In 1284, Hugh le Mazun's coparcenery in the serjeantry is returned, though three of the five shares are not set forth.<sup>29</sup>

In October, 1292, Hugo le Mason and Mabil his wife held 1 carrucate (less  $\frac{1}{4}$  virgate). It was worth 50s. per annum. They also joined in a fine to escape temporary disseisin.<sup>30</sup>

Of under-tenancies here, one or two notices occur.—

At Salop Assizes, August, 1226, Philip, son and heir of Philip, recovered against Sibil de Broc (the tenant)  $1\frac{1}{2}$  virgates, 6 acres, and a messuage here.<sup>31</sup>

In October, 1272, William Fitz John de Fentre being dead, his daughter and next heir, Petronilla, recovers one-third of a messuage and a quarter virgate in Westwal, against the tenants (Richard, son of John le Smyht and Jane his wife), of which William, her father, died seized.<sup>32</sup>

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## Chetton.

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Cete, a hut (plural Ceten) and tun, an enclosure, are the two Saxon words presumed to have contributed to the name variously written Ceatinton, Catinton, or Chetton.<sup>1</sup> An *enclosure of huts* probably furnishes a very accurate idea of a Saxon village; but Chetton, before the Conquest, had acquired a comparative dignity which its earliest name by no means implies. The *Domesday* account is as follows:—<sup>2</sup>

“The Earl himself holds Catinton. Godeva, the Countess, held it in time of King Edward.

Here is 1 hide geldable. In demesne are 3 ox-teams; and 6 serfs, 2 female serfs,<sup>3</sup> 4 villains, and 1 boor, with a Priest and

<sup>29</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>30</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, ut supra.

<sup>31</sup> *Abbrev. Plac.* p. 103.

<sup>32</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, 9 dorso.

<sup>1</sup> The letters Ch are found frequently substituted for the Saxon C,—e. g. Cild (child); Ceopl (churl); Cef (chaff).

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 254, a. 1.

<sup>3</sup> For the *ancilla* of *Domesday*, see Introduction to printed *Domesday*, vol. ii, p. xxviii.

a Provost, have 3 ox-teams; and yet there is room for 2 ox-teams. Here is a new mill and 1 league<sup>4</sup> of wood. In time of King Edward, the Manor was worth 100s.; now it is worth 45s."

The Priest, mentioned in the *Domesday* Survey of Chetton, implies the pre-existence of a Church. The latter too is a most probable consequence of the sometime seignury of the Countess Godiva. Chetton must have been part of her dower, and it was not the only Shropshire Manor where she had a similar interest. She was the widow of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, who died August 31, 1057, and the mother of Earl Algar, who died in 1059. How long she survived her husband, and whether she survived her son we are not informed.<sup>5</sup>

Gratitude for some fiscal benefit has, after the manner of Anglo-Saxon idolatry, preserved the memory of this lady in a civic puppet-show, the particulars of which, not altogether decent, may be sought elsewhere. Her personal beauty is also remembered; but her noble lineage is buried in antiquity and doubt,<sup>6</sup> whilst her intercessory cares in the cause of religion are wholly forgotten. All praise be theirs who, living in a barbarous age, have left a name which commands respect, even when associated with a vulgar and tasteless tradition! Tenfold honour be to one who, thus distinguished, was only a woman!

The *Domesday* Hundred of Catinton is not given, but the order

<sup>4</sup> The Annotators give no other explanation of the *leuca* or *leuga* of *Domesday*, except that which implies a measure of length. It is obvious that, in such passages as the above, an *areal* measure is intended by the word which, in default of any English equivalent, I have translated *league*. As the question is one which can only be solved by the contextual circumstances under which the word appears in *Domesday*, I may, for the present, postpone it.

<sup>5</sup> A Godeva is mentioned as holding Madeley, in Staffordshire, after the Conquest (*Domesday*, fo. 249, a. 2), but her identity with the Countess seems too much to assume at once.

<sup>6</sup> The Countess Godeva is said to have been sister of Thorold, Saxon Sheriff of Lincolnshire. This statement is rather corroborated than contradicted by one or

two hints of *Domesday*, and it is clear that some such consanguinity conveyed to her reputed descendants, the Earls of Chester and Lincoln, a considerable interest in the latter country. A recent publication (The Topographer and Genealogist) commenced with a most able article on the old Earldom of Lincoln. The writer mentions the Countess Godeva without directly questioning the traditions regarding her; but, according to him, any statement derived from Ingulphus and the Croyland Charters, is to be received with suspicion; moreover, he evidently intends to exclude Godeva from the Ancestry of the forementioned Earls. For the particulars which Dugdale adopted concerning her, I must refer to his Baronage (Vol. i, pp. 9, 10) and History of Warwickshire (Vol. i, p. 135 in Thomas' Edition).

of its mention, the circumstances of its tenure, and its geographical position, all combine to fix it in Alnodestreu.

The Earl holding it in demesne, in 1085, was, as we have seen, enabled to grant, about 1086, a third of the tithes of Ceatinton to his Collegiate Church of Quatford.<sup>7</sup> No subsequent mention has, however, occurred of tithe possessed here by the Canons of Bridgnorth; and, this usual correspondence wanted, we may be mistaken as to the locality of the Earl's grant.

It was probably after the forfeiture of the Norman Earls, and by King Henry I, that Chetton was granted to a subject.

Who was the original Feoffee we know not, but it was one who also had a grant of Great Berwick (near Shrewsbury), from the Crown, and of Eudon (afterwards Eudon Burnell), from the *antecessors* of Fitz Alan. It is likely that the three grants were nearly contemporary, and it is certain that before King Henry II had reigned twelve years the whole fief had lapsed to a sole heiress, whose Christian name was Damietta. She was ere that time (1166) married to Ranulf de Broe, a Royal favourite, whose notoriety, though great, is little associated with Shropshire. His interest in three several Manors demands, however, that some particulars of him should be here given.

He first occurs in Hampshire, where, in the fiscal year, ending Michaelmas, 1156, he had been exused 8s. 3d., his *quota* of the Danegeld assessable on that County, and also 20s. of the scutage levied on the Knights of the confiscated See of Winchester.<sup>8</sup> In each case this acquittance was directed by writ of the King, as also was 2s. 9d., his share of a *donum* contributed by the said County, in 1158. In the latter year he accounts to the Crown 20s. for *cenorship* of the Royal Forest of *Witingelega*, Hampshire.

It was about this time that Henry II, calling this Ranulf de Broc, his Usher and Mareschall (*Hostiarium et Marescallum suum*) and son of Oyn Porcell, granted him a charter<sup>10</sup> which indicates

<sup>7</sup> The probability arises thus :—If the Norman Earls had granted the Manor, it would hardly have been called *ancient demesne of the Crown* as it afterwards was. Stephen's grants of Crown demesne were cancelled by Henry II. If the latter had first granted the manor, it would have stood on the annual accounts of the Sheriff, under the title, *In terris datis*.

<sup>8</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 2 Hen. II, Hants.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, 4 Hen. II.

<sup>10</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 7 John, memb. 5 recto. It is a singular coincidence that Henry II, evidently on his succession, expedited a Charter to one Radulf Purcell, his Usher, of the ministry and land of Robert Burnell, his uncle (*avunculi*) in England and Normandy, of whomsoever held, as the said Robert Burnell enjoyed the same in time of King Henry I. (Rymer's



both wealth and Royal favour. It confirms to him "the whole land and office of his father, of whomsoever held, all the land of Guldeford which was Reginald de Resting's, his kinsman, and all the land which was Robert Testard's;—also the Magisterial and capital Marshalship of the King's House and Court;—and the whole land of Angemar, as Wido his uncle (avunculus) gave and conceded it to him, by concession of Nigel de Broc<sup>11</sup> and his brethren; and the land of Piperhergh, as he bought it from Osbert de Piperhegh and his heirs, as the Charter of William de Windlesores testifies; and his land of Torncumb, as William and Roger de Pacey rendered it to him, and as the Charter of Ralph de Faye testifies for him; and all other his lands and tenures, be they of what fee soever, which he has reasonably purchased."

The Feodary of 1165 exhibits Ranulf de Broc as holding 1 fee at Piperherge under William de Windsor,<sup>12</sup>  $\frac{1}{2}$  a fee of the Earl of Arundel,<sup>13</sup> and 1 *muntator* of the Barony of Fitz Alan.<sup>14</sup> His tenure *in capite* at Chetton and Berwick is not entered, and a Knight's fee held under the Bishop of Winchester, which in time of King Henry I. had been William Peverel's, was then said to be held by *Roland del Broc*.<sup>15</sup>

But Ranulf de Broc acquired his greatest notoriety by the part which he took in his Master's contest with Archbishop Thomas à Becket. When, about January, 1165, King Henry II had confiscated the See of Canterbury, and pronounced sentence of banishment on the Archbishop's kindred,<sup>16</sup> he committed the execution of his orders to this Ranulf de Broc, who having a previous and personal grudge against Becket, took care to discharge the trust with every circumstance of cruelty. Nor did his share in the

*Fædera*, vol. i, p. 42). I should have concluded Ranulf de Broc, son of Oyn Porcell, to have been the same with Radulf Purcell, but that each is stated to have inherited his Court appointment from a different source. But the question, however interesting, does not appear to belong to Shropshire.

<sup>11</sup> This Nigel de Broc occurs under circumstances of royal favour similar to Ranulf's. In 1158 he was assessed and pardoned five shillings, his *quota* of the *donum* of Salop (*Pipe Roll*, 4 Hen. II); but I have no other notice of his interest

in the County, nor can I surmise where it lay.

<sup>12</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 193, Bucks.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 65, Sussex.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 143, Salop.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 71, Hants.

<sup>16</sup> *Chron. Gervas.* p. 1398. *Imag. Gerv.* 1314. This expulsion of Becket's kindred was not decided upon from any suspicion of their being in correspondence with him. The object was to crowd his retreat at Pontigny with the woca of four hundred exiles. For its success, see Lingard's *Hist. of Engl.*, vol. ii, p. 229.

great contest between Priest and Despot end here. In June, 1166, when Becket, from the pulpit of Vezelay, launched the thunders of the Church against some of Henry's chief ministers, Ranulf de Broc was not forgotten.<sup>17</sup> In a subsequent letter to his Suffragans, the Archbishop gives the reasons for each sentence of excommunication individually.<sup>18</sup> "Ranulf de Broc had seized and detained endowments of the Church of Canterbury, which were of right the provision of the poor; he had arrested, and was still keeping imprisoned, like laymen, the Archbishop's dependants." The struggle, which lasted for more than four years longer, is a subject of too great interest to be epitomized here.—Ranulf de Broc still farmed the vacant See of Canterbury, and Becket remained in exile.<sup>19</sup>

In November 1170 the Archbishop having been apparently reconciled to his Sovereign at Amboise, his return to England was accompanied by a significant hint of Henry's insincerity if not of his own impending fate. He found the shore at Sandwich occupied by the Sheriffs of Kent and Ranulf de Broc, with armed attendants.<sup>20</sup> Whatever their designs, a special conference with John of Oxford, who escorted Becket on the King's behalf, seemed to change or to postpone them. Becket landed on Dec. 1, 1170, without further interruption. Among other things, he brought with him a letter of the King to Prince Henry, ordering the adjustment of his claims on the *honour* of Saltwood. Saltwood Castle was then in custody of Ranulf de Broc, and remained so for a month longer at least. On Dec. 25 (Christmas Day) Becket again excommunicated Ranulf de Broc from the pulpit of Canterbury. On the night of December the 28th, Saltwood Castle sheltered within its walls four men of dark design, who had arrived in haste—from beyond sea—from the Court of Henry.<sup>21</sup> On the morrow these men did a deed before the chapel of St. Benedict, in the Cathedral Church of Canterbury, which astonished all Christendom, which annihilated the peace, palsied the energies and shook the throne of him for whom it was undertaken; which divested his name of each early and romantic association, and left his character for magnanimity a monument of the meanest treachery or the weakest passion.

This deed, which affected the relations of Church and State in

<sup>17</sup> *Dicelo*, 541. *Chron. Gerv.* 1402.

<sup>18</sup> *Hoveden*, 286, a.

<sup>19</sup> In the fiscal year ending Mich. 1168, Ranulf de Broc accounted to the Exche-

quer for the revenues of the two previous years (*Madox Exchequer*, 406, q.)

<sup>20</sup> *Dicelo*, 554. *Chron. Gerv.* 1413.

<sup>21</sup> *Gerv.* 1414.

this country, for centuries, has been called by various names, and among others "The Martyrdom of Saint Thomas"—words which imply something of truth and more of opinion. By it were established those principles to which eight years of the victim's life had been vainly devoted. Becket murdered was to the Church and Priesthood a bulwark of strength, in comparison of which the lordly presence, the blameless reputation, the lofty courage, the austere devotion, the fiery zeal, the aspiring genius of Becket yet alive, had been all as nothing.

But the greatness of the subject must no longer lead us away from our concern with the subordinate actors. Of one of the four faithful servants of King Henry we shall have to speak again, and in connexion with our local history. We shall show specifically in his case that extinction of a line which has been alleged in regard both of him and his companions, and which tradition or opinion usually inserts among the consequences of foul and murderous deeds.<sup>22</sup>

Ranulf de Broc, whatever may have been his complicity in the murder of Becket, was not one of the prominent actors. Henry could therefore retain him in a position to which the more open executors of the royal will are said never to have been recalled. At Michaelmas 1171 he had farmed under the crown the escheated honour of Henry de Essex, some time Constable of England. His account of this trust was not, as usual, rendered in detail at the Exchequer, but his *veredictum* thereon was accepted.<sup>23</sup>

In October, 1173, when the rebel Earl of Leicester landed at Walton, in Suffolk, he first laid siege to Hagenet Castle, which Ranulf de Broc then held for the King. The Castellan's success in this service was not so unequivocal as on former occasions. The preliminaries, which we may presume to have been settled in midnight council at Saltwood, were probably better suited to his capa-

<sup>22</sup> This passage has not been sent to the press without reproof. An article appeared in the *Quarterly Review* of September, 1853, on the "Murder of Thomas à Becket," which has, I believe, attracted, and, I am sure, deserves much attention. The main subject will never be more fairly or ably treated. The writer however, probably from want of interest in the details of the matter, has accepted some second-rate authorities as

to the subsequent history of Becket's four murderers. His notice of William de Tracy applies, I believe, to two individuals of the same name. The posterity of Reginald Fitz Urse continued in England, and became demonstrably and utterly extinct. His relations with Shropshire and Montgomeryshire will bring him appropriately under notice hereafter.

<sup>23</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 17 Hen. II.

city than matters of open warfare. The Castle of Hagenet was taken,—after however a siege of four days.<sup>24</sup> This mischance does not seem to have compromised him with the King; for, about three years later, when Henry, then at Bridgnorth, expedited a Royal Charter to Wenlock Priory, Randal Broc was, with other courtiers, a witness.<sup>25</sup> The time of his death is uncertain,—but we have an approximate statement on the subject. It has been seen above, that in 1165 he held half a knight's fee under the Earl of Arundel. This tenure appears as one of sixty *solidates* of land in subsequent accounts, rendered whilst the honour of Arundel was in the King's hands. Walter, Archbishop of Rouen, who farmed the same from September 1180 to Easter 1187, left his account charged with 6½ years' rent (viz. £19. 10s.) due to the Crown, and which had accrued on the tenement of "Ranulf de Broc."<sup>26</sup> William Rufus accounting, September 1188, for the same *ferm*, charges 1½ year's rent (£4. 10s.) on the land of *Brumlega*, against "Stephen de Turnham."<sup>27</sup> The latter will presently appear in the succession of Ranulf de Broc,—and we may infer that the lapse was coincident with the change of fermors of the honour of Arundel; in other words, that Ranulf de Broc died about 1187.

His issue was five daughters and coheirs; but, as his wife Damietta survived him, her inheritance in Shropshire will have suffered no partition till her own death in 1204. On August 8 of that year, Stephen de Turnham, who had married Edeline, the eldest daughter and coheir, obtained King John's writ to the Sheriff of Southants, ordering the said Sheriff to give seizin to "our faithful Stephen de Thornham and Odeline his wife, of the Manor of Frellebi, which was Dametta's (mother of the said Odeline), who is dead, whose heir she (Odeline) is." A similar precept to the Sheriff of Salop orders seizin to be given to the same Stephen and Edelina, of the Manors of Chedinton, Euden, and Berevic.<sup>28</sup>

The sole heirship of Edelina implied by these writs of King John was a fiction, as we shall presently see; but the work of appropri-

<sup>24</sup> *Bromton*, 1089.

<sup>25</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. v, p. 73, No 3.

<sup>26</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 33 Hen. II.

<sup>27</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 34 Hen. II.

<sup>28</sup> *Claus.* 6 John, 19 recto. The Manor of Frelleberi had not however been strictly Dametta's. It must have been her dower out of the lands of Ranulf de

Broc. Its tenure was attached to the serjeantry of being Usher to the King. This service is entered several times in the *Testa de Nevill*, in connexion with Frelleheri. In one instance, Stephen de Turnham holds the Manor, in another his widow, under the name of Edelina de Froleheri (*Testa de Nevill*, 235, 236).

ation by Stephen de Turnham was not yet complete. About Dec. 1205, he offered<sup>29</sup> to King John three *palfreys* to have the royal confirmation of 15 *librates* of land in Ertendun (Surrey), with the Hundred, &c., which he had and held by gift of King Henry II, at a fee-farm rent of £15, and by gift of King Richard, at half a knight's fee: also, to have the King's confirmation, to him and to Edeline his wife, daughter of Ranulf de Broc, of the reasonable concession and confirmation which King Henry II made to the same Ranulf de Broc, his Usher and Marshall, of all the land and ministry of his father, &c. (reciting Henry II's charter above quoted).

This fine of Stephen de Turnham secured King John's two charters dated at Dorchester, Dec. 18, 1205; the first of which confirms Ertendun to Stephen de Turnham, the King's Marshall, and his heirs, while the second recites Henry II's charter to Ranulf de Broc, and confirms it to Stephen de Turnham and Edeline his wife, daughter of said Ranulf, and their heirs.

King John moreover takes into his hand, custody, and protection, both the grantees, their lands, tenures, and effects.<sup>30</sup>

It will be observed that the last charter does not call Edelina the heir of Ranulf de Broc, though it substantially ignores the claims of any coheirs.

At this period then (Dec. 1205) Stephen de Turnham, of whom singly I must speak elsewhere, had engrossed in right of his wife, the whole inheritance both of her father and mother.

This appropriation did not remain long unquestioned, for, within two years, Sibil de Broc was a suitor against Stephen de Turnham and Edeline his wife (Sibil's sister) for her share of the inheritances of Ranulf de Broc and of Dametta, father and mother of Sibil and Edeline. The parties came to a final concord in the King's Court at Winchester, in the ninth year of John (1207-8), and thereby Stephen and Edeline conceded to Sibil the Manor of Chedinton, of the inheritance of Dametta.<sup>31</sup> It must here be stated that no

<sup>29</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 7 John, memb. 7 recto.

<sup>30</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 7 John, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>31</sup> See these proceedings recited in the *Plea Rolls* of Mich. Term, 3 Hen. III, (memb. 14 dorso) and Hilary Term, 7 Hen. III (memb. 12 dorso). The error of calling Ranulf de Broc's wife (in one instance) Dametta de Turnham is too obvious to be inserted in the text. I may

further state that in arranging these records so as to furnish an intelligible narrative, many such errors have been corrected. The intricacy of the cases, and the number of names involved, naturally perplexed the Clerk who took the minutes of each trial during its progress. (See Sir F. Palgrave's Introduction to the "*Curia Regis*" *Rolls*, page v.)

*chirograph* of this fine is preserved, and that Sibil de Broc afterwards denied it. Such denial, however, I think, was rather in the way of exception taken to its details than an absolute averment that no fine whatever had been levied. At all events Sibil de Broc became about this time seized of Chetton, unless indeed a circumstance which I have now to notice arose from some continued litigation and uncertainty. The *Testa de Nevill* and the *Red Book of the Exchequer* supply us with several documents purporting to contain full particulars of every tenancy *in capite* in this County. These Rolls vary little from each other, are nearly cotemporary, and may collectively be dated of the year 1211. Not one of them contains any entry which I can associate with Chetton, except that Stephen de Turnham is said to hold lands of 100*s.* annual value by unknown service.<sup>32</sup> This may or may not have included Chetton, but I incline to refer it to Berwick only, which he held at the time and transmitted to his posterity.

Before March, 1214, Stephen de Turnham was dead,<sup>33</sup> leaving his widow Edeline surviving, and five daughters and co-heirs.

Edelina, after her husband's death, appears still in litigation with her sister Sibil, as also in the exercise of a power which she could only claim in virtue of some asserted interest at Chetton.

The Advowson of Chetton she included in her grant<sup>34</sup> to Lille-shull Abbey, and though the act was nugatory, it well illustrates the hints we have of protracted litigation between the sisters.

In Michaelmas Term, 1219, Edelina de Broc (thus called by her maiden name in her widowhood) sued Sibil de Broc for not keeping the fine above alluded to as having been made in King John's reign. Sibil did not appear, and she, with her sureties (*viz.*, Andrew de Mora and William de Criddon), were summoned for the *quinzaine* of St. Hilary, 1220.<sup>35</sup>

In that term, the hearing was adjourned to *three weeks* of Easter,<sup>36</sup> of which term we have no record.

In Trinity Term, however, the cause was still unheard, and owing to Sibil's non-appearance, she and her first sureties were declared *in misericordia*; and she was *attached* by better sureties, *viz.*, Thomas de Chetinton and Hugh de Hollicot.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>32</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 55.

<sup>33</sup> *Claus.* i, 141.

<sup>34</sup> *Harl. MSS.* 2060—corrected by Dodsworth, vol. 110.

<sup>35</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* 3 Hen. III, 14 dorso.

<sup>36</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Hill. Term, 4 Hen. III, memb. 5 dorso.

<sup>37</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Trin. Term, 4 Hen. III, memb. 15 dorso.

We hear no more of this suit, and it was in all probability put an end to by the death of Edelina, the Plaintiff, which must have taken place about this period. Of the five daughters and heirs of herself and Stephen de Turnham, the one most necessary to be mentioned here is Eleanor, who, having been wife of Roger de Leybourn, was also dead before November, 1221, leaving the said Roger generally interested in her share of her father and mother's inheritance, and specially in the Manor of Berwick. Now again we shall hear of continued litigation, and of other daughters and co-heirs of Ranulf de Broc, besides Sibil and Edeline.—

At Salop Assizes, Nov. 1221,<sup>37</sup> William de Tatelinton and Clemence his wife, with Sibil (de Broc) Clemence's sister, sued Roger de Leyburn for the Manor of Berewie "as their right and inheritance, whereof *Damota* their mother was seized, as of fee and right, in demesne, in time of King Richard" (1189-1199).

Roger de Leyburn appeared and pleaded that they (Clemence and Sibil) "had another sister Lucy, of whom was no mention made in their writ, and therefore he was not willing to answer them unless the Court decided that he should." The plaintiffs hereupon acknowledged that they had a third sister Lucy, but pleaded that she had no concern in the present matter inasmuch as a *final concord* had been made in the King's Court between themselves and her.

Upon this the defendant pleaded that they had yet another sister Felicia who was wife of Michael de Wancy,<sup>39</sup> which Felicia had had two daughters, nieces of Clemence and Sibil, and that these two daughters had just as much right in the premises as their aunts, and that, they not being mentioned in the writ, he declines answering except under direction of the Court. Here again the plaintiffs acknowledged that they had had a sister Felicia, and she had had daughters, but stated that she (Felicia) had received her share, and that her daughters considered themselves paid their portion of their mother's inheritance, to wit, of the land which was given in marriage with Felicia; and further they said that this Manor (Berwick) was assigned to themselves (Clemence and Sibil) towards their portion. The Court reserved

<sup>38</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 1 dorso. At these same Assizes the Stottesden Jurors returned Sibil del Broc as being in the King's gift and her land in that Hundred worth 12 shillings per annum (memb. 9 recto).

<sup>39</sup> This plea of Roger de Leyburn's was

incorrect in certain particulars, which did not however affect its spirit. Felicia had not been wife of Michael de Wancy, but of William Hareng. One of her daughters it was who married Nicholas (not Michael) de Wancy.

its judgment till the *octaves* of Hilary (Jan. 20) at Westminster, when and where were to be in attendance Nicholas de Wauncy and Felicia his wife, the niece of the plaintiffs, also William Maubanc and Lucy his wife, sister of the plaintiffs, to show any claim which they might have in the premises sought by the plaintiffs. And William Maubanc and Lucy were to be summoned in the County of Surrey, the others in Sussex. The reason why Emma, Felicia's sister (the other niece) was not summoned appears in a notice stating that she was dead.

The whole concludes with a nomination of their attorneys by the two plaintiffs. Sibil named Gervase de Wauton, Clemence named her husband, William de Tatlington.

The records of Hilary Term 1222 are lost, but the cause was not then settled. In February 1223 it had another hearing, or rather was tried at Westminster with additional plaintiffs.<sup>40</sup>

In this case William de Themton (Tatlington) and Elena (Clemencia) his wife, Sibilla del Hoc (Broc) Peter de Hatot (Hotoft) and Felicia Harang (thus called by her maiden name) seek against Roger de Leburn the Manor of Berwic as the right of Elena (Clemencia) Sibil, Peter and Felicia, whereof Damietta, mother of Sibil and Felicia (Clemencia), and grandmother<sup>41</sup> of Elena (Felicia) and Peter, was seized in demesne, &c.

Roger de Leyburn now appeared and pleaded the *fine* of the 9th of John as a settlement of the question, so far as Sibil de Broc was concerned, she having by that fine obtained the Manor of Chedinton as her share of Dametta's inheritance. Against the others he said that the heirs of Stephen de Turnham ought to be his warranty and to warranty he called them, viz. Thomas de Bavelingham and Matilda his wife, Adam de Bending and Alice his wife . . . . . de Faye and Katherine (Beatrice) his wife, Ralph Fitz Bernard and Eleanor his wife. The trial was adjourned to the *Quinzaine* of Michaelmas and "Sibil de Broc *renounces* (dedicit) the *cyrograph*" (the fine of 9 John).

In some Michaelmas Term subsequent to this, but probably that of 1223; an *essoign-roll* gives Felicia Harang *essoigning* herself *versus* Roger de Leyburn, in a plea of land, by William Hareng. The cause was adjourned to the morrow of the Purification (probably Feb. 3, 1224). The same day was given to Clemence and

<sup>40</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* Hil. Term, 7 |  
Hen. III.

<sup>41</sup> Damietta was great grandmother of Peter.



William \* \* \* \*, and to Thomas de Buckingham (Bavelingham) and Mabil (Matilda) his wife,<sup>42</sup> and to Beatrice de Say (Fay); to Adam de Bending and Alice his wife, and to Richard Fitz B \* \* \* (Ralph Fitz Bernard) as custos of his daughter; and lastly to Peter de Hotot (Hotoft).<sup>42</sup>

In Hilary Term, 1225, Beatrice de Fay occurs as naming an attorney in her suit against Roger de Leyburn about a plea of warranty.<sup>43</sup> This would make it appear that the parties called to warranty by Roger de Leyburn were not all ready to vouch such warranty; but the cross suits between the heirs of Broc and the heirs of Turnham, and between the latter, as among themselves, become so indistinguishable at this period, and the records so broken and imperfect, that I must needs continue the subject with much uncertainty.

In Trinity Term, 1233, Roger de Leburn essoigns himself *versus* Hugh de Hovill, and Beatrice his wife (heretofore Beatrice de Faye) and *versus* John, son of Ralph Fitz Bernard, and others, in a *plea* of land. The adjournment is to the morrow of St. Martin (Nov. 12, 1233).<sup>44</sup>

But previous to the latter day, viz., on the *quinzaine* of St. Michael (Oct. 13), 1233, a further day was given to Hugh de Neovill and Beatrice his wife, to William Branche and Johanna his wife, plaintiffs, and to Roger de Leburn in a *plea* of land. The day given was *in one month of Hilary* (1234).<sup>45</sup>

On Feb. 3, 1237, the attorney of Sibil de Brok *versus* Roger de Leburn has *essoign* till the *quinzaine* of the Holy Trinity.<sup>46</sup> Here Sibil was probably defendant.

Most of this, though it has to do with the Lady of Chetton, relates to her interests elsewhere. We will now revert to our more immediate subject.

<sup>42</sup> The Roll from which I quote is dated of Trinity Term 5 John, and the first membranes may belong to that term. The above, which is on the *dorse* of the sixteenth membrane, as well as some other portions of the Roll, have been attached to it without any care or reason. They belong to other Rolls and terms, and must, now that they are misplaced, be dated by their internal evidence.

<sup>43</sup> *Plac. apud West.*, Hil. Term, 9 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>44</sup> This Roll is dated as of the seventeenth year of John. It is fragmentary, but the earlier membranes belong apparently to the seventeenth of Hen. III, and the later ones to the eighteenth of Henry III. The above is on membrane 1 recto.

<sup>45</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.*, Mich. Term, 17 and 18 Hen. III, memb. 12 dorso.

<sup>46</sup> *Esson. apud Westm.*, Hil. Term, 21 Hen. III, memb. 3 dorso

On Nov. 3, 1224, a fine was levied at Westminster between Sibil de Broc, complainant (petentem), and Alan, Abbot of Lilles-hull, deforciant, of the advowson of Chetton, whereof was assize of *darrein presentment*. The Abbot acknowledged the right of Sibil, and *quit-claimed* for ever to her and her heirs.<sup>47</sup> The Abbot's claim of course arose from the grant of Edelina de Turnham, Sibil's sister, which has been mentioned above, and was apparently quite beyond the grantor's powers.

About 1225, Sibil de Broc granted Chetton Mill, worth two merks yearly, to the Nuns of Brewood.<sup>48</sup>

She must have lived to a great age, her father and mother having been married previous to 1166,<sup>49</sup> the former also dying about 1187, and yet Sibil surviving in 1253. She (Sibil), was some time married, viz., to William de Arundel; but she left no issue, neither does her name occur during the period of her *coverture*. She seems to have died about Nov. 10, 1253, having in that year made certain grants to the Church of Chetton, which shall be noticed presently. On her death the same confusion arose as to her succession as had encumbered her heritage whilst living.

On July 7, 1254, a Jury, empanelled to give account of her possessions and heirs, reported, that she had two sisters older than herself, Edelina the eldest and Clemence the youngest,—that Edelina had three daughters, married in Sussex,—that John de Waunceye was kin to one of these daughters, John de Bending to another, and Peter de Hautot to the third (where the confusion between the issue of one of Edelina's sisters and her daughters is obvious). Of Clemence, they said, that "she had four sons, viz. Auger, of whom she was pregnant when William de Maleseveres, formerly her husband, espoused her, and three others begotten in lawful wedlock, viz. Hamon the eldest, who, before his decease, begat William, Simon, and Alexander."<sup>50</sup>

In 1255, the Stottesden Jurors said of Chetyton that it was in the King's hands, Stephen de Buterleg holding it in the King's name till it be determined who was next heir; and he (Stephen) answered at the Exchequer for the income, viz. £12. 2s. 6d. per

<sup>47</sup> *Pedes finium*, 9 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>48</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 83. The Taxation of 1291, shows that this grant was to the Black Nuns of Brewood, and gives its value as 16s. per annum (*Nic. Tax.*, page 162).

<sup>49</sup> It is probable that this marriage took place during the extreme youth of the mother, a usual circumstance in the case of an heiress.

<sup>50</sup> *Inquisitions*, 38 Hen. III, No. 45.

annum; and it fell into the King's hand in the feast of St. Martin, in his thirty-eighth year. It contained a hide and half, and should be held of the King *in capite*. It owed suit to the Sheriff's *tourn* twice a year, but did no suit to the lesser Hundred or County Courts, nor gave *stretward*, nor *motfee*, the Jurors knew not by what warrant. The same Jurors reported the various eleemosynary grants which Sibil de Broc had made out of this Manor, and the loss which resulted to the Crown in consequence.<sup>51</sup>

The report of this Jury is an appropriate comment on the inaccuracies of the *post mortem* inquisition above quoted. Another such Inquisition was ordered by the Crown, and made its report on 7 Feb. 1256. Calling the deceased "Isabella" de Broc, the Jurors said that "the service due to the Crown from Chetton was that of one man in North Wales,—that Sibilla left no heir, but three sisters. Of these the Jury knew not whether Odelina had any heir; Alicia had two daughters, Emma and Felicia; Emma had one son, Peter de Hamtoft; Felicia had one son, Nicholas de Wancy. Clemence (the third sister of Sibil) had one son, viz. Auger de Tatlinton. These three (viz. Peter de Hamtoft, Nicholas de Wancy, and Auger de Tatlinton) werē heirs of Sibil, and were of full age."<sup>52</sup>

Neither does this return seem to have been satisfactory,—for, on 16 June following, a third Jury made its report, viz., that Sibil's three sisters were Edelina, formerly wife of Stephen de Turnham; Alice, of William Harang; Clemence, of William Malesoveres. Alice had two daughters: Emma, the eldest, of whom was born Peter de Hotoft; Felicia, the youngest, who was mother of Nicholas de Wancy. Clemence's first-born son was Auger de Tatlinton. The said Peter, Nicholas, and Auger were of full age. Of the age of Edelina the Jurors knew nothing;<sup>53</sup> nor indeed were they likely, seeing that she had been dead thirty years. Except that the name of Sibil's sister Felicia is written Alicia in these returns, I see no reason to question their correctness. Lucy, Sibil's fourth sister, once wife of William de Maubanc is not mentioned, probably as having deceased without issue.

It appears that the doubts about the heirship of Sibil de Broc were settled very shortly after this. The King allowed livery of

<sup>51</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 82, 83.

<sup>52</sup> *Inquis. post mortem*, 40 Hen. III,  
No. 40.

<sup>53</sup> *Inquis. post mortem*, 40 Hen. III,  
No. 40 (memb. 2.)

one-third of Chetton to Auger de Tatlington, as son and heir of Clemence de Broc: another third went between Nicholas de Wancy and *Robert de Hotoft*, as heirs of Alice (alias Felicia) de Broc. The heirs of Edelina de Broc not coming forward to claim the other third the King retained it himself, and with it the capital messuage and advowson of the Church.<sup>54</sup>

On the death of the then Incumbent, the King proposing to nominate his successor, was resisted by Auger de Tatlington. Upon this the latter was sued by the Crown, in a "plea that he should allow the King to present." The cause was heard at Westminster in Easter Term, 1260, and ended in Auger conceding, as far as he was concerned, the right to the King, but only *hâc vice*. The King had thereupon a writ of the Justices to the Bishop of Hereford.<sup>55</sup>

Following the history of the third of Chetton thus retained by the King, we find it six years afterwards granted to Robert Corbet, of Chaddesley, in fee, with a third only of the Advowson. The King's charter is dated at Kenilworth, on 25 August, 1266, and is expressed to be in reward of faithful services.<sup>56</sup> The time and place make the nature of these services sufficiently obvious.

Within four years of this time Robert Corbet was dead, having however obtained possession (according to one account) of the other two-thirds of Chetton, and certainly having disposed of all interest derived under the King's grant in manner following:—As Robert Corbet, Lord of Chetynton, he grants to Sir Robert Burnel 1 acre in his demesne in Chetynton, and the advowson of the Church, as far as it belonged to him, and the homage of Hugh de Holycote. For this Robert Burnel was to pay 1*l.* yearly in the Church of Chetynton.—The witnesses were: Sirs Hugh de Mortimer, Ralph de Arraz, Thomas Boterel, and Adam de Montgomery, Knights; also Adam de St. George, Alan de Glazeley, Hugh de Chinezeleye (Kinslow), Adam de Fayntre, and Ralph Sprenclose.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>54</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.*, Easter Term, 44 Hen. III, memb. 19 recto. This record is again full of scribal errors, such as calling Chetton "Tatlington," Clementia "Juliana," both which errors it corrects for itself. Whether *Alice* de Broc and *Robert* de Hotoft be rightly named is a question.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>56</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 50 Hen. III, sub dic. But

Robert Corbet had had a previous interest here, probably by purchase from one of the other tenants. In February, 1262, he fined 3*s.* with the Justices of the Forest for one and a half acres taken into the King's hand, which he had recently asserted in Chetynton without warrant. (*Plac. Forest.* 46 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto.)

<sup>57</sup> *Rot. Cart.*, 54 Hen. III, memb. 6.

As Robert Corbet of Cheddesle, he further granted to William, son of William Corbet, his nephew, his land with the capital mesuage in Chetynton (except half an acre and one-third the Advowson of the Church which he had granted to Sir Robert Burnel), to wit, one-third the said Manor which King Henry, son of John, had given him. To have and to hold of the King, &c.—The witnesses were: Sirs Henry and Hugh de Mortimer, Ralph de Arraz, Adam de Elmbrugg, Knights; also Alan de Glazeley, William de Herwinton, and Richard de Muntvyron.<sup>58</sup>

On the death of this Robert Corbet previous to Jan. 7, 1270, William, his said nephew, represented to the King that, whereas his uncle had enfeoffed him, one month before his decease, not only in the third which he had from the King, but also in the other two-thirds, which said Robert possessed, and all which William and his heirs were to hold of the King *in capite*, and had held for a month before Robert Corbet's death, now the King's sub-escheator for Salop had ejected said William and still retained the premises.<sup>59</sup>

Hereupon the King's writ, of the last date, issued to the escheator *citra* Trent to inquire the particulars by Jury, and further whether Robert Corbet were illegitimate and died without heir, and whether the Advowson belonged to the King.

The Jury met at Chetton on 26th January next and reported that Robert Corbet enfeoffed his nephew in one-third of the Manor, and did not die seized thereof, that he (Robert) was illegitimate, died without heir, and could well give feoffment; that the Advowson was Robert Burnell's, to whom Robert Corbet had sold it.

Again on the 22d of February 1270, the King's certificate issued to the escheator, to say that, in consequence of this inquest, he had taken the homage of William Corbet for one-third of Chetton, saving the right of any claimant (which indeed was a reservation in the original grant to Robert Corbet), and saving the service due to the Crown. The escheator is to take security for the said service and for his relief if any be due, and then give him seizin of the said third.<sup>60</sup>

On the 12th of May and 28th of June following, the King inspected and confirmed by Royal Charter the two grants which Robert Corbet had made to William Corbet and to Robert Burnel respectively.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>58</sup> *Rot. Cart.*, 54 Hen. III, memb. 9.

<sup>59</sup> *Inq. post mortem*, 54 Hen. III, No. 53.

<sup>60</sup> *Finis*, 54 Hen. III, memb. 14.

<sup>61</sup> *Rot. Cart.*, 54 Hen. III, memb. 9 and 6.

At Salop Assizes, September, 1272, the Stottesden Jurors reported that one-third of Chetiton had been on escheat of the King, that the King gave it to Robert Corbet and he to William Corbet.<sup>62</sup>

On Nov. 27, 1274, a similar jury said that William Corbet held the Manor of Chetiton of the King *in capite*, by service of finding one footman with a bow and arrows to go with the King, whenever he shall decree to make war, into Wales, and to stay there till he has shot away his arrows.<sup>63</sup>

Preparatory to the muster at Worcester, against Lewelin, 6 July, 1277, William Corbet acknowledged his service due, viz., to find one man who was to take with him a gammon of bacon and to stay (in Wales) till he had eaten it up. John de Hull was to perform the service.<sup>64</sup>

In 1283, the King's escheator *citra* Trent is ordered to seize into the King's hand &c., the lands &c., of which William Corbet had died seized.<sup>65</sup>

Aug. 22, 1283, an inquest held at Chettington on the death of William Corbet, reported that "he held *in capite* of the King a messuage, garden, &c. in Chettington; and also two-thirds of two carrucates of land in demesne; that Sir Roger Corbet was his next heir and of full age: also that the said tenure was by serjeantry of "doing service of one footman in the King's army, when it shall have happened that there be war between the King and the Prince of Wales, at the cost of the said William, till the same footman shall have consumed half a swine (baconem) in the same expedition."<sup>66</sup>

In 1284, Roger Corbet holding the Manor *in capite*, the outfit of his deputy is more fully described.<sup>67</sup>—

The man was to take 1 bow, 3 arrows, and a *caltrop*,<sup>68</sup> and also a cured hog, and, when he reached the King's army, he was to deliver to the King's Marshal half thereof and the Marshal was to give him daily of the said *half bacon* for his dinner, as long as he staid in the army, and he was to stay with the army as long as the hog lasted.

In 1829 or 1290 the escheator is ordered to seize the lands of

<sup>62</sup> *Assize Roll*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 recto.

<sup>63</sup> *Rot. Hund.*, ii, 108.

<sup>64</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. i, p. 208.

<sup>65</sup> *Originalia*, 11 Edw. I, *Rot.* 15.

<sup>66</sup> *Inq. post mortem*, 11 Edw. I, No. 103.

<sup>67</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>68</sup> The word here used is *terpolus*; but *tribulus* again under the entry of 1292. The mode in which a competent service was exacted from the King's tenant at Chetton, however extraordinary, becomes intelligible by this entry.

Robert Corbet deceased;<sup>69</sup> and in 1290 the inquest on his death reported his interest in Chetidone.<sup>70</sup> He left a son, William, who, in October 1292, was still a minor and in ward to Fulco de Lucy. The service due on Chetton is described nearly as before.<sup>71</sup> At the same time Nesta Lady of Chetton (Roger Corbet's widow) held land there to the value of 48*s.* 10*d.*, of the inheritance of William Corbet, and she was in the King's gift, but married to Thomas de Roshal, the jury knew not by what warrant. The Sheriff being ordered to summon the said Thomas and Nesta, the former appears and (apparently) states that the King at request of Robert de Val had allowed Nesta (her right of remarriage, I presume).<sup>72</sup>

In March 1316, the said William Corbet appears as Lord of Chetton.<sup>73</sup>

## HOLLICOTT.

A tenure here, probably under the Lords of Chetton, occurs from an early period.

In November 1194 an assize of *mort d'ancestre* stood for hearing in the Courts at Westminster, wherein Hugh de Holocote was plaintiff against Adam de Hereford. The latter, being beyond sea, in Ireland, had *essoign* by Yvo Walensis. The Recognizers of this Assize, who also essoigned themselves, and their Essoigners were as follows:—

Stephen de Middelton by Adam de Middleton.

Warin de Middelton by Roger Fitz Edwin.

Hugo de Hupton by Richard Fitz Roger.

Robert de Fagnotre by William Fitz Richard.

Robert Walensis by Walter Chordiwan.

Philip de Pharlawe (Farlow) by Rog. Fitz Siward, and—

Walter Hachet (of Wheathill) by Richard de Gorewelle.<sup>74</sup>

In 1220, we have already had Hugh de Hollicot as a surety of Sibil de Broc, Lady of Chetton.<sup>75</sup>

In 1255,<sup>76</sup> and again in January 1256, Hugh de Holocote sat as a juror of the Hundred of Stottesden.<sup>77</sup>

<sup>69</sup> *Originalia*, vol. i, p. 64.

<sup>70</sup> *Calendar Eschaetarum*, i, 101.

<sup>71</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, Salop, 20 Edw. I, memb. 20 recto.

<sup>72</sup> The record is torn and defaced.

<sup>73</sup> *Parl. Writs*, iv, 398.

<sup>74</sup> *Rot. Curia Regis*, i, 123.

<sup>75</sup> Vide supra, page 172.

<sup>76</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 81.

<sup>77</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III.

About 1268, Robert Corbet's grant in Chetton to Robert Burnell included the homage of Hugh de Holycote.

Jan. 26, 1270, Hugh de Holicott was a Juror in the inquest as to the estate of Robert Corbet of Chetton.<sup>78</sup>

In Sept. 1272, he was reported as making default in due attendance at Salop Assizes.<sup>79</sup>

An extract from a deed of about this period gives as witnesses Geoffry de Criddon and Hugh de Holicote his son. If this be correct, Hugh de Holicote must have been husband of Sibil, daughter and sole heir of Geoffry de Criddon; and further he will have been dead in 1274 when the said Sibil had remarried.<sup>80</sup>

June 23, 1297, William Hobald, of the Mill, grants to William his son and Mabil his (son's) wife, and heirs of their bodies, all the land of Alan at Holycote, with a messuage in the same, of which Sir Roger de Holycote had *enfeoffed* the grantor. To hold of Hugh de Holycote the chief Lord of the fee. In default of such heirs the premises are to revert to the grantor.—Witnesses: John Lord of Upton, Coroner, Wydo de Glaseleg, William de Mora, William son of Hawys de Westode (Westwood), John de Aldebur (Oldbury). Dated at Holycote on Sunday in the Vigil of St. John the Baptist, 25 of King Edward.<sup>81</sup> An extract from a deed similarly dated and attested and by the same grantor, gives *Matilda* as the name of the son's wife, and conveys a mill and messuage in Holycote to be held of *Roger* Lord of Holycote.<sup>82</sup>

On the whole I conclude that Hugh, Lord of Hollicott in 1270, was succeeded by Roger, and he by another Hugh previous to 1297.

In the same interval one Richard de Holycote appears as husband of Clemence, daughter and coheiress of Adam de Faintree.<sup>83</sup>

The family of Hubold or Hobald had more than one branch and interest in this neighbourhood. The adjunct "de Molentino" used by the above grantor was to distinguish himself from a contemporary William Hobaud, of Harpesford (Harpeswood).

<sup>78</sup> *Inquisitions*, 54 Henry III, No. 53.

<sup>79</sup> *Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, Stottesden Hund.

<sup>80</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*

<sup>81</sup> Charter at Apley Park. William Hubaud de Molyno had served on the Stottesden Jury at Salop Assizes, October 1292 (*Plac. Coronæ*. memb. 51 recto).

<sup>82</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl. Parochial Hist. vol. i. Tit. Eudon Burnell. The manifest inaccuracy of this extract may be an excuse for the diffidence with which I have above quoted a similarly authorized deed.

<sup>83</sup> Vide supra, p. 162.



## CHETTON CHURCH.

The existence of a Church here in 1086 and some early notices of the Advowson thereof, have already been set forth. About 1253, Sibil de Broc gave a virgate of land, worth 16s. per annum, to the Parson of the Church of Chetyton in pure and perpetual alms, to find a Chaplain to sing the mass of Saint Mary.<sup>84</sup> She also gave about the same time to the same Church an acre of land and a fish-pond (servarium), which were of 6 pence annual value.

In 1291, the Church of Chetynton with the Chapel of Lustone (Loughton) is returned as annually worth £16. The Rector of Conede (Cound) had a portion therein worth 4s. per annum. The Abbot of Wigmore is also said to have had a portion of 10s. therein.<sup>85</sup> However, in 1341, the taxation of the Church is stated at £16. 4s., the Abbot of Wigmore's portion being excluded.

At this time the Assessors rendered account of £7. 4s. 4d. as the value of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb in the parish. The difference between this sum and the Church taxation arose thus:—Three carrucates and three virgates of land lay untilled from the poverty of the tenants: the estate (fundus) of the Church with its rents and lands annexed were worth 29s.; the tithe of hay was 13s. 4d.; the small tithes, offerings, and other profits were worth 13s. 4d., as by inquisition had been determined &c.<sup>86</sup>

In 1534, the Rectory of Chetton, then held by Humphrey Burnell, was worth, in glebe and great and small tithes, £13. in gross. The charges on this sum were Procurations 7s. 8d.; Bishop's triennial visitation 17s. 9d.; the Abbot of Wigmore's pension 10s.; and the Rector of Counde's pension (here stated at) 5s. So that the net value was £10. 19s. 7d.<sup>87</sup>

The Rector of Cound had also pensions in the Churches of Easthope and Acton-Round. I can only account for this in one way, viz. that when the Church of Cound was founded, the founder (probably a Fitz Alan or some predecessor of that house) endowed it with tithes in several quarters, viz. in Easthope, Acton Round, Eudon (Burnell), and perhaps Criddon. The tithes of the last two may afterwards have been made over to the Rector of Chetton in

<sup>84</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 83.

<sup>85</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* p. 166, (Deanery of Stottesden). The Chapelry of Loughton is still subject to Chetton Church.

<sup>86</sup> *Inq. Nonarum*, p. 190.

<sup>87</sup> *Valor. Eccles.* iii, 211.

lieu of an annual pension payable by him to the Rector of Cound. Similarly the Abbot of Wigmore's pension may have been a composition in lieu of tithes; those of Eudon George perhaps. The early subjection of Loughton Chapelry to Chetton is a matter on which I will not attempt a conjecture.

#### INCUMBENTS OF CHETTON.

The first Rector of Chetton, of whom we have record, was that Richard Folyott, who, having been presented by Sibil de Broc before 1255, was dead in 1260, when the King, after a law-suit with Auger de Tatlington, had the next presentation.<sup>88</sup>

A vacancy again occurred in the year 1278, previous to which, as we have already seen, Robert Burnell had become the Patron.<sup>89</sup> His career is well known, and that he became Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1274.

On occasion of the vacancy of this Church in 1278,<sup>90</sup> Master Ralph de Witham, Archdeacon of Bath, writes to the Bishop of Hereford (Thomas de Cantilupe) in behalf of Philip Burnell. The Bishop suspends the matter, on account of the absence of the presentee, and grants that no time shall run against him, if only the Church be properly served. On July 22, 1278, the same Bishop commits custody of the Church to Sir Richard, Parish Priest of Chetton, till the feast of All Saints (Nov. 1), in the name of Philip Burnell, Clerk.

On October 29, 1278, the same Bishop grants letters dimissory, *pro hac vice* only, to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to take order about Philip Burnell's admission to this Rectory. The Patron named is Sir Hugh Burnell.

May 27, 1279, Sir Malcolm, Canon of Wells, is instituted, on presentation of Sir Hugh Burnell.

Aug. 19, 1284, Sir Nicholas de Hereford, Canon of Hereford, is instituted, on the same presentation.

Dec. 21, 1285, Roger de Lectone is instituted, on the same presentation.

30 Ed. I (1301-2), Maurice de Pissato was presented by the Crown, in right of the guardianship of Philip Burnel.<sup>91</sup>

<sup>88</sup> *Supra*, p. 178.

<sup>89</sup> *Supra*, p. 179.

<sup>90</sup> *Hereford Register* (Blakeway MSS. in Bibl. Bodl.).

<sup>91</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 30 Edw. I, memb. 27.

## Eudon.

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ELDONE, EUDON MALESOURES, OR EUDON BURNELL.

THE Saxon *ðun* (a hill or down) is undoubtedly the last syllable of Eudon. Looking consequently for a Saxon original of the first syllable we hesitate according to the different ways in which the word has been spelt. If the *Domesday* orthography (Eldone) were the most authentic, we should at once adopt the Saxon *Ælð* or *Ealb* (old, ancient) as the said first syllable. But the *Domesday* form is a solecism, and uniform custom, as well as local pronunciation, point out Eudon as the truer name. If so its more probable component will have been the Saxon word *Eopu* (genitive, *Eope* an ewe), or else *Eop* (the wild ash).

*Domesday* notices the Manor thus:<sup>1</sup>—

The same Rainald (Vicecomes) holds (of the Earl) Eldone. *Æluuard* held it and was a free man. Here are 11 hides geldable. In demesne are 111 ox-teams; and there are 6 serfs, 1 villain, 7 boors, and 1 Frenchman, with 11 ox-teams. There is wood for (fattening) 60 swine. It was worth 300 shillings. Now it is worth 40 shillings.

*Ælward* the Saxon Lord of Oldbury and Glazeley in this Hundred has occurred before.

Under Chetton we have surmised the early feoffment, by Rainald or his successors, of that feudatory whose eventual representative was *Damietta*, wife of *Ranulf de Broc*.

Accordingly in 1165, *Ranulf de Broc* appears as holding under *Fitz Alan*, by service of 1 muntator, of old feoffment, which shows that the grant to his wife's ancestors was previous to the death of *Henry I.*<sup>2</sup>

We have recounted the deaths of *Ranulf de Broc* about 1187, and of *Damietta*, his widow, about 1204. On August 8 of the latter year, we have seen King *John* ordering the Sheriff of Shropshire to give seizin of Euden to *Edelina*, wife of *Stephen de Turnham*, as if daughter and sole heir of the said *Damietta*. We have further

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255 a. 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 143.

detailed the perennial litigation which followed this unjust distribution of an estate to which there were five co-heiresses.

How or when Clemence, one of the said coheirs, recovered Eudon as her share, and conveyed it to her husband William de Malesoures, we are not informed.

At Salop Assizes, November, 1221, William Malesoures appears as a juror on a *Great Assize*,<sup>3</sup> a circumstance which indicates such position in the County as can alone be ascribed to his previous seizure of his wife's inheritance. Also at the same Assizes,<sup>4</sup> though under his other name (William de Tatelinton), he appears with Clemence his wife, and Sibil her sister, in a suit against their nephew, Roger de Leyburn, wherein Berwick was claimed by the plaintiffs. William de Tatinton appears again in this suit in February, 1223, and perhaps in Michaelmas Term following.<sup>5</sup>

And further of him I can say nothing, except that he left by his wife Clemence four sons, viz. Auger, of whom Clemence was pregnant at her marriage; Hamon; and two others, unnamed. Hamon was again father, before 1254, of William, Simon, and Alexander.<sup>6</sup>

But following a more regular order of events, we find, from the collective evidence of three Rolls of Fitz-Alan's Barony, that about the year 1240 Simon de Frankleg was holding half a fee in Eudon Maleseverez.<sup>7</sup> This I can reconcile with nothing but a conjecture that the said Simon was second husband of Clemence de Broc, and that he thus became possessed of Eudon for her or his life, as the case may have been, but probably for hers only.

I find nothing of the issue of Clemence till the year 1250, when Auger de Tatinton (her eldest son) had fined 5 merks with the Crown for some writ,<sup>8</sup> the subject of which may have been connected with the following suit.

In Michaelmas Term, 1253, it appeared, before the Queen and Council at Westminster, that William de Tatlynton, who was essoigned in a plea of land against Auger de Tatlynton, had not yet been *viewed*. "And Master Symon de Wanton (a Justiciar) comes on his behalf and says, that he is well of the infirmity for which he

<sup>3</sup> *Assize Roll*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 2 recto.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 1 dorso.

<sup>5</sup> *Vide supra*, p. 174.

<sup>6</sup> *Supra*, p. 176.

<sup>7</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pages 44, 48, 49.

It will be seen in the subjoined pedigree how Auger de Tatinton, son and heir of

Clemence, married the grand-daughter and eventual heir of Simon de Frankley. Nash (*Hist. Worces.*, i, 458) is responsible for this statement, but how it is connected with Simon de Frankley's tenure of Eudon *circa* 1240, I cannot pretend to say.

<sup>8</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 34 Hen. III, Salop.

had essoign, and that he asks leave to rise because his adversary maliciously keeps him in bed and will not cause him to be *viewed*, though license had been given him thereof.”<sup>9</sup>

The Court decides that he may rise and come without delay. Afterwards he comes, and has a day given him. This suit concerned land in Worcestershire.

In 1255, a Stottesden Jury, of which Auger de Eudon was one, returned him as Lord of Eudon Maleseveres. It contained half a hide, and was held of John Fitz-Alan by service of one *Montar*, for half a knight's fee. He owed suit to the Sheriff's *tourn* twice a year, but not to County or lesser Hundred Courts, because his ancestors rendered no such suit, nor did he pay *stretward*, nor *motfee*.<sup>10</sup>

In January, 1256, William, son of Thomas de Tatlington, was suitor against Auger Fitz-Clemence, for two *carrucates* in Eudon, by writ of entry. William appeared in due course, but Auger came not. The premises were seized into the King's hand, and the parties summoned for Saturday after the *octaves* of the Purification, *i. e.* Saturday, Feb. 12th.<sup>11</sup>

In September, 1257, William de Tatlington had an *assize of novel disseizin* against Adam de Faintre and his wife.<sup>12</sup>

In 1259, William de Tatlington accounts half a merk for having an *assize*<sup>13</sup> (probably the same matter).

At the same time Auger de Tatlington accounts two merks for license to *accord*.<sup>14</sup>

In 1260, Auger de Tatlington accounts half a merk for a writ of *appone*.<sup>15</sup> This was perhaps in connexion with his suit against the Crown as to Chetton Advowson.

On April 23, 1262, a fine was levied at Westminster between Auger de Tallington, plaintiff, and Richard de Eslewode, deforciant, as to the customs and services which Auger required from the free tenement which Richard held of him (Auger) in Eudon, *viz.*, one virgate of land, &c., whereof Auger required that Richard should pay 7*s.* annually, and do suit every three weeks at Auger's Court at Eudon; and that Richard and his heirs should render homages and reliefs to Auger and his heirs. All these services Richard had

<sup>9</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.*, 37 Hen. III, memb. 11 dorso.

<sup>10</sup> *Rot. Hund.*, ii, p. 81.

<sup>11</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III.

<sup>12</sup> *Rot. Pat.*, 41 Hen. III.

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Pip.*, 43 Hen. III. Salop.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>15</sup> *Rot. Pip.*, 44 Hen. III, Salop, *vide supra*, p. 178.

heretofore denied; but now, after a law-suit, acknowledged. For this acknowledgment Auger undertook to warrant the premises to Richard and his heirs.<sup>16</sup>

But the litigations of Auger de Tatlington were endless.—

In Trinity Term, 1263, he appeared in a suit against John Fitz-Alan, his Suzerain.<sup>17</sup> “Whereas the King had caused it to be enacted, that no one, by reason of his tenement, should be distrained to do suit to the Court of his Lord, except he was bound to do such suit by the terms of his feoffment, or he and his ancestors had done such suit prior to the King’s first transfretation (1230), Auger now sued John Fitz-Alan in a cause as to why the said John distrained him (Auger) to do suit to John’s Court at Acton” (Acton Round).

John Fitz-Alan appeared not. The Sheriff had not summoned him, but sends word into Court that the said John had the King’s letters of protection as long as there was war in Wales. The Sheriff was declared *in misericordia*, and the cause adjourned to Michaelmas Term. We, however, hear no more of this case, probably owing to the troubled state of the kingdom.

On the Pipe Roll of 51 Hen. III (1267), Auger de Tatlington appears as having been amerced 40s. for non-prosecution of some suit; but a note is added to the entry, to the effect that he had accounted for such fine in the Roll of last year, under Worcester-shire.<sup>18</sup>

And further of him in connexion with Eudon I can say nothing. His interest here was very likely sold much about the time when he seems to have conveyed his share of Chetton to Robert Corbet, and the next whom I find possessed of Eudon was Hugh Burnell, who had a charter of free-warren here in 9 Edw. I (1281),<sup>19</sup> and whose tenure hereof under Fitz-Alan remained to his descendants, and is still memorialized in the name of the place.

In 1284, Hugh Burnell holds Eudon of Richard Fitz-Alan, of the *honour* of White Minster, by half a knight’s fee.<sup>20</sup> The account of him and his successors is postponed to a future occasion. We may quote, however, from the Pleas of the Crown of October, 1292, the record of an affray which happened here some years previously,

<sup>16</sup> *Pedes finium*, 46 Hen. III. Eselwode is the same name as Hazelwood.

<sup>17</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.*, Trin. Term, 47 Hen. III, memb. 17 dorso.

<sup>18</sup> *Rot. Pip.*, 51 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>19</sup> *Calend. Rot. Chart.*, p. 111.

<sup>20</sup> *Kirby’s Quest.*

and which shows how soon the place took name from its new possessors :—

“ William de Bedleswrthin (Belswardine) and Thomas de Kenleye were together in the kitchen of Hugh Burnell in the village of Eudon Burnell, and a quarrel arising between them, William struck Thomas on the head with a sword, whereof, on the fourth day after, Thomas died. William is a fugitive, and is suspected. He has been summoned (at five County Courts by the Sheriff—the usual process), and is outlawed. He had no chattels. The vills of Eudon Burnell and Chetynton did not make pursuit (of the fugitive) so they are *in misericordia*. Afterwards it was proved that said William had chattels, viz. (of value), 4s. 6d., for which the Sheriff is answerable.”<sup>21</sup>

Eudon Burnell was at this time the dower of Sibil Burnell, who was reported at the same Assizes as a defaulter in due attendance, and as claiming free warren here.

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The subjoined scheme of the descent of Ranulf de Broc, some time Lord of Chetton and Eudon, is intended to illustrate the otherwise complex narrative which is now concluded. Its accuracy in each particular is not maintained. It is only a selection of probabilities from a mass of contradictory evidence. If compared with the foregoing narrative, it will, however, serve one purpose better than a more lengthened commentary,—the purpose, namely, of exhibiting those inconsistencies which sometimes occur in the minutes of the Law Courts, as well as in the returns of local juries.—

It will be seen how the want of previous acquaintance or familiarity with the places and persons concerned, affected the verbal accuracy of the Law Scribes, both of those who worked in the central Courts of Westminster, and those who went with the Justices on their various circuits; and yet how these functionaries seldom failed to catch the spirit of a plea or to record it intelligibly.—

It will also be seen how Country Juries, with greater accuracy as to names, local and personal, were often mistaken as to the facts of a remote time or place, and were still more ignorant as to the legal bearings and importance of such facts.

<sup>21</sup> *Plac. Coron.*, Salop, 20 Edw. I, | <sup>22</sup> *Ibidem.*  
memb. 20 recto.





## Criddon.

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HERE, as in Eudon, we have the undoubted Saxon termination *dun* (a hill or down), and only a question as to the first syllable. *Crida* (Cpυδα) was the founder of the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia, about A.D. 586. Though we need not presume him to have had to do with this humble locality, it is very possible that, after his era, his name became common in Mercia, and that one so called was some time possessor of the place.

It is not mentioned in *Domesday*, but at all subsequent periods it appears as a sole Manor held under Fitz Alan. Like Eudon, it was and is in the parish of Chetton.

The falling off from the *Domesday Hidage*, of Eudon and Glazeley (both Fitz Alan's Manors) is observable. It may be accounted for by some early dismemberment of each, and the same cause may have led to the establishment of a third and independent Manor, like Criddon; but, as I have said more than once, the general accuracy of the *Domesday* survey, as regards this quarter, is suspected. An attempt, therefore, so to combine several consequents as to tally with a doubtful antecedent, need not be ventured.

In 1165, Robert de Critendon is registered as holding, by service of 1 *muntator*, of Fitz Alan's Barony.<sup>1</sup>

Oct. 1219, William de Criddon was a surety for Sibil de Broc.<sup>2</sup> Among pleas at Salop in August, 1226, was an *assize of novel disseizin* as to whether Adam de Dodinton, Alexander de Caus, Alan de Thedestiel and Alan his son, had disseized William de Criddon and Richolda, his wife, of a free tenement in Thedestiel (Tedstill).—Verdict for the defendants.<sup>3</sup>

In 1240, William de Cradelton, Gridelton or Cridelton, is variously entered as holding, by service of half a knight's fee, in the place from which he is named, and under John Fitz Alan.<sup>4</sup>

On November 12, 1240, we have a fine<sup>5</sup> which shows clearly what

<sup>1</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 144.

<sup>2</sup> *Supra*, p. 172.

<sup>3</sup> *Plac. coram Rege*, 10 Hen. III.

<sup>4</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 44, 48, 49.

<sup>5</sup> *Pedes finium, apud Salop*, 25 Hen. III.

this tenant's name really was, also that his tenure was in Criddon, and that the confusion arose from a similarity between his name and the place of his tenure. The said fine was between Geoffrey de Griddon, plaintiff, and William de Middelton, tenant, of half a knight's fee and 1 virgate of land in Griddon (Criddon) and Godestil (Tedstill), whereof was an assize of *mort d'ancestre*. The former tenant (William de Middleton) renounced his right on receipt of five merks.

The Inquest of 1255 (as printed) again exhibits this place and its owner in a false orthography. "Geoffrey de Breddon is Lord of Breddon, and holds *in capite* of John Fitz Alan. Therein is one-fourth of a hide (the virgate of the fine). He does suit to the Hundred Courts; pays *stretward* 1 penny, and *motfee* 2 pence. He does no suit to the County Court."<sup>6</sup>

The same Geoffrey (again written "de Breddon") also held half Middelton under Fitz Aer, and Fitz Aer under Fitz Alan.<sup>7</sup> Perhaps William de Middelton had been his predecessor in each Manor.

In Feb. 1262, Geoffrey de Criddon, as a Regarder of the Forests, was amerced.<sup>8</sup> In March, 1262, and Sept. 1263, he appears on Juries;<sup>9</sup> again on Jan. 26, 1270, and with Hugh de Holicote; and on two Juries in April, 1278, which are the latest notices I have seen of him.

Sibil, his daughter and sole heir, succeeded him. This lady was, if I am not mistaken, the wife of four successive husbands; the first of whom, Hugh de Crediton, was dead before January, 1256, when Sibil, his widow, sued William Okeman and Sibil, his wife, for a messuage in Crediton, as her dower, and recovered the same.<sup>10</sup>

At the same Assizes this Sibil (called daughter of Geoffrey de Criddon) was sued under writ of *mort d'ancestre* for a virgate in Deuxhill. The plaintiff in this case was non-suited, Sibil proving that she was not tenant of the premises.<sup>11</sup> As her father was living it is probable that her interest in Deuxhill, whatever it was, accrued with her first husband, and that he adopted the name of Criddon from his residence here.

Her second husband, Hugh de Holicote, has already been noticed in 1268, 1270, and 1272.<sup>12</sup> Also the deed attested by Geoffrey

<sup>6</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 82.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 81; vide *infra*, p. 196.

<sup>8</sup> *Plac. Forest. Salop.*

<sup>9</sup> *Inquisitions*, 46 Hen. III, No. 31, and 47 Hen. III, No. 26.

<sup>10</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 14 recto.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 2 dorso.

<sup>12</sup> *Supra*, p. 182.

de Criddon and Hugh de Holicote, *his son*, has been set forth.<sup>13</sup> He appears to have died between 1272 and 1274, for in the latter year—

Ralph, son of Ralph Payn, of Salop, grants all he had in Criddon to Thomas de Marham, mentioning Sibil, daughter of Geoffrey de Criddon, his wife.<sup>14</sup>

In 1284, Sibil appears with her fourth husband and her inheritance, for “John de Volascote (Wollascott) who married Sibil, daughter and heir of Geoffrey de Cridon, holds a Manor, in Stottesden Hundred, of Richard Fitz Alan, of the honour of Oswestry, by service of half a knight’s fee, and he is to do guard at the Castle of White Minster.”<sup>15</sup>

In 1293, a fine was levied between John de Wolascote with Sibil his wife, and Edmund de Mortimer, defendant, of a rent of 20 quarters of corn in Deuxhill. The right was the defendant’s.<sup>16</sup> This calls to mind Sibil’s interest in Deuxhill in 1256.

How Henry le Waleys, the next whom I find possessed of Criddon, succeeded thereto I cannot say. He, however, entailed the estate on Fitz Aer, by fine levied in 1306, and which purports to be between Hugh le Fitz Aer, plaintiff, and Henry le Waleys, defendant, of 1 messuage, 1 carrucate of land, and 100 shillings rent, in Criddon (Salop), and of £10 rent, in Franbarew (Warwickshire). The right is acknowledged to be Henry’s, who concedes all the premises to Hugh for life, with remainder to William, son of said Hugh Fitz Aer, and Christiana, daughter of John de Redmarleye (wife of William I suppose).<sup>17</sup>

In March, 1316, Alina Fitz Aer is returned as Lady of Criddon;<sup>18</sup> and, in 1397-8, Criddon was held by Margaret Criddon by half a knight’s fee, under Fitz Alan.<sup>19</sup>

A few inferior tenancies must have notice :—

In January, 1256, Agnes de Tedstill accused Thomas and Philip Horde and Ralph de Rnton, for breaking open her house at night. They prove that the thing was done not feloniously, but to make a certain seizure<sup>20</sup> (probably as public officers).

<sup>13</sup> Vide supra, p. 141.

<sup>14</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*

<sup>15</sup> *Kirby’s Quest.* Here then is one proof of the association between the service of Castle-guard and the fee of the Muntator or Muntor (vide supra, p. 85).

<sup>16</sup> *Dukes’ Antiquities*, p. 255.

<sup>17</sup> *Fines diversorum Comitatus*. 34 Ed. I, (Salop and Warw). Henry le Waleys may have been only a feoffee in trust.

<sup>18</sup> *Parl. Writs*, vol. iv, 398.

<sup>19</sup> *Esch. Calend.* iii, 223.

<sup>20</sup> *Placita Corona* 40 Hen. III, memb. 1.

In Feb. 1262, Robert, son of Elias de Criditon, was amerced half a merk for *imbladement*, within the jurisdiction of Shirlet Forest.<sup>21</sup>

In July, 1272, Ralph, son of Robert the Carpenter, of Kriddon, fined half a merk to have an *assize*.<sup>22</sup>

In September, 1272, there was a suit of *mort d'ancestre*, as to whether Elyas, father of William de Criddedon, had died seized of half a virgate here, and if so, whether said William was his heir. William de Morehall, who was sued as tenant, would not answer without Sibil, his wife.<sup>23</sup>

Richard, son of Reginald Elyes, of Criddon (of the same family as the last plaintiff, I suppose), is mentioned in a deed of 1311-2 as having sold a tenement in Criddon to Adam, son of William Lord of Upton, which said Adam then grants to John Lord of Upton, his nephew, &c.<sup>24</sup>

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## Middleton.

### NOW MIDDLETON SCRIVEN.

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THIS Saxon town (tun), like all other Middletons, will have originally been so called with reference to certain other localities between which it stood.

But it is vain to conjecture such relations, seeing that 450 years may have elapsed between the time when a Mercian town received its Saxon name, and the time when such name first became matter of written record. In other words, we do not know, within 450 years, when any ordinary village of Mercia was established, and still less do we know what at the time of such establishment were the adjacent villages, or what two of them were of sufficient importance to suggest the denomination of a third. The neighbourhood of some great perennial objects, such as mountains or

<sup>21</sup> *Plac. Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III.

<sup>22</sup> *Fin.*, ii, 572.

<sup>23</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 5 dorso.

<sup>24</sup> Vide supra, p. 143.

rivers, will, it is true, often account for allusive names, but in the case before us, these circumstances are wanting.

In 1085, Rainald (the Sheriff) held Middeltone (of the Earl), and Alcher and Albert (held it) of him. Edric a free man held it (in time of King Edward) for two Manors. Here are 11 hides geldable. In demesne are 11 ox-teams; and (there are) v serfs, vi villains, and v boors, with 111 ox-teams; and there might be 111 other (ox-teams) more. In time of King Edward (the Manors) were worth 13s. (per annum). Now (they are worth) 28s. They were waste (that is, worth nothing when they came to the present holders).<sup>1</sup>

The two Manors held here by Alcher and Albert, at *Domesday*, under the Sheriff Rainald, remained two Manors held by the descendants of Alcher and Albert under Fitz Alan.

Thus Middleton will have contributed its share to the service of 1 knight and 1½ *muntators* due, in 1165, by Robert Fitz Aer to Fitz Alan's Barony; and also to the service of 1 knight and 3½ *muntators* due, at the same period, by Hugh Fitz Albert, to the same seigneurie.<sup>2</sup>

Also in 1240, when William Fitz Aer is said to hold 1 fee, and Thomas de Roshale 1½ fees of the Barony of Fitz-Alan,<sup>3</sup> the fief of each must be taken to have involved whatever service was due from his share of Middleton.

But of Fitz Aer and Fitz-Albert we shall hear more elsewhere. Here we will only mention the undertenants of each at Middleton, distinguishing them or not as best we can.

#### FITZ AER'S MANOR.

Warin de Middelton, who, in November, 1194, was a *recognizor* in the *assize* mentioned under Hollicott, was, I suppose, Fitz Aer's tenant here. In the cause in question it is observable that his *essoigner* was Roger Fitz Edwin.<sup>4</sup>

On Sept. 26, 1199, a fine was levied at Salop between Warin de Middelton, plaintiff, and Richard de Overton, tenant, of one virgate in Overton (an adjoining Manor) whereof had been a trial of *mort d'ancestre*. Warin made over his claim to Richard and his heirs, receiving 15s.<sup>5</sup>

At Salop Assizes (October 1203), the Stottesden Jurors reported

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255 a. 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 143.

*Testa de Nevill*, pp. 44, 47, 48, 49.

<sup>4</sup> *Supra*, p. 181.

<sup>5</sup> *Pedes finium*, 1 John, Salop.

that "Roger Fitz Edwin, who was with Warin de Middelton, who died in a fit of intoxication, was a fugitive, but that he was not suspected as regarded the death of said Warin."<sup>6</sup>

It is possible that William de Middleton, who has before occurred as conceding his interest in Criddon to Geoffry de Criddon, in 1240, took his name from this Manor, and had an interest here.

Be that as it may, in 1255, the same Geoffry de Criddon (written "Breddon") was Lord of a part of Middelton, viz. 1 hide, which he held *in capite* of John Fitz Aeri (written "Cleri"). He did suit to County and Hundred Courts. The whole Manor paid *stretward*—8 pence, and *motfe*—16 pence<sup>7</sup> (the sums proportionable to 2 hides).

How or when Geoffry de Criddon or his daughter alienated this tenancy I cannot say. She was still living in 1284, and at a subsequent period has been noticed in a transfer of rents at Deuxhill to Edmund de Mortimer. This may be taken in conjunction with the fact that, in 1284, Thomas de la Hide held half the *vill* of Middleton of Edmund de Mortimer, Edmund of John Fitz Aer, John of Richard Fitz Alan, by service of one-fourth part of a knight's fee, and of the *honor* of White-Minster.<sup>8</sup>

In March, 1316, Thomas de la Hyde was returned<sup>9</sup> as one of the Lords of Middleton in Stottesden Hundred.

#### FITZ ALBERT'S OR ROSSALL MANOR.

About 1170-80, Stephen de Midelton is a witness to a charter of Osbern Fitz Hugh, Lord of Richard's Castle which related to Badger.<sup>10</sup>

In Nov. 1194, Stephen de Middelton was a *Recognizor* in the *assize* mentioned under Hollicott. His *essoigner* was Adam de Middleton.<sup>11</sup>

At Salop Assizes, Oct. 1203, Stephen, nephew of one Robert, sued Vivian de Roshall, under writ of *mort d'ancestre*, for a *bovate* in Middleton, which he claimed as Robert's heir. Vivian appeared and said that he claimed nothing in the premises except as guardian of a certain infant whom he brought into Court. Stephen would

<sup>6</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 2 dorso.

<sup>7</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 81.

<sup>8</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* In 1292, Warin de Middleton, whom I take to be of this

place, has been mentioned already as having an interest in Faintree.

<sup>9</sup> *Parl. Writs*, vol. iv, p. 398.

<sup>10</sup> Charter at Badger.

<sup>11</sup> *Supra*, p. 181.

not allow a *remanet* on this ground, because the father of the said infant had never been seized of the land, but held it of his (Stephen's) service (I suppose in villenage). Vivian acknowledges thus far, but says that, in fact, Robert, son of the daughter of the first-named Robert, after the death of said first-named Robert, was seized of said land, and is yet living; and whereas he is living and not in Court, Vivian avers that there should be no *assize*. Stephen rejoins without contradicting Robert's seizin, but believes him to be dead. However, as Stephen produces no witnesses (*sectam*) of such death he *takes nothing*, and the Assize remains *sine die*.<sup>12</sup>

In 1255, Hamo de Middleton was returned as joint Lord of Middleton, holding 1 hide there of Thomas de Rossale, and doing suit to the Hundred Courts.<sup>13</sup>

From 1259 to 1262, he was one of the *Agistators* of several Royal Forests, and rendered account of his receipts in 1267.<sup>14</sup>

In Sept. 1263, Hamo de Middleton and Richard Clericus de Middleton sat as Jurors on an Inquest concerning the age of Robert de Beyssin (of Wrichton &c.).<sup>15</sup>

In Sept. 1272, Hamo was one of the Jurors who sat for Stottesden Hundred at the Assizes.<sup>16</sup>

In 1284, the daughters and heirs of Richard de Middleton apparently hold half the Manor of Thomas de Roshall, and Thomas of Richard Fitz-Alan &c.<sup>17</sup>

At the Assizes of Oct. 1292, Alan, son of Hamon de Middleton, and William Snell, of Middleton, are reported, as making default of attendance, by the Stottesden Jury.<sup>18</sup>

In March, 1316, John de Roshale is returned as one of the Lords of Middleton, the former sub-tenancy having apparently expired.<sup>19</sup> At this period Thomas de Roshale was head of his house, and presumed to have been *seigneur* over John.

#### THE CHURCH OF MIDDLETON.

The first notice of a Church here is in 1291, when the same is returned as not being of £4 annual value, and so not taxable.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Salop Assize*, 5 John, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 81.

<sup>14</sup> *Placita forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto. Pipe Roll, 51 Hen. III.

<sup>15</sup> *Esch.* 47 Hen. III, No. 26.

<sup>16</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III.

<sup>17</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>18</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 20 recto.

<sup>19</sup> *Parl. Writs*, iv, 398.

<sup>20</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax*, p. 166. The printed text gives "Chidleton" as the name of

In 1341, the taxation (valuation) of the Church of Midilton is put at 6 merks (£4.) The Assessors and Vendors of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb in the Parish, rendered account only of £1. 3s. 4d. ; so much less than the taxation of the Church, because the wheat had been destroyed by storms, and there had been a common murrain among the sheep in the present year, and because the small tithes, offerings, glebe, and other profits of the same Church, go to make up the higher taxation, and have nothing to do with the ninth ; and because 3 carrucates of land in the same Parish lie untilled by reason of the poverty of the tenants, as by Inquisition has been ascertained.<sup>21</sup>

In 1534, Christopher Shorde being Rector of Mydulton, in Stottesden Deanery, the Church is valued (in glebe, corn, and other tithes and offerings) at £4. The only charge was 6d. per annum, for Archdeacon's Synodals.<sup>22</sup>

#### INCUMBENTS OF MIDDLETON.<sup>23</sup>

On May 1, 1303, the Church is committed to Sir William de la Lowe, Priest, saving the right of Walter de Mortimer, the previous Presentee.

On March 21, 1340-1, John Martin was instituted on presentation of the Crown. The Bishop's precept thereon is addressed to the Dean of Stottesden.<sup>24</sup>

On May 16, 1354, Sir Nicholas de Brentemersch, Chaplain, is instituted to this Church on presentation of Sir Roger de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore.

On June 15, 1363, William Squier, Priest, is instituted.

this place, which the note explains as "Cheillers." This is a double confusion, viz, with Chetton and Chelmarsh, both in the same Deanery of Stottesden, and valued distinctly on the same page of the record. Perhaps, however, the name of Middleton became Chidleton in this instance by confusion with Criddon. We have before had the same confusion resulting in such compounds as Cradelton, Gridelton, and Cridelton. (Vide supra, p. 191.)

<sup>21</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum*, 190.

<sup>22</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 211.

<sup>23</sup> Blakeway's Extracts from *Hereford Registers*, in Bibl. Bodl.

<sup>24</sup> Mr. Blakeway seems to have considered that a precept to the Dean of Stottesden was conclusive evidence that this Middleton was the one intended. But there was a contemporary Chapel at Middleton Priors, also in Stottesden Deanery, and to which, at this period, the Crown will have had the right of presentation. However, the latter chapelry was usually associated with Deuxhill, and that distinction between the two Middletons may have guided Mr. Blakeway. In 1340-1 the minority of Roger de Mortimer, of Wigmore, will have entitled the Crown to present to any vacant Church of his patronage.



## Aston Eyre.

ASTON EYRES, ASTON AER, or WHEATEN ASTON.

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ASTON or ESTON, wherever it occurs, implies a *town* situated to the *East* of something else.

If this Aston and the hamlet of Weston, about four miles distant, were each so called with reference to some common centre, we can fix such centre nowhere but at Monk Hopton. Howbeit no early mention of the latter will warrant a presumption of such by-gone importance as might have reflected a name on its neighbouring localities.

We infer from *Domesday* how Aston acquired its distinctive addition of Eyre. Aer and Eyre are softened or corrupted forms of Alcher,<sup>1</sup> whose name appears thus in that Survey—

“The same Rainald (Vicecomes) holds (under the Earl) Estone, and Alcher (holds it) of him. Sessi held it in time of King Edward and was a free man. Here are 11 hides geldable. In demesne are three ox-teams; and six serfs, one villain, five boors and one Frenchman with two ox-teams. There is wood for 60 swine. Its former value was 30s., its present is 40s.”<sup>2</sup>

Alcher either before or in 1086 had an interest in several other Manors, viz., Albrighton (near Shrewsbury), Middleton (now Middleton Scriven), Withiford, and Harcott. In the first three he held, as at Aston, of the fief of the Sheriff; in Harcott his tenure was immediately of the Earl. Thus it was that his descendants became tenants *in capite* of the Crown, a circumstance which affords many helps in clearing up their succession and history. But the name of Fitz Aer is also associated with those records of faith and devotion, which, while they facilitate all genealogical inquiries, invest them with their chief interest and perhaps their only use. Before *Domesday* was written, and while Warin the first Sheriff of

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255 a. 2.

Shropshire was yet alive, it is probable<sup>3</sup> that Alcher had formed the design of conferring his lordship of Albrighton on the then founded Abbey of Shrewsbury. Certain it is that the grant was completed before the death of Earl Roger.

His descendant, very possibly his son, was that Robert Fitz Aer, whom we have already mentioned and must presently recur to, as founder of the Church of Aston, about A.D. 1138.<sup>4</sup>

In 1165, the whole tenure of Robert Fitz Aer under the Barony of Fitz Alan involves the full service of 1 knight and 1 *muntator*, and half the latter service in addition.<sup>5</sup> The Knight's service was that which was due on Aston.

Within ten years of this period, Robert Fitz Aer will have died, leaving a son and heir of the same name.

The first notice of the latter is in a deed of the Salop Chartulary, which mentions him under the name of Robert Fitz Robert, as having been at issue with that Abbey about the burial of his men of Eston. This dispute took place whilst Adam was Abbot of Salop, that is, between the years of 1167 and 1175, and was settled by Roger, Bishop of Worcester. This Prelate probably officiated in consequence of a concurrent vacancy of the See of Hereford. He decided in favour of the Abbey, his assessors being apparently Ralph, Prior of Worcester, and Humbald, Prior of Wenlock.<sup>6</sup>

Between January and September, 1176, when the Justices appointed under the famous statutes of Northampton first visited Shropshire, they amerced this Robert Fitz Aer in a sum of 4 merks for some default.<sup>7</sup> Half of this fine was then paid, and the remainder subsequently. In the fiscal year ending Michaelmas 1180, Shropshire had been taken in the circuit of the great Justiciar, Ranulph de Glanvill. A still heavier fine had on this occasion been inflicted on Robert Fitz Aer. He had been convicted of a *false presentment*, had neglected to do homage (as a tenant *in capite*), and owed his *relief* for a certain Serjeantry (Harcott of course). His total liabilities amounted to £5, of which he paid 50s. in 1180, 16s. in 1181, and the balance in 1182.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Domesday*, 255 b. Where the notice of Alcher's Manor of Etbritone in Bascherche Hundred is sufficient to indicate the lapse of his interest therein, though the Reversioner is not named.

<sup>4</sup> *Supra*, p. 140.

<sup>5</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 143. This Robert may

have been son of the last. His being called Robert Fitz Aer rather than Robert Fitz Robert Fitz Aer is no proof of the contrary.

<sup>6</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 343.

<sup>7</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 22 Hen. II. Salop.

<sup>8</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 26, 27, 28 Hen. II. Salop.

Having come into possession of his estates about the same time as his Suzerain (the second William Fitz Alan), this Robert Fitz Aer appears as a prominent witness in certain charters of that Baron. He attests the two deeds which secured to the Canons of Haughmond the site of their house and the endowments of their founder.<sup>9</sup> He also stands first witness to a charter whereby Wm. Fitz Alan recognizes the right of Shrewsbury Abbey to some land in Oswestry.<sup>10</sup> The year 1190 may be assigned as the proximate date of all these deeds, and also of a further dispute which the same Robert Fitz Aer had with Shrewsbury Abbey as to the right of Advowson of the Chapel of Estun.<sup>11</sup> We have now to speak of him in another relation.—

About the year 1191, as far as we can judge from subsequent records,<sup>12</sup> this Robert Fitz Aer, with several others, was challenged (appellatus) in the Courts at Westminster for the murder of Richard de Brigida, a dependant of Matthew de Gamages of Stottesden. The appellant was Adam de Brigida, brother of the murdered man. The challenge was ultimately withdrawn against all parties, but not till Robert Fitz Aer had suffered a voluntary imprisonment of some duration, and his whole estate been seized into the hands of the King. It was either just before or during this temporary forfeiture that John le Strange obtained possession of Withyford, by writ of the Chancellor (Longchamp, Bishop of Ely), directed to the Sheriff of Shropshire. As another locality was principally concerned in this matter, we shall here give only such particulars as are necessary to a chronological account of the family under notice. Longchamp's writ to the Sheriff was an act of Sovereignty, and must have issued while he was Viceroy of King Richard, that is, between June, 1190, and October, 1191; limits which must also be assigned to his judicial visit to Hereford, at which, as John le Strange afterwards alleged, the Chancellor and his fellow-Justices awarded Withyford to the said John as his right, and not merely for custody. After Longchamp's expulsion, the Viceregal Office was discharged by Walter, Archbishop of Rouen, and his assessors. To them, before Michaelmas 1193, Robert Fitz Aer offered a fine of ten

<sup>9</sup> One of these deeds is printed (*Mon.* vi, 108, ii), where this witness's name is given as Robert Fitz *Haber*. In the other deed (*Harl. MSS.*, 446, quire xii, fo. 4) the name is given correctly. The

two charters are contemporary and attested by the same witnesses.

<sup>10</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, 302 b.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, 340, 341.

<sup>12</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 2 dorso.

merks "to have such seizin of his lands as he had when he was put into the King's Gaol."<sup>13</sup> No instalment of this fine was ever paid, probably because he who offered it never obtained the seizin for which he fined. It remained an entry on the Rolls of four following years, and on being renewed in the seventh year (A. D. 1200), the Barons of the Exchequer cancelled it as having been comprehended in a more recent fine,<sup>14</sup> presently to be mentioned. Meanwhile (that is, in the years 1194 and 1195), a suit had been progressing in the Law-Courts between Robert Fitz Aer and John le Strange, about Withyford. The latest mention of Fitz Aer the Plaintiff, is probably of date May 12, 1195, when John le Strange essoigned himself as being in the King's service in Wales.<sup>15</sup> A day of adjournment (probably July 1, 1195) was given, but the records of that and many subsequent terms are lost. However, we know that Robert Fitz Aer lived neither to conclude his suit nor liquidate his fine. During the fiscal year, which ended Michaelmas 1198, the widow of Robert Fitz Aer, viz. Emma de Say, accounted 20 merks into the Treasury, being her fine for having custody of the land and heir of said Robert, "which land he (Robert) held *in capite* of the King, viz. nine *librates* of land, and for having marriage of the heir and of herself."<sup>16</sup>

The heir in question was another Robert; but before we enter on his history, we should mention, that his father having an interest in Newton (near Ellesmere), had granted the whole thereof to the Canons of Haughmond, and concurred with Emma, his wife, in bestowal of their bodies, when dead, to receive rites of sepulture in that Abbey. To this deed were witnesses: William Fitz Alan, Alan de Hadley, Reginald de Hesding, and Henry Mauveysin,<sup>17</sup>—a combination which suggests a date at least five years previous to the death of the Grantor.

This is hardly the place to follow the suit about Withyford, which Emma de Say still prosecuted against John le Strange. Suffice it to mention its settlement by final concord at Salop, on Sept. 25, 1199, and that it was agreed that Robert, the infant son of Emma,

<sup>13</sup> *Mag. Rot. Pip.*, 5 R. I. Salop, *Nova Oblata*.

<sup>14</sup> *Rot. Pip.*, 2 John. Salop.

<sup>15</sup> "*Placita incerti temporis Regis. Johannis*," (No. 60); but, as I believe, of Easter Term, 6 Ric. I (1195).

<sup>16</sup> *Rot. Pip.*, 9 Ric. I. Salop.

<sup>17</sup> *Haughmond Chartulary*, fo. 152. It is worth noticing that this Robert Fitz Aer and his Suzerain Fitz Alan were both involved in disputes with Salop Abbey; were both benefactors of Haughmond, and were both buried there.

should hold it in future, under John le Strange and his heirs, by service of half a Knight's fee.<sup>18</sup>

In October, 1203, Emma and her son Robert, still under age, appear again in the Law-Courts, as Defendants in a suit about land in Harcott.<sup>19</sup>—

The infant alleged his nonage. The decision was “Habeat etatem suam;” equivalent, I presume, to an adjournment. Soon after this Robert Fitz Aer III, will have been of full age, for his consent is certified to a grant which Lewellyn Prince of Wales, then Lord of Ellesmere, made to Haughmond Abbey.<sup>20</sup>

He further attests as Robert, son of Robert Fitz Aer, a deed of Ranulf de Rodinton, which must have passed before 1211;<sup>21</sup> and in the latter year is similarly designated, as holding his serjeantry (of Harcott) *in capite* of the Crown.<sup>22</sup>

On July 3, 1221, King Henry III, being then at Bridgnorth, issued his precept<sup>23</sup> to the chief Forester of Salop, commanding him “to permit Robert Fitz Alier (Aher) to assart and cultivate his *rifflet* pertaining to his wood of Estun, where the road goes down towards Salop, between the brook and the boundary (horam) of the aforesaid wood of Estun.” The object of this permission was, that “the said road might be safe and secure for passengers in those parts, and that they should neither meet with harm to their goods nor persons, from the malefactors of that neighbourhood, by reason of the said *rifflets*.”<sup>24</sup>

At Salop Assizes (Nov. 1221), Robert Fitz Aer was of the Jury which had to try “a great Assize.”<sup>25</sup>

The next who occurs in this succession was William Fitz Aer, who before Michaelmas, 1231, stood pledge for Walter de

<sup>18</sup> *Pedes finium*, 1 John. Salop. This settlement with John le Strange was only final as regarded him. Another suit remained, wherein the tenants of a part of Wifyford were Defendants, but the details must be reserved for their proper place.

<sup>19</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>20</sup> *Haughmond Chartulary apud Sundorn*, fo. 152.

<sup>21</sup> Charter in possession of Mr. George Morris.

<sup>22</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 55.

<sup>23</sup> *Rot. Claus.*, 5 Hen. III, memb. 6. None of the Lexicographers explain the word *riffletum*. It is used conjunctively with *boscus* (a wood) and with *messuagium* (a messuage). The context of the above perhaps throws as much light on the word as any attempt to explain it.

<sup>24</sup> Two “*rifflets*” had been named in the deed, but the second was in Shirlet Forest, and so is not particularized above.

<sup>25</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 1. Of the trial “by grand Assize,” see Lingard, *Hist. England* vol. ii, p. 293.

Upton, as to an amercement of the latter by the Justices of the Forest.<sup>26</sup>

In 1235, he was one of four Knights who visited all the King's forests in Shropshire, and made return as to their condition, in obedience to a Royal Writ, dated Oct. 19, of that year.<sup>27</sup>

In October, 1237, he is the second Juror named of those who met the King at Worcester, to try a great and protracted suit between Giles de Erdinton and Henry de Audley.<sup>28</sup>

In or about 1240, his tenure of 1 Knight's fee in Eston, is entered on the list of Fitz Alan's Barony.<sup>29</sup>

He resigned all right of patronage in the Chapel of Eston, by formal deed, to Salop Abbey; and this, his act, was certified by H. Bishop of Hereford, calling him "The Knight William Fitz Aer, Lord of Eston." This transaction will have been previous to 1234.<sup>30</sup>

On Aug. 18, 1245, this William Fitz Aer was dead; for then did "Philip le Bret give 20 merks to the King to have custody of two parts of his land in Eston and Hauerkecot (Harcott), till the lawful age of said William's heir. And he (Philip) was to pay yearly for the said two parts, that which they were valued at, viz. £10. 9s. 3½d., whereof £1. was to be paid to the Abbey of Haghe-man, as the said William annually paid it in his time, and the balance to the King's Exchequer."<sup>31</sup> This fine for two-thirds of William Fitz Aer's estate, indicates the survivorship of his widow, and her continued tenure of the remaining third in dower.

<sup>26</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 15 Henry III, Salop. A William Fitz Aer had occurred in the very beginning of the century, and while Robert Fitz Aer was under age, unless I mistake the date of the deed to which I refer, and in which the said William is a prominent witness. (It is a Charter quoted in the Newport Evidences in the Bodleian Library.) I cannot suppose him to have been the same Wm. Fitz Aer noticed above, but still the doubt which remains about the matter induces me to defer a tabular pedigree of this family to a future occasion, when I hope to give it with little hesitation as to its correctness.

<sup>27</sup> Charters entitled "*de forestis antiquis*," at the Tower. No. 13.

<sup>28</sup> *Placita coram Rege apud Wygorn*, 21 Hen. III, memb. 1 dorso.

<sup>29</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, page 49.

<sup>30</sup> Salop Chartulary, 344, 345. The certificate quoted appears under the name of *Henry* Bishop of Hereford. As no such prelate sat before the eighteenth century, it is evident that the Chartulary involves an error. A number of cases have occurred to me where a similar incoherence has arisen from some transcriber having taken upon himself to determine a Christian name, which was represented in the original only by an initial letter. Presuming this to have been the case here, we must refer the certificate quoted to Hugh Foliot, Bishop of Hereford, elected in 1219, and who died 26 July 1234.

<sup>31</sup> *Rot. Fin.* i, 441.

In 1255, though John Fitz Aer, the next in succession, was still in minority, his tenure of this manor is stated without reference to that fact.<sup>32</sup> The Stottesden Jury said, as regarded Whetene Aston, that John Fitz Aer was Lord, and held immediately of John Fitz Alan by one Knight's fee, and that there were therein two hides of land (the *Domesday* hidage), and that he did suit to the Hundred Court by Richard Mukel (his Attorney to do suit to the lesser Hundred Courts for the said *vill*), and that he paid the Sheriff 8 pence for *stretward*, and 16 pence for *motfee*.

In 1256, John Fitz Aery was returned amongst those who holding fifteen *librates* of land were not yet knighted.<sup>33</sup>

In 1271, he was both a Knight and Sub-eschator of the King in this County. His conduct in the latter office was variously reported of three years afterwards. The Jurors of the Manor of Ford complained of some extortion of his, after the death of James de Audley,<sup>34</sup> while the Jurors of Wenlock said that "after the death of Prior Aymo, he entered the Priory, and there discharged his duties well and faithfully,"<sup>35</sup> an almost singular exception to the statements which were given as to the conduct of the fiscal officers of the Crown at that period.

At the Shrewsbury Assizes, of October, 1272, he appears both as a Knight and Juror of the "King's Grand Assize."<sup>36</sup>

He was also unsuccessful in a suit against a tenant who pleaded that his tenure was not under the said John, but under Margery, John's mother, and so evaded the main question.<sup>37</sup> This Margery will therefore have been the widow of William Fitz Aer, above alluded to, and identical with that Margery de Harcott who, at these same Assizes, was returned as failing in due attendance.

In 2 Edw. I (1273-4), this Sir John Fitz Aer was associated with Sir Ralph d'Arraz, as Justice for delivery of Shrewsbury Gaol.<sup>38</sup>

On Jan. 28, 1281, he was one of four Knights who were appointed, under precept of the Crown, to make report as to the state of Bridgnorth Castle.<sup>39</sup> His attestation of deeds at this period is very frequent.

<sup>32</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 82, where the printed edition has converted John Fitz Aeri into "Johannes filius Cleri."

<sup>33</sup> Dukes' *Antiquities*, Introduction, page vii.

<sup>34</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, p. 88.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 112.

<sup>36</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 1 recto.

<sup>37</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 12 recto. The premises in litigation are described as situated in *Schyre*.

<sup>38</sup> *Rot. Pat.*, *sub anno*.

<sup>39</sup> *Inquisition*, 9 Edw. I, No. 81. This

In 1284, his tenure of Aston by 1 Knight's fee of the honour of *White-Minster*, is again recorded.<sup>40</sup> His death in 21 Edw I (1222-3), is first marked by the usual writ to the Escheator, to seize his lands, and then by the Inquest which makes mention of his Manor of Aston Eyres.<sup>41</sup>

To him succeeded Hugh his son and heir, who, on Feb. 25, 1294, quits all claim in a message in High Street, Bridgnorth, to William Fitz Robert de Petra, senior.<sup>42</sup>

This Hugh sat as a juror on the Great Forest Perambulation of 1300,<sup>43</sup> and died in 7 Edw. II (1313-4).<sup>44</sup> In 1316, Hugh, son of Hugh, is returned as Lord of Aston Aer,<sup>45</sup> and with him we may, for the present, dismiss the subject, especially as the further history of the family is rather connected with other localities than Aston Aer.

Of under tenants in this Manor, Richard Mukley has occurred above, in 1255. In Feb. 1262, the same Richard appeared before the Justices of the Forest as *essoignor* of Simon Carbonel of Wetenaston, who was dead.<sup>46</sup>

#### THE CHURCH OR CHAPEL OF ASTON EYRE.

Stephen's seizure of the Crown of England was so ably planned and so daringly executed, that nearly two years elapsed before men's minds were awakened to a sense of its iniquity.

Shropshire, ever foremost in a cause of faith and legitimacy, was stirred in the spring of 1138, by two young Barons, who, owing their position to the favour of King Henry I, were bound to the cause of his daughter by gratitude no less than fealty. The greater of these was William Fitz Alan. He sacrificed everything in the ensuing struggle—his honours, his offices, his estates, fifteen of the best years of his life, all but a name for matchless truth and constancy.

We may suppose his conduct to have been generally followed by his feudatory tenants; and one of them was Fitz Aer. But about

Inquisition is a document of the greatest interest, and will be given at length hereafter. Its description in the printed Calendar (volume i, page 73), must be the result of a mere guess at its nature, and, of course, is very erroneous.

<sup>40</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>41</sup> *Inquisitions*, (Calendar, i, 114). The particulars will be given elsewhere.

<sup>42</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>43</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 279.

<sup>44</sup> *Inquisitions* (Calendar, vol. i, p. 255).

<sup>45</sup> *Parl. Writs*, vol. iv, p. 398.

<sup>46</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, Salop, memb. 1 recto.



that time when the Chief was vainly fortifying Shrewsbury against Stephen, the vassal was winning for himself a humbler but not less lasting remembrance in this secluded Manor of Aston. So intense and so complicated became the great national struggle that we know little, save of its beginning and its end, and that not from any one contemporary chronicle. But a rudely sculptured stone and a scroll of parchment still exist, ample records of an act of private benevolence and devotion in that age of hatred and ungodliness. A Church was built, endowed and consecrated at Aston Aer, and we may learn both the time, the agents, and the objects of its foundation.

“Know all men,” says the record, “both now and hereafter, that on the day of the dedication of the cemetery<sup>47</sup> of Eston, I, Robert, son of Aher, gave to God and to the Chapel of the same *vill* of Eston one virgate of land containing sixty acres, and all tithe of my demesne of the same *vill*, and one mansion, for the health of my soul, and of all my predecessors, and successors. And that my gift may be free and quit of all reclaim by me or by my heirs, and may ever remain firm and stable, I have fortified it with this present writing and with the impression of my seal.—These being witnesses: Robert, by divine grace, Bishop of Hereford, Reinald, Prior of Wenlock; Peter, the Archdeacon; Richard and Eluric, Deans; Alan de Opton; Fulcaius de Aldreham, and many others.”<sup>48</sup>

At a period very shortly subsequent to this consecration, Robert de Betun, Bishop of Hereford, addressing Ralph the Dean and the whole Convent (Chapter) of the Diocesan Church, deems it necessary, for the security of the Monks of Shrewsbury, to specify the Chapels or Cemeteries which the warlike troubles of the time had induced him to consecrate. In the Parish of the Church of Morville were several, and among them “one at Eston, to which Robert Fitz Aher gave sixty acres, and all tithe of his demesne, and one mansion.” This deed also mentions “the defence of the poor” as one of the objects which the Bishop had had in view. It also contains several regulations as to the subjection of these Chapels to their Mother Church, and so to Shrewsbury Abbey.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>47</sup> The meaning of the word Cemetery must not be restricted by modern ideas, but will rather be obtained from the earliest ages of Christianity, when the members of a persecuted faith being driven to worship in vaults and burial-

places, a Cemetery became only another name for a Church. (See Bingham's *Antiquities*, ii, 351, and vii, 362.)

<sup>48</sup> The original deed in possession of Mr. George Morris of Shrewsbury.

<sup>49</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 333.

There can be little doubt as to these deeds being nearly contemporary, and that they passed about 1138-9.

With that date for the foundation of the Church some architectural remains of the original structure are in exact accordance. The door-way and tympanum, of which a drawing is herewith given, I understand to be the chief features illustrative of the question of date.

The dispute between Salop Abbey and Robert Fitz Aer, as to the burial of his tenants at Aston has been already noticed.<sup>50</sup> Its settlement by Roger, Bishop of Worcester, about A.D. 1170, seems to have been in accordance with the rules laid down by Robert, Bishop of Hereford, at the time of consecrating the Church.

About 1190,<sup>51</sup> William Chaplain, of Aston, having resigned his Chapel into the hands of William (de Vere), Bishop of Hereford, that Prelate committed cure and custody thereof to Peter Chaplain, of Hopton. At the same time he writes to the Abbot of Shrewsbury, acknowledging the Advowson to belong to that house, and stating that he had granted such custody of his own authority, and not on presentation of Robert Fitz Aer, or any one else, but with full observance of the Abbot's right. His reason for writing, he says, is that no act of his may be construed by the said Robert into an acknowledgment of his (Robert's) claims on the Advowson. He concludes with exhorting the Abbot to listen to his (the Bishop's) request in behalf of the fore-mentioned Peter, whom he entitles a 'discreet person.'

The nature of this request will appear forthwith. The same William "by divine grace, the humble servant of the Church of Hereford," addresses "all sons of Holy Mother Church to whom these present letters shall come." He signifies to them all, that "Robert Fitz Aer in his presence, and when many both of the Clergy and Laity were present, orally and voluntarily confessed that he had no right of presenting any one to the Chapel of Estuin, but that the Advowson thereof did belong, and still belonged to the Abbot and Convent of Salop." And that no doubt should arise about this matter in future, the said Bishop put to the said letters the testimony of his seal.<sup>52</sup>

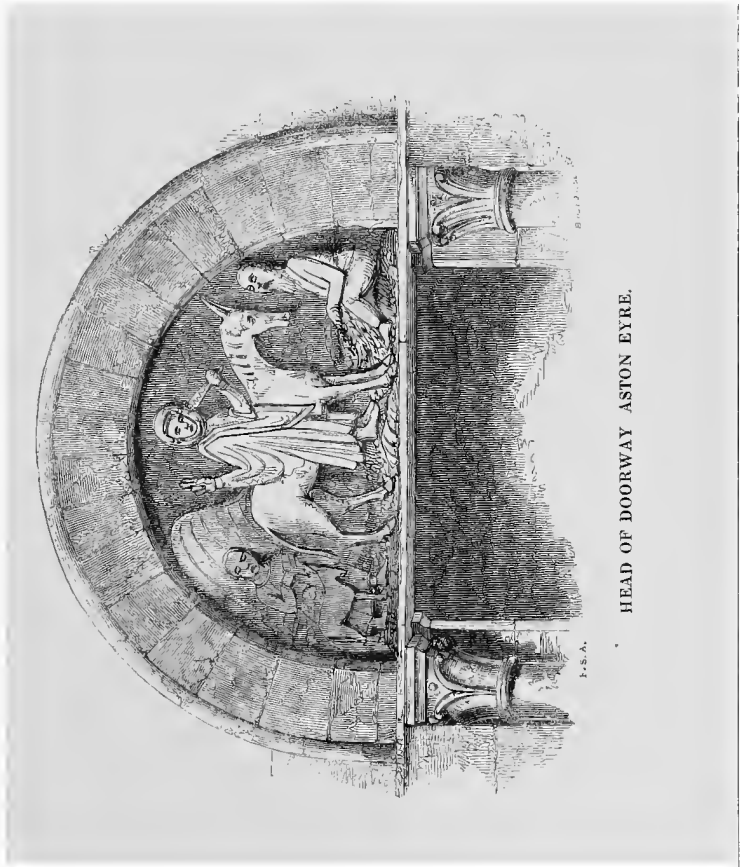
As a sequel to this very intelligible piece of diplomacy, the same

<sup>50</sup> Vide supra, p. 37.

<sup>51</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 340.

<sup>52</sup> The original deed in possession of

Mr. George Morris.—A transcript contributed by him to the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. v, p. 177.



HEAD OF DOORWAY ASTON EYRE.

F.S.A.



Bishop issued another letter<sup>53</sup> to the sons of Holy Mother Church, informing them, that, at the presentation of his most beloved brother H. by divine grace, Abbot of Salop, and of the Convent of the same, he has admitted Peter Chaplain of Hoptun, to the said Abbot and Convent's Chapel of Eston, and has canonically instituted him perpetual Vicar in the same Chapel—in such sort however, as that the same Peter shall hold the said Chapel with its appurtenances as his ancestors (predecessors) held it, to wit, with one virgate of land in the *vill* of Eston, and a third of the customary corn-tithe of the whole arable land. But the tithes of the whole demesne which belong to the parish Church (Morville), and the bodies of the dead (their funerals), with the principal bequests (legatis), shall remain to the Mother Church, viz. of Mamerfeld, to which the aforesaid Chapel belongs. The said Peter shall also each year pay at Michaelmas 8s., as an annual pension to the Mother Church of Mamerfeld, and shall be answerable to the Bishop and his officials for all customary payments, which belong to that Chapel. And that this Charter may be undisturbed, the Bishop confirms it with his seal.—The witnesses were: Master Robert Folet (Foliot), William Chaplain, Reginald Foliot, Martin de Castello, Robert de Hastings.

I have been particular to give at some length the contents of these successive charters, lest the injustice which they imply should escape identification.<sup>54</sup>—

A benevolent Layman founds and endows a Church; a pious Bishop consecrates it. It happens to be in a district where a great Abbey claims a prescriptive parochial jurisdiction, but by no means taxes itself with such a cure of souls as would necessitate the foundation of more Churches. In process of time, the said Abbey not only appropriates part of the endowment of the district Church, but claims a right of presentment to the residue. The founder's heir remonstrates or contests the matter. The Diocesan Bishop is the Judge. He awards the right of Advowson to the Abbey, his expectation being that he himself shall nominate to the existing vacancy.

Wicked as was the fiscal element of Henry the Eighth's Reformation, truly it was, in its very wickedness, but a measure of retribution! The Church which had robbed and cheated was in turn plundered.

<sup>53</sup> The original in Mr. George Morris's possession, and a transcript *ibidem*.

<sup>54</sup> Vide *supra*, p. 38, note 25.

Between the years 1222 and 1234, William Fitz Aer, then Lord of Aston, quitted all claim in the Chapel thereof to Salop Abbey.—The witnesses to this deed were: William Fitz Osbert, and William, Brother of Reginald de Tugford, Chaplains.<sup>55</sup>

And this renunciation is certified by a contemporary deed of “Henry,” Bishop of Hereford, who calls the person renouncing, “The Knight William Fitz Aer, Lord of Eston.”<sup>56</sup>

In 1291,<sup>57</sup> the Chapel of Astone Aer is first mentioned as an adjunct of the Church of Morville, and no separate valuation is given, but the Vicarage thereof is also stated to be under £4. annual value.

In 1341, the Parochial value of Aston Aer must be similarly gathered from the general statement as to Morville and its Chapels, which has already been given.<sup>58</sup>

In the valuation of 1535, the Chapelry is not mentioned; but in 1545 we have seen that the Curate of Wheaton Aston had a salary of £5. 16s. 0½*d.*, chargeable on the Cell or Grange of Morville.<sup>59</sup>

Of the early incumbents of Aston Aer, I can say no more than has been implied above. The first Hereford Registers appear to take no notice of such a Chapelry.

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## Glazeley.

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GLAS-LLE in British, signifies “green place,” an etymology which we can hardly hesitate to accept for Glazeley. If this be right, it is further observable how Anglo-Saxon usage changed the British term *lle* (a place), into its own term *leag* (a district); for after *Domesday* we generally find this *vill* written *Glas-leg*, or in some form associated with the Saxon rather than the British termination. Such change was natural between words so nearly allied in sound and sense, but we need not reject an obvious British etymology because it became adapted to a prevalent Saxon usage.

<sup>55</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 345.

<sup>56</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 344, vide supra, p. 204, note 30.

<sup>57</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* 166, 175.

<sup>58</sup> Vide supra, p. 39.

<sup>59</sup> Vide supra, p. 41.

*Domesday* speaks of this place as follows—<sup>1</sup>

The same Rainald (the Sheriff), holds Gleslei (of the Earl) and Azo of him. Elunard held it (in King Edward's time), and was free with his land. Here are 11 hides geldable. In demesne is 1 ox-team; and (there are) VII serfs, IIII villains, v boors, one radman, and a Priest with III ox-teams, and yet there might be 11 ox-teams more. Here is a mill of 5s. (annual value). It (the Manor) was worth (in King Edward's time) 25s. (annually). Now (it is worth) 20s.

Of Ælward the Saxon, we merely observe that his three Alno-destreu Manors, Oldbury, Eudon, and Glazeley, all devolved to the fief of the Norman Sheriff.

Of Glazeley, it further appears, that, like other Manors held by Azo under Rainald at *Domesday*, Azo's interest came to be represented by the elder house of Le Strange, under Fitz Alan. The Manors to which this remark applies are Glazeley, Abdon, Berrington and Lega (now Longnor); but Streford is perhaps an exception.

We know not when Azo's representatives became extinct, or gave way to Le Strange; but there is every probability that Azo's *Domesday* fief helped to constitute those 2 fees of *new feoffment* which in 1165 were held by John le Strange, of the Barony of Fitz Alan. Glazeley, undoubtedly, was thus circumstanced.

I shall have that to offer under Abdon and Longnor, which will be much more pertinent to the question of Azo's succession than anything which I have found in connexion with Glazeley. Here we had better speak of those whom I take to have held Glazeley under John le Strange, from the first period of his own feoffment by Fitz Alan. These were a family of Norman extraction, whose original name was Pierre-point (de Petri-ponte);<sup>2</sup> but whose members, seated here, came to be called "de Glazeley," at first, incidentally, but afterwards uniformly.

About 1175, Simon de Perepunt and William de Perepunt, stand sixth and tenth witnesses to the certificate of John le Strange which I have already mentioned in connexion with one of these witnesses.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255 a, 2.

<sup>2</sup> Pont St. Pierre is a *vill* in the diocese of Rouen, situate at the confluence of the Rivers Andelle and Seine. Robert and Godfrey de Pierpont were among the Suffolk tenants of William de Warren at *Domesday*, (fo. 399, 399 b), and the descendant of one of them in time of

Henry III was a Simon de Pierpoint. The name (spelt Perepound) was on the Roll of Battle Abbey. Its later ennoblement is well known.

<sup>3</sup> Vide supra, p. 73, note 218,—but the deed is not in Mr. G. Morris' possession, as there stated.

A grant by Guy le Strange (brother of John), to Haughmond Abbey, and which probably passed in 1179, and shortly before the grantor's death, is attested in the third and fourth places by Simon de Petri-ponte and William Clericus, whom I take to be the same two witnesses.<sup>4</sup>

In November, 1194, Simon de Perepont was one of the Visors in a law-suit already mentioned under Astley Abbots. His Essoigner was "Alan de Gleseleia."<sup>5</sup>

In Easter Term, 1200, he, Simon, was one of four knights who were to choose a jury to try an assize about land in Northleg (Norley Regis).<sup>6</sup>

At Salop Assizes, 1203, Simon de Pierrepoint appears in various relations: 1st, as a Knight and Juror of great Assize; 2dly, as amerced for some transgression; and 3dly, as defendant in a suit, wherein Roger de Wadeleg accused him of disseizing him (Roger) of a tenement in Wadeleg.<sup>7</sup> In this suit, Simon was successful, and retained the premises.

At the same Assizes,<sup>8</sup> the Stottesden Jurors presented that Matthew de Gamages (Lord of Stottesden) had challenged Richard le Veil, and Alan de Petraponte, and others, for the murder of his man. The County Court however testified that the said Matthew appeared some time in said Court, and complained of the murder of Richard, his man, and that some of Matthew's servants also appeared and challenged said Richard le Veil and Alan de Petraponte, and others; but that Matthew did not make the challenge, but attorned Philip his Seneschal to prosecute the matter with the other challengers (appellantibus). The Jurors of Stottesden were hereupon declared to be *in misericordiâ* for a false presentment (pro falso dicto).

This murder had been committed ten years before, at least. It was the same, of which Robert Fitz Aer being suspected, had suffered imprisonment. He had been acquitted, and was now dead; but at these Assizes, the charge was renewed against several persons, and failed in each case, on the ground of previous acquittal. Thus Geoffry Dilum challenged Alan de Petraponte for the aforesaid murder. Alan is absent, and the Jury (of Stottesden) being asked

<sup>4</sup> *Haughmond Chart.*, fo. 145.

<sup>5</sup> Vide supra, p. 47.

<sup>6</sup> *Rot. Cur. Regis.*, ii, 169.

<sup>7</sup> *Assize Roll*, 5 John. Salop. Memb. 4

recto, 6 dorso, 4 recto. Wadley was near Glazeley and a member of the Manor.

<sup>8</sup> Ibidem, memb. 2 dorso.



to whom the said Alan went, or by whom he had been entertained (receptatus), since such challenge was first made, said, that he had been entertained by William de Petra-ponte his Brother, who acknowledges the fact. Although Alan was declared innocent, and had leave from the Court to return home, and although the challenge was declared null, and the appellant fined half a merk for its falsity, it appears that the reception of Alan, while under challenge, was a misdemeanour on the part of his Brother William. The latter had anticipated the consequences by fining half a merk with Geoffrey Fitz Piers (Chief Justice), in composition of his fault. John le Strange was his Surety for this fine, which however appears to have been increased to 10s. by the Justices in Eyre, for which also John le Strange was pledge.

I cannot help thinking that Alan and William de Pierrepoint were sons of Simon, and that the former succeeded to Glazeley.

In 1214, Alan de Petriponte had been amerced,<sup>9</sup> apparently by Peter, Bishop of Winchester, for some disseizin. He had paid the fine in two instalments.

The same Alan has already appeared under Quatford, in November, 1221.<sup>10</sup>

The next who occurs in this succession was Guy de Pierrepoint, otherwise called Guy de Glazeley. Him I take to have been son of Alan, and father of a second Alan, his heir.

Sir John le Strange and Wido de Gleseg, are witnesses of Peter de Eyton's charter to Salop Abbey, and which must have passed between 1224 and 1227.<sup>11</sup>

Also, Wydo de Gleseleg is witness of a grant in Walkerslow to the same house, by Adam de Beyssin, and which passed within ten years of the same period.<sup>12</sup>

In September, 1235, the scutage of John le Strange had been paid by hand of Guy de Gleseleg.<sup>13</sup>

Wydo de Perpund is a witness to a feoffment of John le Strange,<sup>14</sup> (probably the third of his name), and which must have passed about 1238, if the grantor be rightly identified.

This Guy had three sons, Alan, Henry, and William, by his wife Juliana, who survived him.

In Michaelmas term 1251, Ralph de Arraz and Jane his wife, sued

<sup>9</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 16 John, Salop.

<sup>10</sup> Vide *supra*, p. 113.

<sup>11</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 280.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 10.

<sup>13</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 61.

<sup>14</sup> *Wombridge Chartulary*, Tit. Lopinton, No. ix.

Alan, son of Wydo, for 6 virgates of land in Wadeleg, and Juliana, mother of said Alan, for 2 virgates there, as the right of Jane.—

Alan and Juliana ask for *view* thereof, which the Court grants, and adjourns the case to the *quinzaine* of Hilary (Jan. 27, 1252). Juliana names *Adam de Perepunt* her Attorney.<sup>15</sup> The Rolls of that term are lost, but we shall hear presently the result of this suit.

In 1255, the Stottesden Jurors reported Alan de Perepunt as Lord of Glasele. Therein was 1 hide of land which the said Alan held of John le Strange for half a Knight's fee. But he did no suit, except twice a year at the Sheriff's *tourn*, nor did he pay *stretward* nor *motfee*: the Jury knew not the ground of either exemption.<sup>16</sup>

At the Salop Assizes, of January, 1256, Ralph de Arraz and Alan Fitz Wydo, are each found offering a merk for license to accord their suit. They have such license and a *cyrograph*.<sup>17</sup>

Accordingly a fine remains on the Rolls to this effect.<sup>18</sup>—

“This is the final concord between Ralph de Arraz and Jane his wife, Plaintiffs; and John le Straunge, whom Alan Fitz Wydo calls to warranty, and who comes forward with such warranty, &c., concerning 8 virgates in Wadeleg (except 6*s.* rent), whereof was suit at law. Ralph and Jane acknowledged the right of the others, quit as regarded themselves and their heirs. For this John le Strange gave the plaintiffs 40 merks.”

In Feb. 1262, Alan de Glasleye appears as one of the regarders of the Forests of Morf and Shirlet.<sup>19</sup>

Between the years 1266 and 1269, this Alan de Glaseleye attests both the charters which Robert Corbet of Chetton granted in relation to that manor.<sup>20</sup>

At Salop Assizes, October 1272, John de Glaseleye and Alan de Glasleg were Jurors for Stottesden Hundred.<sup>21</sup>

Nov. 30, 1274, John de Gleseleg was one of the Jurors who reported on the misconduct of public officers &c. in the Hundred of Stottesden. Among their presentments was one that Hugh Donvil

<sup>15</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.*, 35 Hen. III, memb. 3 recto. Juliana de Glazeley has occurred above in 1255 (vide page 124).

<sup>16</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 81. The mesne tenure of John le Strange under Fitz Alan, is not recognised.

<sup>17</sup> *Assize Roll*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 6 dorso.

<sup>18</sup> *Fines* at Salop, 40 Hen. III.

<sup>19</sup> *Plac. Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto.

<sup>20</sup> Vide *supra*, pp. 178, 179.

<sup>21</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 21 recto.

(*fermor* of Stottesden Hundred, under the Sheriff) had taken a bribe of 1s. from John de Gleseleg for removing him (John) from some Assize<sup>22</sup> (excusing his service on a Jury).

January 28, 1281, Sir Alan de Glaseleg was one of the four Knights commissioned to make view and report of the state of the King's Castle of Brug.<sup>23</sup>

In 1284, Alan de Glasseleye is registered as holding Glasseleye of John le Strange for half a Knight's fee; and said John held it of Richard Fitz Alan, of the honour of White-Minster, and Richard of the King *in capite*.<sup>24</sup>

Next to this, in point of time, is perhaps the deed already quoted, whereby Katherine, relict of Sir Alan de Glaseleye, concedes to Guy, Lord of Glaseleye, land in Quatford, which she and her husband had purchased from Henry, her said husband's brother.<sup>25</sup>

At Salop Assizes, October, 1292, John de Glaseleye and Wytho de Glaseleye were both Jurors of Stottesden Hundred.<sup>26</sup>

June 23, 1297, Wydo de Glaseleg attests a Holycott deed already cited;<sup>27</sup> and in June, 1300, he was one of the Jurors on the great Forest Perambulation of the County.<sup>28</sup>

15 March, 1301, John de Glaseley sat in an Inquest held at Cleobury North.<sup>29</sup>

In 5 Edw. II (1311-12), Wydo, Lord of Glaseley, attests a deed at the Woodhouse near Stottesden, hereafter to be cited, but he is not placed among the witnesses who were Knights.<sup>30</sup>

In March, 1316, he is returned as Lord of Glasseley,<sup>31</sup> and in 10 Edw. II (1316-7); granted land in Bruges to Catherine his daughter.<sup>32</sup> He must have died soon after. The Escheat Rolls of 11 Edw. II (1317-8),<sup>33</sup> seem to have reported him Lord of the Manors of Glaseleye and Ruytone, of which hereafter.

Sept. 29, 1324, John de Glaseleye is found attesting a deed at Bridgnorth.<sup>34</sup>

In 3 Edw. III, 1329, Alan de Glazeley (son and heir of Guy)

<sup>22</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 107, 109, where in the first instance the name is printed Elseleg.

<sup>23</sup> *Inquis.* 9 Edw. I, No. 81.

<sup>24</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>25</sup> Vide supra, p. 114, under Quatford. The seal of the deed is to be especially noticed.

<sup>26</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 51 recto.

<sup>27</sup> Vide supra, p. 182.

<sup>28</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 279.

<sup>29</sup> *Inquis.* 29 Edw. I, No. 7.

<sup>30</sup> *Blakeway's MSS.*, citing an Otley Deed. Vide infra, under Aston Botterell, as to its date.

<sup>31</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, iv, 398.

<sup>32</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*

<sup>33</sup> *Calend. Esch.*, vol. i, p. 288.

<sup>34</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

granted to Reginald, son of Fremund de Eardinton, a meadow in the field of Brug, called the Ree.

This Alan, and William his son, occur in a deed of 27 Edw. III (1353-4).<sup>35</sup>

With them we will close this portion of our subject.

One or two documents, however, remain, which may be added as an Appendix to this account of Glazeley.—

At the Assizes of 1272, Laurence de Glaseleye and Agnes his wife, sued Philip de Heselwode for one-third of a virgate in Heselwode, and sued John, son of Richard de Holicote, for three acres in the same, as the right of Agnes.<sup>36</sup> (The record is here broken off with the words “*Jurata patriæ*,” intended to begin another sentence). Another entry on the same Roll is as follows :—

Philip de Haselwod sues Laurence de Glaseleye and Agnes, daughter of Walter de Haselwod, for two-thirds of a messuage and virgate in Haselwod, in which the defendants had no entry, save by Richard de Haselwod, Philip's brother, who demised the premises to them for a term of 16 years, now expired. Laurence and Agnes plead that Richard enfeoffed them, and they produce his charter thereof. Philip is declared *in misericordiâ*.<sup>37</sup>

By deed *sans date*, but probably of the year 1273, William, son of Wydo de Glaseleye, grants to Cristiana, daughter of William Dagenel, for her service, five *seylions* in the fee of Tasseley, between the lands of the Lady of Tasseley, of Richard de Petra, &c. To hold to her for life, and to Agnes her daughter and the heirs of said Agnes' body, for 1*d.* payable at Michaelmas, as long as they shall both live.—Witnesses: William Bolding, Roger de la More junior, Provosts of Brug &c.<sup>38</sup>

Also Christiana, daughter of William Dagonel, of Bruges, delivers to William, called Godwyn, Clerk of Brug, for a sum of money, the same 5 *seylions*, which William de Glaseley gave her.—To hold for a term of five years, commencing Michaelmas 1273, so that he may have, according to the custom of the country, five crops together with the charter, and its effect (*virtute*) and feoffment, which said William de Glaseley made and gave of that land to the said Christiana.—Witnesses: the same Provosts and others (six in number), dated A.D. 1273, and 1 Edw. I.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>35</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*

<sup>36</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 12 dorso.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 14 recto.

<sup>38</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>39</sup> Charter *ibidem*. These two deeds are not given thus at length for their local interest or importance, but because of

## GLAZELEY CHURCH.

I have before said that mention of a Priest in connexion with any *Domesday* Manor perhaps indicates the coexistence of a Church.<sup>40</sup> We have, in case of Glazeley, a confirmation of that surmise, more apposite than could ordinarily have been expected.

We learn in fact, that about thirty years after *Domesday*, the Church of Glazeley was of such standing, as that Ingelbert, the Priest thereof, claimed in an Archidiaconal Chapter, then held at Castle Holgate, a parochial jurisdiction over the neighbouring Manor of Deuxhill.<sup>41</sup> The latter belonged to Wenlock Priory, and the dispute very probably arose in consequence of the Monks having founded a Chapel there. All that need be said of this matter here is, that Richard, Bishop of London, then Viceroy of Shropshire, and presiding judicially in the said Chapter, rejected the claim of the Rector of Glazeley, on the ground that *all St. Milburg's lands constituted but one Parish*.

In 1291, the Church of Glasleye was valued at £4; but the Priory of Wenlock had a portion of 6s. 8d. therein, which belonged to the pittance of the Monks.<sup>42</sup>

In 1341, the Church of Glaseley, in Stottesden Deanery, is entered as valued at £4. 6s. 8d. But the Assessors and Vendors of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb in the Parish, render account only of 19s.—

The reasons of the difference were, a want of sheep and lambs, the non-cultivation of 1 virgate of land through poverty of its tenants, and because the glebe, hay-tithe, offerings, and other small tithes went to make up the greater sum (the taxation), and were not included in the ninth.<sup>43</sup>

In 1535, Deuxhill and Glazeley were united Parishes. Peter Griffith was Rector. Their collective value in glebe and great and small tithes was £4. 13s. 4d.; but a pension of 8s. payable to Wenlock Priory was chargeable on that value.<sup>44</sup> The Prior of Wenlock's return gives this pension as receivable from the Rector of Deuxhill.<sup>45</sup>

their peculiar instructiveness as to points of conveyancing at that early period, when we seldom meet with a dated charter.

<sup>40</sup> Vide supra, p. 35, note 18.

<sup>41</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 22 Edw. III, p. 3, memb. 34. Insuperimus.

<sup>42</sup> *Pope Nic. Tax.* 166. For an explanation of the Monastic pittance and

an instance of endowment, specially devoted thereto, see *Hist. Shrewsbury*, ii, 97.

In 1391, I find this pension or portion taxed at its twentieth by the Crown, viz. at 4d. (*Register at Willey*, fo. 36, b.)

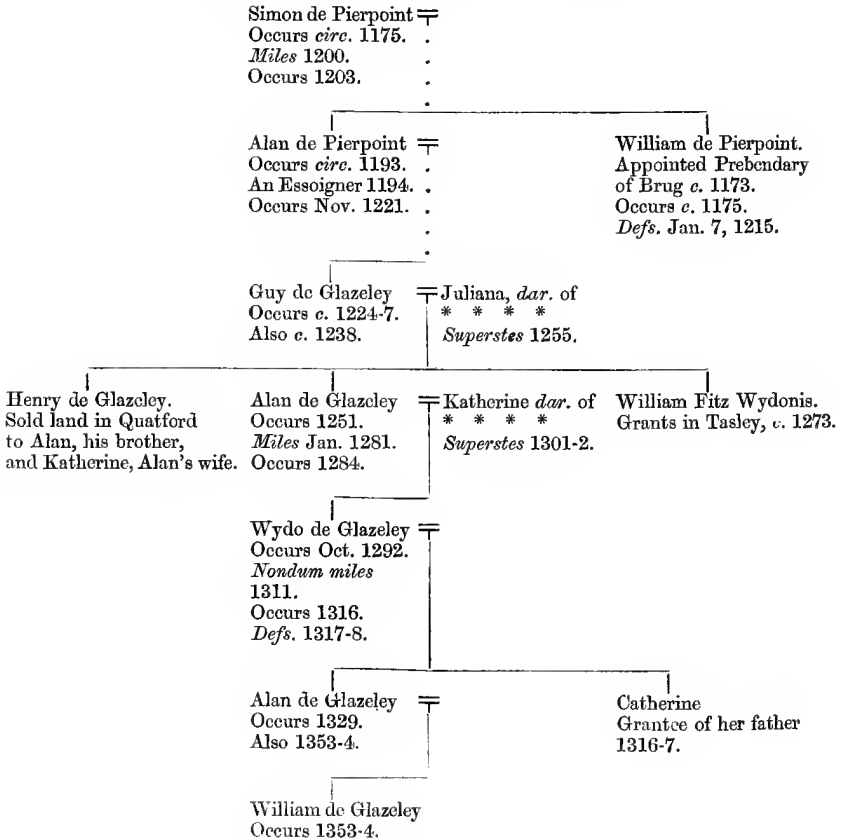
<sup>43</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum*, p. 190.

<sup>44</sup> *Valor Eccles.* iii, 210.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 216.

Of the EARLY INCUMBENTS of Glazeley I can say nothing more specific than that which is implied above, viz., that there was an Incumbent of Glazeley, independent of Wenlock Priory, or of any other Church, early in the twelfth century. The first Hereford Registers (according to Mr. Blakeway's transcripts in the Bodleian Library) appear to take no notice of a distinct Incumbency here. How or when the combination with Deuxhill, which existed in 1534, first commenced is a question,—possibly to be solved by some retrospective document of a later period than that of which we treat, perhaps by some yet undiscovered Chartulary of Wenlock Priory.

PEDIGREE OF PIERPOINT OF GLAZELEY.



## Deuxhill.

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It is often doubtful whether places with this termination owe it to the Saxon heall (a hall), or hul (a hill). The *Domesday* orthography (Dehocsele) would favour the former derivation, while the situation of the place would correspond well with the latter.

As regards the first syllable or syllables, involved in the letters Dehoc or Deuks, I can offer little even in the way of conjecture. The word is perhaps the possessive case of some personal noun, disguised by change, or wholly obsolete. The nearest Saxon name which I have met with is *Dudoc* or *Duduc*.

*Domesday* notices the Manor thus<sup>1</sup>—

The same Church (St. Milburg) held (in time of King Edward) and still holds Dehocsele. Here is half a hide geldable. In demesne is 1 ox-team: and (there are) 11 boors and 1 cottar with 1 ox-team; and 1 serf is here. It (the Manor) was worth 10*s.* (in time of King Edward). Now it is worth 20*s.*

Wenlock, a Monastery which, of all in Shropshire, boasted the most exclusive privileges, both spiritual and temporal, retained this Manor from the Conquest to the Reformation. The Chartularies of Wenlock being either hidden, scattered, or destroyed, we can know but little of its dependencies.

On the change of the Hundredal divisions of Shropshire, supposed to have taken place in the time of Henry I, Deuxhill was probably attached to Stottesden Hundred. But when, in time of Richard I, a new Liberty or Hundred was assigned to Wenlock Priory, its distant and isolated Manor of Deuxhill was undoubtedly included. Therefore, from the Inquisition as to the "Liberty of Wanlok," made in 1255, we learn that the Prior of Wenlock is Lord of Dewkeshul, and that it contains half a hide.<sup>2</sup>

An *extent* of the possessions of Wenlock Priory, taken Sept. 1379, gives the rents of the free tenants in the hamlet of Deukeshull, as 20*s.* per annum, payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, 252, b. 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 85.

<sup>3</sup> *New Monasticon*, vol. v, page 77,  
| No. viii.

In 1535, their rents, lands, and tenements in Deuxhill were returned by the Prior as realizing £2. 12s. 4d. per annum.<sup>4</sup>

The Minister's Accounts of 1541-2 value the rents of free-tenants at £1. 3s. 4d.; of tenants-at-will, at £4. 13s. 4d.; of Copyhold tenants, at £2. 9s. 0d.; and the ferm of the tithes at £1. 2s. 8d.; making a total of £9. 8s. 4d.<sup>5</sup>

Of the Prior's tenants here hardly a notice occurs.—

In January, 1256, there was an *assize of mort d'ancestre*, whether Robert de Teukeshull, uncle (avunculus) of Juliana Fitz Warin, had died seized of 1 virgate here, which Sibil, daughter of Gcoffry de Creddon, held &c. Sibil's defence was, that William de Deukeshull and Margery his wife held the land, and so said the Jury. Therefore, Juliana was non-suited.<sup>6</sup>

But she renewed her suit against the real tenants, and at the same Assizes. The question now was, whether Robert Fitz Owen (Audoeny), her uncle, died seized of a messuage and virgate in Deukeshull, which William Fitz Prêtre (le fiz le Prestre) and Margery his wife held. These tenants proved Juliana not to be heir of Robert, because she was born before her mother was married. So she was again non-suited.<sup>7</sup>

The fine of 1293 which entitled Edmund de Mortimer to a rent of 20 quarters of corn in Deuxhill, has already been given under Criddon.<sup>8</sup>

#### THE CHURCH OF DEUXHILL.

The foundation of a Church or Chapel here by Wenlock Priory, possibly as early as A.D. 1115, has been noticed under Glazeley.

At the Assizes of October, 1203, Robert Chaplain of Deukeshull, occurs as surety for another Chaplain, Adam de Hereford, who had died.<sup>9</sup>

In 1291, the Church of Deukeshull with the Chapel of Mitletone (Micklestone or Suttleton) is entered as not of £4. annual value.<sup>10</sup>

The Inquisition of 1341, which enumerates the parishes of

<sup>4</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 215.

<sup>5</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. v, p. 81, No. xii.

<sup>6</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 2 dorso.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 14 recto. The description of the same persons under different names, is very clear and instructive.

<sup>8</sup> *Vide supra*, p. 193.

<sup>9</sup> *Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 1 recto. It must be remembered, however, that the individual mentioned may only have been a Chaplain whose name was Robert de Deuxhill.

<sup>10</sup> *Nic. Tax.* 166, 175. Stottesden Deanery.



Stottesden Deanery very nearly in the order of Pope Nicholas' Taxation, contains no correspondent entry to the last, and indeed omits all notice whatever of Deuxhill.<sup>11</sup>

That which relates to Deuxhill Church in the *Valor* of 1535 has been given under Glazeley with which it was then combined.<sup>12</sup>

EARLY INCUMBENTS.<sup>13</sup>

In 1277, the Bishop of Hereford commands the Dean of Stottesden to cite the Rector of the Churches of Myttelton (Priors) and Deuxhill, and the Chaplain of the same, because they do not cause the same to be served as they ought,

Oct. 10, 1278, Sir Robert de Mudle, Chaplain, presented by the Prior and Convent of Wenlock, to the Chapels of Middleton Priors and Deukeshull.

March 24 (1289-90), Sir Gilbert de Reygat instituted on the same presentation.

July 22, 1304, John de la Felde, Acolite, instituted on the same presentation.

Nov. 30, 1316, Adam de Wilyneten, Priest, instituted on the same presentation.

Feb. 18, 1341, Sir Richard de la More, instituted on presentation of the King, exercising this right, "because Wenlock Priory is in his hands by reason of the war" (with France).

June 1, 1344, William de Lodelow presented by the Crown in the same right,<sup>14</sup> but his institution does not appear on the Diocesan Registers.

Sept. 3, 1349, William de Burstalle, Priest, presented by the Crown in the same right. He resigned in 1358, when,—

On Aug. 11, Alexander de Chelleseye, Clerk, was instituted, the Crown still presenting. He resigned in 1388.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>11</sup> The other omissions (only two) of the Inquisition of 1341 are supplied in a supplementary form. It also gives a Parish of Shevyn, as in Stottesden Deanery (p. 194, in a supplement). Of this parish, the ninth is valued at 13s. 4d., a sum very probably corresponding to a taxation of less than £4. But I neither know what place is meant by Shevyn, nor dare I suggest Deuxhill. All I can say is, that an identification of the two places

would bring the two Records into correspondence.

<sup>12</sup> *Supra*, p. 217.

<sup>13</sup> From Blakeway's transcripts of *Hereford Registers*, in Bibl. Bodl.

<sup>14</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 18 Edw. III, part i, memb. 26, and part ii, memb. 38. The presentation is to the two Chapels of Middleton and Deukeshull.

<sup>15</sup> On Chelleseye's resignation (1388), he is called *Custos* of these Chapels.

Jan. 19, 1373, Sir Henry Warde, Chaplain, instituted to the Chapel of Mittelton, on the same presentation. Deuxhill is not mentioned.<sup>16</sup>

July 19, 1388, Sir John Bedewynde, Chaplain, instituted to the Chapels of Middleton and Deuxhill, on the resignation of Alexander de Chellesley, and on presentation of the Crown. He resigned in 1389, when,—

On Feb. 15, John Godewyn (or Godene), late Vicar of Aston Richant in Dioc. Linc. (which he resigned for these), is instituted.

May 22, 1399, Sir Richard Ardern instituted on presentation of the Prior and Convent of Wenlock.<sup>17</sup>

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## Aston Botterell.

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ASTON, anciently ESTON, took its name probably from lying to the *East* of the Great Clee Hill.<sup>1</sup> It is noticed in *Domesday* thus :<sup>2</sup>—

The same Rainald (the Sheriff) holds Estone (under the Earl), and Tochil under him. Elric held it (in time of King Edward), and was free together with this land. Here is 1 hide geldable. In demesne is 1 ox-team; and (there are) 6 serfs, 2 villains, 3 boors, and 3 radmans<sup>3</sup> with two ox-teams amongst them all; and yet there might be a third ox-team here. The Manor used to be worth 14s., now it is worth 15s.

<sup>16</sup> This presentation seems inconsistent with the terms of the next.

<sup>17</sup> Wenlock Priory had been declared *denizen* in 18 Ric. II (1395). This sever-

ance of its foreign relations involved the recovery of its escheated Church-patronage in England.

<sup>1</sup> Vide supra, pp. 67, 194.

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255, a. 2.

<sup>3</sup> The Radmans and Rachenistres of *Domesday* seem to have been identical. They were of a higher grade than serfs, villains, or hoors, but their degree of freedom was not the same in every case.

The tenure of some obliged them to pay a rent in the shape of agricultural labour to their Lords. Others are mentioned as inseparable from the land. Others again are expressly stated to have been free. (See more in Introduction to *Domesday*, vol. ii, pp. xxii, xxiii.)

The name Elric, otherwise Alric, Ælric, or Aluric, appears in nearly every Hundred of Shropshire in the time of the Confessor, and Edric, son of a Saxon Aluric, retained Burton (near Much Wenlock) after the Conquest. Though more than one person must be represented by the name, it seems likely that the Elric, who held Estone in King Edward's time and Aluric, who, at the same period, held Udecote (Woodcote) in Recordin Hundred, were identical. The successor to each Manor, in 1085, was one, whose name Tochi, or, as above, Tochil, was surely Saxon; nor is there any extravagance in the conjecture that this Tochil was one of a favoured few, and was permitted to hold, under Norman Lords, two distant Manors which were his by descent. This early association between Aston and Woodcote becomes still more striking when we find a record of law proceedings, wherein the Lord of Woodcote was, after lapse of more than a century, suing the Lord of Aston for the latter Manor.

Of Tochil, the *Domesday* owner of Aston, we know nothing further than that early in the twelfth century he granted to Shrewsbury Abbey a hide of land in the *vill* which was called *Cota*; and it is observable, how, in the two confirmations of Henry I and Stephen, which record this gift, the donor's name is spelt with exactly the same variety as in *Domesday*.<sup>4</sup>

The next date at which we may expect to find a successor to any *Domesday* tenant of Rainald is the year 1165 and amongst the tenants of Fitz Alan. Of these there is one whose fief I cannot assign elsewhere, whose tenure was one Knight's fee, such as afterwards was Aston Botterell, and whose origin was, if I rightly judge by his name, Saxon. This was Robert, son of Lunn, to whose ancestry, whether he were Lord of Aston or not, we may now revert, for at least two generations.

About the year 1115, there was a great Chapter held at Castle Holgate, by William, Archdeacon of Hereford. Richard, Bishop of London, then Viceroy of the County, and other great persons, both Clerks and Laymen, were in attendance.—

Lunn is named amongst those who are most associated with this neighbourhood.<sup>5</sup>

To him succeeded Robert Fitz Lunn, who being dead before

<sup>4</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 35, and *Monasticon*, iii, 517, II.

<sup>5</sup> Patent 22 Edw. III, p. 3, memb 34, an invaluable record, and one which must

be given at length hereafter. The subject which engaged the Chapter's attention was the parochial jurisdiction of St. Milburg.

Michaelmas, 1160, Robert, son of Robert Fitz Luun, is then entered on the Sheriff's account, as owing £20. for fine of his land.<sup>6</sup> This I suppose to have been a fine on succession, and to have been payable to the Crown, by reason of Fitz Alan's Barony having, half a year before, come into the King's hand.

In September, 1161, Robert Fitz Louun renders account of his fine of £20. It had gone to pay for works at the Castle of Blacmuster (Oswestry, then in the King's hand as *caput* of Fitz Alan's Barony), and he was *quit*.<sup>7</sup>

In 1165, Robert Fitz Luun is registered as holding 1 Knight's fee of Fitz Alan's Barony.<sup>8</sup>

When this family became extinct in the male line, or how the family of Botterell succeeded to Aston, I cannot say. An interval of forty-five years elapsed between the latest notice of Fitz Luun, and the earliest of Botterell.

In Easter Term, 1200, William Boterell appears as the third of four Knights who were to choose a Jury of the King's Great Assize.<sup>9</sup> The cause concerned lands in Norley Regis, and the other three Knights were of Stottesden Hundred. Hugh de Sidbury precedes William Boterell, otherwise we might have hesitated as to whether the latter was of Aston, or whether the contemporary coheir of Robert Corbet's Barony, whose position in Shropshire was very high, had officiated on this occasion. Whether, or how nearly, they were related is still a question.

Among the fines which had been recently offered to the Crown at Michaelmas, 1202, was one by Robert de Wudecot of 10 merks, that he might have trial (*pro habendo recto*), concerning one Knight's fee in Eston, against William Botterell.<sup>10</sup>

A similar entry prior to Michaelmas, 1203, gives the same Robert, as fining and paying 20*s.*, that the suit which was in the County Court between him and William Boterell, concerning one Knight's fee in Eston, be transferred to the Courts at Westminster.<sup>11</sup>

In Easter Term, 1203, at Westminster, a day was given to Robert de Wodecot, plaintiff, and William Boterell, in a suit about one Knight's fee, viz. in 3 weeks of Easter,<sup>12</sup> (*i. e.* April 27); but I find no further mention of the suit.

<sup>6</sup> *Mag. Rot. Pip.* 6 Hen. II., Salop; which also contains the Sheriff's account of half a year's *ferm* of the lands of William Fitz Alan.

<sup>7</sup> *Mag. Rot. Pip.* 7 Hen. II.

<sup>8</sup> Hearne's *Liber Niger*, i, 143.

<sup>9</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* Easter Term, 1 John, memb. 3 recto.

<sup>10</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 4 John. Nova oblata.

<sup>11</sup> *Pipe Roll*, 5 John. Nova oblata.

<sup>12</sup> *Placita de eodem termino*, memb. 11 recto.

At Salop Assizes, October, 1203, William Botterell was amerced half a merk, for some transgression.<sup>13</sup>

At Salop Assizes, November, 1221, William Boterell was a Juror in a cause of "Great Assize."<sup>14</sup>

He had also a suit against Thomas de Baskervill for disseizing him of his tenement in Norwinde (Northwood), which he failed to prosecute; and so he and his sureties were amerced.<sup>15</sup>

About 1240, Philip Boterel is returned as holding 1 fee in Aston, of the Barony of John Fitz Alan.<sup>16</sup>

The same Philip also attests a Pickthorne deed which must have passed in that or the following year.<sup>17</sup>

In Michaelmas Term, 1242, the Essoigners of Robert Wygod and Adam de Dodington, presented themselves in due course against Avelina, widow of Philip Boterel, who had a suit of dower against them. She appeared not, and was *in misericordia*.<sup>18</sup>

The successor of Philip was probably Thomas, who sat as a Juror in the Stottesden Inquisition of 1255, and was himself returned as Lord of Astone Boterell, which he held *in capite* of John Fitz Alan, for 1 Knight's fee. Therein were 3 hides of land, in half a virgate whereof Henry de Eston was enfeoffed in consideration of his doing suit to the lesser Hundred-Courts, and to the County-Court, for the *vill* of Aston. The Manor paid to the Sheriff 12 pence for *stretward*, and 2s. for *motfee*.<sup>19</sup>

At the Assizes of January, 1256, Thomas Boterel again sat as a Juror for this Hundred.<sup>20</sup> It was about this time that Hugh de Acour, the Sheriff, accepted 10 merks from him to the end that he might have *respite of Knighthood*; and in this year he was returned as one of those who held £15. of lands, and yet was not a Knight.<sup>22</sup>

In 1258, he fined again with the Crown for respite of Knighthood.<sup>23</sup>

In 1262, he withdrew the suit of Aston from Stottesden Hun-

<sup>13</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 6 dorso.

<sup>14</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 1 recto.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 2 recto.

<sup>16</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 44.

<sup>17</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*

<sup>18</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* 26 Hen. III, memb. 32 dorso.

<sup>19</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 81, 82. The great increase on the *Domesday* hidage will again come under notice.

<sup>20</sup> *Assize Roll*, 40 Hen. III.

<sup>21</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 109.

<sup>22</sup> *Dukes' Introduction*, p. vii.

<sup>23</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 43 Hen. III, quoting *Originalia* of 42 Hen. III.

dred.<sup>24</sup> He was also a *Regarder* of Morf and Shirlet Forests in this year.<sup>25</sup>

In 48 Hen. III (1263-4), he had the King's Charter to have a Market and Fair at Estone Boterell.<sup>26</sup>

In August, 1267, the King presiding in his Court at Salop, this Thomas appeared in a suit of *novel disseisin* against Matilda de Longespee and others, who had deprived him of common pasturage in Cleyes, pertaining to his free tenement in Aston Boterell. Matilda pleaded that she had only resisted the right during hay-harvest (*tempore fenacionis*), and she had the same liberty at that season as the King had in his Forests, because that Forest (the Clee) was once Royal. Thomas rejoined that his ancestors had purchased from the ancestors of Matilda a right of pasturage throughout the year, for 2s. and 12 hens (rent, I presume). Presently Thomas declines to prosecute. His consequent amercement was excused at instance of Sir R. de Clifford.<sup>27</sup>

As a supplement to this concord with Maud de Longespee (the heiress of the Cliffords and Lady of Corfham), we may instance Thomas Boterel's attestation of her Charter to Shrewsbury Abbey, which must have passed within a year or two of the last date.<sup>28</sup>

Also about this time Thomas Botterel, Knight, stands third witness of Robert Corbett's grant in Chetton.<sup>29</sup>

At the County Assizes, October, 1272, Thomas Botterel appears both as a Knight and Juror.<sup>30</sup>

It would appear that he was sometime Constable of his Suzerain's Castle of Clun, and that for some alleged excess in that office, Geoffrey le Venour, Seneschall of Sir Roger de Mortimer, about October, 1273, maliciously caused the cattle of the said Thomas to be seized on his own land of Eston Boterel, and to be driven to Cleybury, and there detained till said Thomas had paid 18s.<sup>31</sup>

On Nov. 27, 1274, Sir Thomas Boterel sat as foreman of the Jury which then made report as to oppressions and excesses by the King's Officers and others in Stottesden Hundred.<sup>32</sup> To their return we owe the above particulars as to Thomas' own withdrawal of the suit of his Manor of Aston; also as to his transaction with

<sup>24</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 108.

<sup>25</sup> *Plac. Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto.

<sup>26</sup> *Calend. Rot. Cart.* p. 92.

<sup>27</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, 51 Hen. III, memb. 3 dorso.

<sup>28</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 6.

<sup>29</sup> Vide supra, p. 178.

<sup>30</sup> *Assize Roll*, 56 Hen. III.

<sup>31</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 109.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 107.

Hugh de Acour and his persecution by the Seneschal of Cleobury Mortimer.

About this time,<sup>33</sup> or at least between the years 1271 and 1278, Sir Thomas Boterel had a feoffment from Luke Abbot of Shrewsbury, of a messuage in the *vill* of Lucton (Loughton), and of 9 acres lying in the fields, in Wetemore, between Burwarton and Loughton, to hold for ever at a rent of 3s. 4d.—Witnesses: Sir Ralph de Arras, Sir John de la Lee, Sir John Fitz Aer, and others.

Jan. 28, 1281, Sir Thomas Boterel occurs as one of the four Knights then commissioned to make view and report of the state of Bridgnorth Castle.<sup>34</sup>

About 1284, the *Feodary* gives Thomas de *Boterbel* as holding *Haston*, of Richard Fitz Alan, of the honour of White-Minster, with its members, viz. Necton (Norton), Forde, Heywode (Haywood), and Toteneye, by performing the service of 1 Knight's fee, and doing ward at White-Minster Castle in time of war.<sup>35</sup>

He will have survived this date but for a short time. He seems to have married Petronilla, widow of Wido de Hadnall, and after he became a Knight to have had, with her, a grant of lands in Hadnall, from Sir Thomas de le Lee,<sup>36</sup> which grant was afterwards (1296-7) confirmed by John de le Lee, son of Sir Thomas, to Richard, son of Thomas Boterell.

This Richard had succeeded his father at Aston Botterell before October, 1292, when he was summoned to answer at Salop as to his warrant for claiming a right of fair, market, and free-warren, and the privilege of *assizing* bread and beer in his Manor of Eston Boterel. In reply was produced the Charter of King Henry III, granting to Thomas Boterel, *ancestor* of said Richard, and whose heir Richard was, that said Thomas and his heirs should have for ever a weekly market on Tuesdays, in his Manor of Eston, and an annual fair of three days, viz. the vigil, the day, and the morrow of St. Michael. And Richard said that he claimed such market and fair by the aforesaid charter, and the privilege of *assizing* bread and beer, as appurtenant to the said fair and market. So he was, on this count, dismissed *sine die*; and as to free warren he does not appear to have claimed any.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 407.

<sup>34</sup> *Inquisitions*, 9 Edw. I, No. 81.

<sup>35</sup> *Kirby's Quest*.

<sup>36</sup> *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p. 204. It would also seem from the *Haghamon Char-*

*tulary* (fo. 69), that John, Lord of the Lee, made a grant, independently of his father's, to Sir Thos. Boterell, Knight, and Petronilla his wife, in Hadnall.

<sup>37</sup> *Placita de quo Warranto*, p. 675.

In 5 Edw. II (1311-2), I find him attesting as Richard Lord of Aston Botterel, but not as a Knight, a charter which concerned lands at Northwood, and which passed at The Woodhouse, near Stottesden.<sup>38</sup>

In March, 1316, Richard Boterel is returned as Lord of Asseton Boterel.<sup>39</sup>

But in 10 Edw. II (1316-7), John Botterel, Lord of Aston Botterel, grants to Richard, his father, the tenement held by William Idel.<sup>40</sup>

At Diddlebury on the feast of St. Ethelbert, 11 Edw. II (May 20, 1318), Richard Botterel granted to Hugh, son of Roger de Cheyney, for a sum of money a tenement, &c. in Hadnall, near Astley.<sup>41</sup>

By letters patent tested at Westminster, 24 Sept. 1321, John Boterel and other Shropshire names, appear among the followers of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore, who were included in a general pardon for all offences committed in pursuit of the Despensers.<sup>42</sup>

I have met with very few notices of minor tenancies in this Manor, and I greatly doubt whether its members in the 13th century were belonging to it at *Domesday*. A future occasion will suffice for what remains to be said on the subject.

#### THE CHURCH OF ASTON BOTTERELL.

The first mention of a Church here which has occurred is in the Taxation of 1291, when the Church of *Asheton Botel* in the Deanery of Stottesden, is expressed to be of £10. annual value.<sup>43</sup>

In 1341 the taxation of Astonbotrel Church being quoted at £10, the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, in the Parish, is only rated at

<sup>38</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* quoting Ottery Deeds. This deed seems to be dated "in the fifth year of King Edward," a form not unusual in deeds of the first years of Edward II's reign, when as yet his distinctive title of *Edward, son of King Edward*, was not established in the provinces. The circumstance seems to have escaped Mr. Blakeway, whose remarks (p. 204 of the *Sheriffs*) seem to have been influenced by this charter. I can reconcile them at least with nothing which has occurred to me, and this uncertainty

induces me to postpone for the present, any attempt to set forth a genealogy of the Boterells.

<sup>39</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, iv, 398.

<sup>40</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* quoting Lacon Evidences. Mr. Blakeway remarks that the seal of this deed is charged with a swan, while a lion rampant was the usual bearing of the family.

<sup>41</sup> *Haughmond Chartulary*, fo. 70.

<sup>42</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, iv, 573.

<sup>43</sup> *Pope Nic. Tax.* p. 166.



£2. 5s. The difference arose from the usual causes: there were no sheep or lambs in the Parish, 2 virgates were untilled; certain poor tenants had withdrawn; the small tithes, offerings, and glebe, contributed to the *taxation*, but had nothing to do with *the ninth*.<sup>44</sup>

In 1534, Walter Myllinchop being Rector of Aston Botrell, his preferment, in glebe and great and small tithes, is valued at £7. 1s. 1d. This income was charged with 7s. 8d. for procurations and synodals, with a pension of 6s. 8d. payable to the Lady of Brewood, and a portion of 4s. payable to the Rector of Castle Holgate.<sup>45</sup> The net value was therefore £6. 2s. 9d.

EARLY INCUMBENTS.<sup>46</sup>

Sept. 27, 1278, Thomas Boterel has the Episcopal license to study for a year.

5 June, 1284, Thomas Boterel, Priest, instituted on presentation of Sir Thomas Boterel, Knight.

Oct. 18, 1288, the Bishop commends Philip Clerk, to Master John de Cherleton, Priest, "according to the Council of Lyons," and before Philip's institution. Philip is ordained Acolyte at the same time.

July 16, 1313, Roger, son of Sir Roger de Baskervyl, Knight, presented by Richard Boterel.

Sept. 19, 1314, the Bishop, understanding from credible persons that this presentee has a lawful impediment not to take orders within a year from the time when the *Regimen* was committed to him, licenses him to study for seven years.

1321, Richard de Forde, Subdeacon, then instituted, has dispensation to study for a year. The same dispensation is renewed in 1322.

Master Richard de Aston Boterel occurs as Rector in 1354.

Dec. 1, 1393, Sir Richard Dobyn, Chaplain, is instituted, on presentation of John Botrell, Lord of Aston Botrell.

<sup>44</sup> *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, p. 190.

<sup>45</sup> *Valor Eccles.* iii, 211. The "Lady of Brewood" was Margaret, Prioresse of the White Nuns, there domiciled. Her own return (p. 194 of the volume) gives this pension as accruing from Bolld, near Botrell Aston. The Chapel of Bold being suppressed, or merged in Aston

Botrell Church, before the Reformation, the Nuns' pension once chargeable on the former, became a charge on the latter. The same account may be given of the Rector of Holgate's portion; but having been 10s. when charged on Bold Chapel, it was now only 4s.

<sup>46</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl.

## Bickthorn.

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THE Mosaic account of the fall of man has informed us of the origin of noxious weeds, and it would seem that the etymological traditions of various nations have associated these products of the earth with the influence of evil spirits.

The shrub *ononis*, which we call *rest-harrow* from its arresting the use of that implement, is by the Swedes called Puktorne, *i. e.* Devil's-thorn. So the *pyrakantha* is called by the Crimean Tartars *Shaitan-teken*, words which have precisely the same meaning.<sup>1</sup> The *rhamnus catharticus*, a plant similarly obstructive to agriculture is well known among ourselves as *Buck-thorn*,<sup>2</sup> a name which involves the same ideas; for *bug* (Brit. *bug*) is literally a fiend, and *Puck*, whom we pleasantly remember as the servant of King Oberon, was in his primitive capacity, nothing more or better. Another provincial name of a weed occurs which associates the same ideas still more emphatically, though less presentably. Enough has been said to back a conjecture that the prevalence of some such plant gave name to the locality before us.

*Domesday* mentions the Manor thus:—<sup>3</sup>

The same Church (St. Milburg) held and still holds Pichetorne. Here is half a hide geldable. In demesne is 1 ox-team, and (there are) 1 villain, and 11 boors, with 11 ox-teams, and (there are) 11 serfs. Its former and present value is VII shillings.

At what subsequent period the Norman family which possessed this Manor, became enfeoffed therein by Wenlock Priory, I cannot undertake to say. BASKERVILLE stands on the Roll of Battle Abbey, a circumstance which merely implies that the fabricators of that Register, judged the name to be of Norman origin, and sufficiently important for insertion. Nor were they mistaken in one respect.—

<sup>1</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* quoting Pallas' *Travels*, ii, 145.

<sup>2</sup> Buckthorn is said by Withering to be

common in Shropshire (Plymley's *Shropshire*, p. 191).

<sup>3</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 252, b. 2.

The Continuator of William de Jumieges,<sup>4</sup> enumerating the nieces of Gunnora, Countess of Richard I, of Normandy, mentions one who married Nicholas de Bascheritvilla (*vulgo* Bacqueville), and was mother of William Martel and Walter de St. Martin.

The locality whence this Nicholas had name is situate in the Pays de Caux, and is often written Bascquilla and Basqueville, forms more nearly corresponding to the English surname. This place continued as the fief of Martel for at least two centuries.

Also, south-west of Rouen, and in the Forest of Roumare, was a place variously written Balkierville or Boscherville, and which gave name to the great Abbey of St. George there founded.

From one or each of these places there came to England a family whose branches were already in several Counties at the period when we first have authentic record of such matters. At the beginning of the thirteenth century there were Baskervilles in Herefordshire, Northamptonshire, and Shropshire, in Warwickshire, Norfolk, Buckinghamshire, Wiltshire, and possibly in other Counties. No reasonable ground has yet occurred to my notice for further associating any two of these branches, except that the Shropshire and Northamptonshire branch was identical, and also had lands in Herefordshire. Yet these are not to be confounded with the Baskervilles of Eardisley in Herefordshire, however difficult it may be always to preserve the distinction. I have indeed a printed pedigree before me which professes to derive these houses from a common origin; but the details on each side are so purely imaginative that I cannot regard the result as a truth, at least not on this evidence. Their respective tenures in Herefordshire were at Bradwardine and Eardisley, places not four miles asunder: not only was their surname identical, but the Christian names adopted by either house were generally similar: perhaps also each of them held, somewhere and at some time, under the same feudal superior, Laey of Ewyas. Their consanguinity is therefore most probable, but any attempt to exhibit such genealogical relation circumstantially, as it must arise in fiction so must it end in incredulity. The two families were in fact distinct, from the earliest period at which we find records bearing on such matters.

In 1165, when Robert de Baskevill (whom I take to have been of Erdisley), was holding 5 Knights' fees of Hugh de Laey, in Herefordshire;<sup>5</sup> Radulf de Baskerevill is entered as holding 1 fee

<sup>4</sup> *Norm. Scriptores*, p. 313.

<sup>5</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 153.

under Adam de Port in the same County.<sup>6</sup> Each tenure was of old feoffment, that is, each of the parties had held or inherited his lands from a period antecedent to the death of Henry I (1135).

Ralph was, I believe, progenitor of the Shropshire family, and to him and his succession I must here confine myself. His tenure under De Port in Herefordshire was probably at Bradwardine, and was represented by a tenure of his descendants under Braose (who subsequently enjoyed De Port's Barony).

I will first notice Ralph's occurrence in Shropshire, without his Christian name. The Pipe Roll for the year ending Michaelmas, 1177, records that Roger Fitz Henry and Baschervill, had fined with the Crown for according a duel.<sup>7</sup> Their fine was 40s. and a dapple horse. The money had been then paid, but the horse remained a debt till the year 1182, when Ralph de Baskerville appears on the Pipe Roll for Herefordshire, as still owing the said horse, and a further and recent amercement for trespass in the King's Forests.<sup>8</sup> The money was again paid, but the horse remained a charge against his name in 1183.<sup>9</sup>

In explanation of the quarrel between Ralph de Baskerville and Roger Fitz Henry, I can only suggest that they were neighbours in so far as that the former had an interest at Pickthorn and Aldenham, and the latter at Cleobury North, though the greater possessions of each lay elsewhere.

There is a deed in the Chartulary of Shrewsbury Abbey<sup>10</sup> to the following effect: Ralph de Baskervill grants to the said Abbey the Church of Northburia (Norbury, Staffordshire), at request of his mother Juliana.—Witnesses: Roger de Ewias, Eitropius, Herbert and Robert de Hereford, Roger de Baskervill and Ralph his brother, Robert Christian, Henry de Girois, Adam de Baskervill, Richard Sadoeh, &c.—

All I can venture to state about this deed is an opinion that it passed between the years 1165 and 1190, and that the grantor was Ralph Baskervill of Pickthorn. If so, the said Ralph will have been also a tenant of Laey, in whose fief Norbury was contained. The point chiefly to be noticed in this deed is, however, that it combines places or names connected with the three Counties of Salop, Staffordshire, and Herefordshire.

We must now revert to the year 1167, and state that about that

<sup>6</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 151.

<sup>7</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 23 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>8</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 28 Hen. II, Hereford.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, 29 Hen. II.

<sup>10</sup> No. 299, a.

period, Ralph de Baskerville, Lord of Pickthorn, having made some encroachment on the King's demesne (probably of Stottesden), appears to have compounded for the same by covenanting payment of an annual rent of 16*d.*<sup>11</sup> This rent remained an item of the Sheriff's receipts, and the land for which it was paid being a tenure *in capite* of the Crown, we hear much more of the family of Baskerville as connected with these few acres than as tenants of Wenlock Priory.

The entry on the Pipe Roll of 1167 is as follows: "The same Sheriff (Geoffrey de Vere) renders account of 16*d.* of the land which Ralph de Bascervill held in the same *vill* (Stottesden). It is paid."

The next year 1168, under the title of Proprestures, the Sheriff accounts for 16 *denariates* of land which Ralph de Baschervill held (tenuit) in Stottesden, and he is *quit*.<sup>12</sup>

Similarly under the title "of Proprestures and Escheats," this rent of 16*d.* (heing obviously for a Propresture), is substantively entered on every Roll,<sup>13</sup> till that of the year 1190 (2 Rich. I), when this and some similar rents being collected by an Escheator rather than the Sheriff, the former renders account of 16*d.* of the land of Ralph de Baschervill, and is *quit*.<sup>14</sup>

In 1191, 1192, and 1193, and for half the year 1194, the Sheriff answers summarily for the "Escheats of Shropshire" in each year, but the total in each case must have involved the rent of Baskerville's purpresture.<sup>15</sup> In this interval, viz. between September, 1190, and March, 1194, Ralph Baskerville was murdered in Northamptonshire, as will presently appear.

For the half-year ending Michaelmas, 1194, an Escheator, and not the Sheriff, collected the rents of escheats and purprestures. Among his receipts was 8*d.* for the firm of "Piketorn Tomæ,"<sup>16</sup> *i. e.* Thomas de Baskervill's land of Pickthorn; and the name of Ralph's son and heir was, as we shall see, Thomas.

<sup>11</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. II. *Idem* Vicecomes r. c. de terra quam Rad. de Bascervill tenuit in eadem villâ, &c. The use of the preterite tense "tenuit" did not, I think, imply the death of any Ralph de Baskerville. If it did, another Ralph continued in possession, but in several subsequent instances, the form "tenuit" is repeated. This use of the same word and tense, in deeds, is similarly equivocal, and implies only that so and so was tenant

of certain land lately, not that his tenancy had ceased. The imperfect tense would in these cases have been the proper one. The words "terra quæ fuit Radulphi" is technically a different expression, and would imply, I think, a previous termination of tenancy, by death, forfeiture, or other cause.

<sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> *Rot. Pip.* de eisdem annis, Salop.

<sup>16</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6 Ric. I, Salop.

No material alteration of this annual entry occurred during Thomas de Baskerville's life.

Presuming that Ralph de Baskerville, of Pickthorn, died (as above) between 1190 and 1194, it is difficult to say whether the following refers to him or to a Contemporary of the same name. On the Staffordshire Pipe-Roll for the year ending Michaelmas, 1192,<sup>17</sup> one Ralph de Baskervill is entered as owing half a merk for not producing one for whom he was pledge, but, it is added, that he had summons in Shropshire (*sed summonitus est in Salopescr.*). We should expect a correspondent entry on the Pipe-Roll for Shropshire, but none such occurs.

The following year, however, among the fines inflicted at a recent *assize* in Shropshire, Ralph de Baskervill appears as amerced half a merk for *false clamour*, which he still owed.<sup>18</sup>

Nov. 3, 1194, Thomas de Baskervill (son and heir of Ralph Baskervill, of Pickthorn) appears to be of age, which, be it observed, he was not at his father's death.

At that date (1194), he had impleaded Ralph de Baskervill in a suit about land, but Ralph essoigned himself, his essoigner being Ralph de Breworthin (Bradwardine). The case was left to be continued *in eyre*.<sup>19</sup>

Dec. 5, 1194, Thomas again appeared at Westminster against Ralph, who neither appeared nor essoigned himself.—

A day was given by the Court, viz. Jan. 20, at Westminster. "And another day was given to Ralph *in banco*, viz. at Hereford, before the Justices."<sup>20</sup> (The latter clause I understand to be the excuse for Ralph's non-appearance).

No Rolls remain to throw further light on this case, which, I presume, referred to some mortgage which Ralph de Baskervill had on lands of Thomas, in Herefordshire—probably on Bradwardine.

In the year ending Michaelmas, 1196, Thomas de Baskervill had proffered a fine of 1 merk, "to have recognition about a Knight's fee against Miles Pichard." He had then paid half a merk; and he dis-

<sup>17</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 4 Ric. I, Staff. Shortly before this period there were at least three contemporary Ralph de Baskerville's, viz. the two in the text, and Ralph Baskerville of Erdisley and Cumb. The latter, however, died about June 1186, (*Rot. Pip.* 34 Hen. II, *Heref.*). There was also a Ralph de Baskerville holding of the Earl Ferrers, in Warwickshire, in 1165, and a Ralph de

Baskerville, whose daughter and sole heir, Agnes, was, in 1202-3, wife of Hugh de Pichford, of Shropshire. The last Ralph may not improbably be the second Ralph mentioned in the text.

<sup>18</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 5 Ric. I, Salop.

<sup>19</sup> *Rot. Cur. Regis*, i, 110.

<sup>20</sup> *Rot. Cur. Regis*, i, 86.

charged the balance in the following year.<sup>21</sup> Herefordshire is mentioned in connexion with this suit, but with what meaning I cannot say.

Taking events as nearly in the order of time as the various subjects will allow, I find, under date of July 8, 1199, the following memorandum entered on a Roll of the King's Court at Westminster :<sup>22</sup>—

“Hereford. Impar lance (is) to be had (Loquendum) about Nesta de Baskervill, who brings suit for the Castle of Bredewrthin (Bradwardine), and its appurtenances, which Robert de Wastre detains from her, and which the same Nesta avers to be her right and inheritance. And the King had ordered the Sheriff to seize the said Castle into the King's hand. And the Sheriff reports that said Castle is beyond his bailiwick, and that he dared not to set his hand upon that Castle, not being in his jurisdiction. And William de Braose says, that neither King, nor Justiciar, nor Sheriff ought to set to his hand in his (William's) liberty.”—

The impar lance remains *sine die*, till the King's pleasure thereon be ascertained.

All I need say of this Nesta here; is, that she was daughter of Ralph Baskervill of Pickthorn, and that her father, before his death, enfeoffed her in Lawton (Salop); but the nature of her claim on Bradwardine, or how any other than Thomas de Baskervill occupied that fee in 1199, I cannot say.

I now return to this Thomas, and a cause which he had in the King's Courts at Westminster, in Easter Term, 1200.<sup>23</sup> I give the Record as it stands under title of Northamptonshire.

“Thomas de Baskervill challenges (appellat) Roger Fitz William, for that, wickedly, and in the King's peace, and in felony, and in murder, he slew Ralph de Baskervill, his (Thomas') father, who was Lord over said Roger, in his house; and this the said Thomas saw, as he says, being a boy under age; and this he offers to prove against Roger by his body. Roger appears, and will defend himself against the charge of felony and murder, as the Court may decide; as, however, against his Lord whose liegeman he is.”

Thomas hereupon denies that “he ever received Roger's homage,

<sup>21</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8 and 9 Ric. I, Salop. Tomas de Baskvill r. c. de 1 marc. pro habenda recognicione de feodo 1 mil. versus Milonem Pichard qui RZ (requiritur) in Hereford.

<sup>22</sup> *Rot. Cur. Regis*, i, 426. This is an

early and authentic instance of the Palatine powers, claimed by the Lords Marchers in their districts. We shall have similar cases in Shropshire.

<sup>23</sup> *Rot. Cur. Regis*, ii, 257.

but he well acknowledges him to have been the (liege) man of his father, whom he wickedly murdered.”—

Further, Roger says that “it is well enough known where he lay the night of the murder, and that he was not in that *vill*, and thereupon he puts himself on a Jury of the country, saving, however, his own defence (his right of defending himself by duel if the Jury gave verdict against him). He also begs that this may be reckoned in his favour, viz. that the deed purported to have been done nearly ten years back,<sup>24</sup> that Justices Itinerant had since been *in eyre* (in Northants) and that before them he (the appellant) had made no mention thereof.”—

And the Appellant also desires that this may be reckoned in his favour, viz. that “after the death of his father, the said Roger married his father’s widow.”

A day was given to both parties to hear sentence, viz. the Octaves of St. John (July 1, 1200). Meanwhile Roger was to be kept in prison.

The matter did not end, however, on the day appointed; for sometime, apparently in March, 1201,<sup>25</sup> “a day was given to Thomas de Baskerville (Appellant) and Roger Fitz William for their plea of challenge, viz. that they should be at Westminster on the Quinzaine of Easter” (April 8, 1201). The adjournment seems to have been at the King’s direction, and Geoffrey Fitz Piers (then Chief Justice) undertook to acquaint Thomas with the arrangement.

Presumptively on the day appointed, and before the King, the pleadings were rehearsed, generally as above, but with some additions;<sup>26</sup> *e. g.*—

The Appellant states that the murder was at night, that he (the Appellant) commenced his *appeals* against Roger as soon as he was of age.—Roger again mentions his having done homage to the Appellant,<sup>27</sup> who denies having received any such homage since he came of age, but says that, whilst under age, he was in custody of his mother, and he knows not what she may have obliged him to do. To this Roger answers nothing.—The Court decided that the

<sup>24</sup> It was now the 7th of May, 1200. From this and other records, I infer the murder to have been committed on May 26th, 1190 or 1191.

<sup>25</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, No. 49, memb. 11 dorso. This is the Roll mentioned above, as falsely indorsed of the 11th of

John. (Vide supra, under Charlcott and Bold, p. 154, note 9).

<sup>26</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 15 recto. On April 8, 1201, King John was at Marlborough.

<sup>27</sup> A vassal’s oath of fealty specially bound him to shield his Lord from personal injury.



parties should fight a duel. They give pledges thereof, Roger de Mortimer being the pledge of Roger Fitz William. The day of combat was to be the morrow of the Octaves of the Holy Trinity (*i.e.* May 29, 1201), and then they were to come armed.

On that day the King was at Portsmouth. No record remains of the duel. The Appellant, however, survived it.

In 1211, Thomas de Baskerville is returned as holding half a virgate of land *in capite*, by payment of 16*d.* annually, through the Sheriff, in equal half-yearly payments.<sup>28</sup> At the same time, Nesta de Baskervill (his sister) held Lawton by serjeantry, and *in capite*.<sup>29</sup>

The brother and sister had afterwards some litigation about Lawton, which will be detailed when we come to that place. It is sufficient here to say that that serjeantry reverted to Thomas or his heirs.

21 Dec. 1214. The King being at Hereford mentions Thomas de Baskervill as one of the sureties of Robert Weldebof, then to be liberated from imprisonment at Gloucester.<sup>30</sup> This Thomas also appears as witness of two grants by Walter de Clifford to Salop Abbey.<sup>31</sup>

And, before Aug. 10, 1241, he was dead, leaving Roger his son and heir, whose homage the King received on that day, and issued precept to the Sheriff of Salop to take security for 40*s.*, the relief of said Roger, and then to give him seizin of all lands of which his father had died possessed.<sup>32</sup> This was at Shrewsbury, where the King then was.

But Roger's enjoyment of his estates continued not long. On the 13th of July, 1244, the King issued letters patent to the Sheriffs of Salop and Herefordshire, informing them that he had granted to Hugh Gifford custody of the land and heirs of Roger de Baskervill.<sup>33</sup>

And this heir, Walter, had a long minority. Several notices of

<sup>28</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 56. Lib. Rub. Scaccarii, fo. cxxxvii.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 55, and Lib. Rub. ibm.

<sup>30</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 16 John, memb. 9. The prisoner was one of those whom King John had taken in 1210, at the siege of Carrickfergus.

<sup>31</sup> Salop Chartulary, Nos. 6 and 8.

<sup>32</sup> *Rot. Fin.* i, 350.

<sup>33</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 28 Hen. III, sub die. Of

this Roger de Baskervill, we also find mention which shows the continued connexion of his family with Northamptonshire. A Roll preserved in the *Testa de Nevill*, and of date c. 1242, gives Roger de Baskerevil as holding half a knight's fee in Helidon (Northants), of the honour of Clare then in the King's hand. (*Testa de Nevill*, p. 24. Vide Baker's *Northamptonshire*, p. 396).

his nonage occur in the Inquisitions of 1255, and must be both cited and explained.

The Jurors of Stottesden say nothing about the *vill* of Pickthorn, which was in fact not in their Hundred, but in the Liberty of Wenlock; but under the heading "De valettis et puellis" (*i.e.* of male and female wards), they say<sup>34</sup> that "Walter de Baskerville is in custody of Sibil Giffard (widow of Hugh, before-named) by gift of the King, and that he holds 8 acres in Pykethorn of the King, rendering yearly 16 pence at the Exchequer, and that he holds no (nullam) land of the King in this Hundred." For the word "nullam," it is obvious that "aliam" (other land) should be written in this passage, for this Walter held Aldenham, Northwood, and Newton,—all of the King, and all in Stottesden Hundred.

The contemporary Jurors for Wenlock Liberty said of Pykethorn,<sup>35</sup> that "Roger de Baskerville (formerly) held certain land therein of the Prior of Wenlock. He rendered to the Prior 2 merks yearly, and used to do suit to the Court of the Prior by *afforciament*. And his ancestors used to do suit to the Hundred of *Wybth't*, till the period aforesaid (the reign of Richard I): and Walter his son is in custody of Sibil Giffard, and it (the Manor) is half a hide" (the *Domesday* hidage).

As to the Hundred of *Wybth't* here mentioned, I can associate the name with nothing in Shropshire. I believe the original statement of the Jurors to have been erroneous, and I can only venture a guess at what they meant. They supposed that Pickthorn had some time been attached to the Hundred of Welbete (now Webtree) in Herefordshire, in which Hundred was Bradwardine, a fee in which these Baskervilles had an interest as tenants of de Braose, and afterwards of de Bohun.

And soon after this date (1255), Walter will have attained his full age, for his son and heir, Roger, was born Aug. 1, 1261.

Nov. 27, 1274. The Stottesden Jurors returned Walter de Baskerville as holding 1 messuage, 10 acres of arable land, and 10 acres of wood in Pikethorn, of the King *in capite*, by payment of 16 pence per annum for the same.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>34</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 83.

<sup>35</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 85. "Afforciamentum" is the word usually employed to denote that augmentation of Wenlock Liberty, which took place in the reign of Richard I. It means literally "the act of increasing

or rendering stronger," and the addition of several Manors to a Hundred of course increased its importance. A discordant jury was similarly said to be *afforciated* when other jurors were added.

<sup>36</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 108.

In 1284, a similar return was made, viz. that Walter de Baskervill holds his hall (aulam), croft, and wood at Pikethorne, of the King *in capite*, at the said rent.<sup>37</sup>

On Feb. 21, 1286, the King's writ of *diem clausit extremum*, on the death of Walter de Baskervill, issued to the *Escheator citra Trent*.

On March 1, 1286, a Jury sat at Pykethorn, and reported him to have held a messuage and 2 acres of wood at Pikethorn, by service of 16 pence to be paid to the King through the Sheriff of Salop. Its annual value was only 2s. 6d., and he held nothing else *in capite*. Roger de Baskerville was his son and next heir, and was twenty-four years of age at the *Gules* of August, in the King's thirteenth year (*i. e.* Aug. 1, 1285).

A Jury which met at Bradewardin (Herefordshire), on March 3 following, gave the same account of his heir, as to name and age. The deceased, they said, had held under Roger de Radenore at West Bradewardin. His tenure was a messuage, 143 acres of arable land in demesne, 3 acres of meadow, and £1. 14s. 8d. rents. The total value was £4. 10s. 4d.<sup>38</sup>

The returns of March, 1316, give Roger de Baskervill as Lord of Pikethorn in Shropshire,<sup>39</sup> and Roger de Baskervill and John Giffard as joint Lords of Hellidon (Northants).<sup>40</sup>

In 5 Edw. III (1331). Roger de Baskervill had the King's Charter of free-warren in Lauton and Pikethorn.<sup>41</sup>

The Escheat on his death is of the thirteenth year of Edward III (1339),<sup>42</sup> when he must have been seventy-eight years of age; but I will postpone much that I have further to say, both of him and his descendants, till I come to Lawton, where I also propose to set forth their genealogy, till their male line became extinct.

I would here, however, observe that in 1380, John de Baskerville, a descendant of this Roger, being dead, he is stated to have held Pykthorn of the Prior of Wenlock at a rent of £1. 6s. 8d.<sup>43</sup> *i. e.* exactly the two merks mentioned in 1255.

<sup>37</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>38</sup> *Escheats*, 14 Edw. I, No. 2.

<sup>39</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, iv, 398.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 392, and Baker's *Northamptonshire*, p. 396.

<sup>41</sup> *Calend. Rot. Cart.* p. 165.

<sup>42</sup> *Calend. Escheats*, vol. ii, p. 89. I have not examined the original of that and some subsequent Inquisitions which relate to the family. This is my reason for thus breaking off the subject.

<sup>43</sup> *Monasticon*, v, p. 78, No. viii.

Some under-tenancies in Pikethorn must receive a passing notice, especially such as relate to Cadets of the family of Baskervill.

We have already seen Richard Sadoch attesting an early grant to Salop Abbey, which is presumed to have been made by a Baskervill of Pickthorn.

About the year 1240, Gilbert Saddoc sold to Salop Abbey, for 40 pence, all the right which he had in 3 acres in Picketorn, between the land of Aveline Fitz Hubert &c.—Witnesses: Nicholas, then Provost of the Foryate, Hugh, his brother &c.<sup>44</sup>

In 26 Hen. III (1241-2), Evarard de Picathorn resigns 3 acres to the Lord of Bascarville, which he held of Ralph Bossard for a term of seventeen years.—Witnesses: Sir Adam de Beissin, Sir Geoffrey de Huvaratun (Overton).<sup>45</sup>

About the same time, but in a deed *sans date*, Ralph Bolland (probably Bossard) grants to Roger de Bascrevill all the land he had in Pikethorn and 9s. rent in Newton, for a rent of a pair of gloves, or of 1 penny (in lieu thereof).—Witnesses: Sir \* \* le Strange, Sir Aldulf de Bracy, Geoffrey de Overton, Hugh de Baskervill, Henry de Stottesden, Ralph de la Lowe, Philip Boterel, Guido de Fernlawe (Farlow), and others.<sup>46</sup>

In 37 Hen. III, (1353), Hugh de Baskerville had a suit against Ralph de Arraz about a stank which Ralph had made in Subbiri (Sidbury).<sup>47</sup>

Hugh de Baskervill sat as a Juror for Stottesden Hundred at the Assizes of January, 1256;<sup>48</sup> also as a Juror in January, 1257, as to the property of Hugh de Kinslow.<sup>49</sup>

In February, 1259, he was one of several who were sued for a trespass in Broseley and Willey,<sup>50</sup> hereafter to be particularized.

At the Forest Assizes, February, 1262, John de Bascherevil was amerced for *vert*.<sup>51</sup>

In Easter Term, 1271, John de Baskerville was under prosecution of Lucy, widow of Ralph de Gravenhunger, for a trespass, and the suit was still unsettled in January, 1272.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 255.

<sup>45</sup> *Blakeway MSS.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>47</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 37 Hen. III.

<sup>48</sup> *Assizes*, 40 Hen. III.

<sup>49</sup> *Vide supra*, pp. 53, 54.

<sup>50</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* Hilary Term, 43 Hen. III, memb. 25 recto.

<sup>51</sup> *Plac. Forest.* 46 H. III, memb. 3 recto.

<sup>52</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* Easter Term, 55 Hen. III, memb. 41 dorso, and Hilary Term 56 Hen. III, memb. 35 recto.

In July, 1272, Thomas de Baskerville had a suit against Roger Fitz Thomas of Northwood, John, his brother, and Nicholas de Mydelton, for insulting and wounding him in Pickthorne.—Adjourned to Nov. 3.<sup>53</sup>

Nov. 27, 1274, Hugh de Baskerville complains before the Stottesden Jurors that John de la Penne, some-time Seneschal of Roger de Mortimer, had arrested him unjustly at Cleobury Mortimer, till he paid 40s. for his liberty.<sup>54</sup>

In October, 1292, Hugh de Baskerville had not given due attendance at the Assizes; and Richard le Bret of Pikethorn, similarly reported as in default, is said to have no free tenement in the County.<sup>55</sup>

Several similar entries occur which may refer to tenants at Pickthorn, but just as probably to tenancies under Baskerville elsewhere. The various interests of the family in Aldenham, Lawton, Newton, Northwood, and Little Sutton, are not always distinguishable. Of Aldenham we have spoken already, and under the other places named, we shall have future opportunities of resuming the subject.

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## Bridgnorth.

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THE career of Robert de Belesme, third and last Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, was, in that capacity, most transient. His idea of Bridgnorth as a great military position, and his mode of working out that idea, are the chief and almost the sole features of his temporary ascendancy in Shropshire.

This subject has been so ably and amply discussed by others,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>53</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* Trin. Term, 56  
Hen. III, memb. 13 recto.

<sup>54</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 110.

<sup>55</sup> *Assizes*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 20 recto.

<sup>1</sup> I refer to the *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, pp. 53-57, and to the *History of Ludlow*, by Thomas Wright, Esq., pp. 40, 43, as to the best accounts of this

period of County History. Mr. Wright supplies a correction to Mr. Blakeway's note about "Tickhill and Blythe Castles," which was not unneeded. At page 73

that, after alluding to well-known facts, I shall venture merely to add one or two circumstances not hitherto noticed.

On the death of Hugh de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, in July, 1098, his elder brother, Robert de Belesme, obtained that Earldom from William Rufus. This honour he retained till the summer of 1102, building in the interval the two Castles of Bridgnorth and Carrechova.

Bridgnorth was in every respect a mere transfer of his father's foundations at Quatford. The Castle, the Borough, the Collegiate Church, even the Bridge, followed one another from Quatford to the site selected by the ambitious and restless Norman.

The skill and rapidity of Robert de Belesme's proceedings have already been sketched in these pages, and probably rated below their just estimate. At his outlawry, in the summer of 1102, his Castle of Brug stood a royal siege of three weeks duration, and was at last surrendered, rather than taken by storm.

Something however yet remains to be said as to the period of his power in Shropshire, and his exercise thereof,—something which has hitherto been misrepresented, or not represented at all.

The expression of Ordericus is, that “he held the Earldom for four years, and exercised the greatest cruelties upon the Welsh.”

of the *History of Shrewsbury*, Mr. Blake-way gives a passage of Ordericus relative to the confiscations which ensued on the banishment of Earl Robert. His theory, founded on this passage, was that great Shropshire Estates then changed hands, and this theory is more than once advanced in his writings. I never could understand what Mr. Blakeway thus alluded to. Of course Belesme's Earldom escheated to the Crown; but there is no *proof* of any other forfeiture whatever, as taking place in Shropshire at the period (1102). We may suspect indeed from Ordericus' words, and we know from other evidence, that one, two, or perhaps three Shropshire fiefs changed hands at, or about, this time; but they were Seigneuries only that were thus affected, and so, merely a correspondent number of greater tenants. As to the revolution extending to knightly classes, I never saw a word of evidence in favour of such a conclusion, nor do I adopt

it. In fact all we know of the matter leads to an opposite conclusion, viz. that the main supporters of the Crown against the Earl were the Knights of the County.

Again, permanent disinheritance at this period of history was most seldom resorted to. It was most impolitic in all instances, except those where the antagonistic power was (as in the case of Earl Robert) almost on a par with Royalty.

Ordericus indeed says, that “the King took possession of the whole honour of Robert (de Belesme), and of his vassals (hominum ejus), who had persisted with him in rebellion;” but Ordericus does not say whether these vassals were those of Sussex, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, or Shropshire; nay, the only two Shropshire Chiefs who are quoted as having adhered to the Earl to the last, were Roger Fitz Corbet and Ulger Venator, and they happen to be two whom we shall see transmitting Shropshire Estates to their posterity.

One would imagine that he was resident in his Shropshire Earldom for the whole period, and that this period was employed in continuous warfare on his Cambrian neighbours. Indeed, the words of Ordericus have been thus interpreted; but with how little truth remains to be shown.

In July, 1098, when Earl Hugh was slain in Anglesea, Robert de Belesme was besieged in the Castle of Balaon by Fulk, Earl of Anjou, and was relieved by King William Rufus in the third week of the same month.<sup>2</sup>

There is nothing to show the precise period when Belesme obtained the said King's grant of the Earldom of Shrewsbury. Perhaps it was immediately after Earl Hugh's death, but it does not follow that he came over immediately from Normandy to take possession.

It is uncertain whether King William himself returned to England in the autumn of 1098, or at Easter 1099. Whichever the date of his return, it is not probable that Belesme came with him,—or, coming, remained here: for in June, 1099, the messenger who reported to Rufus, when hunting in the New Forest, that an attack had been made upon Maine, was sent from over sea, by Robert de Belesme.<sup>3</sup>

The dashing energy which the King exhibited on that occasion was perhaps the greatest feature of his life and character, but it must not detain us now any further than to say, that his instant visit to Normandy kept him there till September.

As yet, therefore, there is little evidence of Belesme's presence in England or Wales during the first year of his supposed Earldom. It is well known how, within another year, his friend and patron, the King, was again hunting in the New Forest, and there received that second and sudden message which summoned him to a journey more distant than the former and final.

The succession of King Henry I, though it was displeasing to, was not, that we know of, openly opposed by Earl Robert. Consequently, we are ignorant how it affected the English tenure of the latter. However, about August 1, 1101, Robert Duke of Normandy landed at Portsmouth, reckoning on the support, amongst others, of Belesme and his two brothers, Roger and Arnulph.<sup>4</sup> The agreement between the King and Duke which resulted is well known, and how the latter left England about September 29, 1201.

<sup>2</sup> *Ordericus*, p. 772.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 774.

<sup>4</sup> *Ordericus*, p. 785.

But now for a circumstance which took place in the interval, and which has not hitherto been made matter of history.—

On Sept. 3, 1101, King Henry I was holding his great Court at Windsor. The Duke, his brother, was there, and others professedly or suspectedly of the Duke's party. What diplomatic matters engaged the great assembly we are not likely to learn, but in the ordinary routine of Court business three notable Charters were expedited, one to the Bishop of Bath, the other two to the Bishop of Norwich.<sup>5</sup> It is one of the latter which deserves the special attention of the Shropshire Antiquary. The witnesses attested, each of them making the sign of the cross with his own hand. Among them were Queen Matilda, Robert Duke of Normandy, Robert Bishop of Chester, Robert Earl of Ponthieu (Comes de Pontivio), Roger Earl of Poitou (Comes Pictavensis), Alan Fitz Harald (so written for Fitz Flaald), Everard the Chaplain, Herbert the King's Chamberlain, &c.

Here then were two, if not three, of the sons of Earl Roger de Montgomery,—for Everard the Chaplain was most probably his youngest son, before noticed, and who became Bishop of Norwich in 1121.

The point, however, here to be observed, is the attestation of Robert de Belesme as Earl of Ponthieu, a foreign title, and which he acquired in right of his wife. His partizanship with Duke Robert, or his non-recognition by Henry I, must, I think, have had something to do with the suppression of his English titles of Arundel and Shrewsbury, on the above occasion.

The Duke returned to Normandy at Michaelmas, taking his most strenuous supporter, the Earl Warren, with him. And here it becomes for the first time clear that Belesme remained in England, nay, further, that he remained for the express purpose of fostering the Duke's interests and opposing the King's. Indeed, also, the account of Florence of Worcester would induce a belief that it was now that Bridgnorth was first selected by Belesme as the site best suited for future operations.<sup>6</sup> If so the labour of workmen by day and by night, which Florence speaks of, will actually have completed the work in less than a year.

<sup>5</sup> *New Monasticon*, vol. ii, p. 267, No. xi, and vol. iv, pp. 15, 16, Nos. iii, and v.

<sup>6</sup> *Flor. Wigorn*, sub anno 1101. "Arcem quam in occidentali Sabrinæ fluminis plagâ, in loco qui Bryce dicitur linguâ Saxonica, Ægelfleda Merciorum

domina quondam construxerat, fratre suo Eadwardo Seniore regnante, Scrobbsbyriensis Comes Rotbertus de Belesmo, Rogeri Comitis filius, contra Regem Henricum, ut exitus rei probavit, muro lato et alto, summoque restaurare cœpit."



We have seen King Henry the centre of a divided Court at Windsor, on September 3, 1102. On September 29, 1102, he presided over an assemblage at Westminster,<sup>7</sup> equal in point of numbers and undivided in allegiance. Robert de Belesme had fallen in the interval, and was now an exile.

The Palatine Earldom of Shropshire thus became an Escheat of the Crown. It is well known that kingly power, as exercised over a Palatine Earl, was essentially different from kingly power in ordinary. Henry I now combined in his own person both the Palatine and Royal dignities; and Shropshire might, if he had so willed, have been annexed to the ordinary and general government of the kingdom. Such a fusion however was not effected in his reign, and his policy was clearly to keep the two distinct. He governed the Province by means of a Viceroy (called *Dapifer*, Seneschall, and sometimes Sheriff), an office which posterity has, not without some ground, assimilated to, or identified with, the Wardenry of the Western Marches.

A dispute about names is superfluous where the nature of the office is well understood; and there can be little mistake about the functions of Richard de Belmeis, first Viceroy of Shropshire under Henry I. When called Sheriff or *Viccomes*, he is so called correctly, because he stood *in loco Comitis*; but it must be remembered that the ordinary Sheriff or Sheriffs of his Province still remained. When called Viceroy, the expression is warranted, both by the nature of his power and by the fact that his representation of the Earl was incidentally a representation of the King.

His jurisdiction was not confined to Shropshire, or even to the Marches of Wales. It extended at least into Staffordshire, and possibly into Herefordshire. He presided over all causes ecclesiastical and temporal, and his decisions were afterwards recognized by the Crown as *quasi-royal* and irreversible. He was, in short, to Shropshire what, in the absence of the Sovereign, the Justiciar or Chief Justice of a later period was to England.

As to Bridgnorth during the reign of Henry I, little more is known of it than that it was occasionally visited by the King, that it was a seat of provincial government, and that Belesme's fortress was maintained as a Royal Castle.

King Henry I visited Shropshire between March, 1121, and June, 1123, probably about the time of the Welsh expedition in the

<sup>7</sup> *Saxon Chronicle*, sub anno,—*Sim. Dunelm.*—and *Eadmer*.

former year. A Charter of his to Salop Abbey, which passed at that period, is dated at Brug. It is addressed to Robert, Bishop of Coventry, and Richard, Bishop of London.—The witnesses were: Bernard, Bishop of St. David's, Grimbald the Physician, and Hamo Peverel.<sup>8</sup>

Another Charter of Henry I, and which must have passed about the same time, is dated "apud Brugias." It is a confirmation of a previous grant of lands in Huntingdonshire, by William Peverel of Dover, brother of Hamon above-mentioned, and who had a large interest in Shropshire.<sup>9</sup>—

The King's Charter is addressed to Robert, Bishop of Lincoln (who died Jan. 1123), Robert, Bishop of Coventry (consecrated 13 March, 1121), and Richard, Bishop of London. It is attested by William Fitz Odo, and Geoffry Fitz Pagan, witnesses whose names preclude all idea of an earlier date than that suggested above.

The later years of Richard de Belmeis' life were troubled with a paralytic affection, which at times incapacitated him for public business. There is, however, evidence of his having been, by disposition, tenacious of office and power;<sup>10</sup> and we have independent hints that he retained his jurisdiction in Shropshire till nearly the last. He at length retired to the Priory of St. Osyth in Essex (a house of his own foundation), and died there on Jan. 16, 1127.

On resigning his provincial power to Pagan Fitz John, he attended at Bridgnorth the first Court held by his Successor, and there gave evidence as to the liability of Shrewsbury Abbey to contribute to the military aids assessable on the County.<sup>11</sup> Walter Constable of Gloucester, was also present, and appears to have been officially interested in the question. The Bishop reiterated his testimony, and the particulars of what passed on this occasion, in a letter, written subsequently, and addressed to all the Barons of Shropshire.

In September, 1126, Bridgnorth became the temporary prison of Walleran, Earl of Mellent, whom the King had brought over from Normandy.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 42.

<sup>9</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* Mich. Term, 9 Hen. III, memb. 12 recto, where the Charter is recited with reference to some suit at law.

<sup>10</sup> Will. Malmsb. 134, b.

<sup>11</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 353.

<sup>12</sup> *Saxon Chronicle*, sub anno 1126, *Sim. Dunelm.* sub anno 1127. *Ann. Waverl.* p. 149. The chronology of Henry I's reign becomes very confused at this period. I have adhered to those statements, which,

After Christmas following, the King, in full Court at London, gave the County of Salop to his Queen Adeliza.<sup>13</sup> This gift rests on good authority in the first instance, but I have never met with anything in illustration of it. The County of Sussex became the dower or indeed the fief of Queen Adeliza, and she conveyed it to her second husband, William de Albini, and to her heirs by him. No such result followed her alleged interest in Shropshire.

In 1128, Bridgnorth Castle being in keeping of the new Viceroy, Pain Fitz John, it became the prison of Meredyth ap. Lhywarch, who had been given up by Lhewelyn ap Owen.<sup>14</sup>

In the Pipe Roll for the fiscal year ending Sept. 29, 1130, we have one notice of Bridgnorth. Milo de Gloucester (son of Walter, the Constable above mentioned), being then Sheriff of that County, had sent a quantity of wine, by the King's order, to Worcester and to Brug.<sup>15</sup> This sending of wine was a usual item of Sheriffs' accounts. The wine was for royal use, and anticipatory of a royal visit. In exact accordance with such hints of the King having been in Shropshire about this time are the facts of his having kept Christmas, 1129, at Worcester,<sup>16</sup> and of his having issued a precept from Cundover, which must date within a few months of the same feast.<sup>17</sup>

The reign of Stephen, generally barren of provincial records, does not, I believe, supply a single fact in immediate relation to Bridgnorth. In remote connexion with the subject, we must mention the name of Hugh de Mortimer, of Wigmore, whose power in Herefordshire and the Marches seems to have been un-

after much research, have seemed most consistent; but this is not the place for any general argument on the subject.

<sup>13</sup> *William of Malmesbury*, p. 99. Mr. Blakeway, quoting this passage (*Hist. Shrewsbury*, i, 77), says further, that the Queen on receiving the County appointed William Fitz Alan as her Sheriff. Malmesbury mentions no such appointment, nor can I find it in any other Chronicler. I question it on other grounds than can be stated here, but of course Mr. Blakeway had some authority for his opinion. What follows above will at least prove that if William Fitz Alan became Sheriff in January, 1127, he held that office in subjection to Pain Fitz John, rather than to the Queen.

<sup>14</sup> Powell, 137.

<sup>15</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. I, p. 77.

<sup>16</sup> Henry Huntingdon, 220.

<sup>17</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 47, b. The principal witness is Milo de Gloucester, after whose first appearance at Court, the King was in England only for three periods, viz. from Sept. 1126 to Aug. 1127, from July, 1129, to August, 1130, and from August, 1131, to August, 1133. In Sept. 1130, the *Fermor* of Boseham (Sussex), had sent 476 *siccas* (a kind of small fish) for the King's use to Cundover and Woodstock. The King was at Woodstock in March, 1130, and at Worcester in Dec. 1129. The precept quoted is also addressed to the Bishop of Chester, Pain Fitz John, and the Sheriff of Salop.

affected by the great struggles of the time. In one instance we find Stephen expressly stipulating for the independence of Mortimer's fief.<sup>18</sup> He was in all probability of the Usurper's party, and the close of Stephen's reign found him not only undisturbed in his proper possessions, but seized of the Castle of Bridgnorth.

The accession of Duke Henry further found him caballing against the new monarch, refusing to do him homage, and fortifying his Castles for resistance. His opposition might have been formidable had the Earl of Hereford, his confederate, remained so. The latter was detached from Mortimer by the persuasions of Gilbert Foliot, his relation, and then Bishop of Hereford. Mortimer's obstinacy resulted in a second siege of Bridgnorth Castle, conducted, as before, by the King in person.

King Henry II's campaign against Mortimer is not very fully detailed by the Chroniclers,<sup>19</sup> but their accounts are amplified and illustrated by much that may be gathered from contemporary Charters and by something which remains of the lost Pipe Roll of 1155 (1 Hen. II).

Of the Chroniclers, by far the most accurate as to date and circumstance is the Norman writer edited by Duchesne.<sup>20</sup> He informs us that on Sunday after the Octaves of Easter (viz. Sunday, April 10th, 1155,) the King, at Wallingford, caused the English nobles to swear fealty to William, his eldest son, and, in case of the early death of that Prince, to Henry, his second son, then two months old. He then amicably settled some differences with Roger, Earl of Hereford, who was in occupation of the "Tower of Gloucester." Forthwith he laid siege to the three Castles of the arrogant and self-confident Hugh de Mortimer, who resisted his supremacy. These Castles were Brug (printed Burgam), Wigmore, and Cleobury (printed Deobens). The last, after some little time, the King took, and destroyed. On the *nones* of July (July 7), 1155, Hugh de Mortimer made peace with the King, surrendering the two Castles of Brug and Wigmore.

<sup>18</sup> Viz. when he granted the Earldom of Hereford to the Earl of Leicester (Duncumb's *Herefordshire*, vol. i, p. 232).

<sup>19</sup> The most interesting fact noticed in connexion with the siege of Bridgnorth is the devotion of Hugh (or Hubert) de St. Clair, Constable of Colchester, who, observing an arrow directed against the King by one of the garrison, saved the Monarch's life by the sacrifice of his own.

(Grose's *Antiquities* vol. v, p. 3). This story rests on insufficient authority, and, like many other legends, must be wrongly localized and dated. If Hugh de St. Clair were the hero's name and he ever behaved in the way recounted, it must have been after the siege of Bridgnorth, which he survived at least a year.

<sup>20</sup> *Normannorum Scriptores*, p. 991.

The account of Gervase of Dover<sup>21</sup> differs somewhat from this. He describes the King as taking all the three Castles above named, and he dates the whole affair as preceding the "Council of Wallingford" (a manifest error); but he supplies us with the names of *Cleoberi* and *Bruges*, intelligibly spelt.

Ralph de Diceto, a not to be despised authority, who became Dean of St. Paul's twenty-six years after the event he is describing, seems to intimate that Mortimer fortified Bridgnorth, Wigmore, and *Gloucester* against King Henry.<sup>22</sup>

This latter statement is, however, hardly worth reciting, except to show how half a century is sufficient to establish a tradition and misrepresent a fact.

Such altogether is the evidence of those Chroniclers, who are most to be relied upon with regard to this period of English History.—

The Norman writer is in short the best authority of the three, and will so appear if we make reference to other documents.—

There are no means of ascertaining the immediate movements of King Henry after the Council of Wallingford (April 10, 1155). It was however, to all appearance, during his subsequent march against Mortimer that he halted at Alrewas in Staffordshire, and there granted to the Shropshire Abbey of Lilleshall, two distinct Charters.<sup>23</sup> Each of them is dated "apud Alrewas in exercitu," and one of them is attested by persons of whom we shall hear presently during the siege of Bridgnorth, viz. by Thomas, the Chancellor (Thomas à Becket); Manasser Biset, Sewer (dapifero); Warin Fitz Gerold, Chamberlain; Robert de Dunstanville; and Joceline de Baliol.

A grant to Stoneley Abbey (Warwickshire) by King Henry II, is dated more significantly "apud Brugiam in obsidione."<sup>24</sup> It is attested by Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury; Roger, Archbishop of York; John, Bishop of Worcester; Walter, Bishop of

<sup>21</sup> *Chron. Gervas.* p. 1378.

<sup>22</sup> *Diceto. Ymag. Hist.* p. 531.

<sup>23</sup> *Lilleshall Chartulary* quoted *Harl. MSS.* 3868 and 2060, and Dodsworth, vol. 110, fo. 43, b. If King Henry marched directly from Wallingford to South Shropshire, Alrewas would have been considerably out of his line. His halt at the latter place, whenever it occurred, must have been while traversing the old Roman Road (Ikenild Street), between

Burton and Lichfield. His expedition, earlier in the year 1155, which took him into Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, to deal with the Earl of Albemarle and William Peverel, may possibly have occasioned his presence at Alrewas; but I find no account of military preparation for that journey, such as to tally with the ominous "in exercitu" of the *Lilleshall Charters*.

<sup>24</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. v, p. 447, No. vii.

Chester; Thomas, the Chancellor; Reginald, Earl of Cornwall; Robert, Earl of Leicester; Richard de Humez (Constable of Normandy); Warin Fitz Gerold; William de Beauchamp (Sheriff of Worcestershire); and Maurice de Ambreslega (Ombersley, Worcester).

This Charter was said by the Monks of Stoneley to have been granted by the King at solicitation of his mother, the Empress.<sup>25</sup> If so she also will have been at the siege of Bridgnorth. The removal which the Charter enabled those Monks to make from Radmore to Stoneley was effected on June 19th, which furnishes us with a still more accurate estimate as to the date of the siege.

Another Charter of Henry II, which passed at the same time is dated simply "apud Brugiam."<sup>26</sup> It was to Mereval Abbey (Warwickshire). It was tested by the first, fourth, fifth, and sixth witnesses of the last; also by Roger, Earl of Hereford (thus proving the accuracy of the Norman Chronicle, which dates his adhesion to the King before the siege of Bridgnorth); Josceline de Bailiol; and Manasser Biset.

On the same occasion, and with a similar date, at Brug, the King expedited a great Charter of confirmation to Shrewsbury Abbey.<sup>27</sup> Its witnesses were the Archbishop of Canterbury; Gilbert, Bishop of Hereford (who had effected the adhesion of Earl Roger); Walter, Bishop of Chester; John, Bishop of Worcester; Thomas, the Chancellor; Reinald, Earl of Cornwall (the King's uncle); William, Earl of Bristol (*i. e.* Gloucester the King's cousin, son of Robert the Consul); Roger, Earl of Hereford; Hugh, Earl of Chester; William Fitz Alan; Robert de Dunstanvill; Walcheline Maminohht (all three staunch supporters of the Empress against Stephen); and Roger Corbet.

Other and less important Charters to Shrewsbury Abbey passed contemporaneously. One, wherein William Fitz Alan is addressed, and Thomas the Chancellor, the witness, is so far worth mention.<sup>28</sup> Still better worth notice is the King's Charter to Robert Pinzun, of

<sup>25</sup> *Ibidem*, No. vi. The year given in this document is 1154; of course by mistake, —as on June 19, 1154, Henry II had not succeeded. The day and month of dates thus stated is always more probably accurate than the year, and for one simple reason.—The system of keeping anniversaries was uniformly recognized and observed in a Monastery, but the estimate of years and epochs was matter for every

variety of theory and caprice. In the same documents we often find a regnal, papal, and dominical year given, which are mutually inconsistent. In such cases the dominical year is, as far as I can learn the least to be trusted.

<sup>26</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 483, ii.

<sup>27</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 36.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 45.

land in Eston (Aston near Newport), which is dated at Brug, addressed to William Fitz Alan, and attested by the Earl of Cornwall, Richard de Humez, and the now subdued rebel, Hugh de Mortimer.<sup>29</sup>

And these addresses to William Fitz Alan, then restored to his lands and honours, will cause a further citation of Monastic Charters illustrative of the era. His grant to his own foundation of Haghmon, on the very day of his restoration, is not only a chapter of history but a memorandum of loyal faith and pious gratitude.<sup>30</sup>

“ Know all men present and future, that I, William, son of Alan, on the day of St. James the Apostle, at Bruge, for the health of my soul and of (the souls of) all my ancestors and heirs, have given and conceded, and by this, my present Charter, have confirmed to God and to the Church of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist of Haghmon, and to the Canons, who are there serving God, the right of patronage of the Church of Wroxcestre in Salopescire, with all its endowment and with all its appurtenances and liberties, in free, pure, and perpetual almoigne &c.—These being witnesses: Roger de Powys, John le Strange, Hugh de Lacy of Colemere.”

And this grant thus made at Bridgnorth, on July 25, 1155, was afterwards remembered and certified, with additional circumstances of interest, by the first two witnesses.—

Roger Powys, about twenty years later than the grant, and about fifteen years after the death of the grantor, certified “ all sons of the Church of that which he had seen and heard, viz. that William Fitz Alan, after he had received his lands from the King, and on the day on which he took the homage of his vassals (hominum) at Brige, in presence of an assembled multitude of Barons and Knights, for the health of the Lord King and of his own soul,” gave the said Church to Haghmon Abbey, &c.<sup>31</sup>

And John le Strange’s contemporary certificate was mainly to the same effect, except that he uses the important word “restored” (reddiderat) as describing the King’s investiture of the exiled Sheriff of Shropshire.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 162.

<sup>30</sup> *Harl. MSS.* 446, fo. ix, compared with the Chartulary at Sundorn, fo. 236.

<sup>31</sup> Charter in possession of Mr. George Morris.

<sup>32</sup> *Hist. Shrewsbury*, i, 79, note 3. I have

inadvertently stated this Certificate to be in possession of Mr. George Morris (*supra*, p. 73, note 218). The *Haughmond Chartulary* at Sundorn, is the sole authority for it. The *Harleian MS.* 446, has the first lines only.

For the sake of a more general illustration of our subject, we will now recur to the beginning of this month of July, 1155, and to the case of another Monastic House, whose Abbot sought the King at Bridgnorth on the subject of a Charter. This was Walter de Lucy, Abbot of Battle, in Sussex. His attendance at Court was nearly coincident with a great Council, which, after Mortimer's surrender, was summoned to Bridgnorth. Thither on July 7, came Archbishops, Bishops, many Abbots, Earls, and Barons, to settle the terms of the King's peace with his rebellious vassal.<sup>33</sup> The Abbot of Battle reached the Court on the 10th, and on the following day had audience of the King on his own affairs. Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, Richard de Humez, and Richard de Lucy (the great Justiciar, and who was in fact the Abbot's brother), are mentioned as having been present. What transpired is foreign to our local subject, which may well conclude with the fragments of the lost Roll of 1155, so far as they allude to Shropshire.<sup>34</sup>

“William Fitz Alan, the Sheriff, renders account of the *ferm* of Salopesire for a fourth part of the year, *i. e.* from Midsummer to Michaelmas, 1155. He had paid £61. into the Treasury; his expenses had been £11. 13s. 4d. The King's Manors had been wasted, and a charge of £3. 5s. 5d. had arisen on that account during the quarter.”

At the same fiscal period (Michaelmas, 1155), Robert de Stafford, Sheriff of Staffordshire, charges his account with one merk (13s. 4d.) which in obedience to a writ of the King had been spent on the “works of the Castle of Bruges.”

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From this year till the end of the period of which we profess to give account, the history of Bridgnorth involves such a variety of details that we can no longer deal with the subject as a whole, but must bestow a distinct notice on each of its parts. We must give

<sup>33</sup> Palgrave's *British Commonwealth*, Appendix, p. xxxv. The document there printed is a muniment of Battle Abbey. Nothing, however, could be better selected for the guidance of those, who, seeking for hints of English History at a period when Chronicles were scanty, do not despise such hints though found amongst Monastic Charters. The reader may there learn how these Charters were sought and

obtained from the Crown; what were the conditions and forms of procedure; what, in short, the Court of Chancery really was when Henry Fitz Empress first reigned and Becket first held the seals. Most of the information which I have endeavoured to supply in a previous note on the same subject (*supra*, p. 27, note 3), was derived from this admirable Appendix.

<sup>34</sup> *Red Book of the Exchequer*, fo. 185.



some account of the Castle ; the Borough and its Liberties, the Collegiate Church within the Castle ; the Church of St. Leonard's, and other religious or eleemosynary foundations.—Also of such tenures, within the Town or Liberties, as will not recur to our notice elsewhere—and lastly of the principal men and families, whose names are associated with the early Borough.

#### THE CASTLE—

Served both as a fortress, a prison, and a royal residence. Of its extent at this early period we have no direct evidence or description. The remaining ruin, part of the older structure, is a fragment, massive indeed, and suggestive of a grand contemporary whole, but still a fragment only. Perhaps the constant outlay of the Crown in repairs and additions is the best illustration which can be offered as to the extent of the fortress in the time of Henry II and his three successors. If we take into consideration the different values of money at that time and the present, we may estimate what Bridgnorth Castle was, by that which it cost. The outlay on repairs and additions during the reign of Henry II was as follows:—

At Michaelmas, 1166, the Sheriff's annual account contains a charge of 6*s.* 8*d.* for repair of the "well of Brug," and 11*s.* 7*d.* for one stack of timber (*pro uno rogo*) at Brug.<sup>35</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1167, the Sheriff had expended, in obedience to the King's writ, various sums, amounting in all to £30. 13*s.* 4*d.* on the works of this Castle. Of this sum he had received £20. 13*s.* 4*d.* from amercements inflicted by Alan de Nevill (Justice of the Forest), and £10. from other amercements.

In 1168, the Sheriff had expended £14. 5*s.* 6*d.* on the same works. The funds thus employed arose from amercements, from rents of purprestures payable to the Crown, and from that part of the aid for marriage of the King's daughter which had been assessed on the escheated fief of Gerard de Tornai.

In 1169, the Sheriff, accounting for an arrear of £26. 6*s.* 4*d.* due for the *ferm* of the previous year, alleges the whole to have been expended on the works of the tower of Brug, in obedience to writ of Richard de Luci (the Justiciar), and under *view* of Philip Fitz Stephen, Richard Ireis, and Hulger the Clerk. He had also spent

<sup>35</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 12 Hen. II, Salop. The Pipe Rolls of the respective years mentioned are also the authority for the other items of expenditure, which follow in the text, except where reference is made to a different Record.

£15. 8s. 6d. of the new *ferm* of the County on the same object, and under similar direction and *view*.

At Michaelmas, 1170, William the Clerk accounting on behalf of Geoffrey de Vere, the then deceased Sheriff of Shropshire, charges £2. 5s. 9d. as having been expended on the same Tower, under royal warrant, and by *view* of the same Philip Fitz Stephen, Richard the Irishman (Ybernici), and Ulger the Canon. Out of the revenues arising from the Honour of the Constable which had also been farmed by Geoffrey de Vere, 18s. had been similarly appropriated, and is charged in another account of the said William Clericus.

At Michaelmas, 1171, William Clericus, rendering account of arrears from the former year, charges £5. 1s. 7d. as having been expended on the Tower of Brug, under the same *view*, and by royal warrant: and Guy le Strange, the Sheriff of the current year charges yet £15. 14s. 9d. more.

In 1172, Guy le Strange charges £25. 2s. 2d. for the same purpose, and £25. in 1173,—Richard de Luci again authorizing the outlay, and the same *Visors* inspecting it.

In 1174, Guy le Strange charges £18. 5s. 8d. as expended by royal warrant on the Castle of Brug, Richard the Irishman, and Ulger the Clerk being still *Visors*.

At Michaelmas, 1182, Hugh Pantulf, then Sheriff, had spent £3. 6s. 8d. in repair of the Tower of Brug, by royal warrant, and under *view* of William Fitz Simeon, Walter Palmer, and Richard de Porta. He had further spent £3. 12s. in repair of the King's House at Brug.

In 1183, the same Sheriff had expended £10. 7s. 3d. in repairs of the Castle, under *view* of Robert Bacun and William de Fabrica. In 1184, he had similarly expended £7. 1s. 2d. under *view* of Osbert the Tanner (Pelliparii). In 1185, £3. 11s. 11d. was bestowed on the same work, under *view* of Ralph Fitz Lambert and Osbert Fredesent.

In 1186, £3. 1s. was spent on the Castle and the King's House, under *view* of Simon Ordric and Stephen de Ypra. In 1187, £1. 12s. 8d. on the House alone, under *view* of Vivian Fitz William and Abraham Fitz Redwi.

In 1188, the repair of the King's houses at Salop and Brug had cost collectively 11s. 4d., and at Michaelmas, 1189, the Sheriff had spent 5s. 3d. on the House at Brug, under *view* of Nicholas the Irishman.

The reign of Henry II was nearly thirty-five years in length, and

for thirty-four years thereof the King was in seizure of Bridgnorth Castle. The expenditure in repairs and additions, recorded for that period, and above detailed, will be found to amount to £213, a sum equal to about £10,500. of modern currency.

At Michaelmas, 1191, the Castles of Bruges and Salop had been repaired at a cost of £12. 9s. 11*d.*, by warrants of the King (now gone on the Crusade) and the Chancellor (Longchamp). The *Visors* for Bruges had been Robert Bacon, and Andrew, son of the Priest.

At Michaelmas, 1193, the Sheriff charges £32. 8s. 5*d.* in repairs of the Tower of Brug by writ of the King (now in captivity), and under *view* of Richard de Overton, Henry Dyer (Tinctoris), and Henry Fitz Turol.

In 1195, £5. is charged for repairs of the well and the King's house, under warrant of the Archbishop (Hubert of Canterbury).

In 1196, £8. 5s. is charged for repair of the basement (pedis) of the Castle, by royal warrant, and under *view* of Hugh de Norton and Walter Meverel.

In 1197, 7s. are charged for repairs of the house and Castle.

In 1198, a charge of 75s. includes some outlay at Salop.

In 1199, 18s. 6*d.* had been spent on this Castle alone.

On the whole, the average expenditure on this account during the ten years of Richard's reign was nearly in proportion to that which occurred in the time of his Father.

Repairs or additions to the Castle, or the King's house therein, are charged, in the Sheriff's accounts, for the following years, viz. 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203 (when Geoffrey Fitz Piers ordered the outlay, he being both Chief Justice and Sheriff), 1204 (when the Castle well was repaired), 1205 (when Nicholas the Irishman and William Fitz William were *Visors*), 1206, 1207 (when the Tower of Brug, and four County gaols were repaired), 1209 (when four royal Castles were repaired), 1212 (when the work is specified to have been at "the Barbican and drawbridge"),<sup>36</sup> and 1214 (when the charge is for the two preceding years).

Similar charges also occur on the Pipe Rolls of the years 1218, 1219, 1220 (in each of which the outlay is stated at £5. as if by special arrangement), and 1221.

On July 4 of the latter year, the King's Precept issued to the Earl of Chester (then Sheriff), ordering him to let Alan Fitz Robert have

<sup>36</sup> In operatione Barbekanzæ et pontis tornalis in Castro de Brug.

an equivalent in the King's demesne for the land which said Alau had lost by reason of the construction of a Barbican before the gate of the Castle of Brug.<sup>37</sup>

26 Jan. 1223, Brian de Lisle has a royal order to let Henry de Audley have, out of the wind-falls in Kinver Forest, timber sufficient to repair the King's house in Brug Castle, and to cause *tally* to be made of the same.<sup>38</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1223, the Earl of Chester had expended in two years, £20. in repairs of the Castles of Salop and Brug; and in 1224 he charges £10. more on the same account. This expenditure will have been previous to Dec. 30, 1223, when the Earl's custody of the said Castles ceased. Another Record informs us that during his Shrievalty great waste was made in that part of Morf Forest called "the wood of Worefield," one item whereof was the timber taken to Brug Castle.<sup>39</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1225, John Bonet (then Custos of the County) had paid £14. 6s. 8d. in the work of the Tower of Brug. It had been roofed with lead &c., under *view* of Hamo Palmer and William Lorimer.<sup>40</sup>

March 21, 1226, the following writ issued to the Sheriff. "The King to the Sheriff of Salop, greeting. We enjoin you that you cause to be repaired that turret of the outer wall of our Castle of Bruges which lately fell, and likewise the old chimney of our great chamber in the same Castle, which is much damaged. And the cost thereof, under *view* of *legal* men, shall be reckoned to your credit &c.—At Westminster."<sup>41</sup>

Sept. 29, 1226, John Bonet, then Custos, charges on his annual account £13. 6s. 9d. for repair of the said Tower, *and* outer wall (*muri forinseci*), and old chimney, "by writ of the King, and under *view* of Henry (Hamo probably) Palmer and Richard A \*\* uard. He further charges £10. for unspecified repairs at the Castles of Bruges and Salop.

Aug. 9, 1227, John Fitz Philip (of Bolbington) is to allow

<sup>37</sup> *Rot. Claus.* i, p. 464.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 530.

<sup>39</sup> *De Forestis Antiquis*, No. 13 (apud Turrim, London).

<sup>40</sup> "In operatione turris de Brug gestatæ et plumbo coopertæ" (*Rot. Pip.* 9 Hen. III), where the meaning of the word "gestatæ," escapes me. The King's

precept to the Barons of the Exchequer, authorizing the credit thus taken by the Custos, is of date May 9, 1225. It speaks of the Sheriff's outlay "in turri de Brug gestandâ et plumbo cooperiendâ per preceptum nostrum." (*Claus.* ii, 37.)

<sup>41</sup> *Claus.* 10 Hen. III, memb. 21.

Henry de Audley 60 oak-trees out of Chacepel Haye for repair of the King's house at Brug.<sup>42</sup>

For the years ending Michaelmas, 1228, 1229, 1230, and 1231, a regular charge of £10. per annum is made by the Sheriff for repairs of the King's houses in the Castles of Brug and Salop.

At Michaelmas, 1232, a similar charge occurs; and in 1233, the *Visors* of some repairs at Brug had been Hamo le Palmer and Richard Fitz William.

Michaelmas, 1240, the King's houses in Salop and Brug Castles had been repaired at a cost of 55*s.*

In 1242, there is a charge for repairing the Castle walls; another for the Castles of Brug and Salop in 1246; and in 1250 the *Visors* of repairs at the former were John de Castro and Nicholas Janitor.

At Michaelmas, 1252, the large sum of £100. had been spent by the Sheriff, Robert de Grendon, in repairing the King's houses in the Castles of Salop and Brug, and in the erection of a new turret in the latter, under *view* and testimony of Nicholas Fitz Walter, William Bolding, and Richard Boeghan.

At Michaelmas, 1254, Robert de Grendon's account states an outlay of £22. 10*s.* as having been incurred since March, 1250, in repairs of the King's house in Brug Castle.

In 1257, Hugo de Acour, Sheriff, charges £116. 9*s.* 4½*d.* for repairs of the three Castles of Salop, Brug, and Ellesmere. The *Visors* for the first two were John de Castello and Robert Cemenarius.

In 1260, £5. is charged for repairs of the King's house in this Castle during the previous year (ending Michaelmas, 1259), and £30. 7*s.* during the quarter (ending Christmas, 1259). The *Visors* in the latter case had been Almaric de Brug and William Bonami. For the three quarters following, William Caverswell, Sheriff, charges £6. 15*s.* 4*d.* for works in the Castle, begun by William Bagod (the former accountant); and the *Visors* of this completion were William and Hamo le Palmer.

In 1261, the Sheriff is commanded to have the houses in the Castle roofed and repaired where needful, and again to expend 20 merks on this Castle and that of Salop.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>42</sup> *Claus.* 11 Hen. III, memb. 5.

<sup>43</sup> *Rot. Liberat.* 45 Hen. III, memb. 11 and 4.

In 1266, the Sheriff is ordered to cause defects in the same two Castles and in the houses within them to be repaired.<sup>44</sup>

In 1267, the Sheriff is to cause all houses of the King and Queen in the Castle and town of Brug to be repaired, as they are coming to stay there.<sup>45</sup>

In the same year, more specific orders were directed to the Sheriff,<sup>46</sup> viz. that he cause two new glass windows to be made in the north part of the Castle Hall, and also a pantry and butlery of stone, and an oriel at the door of the Queen's chamber. Further, that necessary repairs should be done to the windows of the Chapel in the Castle. These repairs were completed at a cost of £4. 18s. under *view* of Hamole Palmer and Roger Dyer (le Teynturer), and during the Shrievalty of Walter de Hopton (*i.e.* between Michaelmas, 1267, 1268). He charges for them specifically in the Pipe Roll of Michaelmas, 1269, which contains the accounts of two preceding years.

Nov. 29, 1274. The Jurors who at this time made report to the King's Commissioners as to various matters relating to the "Liberty of Brug," stated, *inter alia*, that there had been "certain works of the King within the Castle, and certain *Visors* appointed over the same, by the King, in the time of Sir Walter de Opton's Shrievalty; that under *view* of said *Visors*, a certain outlay had been made on the said works, but that Robert de Trillek (a succeeding Under-Sheriff) had removed those *Visors*, and caused the works to be done without *Visors* all his time."<sup>47</sup>

On January 28, 1281, the Castle of Brug was *viewed* and its condition reported by four Knights appointed to this duty, viz. Sir Alan de Glazeley, Sir John de Pichford, Sir Thomas Boterel, and Sir John Fitz Aer. The dilapidations were as follows:—"In the great Tower all the thick timber is rotted by the rain, which has long time fallen upon it, through defect of the leaden roofing, which has been carried away; so that without great vigilance it will not be possible to keep prisoners in safe custody. The hall and chamber, with the King's kitchen and the Queen's chamber, want roofing and other repairs. The house where the Constable used to live, in the Barbican, below the Castle, and all the chambers in the Barbican, threaten to fall down for want of repair; no one may safely reside in them. The King's stable and

<sup>44</sup> *Rot. Liberat.* 50 Hen. III, memb. 11. |

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 4.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibidem*, 51 Hen. III, memb. 4. |

<sup>47</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 89.

the other stables are thrown down, and the timber pillaged, so that the present Sheriff found nothing thereof. In the bridge and in the portals there are many deficiencies: the bridge is broken; a person can scarce pass over it on foot,—on horseback not at all. The chamber beneath the Barbican, which used to be a *free prison*, between the great Tower and the chamber of the Constable, is completely down, and the timber thereof pillaged and carried off." Of the general repairs, the aforesaid Knights declare that "very many are necessary in the said Castle."<sup>48</sup>

This state of dilapidation had probably existed for many years previous to the Inquest of 1281. Its causes will better appear under another section of the History of Bridgnorth Castle.

More than 250 years after the last-mentioned date, Bridgnorth was visited by John Leland, the Antiquary. Though not in chronological sequence, his account<sup>49</sup> of the Castle should be given here, as containing proximate hints as to the original site, disposition, and extent of this famous fortress. "The Castle," he says, "standeth on the south part of the towne, and is fortified by east with the profound Valley (of the Severn) instead of a ditch. The walles of it be of a great height. There were 2 or 3 stronge wardes in the Castle, that nowe goe totally to ruine. I count the Castle to be more in compasse then the third part of the towne" (which he had before estimated as "scant a mile in compasse").

"There is one mighty gate<sup>50</sup> by north in it (the Castle), now stopped up, and a litle posterne made of force thereby through the wall to enter into the Castle. The Castle ground, and espccially the base court, hath now many dwellinge houses of tymbre in it newly erected."

<sup>48</sup> *Inquisitions*, 9 Edw. I, No. 81. This Inquisition has been before alluded to (p. 205, note 39). It is described in the printed Calendar as "concerning suits of Court to Brugg Castle!" In Mr. Dukes' *Antiquities*, 81 Commissioners are stated to have been employed on this occasion, by an error of punctuation, which converts the office number of the Inquisition, into the number of Inquisitors.

<sup>49</sup> Leland's *Itinerary*, vol. iv, part. ii, fo. 182, a.

<sup>50</sup> The "Mighty North Gate" of Bridgnorth Castle, alluded to by Leland, was, I imagine, the same, which having been previously buried in other buildings was again exposed to view, during some street alterations in 1821. The fine Norman Arch and its unnecessary destruction are memorialized by the Historians of *Shrewsbury* (vol. i, p. 54, note 3), in terms which both justify a reference to their note and plead against the future perpetration of such improvements, there or elsewhere.

Having now given whatever evidence offered itself as to the fabric and extent of this Castle, during the early period of its existence, something remains to be said of its uses and occupancy as a GARRISON, a PRISON, and a ROYAL RESIDENCE.

The Sheriff of the County was usually an *ex-officio* keeper of the two Castles of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury. The Constable, or chief resident officer in each, will ordinarily have been a deputy of the Sheriff. But we shall hear occasionally of the custody of the Castles and the County being intrusted to persons independent of each other; in which case the Constable of Bridgnorth was of course the immediate nominee of the Crown.

The only other permanent officer who is mentioned was the Porter. The castellans, or regular garrison, in time of peace, were probably not more than five or six in number; but in time of war, service of *Castle-guard* was due from some neighbouring tenants of the Crown.

The earliest notice of the King's garrison here relates to the Porter. In and for the fiscal year ending Michaelmas, 1156,<sup>51</sup> an annual charge arose upon the Crown revenue in Shropshire of 30s. 5d. (or 1 penny per day) for *Livery of the Porter of Brug*. The Sheriff, William Fitz-Alan, charged it that year as a set-off to the *ferm* of the County, and the charge was continued by him and his successors in office, till the fourth year of King John (1202). In the sequel of John's reign this item of the Sheriffs' expenditure is less regularly entered. The Porter and Warder (vigil) of Shrewsbury Castle each received a similar salary from the Crown, and through the Sheriff. In the fifth year of John (1203), only half of these appointed liveries seems to have been paid, and the payment to the Porter and Warder of Shrewsbury is apparently confused with the payment to the Porter of Brug. From this period till Michaelmas, 1224 (8 Hen. III) inclusive, the latter salary (of 30s. 5d.) whenever charged by the Sheriff, is entered as having been paid to the Porter *and Warder* of Brug; but I attribute this to a perpetuation of the error observable in the account of 1203, and do not suppose that two officers were employed at Bridgnorth, but only at Salop. If, however, a Porter and Warder were employed at each Castle, the salary of the two at Bridgnorth was only half the salary of the two at Shrewsbury, which was uniformly £3. 0s. 10d.

<sup>51</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 Hen. II, Salop.



In the year ending Michaelmas, 1225, the Sheriff (John Bonet) again charged 30s. 5*d.* for "livery of the Porter and Warder of the Castle of Brug," but this item of charge was virtually cancelled, because the then Constable of Bridgnorth was independent of the Sheriff and held his office at a fixed salary, out of which he was bound to pay his subalterns. The way in which this cancellation was effected is curious. The improper item is not underlined, as was usual in such cases, but the sum (30s. 5*d.*) is charged back upon the Sheriff in the sequel of the account, in these terms.—"The same Sheriff owes 30s. 5*d.* for livery of the Porter and Warder of Bruges Castle, which he has taken credit for above, in the *Corpus Comitatus*,<sup>52</sup> which credit ought not to have been taken, because the Constable has a fixed stipend." In the following year the same Sheriff again charged 30s. 5*d.* on this item, in that part of his account technically called the *Corpus Comitatus*; but in this instance the entry is cancelled at once (*i. e.* underlined) and a note added to this effect:—"It is cancelled before the Barons (of Exchequer) because the Constables of the Castles have fixed stipends for custody of said Castles."

This charge for the livery of the Porter was never again renewed on the annual Rolls, not even when custody of the Castle was held by the contemporary Sheriff.

A matter of Exchequer routine has led us to digress from our proposed chronological account of Brug Castle.—

We return to the year ending Michaelmas, 1163, when four hostages had been maintained at Brug, and three at Salop. The Sheriff charges the Crown 6*l.*s. for the two items jointly.

<sup>52</sup> That part of the Sheriff's annual account which went by this name may be described as follows. He first debits himself with the "Firma Comitatus," or that revenue which he was presumed to receive as *Fermor* of the King's demesne, or other rights within the County. This revenue, in Shropshire, was £265. 15*s.* per annum.

The Sheriff then charges against this, his debt, whatever items of such *ferm* the King had bestowed elsewhere, as well as all such occasional outlay as he himself had had warrant to make in the King's service.

The balance, one way or other, is stated

at the foot of this section of account. If the Sheriff's receipts had been exceeded by his authorized outlay, he credits himself with what he terms his "surplus," and for which he is subsequently reimbursed. If, on the contrary, his receipts have exceeded his outlay and his payments into the Exchequer combined, he acknowledges himself indebted *pro tanto*, and accounts for such debt, either in another section of the same year's Pipe Roll, or else at the head of the Roll of the year following, and under the title of "*the old ferm*" of the County for which he is Sheriff.

These hostages cannot but be associated with the events of the summer of 1163. In June, King Henry invaded South Wales, and having ravaged Caermarthenshire, Rees, Prince of South Wales, came to him at "Pencadaye beside Brecknock, and did him homage and gave him pledges." Also on July 1, at Woodstock, the same Rees, with Owen Prince of North Wales, and Malcolm King of Scotland, did homage to the King and his son Henry.<sup>53</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1165, Guy le Strange, accounting, as Sheriff, for the quarter ending Christmas, 1164, charges £4. 1s. 3d. for maintenance of twenty-five hostages at Brug:<sup>54</sup> and Geoffrey de Vere, his successor in office, charges £4. 12s. for maintenance of the same number. These charges were clearly for one set of hostages, but at different periods. Taking the sums charged as our only means of calculation, it would appear that Geoffrey de Vere's trust lasted rather more than a quarter of a year, *i. e.* till about April, 1165. In 1164, the Princes of Wales had forsaken their fealty to King Henry, and in the summer of 1165, the King was again provoked to invade North Wales. A first expedition brought him to Ruthlan; a second, in greater force, to the Berwyn. In both he seems to have been unsuccessful.

The cruel and violent temper of Henry II, his various contemporary mortifications, and certain historical parallels may lead us to attribute the disappearance of these hostages from the Sheriff's accounts to other causes than restoration to their country, a favour which indeed was at this very juncture most improbable. King John's cruelty to Welsh hostages is well and circumstantially established.<sup>55</sup> No less established is my conviction that King John's cruelty and meanness were part of his paternal inheritance.

The years 1173-4 are well known as those of Prince Henry's rebellion against his Father. The Earls of Ferrers and Leicester taking an active part against the King, the Midland Counties may be presumed to have been much disturbed. Under these circumstances, Guy le Strange, then Sheriff of Shropshire, and *Fermor* of

<sup>53</sup> *Powell*, p. 161; *Girald Itin.* ii, x; *Dic.* 535. What the Welsh Chronicler may mean by saying that, after the interview with Rees at Pencadaye, the King went "again to Ireland," I cannot guess. Henry II was never more than once in Ireland, *viz.* from Oct. 1171, till April, 1172.

<sup>54</sup> Guy le Strange's previous account

(for the year ending Michaelmas, 1164), charges, in gross, a large sum (£90.9s.10d.) for "works and services of the King in Salopset", and livery of serving-men." An item for the continuous maintenance of hostages is thus not improbably involved.

<sup>55</sup> *Infra*. p. 271.

Fitz Alan's Barony, had to victual the Castle of Brug. He charges on this account, at Michaelmas, 1174, for 92 horse-loads of corn, £9. 0s. 6d.; for 120 hogs, £10. 4s.; for 120 cheeses, £2. 6s. 8d.; and for 20 horse-loads of salt 10s.<sup>56</sup> The total outlay (£22. 5s. 2d.) the Sheriff charges on an arrear which he had in hand of the previous year's receipts from Fitz Alan's Barony.<sup>57</sup>

The same Sheriff had likewise the King's warrant to the extent of £42. for livery of 10 Knights, who were to be with him in the Castles of Salop and Brugis. At Michaelmas, 1175, he charges £13. 6s. 1d. of this on an arrear due from the previous year's *ferm* of the County: the balance of £28. 13s. 11d. he charges on his receipts as *fermor* of the *honor* of William Fitz Alan for the year ending Sept. 1174.

His account of Michaelmas, 1175, in the latter capacity left him still owing a sum of £26. 13s. 4d. to the Crown. This also he had had the King's warrant for applying to the maintenance of the same 10 Knights, but his acquittance from the debt is not recorded till Michaelmas, 1176.

In one of these years 1175-6, Bridgnorth will have been personally visited by King Henry II. It was at the time when he made a progress throughout the kingdom, the ostensible object of which was the punishment of all those who, during the late troubles, had trespassed on the Royal Forests. Vast sums of money flowed into the Royal Treasury from the amercements which were thus imposed. Henry has been much blamed for this exercise of his restored power, but it should be remembered that in punishing trespassers of the Forest, he probably punished individuals whose general spirit of disloyalty had manifested itself in thus taking advantage of the disorganization of the period.

His visit to Bridgnorth, at the time supposed, is proved by a Charter which was dated there, and by which the Priory of Wenlock came into possession of the Manor of Ditton. This Charter need

<sup>56</sup> A charge of 4s. "pro II manumolis" seems also to belong to this list of stores. *Manumola* is interpreted by *cirotheca* (a glove) in the glossaries. A charge "pro II mangonellis" (catapults) would have been more intelligible.

<sup>57</sup> Guy le Strange had in 1173 raised on behalf of the Crown a considerable contingent for what he describes, on his account of that year, as the "army of

Leicester." Leicester, the stronghold of its rebellious but then absent Earl, was invested by Reginald Earl of Cornwall and Richard de Luci, in the summer of 1173. It fell before the besiegers on July 22, and the Sheriff of Shropshire served in person on that occasion. He charges for liveries of serving-men throughout the County of Salopsc', while he himself "was in the army of Leicester."

not be here set forth, further than to say that it took effect from and after Christmas, 1175.<sup>58</sup> It was attested by Richard de Luci, William Fitz Adeline (the Sewer), Reginald de Courtenay, William de Lanval, Robert Marmion, Saher de Quinci, Thomas Basset, Guy le Strange, William Fitz Ralph, and Randal Broc,<sup>59</sup> who all may be presumed to have been of the Royal retinue "at Bruges" on this occasion.

These witnesses' names afford ample corroboration of the date which the Exchequer accounts alone would fix for the grant, *e. g.* Richard de Luci (the great Justiciar) retired from court early in 1179. In 1176, William Fitz Adeline went as Viceroy to Ireland. William de Lanvall and Thomas Basset were associated Justiciars, who, in 1175, visited Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire. Further, on July 1, 1175, King Henry was at Woodstock; on August 1 at Nottingham. In the interval he had visited Lichfield, perhaps Bridgnorth also.

In the months of December, 1197, and January, 1198, Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, Legate of the Apostolick See, and Chief Justice of the Realm, visited the Western Counties.<sup>60</sup> His presence at Shrewsbury in January will be matter of future mention. It was on Christmas Day, 1197, that being at Hereford, he "took in hand the Castle thereof, as well as the Castles of Briges and Ludelaw, and expelling thence the Constables (Custodes), who had long had custody of them, he delivered them to other Constables, to keep for the advantage of (or in behalf of) the King."<sup>61</sup>

William Fitz Alan was at this time Sheriff of Shropshire. His account for the year ending Michaelmas, 1198, does not exhibit the slightest evidence of this interference of the Viceroy at Bridgnorth. He had obeyed writs of the Archbishop as well as of the King. He had repaired the Castle of Brug under the latter authority. He had paid the Porter of Brug his accustomed salary. Moreover he had paid "6s. 3d. in hire of the barge which carried the wife of Griffin, son of Rese (who was hostage for her husband), from Bruges to Gloucester."<sup>62</sup>

<sup>58</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 22 Hen. II, Salop. This account, made up at Michaelmas, 1176, awards, under Royal Warrant, to Wenlock Priory, such revenue of the Manor of Ditton, as represented a tenure thereof during the previous three quarters.

<sup>59</sup> *Monasticon*, v, p. 73, notes No. 3.

<sup>60</sup> Hoveden, 440, b.

<sup>61</sup> "*Custodienda ad opus Regis.*"

<sup>62</sup> This entry on the Sheriff's accounts requires some illustration. In the summer of 1198, Gwenwynwyn, Prince of

In November, 1200, Bridgnorth was visited by King John. He was at Feckenham (Worcestershire) on the 9th; at Brug on the 11th and 13th; and at Haywood (Staffordshire) on the 15th. With him were the Bishops of Coventry and Bangor, Geoffrey Fitz Piers (Chief Justice of all England), and Simon Archdeacon of Wells (then one of the joint Keepers of the Great Seal).<sup>63</sup>

In March, 1204, King John was again at Bridgnorth. Having been at Lichfield on the 11th, he was here on the 13th, 14th, and 15th, and at Worcester on the 16th. With him was a noble retinue, such as none but a great fortress could have sufficed to accommodate. These were the Bishops of Lincoln and Hereford, the Earls of Essex (Geoffrey Fitz Piers, then Sheriff of the County), of Pembroke, Chester, Salisbury, Warren, Leicester, Warwick, and Hereford; also William de Braose, the Provost of Beverley, Hugh de Nevill, and William Briwere.<sup>64</sup>

On this occasion Geoffrey Fitz Piers "had paid £40. to John de Torrué, the King's Clerk, who was to discharge therewith the King's expenses at Bruges." This item stands on Fitz Piers' Shropshire account, at the following Michaelmas, as a set-off against what was due from him on the *ferm* of the County.<sup>65</sup> However the King's writ is extant, dated at Winchester, 7 May, 1204, whereby he orders his "Treasurer and Chamberlains to deliver (liberate) to Geoffrey Fitz Piers £40. which said Geoffrey had paid in the King's chamber, to discharge the King's expenses at Brug."<sup>66</sup> We must presume that, instead of receiving the money ordered by the latter writ, Fitz Piers took a correspondent credit at the Exchequer, otherwise the Lord Chief Justice will have been repaid for his advance twice over.

22d March, 1205. King John's precept issues to the Sheriff of Staffordshire (which with Shropshire was then in the joint custody

Powis, invested Castle Pain in Elvel, intending, in case of success to carry his operations to the Severn. In July or August, Gwenwynwyn was engaged and defeated with great loss by Geoffrey Fitz Piers, who had succeeded Hubert as Chief Justice of England, in the former month. In aid of the new Viceroy on this occasion, stood Griffith ap Rees, Prince of South Wales, who had, in 1197, been deposed and imprisoned by his brother Maelgon, in concert with Gwenwynwyn. The latter had delivered Griffith to the English

during a temporary pacification; but when Gwenwynwyn again troubled the Border, the English enlarged their prisoner and were aided by him as above stated. Griffith's wife was probably surrendered as a pledge of his fidelity, when he himself was released.

<sup>63</sup> *Rot. Cartarum*, p. 80.

<sup>64</sup> *Rot. Pat.* p. 39. *Rot. Cart.* p. 122. *Liberat.* p. 83.

<sup>65</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6 John, Salop.

<sup>66</sup> *Rot. Claus.* 6 John, memb. 21.

of Thomas de Erdinton and William de Hauterive), commanding him that he lodge Bernard de Urri, the King's *Balister*, whom the King sends, with the nine other *Balisters* who are at Brug; and the Sheriff is to give said Bernard his livery from the 22d of March, as long as he remains at Brug in the King's service and by the King's order; and the amount shall be placed to the Sheriff's credit at the Exchequer. The said livery is to be that which other *two-horse Balisters* have.<sup>67</sup>

On May 11, 1205, the Sheriff of Salop is ordered by the King to send without delay to Northampton all the King's *Balisters* who are at Salop and Brug. They are to be at Northampton on Sunday before Pentecost, "with their horses and accoutrements."<sup>68</sup> This order was probably in anticipation of John's then contemplated expedition into Poitou, which, however, was afterwards (June 13) abandoned, though an embarkation at Portsmouth actually took place.

On Aug. 5, 1205, the King, being at Lambeth, sends to the Sheriff of Salop, Peter, a *three-horse Balister*, and nine *two-horse Balisters*, who are to receive 10s. 4d. per day (less than 14d. each). They are to stay at Brug with their accoutrements till the King give further orders. Their prescribed pay is to commence on the 11th of August.<sup>69</sup>

6 Aug. 1205. King John, being at Havering (Essex) orders the Keepers of his wines at Bristol to send 6 tuns of wine, by water, to Brug. Three are for the King's use, and three for distribution (to his household). The wine is to travel night and day.<sup>70</sup> This writ has a mark of cancellation affixed, and—

On 20 Aug. following, the King gives an order to the same officers to send wine to Feckenham, Kinver, Worcester, and Brug, there to wait the King's convenience.<sup>71</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1206, the Sheriff had sent wine of the King's from Brug to Nottingham.<sup>72</sup>

<sup>67</sup> *Claus. 6* John, memb. 66. "Et facias ei habere liberaciones suas sicut aliis qui sunt ad duos equos." The *Balistarii* who were in King John's pay, were chiefly of three classes, those who used two horses, those who used one horse, and those who are called *foot-balisters*. Their usual pay was respectively 15d., 7½d., and 3d. per day. Their employment was the management of different kinds of engines for propelling missiles, from the bulky

machine which battered a fortress with huge stones, down to the cross-bow, which carried bolts or quarrels. Their names indicate many of them to have been foreigners.

<sup>68</sup> *Rot. Claus. 6* John, memb. 1.

<sup>69</sup> *Claus. 7* John, memb. 18.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 15.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 17.

<sup>72</sup> *Rot. Pip. 8* John, Salop.

At Michaelmas, 1207, the Sheriff, Thomas de Erdinton, charges the Crown £4. for "repair of four gaols in several places, together with the free prisons."<sup>73</sup> One of the four places will have been Bridgnorth Castle.

At the Forest Assizes, held at Salop, on Saturday after Mid-Lent, in the 10th year of King John (Sat. Mch. 14, 1209), the following curious case came before H. de Nevill and Peter de Leonibus, the presiding Justices.<sup>74</sup>

"A certain stag entered into the *bailey*<sup>75</sup> of the Castle of Bruges, through a postern, and the Castellans captured him and carried him to the Castle. And (the King's) Verderers, hearing thereof, came thither, and questioned Thomas de Erdinton, the then Sheriff, as to what he had done with the said stag: and he acknowledged that the matter was as alleged, and became bound that his men should appear before the Justices." He did not, however, keep his word, and some unexplained adjournment was the consequence. These *Castellans* are enumerated. They were "Matthew the Constable, Roger de Fougeres, Richard de Bromwic, Robert the Porter, and Wallcran, brother of Matthew."

We thus learn the official connexion of the Sheriff with this Castle, his employment of a Deputy called Constable, and the insignificant force of the permanent garrison. We also may estimate the stringency of those Forest Laws, whose inferior ministers could thus interrogate the Sheriff of two Counties, and a Royal favourite, about a stray stag.<sup>76</sup>

King John's third visit to Bridgnorth was in August, 1212. It was an eventful period of his reign, and one which has hitherto escaped any accurate historical notice. The rapidity of the King's movements would indeed be almost incredible were not the circumstances, which are now to be detailed, supported by the most unquestionable testimony.

Earlier in the year Lewellyn had succeeded in reconciling that

<sup>73</sup> *Ibidem*, 9 John.

<sup>74</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, Salop, No. 2, memb. 1.

<sup>75</sup> The *balliva* or *ballium* of a Castle, was primarily the whole area over which the Constable had jurisdiction. The word was secondarily used to describe particular spaces, as the "inner" and "outer bailey." The Seneschal of Montgomery was to have a dwelling-house within the

*ballium* of the Castle. (*Hist. of Shrewsbury*, i, 41, note 2.)

<sup>76</sup> Erdinton was Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire both in 1209, and for the greater part of King John's reign. For his active services and the confidence which the King reposed in him, it will, at present, be sufficient to refer to Dugdale's *Baronage* (vol. ii, p. 111), and Blake-way's *Sheriffs* (p. 35).

disunion of the Welsh Princes which placed their country so much under the influence of the English King. The Spring saw Lewcllyn associated with Gwenwynwyn Prince of Powis, Maelgon ap Rees of South Wales, and Meredith ap Robert of Cydewen.<sup>77</sup> The Castles built or garrisoned by the English fell one by one before their arms.

The first notice which King John seems to have taken of this alliance, bears date, May 26th, at Wolmere (Hants), when he issued letters patent, confiscating all the lands of Mealgon ap Rese in the *honor* of Cardigan, and conferring them, with all services of the tenants, on Rese ap Griffin.<sup>75</sup>

Two months later, viz. on July 26th, the King was at Bristol. The only Castles of North Wales which now remained in his power were Ruthlan, Dyganwy, and Mathraval. The latter had been built by Robert de Vipont, one of John's most active Lieutenants, on the banks of the Vyrnwy, about two miles above Meifod, and probably on the site of an older but long-forsaken Castle of the Princes of Powys. De Vipont was now besieged in this Castle by the Welsh confederates.

Notwithstanding the digression, we will watch the daily movements of King John at this crisis of his career. We shall observe him in his household, note him at the council-board, trace him through the toilsome march of the summer day, admire his momentary energy though contrasted with irresolution and fear, wonder at the weak superstition which alternated with the most revolting crime.

On Thursday, July 26th, the King passed from Bristol to Melkesham (Wilts), and sent thence £300. to the Sheriff of Herefordshire, wherewith "to succour Robert de Vipont who was besieged in Wales."<sup>79</sup> On Friday, July 27th, he was at Devizes and Ludgarshall (both in Wiltshire), and on the 29th at Winchester. That day (it was Sunday) he passed back to Marlborough (Wilts); reached Tewkesbury on the 30th and was at Worcester on the 31st. Hence he despatched a messenger with money to pay the mercenaries who were serving in South Wales under the notorious Fulk de Breant.<sup>80</sup> He occurs, as still at Worcester on the 1st of August, but must have travelled to Bridgnorth the same day. On this journey the

<sup>77</sup> To these Dr. Powell (p. 192) adds Madoc ap Gruffyth Maylor, Lord of Bromfield, who, if he ever joined the alliance, did not adhere to it.

<sup>78</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 14 John, memb. 5.

<sup>79</sup> *Misc. Rolls*, 14 John, memb. 2.

<sup>80</sup> *Claus.* 14 John, memb. 6. Dr. Powell's account would imply that Fulk de Breant, quitted his lieutenancy in South Wales the year before.



sumpter-horse, which carried the King's bed, failed and was left at Bridgnorth. Also two of the King's *valets* with their horses and attendants, the King's Falconer, with his Hawks, the two Carters and four *Sumpterers* who carried the King's wardrobe, with their nine horses, accompanied the King's march no further. At Bridgnorth also remained certain coffers, which contained relics, and which seem to have travelled with the Court on all ordinary journeys. Over these during the "three nights which they remained at Brug" were burnt wax candles at the King's expense.<sup>81</sup>

On the morning of Thursday, the 2d of August, the King ordered 60s. to be given to Buchard de Gratelou, a Knight, whose horse was in pawn at Brug and was thus redeemed.

Urgent was the need of both horse and Knight, for on that same day King John raised the siege of Mathraval, in the heart of Powisland, and levelled its Castle with the ground.

If we estimate this exploit according to the distance of the journey, the nature of the road, the season of the year, and the hazard of the work (for it is certain that the expedition was but slenderly attended),<sup>82</sup> we shall recognise, even in King John, some of those capabilities which marked the Plantagenet, and which in him were kept in abeyance, probably by an almost unceasing consciousness of crime.

The next day the King returned to Bridgnorth, transacting some matters of business as he passed through Shrewsbury, and, *inter alia*, writing to the Earl of Chester to support and protect Madoc ap Griffin and his men, to whom the King, now that Lewellyn had seceded from him, wished "to recur as to his own son."<sup>83</sup>

On reaching Bridgnorth the King ate twice, though it was Friday, an offence which he atoned for the following day, by feeding a hundred paupers with bread, fish, and beer.<sup>84</sup>

He proceeded (on the 4th) to Russock (Worcestershire). He was at Woolward in the same County on the 5th, and reached

<sup>81</sup> *Rot. Miscæ*, 14 John, memb. 2. For an account of the office of a King's *Valet*, see *Hist. Shrewsbury* i, 266.

<sup>82</sup> The distance from Bridgnorth to Mathraval cannot be much less than fifty miles by the nearest modern road. Dr. Powell's expression that the King "levied an army" for this exploit, is simply an exaggeration. The Rolls exhibit no

symptom of such preparation, and the King, a week before, had evidently no intention of rendering personal aid to his lieutenant. Moreover the "King's Army" was at this moment under summons to Chester.

<sup>83</sup> *Rot. Pat.* and *Rot. Claus.*

<sup>84</sup> *Rot. Miscæ*, ut supra.

Woodstock the same day.<sup>85</sup> There he rested till the 9th, when he proceeded to Silverstone (Northants).

Here he wrote to his late rescued officer, De Vipont, apparently as having custody of Oswestry Castle.<sup>86</sup>

On the 10th he passed through Northampton to Lamport, and from the latter place, on the 11th, issued letters patent of safe conduct, for Lewellyn, and all his abettors and kindred, to meet him at Chester on the Sunday after the Assumption of St. Mary (Sunday the 19th), and give full security for thier future fealty. He also wrote to certain Lords and Knights of Flanders and Hainault, who had come to England at his mandate, beseeching them in the most affectionate terms to follow him, "for that he could not come back to them, by reason of his army, which he had caused to be summoned."<sup>87</sup>

This summons had been issued from Woodstock on the 20th and 21st of July. It was to various English Barons and Sheriffs, to meet him at Chester, coincidently with the time appointed to Lewellyn.

At *Salvata* on the 12th, and Gunthorpe (Notts) on the 13th, the King reached Nottingham on the 14th, and remained there till the 22nd. Here a sudden change took place in his plans. On the 16th, he writes to all Sheriffs who had obeyed his summons to Chester, commanding them to return to their provinces, and "attend to their (provincial) business, for that at present he cannot come to Chester as he had proposed."—

To his Earls and Barons there assembled he returns thanks for their attendance in such strength, and similarly dismisses them with their knights and retainers. Other matters, he says, have called him elsewhere.<sup>88</sup> Certain military stores, heretofore ordered to Chester, are also countermanded to Nottingham or to Bristol.<sup>89</sup>

Nothing occurs on the Rolls to explain this abandonment of the King's intended invasion of Wales (for such evidently was the object of the muster at Chester); but the Chroniclers partly clear up the mystery.<sup>90</sup> At Nottingham, the King received two letters,

<sup>85</sup> "Itinerary of King John," embodied by T. Duffus Hardy, Esq., in his Preface to the Patent Rolls of that King's reign. This invaluable digest is my chief authority for the movements of the King, as stated in the above narrative.

<sup>86</sup> *Claus.* 14 John, memb. 6. The document with some others is dated on

the 6th of August, but the *Miscæ Roll* already quoted proves the inaccuracy of such date.

<sup>87</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 14 John, memb. 5.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>89</sup> *Claus.* 14 John, memb. 6.

<sup>90</sup> M. Paris, pp. 231, 232, whose statement, however, is far from accurate in its

one from the King of Scots, the other from his own natural daughter, the wife of Lewellyn. Each conveyed the same unconcerted intelligence, viz., that the King was threatened by the treason of his own nobles in the approaching expedition. About the same time, and to confirm John's wakeful suspicions, three Barons fled the kingdom.

Disappointed in all plans of summary vengeance on his son-in-law, the King resorted to such petty retribution as remained within his reach. On the 17th, he commissions certain galleys to infest the Welsh coasts, and do "all possible injury" to his enemies. He also orders Fulk de Breant to destroy the Abbey of Stratfleur (which had been reported as maintaining the King's opponents), and all the weaker Castles within his Bailiwick.<sup>91</sup> Now, too, the King enacted that merciless tragedy, which has been before alluded to,—the murder of all the Welsh hostages (about thirty) who were in his power, as well as of Rees ap Maelgwn, the young Prince of South Wales.

But the length to which this digression has already extended obliges me to refer elsewhere for the particulars of this transaction.<sup>92</sup> We return to Bridgnorth Castle, wherein on 15 May, 1215, the Sheriff of Salop is ordered to receive the King's "faithful and beloved" Engeram de Preux and the suit he may bring with him, they having the King's orders to remain there.<sup>93</sup>

At this period Thomas de Erdinton, Sheriff of Shropshire, was probably in King John's service elsewhere. The person addressed in the above writ as Sheriff, must be taken therefore to have been his deputy. Furthermore Henry de Erdinton, a Clerk, and son of the Sheriff, being in the employment and patronage of the King, had written to request his Royal Master to send one of his *Magnates* to take custody of the Castle of Bruges. On the same 15th of May, the King writes to Henry de Erdinton, informing him that he has sent Philip de Albini, who will give his orders to Henry as

details *e.g.*, he represents the King as going to Chester, dismissing his army in person, and then going to London, whereas, on leaving Nottingham, he went northwards to York and Durham.

<sup>91</sup> *Rot. Claus.* sub die.

<sup>92</sup> *Hist. Shrewsbury*, i, 91, where, however, one or two trifling inaccuracies may be noticed, *e.g.*—the summons of the King's army was not to Nottingham, where he was, but to Chester, whither he was going; Robert de Vipont, was not Castellan of Salop, though Dr. Powell

(p. 193) says that he hung Rees ap Maelgwn there. After the relief of Mathraval, De Vipont undertook custody of the four Castles of Oswestry, Chirk, Carrechova, and Eggelawe (*Claus.* 14 John, memb. 6 dorso), and we have already seen him employed at the first. John de Vipont, mentioned by the Historians of Shrewsbury (page 91, note 4), is introduced into these transactions altogether by mistake.

<sup>93</sup> *Rot. Claus.* i, 116, 200.

to what is to be done about that Castle. A similar letter from the King to the Constable of Bruges, enjoins his obedience to the orders of the same Philip.<sup>94</sup>

On the next day, the 16th, this plan was changed. The King addressing the Sheriff of Salop informs him that he sends into those quarters his faithful and beloved Robert de Courtenay and Walter de Verdun for the security and defence of those parts, and to take custody of Bruges Castle. The Sheriff (*i. e.* the deputy) is without delay to cause the said Castle with all its victuals and stores to be delivered to the same Robert and Walter, and he is to wait upon and aid their counsels, for the King's advantage and honour.<sup>95</sup>

A similar precept to the good men of Shrewsbury informs them of the new commission, and commands them so to join the Commissioners in manful defence of their town and neighbourhood, as that the King may thank them. The same appointment is farther certified to all Knights and free tenants in the Counties of Salop and Stafford.<sup>95</sup>

On the 23d of May, King John, addressing the Constable of Bruges, names Robert de Curtenay only, as his appointed Custos of the Castle, and orders delivery thereof to the said Robert; <sup>96</sup> but on July 5th following, Robert de Curtenay and Walter de Verdun are enjoined to give up to the King's "faithful and beloved" Thomas de Erdinton the Castle of Bruges with its appurtenances and victuals, which they had received from the men of the said Thomas.<sup>97</sup>

On July 23, 1215, three hundred pounds of wax were to be sent from Northampton to "Bruges in Wales," for the King's use.<sup>98</sup>

At the close of this month, King John made his fourth visit to

<sup>94</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 16 John, memb. 2. These documents have served to place Philip de Albini on all lists of the Constables of Bridgnorth Castle, which I have met with; and quite unwarrantably. Philip was actively employed elsewhere at the time, and his commission to Bridgnorth virtually cancelled the next day. Even had he discharged it, it was by no means equivalent to an appointment as Constable.

<sup>95</sup> *Rot. Pat.* *ibidem*. These Patents have also been construed into an appointment of Robert de Courtenay, as Constable of Bridgnorth Castle. They rather were tantamount to placing the Shrievalty of the two Counties in Commission, during

Eardinton's absence, and at a critical period. It was, in fact, in this very year, and while King John had his hands full elsewhere, that Lewellyn marched upon Shrewsbury and actually took the town. This circumstance, carefully concealed by the English Chroniclers, is given by Dr. Powell, and accepted by Mr. Blakeway (*Hist. Shrewsbury*, i, 92). The King's unusual address to "the good men of Shrewsbury," above quoted, acquires some significance when placed by the side of the historical fact.

<sup>96</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 16 John, memb. 1.

<sup>97</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 17 John, memb. 20.

<sup>98</sup> *Claus.* i, 222.

Bridgnorth. Having gone from Feckenham to Stourton on the 28th, he was here on the 30th and 31st, and also on the 1st of August. On the 2d he had passed to Worcester. With the King on this occasion were the Archbishop of Dublin, the Bishop of Coventry, the Earl Ferrars, Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, William de Cantilupe, Brian de L'Isle, Hugh de Bernevall, and Richard de Mariscis, the Chancellor.

An order about transfer of a Welsh hostage, and Charters to the Earl of Chester and the Borough of Droitwich, passed during the King's stay at Bridgnorth.<sup>99</sup>

On Nov. 21, 1215. The Sheriff (Thomas de Erdinton) is ordered to pay their liveries to the King's servants at Brug, and the King will cause the Sheriff to be reimbursed according to *view* of the same servants.<sup>100</sup>—

King John was at this time besieging Rochester, which was held by William D'Albini on the part of the Barons; the whole kingdom was in a ferment, and the business of the Exchequer totally suspended.—Hence this irregular order on the Sheriff of Shropshire, and the absence of the usual form for entitling him to reimbursement.<sup>101</sup>

On the 2d of December, 1215, the King, still before Rochester, orders Thomas de Erdinton to give possession of certain lands (late held by Wrenie (Wrenoc) Wallensis, and seized into the King's hands), to "Robert Teneray, our Constable of Bruges," to be held by him during pleasure.<sup>102</sup> We have heard of Robert de Teneray before.<sup>103</sup> We now see who he was, and that his office was distinct from that of the Sheriff, though perhaps subjective to it. Erdinton still had custody *in chief*, both of the Counties of Salop and Stafford and of the Castle of Brug.

On April 13, 1216, he is ordered to give up the two Counties and this Castle to the Earl of Chester, who is to be obeyed in the said Counties "as an Earl, as a Sheriff, and as the King's Bailiff."<sup>104</sup>

<sup>99</sup> *Rot. Pat. and Rot. Cart.*

<sup>100</sup> *Claus.* 15 John, memb. 16.

<sup>101</sup> The usual form, when the King thus drew on his revenue, was a promise of repayment at the Exchequer, addressed to the officer who was commissioned to make the outlay. The officer kept the King's writ till the period of his account, when it operated at the Treasury just as

a cheque. The words used in the King's writ were generally "Et computabitur tibi ad Scaccarium." The suspension of the business of the Exchequer for two and a half years at this period has already been alluded to (*supra*, p. 2, note 4).

<sup>102</sup> *Claus.* 17 John, memb. 15.

<sup>103</sup> *Supra*, p. 52.

<sup>104</sup> *Pat.* 17 John, memb. 4.

In August, 1216, King John made his fifth and final visit to Bridgnorth. Leaving Shrewsbury on the 14th, he occurs here the same day and the next. On the 16th he proceeded to Worcester, where he renewed his commission to the Earl of Chester, promising however to release the Earl, on the 8th of September following, from his shrievalty and its adjuncts.<sup>105</sup> The writs, both Close and Patent, which issued during this visit to Bridgnorth, were numerous, but none of them were of immediate local interest, except his letters of protection to John, son of Peter Sarracen, whom we have mentioned before as then holding the Prebend of Walton, in the Collegiate Church of St. Mary Magdalene.<sup>106</sup>

John was at this moment hardly to be called King of England. London and the South-Eastern Counties had declared Prince Louis to be King. So had Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. The King of Scots, John's vassal, had a week before marched through the kingdom of his Suzerain, done homage to Louis in London, and returned northwards without molestation.<sup>107</sup> The Barons, including the Earl of Salisbury, John's half-brother, were with the French Prince, who, in a contemporary document, sets forth his title to the Crown of England, which he claims to be his, both by inheritance and election.<sup>108</sup>

The sequel of John's career is well known.—He survived his last visit to Shropshire little more than two months, when, exhausted by fatigue and anxiety, perhaps poisoned, he died at Newark.

Those ties of loyalty which bound the Western Counties even to such a King as John Plantagenet were remembered by him to the last. By his own desire his remains were carried to Worcester, which he had quitted but two months before. There they still lie buried, and there the moralist may contrast the cold repose of a marble effigy with all other memories of him, whose life, whether from circumstance or disposition, was one continuous state of fever and unrest.

In the fifth year of his reign, viz. in July, 1221, Bridgnorth was visited by young King Henry. On the 2d he passed hither from Shrewsbury, and on the 4th had proceeded to Kidderminster.<sup>109</sup> Several writs of local interest issued during this visit, but which will be more properly cited elsewhere.

<sup>105</sup> *Pat.* 18 John, memb. 4.

<sup>106</sup> *Supra*, p. 74.

<sup>107</sup> Lingard, iii, 68.

<sup>108</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera*, i, 140.

<sup>109</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 5 Hen. III, sub die. *Claus.* i, 463.

On July 15, 1223, Ranulf, Earl of Chester (still Sheriff), is ordered to see that the Constable of Brug do send the sons of Gwenwynwyn to Gloucester. On the 19th, the King being at Gloucester, certifies their arrival.<sup>110</sup>

In the same year, in October, the King was at Shrewsbury on the 12th, at Bridgnorth on the 13th, and at Kidderminster on the 14th.

Dec. 30, 1223, the Earl of Chester is commanded to deliver the Castles of Salop and Bruges to Hugh Despencer,<sup>111</sup> who apparently was appointed Sheriff of the Counties of Salop and Stafford at the same time.<sup>112</sup> His tenure of either trust was very brief; for—

On Feb. 2, 1224, he is ordered to deliver custody of the Castles to the Bishop of Worcester; and the Earl of Salisbury accounted as Sheriff, for the nine months ending Michaelmas, 1224.<sup>113</sup> When the Bishop of Worcester resigned the Castles to the Earl does not appear; but on Nov. 8, 1224, the King issues an order on the Treasury to pay the latter £106. 13s. 4d. in part of the annual salary of £200. which the King had assigned him for custody of the said Castles.<sup>114</sup> The Earl, therefore, will have then held them at least half a year.

About Mid-Lent (March 9), 1225, Thomas Mauduit was appointed Constable of Bridgnorth Castle. He held this office as nominee of the Crown, independently of the Sheriff, and at a fixed annual salary of 40 merks (£26. 13s. 4d.), payable half-yearly, by Royal order on the Sheriff, or on the Exchequer.<sup>115</sup> The usual allowance by the Crown of 1d. per day to the Porter of Brug was now discontinued, as being part of the Constable's liabilities.

In 1225, the tax of "the fifteenth" then levied was dispatched by

<sup>110</sup> *Rot. Pat.* and *Claus.* sub diebus.

<sup>111</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 8 Hen. III, sub die.

<sup>112</sup> Dugdale's *Baronage*, i, 389.

<sup>113</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8 Hen. III. Mr. Blake-way (*Sheriffs*, page 5) has rejected the Earl of Salisbury from the list of Sheriffs of Shropshire, against the authority of Mr. Wm. Mytton, who had evidently consulted the Pipe Roll on the point. Though Hugh le Despencer was Sheriff for a month, it is not correct to put him down for three-fourths of the year, or to exclude the Earl of Salisbury. Despencer rendered no account whatever at the Exchequer.

<sup>114</sup> *Claus.* 9 Hen. III, memb. 19.

<sup>115</sup> Thomas Mauduit received half a year's salary (£13. 6s. 8d.) in advance, on entering office. On Jan. 21, 1226, Worfield mill (of 8 merks annual value), having been awarded to him in part of his salary, the Sheriff is ordered to pay him so much of the previous salary of 40 merks, as remained due on Jan. 13, 1226 (*Claus.* ii, 94). Hereupon the Sheriff seems to have paid him £11. 4s. 8d. (*Rot. Pip.* 10 Hen. III), which was rather more than five months' salary, and apparently in excess of the Royal warrant. The payment was however allowed.

John Bonet, the Sheriff, from Brug to Winchester. The Barons of Exchequer are ordered on Dec. 12 to allow £2. 8s. 8d. in his account, for the "sacks and barrels" which he had provided on the occasion,<sup>116</sup> and he accordingly takes credit for that sum in his next annual account.<sup>117</sup>

Dec. 30, 1225, the Sheriff is ordered to have the King's mills of Brug valued, and to deliver them, so valued, to Thomas Mauduit, Constable of Bruges, in part payment of his annual salary of 40 merks for custody of Bridgnorth Castle.<sup>118</sup>

Jan. 13, 1226, Seizin of the said Mills is ordered for Thomas Mauduit.<sup>119</sup>

May 12, 1226, The Treasurer of the Exchequer is ordered to pay Thomas Mauduit 16 merks, his half-year's salary for Easter Term, 1226; but a counter-writ, dated the same day, orders the Sheriff to pay the same.<sup>120</sup>

July 30, 1226, Exemption from all *suits* in the County of Wiltshire is granted to Thomas Mauduit and Robert his brother, because they are in the King's service in the Castle of Brug.<sup>121</sup>

On August 29, 1226, King Henry was at Shrewsbury, on the 30th and 31st at Bridgnorth, and on Sept. 2 at Worcester.<sup>122</sup>

Sept. 3, 1226, the Sheriff is ordered to pay Thomas Mauduit his half-yearly salary for the (second) half of the King's 10th year, viz. 16 merks;<sup>123</sup> and at Michaelmas, the said Sheriff charges £33. 11s. 4d. as having been paid by him, under three several writs of the King, to the same Thomas. Also Thomas Mauduit had received 8 merks from the Mill of Wereffeld in part payment of his annual salary of 40 merks, and this 8 merks the Sheriff takes credit for, it having heretofore been a part of his own receipts in the *ferm* of the County, which was *pro tanto* diminished.<sup>124</sup>

Dec. 6, 1226, The Sheriff is ordered to pay Thomas Mauduit 10 merks, his quarter's salary from Michaelmas to Christmas, 1226.<sup>125</sup>

Thomas Mauduit continued in this office six months longer,

<sup>116</sup> *Claus.* ii, 89.

<sup>117</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 10 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>118</sup> *Claus.* ii, 91.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibidem*, 94.

<sup>120</sup> *Ibidem*, 110.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibidem*, 131. Walter Fitz Bernard is similarly exempted.

<sup>122</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 10 Hen. III.

<sup>123</sup> *Claus.* ii, 136.

<sup>124</sup> *Rot Pip.* 10 Hen. III, Salop. Worfield Mill, alluded to here and above, was in reality Pendeston Mill, which we shall soon see disposed of in another way.

<sup>125</sup> *Claus.* ii, 160, but the order is there cancelled, not as having been revoked but as properly belonging to the Liberate Rolls, which had now been resumed (*vide supra*, preface, page 8).



receiving a full year's value of Worfield Mill, besides the last mentioned instalment of his salary.<sup>126</sup>

On 3 June, 1227, Henry de Audley was appointed Sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire. John Bonet (the previous Sheriff) and Thomas Mauduit are respectively enjoined to deliver up to him the Castles of Salop and Brug.<sup>127</sup>

1 Aug. 1227, Henry Fitz Aucher, in charge of the King's *balistæ*, is ordered to give up six wooden *balistæ* to Henry de Audley, to be placed in the Castles of Bruges and Salop.<sup>128</sup>

On Aug. 15, the Sheriff of Herefordshire is ordered to deliver to the same, 1000 quarrels for war-stores of the said Castles.<sup>129</sup>

On Aug. 28, 1228, the King was at Bridgnorth, and went on to Shrewsbury and into Wales.<sup>130</sup>

Sept. 29, 1228. The Sheriff charges 55 shillings for carriage of wine which had gone from Bruges to Montgomery.<sup>131</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1229, it appears that the King had granted the *profits* of the two Counties, for the year then ending, to the Sheriff, in remuneration of his custody of the said Counties, and of the Castles of Salop and Bruges.<sup>132</sup>

Nov. 7, 1229. Custody of the Counties and Castles is renewed by letters patent to Henry de Audley.<sup>133</sup>

Michaelmas, 1231. Twenty-eight casks of the King's wine had been sent from Brug to Castle Matilda (in Elvein), for carriage of which the Sheriff had paid £6.<sup>134</sup>

Henry de Audley accounted as Sheriff till June, 1232.<sup>135</sup> Who succeeded him in custody of Bridgnorth Castle, does not appear; but the precept (dated March 4, 1233) which gives the said custody to Peter de Rivallis (then Sheriff) is addressed to Joan, widow of William Briwere.<sup>136</sup>

<sup>126</sup> *Rot. Pip.* II Hen. III, where also the 10 merks paid him in December, are charged by the Sheriff. Hence it would appear that he received only 18 merks for eight months' service, an irregularity which might have been intended to balance the over payment which we noticed on his entering office.

<sup>127</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 11 Hen. III.

<sup>128</sup> *Claus.* ii, 195.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibidem*, 197.

<sup>130</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 12 Hen. III.

<sup>131</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 12 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>132</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>133</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 14 Hen. III. On the

4th of October previous, custody of the two Counties had been granted to John de Munemue (*Rot. Pat.* Hen. III), but D'Audley accounted continuously at the Exchequer, and the Sheriff of a month appears nowhere on the Pipe Rolls.

<sup>134</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 15 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>135</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 16 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>136</sup> *Pat.* 17 Hen. III. William Briwere died in Feb. 1233, on the 22d of which month custody of his lands in Notts, was ordered to be given to the same Peter de Rivallis, who seems to have succeeded him as Custos of Brug Castle.

30 May, 1234. Custody of the Counties having on the 15th instant been committed to Robert de Haya,<sup>137</sup> the Manor of Brug, with the Castle, is now independently entrusted to Richard de Wrotham, and "the men of the Town of Brug" are certified thereof by letters patent.<sup>138</sup>

10 July, 1235. An order issued to the Sheriff, that the Justices for gaol delivery should meet at Brug as soon as the King's Justices Itinerant had left Worcester. The former are named; they were William de l'Isle, Robert de Stepleton, Richard de Middlehope, and Roger Sprengelose.<sup>139</sup>

Michaelmas, 1236. The Sheriff had sent wine of the King's from Brug, to Salop and to Wenlock.<sup>140</sup>

14 Nov. 1236. Robert de la Haye is ordered to give custody of the Castles of Salop and Bruges to John le Strange. This was a transfer from a retiring to a succeeding Sheriff.<sup>141</sup>

Michaelmas, 1237. John le Strange had dispatched wine of the King's from Brug' to Salop and Wenlock.<sup>142</sup>

18 Oct. 1237. Hugh Fitz-Robert and others are appointed to deliver the gaols of Salop and Brug.<sup>143</sup>

Michaelmas, 1240. Some wine of the King's had been delivered to the Bailiffs of the town for sale.<sup>144</sup>

Feb. 12, 1241. John le Strange undertook that, if the King should die while said John was in possession of the Castles of Brug, Salop, and Montgomery, and of the County of Chester, then he would surrender them to the Queen, for behoof of Prince Edward.<sup>145</sup>

27 Jan. 1242. Gaol delivery, by Robert de Wodeton &c. appointed at Brug and Salop.<sup>146</sup>

24 June, 1243. The same, by Ralph Basset of Drayton &c.<sup>147</sup>

22 June, 1248, Thomas Corbet is to receive custody of the Castles of Salop, Bruges, and Ellesmere, from John le Strange.<sup>148</sup>

In 1249, the gaol of Brug ordered to be delivered, by Ralph de Covene &c.<sup>149</sup>

In 1250, Robert de Grendon was appointed Sheriff of the

<sup>137</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 18 Hen. III.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>139</sup> *Ibidem*, 19 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>140</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 20 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>141</sup> *Pat.* 21 Hen. III.

<sup>142</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 21 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>143</sup> *Pat.* 21 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>144</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 24 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>145</sup> *Pat.* 25 Hen. III, sub die.

<sup>146</sup> *Pat.* 26 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibidem*, 27 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibidem*, 32 Hen. III.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibidem*, 33 Hen. III, dorso.

Counties, and to have custody of the Castles of Salop, Bruges, and Ellesmere.<sup>150</sup> He accounts from and after Easter, 1250, for these trusts.<sup>151</sup>

In 1251, Thomas de Roshal and others are appointed to deliver the gaols of Salop and Brug.<sup>152</sup>

In 1252, Hamo le Palmer and his fellow-bailiffs of Brug had purchased wine of the King's to the value of £13. 13s. 4d., which the Sheriff accounts for.<sup>153</sup>

In 1254, William Trussel and others are appointed Justices to deliver the gaol of Brug.<sup>154</sup>

The inquiries of the King's Commissioners, in autumn, 1255, led to several statements relating to the Castle of Bridgnorth.<sup>155</sup> The Borough Jury reported—That, when the King was at Brug, the Lord of Albrighton (then John de Pychford, a minor) was bound to find fuel (carbones) for the Castle, that being the service due on his fee of Little Brug.

That John Fitz Philip (Lord of Bobbington and Quat) owed *ward* to the Castle in time of war, but to what extent the Jurors knew not.

That, as long as the King had held in hand the Manor of Worfield, the produce of hay, and of the mills there, used to come to the Castle,—also that the tenants of that Manor used to do *Hirson* in time of war, and take up their quarters in the Castle, for *ward* thereof, if it were necessary. “Now,” say the Jurors, “Henry de Hastings holds that Manor, and the King gave it to him in exchange of his lands in Cheshire, whereby the King hath now no service from that Manor to the said Castle.”

In answer to a question as to the cost of keeping the Castle, as well in time of peace as in time of war, these Jurors replied that they had had no means of judging since the period when Thomas Mauduit kept it for 40 merks per annum, in time of peace. Since then the Sheriff, they said, had always had custody thereof, together with the County. In time of peace they thought the Castle might be kept at a cost of 30 merks per annum. As to the proper cost, in time of war, they could form no estimate.

30 October, 1255. Robert de Grendon is ordered to give up custody of the Counties and Castles to Hugh de Acour. The latter

<sup>150</sup> *Pat.* 34 Hen. III, memb. 11.

<sup>151</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 34 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>152</sup> *Pat.* 35 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>153</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 36 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>154</sup> *Pat.* 38 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>155</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59.

is to pay £126. 13s. 4d. per annum for the *profits* of the Counties, and to keep the Castles at his own charges.<sup>156</sup>

On 22 Sept. 1257, the King was at Brug, and on the 26th, being then at Worcester, he issued letters patent to Hugh de Acour, appointing Peter de Montfort to the custody of the Marches towards Montgomery, and for the better performance of that service giving him, at instance of Prince Edward, custody of the Counties of Salop and Stafford, as also of the Castles of Salop and Bruges, to dispose of the profits therein arising as he should think best, during the continuance of the wars with Wales; so that, for the first year of his holding the said Counties, he should not answer at the Exchequer, but in the King's Wardrobe.<sup>157</sup>

12 June, 1258. Hugh de Weston &c. appointed Justices to deliver the gaol of Brug.<sup>158</sup>

23 June, 1258. The King, at Oxford, granted custody of the Castle of Brug to Peter de Montfort, "by council of the Magnates."<sup>159</sup>

On Sept. 16 and 17, 1258, the King was at Brug.

28 Dec. 1258. Robert de Grendon is appointed to deliver the gaol of Brug.<sup>160</sup> On Feb. 14, 1259, Odo de Hodnet and others have a like commission, but extending also to the 'gaol of Salop';<sup>160</sup> and, about a month later, a third commission, naming both gaols, is addressed to the Sheriff of Salop and Constable of Brug, and appoints Simon de Ribeford Justiciar for the same purpose.<sup>160</sup>

On May 18, 1260, Peter de Montfort is ordered to give custody of the Castles of Brug and Salop to James de Audley, whom the tenants of the Crown are enjoined to aid "in resisting rebels and disturbers of the peace in those parts."<sup>161</sup>

9 July, 1261, the same James is appointed Sheriff of the Coun-

<sup>156</sup> *Pat.* 40 Hen. III.

<sup>157</sup> *Ibidem*, 41 Hen. III.

<sup>158</sup> *Ibidem*, 42 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 6. The Council of "Magnatea" was the Committee of Reform appointed by the "mad Parliament," which assembled at Oxford in this very month. Peter de Montfort was on this Committee himself, and one of its five most zealous members. One of their first acts was to change the keepers of the Royal Castles, but Montfort's previous occupancy of Bridgnorth was of course

undisturbed, though a new patent thereof became necessary. In the list of new Castellans given in the Annals of Burton (page 416), Brugewalter (Bridgwater) is assigned to Montfort, by mistake for Bruge.

<sup>160</sup> *Pat.* 43 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibidem*, 44 Hen. III, memb. 10. There is no appearance of James de Audley being also Sheriff at this time. He was brother-in-law to Peter de Montfort, but a staunch Royalist.

ties, as well as Custos of the Castles, in a Patent addressed to William de Caverswell<sup>162</sup> (late Sheriff), who continued to act as his deputy.<sup>163</sup> D'Audley forthwith laid out 100 merks in corn, where-with he victualled the Castle of Brug, and the cost was repaid him in the year following.<sup>164</sup>

20 Oct. 1261. Custody of the Castles of Salop and Brug is renewed by Patent to James de Audley,<sup>165</sup> and,—

On Feb. 5, 1262, a Patent for custody, both of the Castles and the Counties, is again made out to the same Sheriff.<sup>166</sup>

28 Oct. 1262. Robert de Lacy and others are appointed Justices for delivery of the gaol of Brug.<sup>167</sup>

It is very doubtful, who at this moment had custody of Bridgnorth Castle, or indeed of the Counties of Salop and Stafford. No Sheriff had accounted at Michaelmas, nor do the series of Shropshire Pipe Rolls recommence till the year 1267.

D'Audley's reappointment of Feb. 5, 1262, though it named both Counties and Castles, was operative only in part or but for a short time. On May 6, 1262, Ralph Basset was Constable of Shrewsbury Castle, and a writ issued from Gloucester, purporting to be "in behalf of the King," and ordering him to put it in a state of defence, and to use all diligence in re-establishing harmony in that district.<sup>168</sup> Basset was a known Anti-Royalist, and, whereas the King was not at Gloucester when this writ issued, we may presume the source from which it came and the authority by which Basset held Salop Castle.

<sup>162</sup> *Pat.* 45 Hen. III.

*Rot. Pip.* 45 Hen. III, Salop. This appointment of d'Audley was one of the King's first acts on resuming the royal authority, of which he had now been deprived three years. The writ is dated at the Tower.

<sup>164</sup> *Rot. Liberate*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 6.

<sup>165</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 45 Hen. III.

<sup>166</sup> *Pat.* 46 Hen. III, memb. 16. These repeated appointments seem to be little more than so many re-assertions of the Kingly prerogative, every exercise of which was contested by the factious Barons. The subject of the nomination of Sheriffs, in certain Counties, from and after Michaelmas, 1261, had been referred by the King and the Barons to six Commissioners, of whom each party chose

three. In case of the non-agreement of these Commissioners, the King of the Romans was to arbitrate. It was not till January 29, 1262, that the six, finding it impossible to decide on a proper principle of appointment, made reference to the said arbitrator. He gave his award in favour of the Crown, and that the King's prerogative of appointing Sheriffs should remain intact; but Michaelmas, 1262, was the period fixed by him for this award to take effect. (Rymer's *Fœdera*, i, 415.) We have, however, seen that the King instantly (Feb. 5) re-appointed d'Audley for Shropshire and Staffordshire.

<sup>167</sup> *Pat.* 46 Hen. III, dorso ("Justic. de anno 47<sup>o</sup>").

<sup>168</sup> *Ibidem*, 46 Hen. III, dorso.

On July 14, 1262, King Henry went to France, and did not return till Dec. 20. The Earl of Leicester had, on the other hand, quitted France and was again busy in reorganizing the Barons' party in England.

On April 15, 1263, Prince Edward was at Shrewsbury for the purpose of repelling the aggressions of the Welsh and restoring order in the Marches. He writes thence to his Father. I cannot suppose that Shrewsbury Castle was at this time in the hands of any but a *bonâ fide* nominee of the Crown.<sup>169</sup>

On June 16, 1263, the King being then in London, undertakes to repay James d'Audley his outlay for victualling the Castles of Salop and Brug,<sup>170</sup> from which it would appear that that Baron had sometime recovered the former from Ralph Basset.

Immediately after this, the King was again obliged to submit to the Barons. A Patent dated at Westminster, 10 August, 1263, enjoins Roger de Somery to give up the custody of the Counties of Salop and Stafford to Hamo le Strange.<sup>171</sup> It is probable that this appointment was in the nature of a compromise. De Somery was father-in-law of Ralph Basset, and though he and Hamo le Strange subsequently adhered to the Crown, they may both, at this period, be reckoned as favouring the Barons' party.

A contemporary Chronicler dates Hamo le Strange's desertion of the Barons in 1263, and attributes it to corrupt motives.<sup>172</sup> His adhesion to Prince Edward, in which he was joined by Ralph Basset and other Barons, was reduced to writing and confirmed by oath of the Declarants. The document bears date at Lambeth, August 18, 1263, and implies no corrupt sacrifice of principle whatever.<sup>173</sup>

On Oct. 8, 1263, the King, then at Dover, grants to Hamo le Strange and others pardon for all transgressions which they had committed in relation to the "statutes of Oxford"<sup>174</sup> (the enactments of 1258), and—

On Nov. 22, 1263, the King, at Windsor, appoints the same Hamo to the custody of the Castles of Salop, Brug, and Montgomery.<sup>175</sup>

In December, 1263, reference of the disputes which had so long

<sup>169</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera*, i, 425.

<sup>170</sup> *Pat.* 47 Hen. III, sub die.

<sup>171</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 5. This is the only notice which has occurred to me of De Somery having been Sheriff.

<sup>172</sup> *Contin. M.* Paris, sub anno.

<sup>173</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera*, i, 430. See also *Matthew of Westminster*, fo. 153.

<sup>174</sup> *Pat.* 47 Hen. III.

<sup>175</sup> *Ibidem*, 48 Hen. III, memb. 20.

disturbed the realm was agreed, by both King and Barons, to be made to the arbitration of King Louis of France. Among the friends of Henry, and who undertook that he should abide by Louis' decision, were John Fitz-Alan, Roger de Mortimer, James d'Audley, Alan la Zuche, Roger de Clifford, Hamo le Strange, Roger de Somery, and Roger de Leyburne.

Peter de Montfort's name appears among those who similarly obliged themselves on the part of the Barons. Louis' award, wholly in favour of King Henry, bears date January 23, 1264.<sup>176</sup> On hearing this intelligence, Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, and his party, flew into open rebellion. Two of the Chroniclers give us a somewhat inconsistent account of their proceedings.—

One of these (probably a Monk of Worcester) records, under the year 1263, that several Barons, among whom were Peter de Montfort (our former Sheriff) and Robert de Montfort, son of Earl Simon, attacked and stormed Worcester.<sup>177</sup> The day given for this capture of the "Loyal City" is the 2nd of the kalends of March, which (after looking to the context of the passage quoted, and the writer's mode of dating) will be equivalent to Feb. 29, 1264.

The Continuator of Matthew Paris states, under the year 1264, that Earl Simon himself and the army of the Barons, after taking Gloucester Castle, marched to Worcester, Brug (Burgiam), or else Salop (sive Salopiam), and, easily taking and occupying them all, went southwards and subdued the Isle of Ely.<sup>178</sup>

The result of the battle of Lewes (May 14, 1264) is well known, and how the King became Montfort's prisoner for more than a year, and yet the ostensible authority for all the Usurper's acts of government. The trickery of issuing writs and patents in the King's name was too apparent to impose upon any genuine royalist, and

<sup>176</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera*, i, 434. The written date of Louis' award is 1263, but this merely arises from the Dominical year being computed to end at Lady Day, instead of Christmas or on Dec. 31.

<sup>177</sup> *Annals of Worcester* (Anglia Sacra, i, 495).

<sup>178</sup> *Contin. M. Paris* (ed. Watts, i, 992). The Historians of *Shrewsbury* (vol. i, p. 126, note 1) suppose it probable that Montfort made himself master both of Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth on this occasion. They refer only to the words

of the Continuator of M. Paris, viz. "Deinde processit exercitus ad Wigorniam et Burgiam sive Salopiam, et eas levi negotio redditas intraverunt." Looking to subsequent evidence of a better kind than that of this non-positive Chronicler, I venture to question whether Montfort obtained possession of the Castles either of Brug or Shrewsbury, and, if of one of the Boroughs, that one was not Bridgnorth. Dr. Lingard (vol. iii, p. 131) has dated the affair in April, 1263.

our subject will give us some opportunity of observing how such documents were regarded in Shropshire.

First comes a Patent bearing date June 4, 1264, which appoints, in 29 Counties, certain officers entitled "Keepers of the Peace."<sup>179</sup> The one appointed for Salop and Stafford was Ralph Basset of Drayton. In no case is the Sheriff of the County addressed as to any of these appointments, but the Nominee himself, who was probably expected to supply the place and usurp the functions of the lawful Sheriff. The Custos of each County was to return four Members (knights) to the Parliament which was to meet at London on June 22 following. These Knights were to be elected "by assent of each County." Shropshire made known its sentiments on this occasion by returning four members, who were pronounced "to be unfit, by Peter de Montfort." The Parliament, in fact, never met, probably because a majority of its members were similarly disqualified.

A Patent dated at Canterbury, 24 August, enjoins Hamo le Strange to give up the Castles of Salop and Bruges, and the town of Bruges, to whomsoever the King shall appoint by his Letters Patent. The same Hamo, with James de Audley, Roger de Mortimer, Roger de Clifford, and Roger de Leyburne, are also required to deliver up their prisoners, taken at Northampton (those rebels whom the King before his captivity had surprised in Northampton Castle).<sup>180</sup>

On Dec. 20, Hamo le Strange is again required to give custody of the Castles of Salop and Bruges to Ralph Basset of Drayton.<sup>181</sup>

On Jan. 2, 1265, Hamo le Strange and his fellow royalists are invited to retire to Ireland, and stay there for a season. Safe conduct for themselves and families is graciously vouchsafed, as also protection for their lands, men, and goods.<sup>182</sup>—Whether any of them actually went, is a question. Roger de Mortimer's *term* for setting out was extended by Patents dated February 5, March 2, and April 8, following.<sup>183</sup>

Meanwhile, on February 3, custody of the Counties of Salop and Stafford had been committed to Robert de Grendon, who on

<sup>179</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 48 Hen. III, memb. 12 dorso.

<sup>180</sup> *Pat.* 48 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>181</sup> *Pat.* 49 Hen. III. The King was at Worcester, where certain measures were decided upon by Montfort for securing

his own power and the continued subjection of the King. These measures were paraded in the King's name and called "The Provisions of Worcester."

<sup>182</sup> *Pat.* de eodem anno.

<sup>183</sup> *Pat.* de eodem anno.



March 7 is ordered to deliver that trust to Ralph Basset of Drayton.<sup>184</sup>

On March 17, Hamo le Strange and other Barons are again assured of safe conduct to Ireland, "though they did not cross the seas at the time before fixed."<sup>185</sup>

On the 20th of May, a Patent is addressed from Hereford to Ralph Basset, Keeper of the Peace, and to the Sheriffs of Salop and Stafford. They are to publish the accord which had been concluded between the Earls of Leicester and Gloucester; "and whereas Roger de Clifford, Roger de Leyburn, Hamo le Strange, and others, their fellow marchers, who ought, according to the Provisions of Worcester, to have left the kingdom, have delayed to do so, in contempt of the King, it is ordered that the said Custos and Sheriffs do arrest them and their abettors, if they busy themselves in averting the minds of faithful subjects from the King, so as to disturb the peace." Letters on the same matters were directed to the Bailiffs and to the "good men" of the King, and to the community, both of Shrewsbury and Brug.<sup>186</sup>

I have not the least doubt that Hamo le Strange had kept possession of Bridgnorth Castle through the whole period,—from his first appointment to that custody in November, 1263, until now; and this Patent is not the only evidence that the men of the Borough shared in the same sagacious loyalty.

The Burgesses of Shrewsbury too were hearty Royalists, and early assumed the offensive against Montfort's nominee. A Patent dated at Monmouth, June 25, 1265, commands the Abbot of Shrewsbury to enjoin the Bailiffs of that town, on the King's behalf, that they give up to Ralph Basset, "Keeper of the Peace," certain men of the said Ralph's, whom the said Bailiffs detain.<sup>187</sup>

<sup>184</sup> *Pat. ibidem.* Grendon's adherence to the Barons was of very short duration (Vide *Dugd. Warw. tit. Grendon*). His tenure of office was probably coincident with his disaffection to the Crown. In the Sheriff's accounts of 1267, his shrievalty seems to have been recognized as legal,—a result rather of his subsequent conduct than of his original appointment.

<sup>185</sup> *Pat. 49 Hen. III.*

<sup>186</sup> *Pat. 49 Hen. III. memb. 15.* The whole document is printed in the *Fœdera* (vol. i, 455). It alludes to the

recent landing of the Earls of Warren and Pembroke, in Wales. Montfort's fears and the hopes of the Royalists were both excited. The former had patched up a reconciliation with the powerful Earl of Gloucester, which he hastened to publish. It was pretended on both sides. Gloucester was at this moment arranging the escape of Prince Edward, and it was accomplished on Thursday the 28th of this same month.

<sup>187</sup> *Pat. ibidem.*

Montfort's position was now getting critical. A further Patent, dated at Monmouth, three days later, distinguishing Prince Edward, the Earl of Gloucester, John de Warren, William de Valence, Roger de Mortimer, and James d'Audley, as rebels, says, that they are making hostile occupation of Castles and Towns throughout the kingdom, and desires Simon de Montfort, junior, and other Keepers of the Peace to oppose and injure them in every possible way.<sup>188</sup>

The prospects and position of these "rebels" continued nevertheless to improve during the whole succeeding month of July. On the 1st of August, young Simon de Montfort suffered a surprise and some loss at their hands, and remained shut up in his Father's Castle of Kenilworth. The sequel of the 4th is well known; how the morning twilight greeted the waiting crest of Prince Edward on the upland field of Evesham, whilst the adjacent roads were occupied by the contingents of Mortimer and De Clare; how the evening of that day saw the corpse of Montfort slain and dishonoured.—A life of consummate selfishness and hypocrisy was not to be atoned for, even by the noble heroism displayed at its close.<sup>189</sup>

On the restoration, and till Michaelmas, 1267, when the Pipe Rolls recommence, Hamo le Strange appears to have been the recognized Sheriff of the Counties and Keeper of the Castles. He also received other and more substantial marks of Royal favour.<sup>190</sup>

In September, 1267, the County was favoured by a Royal visit. The preparations at Bridgnorth Castle for the reception of both King and Queen have already been noticed. About this time also Walter de Hopton succeeded to the shrievalty, and was allowed in the following year (53 Hen. III) a sum of £30. 8s. 4d., which he had paid for corn, oats, oxen, and sheep, supplied on the occasion of the King's late visit.<sup>191</sup> His custody of the Castle of Brug at the same time has already been shown. The office of Keeper of this

<sup>188</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 49 Hen. III, memb. 45.

<sup>189</sup> It is well to state that the Annalists of the period are very equally divided in their estimates of Montfort. On the one hand, he appears as a traitor and insatiably greedy; on the other, as a saint and martyr. The more authentic national records, from which I have quoted, confirm the former theory, but of course leave the latter untouched. Montfort's

greatest panegyrist among the Chroniclers is the Monk of Melrose, who proves his sanity by several parallels between Simon the Earl and Simon Peter the "Apostle, and by a number of miracles which resulted upon the death of the former. (See Lingard, vol. iii, pp. 144, 149.)

<sup>190</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 51 Hen. III, and *Rot. Pat.* sub annis 50 et 51.

<sup>191</sup> *Liberat.* 53 Hen. III, memb. 8.

Castle seems indeed to have been involved in the Shrievalty for the rest of the period which concerns us. On the death of Hugh de Mortimer, in January, 1273, his successor, Ralph de Mortimer, was appointed to his offices, both as Constable and Sheriff.<sup>192</sup>

We may conclude this account of Bridgnorth Castle with a few statements, which were made on Nov. 29, 1274, before the King's Commission of inquiry and by the Jurors of the Borough.<sup>193</sup>

In answer to a question, as to "how many and what demesne Manors the King held in hand," they said that he so held, in hand, and in demesne, the Castle of Brug.—

In reply to an inquiry as to the excesses of public Officers, they stated that "Robert Trillec,<sup>194</sup> Receiver (for the Sheriff) caused the Burgesses and Bailiffs of Brug to come before him in the Castle; the Bailiffs he detained, and, without the King's mandate, imprisoned (against justice and the King's peace, and the liberties of Brug), till a certain woman who was then confined in the gaol of the Borough Liberty was transferred to his custody in the gaol of the Castle,—and all this against the franchise granted to the said town by Kings of England."

They also stated, that "the same Robert had maintained and was still maintaining certain guards (Satellites), who wrongfully extorted money from messengers and other travellers on the King's highway: but the amount of their demands the Jurors knew not." "The same Robert had caused these guards to seize Richard de Dode-monston at midnight, and carry him about from one wood to another, threatening his life; which Richard offered a fine of 3 merks payable to Trillec, if he might be taken to the Castle-Prison of Brug with his head on his shoulders (sine decolacōne,<sup>195</sup> *i. e.* decollatione), which fine he also paid."

<sup>192</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bihl. Bodl., apparently quoting a Patent. The succession of the Sheriffs themselves at this period is very uncertain. As the matter receives no light in connexion with Bridgnorth Castle, I willingly postpone its consideration. I may, however, state that all existing lists of our Sheriffs in the thirteenth century are so inaccurate, that the subject must necessarily recur to our notice.

<sup>193</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 88.

<sup>194</sup> There is complex confusion about this Robert Trillec and his Office. In this passage he is printed as "Robertus

Trillec, deceptor," instead of "Receptor" (Receiver of the County), and Mr. Blakeway makes him Sheriff "in the latter end of Henry III or beginning of Edward I" (*Sheriffs*, p. 7). His office is, however, very ascertainable, and its period. He was Under-Sheriff to, Clerk or Attorney of, or Receiver for, Ralph de Mortimer, who entered upon office as Sheriff Jan. 23, 1273. In that capacity Trillec will have had authority over the Constables and Castles of Salop and Bridgnorth.

<sup>195</sup> This word is read "desolation" (*Sheriffs*, p. 8, note 1), and of course untranslated.

“The same Robert Trillec, Under-Sheriff of Salop, concealed the felony of Robert Coly (or Soly), a felon, *attached* for theft, and imprisoned in the Castle gaol, and released him without the King’s mandate and without trial, and has him yet with him.”

“Also, when said Trillec caused Richard de Dodemonston and Philip his brother to be arrested and imprisoned in Brug Castle, their friends obtained a mandate of the King for *delivery* of the gaol of Brug,<sup>196</sup> which mandate Trillec would not obey, till the prisoners made fine of 20 merks, receivable by him, for enlarging them under bail.”

Also the Jurors said that “when Reginald de Cnolle had arrested a woman for theft, and taken her to be imprisoned in the Castle, and presented her to Hugh de Donvile, the Constable, for that purpose, the said Hugh would not receive her for imprisonment, till Reginald had fined 2 merks, receivable by Hugh, and which he paid him.”

The last extract gives us the name of a Constable of Brug, distinct from any Sheriff or Under-Sheriff of the County, though probably subject to both. A few other such Constables have occurred above, such as Matthew in 1209, and Robert de Teneray in 1215. Before we dismiss the subject we will refer back a little for the names of one or two more such Officers, mention of whom in chronological sequence would have interrupted the connexion of more important matters.

In 1259 and 1262, Walter de Winterton was Constable of Brug. On Nov. 29, 1259, he joined with others in taking one of the King’s deer. Not appearing to answer for this offence at the Forest Assizes of February, 1262, the Sheriff had orders accordingly.<sup>197</sup>

The next Constable who occurs was William de Wystaneston, who joined William le Infant, then Bailiff of Stottesden Hundred, in imprisoning and extorting money from William de Hempton.<sup>198</sup>

William le Infant himself, having been Bailiff both of the Hundreds of Munslow and Stottesden, was also sometime Constable of Brug. He held the latter office during the shrievalty of Walter de Hopton (1267-8). His injurious and extortionate conduct was reported, six years afterwards, both by the Jurors of Norley Regis and Stottesden.<sup>199</sup> The latter also accused him of keeping a certain

<sup>196</sup> Not for the “release of the prisoners” (as *Sheriffs*, p. 8).

<sup>197</sup> *Plac. Forest.* Salop, No. iv, memb. 5.

<sup>198</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 109, a.

<sup>199</sup> *Ibidem*, 102, b, and 109, b.

Approver<sup>200</sup> in the prison of Brug, who challenged Roger de Erdiwik, an honest and innocent man. This was at instigation of John de Bersempton, then Bailiff of Stottesden, who coveted some land of Roger's, which the latter was thus forced to sell.

The succeeding Constable, Hugh de Donvile, was also Bailiff of Stottesden. He held one or both offices in 1272 and 1273, and the two in conjunction in 1274. The power which he thus obtained made him the subject of numerous complaints at the Inquests of November, 1274. His excesses were not only reported by the Jurors of Bridgnorth, as before particularized, but by those of Ludlow, Munslow, Nordley Regis, Overs, and Stottesden.<sup>201</sup> His assistants or servants are also named, viz. Hugh Bron, Thos. de Middlehope, and Geoffrey his brother. Donvile also kept an Approver in the Castle Prison, "who impeached many faithful subjects and harmless men for the sake of lucre." Nor did he only oppress the innocent; for he allowed the guilty to escape. By his connivance an outlaw named Henry le Pleidour, whom Donvile had arrested in Shropshire, got off by giving a false name when arraigned before the Justices for *delivery* of the gaol of Brug. Calling himself John de Womburne, the criminal appealed to a Staffordshire Jury, which, knowing nothing of him, acquitted him. The Stottesden Jurors, who reported this, could not say what money Donvile got for his connivance in the job.

About the year 1280, Hugh de Dodemonston was Constable of Bridgnorth, Roger Sprengnose being also Sheriff of the County, Thomas de Marham, Bailiff of Stottesden Hundred, and Nicholas le Porter, Gatekeeper of the Castle.<sup>202</sup>—

At the Assizes of 1292, it appeared that the three subordinates, viz. the Constable, the Bailiff, and the Porter, had been suspected of letting a prisoner escape from the Castle. The first (Hugh de Dudmaston) was now tried and acquitted; Thomas de Marham, of whom we have heard before,<sup>203</sup> had died in prison; the Porter, Nicholas, had absconded (*non est inventus*).

<sup>200</sup> The Approver (or Probator) was a most formidable instrument of feudal oppression. He was a self-confessed felon, an informer, and a bravo. The Jurists tell us that a person accused by an Approver might, if he chose, be tried by Jury; but the practical alternative

seems to have been that the defendant had either to fight a duel with his accuser or else bribe the said accuser's employers.

<sup>201</sup> *Ibidem*, 99, b; 101, b; 102, b; 103, b; and 109, b.

<sup>202</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, memb. 18.

<sup>203</sup> *Supra*, p. 193.

## THE BOROUGH.

The Borough of Bridgnorth is presumed to have been a foundation immediately consequent on the transfer of the Castle from Quatford, in 1101. Ordericus indeed, describing Earl Robert's proceedings, says expressly that he transferred the Town.<sup>204</sup> We shall presently see that King Henry I recognized the new Borough, and allowed it certain privileges; but whether these were defined by Charter or left to be established by prescription, we have no means of judging.<sup>205</sup>

The confirmation of these privileges by King Henry II is extant, and, as being the earliest written Charter implying Royal recognition of any Shropshire Borough, deserves special attention.<sup>206</sup> Its purport is as follows:—

“ Henry, King of England, and Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine and Earl of Anjou, to his Justiciars and Sheriffs and Barons and Ministers and all his faithful of England, greeting. Know ye that I have conceded to my Burgesses of Brugia all their franchises and customs and rights, which they or their ancestors had in the time of King Henry my grandfather. Wherefore I will and strictly command that they have them, well, and in peace, and honourably, and fully; within the Borough and without; in wood and in field, in meadows and pastures and in all things, with such comparative fulness and honour as they held them in time of King Henry my grandfather. And I forbid any one to do them injury or insult, in regard to their tenements.—Witnesses: T. Chancellor and Henry de Essex, Constable, and William Fitz Alan: at Radde-  
more.”<sup>207</sup>

<sup>204</sup> *Ordericus*, lib. x, p. 768. “Oppidum Quatford transtulit.”

<sup>205</sup> Mr. Hallam thinks that there are no examples of civil incorporations in England (except London), till the reign of Henry II (*Middle Ages*, i, 211), and this say the historians of Shrewsbury is perhaps correct. (*History of Shrewsbury*, i, 76, note 1).

<sup>206</sup> Shrewsbury was a much older Borough than Bridgnorth, but it has

no Charter earlier than that of Richard I.

<sup>207</sup> This document is unquestionably genuine. The original is not known to exist, but its substance is embodied in an ample *Inspecimus* of Bridgnorth Charters by James I. A duly vouched copy of this *Inspecimus* is among the Muniments of the Corporation, and is my authority for all the Charters I shall quote, except that of King John.

King Henry II did not date his Charters, but the period of his reign, if not the very year (1157) in which this one passed, can be ascertained by a redundancy of evidence.

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*E. G.* No deed of Henry II, passing in England, can have been attested by "*T. Canc.*" (Thomas the Chancellor) except in the year 1155, or else between April, 1157, and August, 1158.—

Precisely the same limits may be assigned to all English deeds attested for Henry II by the two other witnesses; for the King was absent from England during all other periods at which Henry de Essex was in favour or William Fitz Alan alive. The King, in fact, was in Normandy from Christmas, 1155, till April, 1157, and again from August, 1158, till December, 1162. At the latter period, and on Henry's return to England, Becket was no longer Chancellor, Fitz Alan was dead, and the disgrace of Henry de Essex imminent.—

Of the three years (1155, 1157, and 1158) which remain at our choice, the second (1157) is the most probable for the date of this Charter. The unsettled state of Bridgnorth during, and consequent upon, Mortimer's rebellion, puts the early part of the year 1155 out of question, and renders the latter part improbable.—

It was in autumn of 1157 that Henry de Essex is said to have disgraced his office of Constable at Counsylth. His actual forfeiture did not take place for several years, but his immediate loss of Court favour is evident from the Pipe Rolls. When we add to these considerations the fact that the Sheriff of Staffordshire charges, in 1158, for fencing the King's house and garden at Radmore,<sup>208</sup> and when we find another Charter of Henry II expedited there, and which, on independent grounds, we should date in 1157-8,<sup>209</sup> enough will have been said to warrant the conclusion that his Confirmation to the Borough of Brug passed about 1157.

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When, in the fiscal year ending Michaelmas, 1159, the Barons, Knights, Abbots, and Burgesses of the kingdom had contributed a royal aid in form of a *donum*, the only Boroughs in Shropshire

<sup>208</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 4 Hen. III, Staffordshire.

<sup>209</sup> *Monasticon*, iv, 111, III.

which were assessed are found to be Shrewsbury and Brug. They had respectively raised the sums of 50 and 10 merks, and paid the same, through the Sheriff, at the Exchequer.<sup>210</sup>

Again, at Michaelmas, 1160, the Boroughs of Shrewsbury, Brug, and Newport had been assessed to a *donum*, in sums of 40 12, and, 1½ merks respectively. Each had then paid half its quota, and the balances were discharged by each in the year following.<sup>211</sup>

At this period, the *ferm* of the County, for which the Sheriff was annually responsible at the Exchequer, stood at £265. 15s. Of this sum, the said Sheriff was accounted to receive £20. from the Borough of Shrewsbury, and £5. from the Borough of Bridgnorth. These amounts he paid over to the Crown, and whatever he could get more on each item was his own.

“The yearly *Ferme* of towns,” says Madox,<sup>212</sup> “arose out of certain *locata* or demised things that yielded issues or profit. Insomuch that when a town was committed to a Sherif, Fermer, or *Custos*, such Fermer or *Custos* well knew how to raise the *ferme* out of the ordinary issues of the town, with an overplus of profit to himself.”

(A source of yearly revenue which, in the year 1167, arose to the Crown out of the Borough of Brug, independently of the annual *ferm*, will be noticed hereafter. At present, we pursue the history of that revenue which is technically called the “*firma Burgi*.”)

We have arrived nearly at the period when this town obtained the great end and aim of all municipal bodies, the privilege of paying its own *ferm* or chief-rent to the Crown, and so escaping the arbitrary extortions of any Sheriff or other intermediate officer.

At Michaelmas, 1170, the Burgesses of Brug and of Salop had *fined* with the Crown in sums of 20 and 18 merks respectively, “for having the *ferms* of their *vills*. Each had paid the said fine, and was *quit*. The terms on which the Burgesses of Brug obtained this privilege were, that they should pay 2½ merks per annum, in

<sup>210</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 5 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>211</sup> *Ibidem*, 6 and 7 Hen. II.

<sup>212</sup> *Firma Burgi*, p. 251. Under “the issue of Towns,” he mentions “Assised Rents, Pleas, Perquisites, Custome of goods, Fairs, Markets, Stallage, Alder-

manries, Tolls, Wharfage,” &c. The reader will judge which of these probably contributed to the “*ferm* of £5. per annum,” chargeable on the King’s Borough of Brug.



addition to such *ferm* of their Town (viz. £5.) as was previously its quota in the general *ferm* of the County.<sup>213</sup>

The *increment* of 2½ merks, due Michaelmas, 1170, is entered on the Pipe Roll of that year as being owed "through Hugh de Beauchamp;" and as no other notice of its liquidation occurs, we may presume that it was paid through that officer,<sup>214</sup> rather than through the Sheriff of the County.

At Michaelmas, 1171, however, the Burgesses of Brug account themselves for £1. 13s. 4d., the "*increment* of their *vill*." They had paid it into the treasury, and were *quit*.<sup>215</sup>

At the same time it is quite clear that the Sheriff continued to receive the old *ferm* of £5. per annum, and perhaps no more.—At all events he accounted so much to the Exchequer in his general *ferm* of the County.

This complex mode of accounting for the *ferm* of the Borough continued for four years longer, viz. 1172, 1173, 1174, and 1175; the Burgesses paying their annual *increment*, and that part of the Sheriff's account, which was termed the *Corpus Comitatus*, exhibiting no reference to the new arrangement.<sup>216</sup> But during the last of these fiscal years, the Burgesses had again fined in a sum of 30 merks and two coursers "to have their town at *ferm*."—

And the full effect of this second fine becomes both apparent and intelligible on the Pipe Roll of the following year (ending Michaelmas, 1176).<sup>217</sup>

Then, the Sheriff, being no longer in receipt of £5. per annum (the quota of this Borough towards the *ferm* of the County), discharges himself of the responsibility, taking credit for the said £5. (which ceased to pass through his hands) in form following:—

"And in the *vill* of Brug 100s. whereof account should be rendered separately."

He was, in short, now responsible for £265. 15s. per annum, less such sums as he was no longer authorized to receive, and among those sums was the £5. in question.

Now too, and on the same Roll, the Burgesses render their first annual account of the full *ferm* of their *vill*. It was 10 merks,

<sup>213</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 16 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>214</sup> For Hugh de Beauchamp's apparent connexion with Exchequer, see Madox's *History of the Exchequer*, 145, note a.

<sup>215</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 17 Hen. II.

<sup>216</sup> *Rot. Pip.* de eisdem annis.

<sup>217</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 22 Hen. II, Salop.

i.e.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  merks (£5.) which they used to pay through the Sheriff, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  merks which they had already paid for five years themselves.

The King also begins, at this juncture, to issue writs to the Burgesses, which are in the nature of *drafts* on their annual debt.

In this very year he directed them to make a payment "in corrody of his sister, the wife of David ap Owen."<sup>218</sup> And this draft the Burgesses duly respected: they made the said payment, and took credit, to the value, in their own account with the Exchequer.

Another and permanent payment which the King ordered them to make was 10s. per annum, the tithe due from the Crown, to the Canons of St. Mary Magdalene. This, hitherto an item in the Sheriff's disbursements, was henceforth settled by the Burgesses.

At Michaelmas, 1177, the Sheriff again acquits himself of all concern in the £5. above mentioned,<sup>219</sup> and this exemption is either directly entered or substantively reckoned in every Sheriff's account for the next century.<sup>220</sup>

With regard to the "fine of 30 merks and 2 coursers," by which the Burgesses obtained their full privilege, they discharged it as follows:—Before Michaelmas, 1176, they had paid £3. 18s. 4d. in further "corrody of the King's sister:" before Michaelmas, 1177, they had accounted £16. 1s. 8d. into the Treasury; and within another year they had delivered two Coursers to the King himself, and were quit.<sup>221</sup>

Their annual *ferm* of 10 merks (£6. 13s. 4d.), less 10s. paid to the Canons, continues on the Pipe-Rolls of the next century, and with no variation, except when the King or Chief Justice gave a casual order or *cheque* on this revenue,—of which more in its proper place.

<sup>218</sup> David ap Owen, Prince of North Wales, had married Emma, sister of King Henry II, in 1174. (*Diceto*, 585.) The Sheriff's of London charge in that year £28. 17s. for her apparel and outfit, as, directed by the King. (*Rot. Pip.* 20 Hen. II, London and Middlesex). She was a natural daughter of Geoffrey Planta-

genet. In this year (1176) the Burgesses of Shrewsbury charge the Crown with a Corrody (Entertainment) for the King's sister, and in 1177, Henry gave Ellesmere to his brother-in-law (*Hoveden*, p.323, b).

<sup>219</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 23 Hen. II.

<sup>220</sup> *Rot. Pip.* passim.

<sup>221</sup> *Rot. Pip.* de eisdem annis, Salop.

## TALLAGES.

Besides this annual contribution to the royal revenue, the Borough of Bridgnorth, like all other demesnes<sup>222</sup> of the Crown, was assessed to occasional contributions of a different kind. We have already seen such impost levied under the name of a *donum*. At Michaelmas, 1174, it is entered as an "Assize made throughout the King's demesnes in Salopescire by the Sheriff, under writ of Richard de Luci." On this occasion Shrewsbury was assessed at £40, Brug at £10, and Newport, Worfield, Claverley, Ford &c. in less sums.<sup>223</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1177, the tax goes under the name of "the aid (auxilium) of the Boroughs and Vills of Salopescir' (assessed) by Ralph Fitz Stephen" and other justiciars. To this Shrewsbury and Brug contributed 20 merks each.<sup>224</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1187, the impost recurs under the title of "A Tallage of the King's demesnes and of lands which were then in his hand;" but each item is said to be "de dono."<sup>225</sup> Thus the Burgesses of Salop render account of £43. 13s. 4d. "de dono" on this occasion; those of Brug are assessed at 15 merks, the men of Ludlow at 20 merks. Half of their quota had been paid by the Burgesses of Brug; the other half, for some cause or other, remained a debt till the year 1190-1, when it appears that the King (Richard I) had excused it.

In 6 Rich. I (1194-5), the Tallage of Salop was £26. 13s. 4d., of Brug £5.<sup>226</sup>

In 1199, two Tallages are entered as due. The first is expressed to be for "maintenance of 500 serving men." To it Shrewsbury contributed 30 merks, and Brug 10 merks. The second, assessed

<sup>222</sup> The King had, strictly speaking, no demesne in Shropshire. Those Manors and Boroughs which were called "ancient demesne of the Crown" were really "ancient escheat." The distinction is fully set forth by Madox (*Firma Burgi*, p. 5), but it was of no importance in cases like the above.

<sup>223</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 20 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>224</sup> *Ibidem*, 23 Hen. II.

<sup>225</sup> *Ibidem*, 33 Hen. II. *Tallage* was that contribution or *donum* to the King's revenue which was assessed upon his demesnes or escheats; the aid of those

who held lands by military tenure was called "Scutage;" that of those who held lands by other tenure was known as "Hidage" (Madox's *Exchequer*, p. 480). The word "Tallage," is simply equivalent to "Taxation," but it seems to have been set or assessed on Boroughs and Manors by Justiciars, who were to form their own estimate as to the capability of each contributing body, whilst, in the case of Scutage, one rule obtained throughout the Kingdom.

<sup>226</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8 Ric. I, Salop.

by H. Archdeacon of Stafford, rated the same Boroughs at £40, and 10 merks respectively.<sup>227</sup>

In 1203, Brug is assessed to a Tallage, at 10 merks.<sup>228</sup>

It is again assessed to this tax in 7 John (1205), and to two further and distinct Tallages in the following year.<sup>229</sup>

In (16 John) 1214, Shrewsbury was assessed to a Tallage at 200 merks, Brug at 50 merks, and other demesnes at the same high rate.<sup>230</sup>

We hear of no further Tallage till 7 Hen. III (1223), when Shrewsbury had been assessed at 100 merks, Brug only at 10 merks.<sup>231</sup>

In 1227, the King's demesnes in Shropshire were again assessed to a Tallage, in what sums we know not; but on April 5th, the King's writ issued to Henry de Audley and John Bonet, informing them that he had excused the assessment made on the town of Brug, except 50 merks.<sup>232</sup> Accordingly a memorandum to that effect is entered on the Originalia Rolls of that year,<sup>233</sup> and the Sheriff, John Bonet, accounting for Henry de Audley at Michaelmas following, enters 50 merks as the Tallage of Brug.<sup>234</sup>

Thirty merks of this debt was unpaid in 1229; and in 1230, the Town of Brug was again assessed, by Henry de Audley and William Basset, to a new Tallage of 25 merks, Shrewsbury being rated at 70 merks.<sup>235</sup>

The Tallage of 1235 exhibits Shrewsbury assessed at 100 merks, Brug at 25: that of 1242 shows the same Boroughs paying 40 and 20 merks respectively. Again, in 1246, they pay 60 and 50 merks to a Tallage.

In 1249, they were again *talliated*; and in 1252 Shrewsbury paid 120 merks to a Tallage assessed by William de Axmouth, while Brug was only rated at 50.

In 1255, these Boroughs were assessed by Gilbert de Preston and Robert de Grendon, in the proportion of 160 merks to 68.

In 1261, a Tallage, assessed by Ralph le Botiller and Robert de Meisy, left Shrewsbury owing £117. 3s. 7d., and Brug £51. 15s. 8d., but these do not appear to be the amounts of the original assessment.

In 1269, a Tallage, which had been assessed by the King's

<sup>227</sup> <sup>228</sup> <sup>229</sup> *Rot. Pip.* de eisdem annis.

<sup>230</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 16 John, Salop.

<sup>231</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 7 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>232</sup> *Claus.* vol. ii, p. 180.

<sup>233</sup> *Originalia*, 11 Hen. III.

<sup>234</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 11 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>235</sup> *Rot. Pip.* de eisdem annis.

Escheator (the Prior of Wymundham), left Shrewsbury owing £120, and Brug £40.<sup>236</sup>

Having now followed this subject of Tallages through a whole century, in order that it might be presented to the Reader under a distinct head, we revert to other matters affecting the interests or indicating the social progress of the Borough during the same period.

At Michaelmas, 1180, the great Justiciar, Ranulf de Glanvill, having visited this County, left the Burgesses of Brug subject to the heavy amercement of 20 merks. Their offence was “*quia quandam loquelam dixerint concordatam quæ non erat*” (because they had reported a suit as compounded which was not compounded).<sup>237</sup> Of this fine they had already paid half, and they discharged the balance in 1181 and 1182, when the debt is entered on the Pipe Rolls as being “*pro falso dicto*” (for a false averment).<sup>237</sup>

These particulars, apparently insignificant in themselves, have yet their further meaning.—The Burgesses are amerced corporately; their Town was therefore already *corporate*.—They were amerced for a *dictum* or return which could only have been made in their Borough Court: they therefore had such a Court.—And this Court took primary cognizance of certain legal matters which were above and beyond the usual routine of self-government: they therefore had special privileges.

At Michaelmas, 1183, the Sheriff accounts 5 merks which the Burgesses had fined with the Justices recently *in eyre*, in exchange, or recompence, of certain *assarts* of the said Burgesses' making.<sup>238</sup> They had, in fact, put into cultivation, or use, some waste land, which was so far deemed to be of the King's demesne as that it could not be occupied without license.

At Michaelmas, 1190, the Borough account of its *ferm* is credited with 2 merks. They had paid so much “under order of the Chancellor (Longchamp) to Osbert Luvell, the Huntsman, to buy him a horse.”<sup>239</sup>

The earliest County Assizes of which we have detailed record were those of October, 1203. On these occasions every Hundred or Borough having an exclusive jurisdiction was summoned to send its Jury. In this instance the Borough of Brug was so represented. It is entered on the Assize Roll as the *Hundred* of Brug, which merely implies that, at the time, it was independent of any other Hundred,

<sup>236</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>237</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 26 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>238</sup> Ibidem, *sub annis*.

<sup>239</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 Ric. I, Salop.

and was practically a Hundred in itself. The only matter of local concern, which the Jury of 1203 reported, was that the "Assize of Cloth was not held in the Borough."<sup>240</sup> The Assize of Cloth was an ancient statute regulating the measure and price of such manufactures. Its non-observance in any Borough subjected the community to a fine; and 4 merks were exacted in this instance. From the number of Towns both in Shropshire and Staffordshire which were fined for the same offence on this circuit, we may conclude that the matter was made one of general inquiry by the Justiciars, not that the Juries volunteered these statements to the discredit of their own communities.

The Stottesden Jury at these same Assizes reported that John the Vintner of Brug had sold wine "against the Assize." His offence and that of Roger Rotarius, another vintner of Brug, resulted in fines of 6s. 8d. charged on each individual, not on the community.<sup>241</sup>

15 June, 1212. The Provosts and men of Brug are ordered to provide 10 of their fittest citizens with horses and arms, to be ready to accompany the King in his transfretation on receipt of further orders.<sup>242</sup> These orders never came, for the King gave up his foreign expedition.

In this reign a second Royal Charter was obtained for the Borough.<sup>243</sup> It bears date at the New Temple, London, January 10, 1215, and is as follows: "John by the Grace of God, &c. Know ye that we have conceded and by this our Charter confirmed to our Burgesses of Bruges, in Salopesire, that they may go and come through our whole land of England and transact all manner of merchandise; buying and selling and negotiating; freely, quietly, well, and in peace; in fairs and markets, in Cities and Boroughs and all places; and that they be free and quit of toll and *passage*, for all their merchandise, wherever they may pass throughout our land of England, saving to our City of London its franchises. Wherefore we will and strictly enjoin that the said Burgesses and their heirs may have and hold of us and our heirs all the said liberties and free customs, &c. And we forbid any one under pain of our penalties to hinder, or attempt to hinder, the same our Burgesses in the premises.—Witnesses: P. Bishop of Winchester, R. Earl of Chester, W. Earl Warren, W. Earl of Arundel, William

<sup>240</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, mcmb. 3  
recto, and 6 dorso.

<sup>241</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 2 dorso, and 6 dorso.

<sup>242</sup> *Claus. i*, p. 130

<sup>243</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 16 John, memb. 3.

Briwere, William de Cantilupe, Thomas de Erdinton (then Sheriff), and John Mareschall.—Given by hand of Master Richard de Mariscis, our Chancellor, at the New Temple, London, on the 10th day of January in the 16th year of our reign.”

It appears that the Burgesses of Shrewsbury contested the benefits which this Charter was intended to confer on the sister community. They were forthwith sued by the latter, and an order<sup>244</sup> of King John dated 26 April, 1215, appoints the men of Salop “to appear before the King in one month of the *close* of Easter to answer the Burgesses of Bruges” as to the hindrances which had been offered to the latter in opposition of their chartered franchises.

On the day appointed (May 24) King John was at Reading, but I can trace nothing of the issue of the suit on this occasion. About the same time the Burgesses of Brug began to fortify their town with a wooden rampart, a precaution doubtless suggested by the troubles of the period. A report on the state of the Royal Forests drawn up in the year 1235 records that while Ranulf Earl of Chester was Sheriff (that is between the years 1216 and 1223), and before the town was encompassed with a wall, large allowances of timber were made out of Morf Forest towards its enclosure.<sup>245</sup>

Among some old debts due to the Crown, and entered on the Pipe-Roll of the second year of Henry III, one of 30 merks is charged on the men of Brug “for having the King’s Charter about their franchises.”<sup>246</sup> The Charter alluded to was clearly that of King John above recited, and the debt was now discharged by instalments. At Michaelmas, 1220, one-half, viz. £10, was still due.<sup>247</sup>

On May 10, 1220, King Henry III, being at Worcester, orders the Sheriff of Salop to aid the Burgesses of Bruges in the enclosure of their town, allowing them out of the Royal Forest near Bruges as much of old stumps and dead timber as would suffice to make two stacks (*rogos*). This was to be done with as little injury as possible to the Forest, and Hugh de Upton and Roger de Bechesor (*Badger*) were to be *Visors* on the occasion.<sup>248</sup>

The King at the same time granted a further license to enable the Burgesses to complete their defences. From June 24, 1220, to

<sup>244</sup> *Claus.* i, p. 203.

<sup>245</sup> *De forestis antiquis.* No. 13 (*Apud Turrim, Lond.*)

<sup>246</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 Hen. III, Salop. Here is another proof of what I have before asserted, viz. that the Exchequer business

from March, 1215, until September, 1217, was wholly suspended (*Vide supra*, p. 2, note 4).

<sup>247</sup> *Ibidem*, 4 Hen. III.

<sup>248</sup> *Rot. Claus.* i, p. 418.

the end of four years following, they were empowered to charge  $\frac{1}{2}d$  on every cart bringing things into the Town for sale, and, if such cart came from another County,  $1d$ . Other tolls were also specified, on pack-horses, cattle, and barges; and the whole license may be taken as an early instance of those Royal Grants to take "customs" or "murage" which we shall notice more summarily in the sequel.<sup>249</sup>

On June 26, 1220, the King made another grant of timber to the Borough. The quantity allowed was to be the same as before, but old oaks are substituted for dead wood. It was to be taken from Morf Forest and under view of the King's "faithful" Hugh de Beckbury and Richard de Ruton (Ryton) whom he had commanded, by letters, to attend to the matter. They were to make *tally* of the number of oaks so taken.<sup>250</sup>

At the Shrewsbury Assizes, November, 1221, a Jury attended to represent "the Villate of Bruges together with the Hundred," by which is simply meant the Borough and its Liberties. Among "Pleas of the Crown" with which they had concern, they reported one, wherein Andrew Fitz William, having challenged William de Ingwardine for robbery, was dead. The Jurors moreover said, that by judgment of the County Court, the parties had been bound over to fight a duel in the case. The Justices hereupon caused reference to be made to the County Court, which recorded that such a challenge had been made as the Jurors alleged, and that, whereas the challenge involved mention of the King's Peace, they (the County Court) had *attached* the parties to come before the Justices *in eyre*, but that they had bound them over to no wager of battle. On receiving this memorial the Justices found the Brug Jurors to be *in misericordia*.<sup>251</sup>

The above extract shows the inferiority of the Hundredal or Borough Jurisdictions to that of the Great Court of the County and the reference which each was obliged to make, in certain cases, to the King's Justices.

At these same Assizes, the Jurors of Brug reported a murder in their district, and a case of accidental drowning; also that Henry Bacun and John the Vintner had "sold wine against the Assize."<sup>252</sup>

<sup>249</sup> The Borough of Shrewsbury had a contemporary and similar grant. The particulars are given. *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, p. 96, note 1.

<sup>250</sup> *Claus.* i, 421, 422.

<sup>251</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 9 dorso.

<sup>252</sup> I have not been able to discover what was the "Assize of Wine" (the price at which it might be sold) in 1221



They further gave information of two cases of *purpresture* on the King's demense in Brug, for which fines were inflicted. One of these, by Henry Dod, was the erection of a lodge close to the Castle Gate. This, though punishable as a *purpresture*, the Jury did not consider injurious; nay, they recommended that the lodge be allowed to stand as a defence of the Castle Gate,—which the Court sanctioned. But a fence which Geoffrey Aunketill had made was both punishable by fine and, being injurious to the *vill*, was ordered to be taken down. The Sheriff had instructions accordingly. Both the fines were excused on account of the poverty of the parties.

Under the head of "New Customs" the Jurors reported that the Sheriff's Bailiffs called upon the Burgesses to make *trace* (pursuit, hue and cry) through their town, and that this they could not do, and that Robert de Shineford had lately fined them 40 shillings for an omission of this kind. On this matter the Court reserved its judgment.

The Jurors lastly made complaint, on behalf of their Burgesses, against those of Shrewsbury, who would not allow them to purchase raw hides or undressed cloth in the latter town, as they had been used to do.<sup>253</sup>

In November, 1222, the Borough of Brug was among those whose Bailiffs were addressed on the subject of the *aid* granted, by the King in Council, for the King of Jerusalem.<sup>254</sup> The clause of the enactment which affected Cities and Boroughs was that every person possessed of chattels to the value of half a merk should contribute 1 penny.

This is the first positive recognition which has occurred of the Bailiffs, or Provosts, of the Town; and we learn hence that its

or earlier. A year later (Feb. 1223) it was generally limited by the King in Council to sixpence the *Sextary* (or Quart), but this rule was relaxed for many towns, and a price of 8*d.* or 10*d.* allowed. (*Claus.* i, 568.)

<sup>253</sup> This matter ended in a law-suit between the Boroughs, if indeed such a suit had not been commenced already and in the previous reign. On the *Quinzaine* of St. Martin (Nov. 25), 1223, at Westminster, a Jury having been empanelled to try "whether the Burgesses of Brug, from the 9th year of King John to the 5th of Henry, had enjoyed a liberty of purchasing

untanned hides &c. in the town of Salop," found that the said Burgesses had never enjoyed such liberty without paying toll. So the said Burgesses *took nothing* (*Plac. apd. Westm. Mich. Tyn.* 7 and 8 Hen. III, memb. 24 recto). The local importance of this branch of trade is further shown by the Salopians having a few years later (March, 1227), procured a Royal Charter which empowered them to refuse traffic in these commodities, to any who were not in *lott and scott* at Shrewsbury (*History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, p. 102).

<sup>254</sup> *Claus.* i, 568.

municipal constitution was fixed at an earlier period than that at which existent Charters would *per se* give us information as to the *personnel* of the governing body.

On March 26, 1223, the King's writ to the Bailiffs of Bristol informs them, that he learns from his Father's Charter the immunity from all toll and custom pertaining to the Crown, which the Burgesses of Bruges ought to enjoy, throughout all the land and at the sea-ports. The Bailiffs of Bristol are accordingly to allow this immunity and not again offer the said Burgesses hindrance or annoyance in the premises.<sup>255</sup>

Oct. 13, 1223, the King, being here, grants the Burgesses license to take "customs" for three years for the purpose of walling their town. This license will have commenced on the expiration of the former one, *i. e.* on June 24, 1224.<sup>256</sup>

On Sept. 1, 1226, the King having just left Bridgnorth, and being at Kidderminster, grants, that, till he come of age, the men of Bruges may have an annual fair, to last for three days, *viz.*, the *vigil*, the day and the morrow of St. Luke the Evangelist, unless some neighbouring fair be thus interfered with.<sup>257</sup>

On the 5th of April, 1227, the King renewed to the Burgesses his Father's Charter, exempting them in precisely the same terms from all toll throughout the kingdom, and alluding to the document already in their possession.<sup>258</sup>

The following day he granted them power to take customs for two years more, in aid of walling their town.<sup>259</sup>

On June 20, 1227, another and totally new Charter passed the great seal, which, as recognizing or conferring many privileges, will require lengthened recital.<sup>260</sup> It is as follows:—

Henry by the Grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland,

<sup>255</sup> *Claus.* i, 538.

<sup>256</sup> *Pat.* 7 Hen. III.

<sup>257</sup> *Claus.* ii, 135.

<sup>258</sup> Certified Copy of James I's *inspeximus* of Bridgnorth Charters, in possession of the Mayor and Corporation.

King Henry III declared himself of age at the Council of Oxford (February, 1227), and then announced to all privileged bodies the necessity of having their Charters renewed. A sum of not less than £100,000 thus accrued to the Treasury, and Mr. Hardy (*Preface to Rot. Cart.* p. vi) considers this the occasion on

which the Charters, called technically "Inspeximus Charters," may be properly said to have originated. The document under notice is however not strictly in the form of an *Inspeximus* though substantively it is nothing else.

<sup>259</sup> *Pat.* 11 Hen. III.

<sup>260</sup> "Inspeximus" of Charters by James I (ut supra). A Charter granted to Shrewsbury, on the 20th of March previous, conveyed nearly the same privileges. Many notes and explanations, applicable to both, may be seen *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, pp. 100-102.

&c. to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Foresters, Sheriffs, Provosts, Officers, and all his Bailiffs and faithful subjects, greeting; Know ye that we have granted, and by this our Charter confirmed, to our Burgesses of Bruges in Salopesyr, that none of our Sheriffs shall in any manner intermeddle with them, neither concerning any plea, or plaint, or prosecution, or any other thing to the said Borough pertaining, saving to us and to our heirs for ever the Pleas of our Crown, which ought to be attached, by our Coroners and by our Provosts of the same Borough, until the arrival of our Justices.

We have granted also to the same our Burgesses and their heirs, that they may have a mercantile Gild, with a Hanse, and other customs and liberties to such Gild belonging, so that no person, who is not of that Gild, shall transact any merchandise in the said Borough, within or without the walls, unless by consent of the Burgesses.

We have granted also to them and their heirs that if any one, born the Villain of another, shall remain in the aforesaid Borough, and hold land therein, and be of the aforesaid Gild and Hanse, and *lott* and *scott* with the same our Burgesses a year and a day, without being claimed, he shall not afterwards be recovered by his Lord, but in the same Borough shall remain free.

Moreover we grant to our aforesaid Burgesses of Bruges that they shall have Soc and Sac, Toll, and Team, and Infangthef, and that they shall be quit, through our whole land, of Toll, Lastage, Passage, Pontage, and Stallage, and of Leve (Levy) and Danegeld and Gowyt and all other customs and exactions throughout our whole land and dominion, as well in England as in all other our territories.

Moreover we have granted to our aforesaid Burgesses that they and their heirs may hold in fee-farm for ever our Mill of Pendaston without the town of Bruges upon the River Wurgh, with suit of the town of Bruges and all other its appurtenances, rendering therefore to us and our heirs yearly, by their own hand, at our Exchequer £10. viz. at the feast of St. Michael 100 shillings, and at Easter 100 shillings.

Wherefore we will and strictly command that our aforesaid Burgesses of Bruges and their heirs shall have the aforesaid Franchises (which are rehearsed in part) and Quietances, for ever, well and in peace, freely and quietly, honourably, fully, and entirely as aforesaid, saving the Liberty of our City of London, and that they may have and hold in fee-farm for ever our aforesaid Mills, &c.—

These being Witnesses : E. London, P. Winton, J. Bathon, R. Sarum, Bishops ; H. de Burg, Earl of Kent, our Justiciary ; Hugh Despenser, John Fitz Philip &c.—Given by hand of the Venerable Father, Ralph, Bishop of Chichester, our Chancellor, at Westminster, the twentieth day of June in the eleventh year of our reign.”

The principal feature in this Charter is the fee-farm grant of Pendeston Mill. Many of the other privileges, even if now chartered for the first time, for the benefit of the Royal Exchequer, must have long existed, by prescription, in the Borough. Some of them too were so antiquated then, that it may be doubted if the Burgesses knew what was thus conveyed to them, and one of them (*gowyt* or *gaywite*) has not, as yet, found any plausible interpretation.

Denegeld too was a tax never levied at all after the reign of Henry II, and of which there had been no general assessment for 70 years next preceding the date of this Charter. In short Madox's observation on *Danegeld* and *Geld* involves the best comment on several other expressions similarly introduced in these documents. “These words” he suggests “were inserted *pro forma*, amongst several other words referring to Anglo-Saxon Customs which were gone or going into disuse.”<sup>261</sup>

On June 28, 1227, the King's Precept issued to the Sheriff of Salop, informing him of the liberties and *quietancies* which he had granted to the Burgesses of Brug, and commanding him to have the said Charter read in full County Court and to allow the Burgesses to use their said liberties, and further to give them full seizin of the Mill of Pendestan.<sup>262</sup>

Our former account of the Constables of Bridgnorth Castle has shown how in the beginning of this very month of June, 1227, Pendestan Mill, having constituted part of the salary of Thomas Manduit, reverted to the Crown on the expiration of that Officer's trust.<sup>263</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1227, the Borough begins to be chargeable with a fee-farm rent of £10. per annum for this Mill, whilst, at the same time, the Sheriff, having no receipts from the said Mill, continues, as when Thomas Manduit received the profits thereof, to take credit for 8 merks (its reputed fiscal value) in his annual accounts.

At Michaelmas, 1229, the Sheriff so acquits himself of 16merks, and the Burgesses, in addition to the ferm of their town (10 merks per annum), render account of £20. or two years *ferm* of their Mill.<sup>264</sup>

<sup>261</sup> Exchequer, p. 479.

<sup>262</sup> *Claus.* ii, 190.

<sup>263</sup> *Supra*, p. 277.

<sup>264</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. III, Salop.

And this rule obtained throughout the reign of Henry III. But to return—Stephen de Segrave and his fellow Justices sitting at Gloucester early in 1227 amerced the *vill* of Brug in 1 merk “for the flight of Osbert le Puleter”<sup>265</sup> (a felon probably, whose escape they had not prevented). This debt was still unpaid in 1231,<sup>266</sup> nor do I find notice of its subsequent liquidation. A non-liability, to join in pursuit (of felons) through the town, has already been mentioned as claimed by the Borough. Perhaps the amercement now demurred to, was a similar encroachment on their liberties.

At Michaelmas, 1228, the Borough account is charged with an accidental item, viz. £3. 1s. 8d. which the Burgesses had paid into the King’s Wardrobe at Keri.<sup>267</sup>

In 1229 the Borough obtained a further grant of “murage.”<sup>268</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1231, the men of Brug, in rendering account of the *ferm* of their town and mill, charge for carriage of 40 casks of wine from hence to Castle Matilda and to Elvein, and for unloading the rest of the King’s wine and storing it at Brug.<sup>269</sup>

June 15, 1233.—The Burgesses have license to take “Customs” (towards walling their town) for three years.<sup>270</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1240, the Bailiffs of Brug render account of the proceeds of certain wines of the King which the Sheriff had delivered to them for purpose of sale, under a Royal Order of the King’s 19th year (1234-5).<sup>271</sup>

Aug. 8, 1241.—The King, being at Salop, grants this Borough license to take “Customs” or *murage* for 2 years.<sup>272</sup>

In Jan. 1252.—A similar Patent occurs extending to 3 years.<sup>273</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1253, the Borough appears as owing 20 merks of the Auxilium which had been levied “against the King’s transfretation into Gascony.”<sup>274</sup> This tax does not appear to have been in the nature of a Tallage. It was assessed on Religious as well as Municipal Communities, and also on individual Tenants *in capite*.

<sup>265</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 11 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>266</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 15 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>267</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 12 Hen. III, Salop.

After raising the siege of Montgomery in September, 1228, the King of England encamped at Kerry, proposing further vengeance on the Welsh. The scutage levied for this expedition was called the “scutage of Keri.”

<sup>268</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 13 Hen. III.

<sup>269</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 15 Hen. III, Salop. King

Henry was at Elvein Aug. 2, and at Castle Matilda (which he then rebuilt) on Aug. 3 and till Sept. 11, 1231 (Compare *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, p. 108).

<sup>270</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 17 Hen. III.

<sup>271</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 24 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>272</sup> *Pat.* 25 Hen. III.

<sup>273</sup> *Pat.* 36 Hen. III.

<sup>274</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 37 Hen. III. Salop. The King embarked from Portsmouth Aug. 6, 1253 (M. Paris).

In Autumn, 1255, the twelve Jurors who had to make inquest of several matters which affected this Manor, Borough, Liberty, or Hundred (for each of these terms is used to describe the Franchise) were these, viz. William Bonamy, Philip de Petra, Henry Coynterel, John de Castro, Henry Fitz Robert, Nicholas the Porter, William le Palmer, Robert Dyer (Tinctor), Robert le Venour, Nicholas de Sallowe, William Bolding and Hamo le Palmer.<sup>275</sup>

Amongst their presentments were several which require mention here:—

1. “The *vills* of Quat, Mose, and Romesley were within the Liberty, or did *suit* to the Hundred, of Brug.

2. The Mill of Pendestan once pertained to the Castle of Brug, but the Burgesses now held it at *fee-farm* of the King, by Charter, and at an annual rent of 15 merks (£10).

3. The following Religious Houses had interests within the Borough:—The Abbeyes of Buildwas, Lilleshall, Haghmon, Wigmore, and Crokesden, and the Priory of Wenlock, but the King suffered thereby no loss either in wardships, reliefs, or tallages.

4. The respective tenures of the Knights Hospitallars, Knights Templars and the Nuns of Brewood, within the Borough, were exempt from tallage to the King.

5. The Tenants of the Hospitallars and Templars (three in number) were tenants for life. They did not allow themselves to be *tallaged*, nor would they *scott* with the men of Brug for the trade which they exercised in the houses thus held. Their exemption was grounded on their vassalage to those privileged orders.

6. The Bailiffs of Brug having apparently distrained, for a debt due to the Crown, in Mose, Ralph de Mose and John his son had rescued the distress.”

At the same time the Jurors for Stottesden Hundred reported that there was no Royal Demesne in their district but Bruges, that that town did not “answer with them” nor was the Castle thereof reputed to be in their Hundred.<sup>276</sup>

At the Assizes of January, 1256, the Borough of Bruges attended by its xii Jurors. The list, however, only enumerates eleven. They were Philip de Petra and Almaric le Teynturer (then Bailiffs), Walter le Palmer, Henry le Cointerel, William le Palmer, William Bolding, Henry Fitz Avice, William Bonami, Robert Dyer, Robert le Venur, and Robert Smith (Faber).<sup>277</sup>

<sup>275</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59, 60.

<sup>376</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 82, 83.

<sup>277</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, *Placita Coronæ*, m. 12 dorso.

It is singular that four of these Jurors had been pledges for the appearance, before the Justices, of Alan Fitz William, a man who having been accused of robbery and murder had absconded and died in Ireland. They now however concurred in finding him to have been guilty of the murder, they themselves being declared *in misericordiâ* for his non-appearance.

Further, two of the number actually stood indicted for being accessory to the said robbery and for receiving the robbers. A Jury of the Country, however, pronounced them "not guilty."<sup>278</sup>

At these same Assizes a cause was heard wherein the Plaintiff sued for a messuage in Bruges under a writ which was in substance, though not in form, a writ of "mort d'ancestre." The Defendant, taking no notice of the non-identity of form, pleaded at once that *the writ of "mort de ancestre" was not current in Bruges*, and this plea was allowed, for the Plaintiff "took nothing."<sup>279</sup>

In August, 1256, the Burgesses obtained a license to take "Customs" for 5 years towards walling their town; and in September, 1257, this license was renewed for 3 years after expiration of the five already granted.

But on August 16, 1256, the Borough obtained its fourth and fifth Charters from the Crown, and their contents must be fully stated.<sup>280</sup>

The first<sup>281</sup> grants to the Burgesses and their heirs this Franchise, viz. that neither they nor their goods, in any place of the King's dominion, shall be arrested for any debt, for which the parties (thus threatened with arrest) are not bondsmen or principal debtors. This, however, was not to operate in cases where, the actual debtors

<sup>278</sup> Ibidem, memb. 10 recto (*Placita Coronæ*).

<sup>279</sup> Ibidem, memb. 10 recto (*Placita de Jurat. et Assisis*). The Burgesses of Shrewsbury were exempted by a special clause in one of their Charters (*Hist. Shrewsbury*, i, 86) from pleading to a writ of "mort d'ancestre" concerning any tenement within their franchise. The Bridgnorth Charters, hitherto rehearsed, contain no such exemption for that Borough; but I believe it was a privilege which attached to all Manors or Boroughs of "ancient demesne." The alternative seems to have been the "breve clausum de recto," by which I understand a writ

addressed to the Bailiffs of the town enjoining them to try any cause, according to simple right and their own customs.

<sup>280</sup> *Inspevimus* of Charters by James I (ut supra).

<sup>281</sup> For an explanation of this Charter reference is made to Lord Coke. 2d Inst. p. 204. (Notes on Bridgnorth Charters, by Thomas Mytton, Esq. Dated Shipton, 14 March, 1782).

Similar Charters granted to Shrewsbury on August 10, 1256, are commented upon *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, pp. 120-122, and the various terms employed therein are explained.

being of the community (of Brug) and having wherewithal to satisfy their debts, in whole or in part, the said Burgesses should refuse justice to the creditors, and reasonable proof of such refusal could be given. The Charter imposes a penalty of £10. on all who should interfere with its provisions. It is dated at Woodstock and tested *inter alios*, by Thomas Corbet.

The other Charter, similarly dated and attested, provides that the Burgesses and their heirs for ever shall have *return* of all the King's writs touching the town of Bruges and the liberties thereof; that the Bailiffs of the said town may answer by their own hands at the Exchequer concerning all their debts and summonses of the said Exchequer, respecting the aforesaid town of Bruges; so that no Sheriff or other, the King's Bailiff or officer, shall in future enter the said town, either to summon, or to distrain, or to do any other things, unless by default of the Burgesses themselves; and that no Sheriff, Constable, Castellan, or other officer shall take any *Prises* within the Borough-Liberties, besides those due and hitherto accustomed, unless by consent of the owners thereof. It further grants, that the Burgesses shall not be convicted by any strangers (*forinsecos*) concerning any rights, injuries, trespasses, crimes, claims or demands upon them imposed, but only by their fellow-Burgesses, unless in any matter affecting the (whole) community, and then in that case they were to be sued in conformity with their approved and accustomed liberties.

It also allows that the Burgesses may profit themselves of the land and water within their liberties, without hindrance or claim of the Crown or its Bailiffs, saving the purprestures, if any ought of right to belong to the Crown; also that the Burgesses shall not be distrained to buy the King's wines unless by their own will and consent, provided however that while the King's wines are selling there, all other sales of wine shall entirely cease within the Borough.

Lastly, it provides, that throughout the King's dominions the Burgesses may hold all their liberties and free customs hitherto used and approved, as they used them in the time of the King's predecessors and himself. A forfeiture of £10. is imposed on any infraction of the above privileges.

We have already<sup>282</sup> had several hints of the loyal conduct of the two great Boroughs of Shropshire while the King was at issue with his Barons or in subjection to De Montfort. The interests of

<sup>282</sup> *Supra*, p. 285.



Bridgnorth suffered considerably, but its adherence to the cause of monarchy remained unshaken. The particular conduct of the Burgesses is unrecorded, so too is the precise extent of their losses, but each received a genuine and comprehensive acknowledgment which implies the broad fact of loyal devotion as surely as the minutest details could do. In the close of the year 1265, their long expired license to take *customs* or *murage* was renewed.<sup>283</sup> Now too the King excused them four years' *ferm* of their *vill* towards "the repairs thereof, and in recompense of their losses."<sup>284</sup> This acquittance was further increased when, in September, 1267, the King was at Salop: but the extent of the royal gratitude will appear best from the Pipe Rolls. I have already alluded to the fact, that after Michaelmas, 1261, the Sheriffs' accounts for Shropshire came to be suspended for five years. An account was made in 1267, but omitted again in 1268, and, as regards the Borough of Brug, no general balance was struck till Michaelmas, 1269. At that time the Burgesses accounted substantively for 80 merks, being eight years' arrears of the *ferm* of their *vill*. Out of this sum (*viz.* £53. 6s. 8*d.*) they had paid 80*s.*, or 8 years' tithes, to the Canons of Bruges. Therefore £49. 6s. 8*d.* remained to be accounted for. They alleged royal acquittances to a greater amount, *viz.* £10. as excused by the King's writ, *for the losses which they had sustained in the time when the kingdom was disturbed, and because they faithfully adhered to the King, and to Edward his son, in the time aforesaid*; also £64. of the annual *ferm* of their town and mill, as excused by a similar writ.

Therefore, under this item of account, the King appeared indebted to the Borough in a sum of £24. 13*s.* 4*d.*; but the debt was balanced in a subsequent section as to the eight years' *ferm* of Pendeston Mill, which had similarly accrued against the Borough.<sup>285</sup>

At the County Assizes of September, 1272, the town appeared by one of its Bailiffs, William Bolding, and by XII Jurors.<sup>286</sup> The names of the latter were, William Palmer, Roger de Mora, Hamo Palmer, Henry de Arley, William Lambert, Roger Dyer, Roger Chete, John Baker (Pystor), William Lantrey, William Bonamy, Richard de Petra, and Henry de Porta.

Among their presentments were two cases of murder, one of justifiable homicide, and some other matters, which will be detailed

<sup>283</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 50, Hen. III.

<sup>284</sup> Blakeway MSS.

<sup>285</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 53 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>286</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 21 recto. The name written "Lantrey" is probably Cantreyen.

elsewhere. They reported Walter le Palmer, Henry Cointerel, John de Castro, and Nicholas le Palmer, for "having sold wine against the Assize."<sup>287</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1273 (1 Edward I), the Burgesses accounted for four years *ferm* both of their town and mill, viz., £66. 13s. 4d.—They had paid the Canons of Brug 4 years tithe, viz., £2. They had paid for a cask of wine for Hugh de Beaumes, valet of the late King, 5 merks (£3. 6s. 8d.) Also, they had paid to Nicholas de Denton, Hermit of Mount Gilbert (The Wrekin), 13s. 4d. for his support, by order of the late King. They had paid into the Treasury and Wardrobe at different times sums of £25. £16. and £19. 10s. And they still owed 3s. 4d.<sup>288</sup>

Nov. 29, 1274, the Jurors of the Liberty, who made inquest before the King's Commissioners, were William de Cantreyn, William le Palmer, William Bonamy, Henry de Arnley, Emeric (Almarie) Dyer, Nicholas le Palmer, John Geoffrey, Thomas Tailor (Cissor), Roger Chete, Robert de Bromleye, John Baker (Pistor), and William Madoc.<sup>289</sup>—

They returned their fee-farm rents of both town and mill as stated above.—

They laid claim to suit of court from the *vill* of Dodemonston as belonging to their *vill*, as well as all penalties, for *blood-shed*, or under the *Assize of Beer*, incurred in that township; but they said that "Richard King of Almain withdrew said suit &c. from the King, and from their Liberty, and that the Templars still withhold them and appropriate them to Castle Hologod."—

Also, Sir Roger de Mortimer and his Seneschals had, ever since the battle of Evesham (1265), withheld toll (thounet') of his men, from the King, in the town of Brug.—The Jurors knew not by what warrant.—

They said that the *vill* of Brug, according to franchise, granted to it by Kings of England, had *return and extracts of writs*, and other liberties, to wit, *gallows*, and *assize* of bread and beer.—

<sup>287</sup> Ibidem, memb. 50 dorso.

<sup>288</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 1 Edw. I, Salop.

<sup>289</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 88, where however the annual payment to the Canons is printed as 30s instead of 10s.

The privilege of having *return and extracts* of the King's writs prevented the interference of the Sheriff in the concerns of the Borough. Thus, if a writ directed

to the Sheriff affected the Borough only, it must be handed over to the Borough authorities to execute, and to make *return* thereto. If it were a writ of more general character, then the Borough was entitled to an *extract* of so much as concerned itself, and to which it would similarly respond.

They reported that Robert de Trillec (Under-Sheriff) had hindered execution of a King's mandate directed to him in behalf of a certain woman, concerning a writ of dower, and had scorned to perform said mandate, by which contempt the woman lost her costs and trouble.—

That John Baril, late Under-Sheriff, in virtue of his office, unjustly distrained the men of Brug by their working cattle, for a certain debt to the Crown, which the King's Bailiffs had previously paid into the Exchequer and had had credit for; and before he would give up the cattle he levied 2*d.* a head on them.—

That the same John also upheld Ake and Myler, Jews of Brug, in their false exactions against Henry Budde and Henry, Clerk of Astley, and distrained the two latter, without precept of the King, day by day, till he extorted from them £9; whereof said John had £7. and the Jews £2.—

That the same John wrongfully sued Richard Hendemon of Brug, and distrained him till he got 4 merks from him; as also did he get by false prosecution 30*s.* from Thomas Cysinham (Isenham).

That Robert Trillec in distraining for some levy<sup>290</sup> (in a case where by the Borough Liberties, the Bailiffs of the town ought to have *extracts*, and to pay and account for the levy at the Exchequer) wrongfully took in distress the working cattle of the townsmen, extorting 2*d.* a head before he would give them up.—

That Robert Trillec's Beadles for Stottesden Hundred extort money from the merchants of Brug in the middle of the King's highway, and detain them from proceeding freely on their road till such money be given; but how much had thus been given, the Jurors knew not.

We will close this account of the Borough of Bridgnorth with a few extracts from the Assize Roll of October 1292, when the Burgesses were represented by their Bailiffs, Andrew Bolding and Robert le Teynturer, and by XII Jurors, whose names were—Nicholas Rondulf, William de Cantreyn, Walter Bolding, John de Kenefare, Reginald de Leye, John son of Thomas the Tailor, Roger de Mora, Simon Dod, Stephen le Tornour, John Crouk, Fremund de Erdinton, and Robert Crouk.<sup>291</sup>

They reported certain *purprestures*, viz.,—That Nicholas Pule had appropriated a part of the King's highway, measuring 40 feet in length and 1 foot in breadth.<sup>292</sup>—

<sup>290</sup> "In districtione viridis ceræ"—a matter of which I cannot find any explanation.

<sup>291</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 51 recto.

<sup>292</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 37 dorso.

That Nicholas Brun had made *purpresture* on the King's highway in the Castle, to the extent of 20 feet by 4 feet.

William Pykemalot, Henry Fitz Philip, William Fitz Alice, and John Brun were reported as having sold cloth contrary to the *Assize*.

So also "Nicolas Rondulf (a Juror) had sold 2 casks and Andrew Bolding (a Bailiff) 6 casks of wine, contrary to the *Assize*."

The Jurors also presented that Nicholas Brun, Goldsmith of Brug, "bought old money for new," and likewise was a common entertainer of robbers, who broke open Churches and stole the vessels (calices). "Nicholas had also stolen a sheep from Roger Chete." To all this Nicholas replied, that he was a Clerk; and the Dean of Salop, as representing the Bishop, came into Court and demanded him as such. Before he was surrendered to the spiritual power, the Court, as usual, directed that a jury should give verdict on the matters alleged against him. The jurors for Stottesden officiated, and found him "not guilty" on each charge. "So he was given up to the Bishop" as acquitted by the temporal Court.<sup>293</sup>

The Borough Jurors further presented that Nicholas Brun<sup>294</sup> and John de Cantreyn would not allow the King's Bailiffs to make distraint for a debt of the King or of any one else. Nicholas was found guilty and ordered to prison, but afterwards compounded the offence by fine of half a merk, Fremund de Erdinton and Roger de la More (both Jurors) being his Sureties.

A statement of their *fee-farm* tenure by Charters of Henry III, and a complaint as to Philip de Leinthale, Bailiff of Edmund de Mortimer, having *attached* certain traders of their town, are the only further presentments of the Borough Jurors which need be here alluded to.

<sup>293</sup> Though Nicholas Brun would appear to have been innocent of the principal charges against him, his occupations seem to have been anything but clerical. Yet this man was the contemporary Incumbent of the Prebend of Morville, in the King's Collegiate Church of St. Mary Magdalene (*supra* p. 72).

<sup>294</sup> This Nicholas Brun was undoubtedly

a different person from the Clerk above mentioned, and a layman. He has already occurred (*supra*, p. 114) with Alice his wife in October, 1291. The said wife surviving him (but called Avide) granted to Edmund son of Nicholas Palmer certain rights in the High Street of Brug in the years 1296 and 1297, (Charters at Apley Park).

The early history of the Borough of Bridgnorth would be unnecessarily incomplete without some attempt to rescue the names of its chief Corporate Officers from those documents which, in the absence of all contemporary Municipal Records, alone remain for our guidance.

In arranging the succession of these ephemeral Magistrates according to such documents (chiefly undated), we must variously depend upon proof, probability, and conjecture; nor will our limits allow us to particularize the reasons of those presumptive dates which in some cases we shall have to offer. The list thus proposed, whether complete or incomplete, must necessarily indicate the chief contemporary families of the Borough.

Not having met with any Bridgnorth Charters of the twelfth Century, when, as at Shrewsbury, the principal Municipal Office is presumed to have been filled by an individual, nominated by the Crown, and called Provost (*prepositus*) or Reeve, we descend to the time (certainly not earlier than the reign of John 1199-1216) when the Borough elected its own Provosts or chief Magistrates.

Their number at all such recorded periods seems to have been uniformly two.

These Officers are in the first instance styled Prætors;—then Prætors or Provosts, indifferently;—thirdly, Provosts;—fourthly, Provosts or Bailiffs, indifferently;—and lastly, Bailiffs only.<sup>295</sup>

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**RICHARD FITZ STEPHEN and WILLIAM FITZ GODEWIN, PRÆTORS.**

These Officers attest a very early deed of the thirteenth century,<sup>296</sup> which will be more particularly alluded to when we come to speak of the Leper House of St. James.

**ALAN FITZ ROBERT and WALTER FITZ ROBERT, PRÆTORS.**

The first of these persons has already occurred, under date of July 1, 1221, as being remunerated by the Crown for some injury done to his land near the

<sup>295</sup> In arranging a List of these Officers I have generally followed the order suggested by their gradual change of title. It is, however, quite certain that a result, uniformly correct, has not thus been produced, *e. g.*, some of those who are simply called Provosts, held office earlier than some others who are simply called Prætors.

<sup>296</sup> Charter in possession of T. C. Whitmore, Esq., of Apley.—In the subjoined list, by far the greater number of names are supplied from the Muniments at Apley. I need therefore only to give other references where a different authority has been available.

Castle.<sup>297</sup> Some further account has yet to be given of his family and their tenure *in capite* arising out of the said compensation.

The second-named *Prætor* will presently occur under his professional name of *Aurifaber* (Goldsmith).

**HAMO LE PALMER and ROGER FITZ WILLIAM, PRÆTORS.**

The family of Palmer was at this period by far the wealthiest in the Borough. A further and fuller account of them must be given elsewhere. The first notice of Hamon le Palmer is his attestation of the early deed above mentioned, in which he is described as Hamund Fitz Walter.

**HUGO DE EUDON and SIMON DE ABBATIA,<sup>298</sup> PRÆTORS.**

**ELYAS FITZ WILLIAM and WILLIAM AURIFABER, PRÆTORS.**

It is nearly certain that these were in office after Philip Fitz Robert and Terricus Fitz Reginald, mentioned below, but who are in one instance styled Provosts.

**WALTER AURIFABER and ADAM LOGAIN, PRÆTORS OF PROVOSTS.**

**PHILIP FITZ ROBERT and TERRICUS FITZ REGINALD, PRÆTORS OF PROVOSTS.**

As these were probably in office before two who have been mentioned above, so they were certainly later than two who will occur below, viz. Walter le Palmer and Wm. le Berner, who, however, are only called Provosts.

**HAMO LE PALMER and REGINALD LE GAUGY, PRÆTORS OF PROVOSTS.**

The second was murdered in 1250 or 1251. His family and connexions, with the proceedings consequent on his death, will form the subject of a detailed statement hereafter. The dates obtained therewith are a most useful guide for distinguishing Borough Deeds of the first half of the century from those of the last.

**HENRY COYNTEREL and ROBERT TINCTOR, PRÆTORS OF PROVOSTS.**

These were in office after 1251, and so, later than many who are only called Provosts.

**WALTER LE PALMER and WILLIAM LE BERNER, PROVOSTS.**

Walter le Palmer was Brother of Hamon, above mentioned, and founder of a distinct family.

**HENRY BACUN and ROGER FITZ WILLIAM, PROVOSTS.**

**WILLIAM FITZ STEPHEN ORDRICH and ROBERT TINCTOR, PROVOSTS.**

The names of these two Magistrates occur as first witnesses of a deed (in Mr. Blakeway's MSS.) wherein the former sells for 12s., and the latter purchases from his Colleague, a rent of 12*d.* issuing out of a meseuage in Hungary Street.

**WILLIAM AURIFABER and ADAM LOGAIN, PROVOSTS.**

<sup>297</sup> *Supra*, pp. 255, 256.

<sup>298</sup> Elsewhere called "Simon de Cencio" (*infra*, p. 357).

**WILLIAM FITZ HAMON (le Palmer) and NICHOLAS DE PETRA, PROVOSTS.**

Hamo le Palmer was living at the time when the deed attested by these Provosts passed; in fact he and his brother Walter are the third and fourth witnesses, and Reginald le Gaugy the fifth.

**PHILIP DE PETRA and JOHN FITZ ROBERT, PROVOSTS.**

The deed attested by these Officers is clearly of date 1250 or 1251. It grants, to Walter le Palmer, a 10 years' lease commencing Dec. 25, 1250, and confirms a 12 years' lease which had taken date from Michaelmas 1250, and one of the parties to which was dead. It also mentions lands of Alice de Gaugy; and she was the widow of Reginald above mentioned.

**HAMO LE PALMER and \* \* \* PROVOSTS.**

The presumption that Hamo le Palmer was again in office in 1251 or 1252 arises thus.—He accounts at Michaelmas of the latter year, at the head of the community, for the proceeds of the sale of the King's wines.<sup>299</sup> The contemporary accountants for similar sales at Shrewsbury are known to have been Fellow-Provosts of that town. I have not, however, seen any deed, attested by Hamo le Palmer as Provost, which I can associate with this precise date.

**WILLIAM BONAMY and JOHN TINCTOR, PROVOSTS.**

These must have been in office between 1251 and 1256. At the Assizes of January 1256, John Tinctor was certified to be so infirm as not even to be carried.

**PHILIP DE PETRA and ALMARIC LE TEYNTURER, BAILIFFS.**

These are expressly mentioned as in office at the Assizes of January, 1256. I have not found them attesting any deed, but if they so occur it will probably be under the designation of Provosts.

**PHILIP DE PETRA and WILLIAM BOLDING, JUNIOR, PROVOSTS.**

These occur in one deed as Philip super Petram and William Bolding. The latter will be another instance of a son's holding office in the lifetime of his father. Philip de Petra (so often Provost) occurs under various designations besides those just mentioned, viz. Philip Fitz Robert, Philip de la Pere (Pierre), and Philip de Stone.

**WILLIAM BONAMY and RICHARD FITZ EVE, PROVOSTS,—**  
are probably identical with—**WILLIAM BONAMY and RICHARD ARNICHUN, PROVOSTS.****WILLIAM PALMER and WILLIAM LAMBERT, PROVOSTS.**

The former is called in some deeds William Fitz Hamon. His father, Hamon, seems to have been still living at this second period of the son's office, which probably is of date 1259. A deed<sup>300</sup> attested by these Provosts covenants payment of a sum of money on Sept. 8, 43 Hen. III, and Nov. 1 following, in even portions, *i. e.* on Sept. 8 and Nov. 1, 1259. At that period Henry III was entering his 54th year of age, and it is presumed that his regnal years cannot have formed the basis of any very long anticipatory date.

<sup>299</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 36 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>300</sup> Vide *infra*, p. 357.

PHILIP DE PETRA and ROBERT TINCTOR, PROVOSTS.

HENRY COYNTEREL and WALTER LE PALMER.

My only authority for inserting them as Provosts at this period is, that in 1261, they appear on the Pipe Roll as accounting with the rest of their community (cum cæteris burgensibus) for sale of the King's wines at Brug.

ALMARIC TINCTOR and RICHARD HENDEMON, PROVOSTS.

WILLIAM PALMER and HENRY DE ARLEG, PROVOSTS.

They were in office March, 1265, and so will have been at the head of their community at the time when it earned the acknowledgments of the Crown for its steady loyalty.

✓ ROGER DE MORA and HENRY DE ARLEY, PROVOSTS.

RICHARD DE LA PERE and ALMARIC LE TEYNTURER.

Whom I presume to have been fellow-Provosts at a time previous to August, 1267, when they were fined for some common offence.<sup>301</sup>

• ROGER DE MORA and RICHARD HENDEMON, PROVOSTS.

They attest a seven years' lease, commencing Feb. 2, 1270,<sup>302</sup> at which time I presume them to have been in office.

WILLIAM BONAMY and HENRY DE ARLEY, PROVOSTS.

WILLIAM BOLDING and \* \* \* BAILIFFS.

William Bolding is mentioned as Chief Bailiff (Capitalis Ballivus) at the Salop Assizes of October, 1272. His Colleague is not named on that occasion. It was probably Roger de la More, Junior, and I take them both to have lately entered upon office; for—

WILLIAM BOLDING and ROGER DE LA MORE, JUNIOR, PROVOSTS,—

attest a deed, already set forth, which must have passed in September, 1273.<sup>303</sup> Roger de Mora, Junior, and Wm. Bolding, Provosts, or Roger Fitz Roger de More and Wm. Bolding, further attest a number of deeds to which I assign the same date.

In November 1274, Roger Juvenis de la More was the subject of a complaint by the Nordley Jurors, alleging his undue exercise of authority as Bailiff of Brug.<sup>304</sup>

It is observable that neither he nor William Bolding officiated at the contemporary Borough Inquest as Jurors. Some of the matters of enquiry proposed on the occasion, touched the conduct of all such Magistrates, and could not have been answered by themselves with propriety.

JOHN GEFREY and HENRY DE ARLEY, PROVOSTS.

Apparently these were in office in 1276.

<sup>301</sup> *Placita*, 51 Hen. III, Salop (*Rot. Pip.* 53 Hen. III).

<sup>302</sup> Blakeway MSS. The deed is illustrative of local peculiarities still observable.—Richard son of William de Pencris conveys to William Orped, the Fisherman, for 4*s.*, his *subterranean* house, under the mount, towards Severn; to hold from

the Purification of the Virgin 54 Hen. III for seven years; rendering 12*d.* for the first three years, the rest of the rent being already received (*i.e.* the four shillings first named).

<sup>303</sup> *Supra*, p. 216.

<sup>304</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 103.



**ROGER DE MORE and WILLIAM BOLDING, PROVOSTS OF BAILIFFS.**

These were probably the same persons who had been together in office before, but one of them seems to have changed his designation, most likely by the intervening death of his father. Their present period of office may be dated by their attestation of a deed which must have passed in November 1277.

**WILLIAM BONAMI and ROGER FEYRCHILD, PROVOSTS.**

Their period of office has been already surmised as about 1280, and the authority given for placing them on the list.<sup>305</sup>

**ROGER DE LA MORE and JOHN PISTOR, BAILIFFS.****JOHN GEFREY and ROBERT LE KNIT, PROVOSTS.****RICHARD DE PETRA and JOHN GEFREY, PROVOSTS.****RICHARD DE PETRA and JOHN GEFREY, PROVOSTS.****RALPH BOLDING and ROBERT TINCTOR, PROVOSTS.**

The deed which mentions them has been cited.<sup>306</sup>

**ANDREW BOLDING and ROBERT LE TEYNTURER, CHIEF BAILIFFS,**  
were in office under that title October 6, 1292, when they served at Salop Assizes, with twelve Jurors of their Borough.<sup>307</sup>

They also attest, as Provosts, several deeds bearing dates of Jan. 19, 1293; Feb. 17, 1293; Feb. 25, 1294; and June 3, 1294. They will, therefore, have held joint office for at least two years, and, as I presume, from Michaelmas 1292 to Michaelmas 1294.

In the following year Andrew Bolding represented his Borough in another way, viz. as one of its first recorded members of Parliament. This Parliament was summoned to meet in November 1295. The Manucaptors of Andrew Bolding and Fremnud de Erdinton (the Members) were Robert Tinctor, Robert Crowk, John Glydde, and Roger Bonamy.

**ROGER DE MORA and JOHN GLIDDE, PROVOSTS, OF BAILIFFS.**

They occur, as in office, August 15, 1295, and January 3, 1296; and were so probably for two years, viz. from Michaelmas 1294 to Michaelmas 1296.

In the first instance they are styled Bailiffs, and in the last Provosts.

**WILLIAM SELYMON, *alias* TINCTOR, and RICHARD ROBERT,<sup>308</sup>  
PROVOSTS,—**

held office, I think, for at least three years, viz. from Michaelmas 1297 to Michaelmas 1300. They are principal witnesses of a deed dated October 4, 1297, but are not styled Provosts therein. They attest, as Provosts, a deed of Nov. 25, 1298, and another which, being dated in 28 Ed. I, must have passed subsequently to Nov. 20, 1299.<sup>308</sup>

<sup>305</sup> Supra, p. 113.

<sup>306</sup> Supra, p. 114.

<sup>307</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Ed. I, Salop.

<sup>308</sup> During this *prepositure* the Borough returned Roger Bonamy and Thomas de Isenham as Burgesses of the Parliament

which was summoned, for May 25, 1298, to York. Their Manucaptors were John Glydde, Simon Dod, Roger de la More, and Andrew Bolding. (Parliamentary Writs, vol. i, p. 74.)

<sup>309</sup> Blakeway MSS.

**ROGER BONAMY and JOHN BROWN, PROVOSTS,—**

held office for two years, and occur in deeds of Sept. 30, 1300. March 4 and April 15, 1302. Roger Bonamy was with Richard Robert, returned as Burgess for the Parliament which was summoned to meet at Lincoln on Jan. 20, 1301.<sup>310</sup> Probably they had been originally returned to the Parliament which had summons to London for March 5, 1300. In either case we have a Burgess of Parliament identical with an acting Provost of the Borough.

For the Parliament which was summoned to London, for Sept. 29, 1303, and adjourned to October 14, these Provosts were both returned,<sup>311</sup> but at the same time seem to have quitted their municipal office for—

**ROGER DE LA MORE and WILLIAM DE LA HULL, PROVOSTS,—**

occur in deeds of August 10 and October 2, 1303, and Aug. 10, 1304. Their term of office will therefore have been from Michaelmas 1302 to Michaelmas, 1304.

**ROGER DE LA MORE and NICHOLAS RANDULF,—**

occur as principal witnesses of a Borough Deed which passed July 2, 1305; and—

**NICHOLAS DE PYCHFORD and REGINALD DE LEYE, PROVOSTS,—**

attest deeds of Oct. 3, 1306, and Aug. 28, 1307.

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**PROVOSTS IN TIME OF EDWARD II.**
**NICHOLAS RONDULF and WILLIAM DE LA HULLE,—**

occur Dec. 20, 1308, March 15, 1309, Sept. 1, 1310.

**ROGER DE MORA and NICHOLAS RONDULF,—**

occur Sept. 29, 1311.

**EDMUND LE PALMER and RICHARD ROBERT,—**

occur Feb. 26, 1312.

**ROBERT LE PALMER and WILLIAM SELYMON,—**

occur June 18, 1313.

**ROGER DE MORA and RICHARD ROBERT,—**

occur July 7, 1314.

**WILLIAM DE ASHEBORNE and ROBERT LE PALMER,—**

occur Oct. 18, 1314, and May 21, 1315.

**ROBERT LE PALMER and JOHN FITZ WILLIAM GOLDSMITH (Aurifabri),—**

occur Nov. 9, Dec. 23, 1315, and Jan. 25, April 3, June 5, and Sept. 29, 1316.

**NICHOLAS RONDULF and ROBERT LE PALMER,—**

occur Oct. 8, Nov. 28, 1316, and April 24, May 2, 1317.

<sup>310</sup> Parliamentary Writs I, 98. Their Manucaptors were Alan Wadc, of Brug, Robert de Swancote, John Glydde and Robert le Deystere.

<sup>311</sup> Ibidem, p. 126. Their Manucaptors were Nicholas le Rede, Nicholas Selymon, Stephen Pennyngge and William Keukyn.

- JOHN GLYDDE and JOHN CROUKE,—  
occur Feb. 10, July 11, 1318, and May 27, 1319.
- NICHOLAS RONDULF and REGINALD DE LA LEGH,—  
occur July 19 and Aug. 2, 1321.
- NICHOLAS RONDULF and EDMUND LE PALMER,—  
occur Oct. 16, 1321, and March 31, 1322.
- EDMUND LE PALMER, and JOHN RONDULF,—  
occur April 23 and July 2, 1323.
- JOHN CROUKE and JOHN GLYDDE,—  
occur April 14 and Sept. 29, 1324.
- HENRY CANNE and SIMON DOD,—  
occur Nov. 30, 1324, and Jan. 7, May 4, 1325.
- ROBERT DE BERGHAM and SIMON AURIFABER,—  
seem to have been in office on the accession of Edward III, Jan. 25, 1327.

I will continue a list of these Magistrates for those few years of Edward III's reign, during which they continued to be called Provosts:—

- ROBERT DE BERGHAM and SIMON AURIFABER,—  
occur March 29, May 9, and June 30, 1327.
- ROBERT LE PALMER and WILLIAM DE BERGHAM,—  
occur May 19, Sept. 11, 1328, and July 1, 1329.
- JOHN RONDULF and ROBERT LE PALMER,—  
occur Sept. 3, 1330.
- ROBERT LE PALMER and SIMON LE GOLDSMYTH,—  
occur March 26, July 3, and Sept. 22, 1331.
- JOHN GLYDDE and JOHN RONDULF,—  
occur Nov. 3, Dec. 4, 1331, April 19, 1332, Oct. 30, 1333, and July 31, Sept. 15, 1334.
- WILLIAM SELYMON and JOHN DE LA LEGHE, BAILIFFS,—  
were in office Sept. 30, 1334.

These Officers thus begin to be called Bailiffs in private deeds of the 8th year of Edward III (1334), but their old style of "Provosts" is occasionally recurred to in subsequent years, viz. in 1339, 1340, and even in 1360.

The following list of BURGESSES OF PARLIAMENT returned by this Borough, during the reign of Edward II, should perhaps accompany that of the Provosts. It is merely an abstract of a list already printed.<sup>312</sup>

<sup>312</sup> Parliamentary Writs, vol. ii, Division I, p. clxvi, and Division II *passim*.

DATE OF THE WRIT.	TIME AND PLACE WHEN AND WHERE RETURN TO BE MADE.	PERSONS RETURNED.	MANCAPTORS.
26 Aug. 1307	Northampton 13 Oct. 1307	Reginald de Leyghes	Will. le Deyere and Walt. le Baxtere.
4 Mch. 1309	Westminster 27 April 1309	Roger Bonamy	Geoffrey Scot — Rob. Durvaall.
16 June 1311	London 8 Aug. 1311	Richard Robert	Rob. le Vitheler — Henr. affe Yate.
11 Oct. 1311	Westminster 12 Nov. 1311	John Hendemon	Will. de Eudon — Nich. Sely.
8 July 1312	Ibidem 20 Aug. 1312	( <i>No return extant for this Borough.</i> )	
8 Jan. 1313	Ibidem 18 Mch. 1313	Robert le Palmer	John Burgeys — Walt. de Baret.
26 July 1313	Ibidem 23 Sep. 1313	Walter de Aldenham	Hugh Pistor — Will. Hondes.
24 Oct. 1314	Ibidem 20 Jan. 1315	Geoffrey le Blunt	R * * * * * — Edm. le Palmer.
24 Aug. 1318	York 20 Oct. 1318	John de Brugge	Geoffrey le Blunt — Will. le Palmer.
20 Mch. 1319	York 6 May 1319	Robert le Palmer	Rich. Robert — Rog. de Mora.
25 May 1321	Westminster 15 July 1321	John de Iseham	Will. le Palmer — Ric. Aleyn.
24 Mch. 1322	York 2 May 1322	John Hendemon	John de Iseham — Will. de Hull.
18 Sep. 1322	Rippon 14 Nov. 1322	William Pannyng	Walter Pannyng — Richard Pannyng.
26 Dec. 1323	Westminster 23 Feb. 1324	Edmund le Palmer	( <i>Mancaptors not entered.</i> )
10 Oct. 1325	Ibidem 18 Nov. 1325	Reginald de Leyes	( <i>The Record mutilated.</i> )
3 Dec. 1326	Westminster 14 Dec. 1326	William de Dinwowe	Adam Bolde and Richard Bolde.
	and prorogued to 7 Jan. 1327	John de Kyngtone	Will. Praunce — Rich. Praunce.
		Henry Geffrey	Will. Praunce — Rog. Dun.
		Robert le Palmer	Rich. le Palmer — Will. Don.
		John de Kyngton	Walt. Bagot — Rog. Dod.
		Henry Geffrey	Rob. de Moste — Will. Faunce.
		John Hendemon	Rich. Eyyon — Will. de Hobor.
		Hing Wodevove de Bruges	Rich. Rood — Will. de Devon.
		( <i>The Return lost.</i> )	Rich. Geffrey — Rog. de Bruges.
		William de Hulle	Will. de Hokumbe— Adam le Serjant.
		Henry Geffrey	( <i>The Return lost.</i> )
			Rich. Tuf and Roger Mol.
			Adam Snel — Rich. Stel.

## THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

Earl Robert's removal of the Borough and Castle of Quatford to Bridgnorth naturally led to the further transfer of the Collegiate Church, so richly endowed by his Father. The Parish Church of Quatford indeed remained; nor does the new Collegiate establishment appear to have originally combined any parochial cure: in fact it was built within the precincts of the Castle, a situation little consonant with any such responsibility.<sup>313</sup>

Not a vestige of the history of this Church, or Chapel, remains for the first half century after its removal from Quatford, nor can we expect any further discoveries as regards that period.

We have already seen that Earl Roger, endowing his Church of Quatford, granted to it, *inter alia*, a third of the tithes of Morville. It is also clear that the site of Bridgnorth must have been in the Domesday Parish of Morville, and so possibly this, the Earl's original grant of tithes, may have been apportioned on the subsequent Borough. Either in that way, or by some further grant of King Henry I, certain it is that, on the accession of Henry II, the Canons of Brug were entitled to a recognized composition or annual payment in lieu of the tithes of the King's demesne, which the Borough then was.

This sum, 10s. *per annum*, was paid to the Canons by the Sheriff, and, in turn, charged by him on the Crown in his account for the year ending Michaelmas, 1156.<sup>314</sup> It so continued to be paid and charged in each annual account of the Sheriff till the year 1176, when, in consequence of an arrangement before particularized,<sup>315</sup> the Burgesses were authorized to pay it, and to

<sup>313</sup> The Chapel of St. Michael, in Shrewsbury Castle, was in some respects a similar, though less richly endowed foundation than that of St. Mary Magdalene. The *Historians of Shrewsbury* (vol. ii, pp. 303, 417) seem to have held that a Parish was attached to the former from the earliest period. The evidence given hardly confirms such a view. I am however quite ignorant of the period when a district, with cure of souls, was first assigned to either Chapel. Certainly a petition of the Burgesses of Brug was presented to the Parliament of Winchester

in 4 Ed. III (1330) praying that they might have the use of the King's Chapel as a Parish Church. This is a proof that no such use had been previously made of the Chapel, nor do I think that the petition had any effect even then.

<sup>314</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>315</sup> *Supra*, p. 294. It should be observed that as long as the Sheriff paid this annuity he entered it under the title of "appointed alms," not "tithes."—"Et in elemosynis constitutis—Canonice de Brug, x.s."

This was rather with a view to con-

enter it as a *set-off* in their own current accounts with the Exchequer.

No further change in this respect was made during the period of our present inquiry.

The Church, thus recognised by Henry II, fifty years after its foundation, continued to enjoy all those privileges and immunities which attached to Royal Free Chapels. Some of these privileges have already been noticed under the respective lists of Prebendaries; others will now have to be detailed. The general constitution of the Church, with that one peculiarity which distinguished it from all other Royal Chapels, have been set forth in the words of John Bromton,<sup>316</sup> whose account needs neither addition nor correction on this head.

His statement as to the independent relations which existed between the Dean and Prebendaries is, however, confirmed by a verbal coincidence, too curious to be passed by; viz. that the Collegiate body is frequently described as consisting of six Prebendaries, *i. e.* The superiority of the Dean, a nominal one only, is as often forgotten as remembered.

About the year 1196 this Church, or rather its Dean, Simon, was involved in a contest with Wenlock Priory, as to the Advowson of Dudinton (Priors Ditton). This Advowson was no part of Earl Roger's original endowment of St. Mary Magdalene, and the grounds of the Dean's claim, which seems to have been the weaker of the two, are not stated. The composition which ensued left Ditton Church with the Priory, but the Dean and his successors were to receive an annual acknowledgment of two pieces of gold, at Michaelmas, from the Priory.<sup>317</sup> This indefinite sum does not enable us to conjecture the strength of the claim which it represented.

At the Salop Assizes, Nov. 1221, the Jurors of the Borough and Hundred of Bruges returned the Church of *Saint Mary of Brug*

venient classification (the Sheriff being charged with payment of other Royal Alms) than to correctness. When the Burgesses begun to pay the annuity, in 1176, they always entered it under the title of "appointed tithes." "In decimis constitutis."

<sup>316</sup> *Supra*, p. 107.

<sup>317</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. v, p. 74. Note 7. The deed of composition is translated, but

not accurately. The Pope who appointed the Arbitrators was Celestine III (elected March 29, 1191, died Jan. 8, 1198). This, with other limits, implied by the names of the Arbitrators and Witnesses, gives within a year the date laid down in the text. If the two *pieces* of gold were two merks of gold, then the composition for the Dean's claim was considerable, viz. £13. 6s. 8d.

as of the King's gift, and that there were six Prebends therein, which six Clerks held, by gift of the King and his ancestors.<sup>318</sup>

A similar presentment at the Assizes of October, 1227, calls the Church, more correctly, that of St. Mary Magdalene of Bruges, and mentions six Prebends.<sup>319</sup>

17 Feb. 1228. The King's precept issued to the Sheriff of Salop commanding him to allow to this Chapel all tithes of the King's demesnes of Brug, in Fairs and Mills.<sup>320</sup>

13 Nov. 1234. The King, by Charter dated at Westminster, grants to his Canons of Brug, that they and their successors and their men, holding under them in their Prebends, shall be quit of all suits to the Courts of either County or Hundred.<sup>321</sup>

The general non-residence of the Prebendaries of Brug has been already presumed. It has also been suggested that no parochial jurisdiction<sup>322</sup> attached to the Collegiate Church. It may even be doubted whether Divine Service was regularly performed in the Chapel of the Castle, either by the Principals in turn, or by their deputies.

This will be inferred from the fact, that, in the fiscal year ending Michaelmas, 1239, King Henry III founded a *New Chapel* in his Castle of Bruges, appointing thereto a Chaplain who was to perform divine services and receive a salary of 50s. per annum for his maintenance.<sup>323</sup> This salary was paid by the Sheriff for the year then ending, and, substantively, remained a charge on the annual accounts throughout the reign of Henry III.

The immunities claimed by the Church of St. Mary Magdalene extended to all the Churches and Chapels which belonged to its Prebendaries. Nay, these Churches were themselves called Free

<sup>318</sup> *Assize Roll*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 9 dorso.

<sup>319</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 54, being excerpted from an *Assize Roll*.

<sup>320</sup> Dodsworth, vol. 103. The tithe of fairs at this period will rather have been a tax on the Borough Revenues than on the King's Exchequer. The same may be said of the tithes of Pendeston Mill, which, a few months earlier, had been set to *ferm* to the Burgesses (*supra*, p. 303).

<sup>321</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 19 Hen. III, memb. 19.

<sup>322</sup> That is not in the Borough. Such of the Prebends as had Churches for their

endowment had of course spiritual cures in the Parishes of those Churches.

<sup>323</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 23 Hen. III, Salop.

This stipend though it appears as regularly paid upon the Pipe Rolls does not seem to have been of that permanent character which we should term an endowment, nor, as in the case of "constituted alms or tithes," was the Sheriff empowered to discharge it without special warrant, *e.g.* there is an order on the Liberate Roll of 55 Hen. III (memb. 2), to the Sheriff to pay "Nicholas, the Chaplain, ministering in the Chapel of the Castle his stipend of 50s. per annum."

Chapels of the King when their privileges were in question. This observation is grounded on the following documents, which, though they relate specially to the Church of Claverley, which was part of the endowment of the Deanery of Brug, touched matters which concerned the whole Collegiate body.

In Easter Term, 1241, in the Courts at Westminster,<sup>324</sup> Master Peter de Radenor, Official of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield and Robert Chaplain of Pattingham were under summons to appear (on April 28th) and show, "wherefore, against prohibition of the Lord the King they had suspended the Church of Claverley, which is a Free Chapel of the Lord King, and had sequestered the goods of the same Church, and had caused to be threshed the corn of Peter de Rivallis, Rector of the said Church (he was Dean of St. Mary Magdalene) for the purpose of levying a contribution for the Lord the Pope, to the grave prejudice of the Crown and dignity of the Lord the King."

The Defendants appeared not, and the Sheriff sent word that they had no *lay fee* by which they might be distrained to appear. So mandate issued to the Bishop, that he should have the parties at Westminster in one month of St. John Baptist &c.

Accordingly, on the day appointed (July 22), and in continuance of this cause, William de Norbury, Official of the Archdeacon of Stafford, and Elyas Dean of Brug, are stated to have appeared in Court,<sup>325</sup> to show wherefore they had suspended the Church of Claverley against the King's prohibition &c. William and Elyas made answer that they never had received the said prohibition. They were bound over to take their trial by Jury, Giles de Erdinton and William Wymer being their Sureties.

I cannot learn the issue of this prosecution, but it is quite evident that the King was at length roused by this, and perhaps some similar interferences with the rights of his Free Chapels, and petitioned the Pope (Innocent IV) on the subject.

The Pontiff was not inattentive to the remonstrances of "his beloved and devout Son." A Bull exists, dated at Lyons on July 21, 1245, wherein any "Ordinary, Delegate or Subdelegate is

<sup>324</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Easter Term, 25 Hen. III, m. 28 dorso. This entry is printed in the *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, (p. 113), but under a wrong date.

<sup>325</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 32 recto. The Defendant who is called Dean of Brug in this case must not be confused with the

contemporary Dean of St. Mary Magdalene, whose name was Peter, and who was, if a party to the cause, Plaintiff. I take Elyas to have been that Rural Dean (probably of Trysul) within whose district Claverley had been assumed to lie.



prohibited from venturing to pronounce sentence of excommunication or interdict against the Royal Chapels, or the Oratories thereof (being in immediate subjection to the Roman Church), or the Canons, or their Servants, contrary to the tenor of privileges and indulgences of the Apostolick See; or to lay any burden on them, which has not usually been laid upon other exempt Churches, without such special mandate of the Apostolick See as shall make express mention of the measure to be taken.<sup>326</sup>

Another Bull, dated at Lyons, on July 27, following, is addressed to the Chancellor of Oxford, whom the Pontiff informs of a complaint which he had received from King Henry, viz. that "the Archdeacon of Stafford, although he has no jurisdiction, ordinary or delegated, over the Chapel of Bruges (which is the King's peculiar), yet attempts to extort Procurations therefrom, and to interdict it, and to suspend and excommunicate its Chaplains, to the prejudice and injury of the said King," who thereupon had "appealed to the hearing of the Pope." The Chancellor is to summon the parties, hear the cause, and decide it canonically and finally, enforcing his decree by ecclesiastical censure.<sup>327</sup>

The neglect which the Collegiate Church suffered at the hands of its Dignitaries, and that independance of their Dean and of each other, which probably was the chief cause of such neglect, are well illustrated by a Patent of 26 December, 1246.—King Henry, addressing the Canons of Bruges, orders them to render obedience to Peter de Rivallis (he was Dean) in the matter of remedying deficiencies in the decorations of their Chapel.<sup>328</sup>

In March, 1254, the Deans of the King's Chapels of Brug and Salop (St. Mary's) were commissioned by Letters Patent to assist Berard de Nimpha to collect certain monies, from those who had vowed the Crusade, for the use of the Earl of Cornwall.<sup>329</sup>

At the Inquisitions of 1255 the Borough Jurors made a detailed statement as to the value and incumbency of the "six Prebends of the King's Free Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene of Brug."<sup>330</sup>

At the Assizes of October, 1272, the Jurors made a statement as

<sup>326</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera*, i, 261.

<sup>327</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>328</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 31 Hen. 3.

<sup>329</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 38 Hen. III. The *Cruce signati*, or those who had vowed the Crusade, were permitted to compound the obligation by money payments, which were collected under Papal authority and

allotted to those who proposed to fulfil their vows personally.

<sup>330</sup> *Rot. Hund.*, ii, 59. I have classified the particulars under the accounts of the several Prebends, as also what was stated by the Stottesden Jurors on the same occasion.

to the King's Free Chapel in the Castle of Brug. The number of Prebends belonging thereto they said was five, but they went on to enumerate six, the first being "the Prebend of Claverley," which was in fact the Dean's Prebend.<sup>331</sup>

In 1281, the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield (Roger de Molend) having apparently asserted a right of jurisdiction over the Collegiate Churches of Stafford, Wolverhampton, St. Mary's Salop, and Tetenhall, was obliged to relinquish such claim in the case of St. Mary's.

The particulars of the treaty between the Bishop and that Collegiate Church may be seen elsewhere.<sup>332</sup> The independence of the Church was fully recognized, but the Bishop was, if he pleased, to hold ordinations therein. A similar or even more independent position was doubtless secured to the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, for I do not find that the Bishops of Lichfield ever held ordinations there.

The taxation of 1291 values the Spiritualities of the Church of Bruges, and its members, at £54. 13s. 4d. This is given under the Deanery of Lappeley and Tresel in Coventry Diocese.<sup>333</sup> It probably contemplated the emoluments of the Dean chiefly.

At the Assizes of 1292, the Prebends were duly returned, as six in number, that of the Dean being called the Prebend of Luddeston.<sup>334</sup>

At the same Assizes the Dean and Chapter stood summoned, to show by what warrant they claimed a right of holding pleas of the Crown, and having *wayf* in the Manor of Bruges. Not appearing, the Sheriff had orders to distrain them through all their lands &c., and to have their persons before the Justiciars who were to be *in eyre* at Lichfield in the Octaves of Hillary (Jan. 20, 1293).<sup>335</sup>

The Record preserves the results of many causes similarly adjourned to Lichfield, but the Crown prosecution of its own Free Chapel seems to have been abandoned. No notice of further proceedings appear on the Roll.

<sup>331</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso.

<sup>332</sup> *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 307.

<sup>333</sup> *Pope Nic. Taxation*, 243. Under the head of *Temporalities* in the Archdeaconry of Stafford, this Record gives also the Manor of Poshale, of £20. annual value, as appropriated to the Portioners of Bruges. A subsequent note of cancellation affects the

importance of this entry which is to me wholly unintelligible (*Taxation*, p. 253).

Tanner quotes "The College" revenue as 82 merks, equal to £54. 13s. 4d., as in the text. (*Notit. Monastica.*)

<sup>334</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Ed. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>335</sup> *Placita de uo Warranto*, pp. 686, 678.

The visit of Master Rigaud de Asserio to England, in 1317, affected the rights of several Royal Free Chapels, viz. St. Martin's le Grand (London), St. Peter's (Wolverhampton), and the Chapels of Stafford, Bruges, and St. Mary's (Salop).

Being Canon of Orleans, Auditor of the Palace, and Clerk of the Papal Chamber, he was deputed by Pope John XXII to enforce the neglected collection of the Peter Pence in England.<sup>336</sup> In so doing, he was to ignore all customs, privileges, and indulgencies whatever, the Pope decreeing the same to be of no avail.

The King (Edward II) interfered in defence of his Free Chapels above mentioned, and by Writ Close addressed to the Nuncio himself, and dated at Shene, 17 Feb. 1318, forbade him to enforce his exactions against those establishments.<sup>337</sup>

The "Inquisitions of the Ninths," taken in 1341, and with which we will conclude this subject, give incidentally one or two hints as to the ecclesiastical divisions which then existed within the Peculiar of Bridgnorth.

The Dean and Canons are specially stated to be exempt from the tax then assessed; and this exemption so far diminished the rateable value of each Parish or District wherein the Chapter had lands.

The effect of this immunity on the assessments of Morville, Quatford, and Eardington, has been already shown or presumed.<sup>338</sup> Towns, instead of being rated to the value of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, were more appropriately taxed at the ninth of the goods of their Burgesses. Thus while Shrewsbury was assessed at £56. 2s. 10d., the town of Brugge stood at £16. 10s. 1d., a special valuation *pro re nata*, and not based on the inapplicable taxation of Pope Nicholas. The reasons why it was not rated higher were,—“because the townships of Romsley, Quat, Dudmaston, and Quatford, stood taxed under other valuation” (viz. that of the Parish Churches where they were),—“and because the King had taken out in wool, both in England and abroad, the contributions of several Burgesses.”<sup>339</sup>

The King's demesne Manor of Claverley was also taxed on this

<sup>336</sup> He eventually came to be Bishop of Winchester (Consecrated 16 Nov. 1320. Died 12th April, 1323).

<sup>337</sup> *Hist. Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 309, where the King's writ is also given more at length. A Close Writ of 2 Ed. III (1328), is quoted by Tanner as to the exemption of

this Chapel “from jurisdiction of the Ordinary,” besides many documents of later date. (Vide *Notitia Monastica*, Shropshire.)

<sup>338</sup> *Supra*, pp. 39, 116, 123.

<sup>339</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum*, p. 191.

occasion, and to the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, being an agricultural district.<sup>340</sup>

Its Church had not been separately valued to Pope Nicholas' Taxation, but some other previous estimate seems to have been used as a guide by the Commissioners. They assessed it at £12., and gave reasons why they had rated it so low. They said that "a sixth part of the Borough of Bruggenorth belonged by ancient *extent* to the Church of Claverley." (By this they must have meant some income which the Dean derived from Quatford, or other property within the Borough Liberties, and which, though it increased the value of the said Dean's Church of Claverley, could not be taken to represent any means of the now taxed Parishioners.) They also said, that "the greater" (but unmentioned) "Church Taxation included items which had nothing to do with the ninth now levied, viz. Jurisdiction" (the Peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean I suppose), "glebe-land, offerings, tithe of hay, and other small tithes." They also said, that "a third of the present assessment, viz. 6 merks (£4.) lay on a part of the parish which was in the County of Stafford." This, if I understand the clause rightly, alluded partly to Bobbington, but surely included lands which must since have been annexed to Shropshire.<sup>341</sup> The circumstance seems to have been of no import as regarded the tax, but the Commissioners, being appointed to the County of Salop only, probably thought it proper to particularize any deviation from the letter of their instructions.

#### DEANS OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE.

A list of these Dignitaries will necessarily involve the succession of the Rectors of Claverley, which Church was a constant and prominent feature among the various endowments of the Deanery of Bridgnorth.

ALEXANDER, DEAN OF BRUG, attests a Charter of Richard (Peché) Bishop of Coventry to Trentham Priory, which must have passed between 1161 and 1171.<sup>342</sup> He is probably the same with "Alexander de Bridgnorth," mentioned under date of 1182.<sup>343</sup>

<sup>340</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum*, p. 194.

<sup>341</sup> A part of Bobbington still remains in Staffordshire, but far less than any presumable third of the Parishes of Claverley and Bobbington united.

<sup>342</sup> *Harl. MSS.* 3868, fo. 35.

<sup>343</sup> *Monasticon*, viii, 1463, quoting Hutton's and Willis' Lists. Of course the name "Bridgnorth" is an anticipatory translation of Brug. It can have stood on no original document.

SIMON, DEAN OF BRUG, *circa* 1196, and his composition with Weulock Priory about the Advowson of Ditton Priors, have already been mentioned.<sup>344</sup>

HUGO DE TANNAC, OR TAUNEY, a Poitevin, was appointed to this Deanery 13 April, 1214.<sup>345</sup> King John, being then at La Réole (in Gascony), writes to the Bishop of Winchester, his Chief Justice and Viceroy, to say that he has granted 100 merks, in Church Revenues, to his beloved Clerk Hugh de Tannac, brother of his faithful and beloved Geoffrey de Tannac. The Deanery of Brug is to be part of the grant, and the balance is to be made up, out of rents heretofore enjoyed by the Dean of York and Archdeacon of Winchester. The King avows his object in this grant. It is that the friends of the Presentee, "who are very necessary to the King in the parts of Poitou may be placed under obligation." A more formal presentation to the Deanery, dated at Partenay (in Poitou) on May 28 following, is addressed to the Viceroy, and calls the new Dean Hugh de Taunay.<sup>346</sup>

At the Salop Assizes, November, 1221, the Jurors of Claverley are represented by the minute-clerk as returning Hugh de "Pettem" for the Incumbent of Claverley Church. It was worth 30 merks per annum, and the said Hugh held it, they said, by gift of King John.<sup>347</sup> The Incumbent in question was doubtless the Dean presented by that monarch as above stated, but the Jurors describing him by his country, either mutilated the proper words, or were misunderstood by their Registrar. "Hugh le Peitevin" was the name they intended to return.

PETER DE RIVALDIS was appointed to the Deanery of the Chapel of Brug, by Letters Patent of Henry III, dated at Westminster, 8 May, 1223. The Chapter is addressed as to the presentation, and the Constable of Brug as to giving possession.<sup>348</sup>

On 18 August, 1223, the King's *Letters Close* direct Brian de Lisle to allow Peter de Rivallis 18 beams (*fusta*) out of Kinver Forest, which the King has given him to repair his house at Claverley.<sup>349</sup>

These two entries identify the Rectors of Claverley with the Deans of Brug most satisfactorily. The then holder of this joint preferment came to enjoy an uncommon degree of Court favour.

<sup>344</sup> *Supra*, p. 322.

<sup>345</sup> *Rot. Pat.*, 15 John, memb. 2.

<sup>346</sup> *Ibidem*, 16 John, memb. 17.

<sup>347</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 9 dorso.

<sup>348</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 7 Hen. III.

<sup>349</sup> *Claus.* i, 561.

On July 11, 1232, he had a grant of the custody (Shrievalty) of the Counties of Salop and Stafford for life, and also of the Counties of York, Berks. Gloces. Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Lancaster, Northumb. Essex, Herts. Lincoln, Norf. Suff. and Kent.<sup>350</sup> This extraordinary Patent did not operate for two years, even as regarded the two Counties granted for life, for on May 15, 1234, Robert de Haia, hitherto the Deputy of Peter de Rivallis, was appointed Sheriff absolute.<sup>351</sup> This will be explained by what Matthew Paris tells us of this favourite of the Crown, and his fortunes.<sup>352</sup> And here I must not hesitate to give some lengthy extracts from that Chronicler. The career of this Dean of St. Mary Magdalene, is connected with great events and interests. His name is the chief feature of our list, and, not having held any other distinguished Church Preferment, it is not probable that his biography has been attempted elsewhere.—

Peter de Rivallis (or Orivallis) was a Poitevin by descent, ostensibly the Nephew, perhaps really the Son, of Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester, the all-powerful Minister, first of King John, and afterwards of Henry III. It was in 1232 that the Bishop's influence (growing greater by the fall of Hubert de Burgh) secured for his relative the appointment of "Treasurer of the Chamber" in the King's household. This office gave him the custody of all the Crown Escheats and Wardships,<sup>353</sup> and his success in replenishing the Royal Coffers was most unequivocal.

In the year 1233 Matthew Paris relates that the Bishop and Peter de Rivallis, with their Deputies (Stephen de Segrave and Robert Passelewe) possessed the sole confidence of the King, and whilst the Bishop disposed all the affairs of the kingdom to his own liking, the custody of the Royal Castles was bestowed on Peter de Rivallis.—This must be an allusion to the various Shrievalties which had been conferred on him in the previous year.

It was probably the ascendancy of Peter de Rivallis in Shropshire, which, in January, 1234, drew upon that County the animosity of Richard Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. That nobleman, disgusted with the favour shown by Henry to "the Poitovins," as his Ministers were called, and by the treatment which he himself had experienced from the King, was then in open rebellion. Leaguings with Llewelin he laid waste the County to the very gates of Shrews-

<sup>350</sup> *Pat.* 16 Hen. III.

<sup>351</sup> *Pat.* 18 Hen. III.

<sup>352</sup> *Matth. Paris*, passim, sub annis.

<sup>353</sup> Vide *Rot. Fin.* passim, sub annis 1232, 1233.

bury, and, if we may credit Matthew Paris, burnt part of the town itself.<sup>354</sup>

The same Chronicler tells us of a forged letter, by which the Bishop of Winchester and "his son, or relation, Peter de Rivallis," soon afterwards contrived to revenge themselves on the Earl Marshall. This letter, addressed to the Magnates of Ireland, and purporting to be sanctioned by the King, announced the forfeiture and proscription of the Earl in England, ordered his instant arrest, if he appeared in Ireland, and promised partition of his estates there, to those who would assist in his capture. Eleven members of the Poitovin government constituted themselves sureties for the King's fulfilment of this promise.

The Magnates of Ireland, not satisfied with the form of these instructions, sent messengers requiring the King's sealed-Charter on the subject. To meet their demands the Poitovins are actually said to have forged the required document, and to have affixed the the Great Seal without knowledge or consent of the King or his Chancellor. The plot succeeded. The Earl, hearing of the consequent invasion of his Irish possessions, crossed the Channel in February, 1234. Entrapped into a skirmish on the 1st of April, he maintained against fearful odds the dignity of his name and office, but fell, dangerously wounded, into the hands of his enemies. His captivity and sufferings, when at length his recovery seemed possible, were aggravated by every species of malice.—

The forged Charter, ordering his seizure and forfeiture, was paraded before his eyes.—His lands and Castles were peremptorily required of him.—He was threatened with lawful execution as a rebel taken in battle.—A surgical operation, used indeed at the period, but barbarous beyond expression, was applied to his wound without ostensible necessity. The Chirurgeon employed, wantonly and wilfully, increased its severity. The Earl was attacked with acute fever and died on the 16th day of his captivity (April 16, 1234). Thus, by the machination of the Poitovins, fell one who was reputed to be the "Flower of Chivalry in his day."<sup>355</sup>

Meanwhile, that is on Feb. 2, King Henry, in a conference at Westminster, had heard the grave remonstrances of his Bishops. His animosity against the Earl Marshal, the favour shown to

<sup>354</sup> Vide *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, p. 111, where it is probably enough suggested that only part of the suburbs, viz. Frankwell, was thus devastated.

<sup>355</sup> "Militiæ flos temporum modernorum." M. Paris.

foreigners, and the increasing powers accorded to Peter de Rivallis ("whose seal was as necessary as that of the King, when any weighty business was in hand") were the chief matters of complaint.

A second conference, on April 9th, again confronted the King and his Prelates. The latter, now headed by Edmund, their recently consecrated Metropolitan, recapitulated the grievances which afflicted the whole kingdom: they even threatened the King with excommunication. In a few days the Bishop of Winchester had orders to quit the Court, and Peter de Rivallis to give up his Castles. The latter was also required to render account of all his treasury business, the King swearing (as the exulting Chronicler tells us), that, had it not been for his clerical office, he would have ordered his eyes to be put out.<sup>356</sup>

When Easter (April 23) was past, the King journeyed towards Gloucester. Resting a night at Woodstock,<sup>357</sup> news reached him of the death of the Earl Marshal in Ireland. The King's grief, genuine or not, was unbounded in expression. At Gloucester he became reconciled with Hubert de Burgh and others, who had previously deserved or provoked the Royal displeasure. There, too, his anger against the Poitovins reached its height, on discovery of the forgery and fraud which had ended in the death of the Earl Marshal.<sup>358</sup> The Poitovins and their accomplices were *Murderers*, and were immediately served with summonses to appear before the King on June 24 following, and then give account both of their management of the Royal Treasure and their misuse of the Royal Seal. The Bishop and Peter de Rivallis at once took asylum in Winchester Cathedral, Stephen de Seagrave and Robert Passelewe elsewhere.

An adjourned day was appointed for their trial, viz. July 14, at Westminster. Then and there they appeared, their safe conduct

<sup>356</sup> *M. Paris*, sub anno. It is evident that the political feeling of this Chronicler seriously compromises his accuracy. After this Council (of April 9th) he tells us that the King despatched the Archbishop and several Suffragans into Wales to treat with Lewellyn and the Earl Marshall; while he elsewhere shows us that the Earl had left Wales two months earlier, and was now dying in Ireland. The known date also (May 15) when Peter de Rivallis

was deprived of the Shrievalty of Shropshire hardly tallies with such an explosion of Royal anger so long before as April 9th.

<sup>357</sup> The King was at Woodstock on May 9th (*Rot. Pat.*).

<sup>358</sup> This appears to have been on May 29, when also, at Gloucester, the Patent appointing Robert de Haya, Sheriff of Shropshire, was repeated. The first Patent (that of the 15th) bore date at Winchcombe.



having meanwhile been guaranteed by the Archbishop and his Suffragans.

Peter de Rivallis was first put upon his defence. "He appeared before the King in a Clerical garb with the tonsure and broad crown, but with an *anelace*<sup>359</sup> hanging from his belt. He reverently saluted the King, who was sitting on the Bench with his Justiciars. The King, regarding him with a fierce glance, exclaimed, 'O Traitor, by thy iniquitous device I unwittingly affixed my seal to letters which betrayed the Earl Marshal; also by thy base counsel did I banish him and other born Englishmen (*homines naturales*) from the kingdom, and alienated their hearts and affections from my person. It was the false prompting of thee and thy accomplices which induced me to levy war upon those men, to my own irreparable loss and the disgrace of the kingdom; by which war I grievously threw away my own treasure and honour, and the lives of illustrious subjects.' The King, moreover, required from him account of his treasure and the custodies of noble wards and escheats, with many other sources of revenue which belonged to the Crown."

"The accused denied none of the charges which were made against him, but falling on the earth before the King implored mercy in these words: 'My Lord King,' said he, 'I have been nurtured by you and made rich in temporal goods: ruin not the man of thy own creating; but at least grant me time to deliberate, so that I may render due account as to the things which you demand.' The King decided that the required deliberation should take place in the Tower. Peter remonstrated, saying that he was a Clerk and might not be imprisoned or given into custody of laymen. The King answered that the accused had ever demeaned himself as a layman, and as a layman he was now required to give account of his "Stewardship;" he should, however, be given into custody of the Archbishop if the latter would be responsible for the alleged exactions of the Minister. The Archbishop kept silence; so Peter was committed to the Tower, the King confiscating all his lay possessions, 'because, under his clerical habit he wore a breast-plate and carried an *anelace* at his girdle, as became not a Clerk.'"

Peter remained two days in the Tower, and was then restored by the Archbishop to his asylum in Winchester Cathedral.

The trial of Stephen de Segrave resulted in his release, his main

<sup>359</sup> A large knife used indifferently at table, or as a dagger.

defence being the inculpation of Peter de Rivallis, as his Principal. The disgrace of neither lasted for more than two years, and their full restoration to Royal favour in June, 1236, makes the insincerity of Henry's conduct, at the time of their trial, only too apparent. The King had most probably acted a concerted part to free himself from the stigma of the Earl Marshall's death. The descendant of him, who, having instigated the murder of Becket, affected to abhor the deed, but only for a time repudiated its perpetrators,—the Grandson of Henry II seems to have inherited both the malice and the craft of his ancestor.

In 1249 Peter de Rivallis appears as joint Custos of the Great Seal during the temporary absence of the Chancellor from Court.<sup>360</sup>

At the Inquisition of 1255, the Jurors for the Borough of Brug returned his Prebend as involving the Church of Claverley, with its members of Bobiton, Burchton, and Quatford, and being of the annual value of 40 merks.<sup>361</sup> The more detailed presentments of the Jurors of Claverley, on the same subject, shall be given when we come to that Manor.

From November, 1256, to April, 1258, Peter de Rivallis appears in his old office of Treasurer of the King's Wardrobe; and the last which I have to say of him is in a Charter dated May 20, 1258, whereby the King grants him a piece of land in Winchester at a fee-farm rent of 2*d.* per annum.<sup>362</sup>

The time of his death I cannot determine, but on 18 Feb. 1265, a Patent is on the Rolls, whereby—

STEPHEN DE LONDON was presented to the Deanery of Brug. A second Patent, dated March 2, 1265, and addressed to the Constable, appoints—

WILLIAM DE MONTFORT to the same preferment.<sup>363</sup> The latter had already (by grant of Feb. 7) a Prebend in the Church. His name, and the period of these grants, sufficiently point out his connexion with Simon de Montfort, the then disposer of the Royal patronage and Keeper of the Royal person. The advantages which accrued to the relatives of that ardent patriot will not have been permanent. I cannot suppose that William de Montfort held the Deanery, thus conferred, after the event of August 4, 1256; but I find not the appointment of his Successor, who was Dean in September, 1266. This was—

MICHAEL DE FYNES. On the 20th of January, 1267, Laurence

<sup>360</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 33 Hen. III.

<sup>361</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59.

<sup>362</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 42 Hen. III, memb. 6.

<sup>363</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 49 Hen. III.

de Brok, as Attorney for the Crown, and Michael de Fynes, Dean of the Free Chapel of Brug, were Plaintiffs against Walter de Coggesheye, Philip de Mutton, and Thomas de Lutteleg, whom they accused of coming to Michael's house at Bobinton and seizing corn of 100s. value, which they found at Burton, and which was his property &c. The Defendants appeared not, and had made previous *defaults*. Walter being a Clerk, the Bishop of Chester was enjoined to cause his appearance on the *quinzaine* of Easter. The other Defendants had lands in Mutton and Lutley, whereby the Sheriff was to *distrain* them to appear at the same term.<sup>364</sup>

This cause was associated with another which was in progress at the time, some details of which shall be given here, though they might more properly appear under Bobington. It would seem that Walter de Cokesaye, the above Defendant, having been presented to Bobington Church by John Fitz Philip, was ejected by Michael de Fynes, who claimed the Advowson as a member of his Deanery. The corn, said to have been carried off, was probably the property of the rightful Incumbent, whoever that might be. Thus, while the Dean prosecuted Walter for trespass, Walter sued the Dean for ejection. The latter suit came before the King himself at Shrewsbury, in August or September, 1267, and was adjourned for further hearing to Saturday, September 10th.<sup>365</sup>

On that day Walter did not appear, and was pronounced to be *in contempt*.<sup>366</sup> He was further summoned to appear before the King at Westminster on October 13th, to answer for the said *contempt*, and to hear sentence in the suit. Still he came not, so his *manucaptors*, Hugh de Bolinghale, William le Eyr, Robert de Merc, William Provost of Bobington, and Henry de Prestwood, were declared to be *in misericordid*, and the Sheriff was ordered to have their bodies in Court on February 3, 1268.<sup>367</sup>

On the same 13th of October, William de Gundeville, as Attorney for the King, and Michael de Fines, by his Attorney, appeared against Philip de Mutton, Walter de Cokesaye &c., in the plea of

<sup>364</sup> *Placita coram Rege. Westm.* Hilary Term, 51 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>365</sup> *Placita coram Rege.* Salop 51 Hen. III, memb. 4 recto.

<sup>366</sup> Though Walter made no appearance on the 10th of Sept. it would seem that John Fitz Philip, son of that John Fitz Philip who had presented him to Bobington, did. Thus arose a third suit between

the Crown and the Lord of Bobington, the whole pleadings in which shall be given under Bobington.

<sup>367</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Michaelmas Term, 51 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto. A summary is given in the *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, p. 161, but not such as to distinguish the successive moves in the suit.

trespass,<sup>368</sup> which thus appears to have been further adjourned from Easter Term previous. It would now seem that the non-appearance of Walter was attributable to the Bishop, whom thereupon the Sheriff was ordered to *attach* personally and have in Court on Feb. 3, 1268.

On February 3, however, Walter himself appeared in Court. The trespass with which he was charged was stated to have been committed on Friday, Sept. 3, 1266. He now denies the violence and injury &c. (in the usual form), and appeals to a Jury of the Country. The Sheriff is accordingly instructed to summon such Jury to appear before the King, in five weeks of Easter (*circa* May 13, 1268).<sup>369</sup>

The same day was given to William de Gundeville (the King's Attorney) and John Fitz Philip, in their cross-suit.<sup>370</sup>

On that day (May 13) a further adjournment took place, viz. to the *quinzaine* of the Holy Trinity, *i. e.* June 17, 1268.<sup>371</sup>

I find no record of what took place then; but a memorandum or Postscript added to the Roll of Michaelmas Term, 1267 (above cited) states what I take to have been the ultimate result of both suits.

On July 1, 1268, Michael de Fynes (as Prosecutor for the Crown) and John Fitz Philip came into Court, and John, by license of the said Court, rendered up seizin of the Advowson of Bobington, saving to himself his right, whenever he should again choose to stir in the cause. The Sheriff was hereupon ordered to give the King full seizin of the aforesaid Advowson.

At the Salop Assizes, October 1272, a new Dean of Brug had been appointed and was then in possession.—

MASTER BONETAS DE SAINT QUINTIN was returned by the Jurors of the Borough as holding the Prebend of Claverley, which was of 60 merks annual value.<sup>372</sup> Pope Nicholas Taxation (1291) does not give the name of the then Dean of Brug, nor does it mention specifically his Church of Claverley or its value, but, under the Deanery of Lapley and Tresel, it values the Spiritualities of the Church of Brug at £54. 13s. 4d.<sup>373</sup> This, as I have before said, probably referred to the endowment of the chief Prebend or

<sup>368</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 8 dorso. The Rolls of Easter Term 1267, which should contain the intermediate step in this cause, are lost.

<sup>369</sup> *Placita coram Rege*. Hilary Term, 52 Hen. III, memb. 13 recto.

<sup>370</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 12 dorso.

<sup>371</sup> *Placita coram Rege*. Easter Term, 52 Hen. III, memb. 17.

<sup>372</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso.

<sup>373</sup> *Pop. Nic. Tax.* p. 243.

Deanery. The same Taxation records a portion in the Church of Stottesden which belonged to the Dean of Brug, and was of 6s. 8d. annual value.<sup>374</sup> This reminds us of that third of the tithes of Stottesden which were granted to the Collegiate Church of Quatford in Earl Roger's foundation-charter.<sup>375</sup>

The non-mention of the Dean's name in Pope Nicholas' Taxation was probably owing to the death of Bonetas de Saint Quintin, at the period of that valuation.<sup>376</sup> Certainly his successor,—WALTER DE LANGTON had been presented early in 1291, if not in December 1290.<sup>377</sup>

At the Salop Assizes of October, 1292, the Jurors of Brug presented Walter de Langton as holding one of the six Prebends of St. Mary Magdalene, viz. "that called Luddesdon." This was the Deanery, Luddesdon, a member of Claverley, being part of the endowment thereof. These Jurors valued the Prebend at 100 merks (£66. 13s. 4d.) per annum.<sup>378</sup>

Walter de Langton being a Canon of Lichfield, was elected Bishop of that See 20 Feb. 1296, and consecrated 22 Dec. in the same year. He obtained a license to hold his Deanery in *commendam*, provided he could get a five years' dispensation from the Pope.<sup>379</sup> The latter seems to have been denied him, for on 8 April, 26 Edw. I (1298), the Sheriff of Shropshire had the King's mandate to induct—

AMAND DE SABAUDIA (SAVOY) to this Deanery.

WILLIAM DE SABAUDIA was appointed 20 June, 1300 (28 Edw. I), and on his resignation,—

PETER DE SABAUDIA had the appointment, dated 28 May, 1301 (29 Edw. I).

In 1 Edw. II (1307-8), the Prebend of Walton was granted to the then Dean, and in 2 Edw. II (1308-9),<sup>380</sup>—

ENGELARD DE WORLE was appointed to the Deanery.

<sup>374</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 166.

<sup>375</sup> *Supra*, p. 109.

<sup>376</sup> He is the first Dean of Brug mentioned on Willis' List, (*Mitred Abbies*, vol. ii, p. 190), and is said moreover to have died "about 1293;" but that date is not early enough.

<sup>377</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 19 Ed. I, memb. 25. Willis dates his presentation 20 Dec. 1293, where probably the error has arisen from a false

calculation between the *dominical* and *regnal* years of the period.

<sup>378</sup> *Placita Corone* 20 Edw. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>379</sup> Willis, *ut supra*. His list is also my authority for the following appointments, except that the *dominical* year assigned by Willis is inconsistent in each case with the *regnal* year, which latter I presume him to quote correctly from the Rolls.

<sup>380</sup> *Pat.* 2 Ed. II, p. i, m. 20.

THOMAS DE EYTON seems to have been presented to this Deanery 19 Feb., 11 Ed. II (1318).<sup>381</sup> It was upon his presumed death in 1327, and the consequent presentation of—

HENRY DE HARLEY in the same year, that a contest arose about this preferment.<sup>382</sup> The result was the revocation of Harley's appointment and the reinstatement of—

THOMAS DE EYTON. On Sept. 19, 1334 (8 Ed. III)—

THOMAS TALBOT, CLERK, was presented to the Deanery.<sup>383</sup>

The remaining Deans, whose names I take from a collation of second authorities,<sup>384</sup> were,—

THOMAS KEYNES, 1353.

WILLIAM DE WENLOK, 35 Ed. III (1361-2).

THOMAS DE BRANTYNHAM, 12 July, 43 Ed. III (1369).

HENRY DE WAKEFIELD, 25 April, 44 Ed. III (1370): but his appointment was revoked, and—

ROGER DE OFFLEY<sup>385</sup> appointed, 30 May, 1370.

THOMAS SPARKFORD, 15 Sept. 16 Ric. II (1392).

JOHN DOOR occurs 10 Sept. 1395.

NICHOLAS SLAKE, 6 Aug. 2 Hen. IV (1401).

COLUMBINUS, SON OF GEORGE DE DUNBAR, EARL OF MARCH, 26 Feb. 4 Hen. IV (1403).

JOHN MARSHALL, 9 May, 11 Hen. IV (1410).

HENRY LEVER,<sup>386</sup> 1 Edw. IV (1461-2).

RICHARD MARTIN, 16 Oct. 16 Edw. IV (1476).

In 1535, under the Diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, and the Archdeaconry of Stafford, the following return appears.<sup>387</sup>—

THOMAS MAGNUS, Dean of the Collegiate Church of St. Mary Magdalene, holds the Prebend of Ludston, which is worth in glebe land, clear of deductions, £4. per annum. He also holds the Rectory of Claverley, which is worth in tithes, offerings &c. £36. per annum. His Deanery was therefore valued at £40. per annum.

<sup>381</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. viii, p. 1463, quoting Dr. Hutton's Collections in Bibl. Harl.

<sup>382</sup> The particulars are given by Mr. Dukes' (*Antiquities*, page 49). In several lists Thomas de Eyton is written as Thomas Knokyn, by mistake of some transcriber.

<sup>383</sup> *Pat.* 8 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 25. He had formerly held the Prebend of Alveley (vide supra, p. 122). A previous Patent (7 Ed. III, p. 2, m. 14) relates to Talbot's

appointment to the Deanery, if an "Index of Presentations," at the Tower, be correct.

<sup>384</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. viii, p. 1463. Dukes' Appendix, p. xxxvi; Willis (ut supra); Tanner's Notitia (Introduction, xlv); and Blakeway's MSS.

<sup>385</sup> Written "Otery." (*Monast.*)

<sup>386</sup> "Henry Sever, 1460," (Tanner).

<sup>387</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 199.

I have already noticed a Chantry founded in the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene in time of King Edward I.<sup>388</sup>

I must refer elsewhere for particulars of the Revenues of this once great Collegiate establishment, after its dissolution in 1 Ed. VI (1547):<sup>389</sup> so also for a statement as to some life-pensions still payable, to certain survivors of the Chapter, in 1553.<sup>390</sup>

More consistently with the scope of the present work, I subjoin the names of one or two Prebendaries, whose stalls I have been unable to identify with any show of probability. They were,—

JOHN MANSEL, who, at his death in 1264, was seized of a Prebend here (perhaps Morville and Underdon). It is fitting to say who he was. Through a period of twenty-five years he was employed in various offices of honour and trust by King Henry III. He was his Envoy to the Emperor of Germany in 1238: in 1242, he accompanied the King abroad, and was made prisoner by the French at the battle of Xantoinne: he was Chancellor of England from Nov. 1246 to Oct. 1249: and Ambassador to the King of Castile in 1254. In July, 1262, he accompanied the King abroad, as Keeper of the Great Seal, and returned with him to England in December following. When, in 1263, the Queen left England, John Mansel, fearing the animosity and increasing power of the Barons' party,

<sup>388</sup> *Supra*, p. 114.

<sup>389</sup> Dukes' *Antiquities (ut supra)*, where the receipts of the whole Collegiate establishment are stated at £131. 19s. 3½d.

A MS. in my possession (professing to be an extract from papers of the "Reverend Mr. Richard Cornes, Minister of the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth") gives a certificate of 20th Nov. (2 Edw. VI) 1548, relative to the value of this Church. The original, which seems to have been in the Court of Augmentations and is possibly still preserved, is not rendered in any coherent or intelligible way. It may, however, suffice for the following facts:—

The gross annual value of the Church was	£131 6 2½
Thomas Magnus, Dean, had other preferment, and here .	51 18 2
John Synger, Prebendary, had other preferment, and here .	6 8 4
John Fisher, Prebendary, had other preferment, and here .	6 0 0

John Leveson, Prebendary, had other preferment, and here .	£10 0 0
Hugh Coroner, Prebendary, had other preferment, and here .	20 0 0
Hamelet King, Prebendary, had other preferment, and here .	6 6 0
Stipends paid to diverse Curates	22 0 0
John Preen, Stipendiary	4 10 1
	£127 . 2 . 7.

We have thus a probable statement as to the latest Incumbents of the Deanery and five Prebends of St. Mary Magdalene.

This document (the result of at least a second transcription) is so manifestly incorrect that I will not quote it further.

<sup>390</sup> Willis (*ut supra*), where "a pension of £10. is stated to be still payable to Hugh Curren, or Curwen, Prebendary; another of £6. 13s. 4d. to John Leason, Incumbent, and another of £4. 10s. to John Penne, Incumbent."

Each of these names is traceable in Mr. Cornes' List of 1548.

followed her, and shared her foreign exertions in behalf of the Royal interests, till his own death in 1264. His chief ecclesiastical preferments were the Chancellorship of St. Paul's, to which he was appointed in 1243, the Deanery of Wimbourn (a Royal Collegiate Church in Dorsetshire), the Prepositure of Beverley (Yorkshire), and the Treasurership of York. He was reputed to be the "richest Clerk in the world." He founded the two Priors of Bilsington and Rumney, in Kent. His death happening during the King's captivity, the Earl of Leicester presented Almaric de Montfort to the Treasurership of York.<sup>391</sup> A similar use of the Great Seal on 7 Feb. 1265, appointed—

WILLIAM DE MONTFORT to the Prebend which John Mansel had held in the Church of Brug.<sup>392</sup> We have already shown the Deanery to have been conferred on this new Prebendary on the 2d of March following, and that his tenure of either will, under the circumstances of the appointments, have expired in a few months.<sup>393</sup> In 1295,—

WILLIAM, SON OF WILLIAM DE BRUGES, was presented to a Prebend in this Church; <sup>394</sup> and in 1334—

ROBERT DE TANTON had a similar appointment.<sup>395</sup>

#### CHANCERY OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

The Chantry founded in this Church by Richard Dammas, about 1294, has twice been spoken of.<sup>396</sup> It remained till the Dissolution, and in 1553, John Sanger, late the Incumbent thereof, was receiving a pension of £6. from the Crown.<sup>397</sup>

#### CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD.<sup>398</sup>

As late as the time of Henry VIII, when John Leland visited Bridgnorth, St. Leonard's remained the only Parish Church in the

<sup>391</sup> This appointment was expressly revoked by the King three days after the battle of Evesham, as one which he had made (among many) under coercion of his gaolers (*Rot. Pat.* 49 Hen. III, dated 7 Aug.)

<sup>392</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 49 Hen. III.

<sup>393</sup> *Supra*, p. 334.

<sup>394</sup> *Pat.* 23 Edw. I, memb. 15.

<sup>395</sup> *Pat.* 8 Edw. III, p. 2, memb. 25.

<sup>396</sup> *Supra*, pp. 114, 339.

<sup>397</sup> Willis' *Abbies*, vol. ii, p. 193.

<sup>398</sup> There may be a doubt as to the Patron Saint of this Church. St. Leonard, Abbot of Noblac, whose anniversary was Nov. 6, is usually understood to be the Patron Saint of English Churches thus named. But a fair of four days, the first of which was to be "the feast of the Translation of St. Leonard," was granted to this town by Edward III, and seems to be but a slight alteration from the fair



Town.<sup>399</sup> It is hardly supposable that the Borough, even in its infancy, was without such an establishment. Though the site of Brug was comprehended in the great Saxon Parish of Morville, and though the Mother Church of Morville was, in the days of King Henry I, no mean structure, its proximity can hardly have been sufficient for the spiritual wants of a rising Borough. It is, moreover, probable in one case, and certain in the other, that Tasley and Oldbury, subject Chapels of Morville, and nearer to Brug than the Mother Church, were yet unfounded in the beginning of the reign of Henry I.

To that early period, as coeval with the foundation of the Borough, we may therefore reasonably assign the foundation of St. Leonard's; but, as yet, no architectural or documentary evidence occurs to strengthen this assumption.

The earliest written notice to which I can refer on this subject, is an undated deed, which, though it implies the pre-existence of the Church of St. Leonard's, cannot itself be positively ascribed to an older period than the middle of the thirteenth century.—

“Roger, Son of Richard Irish (Hybernensis) sells to Walter Palmer, for 6s., a rent of 6d., issuing from certain field-land without the Cemetery of St. Leonard, which land William Sholton held of the Vendor at said rent.—Witnesses: Elias Fitz William and William Aurifaber, Prætors of Brug, Hamo Palmer, Walter Aurifaber, John, Son of William de Cantreyn, Hugh de Eudon, John his Brother, and many others.”<sup>400</sup>

At the Inquisitions of 1255, the Borough Jurors returned the Church of St. Leonard as being in the King's gift.<sup>401</sup>

The Taxation of 1291 does not mention this Church. An incidental notice of the year 1292 has already occurred.<sup>402</sup> This

granted by Henry III, on the vigil, the day, and the morrow of St. Luke.

This fair, or its modern counterpart, is now held on Oct. 29th, but still called “Luke's fair,” though St. Luke's day is on Oct. 18th. Now St. Luke's day brings us much nearer to Oct. 15th, the day of St. Leonard of Vandœuvre, with whom also, alone of the two Saints in question, has any legend of the translation of relics been connected. I hardly need say that the Patron Saint of a Parish Church is often identical with the Saint on whose

anniversary the principal fair of the said Parish is, or was, held.

<sup>399</sup> “There is but one Paroeh Church in the Towne, a very fayre one and dedicated to St. Leonard.” (*Itinerary*, vol. iv, part ii, fo. 182 a.)

<sup>400</sup> Charter at Apley. Another deed attested by these Prætors is also witnessed by Reginald le Gaugy, who was murdered in 1250-1. We thus obtain the limit, as to date, assigned above.

<sup>401</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59.

<sup>402</sup> *Supra*, page 114.

obscurity of a large Parish Church, during two hundred years, may probably be attributed to the poverty of its endowment, a defect which was remedied in the fourteenth century, by the foundation of one or more Chantries here. The Founders of these Chantries were Burgesses of the Town, and the Revenues granted for their support were derived from Borough property.

I must be contented to give references, in a note,<sup>403</sup> to the principal documents which affected these foundations. It will be sufficient to state here, that, in 1535, the general Valuation of Ecclesiastical Property recognised only two Chantries in St. Leonard's Church, and took no notice whatever of any endowment as attaching to the Church itself.—

These Chantries are described as those of "St. Thomas and of St. Mary the Virgin."—

"William Swanwyke, Chaplain of the former, had lands and tenements granted in *mortmain* to his Chantry, lying within the Town of Bridgnorth and its Liberties (in the Archdeaconry of Stafford, and the Diocese of Coventry and Lichfield), of the annual value of £3. 6s. 8d."

"Richard Preste, Chaplain of the Chantry of St. Mary the Virgin,

<sup>403</sup> *Inquis. ad quod Damnum*, 18 Edw. II, No. 131.—Reginald de la Legh,—his proposed Chantry.

*Pat.* 18 Edw. II, p. 2, memb. 14.—License to Reginald de la Legh to found a Chantry in St. Leonard's Church and endow it with 1 messuage, 4 acres of land, and 50s. rent in Bruges.

*Pat.* 5 Edw. III, p. 3, memb. 8.—For the Chantry of St. Leonard of Bridgnorth.

*Pat.* 11 Edw. III, p. 2, memb. 4.—License to William de la Hulle, confirming a previous license for endowment of three Chaplains here. (The particulars are more fully given in Mr. Dukes' Appendix, p. xxxvii.)

*Pat.* 24 Edw. III, p. 2, memb. 22.—For a Chantry here.

*Pat.* 26 Edw. III, p. 2, memb. 19.—License to Peter de Bruges to grant lands of 40s. annual value to a Chaplain, to pray for his soul in the Chapel of St. Leonard and the Hospital of St. James in Bruges. (See Dukes' Appendix, p. xl.)

*Inquis. ad quod Damnum*, 43 Edw. III, No. 27.—Jurors say that "in diminution of divine worship two parochial Chaplains are withdrawn, viz. one in the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene and another in the Church of St. Leonard."

*Inquis. ad quod Damnum*, 44 Edw. III, No. 23.—William Selmon and others gave to three Chaplains 6 messuages and 18 acres of land in Bruggenorth to celebrate divine service daily in the Church of St. Leonard, for the souls of the Burgesses of the said Town &c.

*Pat.* 45 Edw. III. Recites the last and previous grants (Dukes' Appendix, p. xxxvii).

*Pat.* 12 Ric. II, p. 1, memb. 16.—Grant of 16 messuages, 5 acres of land, and 40s. rent to a Chantry in St. Leonard's.

Mr. Dukes, in his *Antiquities* (page 50) and Appendix (pp. xxxvii and xxxviii), quotes other and later documents affecting these Chantries.

had lands and tenements similarly described, and of the annual value of £2. 14s.<sup>404</sup>

These Chantries were subsequently dissolved, and in 1553, William Swanewick, and Richard Knolles, Incumbents of a Chantry, or Chantries, in St. Leonard's, were in receipt of pensions of £5. each.<sup>405</sup>

#### HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

This House, dedicated also to the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist, is reputed, on good evidence, to have been founded by Ralph le Strange, Lord of Alveley, in the time of Richard I.

Records, unconnected with this foundation, and which will be cited elsewhere, inform us of the illness and early death of Ralph le Strange, in 1195, while actively engaged in the King's service in Wales. Such circumstances, and the period at which they occurred (soon after the Crusade of Richard I), fitly associate themselves with the origin of this establishment, as declared by tradition.

Referring to other authorities for the constitution and objects of these houses in general,<sup>406</sup> and for many particulars of this, I will merely state those circumstances which further illustrate its history, and have not hitherto been brought together.

The Hospital, usually called St. John's, stood in the Low Town of Bridgnorth, within the angle formed by Mill Street and St. John's Street, east of the former and north of the latter, to which it, of course, communicated its name.

Thus placed, the house commanded every highway by which travellers could approach the Town from places lying Eastward of the Severn. In other words, the various roads, which, traversing or skirting the great Forest of Morf, from Pendlestone Mill, from

<sup>404</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 199.

<sup>405</sup> Willis' *Abbies*, ii, 193.

<sup>406</sup> Tanner describes these Hospitals as "houses for the relief of poor and impotent people, incorporated by Royal Patents, and made capable of gifts and grants in succession."

"Besides the poor and impotent," says he, "there generally were in these Hospitals two or three Religious: one to be Master or Prior, and one or two to be Chaplains and Confessors; and these ob-

served the rule of St. Austin, and probably subjected the poor and impotent to some religious restraints, as well as to the local statutes. Hospitals were originally designed for relief and entertainment of travellers upon the road and particularly of pilgrims, and therefore were generally built upon the road's side; but of later years they have always been founded for fixed inhabitants." (Preface to *Notit. Monastica*, p. xviii, Nasmith's edition.)

Worfield, from Claverley, or from Quatford, converged towards the Eastern end of the Bridge, will have first passed within sight of St. John's. This situation was doubtless relevant to the primary object of such a foundation, viz. the relief of travellers.

The road by which St. John's was approached from Quatford, on the South, was further called Spital (*i. e.* Hospital) Street; but it seems doubtful whether that name was derived from the Hospital under notice, or the Hospital of St. James, presently to be mentioned.

The earliest Royal recognition of the former bears date at Salop, 9 March, 1223,—when Henry III grants to the Brethren of the Hospital of St. John, of Brug, twelve cart loads of dry wood in Morf Forest. This precept is addressed to Hugh Fitz Robert (Forester of Shropshire) and *tested* by Hubert de Burgh.<sup>407</sup>

On Aug. 30, 1226, King Henry III, then at Bruges, commands the same Hugh Fitz Robert to allow the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity of Bruges to have three oak trees in Morf Forest for their fire, of the King's gift.<sup>408</sup>

At the Inquisition of 1255, in answer to a question as to the alienation of Serjeantries, or of any part thereof, the Jurors of Bruges said, that the Prior of the Hospital of Brug held half a virgate of Ralph de Eudinas (Ewdness), whose tenure was by Serjeantry.<sup>409</sup>

The Jurors of Nordley Regis and Alveley, on the same occasion, and in answer to an inquiry as to tenants of lands within those demesne Manors, said that the Hospital of the Holy Trinity of Brug held therein three and a half virgates of land, by Testament of Ralph le Strange. The Jurors knew not by what service the Hospital held this land, but they stated that the Priors had withdrawn all suit, from the local Manor-Court, to Brug.<sup>410</sup>

In 1274, the Jurors of the same two Manors reported the ancient alienation of 3½ virgates in Alveley, by “Ralph, son of Guy le Strange, who granted the said land in free and perpetual *almoigne* to the Hospital of *St. John*, of Brug.”<sup>411</sup>

In Oct. 1292, the Master of the Hospital of St. John was sued under *writ of right*, by the Crown, for this land, described as

<sup>407</sup> *Claus.* 7 Hen. III, memb. 16.

<sup>408</sup> *Claus.* 10 Hen. III, memb. 6.

<sup>409</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59. The Serjeantry and service of Ralph de Ewdness will belong more properly to the future ac-

count of that township, which was not in the Borough Liberties.

<sup>410</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 73.

<sup>411</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 102.

“3 virgates in Alvitheleye.”<sup>413</sup> The King’s Attorney set forth the Royal Title, as by descent from Henry II. The Master appeared in defence of his right “and in place of the King’s Great Assize, put himself on a Jury of the Country, which should make recognition as to who had the better claim to the premises, he or the King.” The Jurors found upon their oath, that “the Master had greater right to hold the land as he held it than the King to have it as he claimed it.” Therefore the Court gave sentence for the Master, “saving to the King his right” &c.

It is thus observable that, during the first century after its foundation, this House was variously described as the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, or of St. John, and its chief officer indifferently called Master or Prior, facts which will correct several misstatements on the subject.

I must refer to a note for further and fuller accounts of this establishment, or rather for such parts of other accounts as are free from error.<sup>413</sup>

<sup>412</sup> *Placita de Quo Warranto*, p. 674.

<sup>413</sup> See Dukes’ *Antiquities of Shropshire*, pp. 50, 51, where a Seal of one of the Masters of this Hospital is engraved, and some, not irrelevant, documents quoted; but a second Seal and two of the documents, there given, have nothing to do with this house, but relate to the Society of Friars Minors, presently to be noticed, and whose house stood West of the Severn.

See also the Appendix to the same work (p. xxxviii) for many extracts relating to this Hospital as well as a list of its Masters. To the latter I can only add the name of one Prior of the thirteenth Century, viz. Symon, who has already (p. 113) occurred, as witness to a deed, about 1280.

See also *New Monasticon*, vol. vii, pp. 663, 664, where however the document (Num. ii) refers to the Hospital of St. James, and where all the documents quoted from Tanner (in note *q*) as concerning St. John’s Hospital, belong to the Collegiate Church of Saint Mary Magdalene. It is further noticeable that the document, Num. i (wherein a Jury of Edward IV’s time found John Talbot the then deceased Earl of Shrewsbury to have

been lineal descendant and heir of Ralph le Strange, the Founder of this Hospital) however genuine itself, involves a gross error, and that the Pedigree by which those Jurors supported their finding was a false one.

A list of Records which are really given by Tanner, and by other authorities, in reference to this house may be useful. They are—

*Inquis. ad quod Damnum*, 10 Edw. II, No. 157. “Henr. Can pro Priore de Brugge.” “Brugge. De terris et tenementis ibidem.” (Calendar, page 253.)

*Pat.* 10 Edw. II, p. 2, m. 16. Pro terris in Quatford et Worfield. (Tanner.)

*Inquis. ad quod Damnum*, 17 Edw. II, No. 91. “Joh. Hubaud pro Hosp. Sanctæ Trinitatis. Brugges et More. Messuag. et terræ.” (Calendar, p. 273.)

*Pat.* 17 Edw. II, p. 2, m. 24. (Dukes’ *Antiquities*, p. 50.)

*Pat.* 3 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 11. (Tanner.)

*Inquis. ad quod Damnum*, 8 Edw. III, (Dukes’ Appendix, p. xxxviii.)

*Pat.* 9 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 25. (Tanner.)

*Pat.* 18 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 32. (Dukes’ Appendix, *ibidem*.)

*Pat.* 19 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 19. (Dukes’ *Antiquities*, p. 50.) [*Inquis.*

The Great Valuation of 1535 mentions this House in no other connexion than as a dependency of the Abbey of Lylleshall, which had long before obtained custody hereof.<sup>414</sup>

That Abbey therefore enumerates amongst its temporal possessions an annual income of £23. arising in Brigenorthe and Alveley. This large item probably included other revenue than that which had accrued with this Hospital,<sup>415</sup> for the Abbey had a distinct property in Bridgnorth, hereafter to be noticed, and appears to have held several leases of lands at Bridgnorth and Alveley under the Monks of Shrewsbury, the Nuns of Brewood, the Chantry of St. Thomas (in St. Leonard's Church), the Lords of Oldbury and of Netherton (near Quatford), and under several Burgesses of Bridgnorth. Some of these leases held, or rather quit-rents payable, by the Abbey of Lilleshall, in 1535, may however have been originally concerns of the Hospital. It is impossible, in short, to distinguish in this Valuation what lands the Abbey held as its own, what it acquired with the Hospital, or what, after it obtained the Hospital, it may have purchased or leased, in addition.

Besides these quit-rents, the property of Lilleshall Abbey in this quarter was chargeable in other ways.—

An annual fee of 8s. 8d. was due for *regard* to the King's Forester of Morf:—Richard Horde, Seneschall of Bridgnorth and Alveley, had a salary of £1. per annum.—The Chaplain of the Chantry of Jesus, in Lichfield Cathedral, was in receipt of an annual pension of £6. 13s. 4d. which had originally been payable by the Hospital.—A similar pension the Abbey also paid to the Chaplain, who still performed divine service in the Hospital Church.—

*Inquis. ad quod Damnum*, 19 Edw. III, No. 11. (*Calendar*, p. 315.)

*Pat.* 24 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 22. (Dukes' *Antiquities*, p. 50.)

*Pat.* 43 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 9. (Dukes' Appendix, p. xxxviii.)

*Pat.* 45 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 9 vel 15. (*Calendar*, and Tanner.)

*Pat.* 5 Ric. II, p. 2, m. 31. "Pro mortuo bosco, prout in Carta 16 Hen. III." (*Calendar*, p. 206.)

*Pat.* 11 Edw. IV, p. 2, m. 16. "Custodia concessa Abbatie de Lilleshall." (Tanner.)

<sup>414</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 197.

<sup>415</sup> The only notice by which I can identify the locality of any original property of the Hospital, within the Town, is a deed whereby "Christiana and Isabella, daughters of William le Keu, sell to Walter Palmer, Burgess of Brug, their house in Kougate, saving a rent, of 6d. per annum, payable to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity.—Witnesses: William Palmer, William Lambert, Provosts, Hamo Palmer, Henry Coyntrel, William Wondae, Philip de Petra, Robert Tinctor, Richard Clerk." (Charter at Apley.)

"Cowgate" was the upper part of the present "Cart-way."

Lastly, on the anniversary of Ralph le Strange, as Founder of this Hospital, the Abbot distributed a sum of 16*s.* 8*d.* to the poor.

The Grantee of this House, on the dissolution (in 30 Henry VIII), was Rowland Edwards, who had it with other possessions of Lilleshall Abbey.

#### HOSPITAL, OR LEPER HOUSE, OF ST. JAMES.

This Establishment belonged to a class essentially distinct from that of the Hospital of St. John above noticed, or of Hospitals in general.

The word *Hospital*, in its commonest modern acceptation, and the Latin word *Hospitium* convey a contrast of idea very similar.—

Sickness or disease are the prevailing notions involved in the former word, hospitality or shelter in the latter. So it was with these neighbouring and almost adjoining houses at Bridgnorth. While such societies as St. John's contemplated the relief of travellers, pilgrims, the poor, the aged, and the infirm in general, St. James's Leper House was intended only as a refuge for persons afflicted with formidable and perhaps contagious disease. In written documents, it is usually described as the *Domus Leprosorum Sancti Jacobi*, or as *Maladria Sancti Jacobi*, the latter term being the Latinized form for the French *Maladrarie*.<sup>416</sup> It stood East of the road which led from St. John's Hospital towards Quatford, and on the outside of the Town, a situation corresponding aptly with its design. Its Founders were probably the Community of the Borough of Brug, and such an establishment may well have been a part of the internal economy of the Town.

The origin or multiplication of these *Lazarettos* may perhaps be connected with a decree of the Eleventh General Council, which assembled in the Church of St. John Lateran, in March, 1179, under the auspices of Pope Alexander III.

The eleventh Canon, there promulgated, was entitled "De Leprosis," and ran as follows : <sup>417</sup>—

<sup>416</sup> There seems to have been a *Maladrerie* near Bridgnorth of older date than that of St. James, being described in deeds as "Vetus Maladria." It lay on the Oldbury side of the Town, and abutted on two ditches or water-courses called "Reymund's ditch," and the "ditch towards

Aldebur" (siehetum Reymundi et siehetum versus Aldebur). (*Charter at Apley Park*.)

<sup>417</sup> Chron. Gervas. Inter Decem Scriptores, p. 1450. The terms of this Canon and the language used in certain early Charters of these Leper-Houses would

“Whilst the Apostle enjoins that ‘more abundant honour be rendered to the weaker members,’ yet some men, on the contrary, seeking their own rather than Christ’s, allow not Lepers (who cannot dwell with the healthy, nor attend Churches with other men) to possess Churches or Cemeteries, or to be holpen by ministry of their own Priest. Which thing being evidently quite opposed to Christian piety, we, in Apostolick kindness, ordain that, wherever so many be congregated under a common mode of life as may suffice to build themselves a Church or Cemetery, and enjoy the ministry of their own Priest, they shall be permitted to have such advantages without contradiction. Let them, however, take heed that they injure not the parochial rights of older Churches; for that which is granted to them for piety’s sake, we will not to redound to the harm of another. And we further ordain that they be not compelled to give tithes of their gardens, or of the forage of their live-stock.”

Many of the large Towns of England had establishments, thus indicated and encouraged, in the thirteenth century. The Leper House of St. James was certainly founded previously to 1224; for on 22 September, in that year, King Henry III, being then at Bruges, issued the following Certificate to Hugh Fitz Robert, Forester of Shropshire:—“Know, that for the reverence of God, and for the health of our soul, and the soul of the Lord King John, our Father, we have granted to the Leprous Brethren of the Hospital of St. James at Bruges, that they may have one horse, daily plying in our Forest of Morf, to collect dry stumps and dead wood for their fire, until we come of age.” A similar Certificate was addressed to Hugh de Nevill, Justice of the Forest.<sup>418</sup>

seem to indicate that the term “Leprosy” was applicable only to contagious disease or what was believed to be so. On the other hand it is well known that paralytic affections were classified under the same term “Leprosy” in the middle ages; and (whereas Paralysis can scarcely have been accounted infectious even then) it would appear that the term was used to denote severe disease in a much more general sense than modern notions can at once apprehend.

It is not improbable, I think, that, in a Monastic age, any chronic or incapacitating disorder may have been taken to suggest

the necessity or propriety of the sufferer’s abstinence from social intercourse; that those who, under compulsion, or voluntarily, adopted this theory, formed societies of themselves, and that they came to be called Lepers, because their separate mode of life associated their condition with that of those, whom the well-known Scriptural plague of Leprosy banished from society and united to one another.

<sup>418</sup> *Claus.* 8 Hen. III, memb. 4. This Charter was apparently renewed after the King was of age, viz. in 1232 (*Calend. Rot. Cart.* p. 49). At all events it was in force in Nov. 1271, when, at the Forest



On 30 Aug. 1226, the Lepers of St. James obtained an order from King Henry III, for three oak-trees out of Morf Forest. The order is in similar terms with that granted on the same day to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, as quoted above.<sup>419</sup>

The next document, which I shall quote in connexion with this House, is a very early Charter of the thirteenth Century, whereby this Society demises a *curtilage* of their land at an annual rent of 20*d.*<sup>420</sup> The chief points noticeable in this Charter are, that the Society is constituted without any apparent Superior of its own body, that it acts under the guidance and with consent of the "good men of the Town," that its members are of both sexes, and that the entrance-fine paid by the Lessee is unusually small in comparison with the reserved rent,—showing that the object in view

Assizes held at Salop, it is entered on the Roll, with similar Charters to other individuals or Communities. (Forest Rolls, Salop, No. vi, memb. 1.)

<sup>419</sup> *Claus.* ii, p. 135, where the Grantees are printed as "Leprosi Sancti *Johannis* de Bruges." This is a mere mistake, and probably of the original rather than of Mr. Hardy's transcript. There was no such body at Bridgnorth as the Lepers of St. John, and the error possibly arose from the contemporary grant to the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, which was also a Hospital of St. John. It is curious, however, that an authoritative document should embody a confusion often made elsewhere.

<sup>420</sup> In possession of T. C. Whitmore, Esq., of Apley. As the earliest Charter which has occurred to me relating to property within the Borough, and as having a curious Seal of the House attached, I will transcribe it entire :—

"Universis Christi fidelibus ad quos presens Carta pervenerit, Fratres et Sorores Domus Dei et Beati Apostoli Jacobi et Leprosorum de Bruges, salutem in Domino. Noverit Universitas vestra nos cum consilio et assensu proborum hominum de Bruges dedisse et concessisse et hanc presenti cartâ nostrâ confirmasse Roberto le Woler' quoddam curtilagium in eadem villâ, illud videlicet quod jacet inter terram Philippi filii Ricardi et terram Ricardi de

Porta. Tenendum de Deo et beato Jacobo et Fratribus et Sororibus in domo nostrâ commanentibus et succedentibus predicto Roberto et heredibus suis, in feudo et hereditate, libere et quiete, bene et in pace et honorifice, pro sex denariis quos dedit nobis de introitu. Reddendo inde annuatim nobis et successoribus nostris viginti denarios, medietatem ad festum beatæ Mariæ in Martio et medietatem ad festum Sancti Michaelis, pro omni servitio et exactione. Concessimus siquidem predicto Roberto et heredibus suis dare vel vendere et omne velle suum de predicto curtilagio facere, salvo predicto reddito Deo et beato Jacobo et fratribus et sororibus in domo nostra succedentibus et ibidem Deo servientibus. Nos etiam et successores nostri predicto Roberto et heredibus suis predictum curtilagium pro predicto servitio warrantizabimus. Hiis testibus. Ricardo filio Stephani et Willielmo filio Godewini tunc Pretoribus, Willielmo Tinctore, Waltero Hybernensi, Rogero Wendac, Galfrido filio Stephani, Anketillo Clerico, Andrea fratre suo, Hamundo filio Walteri, Willielmo filio Thomæ, et multis aliis."

The Deed is beautifully written. The Seal of green wax, fastened to the deed by a cord of red and white hemp curiously interwoven, shall be given in an Illustration. The Legend (in full) is "Sigillum Leprosorum Sancti Jacobi de Brugia."

was a continuous annual income, rather than a present advantage. On Oct. 14, 1259, King Henry III granted letters patent of protection for the Lepers of St. James of Bruges, for five years.<sup>421</sup>

The endowment of a Chaplain in 26 Edw. III (1352-3), whose duties were partly connected with the Church of this Hospital, has been already noticed.<sup>422</sup>

In 1535, this Hospital is valued as annually in receipt of £4. net income. It was, however, then governed by a Superior, who is called Prior. His name was William Beyste.<sup>423</sup>

I refer elsewhere for further particulars.<sup>424</sup>

#### FRANCISCAN OR GREY FRIARS.

This Order, called also the Order of Friars Minors, was introduced into England early in the thirteenth Century. Its members established themselves in many of our principal towns during the reign of Henry III. The English Province of the Order came to be divided into seven districts, called "Custodies," because a Custos or Keeper presided over all Convents within each such district.

The House at Bridgnorth, founded in the time of Henry III, and dedicated to Saint Francis, was one of the nine Monasteries which were subject to the Custody or Wardenship of Worcester.<sup>425</sup>

It lay to the West of the Severn, under the Church of St. Leonard's. Some adjoining vaults are still known as the "Friars'

<sup>421</sup> *Pat.* 43 Hen. III.

<sup>422</sup> *Supra*, p. 342, note 403.

<sup>423</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 199.

<sup>424</sup> *Dukes' Antiquities*, Appendix, p. xl, where some traditionary matter is given which relates to this foundation, as also some documents quoted, which show the fate of its possessions after the Dissolution. No reference is given to the authorities for the former, which seems to be curious. I would, however, point out the discrepancy which in the first instance attributes the foundation to King Henry I, then to William de Kenegate and others, and thirdly to Justice Freere and Henry Bouchier (second Earl of Essex of his name), who lived in the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII.

I am favoured by Hubert Smith, Esq., with an extract of a deed whereby, in June, 16 Edw. II (1323) William, Guardian of the House of Lepers of St. James of Brugge, grants a Tenement in Spittle Street, bounded on one side by the tenement of Alice and Helen, daughters of Richard de Roughton, some time Forester of Morfe. The Feoffee is to pay 12*d.* rent.

<sup>425</sup> *New Monasticon*, vol. viii, p. 1503 (quoting Stevens). The same authority states John, Earl of Shropshire (Shrewsbury) kinsman and heir of Ralph le Strange, the first Founder, to have been the reputed Founder (Patron, I suppose) of this House. Speed also (as quoted *Monasticon*, vol. viii, p. 1531), attributed

Caves," and their Great Hall or Refectory is, or was lately, in tolerable condition.<sup>426</sup>

We have few accounts, and those both erroneous and contradictory, as to the origin of this House. If we attempt to associate such establishments with the names of specific Founders, we shall usually be in error. The sycophancy or ignorance of a later period has invented or believed the falsest tales about the origin of the various English Houses of Friars. The probability is, that the first members of these fraternities located themselves in our large Towns, under no specific or marked patronage, and worked their way onwards as best they could. In process of time, the name of some influential Founder, or Patron, was seen to be a kind of protection, and so adopted by each Society for itself.

Not knowing their Founders, the Franciscans extemporized them; and their new Patrons, the descendants of such alleged Founders, were perhaps not studious to expose the complimentary fraud. In the case of this House at Bridgnorth, which claimed John Earl of Shrewsbury for its Patron, as the descendant of Ralph de Strange, its alleged Founder, the idea was doubtless borrowed from a similar claim of the Brethren of St. John's Hospital, in the Low Town.

Such pretence of the Franciscans, though it involved a double falsehood, conveyed also a double compliment to their adopted Patron; for not only did it flatter John Talbot with a fictitious ancestry, but gave to such untrue Ancestor the merit of a foundation with which neither he nor his Descendants, real or imaginary, had anything to do.

Passing a statement which I cannot substantiate,<sup>427</sup> and which

this House of Grey Friars to John Earl of Shrewsbury, in time of Henry VI. Ralph le Strange however was, as I have already said, no ancestor of John Earl of Shrewsbury. He, Ralph, died when St. Francis (the Founder of this Rule) was not yet fourteen years of age, also fourteen years before St. Francis originated the Order, and twenty-four years before it was introduced into England. Ralph le Strange, therefore, was not the founder; and neither was John Earl of Shrewsbury, who flourished in the reign of Henry VI, or a century and a half after the time when I shall show this House to have been in existence. Similarly false allegations as to their foundership by the Dominican,

Austin, and Franciscan Friars of Shrewsbury, are alluded to or exposed by the Historians of that town. (Vol. ii, pp. 445, 452, 460.)

<sup>426</sup> Dukes' *Antiquities*, Appendix, p. xli, where also some further documents connected with this House, and of dates 1333 and 1337, are given. The Seal of one of these is also engraved on page 50 of Mr. Dukes' book, whereby I perceive that these Franciscans called themselves occasionally Preachers (Predicatores). That title, however, has usually been assigned distinctively to the Dominican or Black Friars.

<sup>427</sup> Dukes' *Antiquities*, p. 51, quoting the Assize Roll of 40 Hen. III; but I

alludes to the Friars Minors, as established in Bridgnorth earlier than 40 Henry III (1256), we find them here unquestionably within a year of that date.

At the Assizes of October, 1272, the Jurors of the Borough made the following presentment as to a *purpresture* on the King's demesne,<sup>428</sup> viz., that the Friars Minors (Fratres Minores) had, eight years back, enclosed the King's highway on the bank of the Severn; whereby the King was damaged yearly to the extent of half a merk. "They also take," said the Jurors, "stones and rubbish from the bank of the Severn, and throw them into the River, whereby they have realized to themselves a piece of ground, 150 feet long and 50 feet wide, and this they have enclosed. By which process the (artificial) bank causes the water to *pound upon* (inundare) the King's mills, the damage whereunto is five merks *per annum*, and this was done 16 years back."

At this time, too (1272), the Friars had built their Church, for the same Jurors reported that a Prisoner, who had been imprisoned by Hugh de Acovere, the Sheriff (1255-6), "escaped to the Church of the Friars Minors, and abjured the realm."

There is no account of the Revenues of this House in the *Valor* of 1535; but it came into lay hands at the dissolution. I refer elsewhere for a statement as to its subsequent disposal in the reign of James I.<sup>429</sup>

#### THE HERMITAGE.

Another, and still more humble, Establishment is associated with the religious history of this Town and its suburbs. The road which led hence towards Worfield, through Morf Forest, before it attains the summit of the hill which faces Bridgnorth on the East, passes under a cave, hewn out of the red sandstone rock of the district.

Here, if names and legends are to have due authority,—“Here sat solitary sanctity,” for the spot is still called “The Hermitage;” and tradition says that a Brother of King Athelstan ended his days here in retirement from the world.<sup>430</sup>

cannot find the entry on the Roll itself. This and another document quoted by Mr. Dukes, under the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, belong, wherever derived from, to the House of Grey Friars.

<sup>428</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49 dorso. Similar devices, for increasing their territory, by the Dominican Friars

at Shrewsbury, are related (*History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 446).

<sup>429</sup> It was granted to John Beaumont in 36 Henry VIII (1544). (Dukes' Appendix, p. xli). See also Dukes' *Antiquities*, p. 51.

<sup>430</sup> This tradition has some semblance of probability. King Edward the Elder

Be that as it may, we have it upon better evidence than tradition, that at a subsequent period an Eremitical cell existed in this place, that it was under the declared patronage of the Crown (probably as being situate in Morf Forest), and that the name by which it was known at this later period affords some corroboration to the story of its origin.

In the reign of Edward III, several successive Hermits occur on the Rolls, for they were ushered to their Cell with the same formalities, of Royal Seal and Patent, as introduced a Dean or Prebendary of St. Mary Magdalene to the Constable of Bridgnorth or to the Sheriff of the County.

On 2 Feb. 2 Edw. III (1328), John Oxindon was presented by the King to the "Hermitage of Athewildston, near Bridgnorth."<sup>431</sup>

In 7 Edw. III (1333), Andrew Corbrigg was similarly presented to the "Hermitage of Adlaston, near Bridgnorth."<sup>432</sup>

In 9 Edw. III (1335), Edmund de la Mare was presented to the "Hermitage of Athelardeston."<sup>433</sup>

In 20 Edw. III (1346), Roger Burghton was presented to the "Hermitage above the high road, near Brugenorth."<sup>434</sup>

I have made no further extracts in continuation of this list, nor is it important to do so. The Reader must judge whether the Legend above cited, when coupled with these traces of the name Athelward, or Ethelward,<sup>435</sup> are sufficient grounds for identifying the first Hermit with that literate Brother of King Athelstan, who

had, by his three Wives, a numerous family. Malsbury (*De Gestis Regum*, vol. ii, p. 25. b) has been particular to record the names and destinies of fourteen children, of whom five were Sons; but of these five neither appears under circumstances which can identify him with our Hermit. Athelstan, the eldest, succeeded to Edward's throne; Ethelward, the second, known only for his love of literature, died soon after his Father, and was buried at Winchester. Edwin, the third, was banished the realm and drowned at sea under circumstances which affected the reputation of Athelstan, whose interest in getting rid of him was associated with a question as to his own legitimacy. Edmund and Edred, the fourth and fifth Sons of King Edward, successively came to the throne after the death of Athelstan.

Fear of a fate like Edwin's may possibly have influenced some sixth and unnamed Brother of Athelstan to embrace an eremitical life, or possibly his second Brother, Ethelward, may have been an Anchorite. Three of his Sisters were Nuns.

<sup>431</sup> *Pat.* 2 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 33.

<sup>432</sup> *Pat.* 7 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 27.

<sup>433</sup> *Pat.* 9 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 26.

<sup>434</sup> *Pat.* 20 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 2.

<sup>435</sup> The etymology I presume to be *Apelardes-ſtan* (the stone or rock of Athelard or Ethelward) rather than *Apelardes-tun* (the dwelling or enclosure of the same). In either case we have a caution as to accepting the modern termination *ton*, as always significant of a town.

has been mentioned in the note. We may at least conclude that the Hermitage was of Saxon origin.

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We have now to speak of some of the principal early tenures which existed within the Borough. We will commence with that which is usually called "the Fee of Little Brug," and was held of the Crown by *petit serjeantry*.

### LITTLE BRUG.

This suburb, sometimes also called Southbridge, consisted of two short streets, continuations of Hungary or St. Mary's Street, and of Whitburn or Raven Street.

These small streets, which lay outside St. Mary's and Whitburn gates, unite in a road, which, passing first to the North-west afterwards branches off towards Shrewsbury and Ludlow. Thus the angle formed by these streets (one of which is still called Little Bridge Street) and subtended by the town wall, will have been nearly identical with the "fee of Little Brug."<sup>436</sup>

In the early history of this suburb we have again to deal with a Legend, and one which at first seems beyond the reach of any secondary test or investigation.

The story is, that during the siege of Brug (by Henry I, in 1102) "Sir Ralph de Pitchford, one of the King's commanders, behaved himself so gallantly, that Henry granted him an estate in the neighbourhood, called the Little Brugge, to hold by the service of finding dry wood for the King's great chamber in the Castle as often as he should come there."

Of all the subjects with which an Antiquary can have to deal, that of ignoring a Legend is the most thankless and distasteful. At the same time we scarcely ever meet with one which can be accepted as true in all its particulars, and it is no unpleasant task, instead of rejecting the whole, to extract from these shadowy hints of the past that element of reality which must have been the foundation of

<sup>436</sup> I give the Legend in the words of Grose (*Antiquities of England and Wales*, vol. v, p. 3), which are nearly those of Camden (Gough's Edition, vol. ii, p.

396\*). The points which require further corroboration are that the first Grantee was *Ralph* de Pitchford, and that he obtained it in the way stated.

every *bona fide* tradition. Equally gratifying is it to find some external illustration, which, however inadequate to prove the truth of a given Legend, may yet invest it with something of greater credibility than the unwritten memorial could independently command.

Thus it is with the Legend before us.—Ordericus<sup>437</sup> has related, that the three persons entrusted by Earl Robert de Belesme with the defence of Brug Castle were Roger son of Corbet, Robert de Novavilla, and Ulger the Hunter; that William Pantulf, who negotiated with them as to the surrender of the fortress was their kinsman, and that he promised them 100 *librates* of land, on behalf of the King, as a reward for such surrender.

Now, another, and totally distinct, transaction, of the next Century, shows a probability that there was a relationship between the family of Pichford and the descendants of Ulger the Hunter.<sup>438</sup>

Is it not then possible that the service rendered by Ralph de Pichford at this siege may have been of the same kind as Pantulf's, the exertion of some influence, with his presumed kinsman within the Castle, to procure its surrender?

Reserving a detailed account of the family of Pichford to a future occasion, I will here offer such extracts only as relate to its tenure of Little Brug.

A fragmentary Roll, in the *Testa de Nevill*, which appears to have been drawn up about 1212, and when Hugh de Pichford had lately been succeeded by a Son Ralph, tells us that the latter then held, in the Hundred of Brug, Little Brug with its appurtenances, by gift of King Henry, grandfather (avi) of King John, by service of finding dry wood, for the Chamber in the Castle of Brug, at the King's coming there.<sup>439</sup> The annual value of the tenure is stated at 39s.

At the Inquest on the death of Ralph de Pichford, held April 20, 1253, his tenure *in capite* here, by service of finding fuel (carbones), is said to involve a receipt of 33s. 2d. rent.<sup>440</sup>

<sup>437</sup> *Liber*. xi, p. 107.

<sup>438</sup> The representatives of each contested certain property in Lee Brockhirst under writ of "mort d'ancestre." Moreover it is nearly certain that this same family of Pichford was descended from a great Shropshire Feodary called in *Domesday* "Norman Venator," who also had a Brother "Roger Venator;" and if Ulger Venator were akin to these Brothers, as

his name would suggest, his relationship to Pichford becomes still more probable.

<sup>439</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 56. It must be observed that this record does not rightly compute the relationship which King John bore to Henry I, who was his great-grandfather (proavus). The statement as to service is repeated in a contemporary Roll in the Red Book of the Exchequer (fo. cxliii).

<sup>440</sup> *Escheat*, 37 Hen. III, No. 56.

At the Inquisition of 1255, the Jurors of the Borough, in answer to a question as to the various services due to the Castle, stated that "the Lord of Albrighton had to find fuel for the Castle in respect of his fee of Little Brug."<sup>441</sup> The then Lord of Albrighton was John de Pichford, Son of the last Ralph, and in minority.

In November 1274, the Jurors of the Liberty reported John de Pichford as holding a certain fee *in capite* within the said Liberty of Brug, but they knew not in what way, or by what warrant, or from what time he so held it.<sup>442</sup>

In the Inquisitions on the death of John de Pychford, held at Pychford and Albrighton, on April 13, and May 6, 1285, his tenure *in capite* at Albrighton is mentioned,<sup>443</sup> but that of Little Brug is either omitted, or another Inquisition, relating thereto, is lost.

At the Salop Assizes, October 1292, the Jurors of Brug exposed themselves to a penalty for not making a due report as to this Serjeantry.<sup>444</sup> It however appeared that "Ralph de Pichford had certain tenants in the *vill* of Bruges, of whom he received 30*s.* *per annum*, rendering one cart-load of fuel (carbonum) for the fire of the Castle, and one cart-load of hay for the *wardrobe*, as often as the King should happen to come to the Castle." The *warranty* of this tenure being non-apparent, the Sheriff was ordered to summon the Tenant: and "Ralph de Pichford came, and well acknowledged the aforesaid service, but said that the King had never passed through the parts of Brugge since the said tenements came into his (Ralph's) hands." The Jurors confirmed the statement.<sup>445</sup>

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A few Deeds and other Documents relating to some under tenancies in this *fee*, should be quoted. By deed, *sans date*, but which passed before 1252:—

1. Henry, son of Adam Doresc, of Little Brug, grants to Agnes, Daughter of Walter le Palmer, 18 acres in Little Brug, in the fields of Brug, paying for him to Sir Ralph de Pichford a chief-rent of 1*s.* 6*d.*, and to him a pair of gloves of  $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* value, annually.—

<sup>441</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 59.

<sup>442</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. ii, p. 88.

<sup>443</sup> *Escheat*, 13 Edw. I, No. 14.

<sup>444</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 37 dorso.

<sup>445</sup> A statement given by Mr. Dukes

(*Antiquities*, p. 51), confuses the peculiar service due on Little Brug with other service in Wales. The latter I presume to have been due from the same family of Pichford in virtue of their tenure *in capite* at Albrighton.



Witnesses: Walter Aurifaber and Adam Lugain, then Provosts of Brug &c.<sup>446</sup>

2. Robert le Cuppare grants to Robert Tinctor, of Brug, for four merks, the lands in Little Brugia, where the *Grange* of the purchaser is erected, and lying between lands which the same purchaser bought from Roger de Cenobio (elsewhere called "De Abbacia"), and land which was Symon de Cenobio's. Rent to be 2*d.*—Witnesses: William Bonamy, John Tinctor (Provosts), Hamo Palmer, Walter Palmer, John de Castello, Henry Coyntrel, Philip de Petra, William Fitz Hamon (Palmer), Roger de la More &c.<sup>447</sup>

3. Walter Carpenter grants to Lecya, relict of Alan de Berham, for 20*s.*, a messuage in Little Brug, which he bought from William Bonamy, bounded by land which Robert le Coliare held of Hamo Palmer, and by the King's Street &c.—Witnesses: Philip de Petra, William Bolding (Provosts), Robert le Cuppare, William le Becare, Robert Faber, Geoffrey Faber &c.<sup>448</sup>

4. Robert Fitz William Fitz Adam delivers to Walter Palmer, by way of pledge for 5 merks (less 8*d.*) which he owed him, a messuage in Whytebourne, lying between land of Henry Fitz Robert and land which Henry Textor held, and extending from the King's highway to the wall of the town. He also delivers the land in Little Brug which he had from John, his Brother, and which lay between his own (Robert's) land and the land of Robert le Cuppare. And if he shall not have paid half his debt at the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin, in the 43d year of Henry III (Sept. 8, 1259), and the other half at the Feast of All Saints (Nov. 1) next following, the said Walter shall have the lands in inheritance for ever, rendering to Roger Fitz Elote 12*d.* annually. And the Mortgagor will, in that case, warrant the premises as if sold for the aforesaid sum.—Witnesses: William Palmer and William Lambert, then Provosts, Hamo Palmer, Philip de Petra, William Bonamy, Hugh de Eudon, Roger de la More &c.<sup>449</sup>

5. Robert, son of Geoffrey Faber, of Little Brug, grants to Roger,

<sup>446</sup> Blakeway MSS. (apparently from Otley Charters).

<sup>447</sup> Charters at Apley Park.

<sup>448</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>449</sup> Charter at Apley Park. By a previous deed in the same collection John Fitz-William Fitz-Adam sells for 20*s.* (and reserving a rent of 1*s.*) to Walter Palmer, that moiety, which was coming

to him by partition, of a house in the street called Wytebourne (described as to boundary like the above *messuage*, except that Henry Fitz-Robert is in this deed called Henry Fitz-Avice).—Witnesses: William Bonamy and Richard Fitz-Eve, Provosts, Hamund Palmer, William Palmer, Philip de Petra, Hugh de Eudon, Henry Fitz-Avice.

son of Roger de More, of Brug, for 20s., an acre in the fields of Brug, bounded by the Vendor's Curtilage in Little Brug &c. Rent  $\frac{1}{2}d.$ —Witnesses: William de Kantreyn, John de Castello, Roger Hamund, Roger Bonamy, Richard de Petra, Andrew Bolding &c.<sup>450</sup>

A trial of "Mort d'ancestre" was to come before the King at Salop in August 1267. Richard Fitz Robert Fitz Philip sued Sibil, Isabel, Margery, and Alice, daughters of Robert de la Pere (Petra), for some small parcels of land in Little Brug. The Plaintiff withdrew the suit, but a subsequent composition of the matter ended in his remitting all claim.<sup>451</sup>

Between the withdrawal of the suit of "mort d'ancestre" and this final composition, another suit would seem to have been instituted under a writ of "novel disseizin." This came on at the same Assizes. The question was whether Sibil de la Stone (de la Pere), Philip and William, her Sons, William de Huggel and John de Aldebur (Husbands probably of two of Sibil's Sisters), had disseized Richard Fitz Robert of his tenement in Little Brug. The Defendants proved that Philip de la Stone bequeathed the premises to Emma his wife, for her life, with remainder to Isabel, Alice, Margery, and Sibil, his heirs. The Plaintiff was non-suited.<sup>452</sup>

#### TENURE OF HAUGHMOND ABBEY.

This was also in Little Brug, but to introduce it circumstantially I must first notice a very ancient Deed, whereby Richard de Picheforte (who was deceased in 1176) gave, before the year 1172, to Haghmon Abbey, for the health of his soul and with consent of Hugh his heir, the Mill of Pichefort, and half a virgate of land there.—Witnesses: Gilbert, Prior of Buildwas; Adam, a Monk, Brother of the Abbot; Nicholas Brother of the Grantor; Engelard; Andrew Priest of Biriton; Richard Chaplain of Salopesburi; Richard Fitz Odo de Ruttune.<sup>453</sup>

<sup>450</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>451</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, memb. 4 recto.

<sup>452</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 7 dorso. This change in the plaintiff's mode of procedure, though not explained by anything on the face of the record, is illustrative of one of the special privileges claimed for the Borough of Brug, and before alluded to. The writ of "mort d'ancestre" was not current in

Brug, and the plaintiff's original proceeding under such writ would have failed on that ground. He, therefore, chose the alternative—a writ of "novel disseizin."

<sup>453</sup> Haghmon Chartulary at Sundorn (fo. 164) compared with Pope Alexander III's confirmation to Haghmon, dated May 14, 1172, and preserved in Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 11.

Hugh de Pichford, Son and heir of Richard, and who, having had livery in 1176, died about 1211 or 1212, wishing I suppose to recover Pichford Mill, came to an agreement about the same with Richard, Abbot of Haghmon, whose term of office commenced after 1172, and ended before 1205. By this agreement Hugh gave to the Abbey, in exchange for Pichford Mill, certain lands at Little Brugia, held by Robert Palmer, William Fitz Oseline, Gilbert and Gerard, shoemakers, and Robert Furnerius.—Witnesses: Henry Malveisin, William Fitz Simon, Manculin, Gerin Burnel, Alan de Buldewas, Uger de Eton, Oliver his Brother, Geoffrey de la Beche, Unfrey de Bois, Nicholas Barbe.<sup>454</sup>

I presume that it was to this tenure in Little Brug that the Jurors of 1255 referred, when they stated the Abbey of Haghmon to be in receipt of 40 pence annual rent within the Borough.<sup>455</sup>

Later, as I think, in the century, the Abbey acquired a rent of 2 shillings in the Low Town, under the will of Roger Fitz Osbert, of Ludlow. The Testator held altogether, property yielding 4s. 2d. annually, and John, son of William de Castello, was his tenant of the whole.<sup>456</sup>

#### TENURE OF LILLESALL ABBEY.

I have already alluded to a source of annual revenue which, in the year 1167, arose to the Crown out of the Borough of Brug, and independently of the annual *ferm*.<sup>457</sup> It was probably from some *purpresture*, or occupation of a part of the Royal demesne, which had not been taken into account when the *ferm* of the Borough, or rent payable by the Sheriff, was settled. At Michaelmas, 1167, the Sheriff accounted 23s. 6d. as “the issues of the land of the Burgage of Brug.”<sup>458</sup> In the next year the receipt is similarly described, but it was 26s. 6d., and is entered under the head of *Purprestures*.<sup>459</sup> In 1169, 24s. 7d. was thus received, and 26s. 8d. in 1170, and the same sum in every successive year till 1176 inclusive.<sup>460</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1177, the Sheriff accounted, under the head of *purprestures and escheats*, for “20s. issues of land of the Borough of Brug, before the King gave it to Walter de Linley.”<sup>461</sup> After

<sup>454</sup> Haghmon Chartulary at Sundorn, fo. 41, and Blakeway MSS.

<sup>455</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 59.

<sup>456</sup> *Haghmon Chartulary* (ut supra).

<sup>457</sup> *Supra*, p. 292.

<sup>458</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>459</sup> <sup>460</sup> <sup>461</sup> *Rot. Pip.* de eisdem annis.

this the Sheriff ceases to account for any such item of Revenue. We infer that about July 1, 1177, King Henry II granted to Walter de Linley certain Crown-lands in the Borough of Brug which had previously yielded an annual revenue of 2 merks.

Before the end of the century, the whole or a great part<sup>462</sup> of this land had passed to a female, variously described as Sibil de Linley and Sibil de Brocton. What may have been her relationship to Walter de Linley I will not here conjecture, but her interest in Brocton arose under feoffment of Richard de Linley, who therefore may have succeeded Walter in this land at Brug, and transmitted the same to Sibil. She, in whatever way of succession, became doubly a tenant *in capite* of the Crown, and, as such, her marriage was in the King's gift.

Before Michaelmas, 1190, she fined with the King in a sum of 3 merks, "for license of marrying herself."<sup>463</sup> This license of course involved the privilege of remaining single, and such I imagine to have been Sibil's application thereof, for within nine years following she granted the whole of her lands in Brocton and in Brug to Lilleshall Abbey. She further bestowed her body for burial in that house.

This grant was included in King John's general confirmation to Lilleshall, dated 31 Aug. 1199.<sup>464</sup> It is also mentioned in the confirmation of Pope Honorius III (1216-1227), to that Abbey.<sup>465</sup>

Such were the circumstances under which the Canons of Lilleshall obtained their first interest within the Borough of Brug, an interest which in 1255 was represented by the receipt of 30 shillings annual rent.<sup>466</sup>

Their possessions here were greatly increased by their acquisition of the Hospital of St. John in the reign of Edward IV;<sup>467</sup> but the

<sup>462</sup> I use this qualification with reference to a previous statement (p. 115, note 49), from which it would appear that the Linley interests in or near Bridgnorth did not all centre in Sibil or devolve to Lilleshall.

<sup>463</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 Ric. I, Salop, where she is called Sibil de Brocton.

<sup>464</sup> It is singular that the Charter of 31 Aug. 1199, as entered on the Rolls of King John's reign (*Rot. Cart.* p. 17), does not contain this item. But there must have been two Charters of the same date, one rather fuller than the other. The former is rehearsed and confirmed in an

*inspeximus* of Richard II (*Rot. Pat.* 18 Ric. II, p. 1, memb. 7), and contains Sibil de Linley's grant. King John's second Charter to Lilleshall, dated May 31, 1213, mentions the grant, but this is not the Charter *inspected* by Richard II. (*Rot. Cart.* R. Johannis, p. 192.)

<sup>465</sup> Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 24. The Bull of Pope Honorius also confirms "a fishery which the Canons had in the River of the Town of Brug called Severn," but the Grantor of this is not mentioned.

<sup>466</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 59.

<sup>467</sup> *Supra*, p. 346.

*Valor* of 1535, before quoted with reference to the subject, leaves the two properties undistinguished.<sup>468</sup> A quit-rent however of 13s. 4d. then payable by the Abbey to the Lord of Netherton (Quatford) seems to have been in probable connexion with their Linley tenure.

#### TENURE OF THE WHITE NUNS OF BREWOOD.

This House was favoured with the patronage, and perhaps occasionally with the presence of King John.<sup>469</sup> Among other things he granted to the Nuns a weir, called "Withlakeswere," in the River Severn, near to Brug.

About the year 1225, Aldithā, Prioress of Brewode, and her Convent enfeoffed Henry Fitz Robert of Brug in one half of this weir, reserving an annual rent of 5s.<sup>470</sup> Cecilia, another Prioress, granted the other moiety to the same Feoffee, and at a similar rent.<sup>470</sup>

That the grants were nearly contemporary appears from the same witnesses having attested each, viz. Sir Henry d'Aldithley, William Pantulf, and Walter de Hugford.

It would appear that the Abbey of Shrewsbury later in the 13th century acquired some tenant right in this Weir, for two deeds remain on the Chartulary, by one of which William de Brug, son of Richard the Fisherman, *quit-claims* to the Abbey, all right in the fishery called Withlakeswere.—Witnesses: Sir Albinus de la Rode, Andrew de Northley, Symon de Sabrina.<sup>471</sup>

The other deed is a grant to the same Abbey of all his right in the said Weir by John, Son of John Fisherman, of Brug.—Witnesses: William de Cantrey, Henry de Arnleg, William Bolding.<sup>472</sup>

The Inquisition of 1255 registers the Nuns of Brewood as in receipt of 6s. 8d. rent within this Borough, and their income appears like that of the Knights Templars and Hospitallers to have been unassessable to the King's Tallages.<sup>473</sup> Probably, also, it was

<sup>468</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 197.

<sup>469</sup> King John was at Brewood in April, 1200, January, 1206, and August, 1207. A Charter of his to the White Nuns of St. Leonard, dated Sept. 1, 1212, is extant (*Rot. Cart.* p. 187), but concerns other localities. The specific grant, quoted above, is not preserved on the Rolls.

<sup>470</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 376.

<sup>471</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 143. William, Son of Richard le Pescour of Brug, occurs in 1256.

<sup>472</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 139. A deed at Apley dated 1265, is attested by the same three witnesses.

<sup>473</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 59.

in this instance understated, for a few years later in the Century the Nuns appear in receipt of other income in the Borough quite unconnected with the Weir above-mentioned.

"Cecilia, formerly Daughter of Henry Fesun, in her maidenhood, grants to Nicolas, son of Walter Palmer, for 20s., a plot of land at the Standelf,<sup>474</sup> which she held of the Nuns of Brewode, of the tenement of Solton.<sup>475</sup>—It is bounded by the lands which Henry de Castro holds of the Lords of Glazeley, and lands of Roger Fitz Henry.—She grants it, together with the Grange, and with 2s. 6d. annual rent which the Purchaser is to receive from Curtilages of the same tenement, and pay over to the Nuns.—To hold of the said Cecilia from the Feast of St. Andrew, 6 Edward (Nov. 30, 1277), for 20 years, at a rent of 6d. If, at the end of that term, the purchase-money (20s.) be not repaid, the Mortgagee shall continue to hold the premises at the aforesaid rent, till it is so repaid.—Witnesses: Roger de Mora, William Bolding (Provosts), William de Cantreyn William Palmer, Roger Fitz Henry, Stephen Bolding, Henry de Castro, William Bonamy, Richard de Petra."<sup>476</sup>

The *Valor* of 1535, gives a rent of only 5 shillings as receivable by the Nuns of Brewod from lands in "Brigenorthe;"<sup>477</sup> but the Minister's Accounts at the Dissolution tell a different tale. They enumerate the following receipts in "Brignorth:"—Free Rents 3s., Rent of a Croft &c. 2s., *Ferm* of one tenement 6s.,<sup>478</sup> making a total of 11 shillings.

#### TENURE OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

An authentic and very curious account of the Templar's possessions throughout England, drawn up as early as the year 1185,

<sup>474</sup> A *Standelf* is a stone-quarry, a place in which to *delve* for stone (*History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 462); where however the writers are mistaken as to the probability of the word having been peculiar to Shrewsbury.

<sup>475</sup> A family named Sholton, or Scel-tone, occurs in other deeds as holding land near St. Leonard's Church-yard (supra, p. 341) and in Astley Abbots.

<sup>476</sup> Charter at Apley Park. The situation of this land may be gathered from another deed in the same collection, whereby Jane, daughter of Walter Russel,

grants to John Pernel, Chaplain, a curtilage outside the Postern gate, near the Cemetery of St. Leonard, lying between lands of Thomas Hichemon and the way towards Cantereyn and extending from the ditch under the town wall to the land of the White Nuns of Brewode. Rendering 12d. to the heirs of Henry Fesun and a Rose to the Grantor.—Witnesses: John Geoffrey and Robert le Knyt Provosts, Stephen Bolding, &c.

<sup>477</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 193.

<sup>478</sup> *New Monasticon*, vol. v, p. 731.

contains, under the Bailiwick of Warwick (which included Shropshire) the following entry:—"At Brugia half a certain mansion came to the hands of the Brethren, which used to render annually 2s."<sup>479</sup>

In 1255 the Templars possessed two houses here, of 5 shillings annual value, and they were not subject to the King's *Tallages*. Their Tenants were life-tenants, and would not *scott* with the Burgesses for the trade carried on in the said houses.<sup>480</sup> This, and, it may be added, the former immunity arose from the chartered privileges of this once powerful Order.

#### TENURE OF BUILDWAS ABBEY.

The existent Charters of this House do not, that I can find, give any information as to the way in which it acquired property in Brug.

In 1255, however, the Abbot is returned as receiving 12s. annual rent here.<sup>481</sup> This rent is in 1291 stated at 16s.<sup>482</sup>

About 1296, "Brother William, Abbot of Buldewas, as Executor of the will of Master Alan le Palmer of Brug, sells for 6 merks to William Selimon, son of Robert Tinctor, a house in High Street, which the deceased had left to the Abbot's disposal, to sell it, and employ the money in pious uses for the soul of the Testator.—To hold of the Lord of the fee at  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  rent.—Witnesses: Roger de la More, John Glidde (Provosts) of Brug, William de Kantreyn, Nicholas Rondolf, Fremund de Erdinton, Robert Crouke, and others."<sup>483</sup>

The Conventual Seal remains attached to this deed.

In 1535 the rents receivable by the Abbot of Buildwas, in Ruley and Brigenorth, are returned at 13s. 6d.;<sup>484</sup> and the *Minister's Accounts* of the following year estimate the rents in Rowley at 8s., and in Brygenorthe at 5s. 6d.<sup>485</sup>

<sup>479</sup> MSS. Vol. formerly in custody of the Queen's Remembrancer, now at Carlton Ride. Extracts are given, *New Monasticon*, vol. vii, p. 821, numb. xxiv.

<sup>480</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, pp. 59, 60.

<sup>481</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 59.

<sup>482</sup> Pope Nich. *Taxation*, p. 260.

<sup>483</sup> Charter at Apley Park.

<sup>484</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, p. 191.

<sup>485</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. v, p. 361.

Other Religious Communities had property within the Borough in 1255, viz., the Priory of Wenlock, the Abbeys of Wigmore and Crokesden, and the Knights Hospitallers, their respective annual receipts on the same being 10s., 20s., 10s. and 8s.<sup>486</sup> I can give no further particulars of any of these possessions, except that the Abbot of Wigmore's fee (which might have been acquired during the ascendancy of the Mortimers in the Borough) is described as "terra Campell;" that it lay apparently in the direction of Oldbury, and that in the middle of the thirteenth century Walter Aurifaber was a tenant therein.

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We will conclude our account of Bridgnorth with notices of one or two families distinguished in the history of the early Borough, and whose names occur under such circumstances as will best illustrate the state of manners and society at the period.

#### PALMER OF BRUG.

The family of greatest wealth and importance was undoubtedly that of Le Palmer, whose genealogy and branches I give chiefly on the authority of a number of deeds which relate to their interests in and about the Town.

One of the earliest members of this house seems to have been—

(a) ROBERT LE PALMER. I have no other notice of him than that which has been mentioned above,<sup>487</sup> where his tenancy in Little Brug was transferred by Hugh de Pichford to Haghmon Abbey. I cannot say that he was brother of Walter.

(b) AMILIA, his WIDOW, was a tenant in the High Street, when—

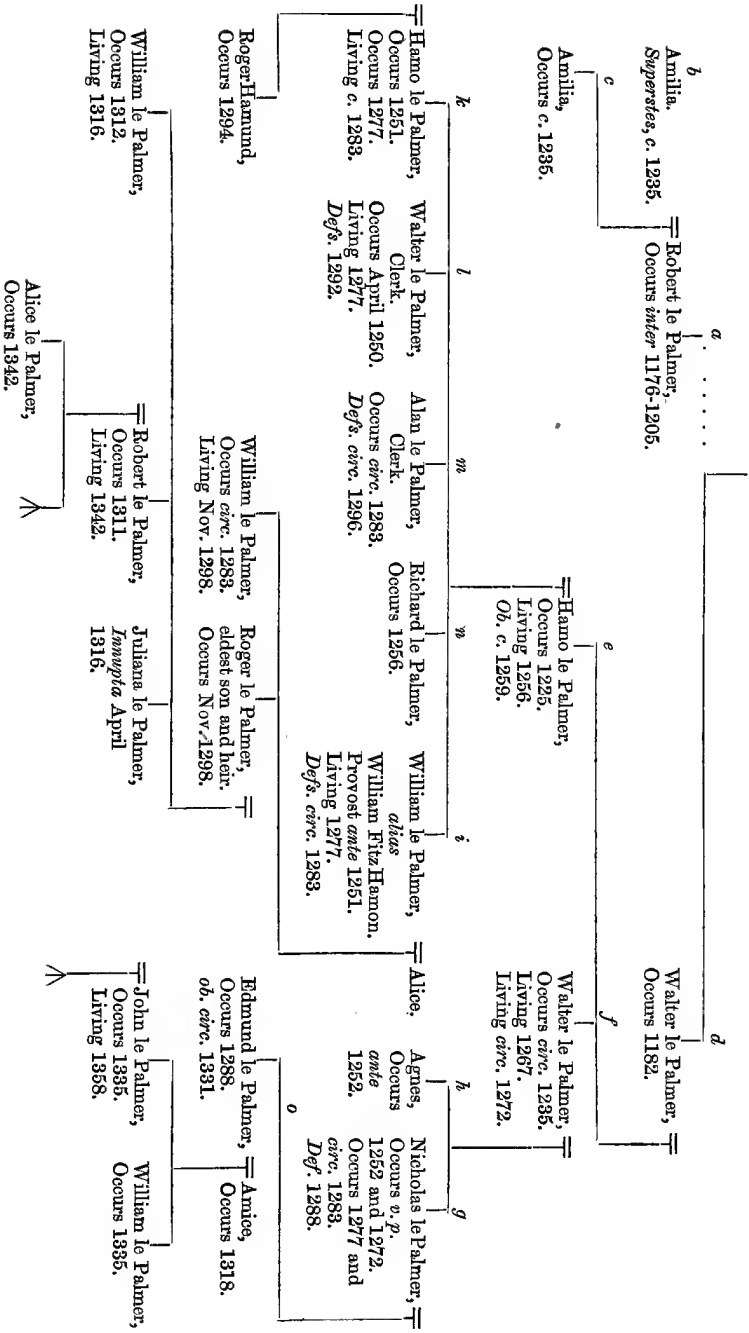
(c) AMILIA, their DAUGHTER, granted to John Vintner, a native of Warwick, her share of inheritance in the same street, for an entrance-fee of 2 merks and a rent of 3s.—Witnesses: William Hoel and Geoffrey, Chaplains; Henry Bacon and Roger Fitz William, Provosts; Alan Fitz Robert, Hamo Palmer, Roger Wondac, Philip

<sup>486</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, 59.

<sup>487</sup> *Supra*, p. 359.



BRIDGNORTH.



Fitz Richard, William Tinctor, William Fitz Godewin, Hugh Bacun.<sup>488</sup>

(d) WALTER LE PALMER, the undoubted Founder of two great families in the Borough, has occurred only in the year 1182, as before mentioned.<sup>489</sup>

(e) HAMO LE PALMER, *alias* HAMO FITZ WALTER. Has already occurred under the various dates of 1225, 1233, 1252, and 1256.<sup>490</sup>

On July 8, 1230, he was called upon to warrant half a messuage in Brug to Roger Chete, whom Alice, widow of Roger de Stircheleg, sued for the same as her dower.<sup>491</sup>

His alleged complicity in the crime of his Son Walter, and his non-appearance to answer the charge at the Salop Assizes of January, 1256, were subjects of two distinct fines. In the first instance, he had put in bail for his appearance, Philip de Petra being his surety in the sum of 20s. When however he did not appear, Walter, his Son, compounded the matter, by fine of 15 merks, which covered the bail, and released Hamo from all obligation to appear. The Abbot of Buildwas was surety for the latter fine. It was at the same time stated, that Hamo, who must have now been an old man, had fallen from his horse, and that it was not possible to carry him to the Assizes.<sup>492</sup>

How long he survived these events is a question, but it seems to be he, rather than his son Hamo, who attests a deed already quoted, and which must have passed in or shortly before 1259.<sup>493</sup>

He has already appeared as having served, at least thrice, as Provoost of the Borough.

His house, in the High Street, was separated from that of his brother Walter, by an intervening messuage, which was sold by Robert Fitz Walter Frut to Robert Tinctor for 14 merks, a good sum at the time of the transaction, which must have been between the years 1251 and 1256. This deed, which is primarily attested

<sup>488</sup> Charters at Apley Park, which are also my vouchers, for all deeds of the Borough, and statements grounded on such deeds, unless a distinct reference be given.

<sup>489</sup> *Supra*, p. 254.

<sup>490</sup> *Supra*, pp. 51, 256, 257, and 279.

<sup>491</sup> *Placita apud Westminster*. Trinity Term, 14 Hen. III, m. 14 dorso.

<sup>492</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, m. 10

recto. The Pipe Roll of 40 Hen. III confuses these fines with others which were on Master Walter le Palmer's private account; *e. g.*, he is said to have owed 15 merks for his own transgression, and 40 merks for replevying his Father's lands, which was the converse of the true account.

<sup>493</sup> *Supra*, p. 315.

by the Purchaser and Henry Coyntrel (as Provosts), has also for witnesses Hamo Palmer, Walter, brother of the said Hamo, Walter Aurifaber, John de Castello, William Bonami, William Bolding, and John Tinctor.

From this, as well as from his earlier appearance in life and earlier death, we presume Hamo de Palmer to have been the older of the two brothers.

He is a constant attendant in the Borough Court, and his attestations of deeds are numberless. Besides his property in High Street, his interests in Little Brug, and in the "fields towards Cantreyn," are incidentally mentioned.

(f) WALTER LE PALMER, brother of Hamo, is occasionally called "Walter Palmer, Burgess of Brug," and "Walter Fitz Walter;" each name, I presume, distinguishing him from his Nephew, the Clerk.

Of his innumerable attestations of Borough Deeds, and more personal transactions, I find none which I can suppose to be of earlier date than about 1235.

In Michaelmas Term, 1249, he is sued as tenant of a Mill at Dudmaston, by Sibil, widow of Peter de Dudemanston, who claimed a third of this and several other tenements as her dower.<sup>494</sup>

One of his leasehold transactions dates about 1250, and has been already referred to.<sup>495</sup>

At Michaelmas, 1254, he is charged on the Rolls as Walter le Palmer de Bruges, with an amercement of 20 merks, which had been inflicted by Justices of the Forest lately *in eyre*. It was for trespass with his hounds, and his Nephew, Master Walter le Palmer, was amerced in double the sum for a like offence.<sup>496</sup>

At the County Assizes, January, 1256, he stands first of the Borough Jurors, and seems to have been unimplicated in the disgraceful affairs which affected so many chief persons of the Town, and, amongst others, his own relations.

He occurs again as a Mortgagee, in or shortly before 1259, in a deed already cited.<sup>497</sup> He has also been above noticed under the year 1261.<sup>498</sup>

About March, 1265, he occurs as a Lessee of lands in Astley

<sup>494</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* 33 and 34 |  
Hen. III, memb. 16, recto.

<sup>495</sup> *Supra*, p. 315.

<sup>496</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 38 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>497</sup> *Supra*, p. 315.

<sup>498</sup> *Supra*, 316.

Abbots. The deed (an Indenture of two parts) is curious,—“I, Walter, son of Walter Gilbert, have made over (tradidi) to Walter Palmer of Brug 5 acres in the manor of Estley which Walter my Father acquired in frank marriage with Emma, my Mother;—for one Cloak of coarse cloth (pro uno pallio de Burello) which he gave on entry.—To hold from the feast of the Annunciation 49 Hen. III for 16 years.—Rendering annually 20*d.* at Brug.” A clause of re-entry, in case of non-payment of the rent, is followed by clauses as to warranty and alternate sealing.—Witnesses: William Palmer, Henry de Arnleg, Provosts of Brug, William de Cantreyn, William Bonami, William Bolding, Roger Fitz Henry, Stephen Bolding.<sup>499</sup>

The Assize Roll of Sept. 1267, shows Walter, son of Walter le Palmer impleaded by Nicholas Fitz Richard Brun for disseizing him of two shops in Brug. The action failed.<sup>500</sup>

At the Assizes of October, 1272, both Walter le Palmer and Nicholas le Palmer, whom I suppose his son, were reported by the Borough Jurors as having sold wine “against the Assize.”<sup>501</sup>

And this is the latest notice I find of him in any dated documents. As Purchaser, Lessee, or Mortgagee, of tenements in, or near, the Borough, he occurs in no fewer than 33 separate deeds. His property or interests lay in the fields of Brug generally, in the fields near St. Leonard’s, the fields towards the “Old Maladrerie” and towards Oldbury and “Cantreyn;” in High Street, “Witeburne” Street, “Hungrey” Street, and “Cougate” Street, in the ground between the Castle and the River, in Little Brug, and in Astley Abbots.<sup>502</sup>

(g) Nicholas le Palmer, apparently son and heir of Walter last mentioned, has already occurred, as Nicholas Fitz Walter, in the year 1252, and therefore long before his Father’s death.<sup>503</sup> He occurs also, both as a purchaser of land and a witness, in deeds, which, if I mistake not, past during his Father’s lifetime.

<sup>499</sup> This deed is indorsed coevally, “Scriptum Walteri de Stocton.”

<sup>500</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, 51 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto. I presume Walter, son of Walter le Palmer, to be so called to distinguish him from his Nephew, and not that the Defendant in this suit was a younger son of the subject of this notice.

That class of names which may be called “Patronymics” were especially used in the law courts.

<sup>501</sup> *Placita Corone*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 50 dorso.

<sup>502</sup> A former account (pp. 314, 316) shows him twice in office as Provost.

<sup>503</sup> *Supra*, p. 257.

He has just been mentioned in conjunction with his Father in October, 1272.

In the Inquisitions of November, 1274, he stands sixth on the Borough Jury.<sup>504</sup> He is a frequent witness in 1277, and from thence till about 1283. In August, 1288, he was deceased, and his Son Edmund in possession of his estate.

He added considerably to his inheritance. He occurs as Purchaser or Mortgagee in 21 separate deeds, as Vendor, only in one. His interests are mentioned in various localities, besides those wherein his Father had been concerned, viz. in the fields towards Tasley, the fields towards *the Hok*,<sup>505</sup> and the fields on Severn-bank; in premises on the Castle Hill, and in others adjacent to the North-gate; in the Standelf (near St. Leonard's), and in Leceline (now Listley) Street.

(h) Of AGNES, daughter of Walter le Palmer, and presumed to have been Sister of Nicholas, I have only the notice already quoted, where she became a grantee in Little Brug<sup>506</sup> somewhat earlier than the time (1252) when Nicholas (her Brother) first appears.

We now pass to the five sons of Hamo le Palmer, first cousins of Nicholas and Agnes. Of these—

(i) WILLIAM LE PALMER, often called William Fitz Hamon and William Hamund, was the eldest. He has already been mentioned as holding the office of Provost during his Father's lifetime, and indeed prior to the year 1251.<sup>507</sup> In a charter of 1250 or 1251 (also before alluded to) William Fitz Hamund appears as a landholder in the fields of Brug.<sup>508</sup> He has occurred already as 7th Juror on the Borough Inquest of 1255, as 5th Juror at the Assizes

<sup>504</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 88.

<sup>505</sup> This and some other localities, mentioned in ancient deeds, may be curiously identified by an old Map of the Borough, a copy of which is in possession of Sidney Steadman Smith, Esq., of Bridgnorth, and has been my chief topographical guide while engaged with that neighbourhood. This Map (which appears to have been planned soon after the dissolution of Religious Houses) distinguishes a large tract of ground lying to the north of the

road, which led from Whytburne-gate to Tasley, as the "Hooke Feilde." A tree standing in the centre of the said field is also indicated by the Map. This tree (probably an oak, and a well-known landmark) gave name, I presume, to the field; for *Ak*, *Ake*, *Ock*, and *Hoc*, are all old forms of the word now spelt *oak*.

<sup>506</sup> *Supra*, p. 356.

<sup>507</sup> *Supra*, p. 315.

<sup>508</sup> *Idem*.

of 1256, as Provost in 1259, as *Visor* of repairs to the King's house in 1260,<sup>509</sup> and all or most of these were in his Father's lifetime. He was again Provost in 1265, 1st Juror for the Borough at the Assizes of 1272, 2d Juror on the Inquest of 1274,<sup>510</sup> and a frequent witness of Borough deeds in 1277. In or about the last-named year he grants to William Lambert a tenement in Mill-Street (in vico versus molendinum) bounded by lands of the Grantee and of William de Baggesevere, and extending from the King's Highway to the Severn.—Witnesses : Roger de la More and William Bolding, Provosts, William de Cantreyne, Emeric Tinctor, Henry de Arnleg, Robert le Knyght, William Kanne,<sup>511</sup> Roger Chete, Stephen Chete.

No certain mention of him has occurred as living at any subsequent date ; but Alice, his widow, consents to a grant by William their son, about six years later, and which will be presently noticed.

The property of William Palmer, in and about Bridgnorth, seems to have lain in High Street and Mill Street, in the fields towards the "Old Maladrerie," in the neighbourhood of the Hospitals of St. John and St. James, and in Astley Abbots.

(k) HAMO, another SON OF HAMO LE PALMER, also occurs during his Father's lifetime. He is mentioned as Hamo, son of Hamo de Brug, as negotiating some fine in 1251.<sup>512</sup> It must be he, rather than his Father, who officiated as 12th Juror at the Borough Inquest of 1255,<sup>513</sup> also certainly he, whom Roger, son of William le Berner, impleaded for disseizing the latter of a tenement in Brug, at the Assizes of January, 1256.<sup>514</sup> Hamo came into Court to answer the charge, but was non-suited. This Hamo has already occurred under dates of 1260, 1267-8, and 1272, when he was third of the Borough Jurors.<sup>515</sup> He also occurs, and generally as

<sup>509</sup> Supra, pp. 306 (*bis*), 315, and 257.

<sup>510</sup> Supra, pp. 316, 309, and 310.

<sup>511</sup> The first member, who has occurred to me, of a family afterwards well known in the Borough, and from which Cann-Hall in the Low Town derived its name.

An oval seal, attached to this deed, bears the device of a "grey-hound."

<sup>512</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 35 Hen. III, Salop, Nova Oblata.

<sup>513</sup> Supra, p. 306.

<sup>514</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 2 recto. I mention the Defendant's attendance in Court, as it happens to distinguish him accurately from Hamo, senior, whose appearance, in any cause at the same Assizes, would have been inconsistent if not impossible.

<sup>515</sup> Supra, pp. 257, 258.

following William, his Brother, in deeds of 1276-1277, and as late as about 1283.

I find him possessed of lands in the fields of Brug, and a tenement under the Castle.

His Son, simply called Roger Fitz Hamon, or Roger Hamund, occurs in several deeds later in the Century, and in one, dated Feb. 25, 1294.

(l) MASTER WALTER LE PALMER, CLERK, was another son of Hamo le Palmer, Senior. He, too, appears in life, some time before his Father's decease. On April 30, 1250, a King's writ enjoins the Sheriff of Salop to recover and produce certain chattels of one Robert de Baudak, who had, "for larceny, abjured the realm." A silver drinking-cup, of 12 shillings value, is specified as in possession of Master Walter, Son of Hamo de Brug.<sup>516</sup>

In 1254 he had been amerced 40 merks by Justices of the Forest for trespass of his hounds.<sup>517</sup> In January, 1256, he appears, as before related, guilty of murder.<sup>518</sup> At the same time he was acquitted of disseizing Isabella le Caugi (Gaugi), Jane, Julia, and Florence, her Sisters, of a tenement in Brug, and the latter pronounced *in misericordid*; but they were pardoned any amercement as being under age.<sup>519</sup> Under the Manor of Church Stretton, at the same Assizes, Master Walter de Bruges is returned as offering 100s. fine, to be under *plevin*, his surety being the Abbot of Buildwas.<sup>520</sup> This was probably in connexion with his first-named offence. Again, at these Assizes, Edith, widow of William Turner, impleaded Master Walter de Briges, for a third part, of 30 acres, in Diddlebury, as her dower. Walter called Hugh de Beckbury to *warranty*. The latter came forward with such *warranty*, and proved that the Plaintiff's husband had been hung for felony at Coventry. This was fatal to her claim.<sup>521</sup>

On the whole, at Michaelmas, 1256,<sup>522</sup> Walter le Palmer is entered on the Pipe Roll as having owed £5. for his fine for *plevin*, 30 merks (balance of his amercement for trespass with hounds), 15 merks "for his fine for transgression" (really for compounding as to the

<sup>516</sup> Fines, vol. ii, p. 76.

<sup>517</sup> Rot. Pip. 38 Hen. III.

<sup>518</sup> Supra, page 51.

<sup>519</sup> Salop Assizes, 40 Hen. III, memb. 1 dorso.

<sup>520</sup> Ibidem, *Placita Coronæ*, memb. 4 dorso.

<sup>521</sup> Ibidem, memb. 8 dorso.

<sup>522</sup> Rot. Pip. 40 Hen. III, Salop.

non-appearance of his Father Hamo at the Assizes), and 40 merks "for having the lands and chattels of his Father" (really, for recovery of his own lands and chattels). The whole of these debts were paid, before the Sheriff closed the year's account at the Exchequer, the Abbots of Buildwas and Shrewsbury having been the Debtor's Sureties. His occurrence in 1260 has been already noticed.<sup>523</sup>

In Easter Term, 1263, he acknowledges, in the law-courts at Westminster, a debt of 8 merks, as due from him to Jane, widow of Hugh de Beckbury.<sup>524</sup> The fine, levied on the same day, between the parties shows the said debt to have been for some land in Oldbury. It has already been set forth.<sup>525</sup>

Later in the century he occurs as purchasing various parcels of land in the Manor of Astley Abbots, from Adam, son of Matilda English (Anglicæ).

In the troubled times of which we are speaking (1264-5), Master Walter le Palmer's political sympathies were not those of his family or native town. His previous antagonism with the law was of a kind which is found not unfrequently to generate sentiments of disloyalty.—

In the year 1266 or 1267, and before the famous "dictum de Kenilworth" was issued, Roger de Somery and Walter de St. Omer were commissioned, as Justiciars in the County of Salop, to settle amercements and fines on those whose lands had been granted away, or seized, by the Crown, because of the late disturbances. The business of these Justiciars in Shropshire was very trifling; indeed, the total disloyalty of the County may be measured by an arrear of amercements (viz. £17. 3s. 4d.) which the Sheriff collected, and accounted for at the Exchequer, after the said Justiciars left the district.

Master "Walter le Paumer" forestalled some prospective and undefined liabilities, in regard to his late conduct, by negotiating a composition with these Justiciars. He proffered a *fine* of 40s. "to have the good-will of the King,"<sup>526</sup> and it was a prudent measure.—

The "dictum de Kenilworth," which proposed to classify and punish all the late treasonable practices, according to a fixed ratio, was meanwhile put into operation. Under its provisions, Nicholas

<sup>523</sup> Supra, p. 52.

<sup>524</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* 47 Hen. III, 5 recto.

<sup>525</sup> Supra, p. 134.

<sup>526</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 53 Hen. III, Salop (containing an account for two previous years).



de St. Martin, another Justiciar employed for the purpose, assessed Master Walter le Paumer of Bruges to a fine of 100s., being "a redemption of five years," for a messuage and half virgate in Oldbury, and for other small parcels of land. This amercement identifies Master Walter le Palmer as a rebel of the second class,<sup>527</sup> that is, as one who had taken open part with the late Earl of Leicester, at some time or other, though he had not, like one or two greater men, persisted in insolent defiance of the King after the battle of Evesham.

But the wily Clerk evaded the operation of the "dictum de Kenilworth" altogether. He pleaded his previous fine of 40s. as settling all his misdemeanours in question, and paid it. This plea was allowed too at the Exchequer, after reference to the "Roll of Amercements before William de St. Omer."<sup>528</sup>

Among Pleas summoned before the King, at Salop, in August, 1267, it appeared that the Prioress of the White Nuns of Brewood did not prosecute a suit of *novel disseizin*, which she had instituted against Master Walter le Paumer, of Brug. The Defendant had acknowledged that 18 pence annual rent was due from him to the said Prioress, which, I presume, involved the question at issue.<sup>529</sup>

On June 3, 1272, a fine was levied at Warwick, "between Master Walter de Brigge complainant (*querentem*), and Hugh de Eudon and Alice his wife, defendants (*impedientes*), of 5 acres in Brigge, whereof was *plea of warranty*. The Defendants acknowledged the right of the Complainant as of their own gift. To hold &c. at a rent of 2*d.* payable to themselves, and rendering services due to the Lord of the *fee*. For this Walter gave 8 merks.<sup>530</sup>

The lands of Master Walter le Palmer, in different localities in Brug, are mentioned in two deeds of the year 1277; and a third deed, which speaks of him as if deceased, will have passed within fifteen years of that date.

His possessions are mentioned as lying in the fields of Brug generally, in the fields towards Taswood and towards the Hok, in Diddlebury, Oldbury, and Astley Abbots.

(*m*) His Brother, MASTER ALAN LE PALMER, has only occurred in

<sup>527</sup> Rebels of this class were amerced in a sum equal to a presumed five years' income of their land.

<sup>528</sup> *Rot. Pip.* *ibidem*.

<sup>529</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, 51 Hen. III, memb. 5 dorso.

<sup>530</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 56 Hen. III, Salop. The fine is of course a composition of a fictitious suit, in fact nothing more than a legal conveyance of the premises.

two deeds, already alluded to or quoted.<sup>531</sup> In the first (of date about 1283) his Nephew, William, Son of William le Palmer, grants him for his love and service, and with consent of Alice, William's Mother, a messuage in High Street, at a  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  rent. The second deed (of date about 1296) shows the Abbot of Buildwas, as Master Alan's Executor, selling the same messuage, as before stated.

(n) RICHARD, the last of the five sons of HAMO LE PALMER, occurs only in the year 1256, and under circumstances which will appear in our account of another family of the Borough.

(o) Of EDMUND LE PALMER, Son and Heir of Nicholas, I have little more to say than is involved in the pedigree already given, and in the respective lists of Provosts and Burgesses of Parliament, who officiated for the Borough. His property seems to have been in the same localities as that of his Father and Grandfather. I find him as a purchaser in eight different deeds, as exchanging in one, and as a Grantor in two. His house in the High Street is dignified by the name of "a Hall" (Aula Edmundi le Palmer).

I will not further transgress my general limits as to date, in relation to this family. A few particulars of other members thereof have already been given in the Pedigree and Lists just referred to.

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I proceed to speak of another family with which some matters of local interest were connected,—viz. that of—

DE CASTELLO, OR DE CASTRO;—

which undoubtedly took name from its residence in, or near to, the Castle.

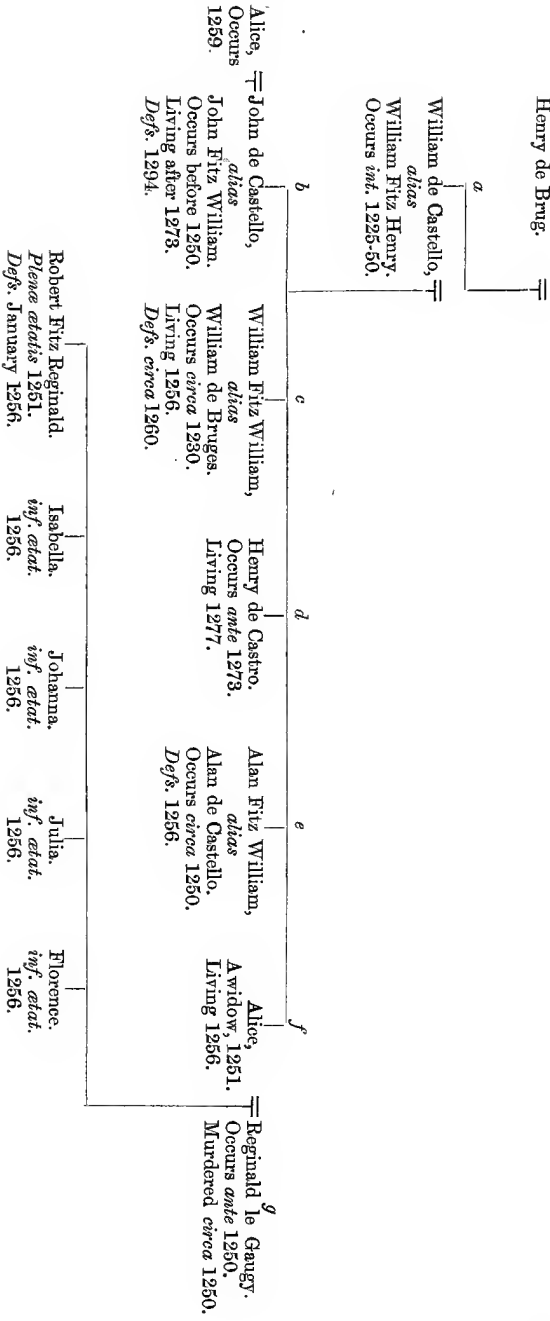
I have cited under Quatford the two deeds which establish the greater part of the annexed pedigree.<sup>532</sup>

(a) Of WILLIAM DE CASTELLO, I can only say further, that under the name of William Fitz Henry, he attests several deeds which passed in the Borough Court, and, as I think, during the second quarter of the 13th Century.

<sup>531</sup> Supra, pp. 370, 363.

<sup>532</sup> Supra, p. 113, notes 39, 40.

BRIDGNORTH.



(b) JOHN DE CASTELLO, his eldest Son and Heir, was a person much more prominently concerned in local affairs. His earliest occurrence is perhaps his attestation, as John Fitz William, of a Borough deed, which passed during the Prepositure of Hugh de Endon and Simon de Abbatia (called Prætors).<sup>533</sup>

He has already occurred as *Visor* of works in the Castle under the years 1250 and 1257;<sup>534</sup> he also sat as 4th Juror on the Borough Inquest of 1255.<sup>535</sup>

His appearance at the Assizes of January, 1256, will presently be particularized. His tenure in the Low Town, by transfer of the seignery of which he became a tenant of Haughmond Abbey, has already been mentioned.<sup>536</sup>

On 6 March, 1258, Giles de Erdington is deputed to try a suit of *novel disseizen*, which Philip de Roule and his wife had against John del Chastell, about a tenement in Bruges.<sup>537</sup>

This suit seems to have led to a *final Concord*, at Westminster, whereby, on July 8, 1259, "Philip de Roweley and Isabella, his wife, conceded, as of their own gift, to John de Chastel de Brugg and Alice, his wife, 19 acres in Nortleg (Nordley), Dunfowe, Brugg, and Aldebyre (Oldbury), whereof had been a *plea of warranty*.—To hold to John and Alice and their heirs, of Philip and Isabella and the heirs of Isabella, at  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  rent, and services due to the chief lords. John gave for this a *sore sparrow-hawk*."<sup>538</sup>

At the Forest Assizes of February, 1262, John de Castello de Brug was pardoned an amercement which was chargeable on him for being with greyhounds, in the King's Forest, without warrant.<sup>539</sup>

At the Assizes of October, 1272, the Borough Jurors returned him as a seller of wine "against the Assize."<sup>540</sup>

He attests Borough deeds in 1273, and apparently in several subsequent years, but he was dead in 1294; for, by deed dated 3 June in that year, a reserved rent, chargeable on land in the "fields of Brug," is so reserved to the "heirs of John de Castro."

<sup>533</sup> He also, as John de Castello, attests a deed which conveyed land within the bailiwick of the Castle, and while Hamo le Palmer and Reginald le Gaugy were Provosts.

<sup>534</sup> *Supra*, p. 257.

<sup>535</sup> *Supra*, p. 306.

<sup>536</sup> *Supra*, p. 359.

<sup>537</sup> *Pat.* 42 Hen. III.

<sup>538</sup> *Pedes finium*, 43 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>539</sup> *Placita forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>540</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, memb. 50 dorso.

(c) Of WILLIAM, Brother of JOHN DE CASTELLO, something has been already stated.<sup>541</sup> As Brother of Alice le Gaugy, he will, however, occur presently under date of 1256.

(d) HENRY DE CASTRO, another Brother, attests, as such, with John de Castello a deed which passed before 1273.<sup>542</sup> He also attests deeds of 1277.

(e. f. g.) That which I have to say of a fourth Brother, ALAN DE CASTELLO, and of their Sister ALICE, first the wife, and then the widow, of REGINALD LE GAUGY, shall, as affording the chief points of interest in the story of this family, be told under one head.

Reginald le Gaugy, who had married Alice, sister of John de Castello, was a person of some property in the Borough. He had a house in the High Street, lands in the fields towards Oldbury and Tasley, and in the fields of Brug generally. Having served the office of Provost with Hamo le Palmer, he was murdered at Worfield, in the year 1250 or 1251, leaving a widow, a son, apparently of full age, and four daughters under age.

<sup>541</sup> Supra, p. 113, where the deed supposed to be "about 1221" should perhaps be put later.

<sup>542</sup> This deed is the first of three consecutive charters which involve some points of interest connected with former subjects. I therefore give extracts of the three.—

1. Robert Tedbald grants to Henry, Son of Wydo de Glaseley, for 10 merks purchase-money (in gersummam) all the land, tenement, and building in the *vill* of Brug, which lay between the land of Elyas le Hunte and the land which was Richard Togesel's, and which extended from the King's Street to the land which said Richard Togesel held of the Brethren of the Lepers of St. James.—Rent 1*d.*—Witnesses: William Bonamy, Henry de Arnleg, Provosts; John de Castello, Henry his Brother, Emeric Tinctor, William Madok, Robert le Knyht, William Canne, &c.

2. Avelina widow of Robert Fitz Tedbald, for two merks, quits to the same

Henry de Glaseley all right in the same premises, "which were given to her at the door of the Church of Tetenhale in frank marriage when she was espoused to said Robert."—Witnesses: Roger Fitz Roger de More and William Bolding, Provosts (which proves the date as about 1273), Emeric Tinctor, Henry de Arnleg, William Madok, Roger Chete, Elyas le Hunte. A subsequent deed by Henry de Glaseley will have transferred his interests to Nicholas Palmer, for, by indenture—

3. Nicholas Palmer leases (tradidi) to Richard, Son of Nicholas de Mose, his tenement between the house of Elyas le Hunte, and of Richard, Son of Richard Togesel, and extending from the King's Street to the land of said Richard Togesel. Rent 6*s.*; with a covenant as to waste and arrears of rent.—Witnesses: John Geoffrey, Robert le Knit, Provosts; William de Kantreyn, John de Castello, William Bonamy, William Madok, Nicholas le Rus, &c.

In the course of the year 1251, Robert, son of the deceased, challenged (appellavit) Giles de Norfolk, a Clerk, and others with this murder. A precept issued from the courts at Westminster, on Nov. 2, 1251, ordering the Sheriff of the County to send this *appeal* before the King's Council, for further hearing.<sup>543</sup>

It would appear that this removal was at the instance of Alice le Gaugy, widow of the deceased, whom his Son Robert had included in his *challenge* as an accessory. From statements made by Alice to the Council, the *challenge* was declared null, and Robert<sup>7</sup> pronounced *in misericordid*.<sup>544</sup> His *amercement* (half a merk) for a "false challenge" appears charged against him on the Pipe Roll of 1254.<sup>545</sup>

But this apparent disposal of the whole question seems to have been by no means final.

On November 2, 1252, "Alice who was wife of Reginald *de* Gaugi gave the King 1 merk of gold (equal to £6. 13s. 4d. of the then currency) for having pardon as to the death of her husband, of which she was *appealed*. "She had paid the fine to Peter de Chacepore and was quit."<sup>546</sup>

This fine elicited the following Royal Patent, dated at Sandeford, 7 November, 1252.—

"Henry d: g: &c. We have pardoned Alice, who was wife of Reginald le Gangy, the suit of our peace, which pertaineth to us, for the death of the said Reginald, her husband, whereof she was under challenge.—So, however, as that she shall make peace with his friends (cum parentibus) and shall take her trial if any one shall choose to sue her."

When the Justices *in Eyre* visited Shrewsbury, in January, 1256, Alice le Gangy was accordingly put again upon her trial, but she produced the King's Charter and was apparently acquitted of this charge, though (as we shall presently see) she was implicated in another. At the same Assizes (1256) the *vill* of Worfield was amerced 11 shillings for "not making pursuit," after the murder of Reginald le Gaugy. Also—

<sup>543</sup> *Placita apud Westm.*, 36 Hen. III, memb. 32.

<sup>544</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 12 dorso, where the whole of the proceedings in this case are detailed. I, there-

fore, give further references only where another document confirms or illustrates that recital.

<sup>545</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 38 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>546</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 37 Hen. III, memb. 24.

Alicia de Amelicot, accused as accessory to the same murder, was declared "not guilty."

Also—Egidius (Giles) de Norfolk, parson of Burford, William de Bruges and John de Castello, were put upon their trial for the same crime. The two former, being Clerks, pleaded their privilege as such, and were delivered over to the Spiritual Power; the Jury having first pronounced them to have been Accessories (*consentientes morti*). John de Castello (Alice le Gaugy's Brother) came and took his trial, and was found "not guilty."

Furthermore, the Jurors of Brug recorded at these Assizes, that Alan Fitz William (another of the Brothers of Alice le Gaugy), having for some second offence been arrested and imprisoned in the Castle of Brug, had obtained a King's writ, whereby he was given in charge to twelve Sureties, who were bound to produce him before the King's Justices, when *in eyre*. Now (January, 1256) they produced him not. And so those Sureties (*viz.* Walter Aurifaber, William Bonami, Roger Lamberd, Robert Faber, Robert Tinctor, Nicholas le Porter, Nicholas le Sallowe, Almaric Tinctor, Stephen Knotte, William Fitz Richard le Pescur, Roger Feyrchild, and Richard Bacun) were pronounced *in misericordid*. Trial was, however, held on the absent Defendant. He (Alan Fitz William) was found to have been guilty of Reginald le Gaugy's murder, but it was also given in evidence that he had crossed the sea to Ireland, and was there dead, according to report.

The second offence for which Alan Fitz William should have taken his trial at these Assizes must now be detailed.

His Sister Alice le Gaugy, being herein also accused as an accomplice, her trial will better give the facts than any statement as to her absent or deceased Brother.

She was charged with having entertained (*pro receptacione*) Alan de Castello, her Brother, who was a Robber. "Alan," it was said, "left her house with the intention of committing the robbery in question. He murdered the Lady of Shustock (Warwicksh.) and then returned to the house of his Sister; so she was suspected of taking part."<sup>547</sup>

"Alice being hereupon asked in what way she chose to acquit herself of this charge, said that she dared not, and would not, put herself upon any Inquisition or Jury."—

So the Court ordered her back to prison.—

<sup>547</sup> *Assizes at Salop*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 10 recto.

However, while the Justices were apparently still at Shrewsbury, Alice came forward and offered a fine of 10 merks to have "a good Inquisition whether she were guilty of the entertainment of Alan her Brother, who had been *attached* for robbery at Schuttestok."<sup>548</sup>

"And 12 Jurors of the Hundred of Munslow with 12 of the Hundred of Overes, said that Alice was 'not guilty,' but that this charge was made against her by instigation (per abbettum) of Richard, Son of Hamo Palmer, of Bruges, and his friends, by reason of certain strifes which had been between said Richard and William the Brother of Alice."

Further, at the same Assizes, "Roger Fitz Henry, of Brug, William de Gardino, Amarie Tinctor, and Henry Fitz Amice, accused of robbery and the entertainment of robbers, appeared to defend themselves and put themselves upon a Jury of the country, which pronounced them 'not guilty.'"

Also John le Teinturer fined 40s. "to be under *plevin*, because he was infirm and might not be carried."

These statements, together with those which have previously been made as to the family of Palmer, will show that at these Assizes (of January, 1256) every principal name in the Borough of Brug, was implicated in, or suspected of, some enormous crime. It is singular that Almaric le Teynturer (as Bailiff), William le Palmer, Henry Fitz Avice, and William Bonamy (as Jurors) served on the same occasion.<sup>549</sup>

The disorganization produced in a small town by such a general complicity in real or suspected guilt, and by such adversity of interests and natural affinities, cannot well be over-imagined.

But, to return to our immediate subject:—I suppose that at this period Robert, Son of Reginald le Gaugy, the accuser of his Mother (or Step Mother) Alice, was deceased, leaving Alice and her four daughters (now under age) the sole representatives of the family of Reginald.

We have already seen the same four daughters vainly impleading Master Walter le Palmer for "disseizing them of a tenement in Brug," and this at these very Assizes of January, 1256.<sup>550</sup>

<sup>548</sup> This fine is entered on the Sheriffs' Roll for the two years ending Michaelmas, 1259, as one of 10 merks, due, from Alice widow of Reginald le Gaugy, for "having an Inquisition under pledge of William

Bonamy and John de Castro." (*Rot. Pip.* 43 Hen. III.)

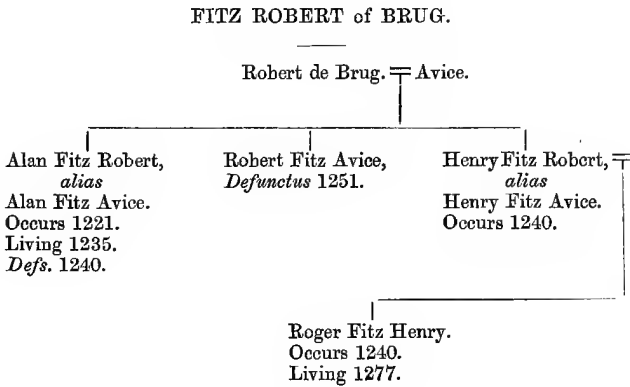
<sup>549</sup> *Supra*, p. 306.

<sup>550</sup> *Supra*, p. 371.



All that I shall further say on the subject is, that 5 separate Charters still exist, whereby, at or about this period, Isabel, Jane, and Floria (Florence), three of the said daughters, sell several parcels of their lands to Walter Palmer, Burgess, of Brug; that Jane, in a sixth charter, sells a parcel of land to Roger Tinctor; and that Alice, their Mother, in four other charters, releases her claim of dower in the premises conveyed by her daughters' deeds, or else sells independently and on her own account. In one of the latter cases, and in the event of her non-ability to warrant a certain piece of land in the "fields of Brug" she vouches as a contingent security "the house which she had in High Street between the house of Hamo Palmer and Richard Bacun."

Her seal attached to one of these deeds proves her pedigree. The Legend is "S'Alisie fil Willi fil Henrici."<sup>651</sup>



The above genealogy, and a few facts connected with the same, seem to be worth insertion.—

<sup>651</sup> In the year ending Michaelmas, 1256, Alice de Gaugi had fined 40s. for some writ (*Rot. Pip.* 40 Hen. III, Salop); but it does not appear on what specific account.

One Alice de Gaugi, and Walter her Son, occur in Staffordshire, in April, 1269 (*Fines*, vol. ii, p. 486). If she be the

same person as has been mentioned in the text, her Son Walter will probably have been by a second husband. The retention of the name of her first husband by his widow, after her second marriage, was no singularity, though not quite so common as that of her maiden name by a wife.

The Barbican which in the close of King John's reign was added to Bridgnorth Castle, interfered with the private rights of Alan Fitz Robert.

I have already quoted King Henry III's order for compensation of the said Alan, which issued, on July 4, 1221, to the Sheriff of the County.<sup>552</sup>

It would seem that the King's order was not at once attended to; for when, in November of the same year, the Justices *in eyre* came to Shrewsbury, they issued a second precept, in similar terms, to the same Sheriff (the Earl of Chester).<sup>553</sup>

These same Assizes also interested Alan Fitz Robert in another way. Henry Harshonail sued him for a messuage in Brug. The Defendant requiring *view* thereof, the cause was adjourned to the morrow of St. Hilary (Jan. 14, 1222), when the same Justices proposed to be at Warwick. On the said day, at Warwick, Alan Fitz Robert *essoigned* himself; and a further day was given; viz. the *quinzaine* of Easter, to both parties.<sup>554</sup> However, they seem to have settled the matter sooner; for by fine, at Warwick, dated the same day (Jan. 14) *Ralph Horsnad*, Plaintiff, remits his claim on a messuage in Bruges whereof was suit-at-law, to Alan Fitz Robert, tenant thereof, the latter paying 2 merks.<sup>555</sup>

This will show Alan Fitz Robert to have been possessed of other property within the Borough, besides that for which he was entitled to compensation. He was, in fact, largely concerned in the affairs of the Town, often in attendance at the Borough Court, and once he occurs in the office of *Prætor*, as before stated.<sup>556</sup>

In 1231, Alan Fitz Avice de Brug appears as Surety for the fine of William de Aldenham already noticed.<sup>557</sup> He was the same person with Alan Fitz Robert.

It does not appear when Alan obtained his promised compensation; but, at Michaelmas, 1232, the land which had been "Alan Fitz Avice's," before the Castle Gate, had been leased by the Crown to another for three years past.<sup>558</sup> Alan's equivalent was given him

<sup>552</sup> *Supra*, p. 255.

<sup>553</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 7 recto.

<sup>554</sup> *Warwick Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 1 recto.

<sup>555</sup> *Pedes finium*, 6 Hen. III, *Salop*.

<sup>556</sup> *Supra*, p. 313.

<sup>557</sup> *Supra*, p. 80.

<sup>558</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 16 Hen. III. The Crown

Lessee of this land was Roger Fitz Robert of Hynestock, and his annual rent was, in 1232, 1 shilling. This Lessee was ancestor of another Borough family, that of Fairchild (usually written Veirchilde). Hence the Inquisition of November, 1274, states that Roger Veirchild held a certain messuage in Brug, in fee, of the Lord King *in capite*, rendering 12 pence annually at the Exche-

in Morf Forest; but in this same year (1232) he obtained a Royal Charter, which subjected his new acquisition to an annual rent of 1 shilling. Henry III's Charter is as follows:—"Henry, *d. g.* &c. Know ye that we have granted to Alan Fitz Robert, of Brug, and his heirs, that those eight acres, which we caused to be assigned to him in Warlagh-hay, in our Forest of Morf, in exchange of his houses and land, which he lost by reason of the barbican of our Castle of Brug, be for ever quit of *regard, waste, and view* of Foresters, Verderers, and of all our Servants. Rendering therefore per annum 12*d.* at our Exchequer, by hands of our Bailiffs of Brug, for all service &c. Given at Worcester, 5 June, in the 16th year of our reign."<sup>559</sup>

And this rent appears on the Pipe-Roll of Michaelmas, 1233, for the first time, as paid into the Exchequer.<sup>560</sup> So again in 1234 and 1235;<sup>561</sup> but the entry is then discontinued.

Alan Fitz Robert was succeeded by his Brother Henry,—called Fitz Robert or Fitz Avice indifferently.

On Nov. 12, 1240, a fine was levied at Salop<sup>562</sup> between Robert, Clerk, Plaintiff, and Henry Fitz Robert, tenant, of 4 acres of land and 8 acres of wood in Bruges and Wurdefeud (Worfield) whereof was an assize of "mort d'ancestre." Henry acknowledged the right of Robert, whereon Robert, at request of Henry, conceded the premises to Roger, Son of Henry, who was to pay an annuity of 1 merk to Robert for life, and then to hold the same, in fee and inheritance, "of the chief Lords."

In 1249, Henry Fitz Robert is entered on the Pipe Roll as having paid the annual *ferm* of 12*d.* on 8 acres of land.<sup>563</sup> Again, in 1251, he discharges the same for the preceding and the current year, and continues the payment annually till the year 1255 inclusive, when the entry again ceases.<sup>564</sup>

As Henry Fitz Robert he appears fifth Juror on the Inquest of 1255,<sup>565</sup> and as Henry Fitz Avice sat as seventh Juror of the Borough quer but the jurors knew not the time when the tenure originated. (*Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 88.) The tenure was curious, the only one in the Borough whereupon a money-rent, payable by an individual, had been reserved by the Crown.

<sup>559</sup> *Cartæ Antiquæ apud Turrim Lond.* PP. 29, and *Calend. Rot. Cartarum*, p. 49.

<sup>560</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 17 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>561</sup> *Ibidem*, 18, 19 Hen. III.

<sup>562</sup> *Pædes finium*, 25 Hen. III, Salop.

This Robert, Clerk, may possibly be the same with Robert Fitz Avice of the pedigree, and so Brother of Henry Fitz Robert. If so, he was dead in 1251, having been possessed of some ground in High Street, of which, in 1273, Henry Fitz Roger was the owner.

<sup>563</sup> *Rot. Pip.* de eisdem annis, Salop.

<sup>564</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>565</sup> *Rot. Hund.* vol. ii, p. 59.

at the Assizes of 1256,<sup>566</sup> when also both he and his Son, Roger Fitz Henry, were acquitted of the charges of robbery, and entertainment of robbers, before recited.<sup>567</sup>

In 1259, Henry Fitz Robert is mentioned as a Tenant in Wyteburne Street, and this is the latest notice I have of him while living; for though the Pipe Roll of 1267 charges 12 years arrears of 12*d.* annual rent against the name of Henry Fitz Robert,<sup>568</sup> and the Roll of 1273 charges 18 years to the same person,<sup>569</sup> it is clear that he was dead, being spoken of, as "sometime tenant," in deeds of the period. The succession of his Son (in the absence of any payment on account of this annual *ferm*) was not recognised on the Pipe-Rolls.<sup>570</sup>

The latter, Roger Fitz Henry, occurs as a witness of Boroughdeeds in 1265, 1273, and 1277, in which last year he was a holder of land near the *Standelf*, as appears by a deed already recited.<sup>571</sup>

With him we dismiss the subject.

<sup>566</sup> *Supra*, p. 306.

<sup>567</sup> *Supra*, p. 380.—where he is written Henry Fitz Amice.

<sup>568</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 51 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>569</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 1 Edw. I, Salop.

<sup>570</sup> Even where a recurrent debt, due to the Crown, was regularly paid, the later Pipe Rolls of Henry III's time are not always evidence that the person entered as paying such debt was alive. Many instances of the contrary occur. The only solution of this inconsistency seems to be,

that the Clerk of the Pipe being mainly attentive to matters of revenue, and therefore looking chiefly to the due entry of each proper item, in some form or other, was contented to copy from former Rolls the names of several Accountants. This was particularly the case with Scutages, many of which are entered as having been paid by specific persons, years after their decease.

<sup>571</sup> *Supra*, p. 362.

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\* \* The name of each Place, which has formed the subject of a distinct notice, is printed in Capital Letters.

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The abbreviation *v.* stands for "vide," *n.* for "note."

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ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS FOR VOL. I.

- Page 16, (The Map), *for* Brown Glee Hill, *read* Brown Clee Hill.  
 — 19, col. 4, l. 9. . *for* Brimstree (as the Modern Hundred of Deuxhill), *read* Stottesden.  
 — 26, l. 32 . . . . . *for* £3. 17s., *read* £3. 7s.  
 — 35, n 18, l. 3 . *for* Churches, *read* a Church in each place.  
 — 45, l. 22 . . . . . *for* Contreyne, *read* Cantreyne.  
 — 52, n 79 . . . . . *for* Nos. 100, 102, *read* Nos. 100, 103.  
 — 69, l. 11 . . . . . *for* 1340, *read* 1341.  
 — 70, n 198, l. 1 . *for* vetus domini cum, *read* vetus dominicum.  
 — 73, n218, ll.3,4, *dele* in possession of Mr. George Morris.  
 — — — l. 8, *dele* also.  
 — 80, l. 4 . . . . . *for* Fulcoins, *read* Fulcois.  
 — 81, ll. 18, 20 . . *for* warrantry, *read* warranty.  
 — 92, l. 13 . . . . . *for* co-escheator, *read* co-escheator.  
 — — l. 14 . . . . . *for* £3. 6s. 8d., *read* £6. 13s. 4d.  
 — 93, l. 13 . . . . . *for* Vederers, *read* Verderers.  
 — 101, n 372, l. 2 . *for* Assigns, *read* assigns.  
 — 106, l. 10 . . . . . *for* either written, *read* once said to be either written.  
 — — n 6, l. 1 . . *for* Chron. Joh. Bromton, *read* Chron. Joh. Bromton.  
 — — — l. 2 . . *add* Two Abbots of this name are inserted in the lists of Abbots of Jorval, under the dates 1193 and 1436. It is quite clear that if the original Chronicle were written in the reign of John, the printed one was the work of a Transcriber, who interpolated many passages, and must have lived after the accession of Edward III (1327). The use of the name "Bruggenorth" (as in the text), is *apropos* to the question of this writer's era. That place was never so written in John's reign, nor indeed till the next century.  
 — 111, l. 22 . . . . . *for* Baron of Caus, *read* Ancestor of the Barons of Caus.  
 — 125, l. 33 . . . . . *for* Chete, senior, of Brug, a culture, *read* Chete senior of Brug, of a culture.  
 — 130, l. 18 . . . . . *for* many, *read* many.  
 — 137, ll. 4, 18 . . *for* Edmund, *read* Elmund.  
 — 139, l. 28 . . . . . *for* Edmund, *read* Elmund.  
 — 141, l. 3 . . . . . *for* Cans, *read* Caus.  
 — 142, l. 1 . . . . . *for* 1244, *read* 1344.  
 — 144, l. 4 . . . . . *for* Gouin, *read* Goiun.  
 — 150, n 5, l. 5 . *for* Abdon (Priors), Ditton, *read* Abdon, Ditton (Priors).  
 — 158, l. 7 . . . . . *for* Afrer, *read* After.  
 — 178, l. 12 . . . . *for* bu tonly, *read* but only.  
 — 180, l. 35 . . . . . *for* 1829, *read* 1289.  
 — 181, l. 1 . . . . . *for* Robert Corbet, *read* Roger Corbet.  
 — 197, l. 18 . . . . . *for* Wrichton, *read* Wrickton.  
 — 206, l. 2 . . . . . *for* (1222-3), *read* (1292-3).  
 — 211, l. 3 . . . . . *for* Elunard, *read* Eluard.  
 — 256, l. 33 . . . . *for* Bolbington, *read* Bobbington.  
 — 282, n 171, l. 2, *for* notice, *read* original evidence.  
 — 334, l. 8 . . . . . *for* only for a time, *read* never honestly.

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**ANTIQUITIES OF SHROPSHIRE.**



# ANTIQUITIES

OF

# S H R O P S H I R E.

BY

THE REV. R. W. EYTON,

RECTOR OF RYTON.

————— Non omnia grandior ætas  
Quæ fugiamus habet.

VOL. II.

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# LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

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## Alnodestreu Hundred.

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WE have now concluded our survey of all that territory which, having been in the *Domesday* Hundred of Alnodestreu, passed, or may be presumed to have passed, in time of Henry I, to the then created Hundred of Stottesden or to the extra-hundredal Liberty of Bridgnorth.

We now proceed with those Manors which, on the said dismemberment of Alnodestreu Hundred, went to constitute the newer Hundreds of Munslow and Brimstree. The Manors allotted to Munslow Hundred were but two, Broseley and Willey.<sup>1</sup> Each of these, like Deuxhill already noticed, was, in the third place and in time of Richard I, transferred to the Liberty of Wenlock, then first created. In that Franchise they have ever since remained. And first of—

## Broseley.

---

IN determining the etymology of this name it is probable that neither the *Domesday* word (Bosle), nor the one now in use (Broseley) will afford so safe a guide as that current in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, viz. Burwardsley. This I take to be nearly the Saxon name, unmutilated by Norman scribes, and unabbreviated by that Anglo-Saxon genius of language which came to eschew a multiplicity of letters as much as a redundancy of words.

The name Burhredsley (Sax. *Burhred̅slea3*) would be perfectly intelligible as the *lea3*, or district, possessed by some Saxon Burhred,

<sup>1</sup> I do not place Linley or Caughley in this category, because they were not *Domesday* Manors.

and with this attempt at an etymology, I leave the question. *Domesday* notices the place briefly and as follows:—

“The same Helgot holds Bosle. Gethne held it (in time of King Edward) and was a free man. Here is 1 hide geldable. There is arable land (sufficient) for 11 ox-teams. In demesne is one (such team), and (there are) 1111 serfs, and 1111 boors and 1 radman with 1 team. In time of King Edward, the value (of the Manor) was 16s. 1d., now it is 12s. He (Helgot) found it waste.”<sup>1</sup>

I cannot confirm my identification of Bosle with Broseley, by showing any interest as possessed in the latter by Helgot’s successors. I find no evidence of this kind; but the question of identity is not thus to be determined, for Broseley was not the only *Domesday* manor of Helgot which passed out of his ordinary succession: moreover it became absorbed in the Liberty of Wenlock, a circumstance which is known to have effaced all, or nearly all, posterior hints of the original tenure of other Manors. I shall presently show that Broseley was long afterwards rated as a Manor of 1 hide (the *Domesday* measurement).<sup>2</sup>

I can say nothing of the place during the half century following *Domesday*, but some circumstances, to which I shall allude more particularly in the sequel, have induced me to think that the Lords of Burwardsley in the next succeeding period, were descended from that Warin de Metz who appears to have acquired a considerable influence in Shropshire during the reign of Henry I.

It is well known that whatever in the way of lands and honours that monarch had to bestow was usually given to men of little previous notoriety, and probably with less regard to any claims of descent than with a view to strengthen the influence of the crown. Henry’s favourites were however persons of ability and conduct, and the allegiance which the King won by a free generosity in giving to new men, seems to have been of a truer stamp than that which resulted from his general character for impartiality and wisdom.

Of the number thus advanced I take Warin de Metz of Lorraine to have been one. The mere error by which this Warin de Metz has been identified with Warin the Bald, the first Norman Sheriff

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 258, b. 1.

<sup>2</sup> An attorney of Petronilla, wife of Warner de Williley, in 1204, is written as “Bernard de Bosleie.” (Placita de Banco

tempore Regis Johannis, No. 75, m. 12 recto.) This is nearly the *Domesday* orthography of Broseley, and serves to settle the question of identity.

of Shropshire, has long ago been pointed out, and needs no refutation here.<sup>3</sup>

Most of what we know, or rather read, about Warin de Metz, originates with those curious Chronicles which compiled from the songs of *Trouvères*, profess to give account of him and his successors, the Fitz Warins of Whittington and Alberbury.

These Chronicles, besides that portion of them which common sense rejects at once as fabulous, are replete with anachronisms, contradictions, and improbabilities. Nevertheless, like all other legends, they have their value, and it is our business to extract whatever element of truth they may contain. We must accept all that is reasonable in itself and which we cannot disprove by better evidence. We must not only accept but greatly prize whatever is confirmed by independent testimony.

Now the facts, which may be selected from these Fitz-Warin Chronicles for our present purpose are these,—that Warin de Metz lived in the time of Henry I,<sup>4</sup>—that his marriage allied him with the family of Peverel, then very powerful in Shropshire and in the Marches,—that he was related to the Dukes (or Earls) of Little Brittany, consequently to the family of Le Strange, whose progenitor Guy is represented indeed as coming to, and ultimately settling in, England by suggestion of Warin.

Accepting thus much as fact, I now hazard a conjecture, bolder than any which I have yet ventured upon in these pages and in justification of which I can refer to no previous Writer. My supposition, which must be tested by the sequel, is, that either Warin de Metz himself, or William his younger son, acquired this Lordship of Broseley in time of Henry I,—perhaps by exchange,

<sup>3</sup> Dugdale himself is responsible for this error, which, in a general inquiry like his, was a most likely one to arise. (Vide *Baronage*, vol. i, p. 443.) Finding, from the Salop Chartulary, that Warin and Fulcoins were early Sheriffs of the County, and finding, from the Fitz-Warin Chronicles, that Warin de Metz and Fulk his son, were men of great trust and repute, in an era nearly as early, Dugdale naturally identified one pair with the other. This identity is uniformly ignored by Mr. Blakeway, when noticing any of the individuals concerned, and in one instance (Sheriffs, p. 31) Dugdale's error is obvi-

ously the one alluded to. Mr. Wright, in his *History of Ludlow* (p. 83), has specified another of Dugdale's omissions, in his account of the Fitz-Warins; but the whole question of their descent requires that re-examination which I hope to offer on the earliest occasion.

<sup>4</sup> The Chronicle says that he came into notice before the death of William the Conqueror, and implies that he survived the accession of Stephen. These two *data* of course involve the third fact, of his living in the time of Henry I; but I by no means advance them both as fully correct in themselves.

perhaps under a partial forfeiture of the previous Lord, perhaps by feoffment of the then Baron of Holgate, though the seignorial interest of the latter can be traced no further.

The Archidiaconal Chapter which, about A.D. 1115, sat at Castle Holgate under presidency of Richard Bishop of London, has been already alluded to.<sup>5</sup> Among the fourteen lay witnesses who attended, were two whom it is to our purpose to mention here, viz. Hamo Peverel and Warinus. The subject which engaged the Chapter's attention should also be remembered.—

It was the Parochial jurisdiction of Wenlock Priory, and the frequent attestations of subsequent Lords of Burwardsley, which appear in deeds concerning that House, will render it possible that the Warin, who attested about A.D. 1115, so attested with reference to some similar connection. At the same time we must mark the concurrent appearance of this Warin with Hamo Peverel and with the Viceroy of Henry I.

For the sake of showing my hypothesis to be free from chronological objections I must now notice the first occurrence of the sons of Warin de Metz.<sup>6</sup>

Of these, Roger appears to have been the eldest, Fulk the second, and eventually chief of the family; and William, if rightly assumed to have been son of Warin, will have been younger than either.

The documents which suggest this view are as follows—A charter whereby Walcheline Maminohht (one of Hamo Peverel's coheirs) between the years 1136 and 1141 exchanged lands with the Abbot of Shrewsbury is attested by Roger Fitz Warin.<sup>7</sup>—

A charter by which the same Walcheline, about the year 1145 granted Bradford Mill to Haughmond Abbey is attested by Roger Fitz Warin and Fulk his Brother.<sup>8</sup>

Of the presumed third Brother, William, we do not hear so early, but when he at length occurs it is chiefly in connection with the coheirs of the Peverels.—

An act of restitution to Salop Abbey by Hugh de Dover and

<sup>5</sup> Vol. I, pp. 217, 223.

<sup>6</sup> With the same view of preserving a clear chronology, I should also notice two mis-statements of the Fitz-Warin Chronicles. The first is, that Warin de Metz married as late as the accession of Owen Gwyned to the sceptre of North Wales, *i. e.* after 1137: the second is, that it was

his son, Fulk Fitz-Warin I, who married Hawise de Dynan. It was Warin's grandson (Fulk II) who espoused that coheiress.

<sup>7</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 28.

<sup>8</sup> Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 39; and Harl. MSS., 2188, fo. 123.

Matilda his wife (one of the said coheirs), and which passed between the years 1161 and 1172, is attested by William Fitz Warin of Burewasley.<sup>9</sup>

A similar and probably contemporaneous act by Ascelina de Walterville, another of the said coheirs, is also attested by William Fitz Warin of Burewardesley.<sup>10</sup>

It was doubtless the individual under notice, in whose favour the following precept of Henry II issued early in that King's reign:—

“Henry King of England and Duke of Normandy to the Sheriff and his Ministers of Salopesire. I concede that William Fitz Warin may hold and have his assarts in Salopesire and may turn them to his profit at his own pleasure. Witness—The Chancellor at Faleise.”<sup>11</sup>

It was about this time (but specifically in 1170 or 1171) that Fulk Fitz-Warin I, the presumed elder brother of William, died. We are also fortunate in having proof that William was ere long succeeded at Broseley by another Warin. We thus complete a parallel between the two presumed brothers.

This Warin, the successor and almost surely the son of William, was a person of note in his day. The earliest mention I find of him is in a deed which passed while Peter was Prior of Wenlock, *i.e.* between the years 1169 and 1176. This deed is attested by Warin de Burwardesl' and Philip his brother.<sup>12</sup>

About September 1176, the three Justices appointed to that circuit under the Statutes of Northampton, visited Shropshire. Amongst others they inflicted a fine of two merks on “Warin de Burwarley, because he was present when excuse was made about the death of John.”<sup>13</sup> A murder, I suppose, had been hushed up by the laxity of some manorial or provincial court or jury which should have investigated the case more fully, and of which Warin was a member.

At Michaelmas 1177, Warin de Burewardesley appears as one of those who had been amerced by the King himself for trespass on the Royal Forests. His fine of ten merks, when compared with his position and that of others more heavily punished, indi-

<sup>9</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 30.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 31.

<sup>11</sup> Dugdale's MSS. in Bibl. Ashmol., vol. xvii, fo. 54, quoting evidences of Sir C. Smyth, Kut. The attesting Chancellor

is doubtless Thomas à Becket, and so the date of the precept probably May 1162.

<sup>12</sup> Wenlock Register at Willey, fo. 7.

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 22 Hen. II, Salop.

cates no very aggravated offence. He discharged half the debt in the current year and half in the year following.<sup>14</sup>

I now come to a most important entry relating to this Manor, the appearance of which on the Staffordshire and not the Shropshire Pipe-Roll is remarkable; but such transfers are by no means unprecedented.

During a recent visit of the King's Justices a fine had been negotiated by Fulko son of Fulko Fitz Warin, which he had paid before Michaelmas 1183. He had proffered "one merk that he might prosecute in the King's Court (instead of before the Justices) the suit which he had concerning one hide of land in Burewardesley."<sup>15</sup>

We have here not only a satisfactory correspondence between the *Domesday* measurement of Bosle and the subsequent contents of Burwardsley; but, according to my view, hitherto presumptive, we have the son and heir of the elder brother suing his first cousin, the son and heir of the younger brother, for his inheritance. We shall see presently that the probable ground of this suit was heirship, *i. e.* that the parties derived their claims from a common ancestor.

I have no evidence of the result of this suit, but what may be gathered from subsequent events.

About this time Warin de Burward' attests a charter which has been already cited as relating to Corve (near Monk Hopton).<sup>16</sup> As Warin de Burwardesley or Burwardle he stands last witness of two charters which passed somewhat later in the century, and by which Isabel de Say, Lady of Clun, and her third husband William Botterell ensured her extensive grants to Wenlock Priory.<sup>17</sup>

At Michaelmas 1188, Warin de Burewardesley had been fined a merk by Justices of the forest, "for building a mill without regard," *i. e.* without *view* and license of the proper authorities.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>14</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 23 and 24 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>15</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 29 Hen. II, Staff. Nova Placita et Novæ Conventiones per Thomam filium Bernardi et Alanum de Furnellis et Robertum de Witefeld. Fulko filius Fulkonis filii Warini reddit compotum de 1 marcâ pro habendâ loquelâ suâ in Curiâ Regis de 1 hidâ terræ in Burewardeslega. In Thesauro liberavit. Et quietus est.

<sup>16</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 140.

<sup>17</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. v, 76; Nos. iv & v.

<sup>18</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 34 Hen. II, Salop. This probably arose from the contiguity of Broseley to Shirlot Forest. The rights and jurisdictions appurtenant to a Royal Forest were by no means confined to the actual limits of the *haye* or chace. All sorts of imposts were assessable on neighbouring and often on distant Manors, and every Manor thus liable was said to be "within regard" of such and such a Forest.

During the captivity of King Richard, Warin de Burwardsley was one of those who aided in the treasonable designs of John Earl of Moreton, nay, he was actually in the employment of that Prince at Nottingham.

On the surrender of that Castle in March 1194, he would appear to have been of the garrison, and his manors and effects were seized into the King's hands in consequence. But the records (admirably consistent with and illustrative of the history of this eventful period) shall tell their own story.—

At Michaelmas 1194, the Custos of the King's Escheats, under the head of "Salopescire" renders account of the following receipts, viz.—of £3. 8s. 6d., of the *ferm* of Warin's Burwardeley, for half a year;—of £10. for the corn of the same *vill* which had been sold;—of 17s. of the *ferm* of the same Warin's Bradelea (Bradley near Broseley);—and of 6s. 8d. for hay of the same *vill* which had been sold.<sup>19</sup>

At the same period (Michaelmas 1194) "Adam de Beissin accounted five merks for pardon, whereas he had married Mabel le Strange of Burwardesley without the King's license and for having his lands in Shropshire in peace." He had paid the whole fine.<sup>20</sup>

This requires some explanation. Adam de Beysin of Billingsley, Wrickton, Walkerslow, and Ashfield, the last three of which he held *in capite* of the Crown, had married Mabel eldest daughter and eventually coheir of Warin de Burwardsley. This being without license he was liable to fine and forfeiture, not because he had married an heiress or ward of the Crown, which was not yet Mabel's condition, but because he himself was a tenant *in capite*. But a still more important hint is contained in this Exchequer entry,—Mabel daughter of Warin de Burwardsley is called "Mabel le Strange."

This, in conjunction with our previous assumptions, reminds us of the inferences drawn from the Fitz Warin Chronicle, viz. that Warin de Metz was not only akin to the family of Le Strange, but might himself be well described by a name, which, if I mistake not, was originally borne by or applied to more than one family.

Very shortly after Michaelmas 1194, Warin de Burwardsley redeemed his forfeited lands, for the Escheator who accounted at

<sup>19</sup> "Escheat-Roll of Divers Counties,"  
inserted in *Rot. Pip.* 6 Ric. I.

<sup>20</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6 Ric. I, Salop.

Michaelmas 1195, had received nothing therefrom during the past year. Moreover among the fines which had been offered and accepted by the King since "his return from Almagne" was one to the following effect—"Warin de Burwordesle renders account of 20 merks for having the King's goodwill and his land, who was with Earl John in Nottingham Castle. He has paid it and is quit."

At the same period (Michaelmas 1195), Warin de Burewordesle is entered as owing 2½ merks, a further fine which he had proffered "for having trial about half a knight's fee in Rowlton and Ellardine, against Griffin, son of Hereverth (so written for Gervase). Warin's pledge was John le Straungc.<sup>21</sup> The whole of this fine was not discharged till Michaelmas, 1201.

Here again we are reminded of the connection between Warin and the family of Le Strange; and once more, when, some years later, John le Strange made a grant, in Cheswardine, to Haugmond Abbey, Warin de Burward' was a witness.<sup>22</sup>

This is not the place to hazard any surmise about the grounds of Warin de Burwardsley's claim on Rowton and Ellardine. Suffice it to say, that those two Manors, together with Sutton and Brockton, constituted the Serjeantry of Griffin, son of Gervase Goch, who had in the previous year (1194) succeeded to his estates. Griffin's title was questioned in another instance than this, and in that other instance he is known to have compounded the adverse claim of Ralph de Sanford by a grant of land in Brockton. Something of the same kind probably resulted in the case of Warin de Burwardsley; for an Inquisition taken about A. D. 1251 records that "Griffin de Sutton formerly alienated 2 virgates of his serjeantry at Sutton to Warin de Burwardeg."<sup>23</sup>

At the County Assizes (October 1203), Warin de Burwardsley sat as a juror in causes which were tried by *the King's grand Assize*.<sup>24</sup>

I must not omit to mention that besides his estates at Broseley, Bradley, and Sutton, Warin de Burwardsley was also a tenant *in capite* of the Crown. A Roll of Crown Tenures in the County of Stafford, which appears to have been taken in 1211, records that "Warin de Burewardesley holds the Manor of Esseleg by service of the fifth part of a knight's fee, for which he is liable to do ward

<sup>21</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 7 Ric. I, Salop.

<sup>22</sup> Haugmond Chartulary, fo. 43.

<sup>23</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 274.

<sup>24</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 4 recto. These jurors were usually Knights, or men of knightly degree.



at Srawrthin.”<sup>25</sup> The Manor which he thus held was Ashley-upon-Tern, in Pyrehill Hundred, Staffordshire. It had been Earl Roger’s at *Domesday*. The Castle, to which the service specified was due, was that of Shrawardine, and at the period in question it was a Royal Castle.

Within the three years ending Michaelmas 1212, Warin de Burewardesleg had fined with the King in a sum of 20 merks, but for what purpose we cannot say.—The fine had been paid. Within the same period, and probably towards its close, he had been amerced in a similar sum of 20 merks, for a breach of the forest laws. Of this heavy penalty he had paid three parts, and the King (John) had excused the rest.<sup>26</sup>

I can say little more of Warin de Burwardsley, except that about 1196 he attested a composition about Priors Ditton Church already noticed; about 1200, a grant by William Mauveysin of Ridware (Staffordshire); about 1201, a grant by William Fitz Alan (II) to Richard de Leighton; and between 1205 and 1211, a grant by Ralph de Sanford which concerned land at Brockton, near Sutton.<sup>27</sup>

A very usual witness with Warin de Burwardsley was his neighbour Warner de Willey, and the appearances of both indicate a high position in the County Court, if not some more specific and official connexion.

I find no later notice of Warin de Burwardsley than that above mentioned, in the year 1212. He had then been in possession of his estates nearly forty years, and he certainly did not survive many more. At his death (between 1212 and 1220), he left two sons, Philip and Roger, and three daughters, Mabel, Alice and Margery.

Philip de Burwardsley, the heir of Warin, occurs first as having fined with King Henry III for a weekly Market at “Eist” (Ashley). The Record of the Fine does not seem to be preserved, but on May 20, 1220 (the King being at Shrewsbury), Philip paid by hand of Walter de Saint Owen, a *palfrey* for this privilege. Accordingly a *writ close* dated 2d Oct. 1220, orders the Barons of the Exchequer to discharge the debt from their accounts.<sup>28</sup>

At the County Assizes, Nov. 1221, William Fitz Richard and

<sup>25</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 249.

<sup>26</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 14 John, Salop, which combines (without distinguishing) the Sheriff’s accounts for three years. The *Fine Rolls* for the whole period are lost; so is the *Forest Roll*, which should

contain the entry we are in need of.

<sup>27</sup> *Supra*, vol. i, p. 322. Shaw’s *Staffordshire*, vol. i, p. 170; and *Charters at Leighton and Haughton*.

<sup>28</sup> *Rot. Claus.* vol. i, p. 431.

Emma his wife, who had *arraigned an assize of novel disseizin* against Philip de Burwardesley and William le Bretun concerning a tenement in Wenlock and *warranty of a Charter*, withdrew their suit, receiving 20s. from the latter.<sup>29</sup>

In 1230, Philip de Burwardsley appears in the Courts at Westminster as being sued by Fulk Fitz Warin (the third of that name, as I discover) for his inheritance, or so much thereof as had not been involved in the litigation of their respective Fathers nearly fifty years before. The steps which were taken in this new suit should be given as they occur on the Rolls. On the *Quinzaine* of St. Hilary (Feb. 17) 1230, Fulco Fitz Warin names Henry de Waneting as his Attorney against Philip de Burwardel.<sup>30</sup>

On June 23, 1230, the cause came on.—“Fulco Fitz Warin, by his Attorney sues Philip de Burwardel for 2 carrucates of land in Edulvescote (Arlscot), and 2 carrucates in Bradelegh (Bradley), both in Shropshire; also for 2 carrucates in Offeleg (so written for Ashley), Staffordshire.—Philip asks *view* of the whole. The cause is adjourned to the Octaves of St. Martin,” (Nov. 18, 1230).<sup>31</sup>

I can trace nothing of this suit for many succeeding Terms, but on July 8, 1233, I find that the cause was still standing for trial by *Grand Assize*, and that Philip's Attorney, Warner de Bradele, *essoigned* himself by Roger Brun. An adjournment to Nov. 12 was the result. That day was given to such Recognizors as were in attendance, viz. to Robert de Essington, Robert de Halgeton, Adam de Brimton, John de Acton and William de Wilbricton of Staffordshire, and to Nicholas de Wylilegh and Robert de Stapelton of Shropshire: and the Sheriff was to produce the others (non-attendants) bodily in Court.<sup>32</sup>

On the day named (Nov. 12, 1233), the “Great Assize between Fulco Fitz Warin, Plaintiff, and Philip de Burwardesleg concerning land in Asselegh, was respited to one month of Easter (*i.e.* to May 21, 1234) by reason of the default (non-attendance) of the Recognizors.”<sup>33</sup>

On that day Warner de Bradele, Philip's Attorney, had *essoign*

<sup>29</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 3 dorso. Philip de Burwardsley served at these Assizes, as a Juror, in several important trials, and was apparently a Knight.

<sup>30</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Hilary Term 14 Hen. III, memb. 12 recto.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibidem*, Trinity Term 14 Hen. III, memb. 11 dorso.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibidem*, Trinity Term 17 Hen. III.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibidem*, Mich. Term 17 & 18 H. III, memb. 25 recto.

through Richard de Beysin till Oct. 27; which day was also given to Adam de Arundell, Robert de Clifton, and Nicholas de Wylilegh, Recognizors, who were in attendance; and the Sheriff had the usual order to produce the Defaulters.<sup>34</sup>

The Rolls of Michaelmas Term 1234 are lost, and of every Term till that of Easter 1236, when nothing further of this suit appears. We are however most fortunate in having a hint as to its probable termination. In the year 1259, the then Fulk Fitz Warin of Whittington was in receipt of an annual quit-rent of 7*s.* chargeable on one third of the Manor of Ashley.<sup>35</sup> He probably had a similar *lien* on the other shares of the Manor, and indeed evidence of that fact occurs.<sup>36</sup>

This brings round the more general and interesting question of descent with which we are concerned.—

It matters not whether the Fulk Fitz Warin of 1259 held this rent-charge as an inheritance derived from a succession of ancestors, or whether after long disuse the hereditary due had been re-established by law.—

It was clearly a seignourial right, and represented a *bonâ fide* claim. As such its existence is in perfect conformity with, nay a circumstantial proof of, the theory which has now, I think, been established, viz. that the family of De Burwardsley were Fitz Warins, they and the Fitz Warins of Whittington descended respectively from a younger and elder Son of Warin de Metz. That certain Armorial Bearings were at an early period common to both houses may perhaps be taken as a final and conclusive evidence on the question.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> *Esson. apud Westm.* Easter Term 18 Hen. III, memb. 27 recto.

<sup>35</sup> *Escheats*, 43 Hen. III, No. 12, b.

<sup>36</sup> John de Eyton, who died in 1300, and represented another of these shares, is expressly said to have been chargeable with a chief-rent of half a merk, due on a third of Ashley, to the Fulk Fitz Warin of that period. (*Inquisition*, 28 Edw. I, No. 33).

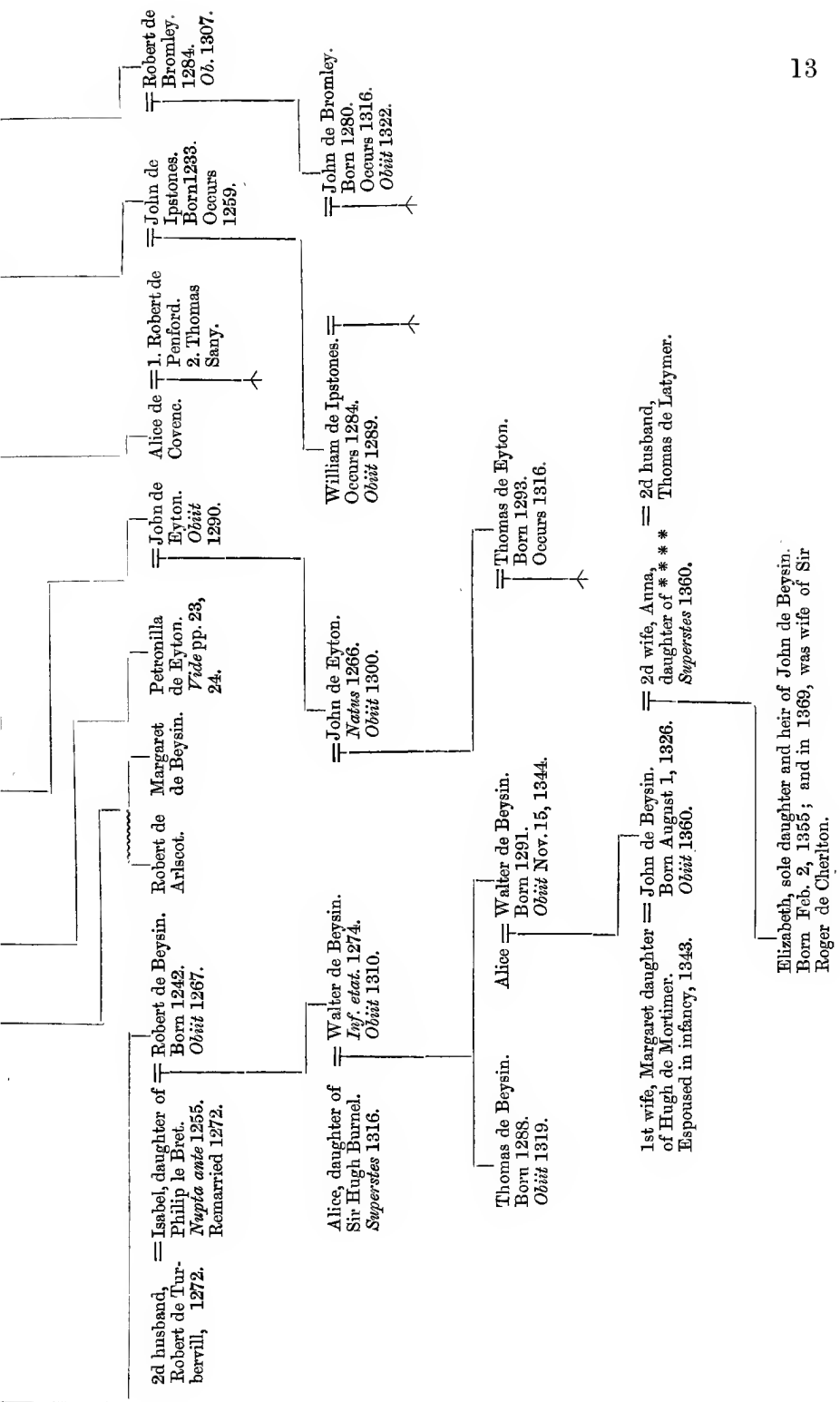
<sup>37</sup> It is not meant by this that these or any Arms were derived from their common Ancestor, Warin de Metz, whose era was far too early to warrant such an assumption. The probability is, that when the elder house assumed a certain coat, the

younger house assumed the same (with some difference, or mark of cadency), and thereby acknowledged or asserted its claim of relationship. The arms borne by Fitz Warin of Whittington were—

“Quarterly, per fesse indented, argent and gules.”

The same *Partition-Lines* appear on the shield of Philip de Burwardsley. The colours of the latter cannot be positively determined, but there is every presumption that they were Gules and Or. The substitution of *colour* for *metal* in the first or principal quarter of the shield, would be, I imagine, a mark of cadency quite in keeping with early heraldic usage.





Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of John de Beysin. Born Feb. 2, 1355; and in 1369, was wife of Sir Roger de Cherlton.

To return to Philip de Burwardsley.—

At Michaelmas 1231, he appears as having been amerced five merks by the Justices of the Forest “because his dogs coursed without license.” He had paid two merks already, and the balance was discharged in the following year.<sup>38</sup>

An Inquisition of Staffordshire Tenures which seems to be of date about A.D. 1232, reports him as holding Esseleg (Ashley) by serjeantry of finding, at his proper cost, one serving horseman at the Castle of Srawrthin for fifteen days.<sup>39</sup>

Again in 1235-6, when the aid for marrying the King’s Sister Isabella to the Emperor Frederiek was levied in Staffordshire, Philip de Burewardesley paid one merk thereto, the assessment proportionate to half a Knight’s fee held *in capite*, in Asseleg.<sup>40</sup>

Besides his estates already mentioned he seems to have held half a hide in Stoneacton, probably under the same Madoc de Sutton of whom he held land at Brockton. This half-hide Philip appears to have granted to the Knights Templars of Lidley before the year 1240.<sup>41</sup>

About this time he seems to have died, leaving no issue. His Brother Roger was his heir. His wife Emma also survived him. The period of his tenure of Broseley and Ashley is well illustrated by a series of deeds, which must be briefly recited.—

Philip de Burwardsley grants to the Abbot and Convent of Buildwas a right of quarry throughout his wood of Burwardsley towards the construction of their buildings. They may make a road from their quarries to the Severn and cut down trees for that purpose, but must leave the timber on the ground.—Witnesses : Fuleo de Alberburi, William de Warren and Ranulf his Brother, Gerald Fitz Toret, Roger de Restune, Memun de Swiney, William de Aseley.<sup>42</sup>

Besides his attestation of two Broekton Deeds, the earliest of which passed between the years 1216 and 1224, Philip de Burwardsley deals with part of his tenure in that manor as follows.—He grants to “Ralph de Sonforde and his heirs a virgate in the

<sup>38</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 15 & 16 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>39</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 240.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*, folios 237, 244.

<sup>41</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 72.

<sup>42</sup> *Blakeway MSS.* in Bibl. Bodl. I give the witnesses’ names as I am able to read them. The first is undoubtedly Fulk Fitz Warin (III) ; the last connected with

Ashley (Staffordshire). The deed may be dated as having passed about 1220. If so, it informs us of the date of some parts of Buildwas Abbey. The Seal is charged with the coat of arms described above, but is in the shape of a heart, and different from other, and presumptively later, seals of the same Grantor.

*vill* of Brocton, viz. that which Thomas held. Fifteen merks is paid for *ingress*, and Philip reserves to himself and heirs an annual rent of 12*d.* payable at Michaelmas' in the *vill* of Burewardesley. Philip further covenants to discharge an annual rent of 6*d.* due on the said virgate to the Lord of the Fee.—Witnesses: Walter de Hufeforde, Hugh de Bechebi, Richard de Ruton, William de Bagesouer, Henry le Strange, William Ruscel, Adam de la Haya.<sup>43</sup>

As regards his Manor of Ashley, Philip de Burwardeleg grants to Richard le Rekene of Podemor half a virgate in the *vill* of Esscleg, with such common rights as were enjoyed by his other men of Esseleg.—Richard to pay reasonable pannage if he should have any swine in the Lord's wood.—Witnesses: Sir Benedict de Bromleg, Geoffrey his son, William, Clerk of Chatculne, Gervase de Standon, Richard de Podemor, Nicholas de Derinton, John and William sons of Robert Provost of Esseleg, and others.<sup>44</sup>

By another deed "Philip, Lord of Burwardsley grants to William, son of Henſgius of Tonge and his heirs, half a virgate in Edulvescote (Arlscott), which John, Brother of Dame Petronilla, held.—Witnesses: Richard de Middelhope, Richard de Leiton, Reginald de Leigh, Nicholas de Wilileye, Wido de Ferlauwe, William le Forcer, Richard de Kayleg, John Tece, Stephen de Swiney, Roger de Presthope, William de Burwardsley,<sup>45</sup> Walter Bon Valet, William de Benethale, Adam de Hesleia (Ashley).<sup>46</sup>

A further series of three deeds which seem to have passed successively between the years 1226 and 1240, contain many points of local and some of more general interest.—

<sup>43</sup> Charter in possession of the Rev. John Brooke. The Seal, of white wax, is nearly destroyed, but enough remains to show a shield of arms divided "Quarterly, per fesse indented." The probable date is from 1220 to 1230.

<sup>44</sup> Charter at Willey. I quote this deed as affording disproof of Erdeswiek's statement (Edition 1844, p. 116) as to the descent of the Bromleys, of whom I have more to say presently. Podmore, Chatkill, Bromley (now Gerrards Bromley), Standon, and Dorrington, are all *vills* or hamlets near to Ashley; Dorrington is in Shropshire.

<sup>45</sup> There was a William de Burwardel, son of Baldwin, who being with King John at Dublin, in 1210, had on August

21, an advance of two merks out of the King's coffers. (*Præstita*, p. 218). This debt, together with another *præstitum* of 20*s.*, was repaid through the Sheriff of Shropshire, in the year ending Michaelmas 1231 (*Rot. Pip.* 15 Hen. III), and by William de Borewardel himself, who may therefore be the witness of the above.

<sup>46</sup> Coyney Charters, copied by Dugdale (vol. xxxix, p. 34, in *Bibl. Ashmol. Oxon.*) The year 1230 must be the proximate date of this deed. It had a Seal of Arms—"Quarterly, per fesse indented." Mr. Blakeway's supposition that Dame Petronilla, mentioned in this deed, was the wife of Warner de Willey, is not, I think, well grounded.

By the first, Philip Lord of Burwardesleg with consent of his wife and heirs, grants to Geoffrey son of Nicholas Smith of Burwardesleg the land which William Fitz Goderich held in Burwardesleg, and 5 acres in Switfeld, in lieu of the land of Hurste which Goderich, William's Father, held (said 5 acres being situate, 2 beyond the Denesti, 1 in the culture of Baredis, 1 above the Longefurlong, and 1 in the culture of Hargreve). The entrance-fee is 10 merks; the reserved rent 6s. The tenant and his heirs to have *husbot* and *haybote* in the Lord's wood, where his other free men have common-right, and all *easements* for himself and his animals. He may assign the premises to whom he will, except religious houses.—Witnesses: Nicholas de Willeg, William Parson of Burwardesleg, John Tece, William le Forcer, Stephen de Swiney, William de Swiney, John le Got, Ralph de Kayleg, Adam Hesleg (de Ashley), Alan de la Dene, Warner his son, William Carpenter, and others.<sup>47</sup>

By the next deed "Philip de Burwardesle, in his full power, concedes and confirms to Ralph Cutuel Clerk the land which he had before given to Geoffrey Fitz Nicholas." The same premises are described and the same rent reserved "as" (says the Grantor) "the Charter which I made to Geoffrey testifies, because the same Geoffrey, in my Court, hath given the said land to the aforementioned Ralph, and hath delivered to him the Charter which I made him thereof, and hath attorned the said Ralph and his assignees to render the aforesaid service to me. And I Philip, on Geoffrey's resignation, have received the homage of Ralph in my Court." For this, Ralph paid 1 merk entrance-money.—Witnesses: Robert de Haya, Walter de Huggefurd, Robert de Stepelton, Roger Sprengelos, Odo de Hodenet, Maddoc de Sutton, Henry de Huggefurd, Stephen de Suyney, Warin de Bradel', Roger de Pynelesdun, William de Tonge, and Adam de Esset.<sup>48</sup>

By the third deed of this series Philip de Burwardesle gives to

<sup>47</sup> Charter at Willey. The Seal, of green wax, is two inches in diameter, and nearly entire. It bears a shield of arms (party per fesse indented), and the legend—SIGILL' PHILIPPI DE BURWARDESLEG.

A former tenant of one of the acres named in the deed is called Thwst, the initial letter used by the scribe being þ (the Saxon *th*). In the next deed the same name is written Yust.

<sup>48</sup> Charter at Willey. The Seal is as the last, but of rose-coloured wax, and attached by a plaited cord of red silk. Both these deeds have been marked with a cross (apparently at the time of execution) on the lower margin. It is undoubtedly the mark of the Grantor. The practice of affixing a mark belonged rather to an earlier period than the date of these deeds, but was rare at any time.





Seal of St James' Hospital, Bridgnorth.

(Vide Vol. I. p. 349)



Seal of Philip de Burwardesleg.



Robert de Haya all the land and messuage in Burwardesle which Geoffrey the Deacon, son of Nicholas, formerly held of him, and which said Geoffrey afterwards sold to Ralph the Clerk, formerly Rector of Burwardesle, and which Gilbert, brother and heir of said Ralph, afterwards sold to the Grantor (Philip). Philip also grants to the same Robert the messuage and curtilage which belonged formerly to Quepith, daughter of Godric, near the Court of the Parson of the said *vill* of Burwardesle. For this Robert de Haya pays 8 merks on entry (in gersumam). The reserved rent is a pair of white gloves.—Witnesses: Walter de Huggefurd; Odo de Hodenet; Richard de Harleg, Clerk; Madoc de Sutton; Alan Fitz Alvic of Bruges; John de Burwarsleg.<sup>49</sup>

Of Roger de Burwardsley, Philip's successor, I find some notices during the life of his elder brother. On 12 March 1227, he attests a Charter of Wenlock Priory.<sup>50</sup> He appears as claiming some interest in Higley against Ralph de Mortimer of Wigmore, in August 1228, and again in May 1229.<sup>51</sup> The result of his suits was a Fine dated Nov. 21, 1236, whereby Ralph de Mortimer granted feoffment of a carucate in Huggel' to Roger and his heirs.<sup>52</sup> Roger's claim had in the second instance been prosecuted under writ of "mort d'ancestre," whereby I presume that it arose through his mother, who must have been a second wife of Warin de Burwardsley, otherwise Philip, elder brother of Roger and living in 1229 if not in 1236, could have been the only claimant under such a writ.

Be that as it may, Roger de Burwardsley and another are entered on a Roll, of date about 1240, as holding one knight's fee in Hugeleg under Ralph de Mortimer.<sup>53</sup>

The next notice which I have of Roger de Burwardsley involves the fact of his decease previous to 12 Oct. 1243. On that day the King's Writ, directing the usual Inquisition on the death of a *Tenant in capite*, issued.<sup>54</sup>

The Return reports that the Deceased "held two carucates in Demesne in Esseleg, and seven virgates in villanage by service of finding one horseman at Montgomery<sup>55</sup> for fifteen days:—that

<sup>49</sup> Copy in Mr. Blakeway's MSS., apparently extracted from the Collections of the well-known James Bowen.

<sup>50</sup> *Monasticon*, vol. v, p. 74; Notes, No. 5.

<sup>51</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 12 Hen. III, and 13 Hen. III.

<sup>52</sup> *Fines at Salop*, 21 Hen. III.

<sup>53</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 228.

<sup>54</sup> *Inq. p. mort.* 27 Hen. III, No. 28.

<sup>55</sup> The services of Castle-Guard due to Shrawardine were *attorned* to the Castle of Montgomery early in the reign of Hen. III;—of which more hereafter.

the land altogether was worth £5. 3s. 2d. (per annum), whereof the widow of Philip de Burwardsley had a third:—that the three sisters of Roger were his heirs, to wit, Mabel, the eldest, and Alice, and Margery.”

The result was that on 19 Feb. 1244, the King rendered to the said three sisters the whole land which their brother Roger held *in capite* in Asseleg, and received their homage thereof. The Sheriff of Staffordshire was enjoined to take their security for payment of 100s. relief to the Crown, and to give them livery of the land in question, saving to Mabel, the eldest sister, her *esnevy*<sup>56</sup> of the aforesaid land.<sup>57</sup> They had accounted for the said 100s. before Michaelmas 1245.<sup>58</sup>

We must now say something of each of these coheireses.—

Mabel de Burwardsley, the eldest, has already been mentioned under the name of Mabel le Strange, and as having, previously to Michaelmas 1194, been married to Adam de Beysin. Though she was now (1244) living, fifty years after her marriage, her husband had been some time dead.

At his decease in 1238, he left by Mabel, Adam his son and heir, a second son Warin, of whom presently, and a daughter Margery, who about 1225 had married Thomas de Bagsore.

Adam de Beysin, son and heir of Adam, did not live long to enjoy his paternal inheritance. He died Dec. 13, 1243, leaving an only son and heir, Robert, about sixteen months old at his father's death. During the first part of his very long minority Robert's grandmother, Mabel, was yet alive and so representing the interests of this branch of the family in one-third of Broseley.

We will first say what remains to be said of her.—

In the year 1244 or 1245, calling herself Mabel daughter of Warin de Burwardesleg, she grants in lawful widowhood to Warin her son all the land which by hereditary right had fallen or should fall to her in the *vills* of Edulvescote (Arlscott) and of West Bradeleye (Bradley near Broseley). The reserved rent is one pound of pepper.—Witnesses: Sir Hugh de Upton, Sir Richard de Leychton, Sir Thomas Corbet of Tasseleye, Sir Ralph d'Arraz, Knights; Hugh de Lega, Thomas de Upton, John de Bechebir, Henry, Clerk of Kinlet.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>56</sup> The right of choosing first among coparcners in an estate.

<sup>57</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 28 Hen. III, memb. 8; and *Originalia*, 28 Hen. III, memb. 3.

<sup>58</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 29 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>59</sup> Dugdale's Extracts from Coyney Deeds (ut supra). This deed had a Seal charged with the device of a Spread Eagle

At Michaelmas 1247, Mabel de Burwardeleg appears as having accounted half a merk to the Sheriff for some default.<sup>60</sup>

An Inquisition, of September 1263, presently to be cited, speaks of Mabel de Beysin having held dower in her former husband's lands; but the Record is so defaced that I can extract from it no inference as to the period of her death or whether, as was barely possible, she was living at the date of the Inquest.<sup>61</sup>

Of Warin her younger son, and Margery her daughter, I shall speak elsewhere; but here of—

Robert de Beysin, grandson and heir of Mabel, who had, as I have said, a very long minority and (his father having been a *tenant in capite*) was in the first instance a ward of the Crown. The King granted the said wardship to Sibil Giffard, who sold it to Sir Baldwin Freville. The latter again sold it, either altogether, or in so far as the marriage of the heir was concerned, to Sir Philip le Bret. Hence the following statement by the jurors of Wenlock Liberty in 1255.—

“Robert de Beyssin is Lord of Burewardesleg, and of Edullescot (Arlscot) and Bradeleg, and he holds of the Prior of Wenlock. He does suit to the Court of the Prior as, before Richard I's time, his ancestors did suit to Munselowe Hundred. Robert was in custody of the King. The King gave said custody to Dame Sibil Giffard, she to Sir Baldwin Frevill, who sold Robert's marriage to Sir Philip de Bret.”<sup>62</sup>

The contemporary Inquisitions as to Robert de Beysin's other Manors give additional information, *e.g.* under Wrickton we are told that he was already married (he was only thirteen years of age) to Philip le Bret's daughter, though Baldwin Freville is still called his guardian; under Silvington Philip le Bret is called his guardian, and *William* de Freville under Billingsley.<sup>63</sup>

Another Inquest (taken Sept. 22, 1263) informs us that Sibil

and the legend—S' MABILIE DE BURE-  
WARDESLEGH.

<sup>60</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>61</sup> *Inquisitions*, 47 Hen. III, No. 26.

<sup>62</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 84, 86. The tenure by which Broseley was held of the Prior of Wenlock was peculiar. The Lord of the *vill* was to dine with the Prior on Saint Milburg's Day and carve the principal dish at table. This service seems to have been discharged by the Beysins as representing the eldest co-heiress of Broseley.

It is mentioned in several Inquisitions but with some variety; for instance, in time of Edward II, the day on which the service was performed was Christmas Day, and the Beysin of that time was to pay a three days' visit to the Prior, and be entertained, together with his suit, at the Prior's charge. The Lords of Broseley also owed suit to the Prior's Hundred-Court at Burton, every three weeks.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 82, 83, 74.

Giffard conveyed the wardship of Robert to Sir William Devereux.<sup>64</sup> The latter certainly had it soon after 1255, but perhaps not immediately from Sibil Giffard.

The temporary interest thus acquired by Sir William d'Evereux in Broseley is involved in many matters which affected his ward equally with the other representatives of Roger de Burwardsley. We shall therefore give such details in another place. Here we will recount only those particulars which concern the guardianship, and which are in themselves somewhat complicated.

At Michaelmas 1260, Robert de Beysin had fined 1 merk "to have an assize."<sup>65</sup> He was in fact suing William Devereux and Matilda his wife for the Manor of Billingsley, and, as I have before mentioned, a Patent had issued for trial of the cause on July 20 previous.<sup>66</sup>

Owing probably to this difference between the ward and his guardian, an Inquisition was ordered to ascertain the age of the former. Its report was to the effect that he would be 19 years of age on August 15, 1261.<sup>67</sup>

A second Inquest on the same question sat Sept. 22, 1263, reported Robert as of full age on August 15 previous, and that he was in ward to Sir William Devereux.<sup>68</sup>

Sir William Devereux fell at the battle of Evesham (August 4, 1265), and though not on the Royalist side, a Patent dated Oct. 12 of the same year, grants his Manors of Hamme, Frome, and Wileby, to his widow Matilda for her life.<sup>69</sup>

Nor did Matilda's interest in Robert de Beysin's Manors of Broseley and Billingsley cease with his minority, or the death of her husband.—

As Matilda de Ebroicis, she grants in her lawful widowhood to Geoffrey de Bosco of Burwardesleye and Margery his wife a mesuage and *half-ferdendel* of land in Burwardesleye, to have and to hold for her (Matilda's) life.—Rent to be 3*s.* 8*d.* The Grantress reserves suit of her own Court, as well as suit of the Hundred-Court of the Prior of Wenlock. She gives them liberty to dig marl

<sup>64</sup> Escheat, 47 Hen. III, No. 26.

<sup>65</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 44 Hen. III, Salop. *Nova oblata*,

<sup>66</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, pp. 65, 66.

<sup>67</sup> *Inquisitions*, 45 Hen. III, No. 47. Not on February 2d, 1261, as I stated before (Vol. I, p. 66).

<sup>68</sup> *Ibidem*, 47 Hen. III, No. 26. This Inquest was inadvertently stated, under Billingsley, to have sat March 3, 1263. There is some doubt about the dates, but the above is probably the true account.

<sup>69</sup> *Patent*, 49 Henry III.

in her marl-pit to dress their land.—Witnesses: Sir Nicholas de Wodeford, Philip de Swyneye, William Dispensar of Wyleleye, Nicholas de Dene, Wenne de Swyneye, &c.<sup>70</sup>

It is very possible that this continued interference of Matilda in Broseley, arose from the early death of her late husband's ward.

Robert de Beysin was certainly deceased before he had long completed his twenty-fifth year. On Sept. 19, 1267, the King granted marriage of his widow Isabella to Hugh de Beaumes (as I shall show more fully under Tong), and in September 1272, the said Isabella (daughter I presume of Philip le Bret) was reported by the Stottesden Jurors as having remarried Robert de Turberville without the King's assent. Their lands were ordered to be seized, and the Sheriff was to cause their appearance in Court.<sup>71</sup> The same Jurors also reported a murder in Isabella's household. Richard, a boy in her service, had been killed by a man of Thomas Botterel.<sup>72</sup>

At this time Walter de Beysin, son and heir, I presume, of Robert, was, as might be expected from what has been related of his Father, in minority.

On Nov. 27, 1274, the Stottesden Jurors reported Hugh de Beaumeys as having custody of the Manors of Workiton and Walkeslowe by the King's gift.<sup>73</sup>

In 1284 however (as has already been shown under Billingsley) Walter de Beysin was of age and subject to a prosecution by Matilda Devereux.<sup>74</sup> He was at the same time in full possession of his Manors of Wrickton and Walkerslowe.<sup>75</sup>

At this point we may leave the subject of his succession, and revert to the history of the other two coheirresses of Roger de Burwardsley.—

Alice, the second of the three sisters, to whom livery of their inheritance had been given in February 1244, was, like her elder sister, a widow at the time.

In default of better evidence I must suppose that John de Eyton

<sup>70</sup> Charter at Willey

<sup>71</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 49.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 48 dorso.

<sup>73</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 108. This custody had commenced previous to June 1271, when I infer Robert de Beysin to have been dead (*Plac. coram Rege*. Trin. Term 55 Hen. III, memb. 9 recto).

<sup>74</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 66.

<sup>75</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* At the same time Matilda Devereux is set down as holding Longnebre (Longnor, Staffordshire, a Manor of Walter de Beysin's) under the Baron Stafford (*Shaw's History of Staffordshire*, Vol. I, Introduction, p. xxv).

of Water Eyton and Longnor (Staffordshire) had been the husband of Alice.<sup>76</sup> If so he was a tenant at both places under Adam de Beysin who married the eldest coheiress, and there is some probability that he and Adam were previously of kin.

Between the years 1244 and 1249, this Alice, calling herself daughter of Warin de Burwardsley and a widow, grants to Amicia her daughter all her land of inheritance in Adulvescote, with one-third of the tenement which Dame Emma, formerly wife of her Brother Philip, still held in dower in Burwardsley. Rent, 1*d.* payable in Burwardsley.—Witnesses: Sir Thomas Corbet, Sir Walter de Hugford, Sir Hugh Fitz Robert, Sir William de Hedleg, Sir Richard de Lehcton, Sir Thomas de Constantine, Sir Madoc de Sutton, Sir Hugh de Scheynton, Henry de Hugford, Warin de Beysin, William de Tong, Stephen de Swyney, Anian de Burwardsley, John son of John, &c.<sup>77</sup>

Alice seems to have been succeeded in her share of Broseley, &c. by Roger de Eyton, probably her younger son, who sat as a Juror of Wenlock Liberty at the Assizes of January 1256.<sup>78</sup>

On 16 Oct. 1258, Giles de Erdinton and others are appointed Justices to try an Assize of *darrein presentment* brought by Roger de Eyton and others against the Bishop of Hereford and others, concerning the Advowson of the Church of Burwardsle.<sup>79</sup>

At Westminster, on the Octaves of Hilary 1259, Ralph de Coven and Roger de Eyton appeared against Peter Bishop of Hereford, William Devereux, and Matilda his wife, in a plea that the Defendants should attend in Court to hear an Assize of *darrein presentment* which the Plaintiffs had arraigned against them concerning the Advowson of the Church of Broseley then vacant.

<sup>76</sup> Erdeswick says as much (pp. 116, 117, 168, Edition 1844); but whereas he also says that the *third* coheiress married Eyton, and was mother of John del Eyton, and grandmother of Thomas del Eyton, and great grandmother of John del Eyton, and that Thomas Eyton sold Eyton and Longnor to Sir Thomas Beysine about 10 Edw. I (1281-2), his evident ignorance on the whole subject makes one hesitate to accept any part of his assertions.

<sup>77</sup> *Coyney Evidences* (ut supra). The Seal had the device of a lion rampant. If the first witness be Sir Thomas Corbet

of Tasley the date of the deed will be 1244-1247 in which latter year he died. If however it be Thomas Corbet of Caus, the date will be 1248-1249, in the first of which he became Sheriff, and in the last of which Sir Hugh Fitz Robert was dead. Compare the deed of Mabel de Burwardsley (supra, note 59).

<sup>78</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 12 recto (*Placita Corona*). Roger however must have held under the elder brother.

<sup>79</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 42 Hen. III, dorso.



The Defendants appeared not, and were summoned for the Octaves of the Purification (Feb. 9).<sup>80</sup>

On that day they came not; so the Assize was to be taken "by default," but was afterwards adjourned to the *Quinzaine*, of Easter.<sup>81</sup> The Rolls of Easter Term 1259 are lost, and the result of this cause does not appear.

In the same Term (Hilary 1259) in which this suit commenced, another was instituted which concerned most of the parties.

On Feb. 9, John Tezste (Tece) offered himself against William Devereux, Hugh de Baskerville, Robert de la Male, Osbert de Coven, Alan de Paunton, William de Swynye, Thomas de Bosco, Ralph de Coven, Ivo de Paunton, Roger de Eyton, Anian de Burwardesle, and Stephen de Hull, in a plea of trespass. They had broken the stank of John's *Vivary* in Burwardesle and Wilyleye, and carried off the fish. They had made several *defaults* previously and did not now appear. So the Sheriff was to have them bodily in Court on the *Octaves of the Holy Trinity*.<sup>82</sup>

I can trace nothing further of this suit, but some years afterwards the question of the Advowson of the Church was again in agitation.—

March 13, 1263. Roger de Eyton sat on a Forest Inquisition at Brug.<sup>83</sup>

On the *Quinzaine* of Easter 1271, William son of William Devereux appears by his *Essoigner* against Matilda widow of William Devereux, in a plea that she should appear in Court to hear *a recognition of darrein presentment*, which the Plaintiff had *arraigned* against her and Roger de Eyton and Geoffrey de Pychford, concerning the Church of Burwardsle. The cause was adjourned to the morrow of Ascension Day.<sup>84</sup>

We shall presently see that in all this litigation each of the three Copareners in Broseley were represented.

At the Assizes of October 1272, the Jurors of Wenlock Liberty reported how Roger de Eyton and Petronilla his daughter had previously accused, in the County Court, Robert de Benethall, Hugh his brother, and John de Kantreyn, of rape and robbery, and

<sup>80</sup> <sup>81</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Hilary Term 43 Hen. III, memb. 4 recto, and 45 dorso.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibidem* memb. 25 recto. The suit had commenced in the previous year. Among the *Nova Oblata* at Michaelmas

1258 is one by John Tece of half a merk, *pro habendo brevi.*

<sup>83</sup> *Inquisitiones*, 46 Hen. III, No. 31.

<sup>84</sup> *Placita.* Easter Term 55 Hen. III, memb. 7 recto.

Philip de Benethall of aiding and abetting. The case, it appears, had been carried from the County-Court to the hearing of the King, but had not yet been settled.<sup>85</sup> In the mean time the parties had accorded among themselves. As however the *King's peace* was involved in the question, the Jurors were now obliged to prosecute it. They acquitted the defendants of robbery, but found them all guilty of a forcible attack on Roger de Eyton's house in Broseley and the abduction of his daughter. Hugh de Benthall, guilty of the further crime charged above, was ordered to be instantly arrested (or retained in custody).<sup>86</sup>

At the same Assizes, the Stottesden Jurors reported that Roger Fitz Denys of Burwardsle, having accused Philip le Mouner of Benthall of robbery, and being in pursuit of him, the latter turned to defend himself on the bridge of Brug and was killed in the conflict which ensued. Roger was arrested for murder, but by the King's precept had been given into custody of certain sureties, viz. Ralph de Caueleg (Caughley), Anian de Burwardel, John de Burwardel, Nicholas de la Dene, Adam Fitz Denys, &c. Since then, Sibil, widow of Philip, had challenged Roger in the County-Court, so that he was yet in prison. The Jurors now found that he slew Philip le Mouner in self-defence.<sup>87</sup>

Before I quit the matter of Alice de Eyton's interest here, it may be proper to say that the head branch of her descendants (under whom it is probable that the above Roger de Eyton held) never resided at Broseley, but in Staffordshire.

Some former mis-statements as to her succession should be briefly rectified. Alice was succeeded at Ashley in 1252 by her eldest son John de Eyton, and he by another John who died in 1290. Again a John de Eyton followed, who, having been born in 1266, died in

<sup>85</sup> We have some record of what had taken place before the King in this prosecution. On June 9, 1269, Petronilla de Eyton appeared to prosecute the four defendants for rape and breaking the King's peace. The Sheriff was ordered to arrest them and keep them in custody till Oct. 6, and then to have their bodies before the King (*Plac. coram Rege*, Trin. Term 53 Hen. III, memb. 14 dorso).

On that day (Oct. 6) Petronilla again appeared to support a charge of rape and robbery. The Sheriff, it seems, in case he could not find the defendants, had been

ordered to require them to appear before himself and the Keepers of the Pleas of the Crown and proceed to outlaw them. He now reports that Robert de Benthall and John de Kantreyn were not found. So he was again ordered to outlaw them and have their bodies in court on Nov. 18. He was at the same time to produce Hugh de Benthall whom he had in custody (*Plac. coram Rege*, Mich. Term 53 and 54 Hen. III, memb. 2 recto).

<sup>86</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, Salop, memb. 25 recto.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 49 dorso.

1300, leaving a son and heir, Thomas, a Minor not then seven years of age. This Thomas is said to have sold his share of Ashley to Sir Thomas Beysin.<sup>88</sup> Something of the same kind must have happened in regard to the Eytons' share of Broseley, but when the alienation took place or who was the Vendor, I cannot determine.

It remains to speak of Margery, who in 1244 had *livery* of one third of Ashley as the youngest of the three Sisters and Coheirs of Roger de Burwardsley. She had been some time wife of John Bagot of Blymhill (Staffordshire), but had long been a Widow. As early as November 1229, I find her in litigation with Roger la Zuche of Tong, under the name of Margery Baggot.<sup>89</sup> Their suit concerned Blymhill, where Margery will have been then seized of dower, if not more extensively interested on behalf of her children, and where I believe La Zuche had some claim of a seignorial kind hereafter to be noticed.

In a Record which must be of date about 1240, the Heirs of John Bagot are said to hold two fees in Blimenhul and Brinton under the Barons Stafford.<sup>90</sup>

These heirs of John Bagot were, I think, four daughters, but I can give particulars of no more than three, viz. Philippa wife of Geoffrey de Bromley, \* \* \* wife of William de Ipstones, and Margery wife first of Ralph de Covene, and secondly of William de Drayton. The fourth daughter, I imagine, married a Pichford, branches of which family came to be interested both in Blymhill and Broseley, and if in one instance by purchase, yet in the other, I think, by inheritance.

But I must first speak of Margery de Burwardsley the Mother of these Coheireses. She must be presumed to have succeeded to her share of Broseley coincidently with the period of her Brother's death, and her *livery* of one-third of Ashley; *i. e.* in 1243 or 1244. Soon after this, and calling herself Margery Fitz Warin, she granted to Ralph de Covene, and Margery her daughter, and the heirs of their bodies, her interest, or most of it, in Broseley. To secure this grant a fine was levied at Salop on Nov. 8, 1248, in form following—

<sup>88</sup> Erdeswick's *Staffordshire* (Edition 1844), p. 117, where three generations of this family are absorbed into one: indeed Erdeswick's accounts of the families of Burwardsley, Beysin, and Bromley, are altogether inaccurate,—some excuse for

my prolixity in verifying statements which constitute a general contradiction of all that he wrote on the subject.

<sup>89</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 14 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>90</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 210.

“This is the final concord &c. between Ralph de Cone and Margery his wife, Plaintiffs (Querentes), and Margery de Blomenhull, Defendant (Impedientem), of half a carrucate and two merks rent in Burewardeleg whereof was a plea of *warranty of Charter*. Margery de Blomenhull acknowledges the right of the Plaintiffs, as of the gift of herself;—to have and to hold, to Ralph and Margery (his wife), and the heirs of the latter. For this the Plaintiffs gave one *sore* sparrow-hawk.”<sup>91</sup>

Margery de Blymhill’s abandonment of her interest here to her daughter, wife of Ralph de Covene, long before her own death will also appear in another way. About January 1250, Geoffrey de Langley and his Fellow Justices were commissioned to visit several Counties for the purpose of fixing an annual rent on all those portions of the King’s Forests which had been reduced into cultivation by private individuals. Whatever the period of their visit to Shropshire, three years such rent had been paid before Michaelmas 1252, by sundry persons assessed in the *Arrentation-Roll* of these Justices. Thus Ralph de Cove and Robert Beysin are put in charge for 6*d.* annually, in respect of half an acre in Borewardel, and had paid the said arrears.<sup>92</sup>

In 1255, William de Ypstans, Ralph de Covene, Geoffrey de Bromley, and Richard de Pychford appear as joint Lords of Blymhill,<sup>93</sup> which gives an approximate idea as to the coheirship of John Bagot and of his wife Margery.

The latter however was still living, and appears to have survived till 1259. The Inquisition on her death, as a tenant *in capite* bears date 10th May, 43 Hen. III (1259), and reports of her as follows—

That “Margeria de Blumenhull held one third of Ascheleye by payment to the king of half a merk whenever a Scutage was levied. She also paid 7*s.* per annum to Sir Fulk Fitz Warin. The wife of Geoffrey de Bromle, whose name was Phelipe, was Margery’s heir in respect of three parts of Ashley, and John son of William de Ipston was heir of the other quarter. Phelipe was thirty years of age and John twenty-six.”<sup>94</sup>

<sup>91</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 33 Hen. III, Salop. Ralph de Cove accounted 2 merks for his fine for license to accord. (*Rot. Pip.* 34 Hen. III, Salop).

<sup>92</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 38 Hen. III. The lands thus charged were thenceforward to be

free of “waste and regard” for ever, *i.e.* they were exempted from *view* of the Foresters, and from any charge of waste or damage done to the Forest.

<sup>93</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 144.

<sup>94</sup> *Inquisitions*, 43 Hen. III, No. 12 b.

On the 12th of June following "the King received the homage of Geoffrey de Bromle, who married Philippa, daughter and one (alteram) of the heirs of Margery de Blymenhull, and of John de Ipstones, grandson (nepotis) and other heir of the same Margery, for all lands and tenements which said Margery had held of the king *in capite*." Philip de Legh was to take security from said Geoffrey, Philippa, and John for their *Relief* and give them seizin. "And because the said Margery had long before her death enfeoffed Philippa and John in the said lands, and they asserted themselves to have been already ten years in possession, Philip de Legh, if he finds that to be the case, shall restore to them all receipts which he had had off the said lands since they had been seized into the King's hands" (on the death of Margery).<sup>95</sup>

From what has now been said it would appear that Margery de Blymhill divided her estates both at Ashley and Broseley at least ten years before her own death, and in that division she excluded one if not two of her coheirs from all share in Ashley. Were this point not particularized, the terms of the Inquisition and Precept just recited might lead to the erroneous inference that she had only been Mother of two daughters.

We now return to Ralph de Covene and his wife Margery, one of the daughters and coheirs thus mentioned.

Ralph had his name from Coven (near Shareshill, Staffordshire), a Manor which he held under the Barons Stafford. In the year following that in which he and his wife secured by fine their interest in Broseley, *i. e.* in the year 1249, he was appointed Justice for gaol-delivery at Brug.<sup>96</sup>

In the year 1255, he appears not only as Lord of Covene and a Coparcner in Blymhill, but as Seneschall of the King's Forests in Staffordshire.<sup>97</sup> In August 1256, he occurs as holding the same office in the Royal Forest of Feckenham (Worcestershire).<sup>98</sup>

His concern in Broseley, in 1259, has already been set forth, and this is the latest notice which I have of him, except that between that year and 1262 he concurred with his wife Margery in demising their joint interests in Broseley to Geoffrey de Picheford

The age of Philippa de Bromley is certainly understated, and probably very much understated, in this Inquest. Her Father had been dead thirty years, and she was the eldest of three if not four of his daughters. Moreover if her younger

Sister's son was twenty-six, she herself cannot have been much less than fifty.

<sup>95</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 43 Hen. III, memb. 6.

<sup>96</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 278.

<sup>97</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 114, 115.

<sup>98</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 40 Hen. III, memb. 7.

for a term of years,<sup>99</sup> and that before that term expired Ralph himself was dead. He left Margery his widow surviving, who soon after remarried to William de Drayton. He also left two or more daughters, of whom Alice the eldest was wife of Robert de Pendeford at the time of her Father's death. From this Robert and Alice, Geoffrey de Picheford obtained a grant in fee of the whole of what had been Ralph de Covene's interest in Broseley, but whereas Margery Ralph's widow was surviving, this feoffment and the 40s. annual rent which it reserved to the Feoffors were obviously more than they could grant or receive, with any show of justice.<sup>100</sup>

Shortly after this transaction Robert de Pendeford died, when his widow Alice renewed the bargain with Geoffrey de Picheford in form following,—

“Know all men that I, Alice eldest daughter of Sir Ralph de Covene, in my liege widowhood, of my certain knowledge, and by the advice of my friends, and not under constraint, have given, &c. to Geoffrey de Picheford and his heirs all my land of Borewardeslee which my Lord Robert de Pendeford and I formerly made over to him, with the third part of the Advowson of the Church, and the third of the Dower of the Lady (Emma widow of Philip de Burwardsley) when she shall chance to die.—Rendering to me and my heirs 40s. annually under the same distraint as is more fully contained in the Charter which passed between my Lord Robert de Pendeford and me and the same Geoffrey on the subject.—Witnesses: Hugh de Bolingale, William de Perton, Philip de Beckebur, John de Grenehul, William de Umfreston, Ralph de Kachylee, Philip de Swyneve, John de Bispeston Clerk, &c.”<sup>101</sup>

The next event in this somewhat complex story was the marriage of Alice, widow of Robert de Pendeford, to Thomas Sany: and now the question seems first to have arisen whether Alice

<sup>99</sup> At the Forest Assizes of Feb. 1262, Ralph de Cove appears subject to an amercement of 12 marks for having hounds within limits of the Forest without warrant (*Forest Pleas*, No. 4, memb. 5 recto): and the debt was still unpaid at Michaelmas 1267 (*Rot. Pip.* 51 Hen. III, Salop). That Geoffrey de Pichford acquired an interest in Broseley before 1262 is proved by his being amerced at the same Forest Assizes for some default levied by the Justices on Edulvescot (Arlscott)

(*Forest Pleas*, Salop, No. 4, memb. 5 dorso). As a coincidence with this I should observe that one Roger de Pychford sat as a Juror on the Wenlock Inquisition of Jan. 1256 (*Assize Roll*, memb. 12 recto).

<sup>100</sup> These particulars are from the pleadings in a subsequent law-suit.

<sup>101</sup> Charter at Willey. The date of this deed is sufficiently pointed out by the context, viz. as between 1259 and 1271.

had any right to deal exclusively with a third of this Manor during the lifetime of her Mother Margery. Accordingly William de Drayton and the said Margery sued Geoffrey de Pichford, the tenant, under a writ of dower in the County Court. Geoffrey called to warranty his Feoffor Alice and her then husband Thomas Sany.—

They, not venturing to vouch such warranty (timentes warrantiam), treated at once with William de Drayton and Margery, and came to an agreement whereby the latter were to withdraw their writ against Geoffrey de Pichford and receive 20s. out of the said 40s. rent during the life of Margery, Geoffrey de Pichford being authorized so to pay the same.—

But this concord did not endure; for in Hilary Term 1272, at Westminster, Thomas Sany ("Sayne") and Alice his wife are found suing Geoffrey de Pichford and Mary his wife for performance of customs, rents, and services due in Burwardele.<sup>102</sup> The cause was adjourned to the morrow of Ascension, but did not come on for actual trial till the County Assizes in September, and then in a different form: for "Thomas and Alice sued William de Drayton and Margery for 20s. rent in Burwardsle, which Alice used to receive from Geoffrey de Pichford, with other 20s., from one-third of a carrucate of land there."<sup>103</sup> William and Margery replied that "they had the said 20s. as of the dower of Margery and by gift of Ralph de Covene her former husband, one of whose heirs Alice was." The Plaintiffs here availed themselves of this misapplication of the term *dower*, saying that "Ralph de Covene never was tenant (sole), because the tenement was once Margery Fitz Warin's, who in her widowhood gave it to Ralph de Covene, his wife Margery (Margery Fitz Warin's daughter) and their heirs, of their bodies, by a Charter," which they (the Plaintiffs) now produced, "whereby," said the Plaintiffs, "Margery William's wife was joint tenant with her former husband Ralph (habuit quantum Radulphus), and Ralph could not give her dower of such tenement."—

The Defendants acknowledged all this, and in reply recited the previous proceedings, viz. the term granted by Ralph de Covene and Margery his wife to Geoffrey de Pichford, the death of said Ralph, the feoffment granted by Robert de Pendeford and Alice,

<sup>102</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Hilary Term, 56 Hen. III, memb. 27 recto.

<sup>103</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

the suit of William de Drayton and Margery in the County Court, and the concord in which that suit had ended and which now the Plaintiffs sought to set aside.

Here the proceedings of September, 1272, suddenly terminate with a note purporting that the Plaintiffs withdrew their prosecution.

Soon after this Geoffrey de Pichford compounded his obligation to pay 40s. rent to Thomas Sany and his wife Alice; indeed we may say that he bought up their whole interest in the Manor of Broseley. A fine was levied at Westminster in Michaelmas Term 1274 between Geoffrey de Pychford Plaintiff (querentem), and Thomas Pani (so written) and Alice his wife, Impedients, of 40s. rent, one-third of a carrucate of land, and one-third the Advowson of the Church of Burwardesley, whereby Thomas and Alice surrendered the whole, as the right of Geoffrey, by their own gift:—to hold to Geoffrey and his heirs, of Thomas and Alice, and the heirs of Alice for ever:—rendering therefore to the Vendors one *clove*<sup>104</sup> yearly, and performing in their stead all services due to the Lords of the Fee. For this Geoffrey paid 30 merks.<sup>105</sup>

This fine was followed by another, levied at Westminster on July 1, 1275, whereby Henry de Parco and Margery his wife, Impedients, surrendered to Geoffrey de Pychford and Mary his wife, Plaintiffs (querentes), a ninth share of the Manor and Advowson of Burwardesle, whereof was a plea of warranty:—to hold to Geoffrey and Mary, and the heirs of Geoffrey, of Henry and Margery, and the heirs of Margery, for ever:—rendering a *rose* yearly and performing all capital services. For this the Plaintiffs paid 60 merks.<sup>106</sup>

I cannot identify the interest thus bought up; but if it were the contingent one of Margery de Coven she will, after 1272, have married a third husband, and her former claims have received ample recognition. Leaving her, it remains to say that her daughter Alice de Coven, de Pendeford, or Sany, seems to have been succeeded at Coven by the issue of her first husband Robert de Pendeford, who eventually assumed her name "de Covene." I trace nothing further of her seigneurial interest in Broseley, represented only by the receipt of a nominal rent.

<sup>104</sup> "Unum clavum gariophili,"—a nominal rent as commonly reserved at this period as the well-known pepper-corn rent of later usage.

<sup>105</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 2 Edw. I, Salop, No. 4.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 5.



In 1279, Geoffrey de Pychford appears to be Patron of Broseley Church, as was his Son Richard in 1310.

But we should say something of Geoffrey, as of a much more important personage than his purchases in Broseley would indicate.—

When in November 1271, the Justices of the King's Forests visited the County, he appears as "Seneschal of all the Forests of Salop," an office superior to that of John Fitz Hugh of Bowlas, who follows him on the Record as *Capital Forester*.<sup>107</sup>

But he was more than this. In 1280, he is charged with the sale of all old oak-trees within and without the King's Park of Windsor. In 1281, he was appointed Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex; in 1283, he appears as Constable of Windsor Castle; and in 1299, being dead, the Executors of his will are ordered to give up to another the Castle and Forest of Windsor with all stores, &c. for the King's behoof.<sup>108</sup>

He was succeeded at Broseley by his son Richard, of whom all that I shall say is, that on Nov. 3, 1312, he conveyed to Richard de Harlee and Burgia his wife all his land in Borewardeslee, with the capital messuage, Advowson of the Church, homages, services, suits of free men and natives, and two mills near the Dene, to hold to them and their heirs, rendering to the chief Lords all due services.—Witnesses: Walter de Huggefurd, William le Forcer, Hugh le Fitz Ayer, Knights, Thomas de Beysin, Geoffrey de Kinsedeleye, John de Aldenham, Richard de Knyghteleye, and others. Dated at Westminster, on the morrow of All Souls, in the sixth year of Edward, son of King Edward.<sup>109</sup>

Having now completed our account of the principal interests in this Manor we should say something of the various Under-tenants. The names and occupancies of many of these will have been intimated by the documents already cited. A few more quotations will supply some further evidence of the same kind.

Hugh son of Walter de Mancestre grants to Robert de Haya, for his homage and service, all his land in Burwardeleg which Roger le Palmer held of his (Hugh's) Father, viz. that which is called Palmers-Croft and that called The Dune, with a messuage and a culture called The Rudinge, between the land of Adam Fitz

<sup>107</sup> *Forest Pleas*, Salop, Nos. 5 and 6, |  
memb. 1.

<sup>108</sup> *Originalia*, passim sub annis.

<sup>109</sup> Charter at Willey.

William of Esleg (Ashley) and land once held by Adam Fitz Eylward and abutting on the wood of the Lord of the *vill*.—To hold to Robert and his heirs, rendering 12*d.* at Michaelmas. For this Robert pays on entry six merks.—Witnesses: Ralph de Suhtleg, Henry and Otuel his brothers, Walter de Huggeford, Nicholas de Wylileg, James then Chaplain of Burward', John Teyce, Stephen de Swyneye, Henry de Huggeford, John de Burward', Adam de Esleg, William Carpenter, Lucas de Grane and others.<sup>110</sup>

Robert de Haya, the Grantee here, has already appeared as first witness to one Charter of Philip de Burwardesley and as his Feoffee in another. The dates of all Shropshire deeds in which he is concerned will probably be ascertained by stating his general and higher connections with the County. He was Deputy to Peter de Rivallis who entered upon office as Sheriff on July 11, 1232. The latter being removed early in 1234, Robert de Haya was on March 25, appointed sole Custos or Sheriff, and so continued till Nov. 4, 1236.<sup>111</sup>

In Nov. 1240, he visited Shrewsbury as a Justice Itinerant, in company with Robert de Lexinton, Ralph de Sulleg (the first witness of the above deed), and others. Ten years afterwards he was Fermor under the Crown of Arley (on the borders of Shropshire); and nothing further can I say of him. The above deed I imagine to have passed in 1240, a date which becomes still more probable from the fact that Ralph Baron Sudley, of Gloucestershire, the first Witness, was lately deceased on March 19, 1242.

I think it probable that Robert de Haya's interest in Broseley passed to William de Haya, who, being also Rector of the Church, enfeoffed a relation, John Fitz Silvester of Souldern (Oxon.), in his lay possessions here.

This John Fitz Silvester of Sulthorn (Souldern) grants by deed to Thomas his Son all the said land, with reliefs escheats, &c. to hold of the Lords of the fee by usual services.—Witnesses: Sir Ranulf de Ardene Knight, Adam de Bray, William de Overthon,

<sup>110</sup> Charter at Willey.

<sup>111</sup> Fuller gives a Robert de Haya as Sheriff or Under-Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1227, of Berkshire in 1229, and of Oxfordshire again in 1230, 1231, and 1232 (*Fuller's Worthies*, p. 102). A William de Hay held the same office in Oxfordshire from 1240 to 1245.

There was also a Robert de Hay Rector of Souldern (Oxon.) towards the end of Henry III's time, and who is said by Kennett to have been of the Baronial family whose coheirress, Nichola de Hay, had married Gerard de Camville (*Parochial Antiquities*, pp. 187, 604).

Richard Brun, Henry Brun, Philip de Fretewell, Roger de Eython, Philip de Suneye (Swiney), Henry le Forcer.<sup>112</sup>

By another deed which passed between 1262 and 1272, Thomas Silvester of Sulthorn grants to Jurdan de Hay his cousin (consanguineo) without reservation all the land which he had in Burwardesle by feoffment of John his Father.—Witnesses: Ranulf de Ardern, Henry Brun, Richard Brun, Alan de Mildenhale, Adam de Toresmer, John White (Albus) of Cotesford, Robert Rikeward, Philip de Sweneye, Henry le Forcer, John de Prestop.<sup>113</sup>

#### BROSELEY CHURCH.

I have said something already of the vast parochial Jurisdiction which was in ancient times divided among the few Saxon Churches of this County.

The Church of Saint Milburg at Wenlock claimed and exercised the spiritual cure of a district which was bounded along its whole Southern frontier by the almost equal parish of Saint Gregory of Morville.

The Manor of Broseley stood within the bounds of Saint Milburg's Parish; and the Church or Chapel which was founded at Broseley in the twelfth or fourteenth century was so founded as subject to the Mother Church of Wenlock.

Doubtless the work was that of a Layman, and probably of the contemporary Lord of the Fee.

In token of its affiliation on the Church of Saint Milburg, and probably as a condition of its origin, the Incumbent of the Church or Chapel of Burwardsley was taxed with an annual pension of 2s., payable at the feast of St. Nicholas to the Mother Church.<sup>114</sup>

<sup>112</sup> Charter at Willey. This Deed certainly passed between the years 1243 and 1272. The first six witnesses all belong to Souldern (Oxon.), a Manor which Sir Ralph de Erderne (or Ardern) held in 1255 of the Barony of Richard's Castle. Fritwell is an adjoining Manor. (*Rot. Hund.* ii, 44).

<sup>113</sup> Charter at Willey. Again the first seven witnesses belong to Oxfordshire. The Inquest on Ploughley Hundred taken in 1279 mentions Randulph de Arderne, Thomas Silvester, Adam de Overton, and Richard Brun, as tenants in Sulthorn Manor. Also Alan de Tursmere, John

Albus of Cotesford, and Robert Rikeward, appear in the same Record. (*Rot. Hund.* ii, 823, &c.)

<sup>114</sup> Register at Willey, fo. 37. This pension seems to have been allotted to the Sacristan of the Mother Church, which may account for its not appearing in more general Rolls of the receipts of the Priory. It was recited and confirmed to Wenlock, with other pensions, on May 27, 1331, in a formal declaration by Thomas Bishop of Hereford, then visiting his diocese and being at Morville (*Pat.* 22 Edw. III, p. 3, m. 34).

No cure of souls went with the new foundation, and consequently the Incumbent was usually beneficed elsewhere. In the absence of any Chartulary of Wenlock Priory we must infer the date of foundation from other evidence.

In 1291, the Church or Chapel of Burewardsleye in the Deanery of Wenlock was valued at £6. 13s. 4d. per annum, and the Rector was elsewhere beneficed.<sup>115</sup>

In 1341, this Taxation of 10 merks was made a basis of the current assessment of this Parish to *the ninth*; but the Assessors allowed a considerable abatement, and exacted only 42s. The reasons were because the growing corn had been destroyed by great tempests, because a large proportion of the Parish lay uncultivated, owing to the poverty of the Tenants, and because the glebe and small tithes of the Chapel contributed to swell the greater sum (10 merks) and were not rateable on the present occasion.<sup>116</sup>

In 1535, Edmund Michell was Rector of Broseley and Lynley; the value of his preferment in glebe and tithes averaged £8. 5s. 8d. per annum, and the only charges thereon were for Archdeacon's Synodals and Procurations, 7s. 2d.<sup>117</sup>

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

William Parson of Burwardesleg has already appeared attesting a deed about A. D. 1230.

Ralph Cutuel, Clerk, seems, by deeds already cited, to have succeeded to this preferment very shortly afterwards and to have died before 1242,—the latest date assignable to that Charter which speaks of him as a former Rector, and makes mention of his heir.

Another William is, I find, mentioned as having been Rector of Broseley in 1241.<sup>118</sup> If this be correct he will perhaps be the same with that William de Haya, Parson of Burwardsley, who granted lay possessions here, before 1272, to John Silvester of Souldern.

<sup>115</sup> *Pope Nich. Taxation*, p. 167. A valuation of the possessions of Wenlock Priory, dated 6 Sept. 1379, estimates a third of the advowson at four merks per annum, the Prior being then entitled to each third presentation (*Mon.* v, 78, viii). This would make the Living worth £8. per annum. The Prior was at the same time Lord of a third of the Manor.

<sup>116</sup> *Inq. Nonarum*, p. 187. Capella de Borwasley.

<sup>117</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 208.

<sup>118</sup> Blakeway MSS. apparently quoting a MS. of Mr. Godolphin Edwards. James, Chaplain of Burward', who attests about 1240, will probably have been a Deputy, or a Chantry Priest.

We have already seen this Church vacant in October 1258, and January 1259. Another vacancy in 1271 is probably indicated by the proceedings then instituted relative to the right of presentation.

Oct. 29, 1279, the Bishop of Hereford collated John de Brug Subdeacon to this Church, exercising a right which had devolved to him under authority of a general Council, but declaring the right of patronage to be vested thereafter in Sir Geoffrey de Pychford.<sup>119</sup>

Robert Turburville was Rector of this Chapel from about 1290 to 1300. He held therewith the Parish Church of Whethulle (Wheat-hill), which involved a cure of souls. This tenure in plurality would not have been legal without a Papal dispensation, had Broseley been a *Cure* also. As this Incumbent had no such dispensation, that fact was afterwards alleged in proof of Broseley being without Cure of Souls.<sup>120</sup>

Richard de Pychford was the next Incumbent of Broseley. He held the Chapel "a long time" (apparently ten years), and with it the *Curative* Church of Covelham in Winchester Diocese.

Aug 15, 1310, the Bishop instituted to this Chapel Geoffrey de Pychford on the presentation of Richard de Pychford. Geoffrey was Brother of the last Incumbent. In 1314 he had Episcopal license to study for three years. He held together with Broseley, a *Curative* Church "in Salisbury Diocese, near to Windsor Forest, and the Town of Bray." At his death and previous to 1332,—

Sir John Aaron had succeeded to the preferment. He then held together with this Chapel the Church of Madeley, which involved a cure of souls. Aaron was subjected to some proceedings by his Diocesan as a Pluralist.—

On Saturday, January 18, 1332, the Bishop's Commissary, Stephen de Salop, Rector of Oldbury, heard the case in the Parish Church of Wenlock. The first Witness—Walter de Caleweton, Literate, a man of more than sixty-eight years of age—proved from his own recollections for forty-two years the principal facts above recited.<sup>121</sup> The issue of the suit does not directly appear, but as Aaron resigned the "Free Chapel of Bourgwardesleye," not till 25 Sept. 1359, his tenure as a Pluralist would seem to have

<sup>119</sup> Ibidem, quoting Hereford Register. | and 1292 (Supra, Vol. I, p. 75).

<sup>120</sup> Robert de Turburville has already | <sup>121</sup> Evidence for Sir John Aaron, &c.  
occurred as a Prebendary of Brug in 1291 | (MS. at Willey).

been recognized, and the *non-curative* nature of this Chapelry may be inferred.

On October 7, 1359, the admission of,—

Roger de Knightleye to this Free Chapel bears date at Bishops Castle. The King was Patron by reason of the Priory of Wenlock being in his hands in consequence of the war with France.

John de Burton, Custos of this Chapel, resigned it on June 6, 1381, for the Prebend of Taunton in the Cathedral of Wells, heretofore held by—

James de Byllingford, who was instituted to Broseley April 23, 1383, on a presentation of the Crown similar to the last. Billyngford, called “Rector, Custos, or Master of this Free Chapel,” resigned in 1385; and on May 11—

Robert Calle, Clerk, of the Diocese of York, was instituted on the King’s nomination.<sup>122</sup>—

These successive presentations by the Crown do not, I think, indicate that the Advowson was at any time the sole right of Wenlock Priory. In two out of the three cases the King was perhaps exercising a mediate right, like that which shall be noticed under Badger.

#### ARLSCOT AND BRADLEY.

A glance at the Map will show the situation of these *vills*, the latter of which was occasionally called West Bradley to distinguish it from another Bradley in the same Liberty of Wenlock.

That either of these places was involved in the *Domesday* Manor of Bosle is more than I will undertake to say. Possibly they were Members of the greater Manor of Wenlock, but as their subsequent tenure under the Priory, by the Lords of Broseley, associates them with the latter Manor, I will give some account of them here, though it may be inaccurate thus to class them under the *Domesday* Hundred of Alnodestren.

We have already seen Mabel de Burwardsley, about the year 1244, enfeoffing her younger son Warin de Beysin in all her interest in Edulvescote and West-Bradeleye at the nominal rent of a pound of pepper.<sup>123</sup>

Warin, thus and otherwise advanced, would seem to have been founder of a second family of Beysins.

Between 1244 and 1249, he has been seen to attest the deed of his

<sup>122</sup> Hereford Registers (Blakeway MSS.) | <sup>123</sup> Supra, p. 18.

Aunt Alice, whereby she conferred on her daughter her interests in Arlscot and Broseley.

In 1255, Warin de Beyssin sat as a Juror for Stottesden Hundred,<sup>124</sup> and again at the assizes of January 1256.<sup>125</sup> This probably arose from some feoffment in his Nephew's Manors of Wrickton, Walkerslowe or Billingsley.

The Hundred Roll of 1255, which describes the tenures of Manors in the Staffordshire Hundred of Cuddleston, writes him as holding "2 carrucates in *Stuston* of the Barony of Wenlock."<sup>126</sup>

At the Forest Assizes of February 1262, I find Warin de Beyssin in company with Ralph de Caughley, Philip de Swiney and William le Masun, as a Regarder of the Forests of Morf and Shirlet, and amerced for a careless return.<sup>127</sup> And this is a suitable occasion to introduce a deed whereby he grants to Margaret his daughter for her homage, &c. half his land in Edulvescote, to hold of him and his heirs.—Witnesses: Sir Geoffrey de Uv<sup>o</sup>ton (Overton), Sir Ralph d' Arraz, Hugh de Lega, Ralph de Cakel' (Caughley), Philip de Swyney, William de Hemton, &c.<sup>128</sup>

I can say nothing more of Warin de Beysin; but at the Assizes of October 1272, Robert de Edlescote had been entered as a Juror of Wenlock Liberty, and his name, for some cause, erased.<sup>129</sup> At the Inquest of Nov. 27, 1274, he however was a member of a similar panel.<sup>130</sup>

I think it possible that this Robert de Arlscot was the same person who as Robert de Beysin, and somewhat later in the century, granted to Sir Walter de Beysin and his heirs an annual rent of half a pound of pepper, receivable from certain tenements which Richard Miller and Roger Bobur used to hold of the Grantor in West Bradeleye.—Witnesses: William le Masoun of Moghale, Hugh de Patinton, John de Brocton, John de Presthop, Roger de Weston, Roger de Corfhul, Henry le Hethene de Laverden (Larden), and others.<sup>131</sup>

<sup>124</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 81.

<sup>125</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 40 Hen. III.

<sup>126</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 115.—

Shuston is a *vill* adjacent to Longnor which was a Manor of the Beysins. How Wenlock Priory obtained a footing there I cannot determine. The Beysins continued to hold it in the reign of Edw. II.

<sup>127</sup> *Forest Assizes*, 46 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto and 6 recto.

<sup>128</sup> Coyney Charters in Dugdale's MSS.

<sup>129</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 21 recto.

<sup>130</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 110.

<sup>131</sup> Charter at Willey. Mr. Blakeway suggests the reign of Edward II (1307-1327) as the probable date of this deed. I have placed it earlier. It would seem to be a relinquishment of the mesne tenure of the Grantor in the premises. The seal bears the impression of a bird.

## THE DEAN.

A Tenement thus named, and which is traceable in more than one modern locality, seems to have been within the Mauor of Broseley, and held by free Tenants, of the Lords of the Fee. Thus we have Alan de la Dene and Warner his Son in attendance at the Manorial Court about 1230; Thomas de la Dene a defaulter in due attendance at the Assizes of October 1272; and Nicholas de Dene a Surety for the appearance of Roger Fitz Denys at the same Assizes and also a Juror for Wenlock Liberty at the Inquest of Nov. 27, 1274, when he accused Thomas de Middlehope and William Canvile of taking a bribe to remove him from some Assize.<sup>132</sup>

## SWINNEY.—

Another member of the Manor of Broseley was held by free Tenants taking a name from the locality.

Of these Peter de Swinheie occurs Oct. 13, 1199; one, whose name is transcribed *Memun* de Swiney, about 1220; Stephen de Swiney at various times between 1230 and 1250; and Philip de Swiney, who sat a Juror of the Liberty of Wenlock in 1255 and January 1256, would appear to have been dead in February 1262.

Another Philip succeeded, who at the last date was a Regarder of Morf and Shirlot Forests, and amerced for a faulty return.

In Hilary Term 1267, this Philip, in company with Hugh de Bolinghale, Hamo le Botiller, and Roger de Eyton, was being sued at Westminster by Katherine de Lacy for a debt of 4 merks and also for 2 years arrears of an annual rent of 10 merks, alleged to be due from them to her.<sup>133</sup> At the Assizes of September 1272, he was amerced with eleven other Jurors for some concealment, but with Warner de Swyneye attended on the Jury for Wenlock Liberty. The same Philip and Warner served as Jurors on the Wenlock Inquisition of November 1274,<sup>134</sup> and were probably the two witnesses who, as Philip and Wenne de Swyneye, attested Matilda Devereux' deed before quoted.

A William de Swyneye has already occurred in January 1259,

<sup>132</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 110.

<sup>133</sup> *Plac. apud Westm.* 51 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto. This alleged debt, which, before the County Assizes of 1272, had increased to 44 merks, was then sued for

by the Plaintiff. A Final Concord, not preserved, was the result (*Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 6 recto).

<sup>134</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 110.



and one Richard Suygg of Swiney is returned in February 1262 as being then dead, whilst his son, another Richard Suygg, was still in prison for having taken one of the King's deer 8 years before, viz. on Sept. 22, 1253.

Within this Township the Abbey of Buildwas was some time possessed of a Weir in the River Severn.—

Oct. 28, 1227, a fine was levied at Salop between Richard Fitz Nicholas, Plaintiff (petentem), and Stephen Abbot of Buildwas, Tenant of a Weir (gurgite) in Swineie, whereof was suit of Mort d'ancestre. The Abbot acknowledged Richard's right and surrendered the Weir,—to have and to hold, to Richard and his heirs, under the Abbot and his Successors, at an annual rent of 15s.<sup>135</sup>

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## Linley.

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THIS place is not mentioned in *Domesday*. It never seems to have been involved with Broseley or Willey, and therefore it is perhaps inaccurate to treat of it under the Hundred of Alnodestreu. It may in 1086 have been an outlying member of Wenlock Manor, or it may have been a then unreclaimed portion of the Norman Earl's Demesne, which we know included Shirlot Forest and other places about which *Domesday* is equally silent.

At all subsequent periods I can speak of Linley only as a Manor held in *Socage*<sup>1</sup> under the Priory of Wenlock, but whether that seignery existed at *Domesday*, or whether it was acquired early or late in the following Century, no Record is forthcoming to inform us.

Richard de Linley, whoever held over him, was doubtless possessed of this Manor before the death of Henry I. Being also a Tenant of Hamo Peverel at Sutton or Brockton, he attests about

<sup>135</sup> *Pedes Fvniun*, 12 Hen. III, Salop.

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<sup>1</sup> It will be sufficient in this instance to describe the *Tenure by Socage* negatively. It was not a tenure by Knight's service, and, whatever were the rights of the Seignorial Lords, wardships, reliefs, and marriages of the Tenants were excluded.

that period several of the said Baron's Charters to Shrewsbury Abbey.<sup>2</sup> In one of these he is described as Richard son of Baldwin de Lintlega, but of his Father so named I have seen no other notice.<sup>3</sup>

About 1150, Richard and Ralph de Linlega stand first lay-witnesses to a Charter whereby Rainald Prior of Wenlock granted a feoffment in the neighbouring *vill* of Posenal.<sup>4</sup>

I take it to be a second or possibly a third Richard de Linley who between 1161 and 1172 occurs as last witness to two deeds already quoted, under Broseley, as of that date, and as executed by coheirs of Hamo Peverel.

In 1177, we have a Walter de Linley doubtless related to this Richard, and who has been already noticed as a Grantee of Crown Lands in Brug, afterwards enjoyed by Sibil de Linley.<sup>5</sup>

At the Forest Assize of 1180, Richard de Linley stands next to his neighbour Warner de Wililey as assessed in the sum of 2*s.* by the Justices. About the same time and in company with the same Warner and Warin de Burwardsley, he attests that invaluable Charter of Corve which I am so often referring to.

The close of the Century introduces another Lord of Linley, apparently the last in male succession. This was Philip de Linley, who besides attesting nearly contemporary charters of Isabel de Say to Wenlock and of Griffin de Sutton to Wombridge, appears in the oft-cited Composition of 1196 (concerning Priors Ditton Church), and in May 1200, was Recognizor in a law-suit which William Fitz Alan II had against Gilbert de Lacy about land at Harnage.<sup>6</sup>

The eventual Successors, perhaps the daughters, of this Philip were two Coheireses, one of whom seems to have become the wife of William le Forcer, the other (Isolda) of Wido de Fernlawe (Farlow).

I shall have other opportunities of following the descent of these Coparceners in Linley. Here I will state only that which relates more immediately to the said Manor.

In 1255, Henry le Forcer, son and heir of the above-named William, served on the Inquest as to Tenures in Wenlock Liberty. The Manor of Linley is thus noticed, and as if exclusively his.—

“ Henry le Forcer is Lord of the *vill* and holds under the Prior of Wenloc and does due suit to the Prior's Court ; and his Ancestors

<sup>2</sup> Salop Chartulary, Nos. 19, 24, 32.

<sup>3</sup> *Monasticon*, iii, 519, No. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Register at Willey, fo. 6.

<sup>5</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, pp. 359, 360.

<sup>6</sup> *Rotuli Curie Regis*, volume ii, page 252.

used to do suit to the Hundred of Munslow till the time of King Richard.<sup>7</sup>

As a tenant *in capite* at Brockton an Inquest was summoned on the death of this Henry le Forcer. The King's Writ ordering such Inquest bears date 25th Oct. 1272. As regards Linley, the Jurors returned little more than that the deceased held half the *vill* under the Prior.<sup>8</sup> A second Inquest which sat at Newport on July 6th, 1273, in obedience to a writ of *certiorari*, is more explicit. It states that Henry le Forcer had held a messuage and carrucate of land at Linley under the Prior by *Socage*, doing homage to the Prior and owing suit of Court every three weeks: that the whole Manor was worth £3. 13s. 6d. *per annum*, less a rent-charge of 9s. due annually to the heirs of Philip de Farlowe: and that the Liberty of St Milburg was such as that the Prior had no right of wardship or marriage over the heirs of those his men who held by homage.<sup>9</sup>

Henry le Forcer left a widow, Burga, and a son, William, who (having been born Sept. 29, 1256) was under age at his Father's death, and was claimed as a ward of the Crown. That claim however was unfounded, for a reason which will be given under Brockton.

This William would seem to have been chiefly resident in Shropshire, though he inherited from his Father the Manor of Elstow (Leicestershire),<sup>10</sup>—a more extensive property than Linley.

Being also a Tenant of Salop Abbey (as I have shown under Nordley), William le Forcer attests two deeds of that House dated respectively May 25, 1298, and March 29, 1303.<sup>11</sup>

About 1310, and being then a Knight, he attests two deeds which will be given under Tong and Donington.

On Nov. 5, 1313, Sir William le Forcer appears as purchaser of lands at Dudmaston, and again on 9 June, 1326.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 84, 85.

<sup>8</sup> *Inquisitions*, 56 Hen. III, No. 23.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, 1 Edw. I, No. 47.

<sup>10</sup> Elstow (generally written Ayleston) was held under the Harcourts by a curious tenure. The Tenant was to accompany his Lord whenever the latter had to serve in the Welsh wars. He was to remain with his Lord forty days at his own cost, and serve him in the capacity of Steward

of the Table (Pannetarius) and Butler, during the whole period. Ayleston and Tong passed from Harcourt to Pembruge, a circumstance which will explain the attestation of Sir William le Forcer to certain deeds which shall be cited under Tong and Donington.

<sup>11</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 50.

<sup>12</sup> Charters at Dudmaston.

Meanwhile, that is in March 1316, it is he who should appear as Lord of Linley on the *Nomina Villarum Roll* of that date.<sup>13</sup>

Lastly, in May 1324, the Sheriff returned him as one of twenty-two Knights of the County who were to attend a great Council then under summons to Westminster.<sup>14</sup>

A fine was levied in 1330 "between Thomas le Forcer and Maud his wife Complainants, and John le Botiller Defendant, of the Manor of Linley, to the use of Thomas and Maud in taile."<sup>15</sup>

This transaction will indicate the previous death of Sir William le Forcer and the succession of Thomas his heir.

#### LINLEY CHAPEL.

This foundation would appear to have belonged to a class not very numerous in early times. It was I suppose a private Chapel attached to the residence of the Lords of Linley. Situated within the Parish of the Holy Trinity of Wenlock, it was without parochial cure, nor can I find that it had any permanent endowment,<sup>16</sup> or that its Incumbents were presented to the Bishops of Hereford for Institution. Neither does it appear to have been liable to any such charge or pension as was usually reserved by the Mother Church of any district, as a condition of these minor foundations.

In the absence of all early notice of a Chapel existing here, we find some architectural remains which attest a high degree of antiquity. Its Founder was doubtless one of those Lords of Linley who have been already spoken of as holding the yet unsevered Manor down to the close of the twelfth century.

The Wenlock Jurors at the Assizes of October 1203, reported of a Robber who after commission of his crime took sanctuary in the Church of Linley.<sup>17</sup> From that period till the year 1535, when the Chapel appears as united to Broseley,<sup>18</sup> no mention of its existence has occurred to my notice.

<sup>13</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, p. 397, where the printed copy gives, with its usual inaccuracy, *William Lufford* as Lord.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, vol. iii, p. 648.

<sup>15</sup> *Dukes's Antiquities*, p. 264.

<sup>16</sup> By a settlement of the endowment of Wenlock Vicarage in 1273, it appears that all the tithes of Linley were assigned by the Priory to the Incumbent of the

Mother-Church, except two merks which belonged to the Kitchen of the Priory, and except the tithes of demesne. (Charter at Willey). It does not however appear whether the Priory reserved these demesne tithes itself, or whether they were the endowment of the Chaplain of Linley

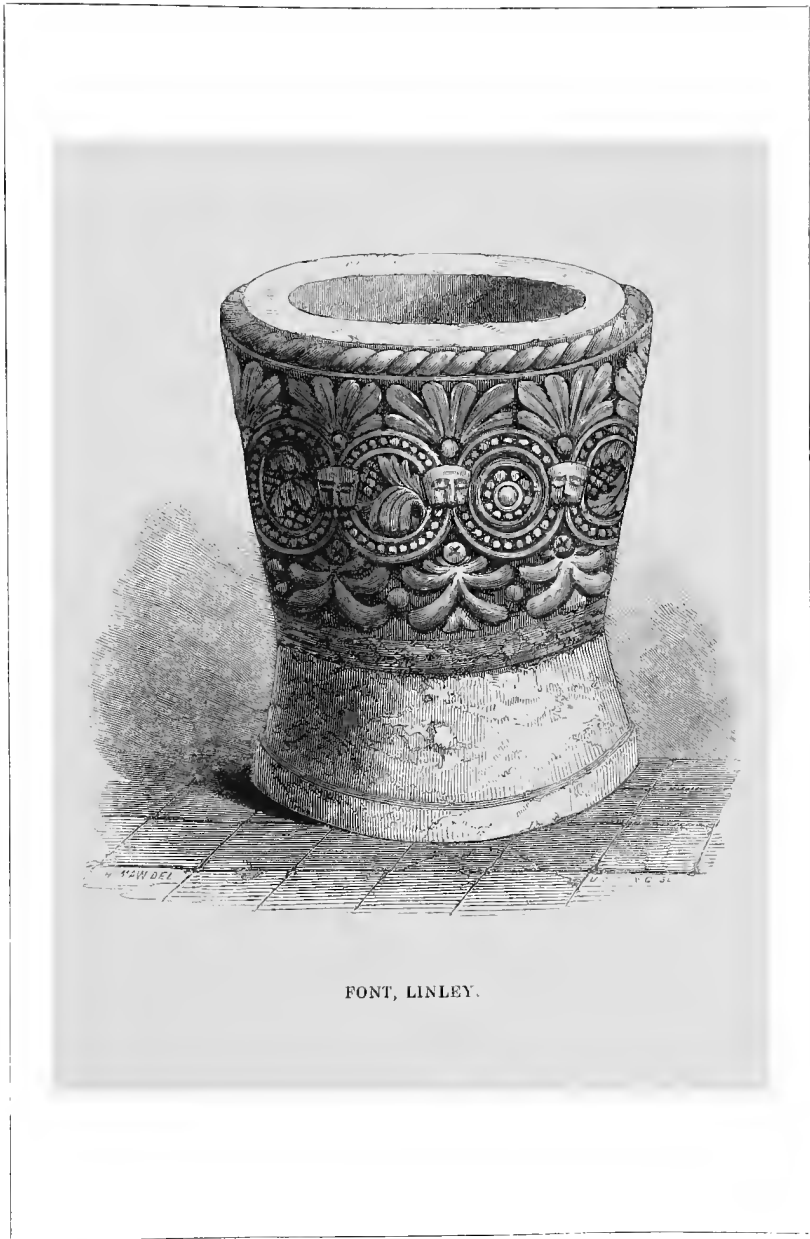
<sup>17</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, memb. 2.

<sup>18</sup> *Supra*, p. 34.



DOOR-WAY, SOUTH SIDE, LINLEY.

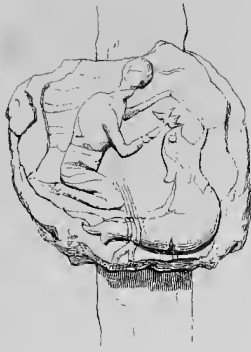




FONT, LINLEY.







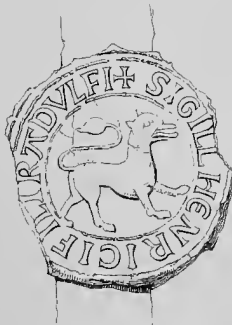
Seal of Griffin son of Gervase Goch.

(Vide page 124. note 65)



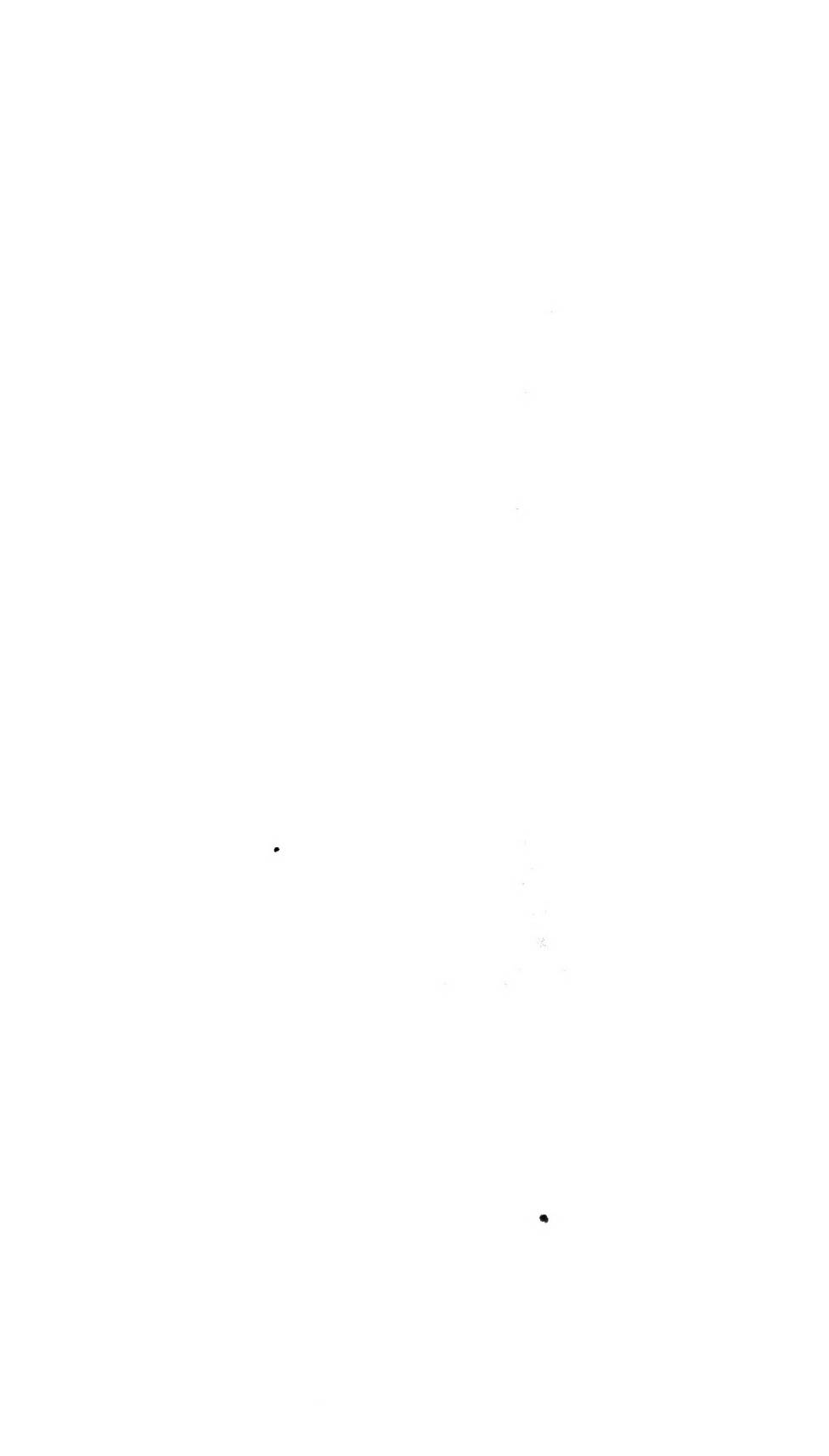
Seal of Madoc de Sutton.

(Vide page 119. note 42)



Seal of Henry le Strange of Brockton.

(Vide page 125 note 68)



## Caughley.

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THIS place demands a separate notice on much the same grounds as Linley, viz. as a distinct Tenure under the Priory of Wenlock, yet without any *Domesday* type, and without any symptom of its having been involved in Wenlock or any other *Domesday* Manor. The somewhat disjointed notices which seem to relate to it are as follows.—

At the Assizes of November 1221, it was found that Ralph de Sandford (who had lands in Brockton) had unjustly disseized Walter Faber and Agnes his wife of their free tenement in Cacheleg.<sup>1</sup>

On the death of Richard de Sanford (son of this Ralph) about 1249, it appeared that the deceased had been in receipt of a rent of 8*s.* payable by Ralph de Kacheleg on land in Kacheleg.<sup>2</sup>

At the Inquisition of 1255, Ralph de Kacheleg was on the Jury for Wenlock Liberty. He was returned as holding a carucate of land in the *vill* of Kacheleg for which he paid a rent of 40*s.* *per annum* to the Prior of Wenlock and did suit to the Prior's Court by *afforciamen*t; and his Ancestors had done suit to the Hundred of Munslow till the time of Richard I.<sup>3</sup>

On the 16th of September 1289, a writ of King Edward I enjoins the Sheriff of Salop to summon a Jury, which should ascertain the circumstances under which the Manor of Cackelegh was held, and whether it would be to the King's damage if he allowed Nicholas Brisebon of Montgomery to grant the said Manor to the Prior of Wenlock, to have and to hold for ever? The Jury met at Wenlock on Oct. 23 following, and reported that the proposed conveyance would not injure the Crown;—that the Manor was held of the Priory already, by service of 9*s.* *per annum*. That its full value (to the Tenant) was 13*s.* 4*d.* *per annum*, and its contents were a carucate of land.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, m. 2.  
*Inquis. incerti temporis Henrici III.*, No. 111.

<sup>2</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 84, 85.

<sup>4</sup> *Inquisitions*, 17 Edw. I, No. 77. The

Royal Patent allowing the proposed surrender to Wenlock bears date June 20, 1290 (*Pat.* 18 Edw. I, m. 21). It provides that the *villains* on the Manor shall remain in their existing state.

Without attempting to account for this apparent change of value since 1255, I will here only say that this Nicholas Brisebon had two sons, Roger and Hugh, each holding lands in Brockton (near Sutton), and that Roger Brisebon both before and after the date of this Inquest (1289) was engaged in many transactions with Wombridge Priory, to which house he seems finally to have conveyed most of his said property in Brockton.<sup>5</sup>

In 1291, among the Temporalities of the Priory of Wenlock was a carucate of land at Caughley, apparently held in demesne, and the annual value of which is laid at 12*s.* This was doubtless the carucate recently redeemed from Nicholas Brisebon; but besides this, the Prior was in receipt of 20*s.* rent in Caughley, evidently chargeable on other land.<sup>6</sup>

On the 12th of May 1296, another Inquest of the kind called "ad quod damnum" was ordered in relation to this Manor. The Jury in this case was to report as to a grant which Philip de Caughleye and Margery de Prestchope proposed to make to Wenlock Priory of a messuage, four virgates of land, and ten acres of wood in Caughleye. The Jurors again gave a verdict in favour of the grant; and added that the land was already in the Prior's Liberty and held of him by service of 40*s.* rent and two *suits per annum* at the Prior's Court at Burton,—that the annual value of the premises was 10*s.* more than the services,—that Philip had never been liable to serve on Juries in regard to his tenure at Caughleye, but that he held a messuage and half-virgate at Shineton which would oblige him so to serve.<sup>7</sup>

A valuation of the possessions of Wenlock Priory, taken Sept. 6, 1379, explains part of the apparent inconsistencies of the above extracts. The Monks had then two carrucates at Caugheleye, the result I presume of the two transactions of 1289 and 1296, but the whole was valued only at 6*s.* 8*d.* *per annum.*<sup>8</sup>

As regards the family which took its name from this place, and of which the above-mentioned Philip was probably the last, a few notices should be added. We have seen Richard de Kayleg attesting a Broseley deed about 1230, and Ralph de Kayleg

<sup>5</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. Tit. Brockton, *passim*.

<sup>6</sup> Register at Willey, fo. 7. A better copy of Pope Nicholas Taxation than is supplied on page 164 of the printed Record, where this place is spelt Caleuve.

<sup>7</sup> *Inquisitions*, 24 Edward I, No. 83. The Patent by which the King allowed the proposed grant did not issue till March 27, 1299 (*Pat.* 27 Edw. I, memb. 33).

<sup>8</sup> *Monasticon*, v, p. 78, No. 8.

attesting later in the century. Besides his occurrence in 1249 and 1255, this Ralph de Kauchelea appears in September 1258, as negotiating a twelve years' lease of lands in Astley Abbots under Sibil daughter of Henry Fitz Tyrric.<sup>9</sup>

In February 1262, he appears as Ralph de Cauweleg and as a Regarder of the King's Forest. For some neglect in that office he was amerced.<sup>10</sup>

The last that I find of him is his complaint in Nov. 1274, against William de Caverswell, who while Sheriff (1268-9) had received a fine of *2s. 7d.* from this Ralph, for not producing one for whom he was Surety. The said Sheriff had given the complainant no acquittance, so that he had been again charged with the debt.<sup>11</sup>

Philip de Caughley, apparently successor of Ralph, has already been spoken of.

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## Willey.

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THIS Manor was, in 1086, a member of the Fief held by Tuold under the Norman Earl, and is thus noticed in *Domesday*.—"The same Tuold holds Wilit, and Hunnit (holds it) of him. This same (Hunnit) held it (in time of King Edward) and was free. Here is half a hide geldable. There is arable land sufficient for 11 ox-teams. Here those ox-teams are, together with 11 villains and 11 boors. Its value was, and is, v shillings."<sup>1</sup>

This mode of writing the place ("Wilit") is probably the result of a *scribal* inaccuracy, and no safe guide as regards its etymology.

The true Saxon name is more likely to be represented by the usual and very old forms of Wililey or Wilileg. The probable constituents of that name are *pih*<sub>3</sub>, a willow (whence *pihe*, a basket), and *lea*<sub>3</sub>, a district.

<sup>9</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 152 b. A curious condition is attached to this lease. If the Lessor should take to herself a husband within the term, she was to satisfy the Lessee for the residue of the term and

his previous outlay.

<sup>10</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>11</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 111. The name is printed "Rad de Taweleg."

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 258, a 1.

Turolde, the *Domesday* Lord of Willey, held thirteen Manors under the Norman Earl. Among them were Longford, Chetwynd, Draitune (Little-Drayton in Hales), Pichford, and Wigwig. He also held Etone (Little Eton, near Pichford, a *vill* now destroyed) of the Collegiate Church of St. Chad, Shrewsbury.<sup>2</sup>

This Turolde has been represented as a Saxon, and I suppose on very insufficient grounds.<sup>3</sup> The name does not belong to the Saxon language, and if not originally Norman or Angevin, it

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 253, a 1.

<sup>3</sup> There is perhaps no subject on which Mr. Blakeway, the greatest of Shropshire Antiquaries, has left less valuable comments than this of Turolde, his origin, his descent, and his connection with Toret. I cannot pretend to a single item of documentary information which did not reach Mr. Blakeway, and can only attribute our differences to his having lent only a cursory attention to the matter. Parts of the subject may more properly belong to a future section of this Work; but it can hardly be divided, and the earliest is perhaps also the best opportunity to deal with a question which has been misapprehended by any great authority.

Mr. Blakeway tells us substantively (*History of Shrewsbury*, ii, p. 25) that Turolde and Toret, who appear in the Shropshire *Domesday*, and Tetbald, whose Son Robert occurs as a Feoffee in that Record, were one person. *Domesday* gives no hint whatever of such identity, and writes the three names with every apparent observance of their orthographical distinction. If Turolde and Tetbald were identical, then we have a Father and Son contemporary and considerable Tenants of the Norman Earl,—a circumstance of great inherent improbability.

Mr. Blakeway also says that the Draitune held by Turolde in *Domesday* was "Little Drayton, now called Deekar-hill, in the Parish of Shifnal." The fact however is, that Turolde's Manor of Drayton was in Odenet Hundred, which did not approach Iteshale (the *Domesday* Shifnal) in any direction, whilst the Little Drayton, which was a member of Iteshale,

then and afterwards, belonged as such not to Turolde, but to Robert Fitz Tetbald.

But even adopting for a moment Mr. Blakeway's ideas that the Draitune, which Turolde granted to Salop Abbey in time of Henry I, was Drayton near Shifnal, and that Robert Fitz Tetbald was identical with Robert Fitz Turolde, we at once find ourselves beset with anomalies, viz. the Son possessed of the Capital Manor (Iteshale), while the Father had only the member (Draitune); the Father granting in a generation after his son's advancement; to say nothing of the Abbey being supposed to receive lands in a quarter where they retained no such property, rather than in a quarter where they were afterwards largely interested.

Mr. Blakeway further says, that Turolde was a Saxon, that he held thirteen Manors in *Domesday*, "in which he is sometimes called Turolde, and at others Toret." However in the thirteen Manors alluded to, and even in a fourteenth, Turolde is uniformly so written; but if Toret were the same person, then there is mention of Toret in four other *Domesday* Manors, so that their aggregate tenure was eighteen rather than thirteen Manors.

A note by the same Authority also says, that Toret "though favoured by the Normans, was removed from all the estates which he held in time of the Confessor." This again is untrue as regards at least half of Toret's Saxon Manors.

It is a wonder that Toreth's attestation of Robert Fitz Turolde's Charter to Salop Abbey, did not dissipate this mistake as to his identity with Turolde; but the error is substantively repeated in the "Sheriffs

occurs in Normandy before the Conquest, and was borne by several who profited by the Norman invasion of England.

With regard to the thirteen Manors held by Turolde of the Norman Earl, an usual but not quite uniform rule of succession is observable. The general rule is that whatever Turolde thus held in 1086, was afterwards held by Turolde's heirs or successors, not immediately of the Crown, as might have been expected, but as an appendage of the Barony of Fitz Alan.

The exceptions to this rule are Longford, Little Drayton, and Wigwig.

The first of these (Longford) continued indeed a tenure *in capite*, that is, was never subjected to the seignery of Fitz Alan; but its Tenants were no longer Turolde or his heirs, for Henry I bestowed it in another line of succession. This loss of his principal Manor, as well as the degradation of his Fief in the scale of feudal tenures, are circumstances, which I doubt not were associated with some sympathy or partizanship exhibited by Turolde in the cause of Earl Robert de Belesme.

Turolde evidently survived the fall of his Suzerain, and apparently escaped any more summary forfeiture than that already indicated.

It was during the period when King Henry I was holding this County in demesne,<sup>4</sup> that under the name of Torald de Verleio (another evidence of his Norman extraction)<sup>5</sup> this Turolde granted to Shrewsbury Abbey a hide in Lesser Drayton, or in fact all that *Domesday* says he possessed there.<sup>6</sup> The mode in which King Henry I confirmed this grant, in 1121, would make it probable that it passed during the Vicerealty of Richard Bishop of London.<sup>7</sup> The limits of date thus ascertained, viz. 1108-1121, apply apparently to the further event of Turolde's death and the succession of his son and heir Robert. Certainly before the latter year this Robert had followed his Father's example by granting to Shrewsbury Abbey the *vill* of Wigwig (*villam nomine Wichewicam*).

of Shropshire" (p. 43), where again the mention of Toret's Saxon Manor of Rodington, which he retained in 1086, might have suggested a revision of the whole question.

<sup>4</sup> *Monasticon*, iii, p. 519, Num. 2, "Historia Fundationis."

<sup>5</sup> Verleium is obviously the name of some French Town Latinized according to a mode very usual with Norman

writers, e. g. Ivry, Pacy, Cressy, &c., are usually written Ibreium, Paccium, and Cresseium. The name Verleio which would thus become Verleium, is on the Roll of Battle Abbey, a further proof of the Norman origin of its bearer.

<sup>6</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 258, a. 1. It is Drayton Parva, a township now involved in Market Drayton.

<sup>7</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 35.

There were witnesses of this, besides the said Bishop, Hamo Peverel, John son of Grip, and Toreth.<sup>8</sup>

Of Turolde and his son Robert, I learn nothing further or with certainty.<sup>9</sup>—In eleven of the fourteen Manors which Turolde held in 1086, I shall hereafter show that a family, which took name from Chetwynd the chief of those residuary Manors, inherited or obtained Turolde's interest. This uniformity of succession in so many Manors indicates I doubt not an inheritance by blood; but I can establish no particular of generic descent from Robert son of Turolde de Verley, who lived in the beginning of the twelfth Century, to Adam de Chetwynd who occurs towards its close.

The general rule of territorial succession, now alleged, remains however to be established by particulars. Of the eleven Manors in which we are to show De Chetwynd as the successor of Turolde, there is no case in which all evidence on the point might more easily have been lost than that of Willey. It was one of the Manors which were absorbed into the Liberty of Wenlock in time of Richard I; and thus all trace of its original Tenure might well have vanished; in fact the usual statement about Willey and other Manors so transferred was that they were thenceforward held of the Prior of Wenlock. Nevertheless it can be shown by a single and fortuitous notice, presently to be cited, that Willey followed the ordinary descent of Turolde's Manors, and that in the thirteenth Century it was, in some sort, held of the Fee of Chetwynd, and by Chetwynd under Fitz Alan.

We must now speak of Hunnit who was a Saxon, and who having held Willey before the Conquest was permitted to retain it under a Norman Lord, and so had it in 1086. This continuous Saxon interest in the Manor was probably the cause of its non-diminution of value since the time of Edward the Confessor, as well of its being cultivated to its full capability when the *Domesday* Commissioners took their account of it.

Hunnit and his Brother Uluiet had in Saxon times held other

<sup>8</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 35.

<sup>9</sup> That Charter of Shrewsbury Abbey which has just been quoted as the "Historia Fundationis," is a statement of the possessions of that house, drawn up apparently in the beginning of Stephen's reign; for it recites that King's Confirmation, which must have passed about 1136, but does not notice the Charter of

the Empress Maud, which will have followed in 1141. This "History," speaking of Robert son of Turolde adds, "qui et hæres ipsius est," as if he were then living.

The Feodary of 1165 contains, under Fitz Alan's Barony, no name and tenure which I can suggest as likely to represent the "Fee of Chetwynd."



Shropshire Manors besides Willey. In two of these, viz. Moreton and Preston, Hunnit was still Turolde's tenant in 1086. In a third, Lawley, he also held under Turolde, but the Saxon owner of that Manor is not particularized in *Domesday*, though probably it was he. The usual Norman policy, when a Saxon was allowed to retain any land at all, was to assign it elsewhere than in those localities where its possession would be accompanied by the influence of old associations.<sup>10</sup> This policy had not as yet been adopted, in 1086, against Hunnit; but there is strong presumption that eventually he was thus dealt with. Toret, another Saxon, and Hunnit's contemporary, had held six Shropshire Manors in the time of King Edward. Three of these he retained in 1086, and perhaps had some interest in a fourth. His total loss of other two seems to have been compensated by his feoffment in a seventh Manor, where he had held nothing previously.

Toret was succeeded, by at least two generations in the male line. His estates then passed with a female to Corbet of Wattlesborough; but the extraordinary feature of this succession is, that whatever can be traced to have so passed to Toret's heirs was not Toret's at *Domesday*, but rather Hunnit's and Uluiet's. Consistently with this fact we observe that Toret, having held nothing under Turolde at *Domesday*, was yet a witness of Robert Fitz Turolde's Charter to Shrewsbury Abbey before 1121. We naturally infer that before the same period, Toret had succeeded Hunnit or Uluiet, or both, in certain tenures under Turolde or his Son; Willey however was not of the number, and that Manor is no further involved in this question than that if, according to a recognized policy, Hunnit lost his interest in several of his *Domesday* Manors, he probably lost it in all.

Willey then, not passing from Hunnit or his heirs to Toret or his heirs, nor yet remaining in any succession of Hunnit, would seem to have been transferred to a new Feoffee, the Ancestor of a family which took name from the place. And this same family inherited other estates, held of the "Fee of Chetwynd," and with which neither Hunnit nor Toret had ever been concerned. Hence I conclude that the family of Willey acquired its feoffments in the "Fee of Chetwynd," not by any right of inheritance, but solely by favour of the Chief Lord.

<sup>10</sup> See *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p. 43, where this policy is alluded to, though its application to the case in question is

mis-stated. See also *History of Shrewsbury*, ii, p. 25, n. 1.

That which I have further to say of Willey will best be introduced by a Pedigree, and some account of the successive members of the family which took its name from this acquisition of the Manor.—

Among the Laymen who were Assessors to the Viceroy of the County when, about A. D. 1115, he presided over the great Archidiaconal Chapter, already mentioned<sup>11</sup> as having been held at Castle Holgate, was one, evidently of rank, but who, according to a common usage at the time, is described only by his Christian name,—

WARNERIUS. Him I am inclined to take for the Ancestor of the family of Willey, though on the slight evidence of name and position. The name Warner was uncommon at the period and by no means identical with Warin. The distinction between the two, though afterwards forgotten, was in the twelfth century carefully observed; indeed it is so observed in the very document which I am quoting. Neither name was Saxon, and I have found that of Warner used by no contemporary family of distinction, and likely to have been represented at Castle Holgate on this occasion, except that of De Willey.<sup>12</sup>

If this Warner were indeed Lord of Willey, he will have survived the only occasion on which he occurs but for a short time.

A very curious deed, dated A. D. 1120, by which Peter, Prior of Wenlock, grants certain rights in Beckbury to Walter Fitz Warin, is attested *inter alios* by Hugh de Welileia, Tuold, and Warner de Becheberi.<sup>13</sup>

Besides this recurrent distinction between the names of Warner and Warin, it is singular that HUGH DE WELILEIA, whom I take to have been surely Lord of Willey, and then Feoffee of Robert Fitz Tuold, should be followed in his attestation by one named Tuold.<sup>14</sup> By no means identifying the latter with Tuold de Verley, who, if living, would have preceded his Tenant in any testing-

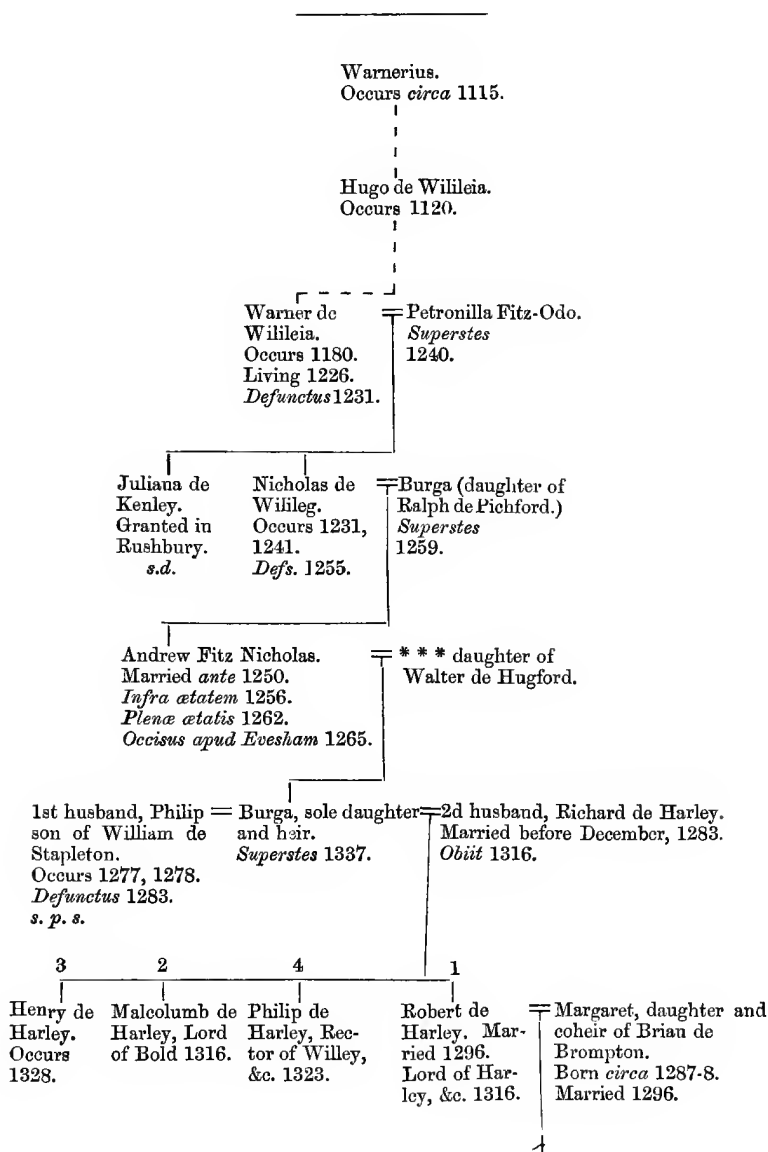
<sup>11</sup> Vol. I, pp. 217, 223.

<sup>12</sup> There was indeed a contemporary Warner de Beckbury, as we shall presently see, but he was not Lord of Beckbury, nor does he appear under any such circumstance as would tally with the presumptively high position of an Assessor to the Viceroy.

<sup>13</sup> Register of Wenlock Priory (at Willey), fo. 6.

<sup>14</sup> A very ancient Charter of Buildwas Abbey (in possession of George Pritchard, Esq. of Broseley), which passed within twenty years of this period (1120), is tested, *inter alios*, by "Thuold de Mainnic." He may be the Tuold who attested in 1120, but I can say nothing more of the person indicated under either denomination.

## PEDIGREE OF DE WILEY.



clause, we may associate the name with some conjectural relationship of these consecutive witnesses and the Lord under whom at least one of them held.

Passing over the next sixty years, no extraordinary hiatus in the manorial or genealogical details of the twelfth century, we arrive at the year 1180, when:—

WARNER DE WILLILEY, son perhaps or grandson of Hugh, was undoubtedly Lord of Willey. With him all obscurity of descent at once vanishes. In that year he was assessed by the Justices of the Forest, at 2 shillings, for some charge within their jurisdiction, and probably arising from the proximity of Willey to the Royal *Haye* of Shirlot.<sup>15</sup>

About the same time, for I cannot assign any more probable date to the transaction now to be mentioned, Warner de Wilile stands at the head of the nine witnesses who seem to have been present on behalf of Wenlock Priory when Gervase Paganel “offered on the Altar of St. Mylburg,” the Charter by which he endowed the subject Priory of Dudley and ratified its dependence on the Shropshire House.<sup>16</sup> Within nine years of his first appearance, *i.e.* before the year 1199, Warner de Wililey contracted a marriage which, realizing an immediate and considerable addition to his property, brought, in consequence of the eventual heirship of his wife, still greater benefits to his posterity.

The period of his marriage and the family and fortune of his wife will best be indicated by the following Charter:—

<sup>15</sup> *Forest Rolls* at Westminster, No. 1, memb. 2.

<sup>16</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 84, No. 2. This deed apparently contains a double testing-clause. The first consists of the Baron of Dudley's Retainers, the last of persons appearing in other Charters in the Court of the Prior of Wenlock.

The date which I assign to the Charter should be accounted for. Pope Lucius III confirmed Gervase Paganel's Foundation in its chief particulars on June 16, 1182, as we learn from another Charter (*Ibidem*, p. 83, No. 1). Also out of the eight witnesses who, besides Warner de Wilile, attest on the part of Wenlock Priory, six are found to attest a feoffment by Prior Robert, who succeeded about 1176.

In thus confidently stating the date of Pope Lucius' Bull I should add that it is itself dated on the 16th of the Calends of July, in the year of the Incarnation 1190, the 15th year of the Indiction, and the first year of the Grantor's Pontificate." This clause, however inconsistent, establishes the date which I have given above, viz. June 16, 1182, though the Editors of the *Monasticon* have been satisfied with 1190, which was the eighth year of the Indiction and the fifth after the death of Pope Lucius. I have before remarked on the preference which in these dating clauses should be given to anything rather than the dominical year (*Vol. I*, p. 250). In the present instance the Indictional and Papal year being consistent, point conclusively to A. D. 1182.

“William, son of William Fitz-Alan, certifies that he has conceded to Warner de Wilileia, together with Petronilla daughter of Roger Fitz Odo,<sup>17</sup> and to their heirs, the donation, which Thomas Fitz Odo made to them, of Keneleia (Kenley), and one hide in Grotintun (Gretton) with the Mill, in frank marriage, as (the said donation) was made at Salop, in full County, and in his (Fitz Alan’s) presence.—Witnesses: Hugh Pantulf, Sheriff, Robert Corbet, William de Wudeton, Robert de Giros, Richard de Costentin, Adam Salvage, Peter Fitz Toret, Master Walter de Dunstanvill, Master Adam de Bromfeld, and many others, both Knights and Gentlemen (Liberis hominibus).”<sup>18</sup>

The Shrievalty of Hugh Pantulf alone determines this deed to have passed in the County-Court between Michaelmas 1179 and Michaelmas 1189.

The estate thus settled upon Warner de Wililey and Petronilla his wife was further assured to them by a fine levied at Westminster in June 1194. The Record gives this very early fine as follows.—

Thomas Fitz Odo and Roger his Brother, Tenants, and Warner de Wilileia and Petronilla his wife, were accorded concerning the land of Keinleia with its appurtenances and concerning 1 hide of land in Grotington and the Mill, so as that the whole land and Mill shall remain to Warner and Petronilla for ever; for 2 merks which the same Warner gave them.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> It is a most extraordinary circumstance that this Petronilla, wife of Warner de Wililey, is stated in an equally authentic document (a fine of 6 Hen. III) to have been daughter and heir of Herbert de Rushbury. The latter was doubtless of the family of Fitz Odo, but that does not clear the difficulty. I willingly postpone a solution of so perplexing a matter.

<sup>18</sup> The original of this Charter is not known to be in existence. The copy from which I make extract is in Vol. xxxix of Dugdale’s MSS. in the Ashmolean Library, Oxford. It is accompanied by transcripts of other Charters and Evidences, described by Dugdale as having in 1583 been in possession of Rowland Lacon, Esq. of Willey. Of course Dugdale copied them in the following century,

but in whose custody the originals then were he does not say. Their presumed loss is all but compensated by the unrivalled excellence of Dugdale’s transcripts; for the King of Heralds and Antiquaries condescended to write legibly and to copy fully and carefully. Such are the documents which I shall quote, after this explanation, simply as “Lacon Evidences.”

<sup>19</sup> *Placita apud Westm.*, entitled as “incerti temporis Regis Ricardi,” memb. 2 dorso. Some extracts from this Roll are printed in the *Abbreviatio Placitorum* (pp. 96, 97) and ascribed to “an uncertain period of King John’s reign.” The internal and other evidence (part of which is implied above) proves the Roll to have been of Trinity Term, 5 Richard I (1194). It is one of those which owing

The sum thus paid by Warner, as well as the fact that Thomas and Roger Fitz Odo are described as Tenants in the preamble of this fine, would induce a supposition that the grant implied by Fitz Alan's Charter had not been, in the first instance, fully conveyed, nor without some litigation. Notwithstanding this fine of June 1194, the supposed dispute was renewed in November of the same year and again settled by Warner's allegation of the previous concord.

In subsequent years there were other law proceedings affecting the details rather than the principle of the original grant; but these particulars belong rather to Kenley where I propose to give them. It is sufficient here to say that Warner de Willey again in 1204, alleged the fine of Trinity Term 5 Rich. I, and again obtained judgment in a suit then pending.

To return to the reign of Richard I. I have already alluded to a composition which about the year 1196 passed between the Dean of Brug and the Prior of Wenlock; Warner de Willey was a witness, and doubtless on the part of the Prior.<sup>20</sup>

His marriage, above mentioned, involved a considerable tenure under the house of Fitz Alan. William Fitz Alan II, was at this period Sheriff of Shropshire, and from Michaelmas 1198 to Michaelmas 1200, Warner de Willey acted as his Deputy. For the next ten years he appears variously interested in the concerns of that Baron, attesting his Charters or acting as his Attorney. In 1203, being a Knight, he sat as Juror on several causes of *Grand Assize*. In 1219, I find him appointed as a Justice to make inquiry concerning *assarts* and *purprestures* in the Royal Forests of Shropshire.<sup>21</sup> Such being his station and trusts, he appears in 1221 as convicted of an act of oppression and treachery which even in that day was marked with some weight of legal animadversion. Coveting another man's land, and that man his own Vassal, whom he was bound to protect, he contrived that his Dependant should appear guilty of a fictitious but capital crime.

By information of Petronilla, Warner's wife, the assumed Felon was arrested, and his chattels sold by a King's Bailiff. Should he be finally outlawed his lands must, in course of feudal law, become forfeit to the Lord of the Fee. However such equity as could

to this uncertainty of date was unfortunately omitted to be printed in vol. i. of the *Rotuli Curie Regie*. (Vide supra, —Preface, Vol. I, p. 5.)

<sup>20</sup> Supra, Vol. I, p. 322. The witness's name is printed Warin, and very possibly by error of the transcriber.

<sup>21</sup> *Pat.* 3 Hen. III.

not be attained in a local court was forthcoming at the hands of the King's Justices. At the Assizes of November 1221, the whole case was gone into, the innocence of the accused established, and Warner de Williley and the King's Bailiff committed to prison. However a fine of five merks released the greater culprit.—No crime at that day was without a fiscal equivalent. A criminal who could pay could not be punished.<sup>22</sup>

Thus ended a case, the motives and moral features of which had been typified in an older story,<sup>23</sup> though here the successful crime and the monumental retribution are wanting to complete the parallel.

In 1222, Warner de Wililey appears as Surety for John Fitz Alan in a cause then depending at Westminster.

In 1226, I find him acting with the principal men of the County on an Inquest, which was to decide between the King and the Baron of Caus as to some questions of feudal right. In the same year he was himself questioning the title by which Ralph, then Lord of Pichford, held that Manor.<sup>24</sup>

Warner de Wililey had now for forty-six years been a prominent person in the County. All that I need further to relate of him is implied in a deed whereby he and his wife Petronilla are said to have granted to William de Harley and Engelard a Chaplain (Feoffees in trust), their Manors of Gretton, Wilderhope, Walle under Heywode, Rushbury, Kenley and Williley, with the Ad-vowsons of such Churches as were attached thereto.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> The circumstances of this cause shall be given more minutely under Kenley, where the coveted land lay.

<sup>23</sup> 1 Kings, chap. xxi.

<sup>24</sup> Pichford, be it observed, was like Willey held under the fee of Turolde, *i.e.* Chetwynd. The Son of Warner de Wililey appears subsequently to have married the daughter of Ralph de Pichford. I infer this from a deed in Glover's Collection (A. iii, b.)

<sup>25</sup> I speak with some hesitation about this deed, of which there seems to have been two originals,—one seen by Dugdale among the Lacon Evidences, the other extracted by Mr. Blakeway from a set of deeds which he classifies under the title "Jones." The former had had two Scals, but Dugdale gives only the impression of

the second or *sinister*, viz.—Arms \* \* on a chief \* two cinquefoils \*. Mr. Blakeway describes his deed as sealed with a fret (the bearing of De Wililey). There are some other differences between the two copies, but unimportant, except that Dugdale gives a set of witnesses with his deed whose names are as follows:—

Wm. de Ercalewe, Walter de Beysin, Wil de Hugford, Knights, Walter de Hopton, Ivo de Clinton, Robert Dodington.—

Now I need not point out to any one conversant with Shropshire genealogies of the thirteenth century, that this combination of witnesses existed only at its close, and therefore is inconsistent with a deed which must have passed at its beginning. A transcript of Dugdale's is

The Feoffees, by another deed, regranted the premises (or most of them) to Warner and Petronilla in tail with remainder to the right heirs of Petronilla.<sup>26</sup>

All that I shall here say of this Heiress is that she survived her husband many years and was living at least as late as 1240.

Nicholas, son and heir of Warner de Willey, appears first in 1231, as having been amerced for inattention to his duties as a Regarder of the King's Forests.

In 1233 and 1237, he is mentioned as a Juror of *Grand Assize* and a Knight. On the 10th of April 1241, he was serving the office of Under-Sheriff to John le Strange;<sup>27</sup> and nothing further can I learn of him except that dying within the next fourteen years, he left a Widow Burga and a Son Andrew, then an Infant.

Burga would appear to have obtained the wardship of her son from John de Chetwynd (obviously as seignoral Lord of Willey and other lands of Andrew's inheritance). Five years before his Father's death, this young Heir had been married to a daughter of Walter de Hugford. In 1255, we have the following notice of the Manor of Willey as recorded by Jurors of the Liberty of Wenlock.—“Andrew Fitz Nicholas is Lord of the *vill* of Wilileg, and holds it of the Prior of Wenlock and does due suit at the Court of the Prior, and his Ancestors used to do suit to the Hundred of Munslow till the time of King Richard.”<sup>28</sup>

This extract is noticeable on two grounds: first, that it makes no mention of Andrew de Willey's still continued Minority; next, that it asserts the Prior's Seignery over Willey as that of any ordinary feudal Lord.—

The truth is, that the Jurisdictional or Hundredal Seignery, originally an adjunct of the Palatine Earldom of Shropshire, had passed by grant of the Crown to Wenlock Priory, so that the Manor was in some sort held of the Prior; but at the same time the ordinary feudal Seignery, which involved the right of wardship, relief, and marriage, remained with Chetwynd as the representative

not to be lightly questioned, neither can I think the deed which he saw to have been a forgery.

My own idea is that Dugdale, copying a number of deeds, inadvertently took a testing-clause for this one from some other document lying before him. His limited acquaintance with Shropshire

names might prevent his detection of an inconsistency which would strike a native Antiquary at once.

<sup>26</sup> Blakeway MSS. sub signo “Joncs.” Dugdale gives no transcript of this.

<sup>27</sup> *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, Preface, p. 5, quoting Salop Chartulary, Nos. 26, 406.

<sup>28</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 85.



of Tuold.<sup>29</sup> Thus the minority of Andrew de Williley in 1255 was no concern of the Prior's, and was not alluded to in an Inquest which related mainly to the Prior's Franchise.

This will appear still clearer from the following.—

At Salop Assizes, January 1256, Margery de Lacy sued Burga de Wililegh that she should surrender to said Margery, Andrew, son and heir of Nicholas de Wililegh, custody of whom Margery asserted to belong to herself, because Nicholas had held under her at Rushbury by half-a-Knight's-fee; whereas Burga ever since Nicholas' death kept Andrew from the Plaintiff, who was thereby damaged to the extent of £10. Burga appeared and called John de Chetewind to *warranty*, who also appeared, vouched the said *warranty*, and further called to *warranty* John Fitz Alan (his own Seigneur). Fitz Alan being present acknowledged the responsibility, but said that, as regarded marriage of this heir, Margery could claim nothing, because the said heir had, five years before his father's death, been married by his said father to a daughter of Walter de Hugford, which Walter was present in Court and in seizin of the said heir. On this ground Fitz Alan asked the judgment of the Court in his favour, stating at the same time that he had other pleas to offer if this were not enough.<sup>30</sup> Here the case was broken off, apparently for ulterior consideration; but no result appears on the Rolls.

Andrew de Wililey, when at length he came of age, associated himself with the malcontent party of that troubled period. His career was short and tragical. He fell on the field of Evesham on August 4, 1265, leaving an infant daughter, the inheritress of a forfeited estate.

This estate, or rather the redemption money which under the *Dictum de Kenilworth* must be paid for the same before it could return to its lineal claimant, was granted by the Crown to Robert le Strange, a younger son of John third Baron Strange of Nesse and Cheswardine.

Robert le Strange was one of those who in 1270 accompanied

<sup>29</sup> In process of time the service rendered by the Lord of Willey to the Prior of Wenlock became much extended. On June 26, 1338, "Sir Robert de Harley came to Wenlock and before many witnesses did his homage and fealty to Sir Guychard, Prior of Wenlock, and acknowledged himself to hold the Manor

of Williley of the said Lord Prior by service of carrying the frock of the same Prior to Parliament, and of doing suit every three weeks to the Hundred Court of Burton, and suit also to the two great Annual Hundred Courts of Burton. (Register at Willey, fo. 26).

<sup>30</sup> *Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memh. 6 dorso.

Prince Edward to the Holy Land. From that expedition he returned, but survived not long. He was dead Sept. 10, 1276,<sup>31</sup> and being in debt to the Crown, Willey, with other estates of which he was something more than a Trustee, was again seized into the King's hands. Meanwhile Burga, the heiress of these unredeemed lands, had married Philip de Stapelton; and in 1277, King Edward issued his precept to the Sheriff of Shropshire commanding him to take *extent* (valuation) of Willey, and when *extended* to deliver it to William de Stapleton, whose son Philip had married the said heiress; and William de Stapleton was to cultivate and sow it and render account to the King during the King's pleasure. A similar precept again issued in 1278, but in behalf of Philip de Stapleton himself.<sup>32</sup> He however lived not long to discharge this trust. Before December 1283, Burga, sole daughter and heir of Andrew de Williley, was wife of Richard de Harley, and to her posterity by him she transmitted the splendid and at length disencumbered inheritance. As this lady survived the date of her second marriage at least fifty-four years, a presumption arises that Philip de Stapleton had been only the husband of her infancy.

As some later particulars which I have to give of Willey will be implied in my account of Harley and other Manors, I will here take leave of this part of the subject.<sup>33</sup>

THE ONLY UNDER-TENANCY which deserves notice in this Manor was that of Walter le Stalhere, who left two daughters and coheirs. On June 18, 1245, a fine was levied at Westminster, whereby Alice, one of these coheirs, concurred with her husband William Marescall in conveying half a virgate in Wylleleg to Nicholas le Despenser and Christiana his wife, the other coheir. For this the Grantees paid five merks.<sup>34</sup>

This Nicholas le Despenser was suspected of unlawful interference with the King's venison. Specifically he was accused of having taken a stag in Shirlot Forest on Sunday July 6, 1253, but was not tried till the Forest Assizes of Feb. 1262, when he escaped the charge by a fine of 6s. 8d., for payment of which Richard le Yreiss (Irish) of Dawley and Adam Traynel of Willey were his Sureties.

<sup>31</sup> Claus 4, Edw. I, numb. 4.

<sup>32</sup> *Originalia*, i, pp. 27, 30, where the inaccuracy of one printed entry is corrected by the other.

<sup>33</sup> It is singular that two Manors named Linley and Willey should have been the property of William Mallet of Girardville, a Norman, and as forfeited to

the Crown, should appear together on several Rolls of the reigns of John and Henry III. The entries relating to them have been printed elsewhere in connexion with the same adjoining Shropshire Manors. It may save some confusion to say that they were in Hertfordshire

<sup>34</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 39 Hen. III, Salop.

This Nicholas sat as first Juror of Wenlock Liberty at the Assizes of October 1272, and as second Juror on the Inquest of that Franchise which was taken in November 1274.

## WILLEY CHURCH.

The Advowson of this Church or Chapel was already a matter of litigation in the beginning of the 13th Century. In Hilary Term 1214, the Attorney of the Prior of Wenlock had *essoign* at Westminster, in a suit of *durrein presentment* which the Prior was prosecuting against Warner de Wilileg.<sup>35</sup>

Again in Michaelmas Term 1233, and probably on occasion of another vacancy here, there were several *essoigns* in a similar suit, which the same Prior had against Nicholas de Wilileg.<sup>36</sup> The result of this litigation must be gathered from other documents than the Plea Rolls.—

In 1291, the Church or Chapel of Wyleye in the Deanery of Wenlock was valued at £5. 6s. 8d. *per annum*. The Prior of Wenlock was not the Patron, nor was his receipt of any pension arising from this Church entered on the Record.<sup>37</sup>

The Church however is elsewhere stated to have been chargeable with a pension of 7s. payable annually on the day of the Translation of Saint Milburg (May 26) to the Priory Kitchen.<sup>38</sup>

An Inquisition of the year 1323-4 found this Church to be *without cure*, and that the person who should see to the performance of divine service here was the Vicar of the Holy Trinity of Wenlock.<sup>39</sup>

Hence the district which was taxed to the Ninth in 1341, under the title of "The Chapel of Welyley," must not be understood as a distinct Parish, but as that territory (probably coextensive with the Manor) from which the Rector of Willey drew his endowment. On this occasion the said district was assessed at 40s. only, the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb therein being so much less than the endowment of the Church because of tempests and murrain, and because the glebe land, small-tithes and offerings, which went to swell the endowment, could not be taken into account in estimating the value of the ninth.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>35</sup> *Essoigns* Hilary Term, 15 John, memb. 11 dorso.

<sup>36</sup> *Essoigns* Michaelmas Term, 17 Hen. III, m. 9 dorso.

<sup>37</sup> *Tax. Papa Nich.* p. 167.

<sup>38</sup> Register at Willey, fo. 33.

<sup>39</sup> Hereford Register (Blakeway MSS.)

<sup>40</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum*, p. 187.

A valuation of 1379 puts the annual value of the Chapel of Willeye at 10 merks (£6. 13s. 4d.) and states it to belong to the Presentation of the Prior.<sup>41</sup>

In 1534, John Podmore being Rector of Wylley, his benefice was put at the old valuation of £5. 6s. 8d. for glebe and tithes. The only charge specified thereon was 6d. *per annum* for Archdeacon's Synodals.<sup>42</sup>

Summarily then, the Church of Willey may be presumed to have been founded and endowed by the Lords of the Manor. It had no Parish, being within the Parish of Wenlock, but it was perhaps chargeable with a pension as an affiliation of Wenlock Church, and the Vicar of the latter was responsible for its service. The Rectors of Willey being *without cure* were probably non-resident. They were nominated by the Lords of Willey to the Prior of Wenlock and then presented by the latter to the Bishop of Hereford for institution. This mediate right of the Prior seems to have been in acknowledgment of the ancient ecclesiastical jurisdiction of St. Milburg, though the pension, which doubtless was an original part of the same reserved right, may have fallen into disuse.

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.<sup>43</sup>

June 24, 1276. Custody of this Church was committed to ADAM DE WETENHALE, Acolyte, whom the Official was ordered to induct.

Oct. 14, 1304. HENRY LE FORCER, Subdeacon, was admitted on presentation of SIR RICHARD DE HARLEY.

Jan. 27, 1323-4. SIR PHILIP DE HARLEY, Priest, was admitted on presentation of the Prior and Convent of Wenlock, on the further presentation or nomination of Dame Burga de Harley, "the true Patron."

Aug. 6, 1357. PHILIP DE HARLEYE was presented by Robert de Harleye.

March 23, 1357-8. ROBERT DE SHARDELOWE, Clerk, was instituted to this "Free Chapel," on presentation of the King, who then had the alien Priory of Wenlock in his hands, by reason of the war with France.

March 30, 1359. ADAM DE EVERYNGHAM, late Canon of York, was instituted, having exchanged preferments with Shardelowe.

<sup>41</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 78, No. viii.

<sup>42</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 209.

<sup>43</sup> Blakeway's MSS. in Bibl. Bodl.

March 30, 1360. SIR HUGH LE YONGE, late Prebendary of St. Mary's Salop, was instituted, having exchanged with Everyngham.

Feb. 22, 1383. SIR WILLIAM AUMENEYE, Chaplain, was instituted on the King's presentation, Wenlock Priory being still in his hands. On Aumeneye's resignation as Custos—viz. on Aug. 13, 1386, MASTER WILLIAM HERTFORD (or Hereford) was instituted, his presentation by the King bearing date however on Nov. 26 previous.

Dec. 16, 1387. THOMAS PRESTON, Clerk, was instituted on a Crown presentation similar to the above. On his resignation,—

Aug. 2, 1391. SIR ROBERT DERBY was instituted on presentation of the Crown. Being styled Custos of the Free Chapel or Chantry here, and also Parson of Falley (in Linc. Dioc.), he gave up both preferments for the Custody of the Chantry of Melton in Wappenham (Line. Dioc.), and on Feb. 25, 1393-4, JOHN CAYSOHO, late Custos of the said Chantry, was instituted here. He died in 1410.

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WE NOW PROCEED to those constituents of the *Domesday* Hundred of Alnodestreu which went to form, probably in the time of Henry I, the newly created Hundred of Brimstree.

One of these Manors was, within a century, again transferred to the Liberty of Wenlock; and it will properly head this series, as thus following Broseley and Willey, which were similarly separated from their second Hundred of Munslow. This Manor was—

## Badger.

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It is noticed in *Domesday* thus,—

“ Osbern holds of Earl Roger Beghesovre and Robert (holds it) of him. Bruniht held it (in time of King Edward) and was a free man. Here is half a hide geldable. There is arable land (sufficient) for 11 ox-teams. In demesne is 1 ox-team, and (there are) 111 boors with 1 ox-team. There is a wood which will fatten thirty swine. Its value (in time of King Edward) was 7*s.* now it is 10*s.*”<sup>1</sup>

Dugdale remarks that all towns compounded of *Over* “do stand upon hilly ground, *Over* importing as much as *supra*.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 557, b. 2.

The word however, which enters into many names (and indeed the very name of which Dugdale was treating, viz. Browns-over), is more probably the Saxon noun-substantive Opep (a bank, brink, or shore), than the similarly written preposition, which is equivalent to the modern *over*.

The variety of ways in which Badger was written in early times renders its further etymology a matter of some uncertainty. There are two Anglo-Saxon words which have, or may have had, an equal applicability to local circumstances. *Becej*, the possessive case of *Becc* (a brook), would render the whole name intelligible as "the bank of the brook," while *Bécej*, the possessive case of *Béce* (a beech-tree) affords an equally apparent meaning and is perhaps the more genuine Anglo-Saxon word of the two.

Osbern, who held the neighbouring Manors of Badger, Brockton, and Ryton, under Earl Roger, in 1085, was no other than Osbern Fitz Richard, Baron of Burford and Richard's Castle, whom we have already seen attesting the Earl's foundation of Quatford Church very shortly after *Domesday*.<sup>2</sup>

It will be better to speak of him and his house when we come to treat of his greater *Domesday* Fief, viz. that which he then held immediately of the Crown. His Manors in Alnodestreu Hundred will indeed have some time been annexed to his Tenure *in capite*; but I find no hint of his successors retaining any such concern in Brockton or Ryton, as might be taken to represent his *Domesday* interests there.

With Badger however it was otherwise, for the Inquisitions which, down to the time of Richard II, detail the possessions of the successive heirs of Osbern Fitz Richard's Barony, imply their continuous claim upon this Manor, though such claim probably amounted to nothing more than the payment of a small quit-rent. It is singular that except by these Inquisitions and the evidence of one or two private deeds, we should not have been able to identify Earl Roger's Tenant Osbern, with the powerful Baron whose name occupies other folios of the *Domesday* Record.

Of Robert, Sub Tenant here, in 1085, I can say nothing further, nor whether he left descendants to inherit his interests. However, about the time of Henry II's accession, it would seem that one William de Begesour was tenant under Osbern Fitz Hugh, grandson of Osbern Fitz Richard above mentioned. The tenancy over

<sup>2</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 111.

this William, who very possibly may have been son or grandson of Robert, was granted by the said Osbern to Guy le Strange.

Osbern Fitz Hugh made a return of his Barony in 1165, but it was sent back to him owing to some informality, and thus its contents are lost to posterity. Had this return been preserved, it would probably have contained a statement to the effect that Guy le Strange held something of *new feoffment* under the said Osbern. The loss of the document is in the present instance harmless, for that mixture of secondary evidence and analogy, which must often be our guide in these investigations, has enabled us to indicate the mode in which Guy le Strange and his heirs became Mesne-Lords of Badger.

Hereby the history of another great family becomes associated with the place, but I postpone all detailed account of the descent of Guy le Strange to a future occasion. Some facts necessary to such fuller account will however be furnished by our present inquiry.

The nature of the subinfeudation just alluded to is so well made out by contemporary documents as to merit particular attention. When Guy le Strange received feoffment here, the reserved rent payable by him to Osbern Fitz Hugh was probably 4s.

Thenceforward whatever rent and service had been paid by William de Begesour to the same Osbern became due to Guy le Strange. Within a short period however this William sold his subtenancy to one Philip Fitz Stephen who thereupon became Le Strange's tenant. Of William de Begesour we shall hear again, inasmuch as he probably carried elsewhere and retained the name which he had derived from his original feoffment.

Philip Fitz Stephen and his Successors, as the actual Tenants-in-fee of Badger, will now constitute our proper subject, a subject rendered most clear by a very unusual concurrence of evidences. The Royal Forestership of Shirlot, a tenure *in capite* at Ackleton and Bardeley, Feoffments under the Priory of Wenlock, the Abbey of Shrewsbury, the families of Le Strange and De Haughton, an interest in the Borough of Bridgnorth, and (more than all) the careful preservation of a few early documents,—these are the circumstances which, while they supply facts and illustrations of

<sup>3</sup> That is the sum mentioned as receivable from Baggesore in the *Inquisition* of 12 Ric. II (1388-9) on the death of | John Talbot of Richards-Castle, (*Calend. Inquis.* iii, 105).

much antiquarian value, furnish also that rare curiosity—an ancient and at the same time an authentic pedigree.

The Grandfather of Philip Fitz Stephen, whose name however does not appear, held Ackleton, a member of the Royal Manor of Worfield in time of Henry I.

The father of the said Philip, whose name was of course STEPHEN, succeeded to Ackleton in the same reign. Some disturbance of this tenure very possibly took place in the time of the Usurpation. At all events the following document issued in the first ten years of the reign of Henry II, and was apparently elicited by some claim for restitution urged by,—

PHILIP FITZ STEPHEN, the heir. The Royal Writ runs thus.—“Henry King of England and Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine and Earl of Anjou to his Sheriff and Ministers of Salopeseire greeting. I enjoin you that ye cause recognition to be made by oath of lawful men of the vicinage, as to the kind of service by which Stephen father of my Forester Philip, and the grandfather (of the same Philip) held Acclinton, their land, in time of King Henry my grandfather: and that, when such recognition shall have been made, ye shall permit him so to hold it and with such comparative advantage and freedom, both in waters and meadows and pastures, and by the same service. And except ye shall so do, let William de Beauchamp see to the doing hereof.—Witness: Mannasser Biset, Dapifer; at Wirecestre.”<sup>4</sup>

We have seen this Philip Fitz Stephen become (about 1160) tenant to Salop Abbey, of a fishery or weir at Sutton. We have also seen him (each year, from 1169 till 1173 inclusive) discharging the trust of *Visor*, or Inspector, of the Sheriffs' expenditure on the works of Brug Castle.

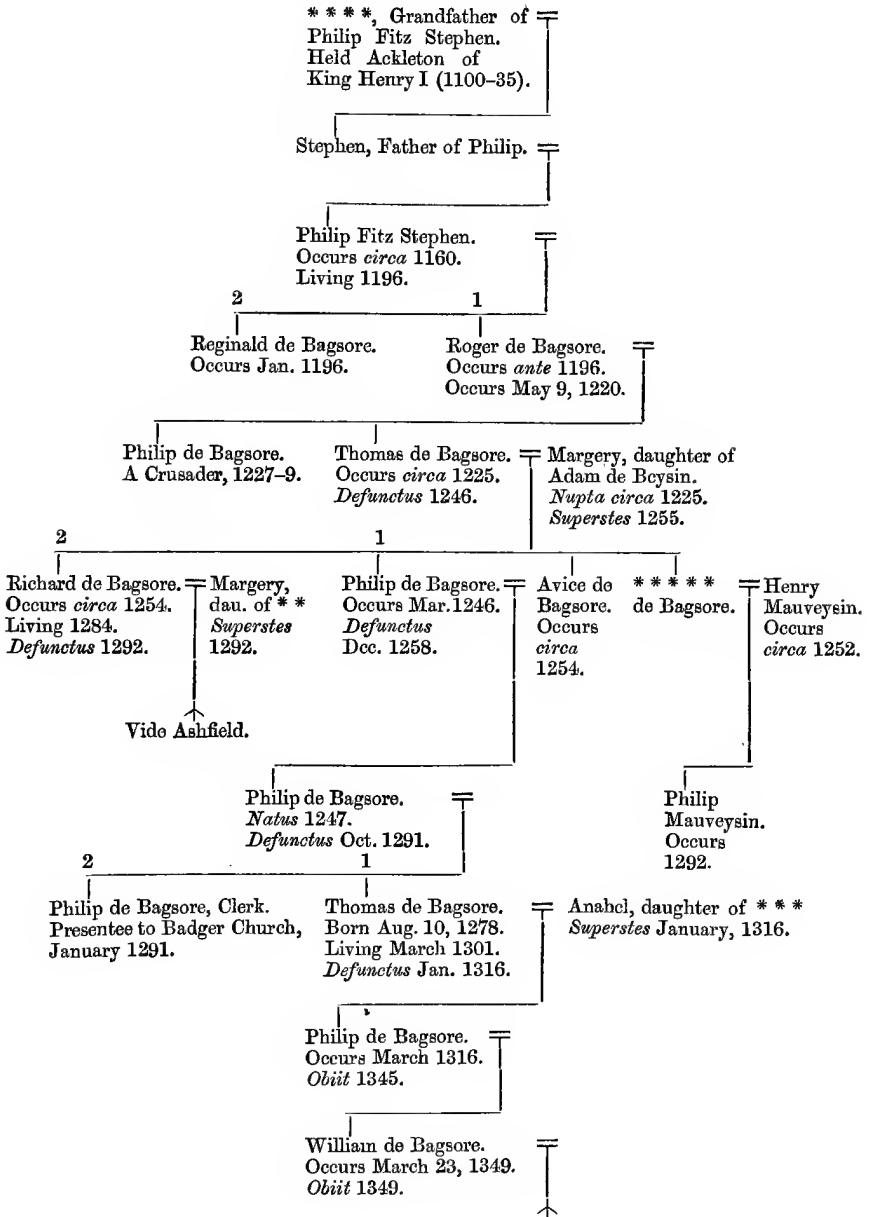
In the year 1174, Guy le Strange being Sheriff and still continuing an outlay on these works, Philip Fitz Stephen ceases to act

<sup>4</sup> Charter in possession of R. H. Cheney, Esq. of Badger. The date assigned above to this early document is thus arrived at. William de Beauchamp was obviously the contemporary Sheriff of Worcestershire, a man much trusted by Henry II. The King can hardly have been at Worcester at any time of Beauchamp's Shrievalty after 1164. Further, of the numerous attestations of Manasser Biset (he was Lord of Kidderminster)

none appear later than 1165. Henry was at Worcester in 1157, and again at Easter 1158, when both Manasser Biset and William de Beauchamp were with him. A precept, of very similar character to this, issued from Rouen to Richard de Luci, and is tested singly by Manasser Biset (*Bibl. Cott. Claud.* b. vi, p. 174). It certainly passed between 1158 and 1162.



PEDIGREE OF DE BEGGESOVERE.



as his Comptroller. This, as I believe, was because at that very time he became his Tenant, by purchasing William de Begeshoure's interest at Badger: Guy le Strange (in a deed to which I should on other grounds assign the date 1173-1177) informs his lieges, French and English, of the said transfer. He receives the homage of the new Tenant, and concedes the land of Begeshoure in fee and inheritance to Philip Fitz Stephen, reserving to himself only an annual rent of half a merk.

And Osbern Fitz Hugh under whom Guy le Strange holds must, according to feudal law, ratify the act of the Mesne-Lord. The Deed by which he does so is preserved. It informs us of some further facts, viz. that William de Begesour's Wife and Heir both concurred in the sale, and that it took place in the County Court "before Guy le Strange," an expression which I understand to allude rather to Le Strange's presidency as Sheriff than his private interest in the transaction. In other respects Osbern Fitz Hugh's Charter is merely a confirmation of Guy le Strange's previous act.<sup>5</sup>

At Michaelmas 1176, Philip Fitz Stephen appears as owing the

\* These deeds, still at Badger, are peculiarly illustrative of the law and practice of Subinfeudations, and supply us with the exact process of a very early Conveyance. Their date (c. 1174) being proximately certain, the names which they contain must make them a subject of repeated reference in these pages. I therefore transcribe them *in extenso*.

Guido Extraneus omnibus hominibus suis et amicis, Francie et Anglie, salutes. Notum sit vobis Willelmum de Begeshoure vendidisse terram suam de Begeshoure cum omnibus pertinentiis suis Philippo filio Stephani et eni voluerit post ipsum in feudo et hereditate et coram Comitatu illam in manu mea reddidisse. Unde sciatis quod ego predictam terram supradicto Philippo et cui voluerit post ipsum pro homagio suo dedi et concessi in feudo et hereditate de me et de hereditibus meis tendam; Solam et liberam et quietam de scuagiis et tailagiis et wardis et de omnibus querelis et servitiis; reddendo annuatim dimidiam marcham argenti ad festivitatem Sancti Michaelis. Hi sunt testes: Johannes Extraneus,

Hugo Extraneus, Willms de Baucis, Rogerius filius Grent, Grent filius Leyni, Olfridus filius Henrici, Adam filius Hamonis Extraneii (*sic*), Willms filius Walteri, Simon de Stantune, Johannes frater Hugonis Extranei, Rogerius de Laven-dene, Radulfus de Lacheia, Walterus de Bidun, Distil, Swinudus, Daniel, Robertus Camberlangius, Willms de Petra Ponte, Willms de Bigedune, Robertus Carpentarius, Alexander Forestarius.—

The Seal of this Deed is of white wax, coloured superficially with a red varnish. It is very rude and more than two inches in diameter. It represents a Knight on horseback; his right hand (which probably held a sword, now defaced) is extended. On his left arm hangs a triangular shield. The horse is walking. The Legend is broken off.

Osbern Fitz Hugh's confirmation is as follows:—

Osbertus Filius Hugonis, omnibus hominibus suis et amicis suis Francie et Anglie salutem. Sciatis quod ego vendicionem illam quam Willelmus de Begesoura et uxor sua et heres suus fecerunt

King ten merks and a *Destrier of Wales*, his fine that he might hold Aclinton a member of Worfield at a fee-farm rent of 60s. He now paid five merks of the said fine into the Treasury. The Destrier he had delivered to the King himself. The balance of five merks he paid in the year following.<sup>6</sup> His object in paying this fine was probably to get rid of some inconvenient service hitherto exacted from the King's Tenant at Ackleton.

At Michaelmas 1185, Philip Fitz Stephen having been convicted of some offence by the justices of the Forest paid 40s. fine "that his amercement should be settled before the King."<sup>7</sup> I suppose that as a Crown Tenant and Officer he expected his case to be dealt with leniently.

About 1196, this Philip, at length called Philip de Beggesour, attests in a prominent position the composition about Ditton Church which I have so often alluded to.

The following Fine, illustrative of a very ancient mode of legal procedure, relates, I doubt not, to a title which this Philip de Bagesore had to land in an adjoining Manor.

The document runs thus.—

"This is the final concord made in the Court of the Lord King at Westminster on Thursday next after the Octaves of St. Hilary in the seventh year of the reign of King Richard (*i.e.* on Jan. 25, 1196) before H. Archbishop of Canterbury &c.—Between Ralph de Herleton, Plaintiff (petentem), and Philip de Bechesore, Tenant, by

Philippo filio Stephani in Comitatu Salopessirie de terrâ de Baggessoura cum omnibus pertinenciis suis coram Widone Extraneo qui terram illam de me tenet, et concessionem et donationem Widonis Extranei quas fecit predicto Philippo de eadem terrâ concedo, et quicquid Carta Widonis Extranei super his testatur concedo et cartâ meâ confirmo. His testibus: Fretherico Capellano, Reginaldo Presbytero, Adame Presbytero Rogero Clerico de B (Bagesoura I suppose) Galfrido Clerico, Philippo de Cure, Willmo de Muleston, Alexandro de Puclesdon, Willmo de Wicetre, Radulfo de Cnulle, Pagano de Heches, Willmo Carb (Carbonel) de Hesefordia, Hauci de Stepeltunia, Lofwino filio Lofwini, Waltero Juveni de Cliffordia, Ricardo fratre sno, Roberto Wiart, Ricardo des

Bles, Willmo de Loges, Galfrido de Lau, Philippo de Colington, Osberto de Cure, Willmo de Cure, Roberto de Hop, Benett de Hop, Raulfo le Bluñ (Blund) Samson de Chend, Heliis de Brelecton, Stephano de Midelton.—

Most of these witnesses were Feoffees of Osbern Fitz Hugh in different counties. The two Cliffords were brothers of his wife, brothers also of Fair Rosamond.

The Seal of this Deed is compounded as the last and is of the same size. It represents a Knight on horseback, charging at full speed. The Legend is gone.

<sup>6</sup> *Rot Pip.* 22 & 23 Hen. II, Salop. Montgomeryshire was at this time famous for its breed of horses. For the causes, see *History of Shrewsbury*, i, 54.

<sup>7</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. II.

Reginald his son, put in his place, to gain or lose,—of one hide of land in Bechesbire (Beckbury), whereof a duel was guaranteed between the parties, and furnished forth, and actually foughten (unde duellum fuit invadiatum inter eos, et armatum, et percussum)—in the aforesaid Court,—to wit, that Philip hath remitted to the aforesaid Ralph and his heirs half of the aforesaid land, quit of him (Philip) and his heirs, to hold of the Capital Lord. And Ralph hath quit-claimed to Philip the other moiety, to hold of the Capital Lord.”<sup>8</sup>

This technical language requires some explanation.—Philip de Bechesore held a hide of land in Beckbury under the Lord of that Manor. His right to do so was challenged by Ralph de Herleton. The question was adjudged to be settled by duel. Philip (a very old man) acted in this phase of the litigation by his (younger) son Reginald. The duel was fought and probably without any such decided result as was believed to constitute the “judgment of heaven” in such matters. So after these solemn appeals to the law and to Eternal justice, the case was settled by the modern, and simple, though seldom honest mode of “splitting the difference.”

Philip Fitz Stephen of Badger was at this period, as I have intimated, a very old man, indeed there is evidence of Roger, his eldest son and heir, having sat in the County Court before the date of the *final-concord* just quoted.<sup>9</sup>

This Roger de Bechesore, whose succession to his Father Philip cannot be put much later than 1196, occurs in various relations. As a Tenant of Salop Abbey at Astley he appears twice in Charters of that House, which passed during the time of Abbot Hugh (1190-1218), and related to its affairs in the said Manor.<sup>10</sup> He stands first witness to a grant which Haughmond Abbey had at Rudge.<sup>11</sup> As a Knight and accompanied by his heirs he attests a Charter of Ralph de Sanford which concerned land at Brockton, and must have passed between 1205 and 1220.<sup>12</sup> To the Abbey of Lilleshall and the Priory of Wenlock he was himself a Grantor. Of the former benefaction I can say nothing more than that it is expressed to be of 5s. annual rent in the Lye (La Lya).<sup>13</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Pedes Finium*, “quorum Comitatus ignoratur.”

<sup>9</sup> He attests with other principal men of the County an agreement between the Abbot of Salop and John le Strange which must have passed before June 1195. (Salop Chartulary, No. 16).

<sup>10</sup> Salop Chartulary, Nos. 137, 150 c.

<sup>11</sup> Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 175.

<sup>12</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. Tit. Brockton, No. 10.

<sup>13</sup> *Patent*, 18 Rich. II, p. 1, m. 7.

His Charter to Wenlock Priory is still in existence.—Calling himself Roger son of Philip de Beggeshore, he grants to God and to St. Mylburg of Weciel and to the Monks there serving God, for the health of his soul and the souls of his Ancestors and Successors, in pure and perpetual almoigne, 10s. of his Mill of Beggeshore, for the kitchen of the Brethren, to be paid annually at two terms, viz. 5s. at the Feast of St. Andrew and other 5s. at the Feast of St. John Baptist. The deed purports to be sealed with the grantor's seal and is attested singly by Warin de Burwardell.<sup>14</sup>

It is here proper to state that Wenlock Priory must have had manorial rights at Badger from time immemorial, and that the Wenlock fee of Badger was originally distinct from the Richards-Castle fee. Nevertheless, the latter only is mentioned in *Domesday*.

The tenants of the two seem to have been identical at all recorded periods.<sup>15</sup>

The grant last quoted must have followed immediately on the period when the Prior of Wenlock was enabled much to strengthen his Seigneurie at Badger;—a consequence of the Manor being transferred from the Hundred of Brimstree to the Prior's new Franchise of Wenlock. Thus the subsequent Lords of Badger are stated indifferently to hold the Manor of the heirs of Le Strange and of the Prior of Wenlock. And their service to the latter was much the most onerous of the two, being, I suppose, partly in composition of that attendance at the Prior's lesser Hundred Court of Burton which was exacted, every three weeks, from Manors less remote.

To return to Roger de Beggeshore.—In the year 1199 (as I think) the following writ was issued in his favour by Geoffrey Fitz

<sup>14</sup> In possession of R. H. Cheney, Esq. The orthography given for "Wenlock" is peculiar to this document.

Neither the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1534, nor the *Ministers' Accounts* of 1541, mention this charge upon Badger-Mill among the receipts of Wenlock Priory. Lord Forester's Register has however (fos. 32, 33) a curious Rent Roll of the Priory-Kitchen, taken apparently in the years 1495-6. Under the Title "De Termino Sti Andreae Apostoli," this Roll contains an item—"De redditu molendini de Bagesor—x sol." So Roger de Bagesor's

benefaction endured nearly three centuries.

<sup>15</sup> The analogy of Linley and Caughley has already suggested that the *Domesday* Survey of St. Milburg's Manors was somewhat superficial. This will appear more evidently in regard to Badger, otherwise I should offer a fuller explanation when thus assuming any inaccuracy of *Domesday*. Much of St. Milburg's land was not assessable to Danegeld, and this immunity may have withheld some Manors, or parts of Manors, from recognition of the Commissioners.

Piers, then Chief Justice of England and acting as Viceroy of King John, who was absent in Touraine.

“Geoffrey Fitz Peter Earl of Essex to Philip de Gret, greeting. We enjoin you that without delay you do full right to Roger de Bagesoure concerning two parts of half a hide of land and an eighth part of a Mill in Beekebir, which parts he claims to appertain to his free tenement which he holds of you in the same *vill* by the free service of 5 shillings *per annum* for all services: which parts Hugh de Beekebir withholds from him. And except you thus do let the Sheriff of Salopesire see to the doing hereof; and let him no more have to complain for want of justice. Witness myself at Brug the 26th day of September.”<sup>16</sup>

The premises alluded to in this writ were doubtless part of that half-hide of land which had remained to Roger's Father in 1196. We now see that the said tenure was under Philip de Grete, a great Feoffee of the Barons of Richards-Castle. We shall hear again of this land in Beekbury.

At Michaelmas 1200, Roger de Bachesore appears on the Sheriff's Roll as having been amerced half a merk by Justices of the Forest, for faulty custody of his Bailiwick,—the Forestership of Shirlot I presume,—an office which was hereditary in his family.

At the County Assizes of October 1203, being a Knight, he sat as a Juror on some causes tried by *Grand Assize*.

Besides the Custody of Shirlot Forest he held *in capite* of the Crown a virgate of land at Bardeley in the Royal Manor of Stottesden, for which he paid a rent of six shillings *per annum* at the Exchequer. As thus holding he is entered among the King's Tenants by Serjeantry, in a Roll which must have been drawn up about 1211.<sup>17</sup>

About this time he obtained the following privilege from his neighbour Walter de Huford;—who “grants his bank of Wrhe (Worfe) abutting on the Red Weir, whereunto said Roger may attach his said Weir.” The Grantee is to pay a pair of white gloves yearly on the feast of St. Mary Magdalene for this privilege.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Charter at Badger. The year, as was usual in Geoffrey Fitz Piers' writs, is not mentioned. We can however determine it to have passed most probably in 1199, and almost certainly in 1199 or 1200, by evidence which is too long to insert.

<sup>17</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 254.

<sup>18</sup> Charter at Badger. The witnesses

are Griffin Gohe, Lord of Sutton; Robert de Stocton; Hugo de Bolinghale; Nicholas, his Brother; Nicholas, Chaplain of Stocton; Richard, Chaplain of Beekeberi; Roger, Clerk of Begesour; Richard de Estwelle (Astall); and Philip de Estwelle.

At Michaelmas 1212, among *oblata* lately received by the Sheriff, one of twenty merks from Roger de Bagesoure is recorded, a heavy fine; but the object of which does not appear.<sup>19</sup>

He has already been mentioned as living May 20, 1220, and his concern in the Royal Forests is apparent in that instance.<sup>20</sup>

Within five years of the last date, Roger de Begesoure seems to have deceased. He left two sons, Thomas and Philip. Thomas the eldest married (about 1225) Margery daughter of Adam de Beysin. Also, on succession, he obtained a Charter of Confirmation from the Prior of Wenlock, which illustrates the nature of the seignery exercised by the latter over Badger, and shows how independent it was of the seignery of Le Strange's Heirs.

By this deed, already printed,<sup>21</sup> "Brother Humbert Prior of Wenloch confirms to Thomas de Begelhovere and his heirs the *vill* of Begelhovere, of the Fee of Saint Milburg, with all its appurtenancies; to hold to him and his heirs, of the Prior and his Successors, for his homage and for the same service by which his Father Roger held it, viz. for 20s. payable annually at Michaelmas, and for suit to be done to the Court of St. Milburg by afforciamment of Court." The witnesses were, Philip de Burwardel (uncle of the Grantee's wife), Robert de Wodetun, Hugh de Beckebur, Adam de Beising (the Grantee's Father-in-law), Hugh de Lega, &c.

Philip, younger brother of this Thomas, seems to have held under him that land at Beckbury which has already been mentioned twice. Philip surrendered his tenancy under circumstances of some interest.—His deed of surrender runs thus:—"Know all men that I Philip de Begesoure have rendered and quit-claimed to Thomas de Begesoure my brother, his heirs and assigns, all my land in Behebiri which I held of him (that namely which Reginald and William le Sage held under me),—for five merks of silver which the said Thomas hath given me for my journey to Jerusalem.—Witnesses: Sir Walter de Huggefurd, Walter de Bealmeis, Adam de Beysin, Roger de Subiri, John de Beckebiri, Walter de Eudinas (Ewdness), Eudo de Rugge (Rudge), Robert de Alditone, Thomas de Aclitone (Ackleton), &c."<sup>22</sup>

The witnesses' names alone would enable us to determine the period of this transaction within a few years, but we learn its exact date in another way.—Philip de Begesoure was undoubtedly one

<sup>19</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 14 John. The Fine or Oblata Roll of this year, which probably would be more circumstantial, is lost.

<sup>20</sup> *Supra*, vol. I, p. 299.

<sup>21</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 76, No. vi.

<sup>22</sup> Charter at Badger.

of those who at the preaching of Hubert took the Cross in the Summer of 1227. Matthew Paris tells us that from England alone 60,000 fighting men set out on that Crusade and that most of them were poor. Their outset was accompanied by a celestial sign on the night of St. John the Baptist (June 24).<sup>23</sup> The expedition failed owing to the vacillation of the Emperor Frederick, who however after being excommunicated by Pope Gregory IX, landed at Acre in September 1228. Here he found an army of 90,000 men of all nations, and among them the English Bishops of Winchester and Exeter. Jerusalem surrendered to the Christian arms early in 1229.

I can say little more of Thomas de Baggesore. In Michaelmas Term 1228, he was sued with many others who held messuages in the town of Newport (which was Royal Demesne) as to his title to the same; but the result does not appear.<sup>24</sup>

He was also possessed of houses and land in the High Street and in the fields of Brug. The former he sold for the large sum of twenty-four merks to Robert son of Philip Fitz Thorold, reserving to himself a chief rent of white gloves payable at Brug at the fair of the *vill*, viz, at the feast of St. Mary Magdalene.<sup>25</sup>

The time of Thomas de Baggesour's death I cannot further determine than that it was before March 1246, when his son Philip will presently appear as Lord of Badger. Besides the said Philip, Thomas left other issue, and his wife Margery surviving.

She having brought Ashfield in *frank marriage* to her husband, disposed of it some years after his death to her younger children. She was living in 1255.

In 1246, Philip Lord of Beggesovere, who will have then lately attained his majority, was involved in a dispute with Alan, Rector of the Parish, who claimed the tithes of hay in all meadows within the same. The matter was settled on March 29, in the Church of Long Stanton before William de Ros, Clerk of the Bishop of Hereford, Roger, Dean of Sypton, and a full Chapter. The young Layman gave up the point, renouncing all future dispute and especially the alternative of an appeal to the "Royal Prohibition."<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Vol. i, p. 338 (Watts' Edition).

<sup>24</sup> *Placita*, Michaelmas Term, 12 & 13 Hen. III, memb. 5 recto.

<sup>25</sup> Charter at Apley. Hamo le Palmer and Roger Fitz William are the attesting *Prætors* of Brug.

<sup>26</sup> Charter at Badger. The Plea Rolls

of this period exhibit constant appeals to the *Curia Regis* against decisions of the *Courts Christian*, as they were called. I cannot however make out why any interference of the temporal Courts should be apprehended in a question of Tithes.



About this time Philip de Baggesour married, and without license of the Crown, a step which afterwards caused him some trouble.

Matthew Paris speaks of the memorable *Iter* whereby Geoffrey de Langley and his Fellow Justices of the Forest enriched the King's Exchequer and impoverished his subjects.<sup>27</sup> The Chronicler seems to place their visit to the Northern Counties in the Summer of 1250. They held pleas and made *arrentations* in Shropshire somewhat earlier. Among other sufferers Philip de Baggesore was deprived of his Forestership of Shirlot on account of his illegal marriage. He fined with the King in a sum of 20 merks "for the same marriage and for having the Bailiwick of the Forest of Shirlot which his Father Thomas had had." A Royal Writ, dated Jan. 21, 1250, allows him to pay the said fine at the rate of 100*s. per annum*.<sup>28</sup>

The Inquisitions of Hundreds in 1255 exhibit this Philip in various relations,<sup>29</sup> viz. as holding half the Manor of Cleobury-North, under Robert de Haluchton, as holding four virgates *in capite* at Bardeley, and as Forester of the Fee in the King's free Hays of Schyrlet, where, says the Record, "he has under him two Foresters, viz. William de Bottesfeld and John his Brother, who give said Philip 20*s. per annum* for holding their office; and they make a levy on oats (fields sown with oats) in Lent, and on wheat in Autumn: and the aforesaid Philip hath in the said *hays*, of wind-falls as much as seven trees, and likewise the dead trees which are wind-fallen, the Jurors know not by what warrant except that of ancient tenure."

The Wenlock Jurors, of whom Philip himself was one, returned him as Lord of the *vill* of Bagesover, and that he held it of the Prior of Wenlock and paid 30*s. per annum* to the Prior, and did suit to the Prior's Court by *afforciamment*, and that his ancestors used to do suit to the Hundred of Brimestre till King Richard's time.

These Jurors estimated at four hides the united Manors of Badger, Beckbury, and Madeley.<sup>30</sup> The *Domesday* measure was however greater, viz. half a hide, one hide, and four hides respectively, or five-and-a-half hides collectively.

The Inquisition on the death of this Philip de Baggesore is preserved. The King's Writ ordering the Inquest bears date

<sup>27</sup> The penalties inflicted in Shropshire amounted to the great sum of £526. Os. 6*d.* (*Pipe Roll*).

<sup>28</sup> *Fines*, ii, 69.

<sup>29</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, pp. 81, 82, 83.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 84, 85. The rent of 30*s.* is obviously inclusive of the rent-charge of 10*s.* on Badger Mill.

2d Dec. 1258. The Verdict of the Jurors sets forth most clearly that co-ordinate seignury which existed over the Lords of Badger. The deceased, they said, had held the *vill* of the Prior of Wenlock at an annual rent of 20s., and land therein of Henry de Harecourt (a descendant of Le Strange), at an annual rent of half a merk. The tenure under Harecourt is measured at two virgates of land and five acres of wood, probably the exact *Domesday* estimate. He also held Aclinton of Sir Henry de Hastings (then Lord of Worfield), by service of 60s. *per annum*.

Badger was worth £3. 5s. 9½*d.* per annum. Ackleton was worth £2. 10s. 6½*d.* Philip's tenancies at Bardeley and Cleobury-North are further particularized. The Inquest concludes with finding that Philip was his son and next heir, and was eleven years of age, and that all his lands were in the King's hand.<sup>31</sup>

It does not appear that the Crown asserted any right of wardship over this heir, whose fealty for Bardeley was accepted shortly after as a tenure in *socage*.—

The Escheator had the King's precept, dated 5th Feb. 1259, to give Philip, son of Philip de Bagesouere, livery thereof after taking security for his relief of 6s.<sup>32</sup>

Payment of that sum is acknowledged by the Sheriff in his account of Michaelmas 1260.<sup>33</sup>

This was that Philip Lord of Baggesovere who, about the year 1267-8, in other words as soon as he was of age, sold his tenure at Astley to Salop Abbey. The particulars have been already given except that at the time of the grant he appears to have been married.<sup>34</sup>

It will appear hereafter, under Alveley, how Ralph Noel, a descendant of Guy le Strange, became entitled to half the chief-rent originally reserved by the same Guy when he enfeoffed Philip Fitz Stephen in Badger. It is also supposable that Ralph Noel, thus receiving 3s. 4*d.* *per annum* on Badger, paid half the capital chief-rent of 4s. reserved to the Lords of Richards-Castle. Ralph Noel sold his rent, with the liabilities attached thereto, to William de Hempton. This makes intelligible a deed whereby William de Hempton remits and sells to Philip de Begesovere all his right in 40*d.* annual rent

<sup>31</sup> *Inquisitions*, 43 Hen. III, No. 32.

<sup>32</sup> *Fines*, ii, 294.

<sup>33</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 44 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>34</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 45. See also *History of Shrewsbury*, ii, 97, 98, where most of

the Deed of Surrender is recited. The witnesses were Henry le Forcer, John de Esthop, and Philip de Swyne (not Scoyney, as there printed).

which he bought of Ralph Noel;—to have and to hold to said Philip and his heirs with all escheats and homages, rendering therefore yearly due service to the chief Lords of the Fee, viz. 2s. at Richards-Castle, at the feast of St. Laurence, for all services. For this, Philip gave £1. 16s. 8d.<sup>35</sup> Thus did this Philip, as far as regarded a Moiety of the Tenure, buy up the mesne Seignury, once Guy le Strange's, and become himself immediate tenant of the Barons of Richards-Castle. He doubtless bought up the other moiety also, as will appear by the Inquisition on his death.

Having, in January 1291, presented Philip his younger Son (who could not have been more than twelve years old) to Badger Church, he died within a few months. On the 26th of October following King Edward's Writ of *diem clausit extremum*, issued from Abergavenny to Malcolumb de Harley (then Escheator *citra Trent*) commanding him to hold Inquest on the death of Philip de Brachesovere. The Jurors met at Brug on Nov. 19, 1291, and found as follows, viz.—That besides his Tenures at Bardeley, North Cleobury, and Cold-Weston, the Deceased had held a certain Bailiwick of Shirlot Forest, not of the Crown (that is not of ancient demesne) but of the King's Escheat through (forfeiture of) Robert de Belesme;—that the office was worth 13s. 4d. *per annum*, and that neither Philip nor his Ancestors had done other service for the same than fealty to the Chief Forester of Shropshire.<sup>36</sup>

“He had also held of the Prior of Wenlock one messuage and four-and-a-half virgates of land in Baggesore, at a rent of 30s.<sup>37</sup> and the tenure was altogether worth 70s.”

“He had also held of the heir of Robert de Mortimer of Richards-

<sup>35</sup> Charter at Badger,—attested by Sir William de Huggesford, John le Poer, Alan de Glazeley, Richard de Bagesore (Uncle of the Grantor I think), William de Pilarditon, Robert de Dodinton, and others. The Poers were Lords of Romsley, which they held by service of one Knight's Fee under the Barons of Richards-Castle. Badger is sometimes included in this Knight's Fee. If properly so, then Le Poer will have been mediate between the Baron of Richard's Castle and Le Strange's coheirs. But I never find Le Poer's interest operating at Badger, in fact it will have been at any time little more than nominal.

<sup>36</sup> These specifications were obviously to

bar any claim which the Crown might assert to wardship of the heir.

<sup>37</sup> The contemporary *Taxation of Pope Nicholas* (page 164) gives among the Temporalities of Wenlock a rent of only £1. as receivable from Baggesoure, but the above estimate includes 10s. rent-charge on the Mill. Lord Forester's Register contains two memoranda of the fealty acknowledged, in 1502 and 1507, by Thomas and Henry Petyt, then respectively succeeding to Badger. A quit-rent of 20s. *per annum* and two *suits* at the Great Hundred Court of Burton were the annual services recognized by each. A Heriot on the death of any tenant was also acknowledged.—It was three quarters

Castle (then a minor) in Baggesore, one carucate of land in demesne, eight acres of wood, and four acres of meadow, worth 20s. 10s. and 13s. respectively, *per annum*. He had also held at Acliton twelve virgates of Sir John de Hastings, of the fee of Worfield, by service of 60s., and this was worth £6. 19s. 6d. *per annum*; also six acres of meadow which he held there were worth 16s. *per annum*, and he owed suit to the Manor Court of Worfield."

The Jurors concluded by stating his son Thomas to be his next heir, and that he entered his fourteenth year on the feast of St. Laurence last past (*i. e.* Aug. 10th, 1291).<sup>38</sup>

Thomas de Baggesovere (with whom I must conclude these extracts) consequently came of age Aug. 10, 1299, and on June 6, 1300, I find him exercising his office, as Forester of the Fee, with others of the same rank, and contributing to the great Perambulation or settlement which then defined the rights of the Crown in regard to the Forests of Shropshire.<sup>39</sup>

On March 15, 1301, this Thomas occurs as holding over Roger de Bagesore, his relation and Tenant at Cleobury-North, who was then deceased.<sup>40</sup>

Before 1316, Thomas was himself dead, leaving a widow Anabel, who, in January of that year, presented to Badger Church; and a son Philip, who, though he can hardly have been of age, is yet entered as Lord of Badger in the *Feodary* which was ordered to be taken in March following.<sup>41</sup>

#### BADGER CHURCH.

Badger and Beckbury evidently formed a detached portion of the great Saxon Parish of St. Milburg, a condition which is represented at this day by their belonging to the Diocese of Hereford, though isolated among Parishes which were formerly in Chester and are now in Lichfield Diocese.

The Church here, probably founded in the beginning of the

of wheat and three of oats, but had been compounded "from ancient time" by a money payment of 1 merk (Register, fo. 17). In the *Valor* of 1534 these outlying assets of Wenlock Priory are estimated in gross under the head of *Foreign Rents*; but after the Dissolution I find that the Lords of Badger paid a quit-rent of £1. 14s. annually to the Crown, which I doubt

not represented, though not quite exactly, their older obligations to the Priory. (Blakeway MSS).

<sup>38</sup> *Inquisitions*, 19 Edw. I, No. 10.

<sup>39</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 279.

<sup>40</sup> *Inquisitions*, 29 Edw. I, No. 7.

<sup>41</sup> *Nomina Villarum* (Parliamentary Writs, iv, 397).

twelfth century, and by the Lords of the Fee, was always in their gift; but they were bound to present their nominee to the Prior of Wenlock, who further presented him to the Bishop.

A pension also (for the due payment of which this mediate right of Presentation enabled the Prior to exact fealty and security from each nominee) was reserved to Wenlock. Such were in this instance the remains of the ancient spiritual jurisdiction of St. Milburg.

The *Formula* by which a Prior of Wenlock presented any nominee of the "Real Patron" of this Church is preserved. It addresses the Bishop of Hereford, or his Vicar General, and recites that the Nomination to the Parochial Church or Curative Chapel of Badger belongs to A. B. (the Lord of Badger) by reason of a concession canonically made thereof by the Prior's predecessors. It further alleges an existent vacancy, and concludes by presenting C. B. (as nominated by A. B. to the Prior) to the Bishop, for admission; "saving to us a pension of 40*d.* which in ancient times was wont to be paid to our house."<sup>42</sup>

This form seems to have been used in 1524 by Roland Prior of Wenlock when presenting a Clerk to Charles Booth, then Bishop of Hereford.—

It explains not only what follows as regards Badger Church, but gives us the ratio of many similarly mediate rights of presentation.

In 1291, this Chapel is merely entered as being of less than £4. annual value. It was therefore not assessable; nor is the Prior's pension mentioned.<sup>43</sup>

On May 23, 1331, Thomas (Charlton) Bishop of Hereford, in course of a Visitation, was at Wenlock. On this occasion the Prior exhibited his titles to a number of spiritual claims, which were duly examined, and pronounced to be satisfactory by a Charter of the same Bishop dated at Morville, on May 27 following. Among these recognized rights are, "the Pensions which the Prior and Convent are receiving in the Churches or Chapels of Glazeleye, Maddeleye, Parva Wenlock, Bechebury, Bagesore, Willeye, and Borewardesleye."

In the Assessment of Parishes (A.D. 1341<sup>44</sup>) neither Badger nor

<sup>42</sup> Register at Willey, fo. 25, b.

<sup>43</sup> *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, p. 167. b.  
"Ecclesia de Baddeshovere (in Decanatu  
de Wenlak) non valet £4."

<sup>44</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 22 Ed. III, part iii, numb.  
34 (*Inspeimus*).

Beckbury appear. Their proper place was under the Deanery of Wenlock, but their isolated position perhaps preserved them from the ordinary notice of the Commissioners.

An Extent (or Valuation) of the possessions of Wenlock Priory, taken Sept. 6, 1379, gives the Chapel of Bagesore as in the Presentation of the Prior and as worth 5 merks (£3. 6s. 8d.) *per annum*.<sup>45</sup>

Among the receipts of the Sacristan of Wenlock Priory apparently in time of Henry VII, one of 3s. 4d. payable at the Translation of St. Milburg (May 26) from Bagsor is enumerated. The same due is entered less particularly in the *Valor* of 1534 and in the *Minister's Accounts* of 1541.<sup>46</sup>

The *Valor* states the Rectory of Bagesóre, of which George Barret was then Incumbent, to be worth in glebe and tithes £4. 11s. 2d.; the charges whereon were the above Pension and 4d. per annum for Synodals.

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

ROGER, CLERK OF BAGGESOUR, has already occurred in two deeds which we have dated about 1174 and 1211 respectively. I suppose Roger in each case to have been Incumbent of the Church whether there were two of the same name or not.

ALAN was Rector here in 1246 as stated above.

Jan. 28, 1291, the Prior and Convent of Wenlock presented by their letter patent, PHILIP DE BAGGESORE, CLERK, to the vacant Church; which letter Philip, Father of the Presentee, exhibited to the Bishop, requesting him to show favour to his son in the premises. To whom the Bishop replied, that he would commend the Church to some good Priest till he should see fit to order otherwise; to which arrangement Philip (whose right it was to present a fit Parson to the Prior and Convent that they again should present the same to the Bishop, whenever the Church were vacant) fully acceded.<sup>47</sup>

June 19, 1308. MARTIN DE WISTANESTOWE, PRIEST, was admitted on Presentation of the Prior and Convent of Wenlock.

Jan. 27, 1316. PHILIP DE STRIETHAY, CLERK, was admitted on presentation of Anabel Lady of Badger, "the true Patron," transmitted through the Prior and Convent. Philip's death took place

<sup>45</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 78, No. viii.

<sup>46</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 209, 216. *Monasticon*, v, 80, xii.

<sup>47</sup> Blakeway MSS. from Hereford Registers. The youth of this nominee has been pointed out above.

June 22, 1344, and on July 28, 1344, it was found by Inquisition that Philip Lord of Bagesore, was the true Patron, exercising his right through the Prior of Wenlock; that Anabella, Philip's Mother, last presented; and that the "Cure of souls at Badger remained with the Vicar of the Holy Trinity of Wenlock."—

JOHN, SON OF JOHN LORD OF BECKBURY, aged twenty-five years and more, was accordingly presented by the said Philip, and admitted by the Bishop.—

There was an informality in this. Wenlock Priory being at this time in the King's hands, in consequence of the war with France, its mediate right of Patronage should have been exercised by the Crown. The King however, being ignorant of any presentation having been made, and conceiving the right to belong ordinarily to Wenlock, presented JOHN WOTENHULL in the following year (1345).<sup>48</sup>

Wotenhull immediately attempted to oust Beckbury, and at this juncture Philip de Bagesore the Patron died. The matter consequently remained in dispute two years, when "William de Bagesore, Lord of the Manor of Bagesore, petitioned the King, showing that nomination to the Chapel belonged to the Lordship, and that all his Ancestors had immemorially presented a Clerk to the Prior and Convent of Wenlock, who had nominated the same Clerk to the Bishop, and that Philip, the Petitioner's father, not aware that the right of the Priory was in the Crown because of the war, had on a late vacancy presented John de Beckbury to the Prior, who presented to the Bishop, who instituted the said John." The King hereupon issued a Patent revoking his presentation of Wotenhull.<sup>49</sup>

After the death of John de Beckbury, and on—

March 23, 1349, the King, addressing J. Bishop of Hereford, presents HUGH CARLES, CLERK, to the "Chapel of Baggesovere, as being nominated to us by William de Baggesore, to whom it appertains so to nominate to us, seeing that the Priory of Wenlock is in our hands by reason of the war."<sup>50</sup> The Bishop's Admission of Hugh Carles, date April 7, 1349, recites the above Patent.

Oct. 8, 1368. ROGER DE HONDESLOWE was presented by Richard Clodeshele and Alice his wife, through medium of the Prior, &c. He was admitted by the Bishop on Oct. 18 following, and, for some

<sup>48</sup> *Pat.* 19 Ed. III, p. 1, memb. 23.

<sup>49</sup> *Pat.* 21 Ed. III, p. 1, m. 10.

<sup>50</sup> *Pat.* 23 Ed. III, p. 1, m. 23.

cause of doubt again occurring, was confirmed in his possession by a Royal Patent dated Feb. 24, 1376.

March 14, 1409. WILLIAM NEWTON, CHAPLAIN, was instituted on nomination of Thomas Smythe, and on presentation of the Prior of Wenlock.<sup>51</sup>

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## Ryton.

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DUGDALE, speaking of places thus named in Warwickshire, assigns to them an etymology "obvious enough, forasmuch as the soyl there is of a light sandy disposition, and beareth Rye best of any Grain."<sup>1</sup>

*Domesday* notices the Shropshire Manor as follows ;—

"The same Osbern (Fitz Richard) holds Ruitone (under Earl Roger) Wiuar and Bricstual held it (in time of King Edward) for two Manors. Here are v hides geldable. There is (arable) land (sufficient) for viii ox-teams. In demesne there are ii ox-teams and iii serfs, with iii boors. Here is a mill rendering viii horse-loads of fine wheat (siliginis). In time of King Edward (the Confessor) the Manor was worth xxx shillings (per annum). Now it is worth xx shillings. He (Osbern) found it waste."<sup>2</sup>

I have already said that of the three Alnodestreu Manors held by Osbern Fitz Richard under Earl Roger in 1086, no interest in two seems to have passed to his descendants. We have scanty means of judging how this disseverance happened, and no hint as to any forfeiture, partial or general, having befallen the early Barons of Richards-Castle.

True it is that Osbern Fitz Richard joined in the rebellion of 1188, when Wulstan Bishop of Worcester so ably maintained the cause of William Rufus in the West ; but then the chiefest

<sup>51</sup> Hereford Registers (Blakeway MSS). | Denizen by Richard II in 1395. Hence the  
The Priory of Wenlock was declared | restitution of all its rights of Patronage.

<sup>1</sup> *Dugdale's Warwickshire* (Thomas's | <sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 257, h. 2.  
Edition, i, 46).



if not the most open of the Revolutionists was the Norman Earl of Shrewsbury himself, and he was freely pardoned. His less politic Vassal may however have suffered a partial forfeiture even in a district where his interests were associated with those of so influential a Suzerain.

Another hypothesis, as to this and some similar and early dismemberments of great Fiefs, remains to be offered. There can be no question that the original Norman settlement of this County involved all the ordinary feudal tenures, as well those by Knight's service as by Castle-Guard and *Petit Serjeantry* of other kinds. The Shropshire *Domesday* however takes no notice of such liabilities, as attaching to particular Manors; and indeed these details hardly seem appropriate to a Census which had for its object the ascertainment of *gross* rather than *net* value and extent. The silence of *Domesday* as to conditions of tenure does not, in short, imply the non-existence of such conditions at the time when the Survey was taken. It is therefore very possible that to Osbern Fitz Richard's tenure of Ryton and Brockton services were attached, in 1086, identical or similar with those which were afterwards exacted from the Tenants of those Manors. It is further very possible that a Baron, the bulk of whose Fief lay in distant parts of this, or in other Counties, might find some outlying Manors a mere incumbrance; in other words, that the services with which they happened to be charged were more than they were worth to him. In such cases a direct surrender or a neglect to comply with the terms of tenure would lead to the same result, viz. a reversion of the Manor or Manors in question to the Suzerain. Thus, as I apprehend, did Osbern Fitz Richard's tenure of Ryton and Brockton cease, and those Manors become subject to the re-disposal of the Norman Earl or of the Crown.

That which I have next to offer about Ryton amounts to little more than a choice between two possible alternatives, one of which seems however to be recommended by some external evidence. Before the death of King Henry I, and probably by that Monarch, it was granted as the whole or part of a Knight's Fee either to one whom I shall presently notice as Engeland de Stretton, or else to some one from whom the said Engeland inherited. If the former, then Engeland must have survived his feoffment at least forty-three years (a thing not impossible in itself, but which implies either an unusually early advancement or an extraordinary longevity of the Feoffee): if the latter, then the descent from the first Feoffee to

Engelard will have been through a female, for Engelard (being a younger son of his Father) can have *inherited* nothing except through his Mother, she not being the Mother of his elder Brother. And the latter theory will become more probable from a fact, which will presently appear, viz. that Engelard's successors at Ryton were the descendants of his Sister and not those of his elder Brother. It is obvious therefore, according to all ordinary rules of succession, that the said Sister was his uterine Sister, and that the fact which excluded their elder Brother from this inheritance must have been his non-participation in the whole blood of his Father's younger children.

This Engelard de Stretton was a man of great importance in his day; and as Ryton was his only, or principal, tenure *in capite*, it is fitting here to relate all that I can learn of him. Some scattered evidences, which when brought together will explain each other, should suffice also to show that what I have above advanced without references is not therefore mere theory. Engelard de Stretton was, as I suppose, younger Son of that Ralph de Pichford of whom we have already heard as a *Tenant in capite*, and as having distinguished himself by essential services to King Henry I during the siege of Brug Castle in 1102. His elder Brother, Richard de Pichford, succeeded their presumed Father, Ralph, not only in several Manors which had formed the *Domesday* Fief of Norman Venator, but also in that addition at Little Brug with which King Henry rewarded the zeal of his Follower.

Before the year 1157, Richard de Pichford and Engelard his Brother are witnesses to a deed whereby William Fitz Alan (I) and certain of his Vassals concurred in granting Sundorn to Haghmon Abbey.<sup>3</sup>

Also before 1157, when Richard de Pichford gave to the same house a hide of land in Brome (near Ellesmere), Engelard his Brother was present and (being I suppose Tenant thereof) consented. Again, after the said Richard's death, and before 1172, "Engelard de Stretton" makes an independent grant of this hide of land, adding thereto the site of a Mill.<sup>4</sup>

Richard de Pichford dying I suppose in 1157, and leaving his son, another Richard, under age, the latter, as a *Tenant in capite*, became a ward of the Crown. At Michaelmas 1157, the following

<sup>3</sup> Haughtmond Chartulary, fo. 213.

<sup>4</sup> Ib. fo. 40, and Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 11.

entry occurs on the Shropshire Pipe Roll:—"Engelard renders account of 20 merks for custody of the land of his Nephew." He had in fact bought the wardship from King Henry II; and he paid the said fine in this and the following year.<sup>5</sup>

Thus much for the family and relations of Engelard; and next for the reason of his being called "de Stretton" rather than "de Pichford." This will appear most satisfactorily. Within a few months of the accession of Henry II, he (Engelard) was made Castellán of Stretton, then a Royal Fortress and Manor. The Manor, fiscally reputed to be worth £4. *per annum*, furnished his Salary. Hence the following charge made by the Sheriff of Shropshire on the King's Revenue in 1156, viz. "To Engelard, Custos of the Castle, £4. in Stratton." And each Sheriff till the year 1177 repeats this annual charge as of £4. bestowed "in custody of Stratton Castle."

In the Summer of the latter year, this Salary was augmented to one of £20. *per annum* chargeable on Wellington, Edgmond, and Stretton, and at the same time another Castellán than Engelard is named. The probable reason of this will appear presently.

To show Engelard de Stretton's connexion with Ryton, I must now refer back to the witnesses of that deed, whereby before 1172, Richard de Picheford granted Picheford Mill to Haghmon. Three of those witnesses are Nicholas, Brother of the Grantor, Engelard (whom I suppose to be Engelard de Stretton and Unele of the Grantor), and Richard Fitz Odo de Ruttune (whom I take to be Engelard's Tenant at Ryton).

I will make these assumptions very plausible. In the year 1165-6, the return of the Tenants *in capite* of the Kingdom, known as the *Liber Niger*, was made.<sup>7</sup> Engelard de Stratton was one of the King's Vassals of Salopescire, whose *Carta* or Return is preserved. He gives the King greeting, and his faithful service, recites the Royal Mandate, and in compliance therewith, informs the King that he (Engelard) "has only one Knight, viz. Richard Fitz Odo, and that he has no Knight of the New Feoffment."<sup>8</sup> The meaning of this is that Engelard de Stretton only held one Knight's Fee *in capite*, that the Feoffment creating it was of date anterior to the death of Henry I (1135), and that the Knight then holding it under Engelard was Richard Fitz Odo.

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 3 and 4 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>6</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 358.

<sup>7</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> *Liber Niger*. vol. i, pp. 147, 148.

Beyond his attestation of several local Deeds, which will appear in their proper connexion, I have little more to say of Engelard de Stretton. At Michaelmas 1173 and 1174, he appears as having acted as *Visor* over Guy le Strange's repairs of Shrewsbury Castle.

At Michaelmas 1177, he had been amerced by the King himself for trespass on the Royal Forests, a circumstance which tallies so nearly with his ceasing to be Castellan of Stretton, that I cannot but associate the two events. His amercement was 10 merks and a *Destrier*. He paid 5 merks in 1177, and the balance before Michaelmas 1178.<sup>9</sup>

Presuming him not to have long survived the latter year, I will merely say of his succession that he had a daughter Felicia, but that his eventual heirship was in his Sister Alice and her issue by her husband Philip de Burgo; that the son of the said Philip and Alice was Bertram de Burgo,<sup>10</sup> and that Bertram as well as his Son and perhaps Grandson of the same name, successively inherited a kind of seignury in Ryton. They had other interests also, both in Staffordshire and Shropshire, and, as regards the latter, these De Burghs usually appear to have been Tenants of the Pichfords, that is of the male descendants of that Ralph who was Father of their maternal Ancestress, Alice.

But there was a long interval during which the seignury of De Burgh at Ryton is unrecorded. The apparent reason of this is that the tenure from being simply by service of a Knight's-Fee came to be commuted for a tenure by service of doing ward at the King's Castle of Shrawardine, and that so, he who held Ryton under De Burgh and performed the latter service was reputed to be and often registered as the actual tenant *in Capite*.

Of him and his succession we will now speak:—

We have already seen him as Richard Fitz Odo in 1165, and as Richard Fitz Odo of Ruttune before 1172. He or his Son, called simply Richard de Ruiton, appears as a witness to various deeds

<sup>9</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 23 and 24 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>10</sup> *Liber Ruber Scaccarii*, fo. cxxij. This is a memorandum by some Officer of the Exchequer as to the descent of the Knight's Fee once held by Engelard de Stretton. It merely traces the descent to Alice, Engelard's Sister, wife of Philip de Burgo, and to her Successor, Bertram de

Burgo. Mr. Hunter's Index of the *Liber Ruber* attributes this portion of its contents to transactions of the time of Henry II and Richard I. I know from other evidence that Bertram thus mentioned was dead before 1219. The other particulars of this family shall form a future subject.

affecting land in the neighbourhood, the dates of which may be summarily taken as between 1190 and 1230.

In October 1203, Richard de Ruton occurs as a Juror in causes of *Grand Assize* tried at Salop; he was himself amerced half a merk for some transgression, and was Surety for the fine of a neighbouring landholder, Henry de Hugford.<sup>11</sup>

At Michaelmas 1204, when King John's fifth Scutage had been Assessed, as well as upon Tenants by Knight's service as Tenants by Serjeantry, Richard de Ruiton had been charged and had paid half a merk to the same, as if he were a tenant of *one-fifth* of a Knight's fee.<sup>12</sup>

In the year 1211, he is entered as one of the King's Tenants by Serjeantry in the County of Salop, his service being to find one serving foot-soldier with a lance, for the ward of the King's Castle of Shrawardine.<sup>13</sup>

His trust in 1220, has before been noticed.<sup>14</sup>

At the Assizes of November 1221, he appears both as a Knight and Juror of Grand Assize, but beyond his attestations of some later deeds I can say nothing further of him.

His successor seems to have been John de Ruton, who in two lists of Fitz Alan's Shropshire Barony is said, about 1240, to hold half a Knight's fee in Ruton of John Fitz Alan.<sup>15</sup> A third and nearly contemporary list omits this entry,<sup>16</sup> and indeed Ryton could only be said to be held of Fitz Alan because it owed service to Shrawardine, a Castle of which John Fitz Alan was then seized.

This John de Ruton appears on several Juries, and as witness of many local deeds. At the Assizes of January 1256, he was one of the two principal Jurors of Brimstree Hundred whose office was to choose their ten fellows. I do not find him attesting deeds to which I can assign a later date than 1263.

His successor, William de Ruton, I find similarly engaged as a Juror and a Witness from about 1270 to 1303.

Early in that period, he gave two acres to Wombridge Priory,—the said two acres lying intermixed with lands in Grindle which

<sup>11</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, m. 4 recto, 6 dorso, 4 dorso.

<sup>12</sup> *Rot. Pip*, 6 John, Salop.

<sup>13</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 254. *Liber Ruber Scaccarii*, fo. cxxxvij.

<sup>14</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 300.

<sup>15</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 48, 49.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 44. At the same time Ralph de Pichford is said to hold a Knight's Fee in Albrighton and Ruton *in capite* (*Ibidem*, p. 45). This again is not absolutely correct. Ralph de Pichford had nothing at Ryton, except perhaps the Advowson of the Church.

had previously been given to the same Canons by Richard de Grenhull.<sup>17</sup>

But Buildwas Abbey profited to a much greater extent by the grants and alienations of this William. He had sold Ryton Mill to Hugh de Weston who, calling himself Hugh Lord of Weston, releases all his right therein to the said Abbey, his charter being attested by Sir Robert de Knigteleg, Sir Hugh de Beaumes, Sir John Giffard, Knights, Michael de Morton, Master Thomas de Blumenhull (Blymhill), Ranulph de Grenhull, and Thomas de Beckebur.<sup>18</sup>

This deed, whose date may be placed between 1279 and 1284<sup>19</sup> was followed immediately by a confirmation from the Lord of the Fee which shall be given more fully.—

“I William Lord of Ritton have granted and confirmed to God and Saint Mary and the Monks of Bildewas a certain Mill in the *vill* of Ritton which the Monks have of the gift of Sir Hugh de Weston. I have granted it free from all earthly service, with easements and free pasturage for their horses and beasts of burden coming to the Mill, in places nearest thereunto, except corn-fields and meadows under crop; also I grant that the Miller, for the time being, may have around the same Mill, Cocks, Hens, Capons, Geese, Ganders, Chickens, and Ducks; also I quit the whole *bylet* at the back of the said Mill as on all sides the water bounds it; also a certain meadow in the *vill* of Ritton, which the Monks have of the gift of Thomas de Marham near the meadow called the Moremede which they have of my gift.—Witnesses: Sirs Hugh de Weston, Hugh de Beaumeys, John Giffard, Knights; John de Styvynton, John de Prees, Hugh de Halegtou, Robert le Fremon de Albrichton.”

<sup>17</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. *Tit. Grenhull*, No. 3. The land is further expressed to be bounded by Ruhamstrete and the water-course of Hadinton (Harrington).—Witnesses: Phillip de Bekebur, John de Grenhull, and John de Stiventon.

<sup>18</sup> Roll of Buildwas Charters (in possession of Thomas Langley, Esq. of Golding, 1736),—as copied by Wm. Mitton, and extracted from the collection of the latter by the Rev. J. B. Blakeway.

The Document or rather Chartulary from which these deeds are taken divides the various Charters of Buildwas into two classes, viz. those which passed “before

the Statute, and those which did not.” In the latter class are arranged the four deeds now under notice. They therefore passed after 1279, when the first Mortmain Statute, entitled “De Religiosis,” became Law.

So great a check did this enactment give to the Monastic acquisition of lands that it was thus known among Monks simply as “The Statute.”

<sup>19</sup> The grounds for the later limit of date (1284) will appear presently. The names of all attesting witnesses fully bear out the date thus ascertained.

By a further deed very similarly attested, the same William, Lord of Ryton, grants to Buildwas "a certain plat of ground in the territory of Ruton thus bounded, viz. from a certain Cross which stands on the boundary between Cospeford (Cosford) and Archesleg (Atchley) along a road to Crassitismere (Crasset's Mere), and thence along a made fence to a certain white-thorn, and thence to the headland of a certain culture which extends to Trendelleswallemerch, and thence to a place called Munebehatch, and thence along the high road as far as the first-named Cross." He also grants the Monks "common pasture for all their animals lying at their Grange of Cospeford, in a certain plot of his enclosure, viz. from the road which is above the two Stews, going down between the said Stews to the bank of Woth" (Worfe).

Another Charter of the same William conveys yet more extensive privileges to the Monks.—He grants them common pasture for all their animals in their Granges of Gospesford and of Hatton, without number, taxation, or count, through his whole Fee of Ruton, except in a tract of land fenced by a foot-path which passes from his greater Stew to the high-road outside his Court-house at Atchley, towards Ryton, and so along the said road to Calvercroft and thence to Cecilies Meadow.—If the Monks' Cattle happen to stray within this boundary they shall not be impounded but restored without trouble; but if they be found there with a Keeper, surety shall be taken from said Keeper for reasonable damages, to be settled by two Umpires within eight days after the trespass. The Monks may also make a bridge across the water of Wergh (Worfe), over which they can drive their cattle to said pasture from Hatton.—Witnesses: Sirs Hugh de Beaumeys, Peter de Eyton, and John Gifford, Knights; Philip Lord of Baggessovere, Ranulph de Grenhull, John de Bispeston (Bishton), John de Styvnynton, Hugh de Haleghton (Haughton), Roger Hod, and others.

These and possibly some still further grants of the same William de Ruton, having been made subsequent to the Mortmain Statute of 1279, required a Royal License, which was not usually issued till an Inquisition had been held as to the damage which the Crown might sustain by allowing the transfer. Such an Inquisition was held in 14 Edw. I (1285-6), and appears to have reported in favour both of these grants at Ryton and of some contemporary acquisition made by the Monks at Bikedon (Bicton near Shrewsbury).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> The Inquisition is lost from the proper | .Inquisitions was first made, but not when  
Custody. It existed when the Calendar of | that Record was printed (1806). All

In the meantime, that is about 1284, a Record of Tenures in the Hundred of Brimstree was made. It points out the seignury of Engelard de Stretton's heirs as still existing at Ryton. "William de Ruton," it says, "holds the *vill* of Ruton of Bartholomew de Burgo in chief, by one fourth of a Knight's Fee, but there is no mention of whom the said Bartholomew holds in chief."<sup>21</sup>

The latest that I find of William de Ruton is his occurrence as second Juror on an Inquest which sat at Donington, June 15, 1303, and which was to report upon the prescriptive Manorial rights of the Lords of Albrighton.

Before the year 1316 his own interests at Ryton had passed, either by purchase or descent, to Roger Carles, who is then entered as Lord.<sup>22</sup>

This Roger Carles (whom I take to have been Son of Nicholas Carles of Albrighton) had been for some time a prominent person in this neighbourhood, and so continued for at least sixteen years longer. All that I shall further say of him here is, that on Jan. 11, 1318, he obtained the King's Charter of Free Warren in Ryton, Whiston, Bonigale, and Albrighton, in each of which localities he will therefore have had a considerable interest.<sup>23</sup>

#### RYTON CHURCH.

The parochial district now attached to this Church would seem originally to have been within the Saxon Parish of Idshall.<sup>24</sup> The separation probably took place in the twelfth century, and the Founder of the district Church was still more evidently the Lord of the Fee.

About the year 1186, the Priests of Ryton, Albrighton, and

we can gather from the Abstract is that it was an inquiry as to the tenure of William de Ronton and in behalf of the Abbot of Buildwas; and that it concerned or named the following places, viz. Cospesford, Hatton, Routon, and Bikedon (*Calendar*, vol. i, p. 92).

In 1291, the Monks of Buildwas were seized of a Mill at Ritton, which was of 10s. annual value (*Pope Nich. Taxation*, p. 260).

<sup>21</sup> *Kirby's Quest*, a Record of extreme value as regards this Hundred inasmuch as the Brimstree Inquests of 1255 and 1274 are both lost.

<sup>22</sup> Parliamentary Writs, vol. iv, p. 399. The place is printed in this very inaccurate Record as *Ruyx*.

<sup>23</sup> *Charter*, 11 Edw. II, No. 43. The line of Roger Carles ended in a female who carried the Manor and Advowson of Ryton to the Corbetts of Habberley, afterwards of Longnor.

<sup>24</sup> In token of the original subjection of Ryton Church to that of Idshall, the Vicar of Shiffnal is still entitled to an annual pension of 2s. from the Rector of Ryton.



Dawley, attest a charter relating to Sutton Advowson, a circumstance which indicates the previous existence of a Church in each locality.<sup>25</sup> The name of the Ryton Incumbent was Bernard.

At the Assizes of September 1272, the Jurors of Brimstrec Hundred reported that William de Cheney, whilst Constable of Brug, took away the key of the Rector of Ryton's grange (*i. e.* barn), saying that he would have corn for the Castle of Brug, and that this was since the war (1265) and the proclamation of peace, and that said William took half-a-merk from the said Rector for restoration of the key.<sup>26</sup>

In 1291, the Church of Ryton, in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, the Archdeaconry of Salop, and Deanery of Newport, was valued at £2. *per annum*.<sup>27</sup>

In 1341, the Assessors of the ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb, charged only 10s. on this Parish. The reasons for so small an assessment were because the small tithes, offerings, hay-tithe, and glebe, which went to make up the greater taxation (£2.), were not to be reckoned in the ninth, and because the Rector had a carucate of land besides, and several Tenants, and because much land lay untilled by reason of the poverty and quitting of the occupiers.<sup>28</sup>

In 1534, Richard Rowley being Rector here, the gross value of his Benefice was ascertained by the King's Commissioners to be £6, on which there was an annual charge of 6s. 8d. for Procurations, and 1s. 5d. for Synodals.<sup>29</sup>

The Advowson of Ryton seems to have been held by the elder branch of the Pichfords rather than by the De Burghs who were representatives of the younger branch.—There is a similar complication of these two interests in nearly every Manor where either was concerned.

An Inquest which was held at Albrighton, May 6, 1285, on the death of John de Pichford, found him to have been seized of this Advowson.<sup>30</sup> The Lords of Albrighton continued to present to the Church for forty years longer; then the Advowson and the Manor became united in the Carles family, and both descended to Corbett of Longnor.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, Tit. "Brocton et Suttone Madoke," No. lxxxv.

<sup>26</sup> *Assize Roll*, 56 Hen. III, m. 22 dorso.

<sup>27</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* p. 245.

<sup>28</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 193.

<sup>29</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 187.

<sup>30</sup> *Inquisitions*, 13 Edw. I, No. 14.

<sup>31</sup> *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p. 126.

## EARLY INCUMBENTS.

About 1186, BERNARD, PRIEST OF RYTON, has occurred above.

In 1314, the benefice being vacant by death of SIR ADAM DE PICHEFORD, late Rector, and being under sequestration, the Bishop, on June 12, at Prees, gives custody of the Fruits and Profits thereof to JOHN DE STEVYNTON, Acolyte, who need not render any account thereof to the Bishop; and Nov. 1st, 1314, the same John de Stevynton was admitted to the Church on presentation of Sir John la Warr, Knight.

He resigned July 26, 1320; and on—

Nov. 29, 1320, ROGER DE SCHEFFELD, Acolyte, was admitted on presentation of the same.<sup>32</sup> He resigned in 1324, and on June 22 of that year, SIR RICHARD DE GOUNSTON, Chaplain, was admitted to the Church and instituted (in person of Richard de Cresseyle, Clerk, his Proctor) on the presentation of Sir John de la Warr.

After the death of Richard de Gonston, viz. on—

Aug. 28, 1342, the Bishop conferred this Church on SIR JOHN DE COTYNGHAM, Priest, the right of collation having in this instance lapsed to the Bishop. In 1344, Cotyngham exchanged this benefice for the Chantry of Conedovere in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield; and on—

June 11, HUGH DE GREYBY, Clerk, late Incumbent of the said Chantry, was admitted here on presentation of William Carles, the true Patron. Greyby resigned Aug. 1, 1349, and on—

Sept. 23 following, WILLIAM TAYLOR, Chaplain, was admitted on presentation of William Careles.<sup>33</sup>

In Sept. 1365, WILLIAM WALKER was Rector of Ryton.<sup>34</sup> He died in 1387.

JOHN DE BYSSCHTON, Priest, was his Successor.<sup>35</sup>

## GRINDLE.

This Township, not mentioned in *Domesday*, but which seems subsequently to have constituted a distinct Manor, is entitled to another name than modern usage has bestowed upon it. It was of old called Gren-hulle or Gren-hul, *i. e.* Green Hill.

Though in the Parish of Ryton, I cannot show it to have been held under the same superior Lords, nor yet can I well support a surmise that it might have been a member of Idshal.

<sup>32</sup> Lichfield Register A, folios 67, 669 b.

<sup>33</sup> Lichfield Register B, folios 204,

218 b, 219, 224 b.

<sup>34</sup> Charter at Haughton.

<sup>35</sup> Blakeway's MSS.

The Feoffees here took name from the place, and seem, as a family, to have been of nearly equal importance with their neighbours at Ryton.

The first of whom I find mention is Robert de Grenhul, who about the year 1190, attests Walter de Dunstanville's grant of Aynulfs-Lee to Wombridge Priory.<sup>36</sup>

At the Assizes of October 1203, this Robert de Grenhul sued Hugh de Beckbury for unduly raising a stank in Beckbury whereby Robert's freehold in Grenhull was injured, and his meadows inundated. Damages of 8s. were given, and the stank ordered to be lowered to its previous state. At the same Assizes, Robert de Grenhul *essoigned* his own attendance at the "common summons."

He was succeeded by Richard de Grenhul, who in 1220, was a Recognizor in a great trial about the Advowson of Tong.

From this time till about 1250, Richard de Grenhul appears a frequent witness to Charters of Wombridge and Buildwas.

At the Assizes of November 1221, Richard de Grenhull was Defendant in a trial of *Grand Assize*, wherein William Coterel sued him for a half-a-virgate in Herthull.<sup>37</sup> Richard gave half-a-merk for license to accord, his Surety being Hugh de Beckbury. The fine which resulted is preserved.—Thereby Richard conceded the premises to William,—to have and to hold of Richard and his heirs at a rent of 12*d.* For this William gave two merks.<sup>38</sup>

This Richard, calling himself Lord of Grenhull, and for the health of the souls of himself, his Ancestors, and Successors, made a considerable grant to Wombridge Priory. The gift comprises two half-virgates in the *vill* of Grenhulle with the meadow appertaining thereto, also a meadow called Alan's meadow, also a culture bounded "by the green lane, which goes from Brocton to Ruton and by the rivulet which runs under Hadinton" (Harrington).

He also allows that the Canons shall have pasturage for 200 sheep, and for the working Cattle of themselves, or their tenants, or assignees occupying said land; the latter right to extend to the Grantor's meadows or *cultures* when not under crop. He also grants free transit through his land for their carts and other implements, and liberty to get stone in his quarries; and lastly that the Canons shall be quit of all *suit* of his Court, and need not attend there unless it be for their own pleasure or profit.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, Tit. Lega Prioris, No. 1. The other witnesses appear to be dependants or connections of the Grantor, who was Lord of Idshale.

<sup>37</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, m. 1 recto.

I cannot determine the situation of the premises in dispute.

<sup>38</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 6 Hen. III. Salop.

<sup>39</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, Tit. Grenhul, No. xii. The witnesses are Sir

Richard de Grenhull by another and later deed concedes to Sir Walter de Dunstanvill and his heirs the Mill of Grenhull with the site thereof, and the whole *suit* of the *vill* of Grenhull, and right of road to and from said Mill, and right of dam and water-course and fishery, from Ricford down to the same Mill; rendering therefore yearly a pair of white gloves, or one halfpenny instead.<sup>40</sup>

Within the next twenty years, Sir Walter de Dunstanville granted to Wombridge Priory the Mill which he had bought of Richard, Lord of Glenhull; by which transfer, it should be observed, the Canons became Tenants of the Mill, paying a nominal rent of one halfpenny to the Lord of Grindle.<sup>41</sup>

Meanwhile, that is about the year 1250 (as far as we can judge from his attestation of undated deeds), John de Grenhull had succeeded Richard in the Lordship of Grindle.

At the Assizes of January 1256, this John officiated as a Juror for the Hundred of Brimstree, and he is found continuously as a Juror or Witness in records or deeds down to November 1277.

There is a Quit-claim of his in the Wombridge Chartulary, which (being apparently of date October 21, 1270) releases to that house the rent of one halfpenny, due to him on Grindle Mill.<sup>42</sup>

This was clearly in consequence of a contemporary agreement whereby the Canons had given him a *fec-farm* grant of the same Mill at an annual rent of one merk, reserving to themselves the usual seignorial rights whenever any of John's heirs or successors should happen to be in minority—reserving also a power of distress (in case of the said rent being unpaid) to be levied by the Bailiff of the Hundred on all the Tenant's goods.<sup>43</sup>

Between the years 1277 and 1285, John de Grenhull was succeeded by Ranulph de Grenhull. The latter occurs in various documents down to the close of the Century, but under no circumstance of particular interest.

William de Hedleg (Hadley), Sir Hugh Fitz Robert (of Bowlas), Sir Odo de Hodeneth (Hodnet), Sir Madoc de Sutton, Herbert then Seneschal of Ideshall, Oliver de Knoll, Radulf de Stanton, Adam Pollard, Adam Walsh (Wallensis).

<sup>40</sup> Ibidem, No. I. The witnesses are Sir John Dunstanville, Sir Walter de Hufeforde, Sir Richard de Sanford (of Brockton Sanford, &c., who died 1249), the Lord Prior of Wombridge, Sir

Walter de Kembrieton, Sir Yvo de Brocton. The deed passed between 1241 and 1249. This Mill, called in later times the Forge-Mill, is no longer in existence.

<sup>41</sup> Ibidem, Nos. ii and xi.

<sup>42</sup> Ibidem, No. ix.

<sup>43</sup> Ibidem, No. x. In 27 Hen. VIII (1535-6), the Prior of Wombridge returned the receipts of his house as £6. 4s. 10d. *per annum*, from Tenements in Sutton, Brockton, and Grendull (*Valo Eccles.* iii, 194).

## Brockton.

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THIS place derives its name from the little brook (bꝛoc) which, flowing hither from Madeley, passes on to join the Worfe at Beck-bury.

A great proportion of the lands which are now associated with the village of Brockton were, in 1085, involved with Sutton, but there was also a small and separate Manor which we find thus noticed in *Domesday*.—"The same Osbern (Fitz Richard) holds Broctone (of the Earl) Bruniht who occurs above (*i. e.* under Badger) held it (in time of King Edward). Here is 1 virgate of land and viii acres. The (arable) land is (sufficient) for 1 ox-team. There is 1 boor with 11 oxen. Its former value was viii shillings (per annum); its present is xii pence. He (Osbern) found it waste."<sup>1</sup>

I think that Osbern Fitz Richard's *Domesday* Tenant at Badger had also feoffment in Brockton. At all events that William de Begesour who, about 1174, sold his interest in Badger, appears to have retained and transmitted to his heirs a subtenancy in Brockton. The name will occur again in the latter relation.

As to Osbern Fitz Richard's Seignery here, that reverted to the Crown within fifty years after *Domesday*, and probably at the same time and for the same causes as have been suggested under Ryton.

The neighbouring Manors of Stockton and Sutton were contemporaneously in the King's hands, whereby it came to pass that, on their redistribution in time of Henry II, the *Domesday* limits of each were not strictly observed. Hence I must speak with some uncertainty of the specific descent of that virgate and eight acres which are entered in *Domesday* as "Broctone."

This land was possibly represented by a tenement of two virgates, held subsequently under the Crown by *petit serjeantry*. The immediate tenants bore the name of Russel, and their service was that of Castle-Guard at Shrawardine.

The earliest tenant of whom I find mention was Robert Russel, who in time of Henry II, as I suppose, alienated one half of his

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 257, b. 2.

serjeantry, viz. one virgate, to Iweyn his brother and Agatha his sister, reserving to himself an annual rent of 5*d.*<sup>2</sup>

Of this alienation I will speak presently. The next whom I find in the position of Robert Russell was Geoffrey Russell, who attests a deed of Griffin, son of Gervase Goch, in the year 1194.

In the fiscal year, ending Michaelmas 1204, King John's fifth *Scutage* was levied. It was at the rate of two-and-a-half merks (£1. 13*s.* 4*d.*) on each Knight's Fee; but the peculiarity of this *Scutage* was, that it was assessed, not only on Tenants *in capite* by Knight's service, but on Tenants by Serjeantry. Thus Geoffrey Russell appears upon the Roll as chargeable with half-a-merk.<sup>3</sup>

The same Geoffrey is found attesting certain Brockton Deeds in 1205, and between that year and 1211.

In June 1211, this Geoffrey was deceased, and William Russell was the King's Tenant at Brockton. From two Rolls of that date his obligation is gathered to be "the finding of one serving foot-soldier with a bow, for ward of the King's Castle of Srawrthin."<sup>4</sup>

About 1225, this William Russell granted to Ralph de Sanford, for his homage and service, and for 20*s.* then paid, all the land which said William had in Wunedon;—rendering therefore 2*s.* *per annum.*<sup>5</sup>

Some time afterwards Henry Ywein granted to Wombridge Priory an acre of land which he had in Bromcroft in the *vill* of Brocton.<sup>6</sup> A contemporary Charter by William Russel shows that this acre was held under him by Henry Ywein who was in fact his relation.<sup>7</sup> He confirmed the grant and added a further donation of his own, viz. three acres on the hill of Habenhull (now The Avenals), and another acre in Bromcroft.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 275.

<sup>3</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6 John, Salop.

<sup>4</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 254, and *Liber Ruber Scaccarii*, fo. cxxxvii. Other Rolls, apparently compiled from less accurate but nearly contemporary originals, give the names of both Geoffrey and William Russel as Tenants by Serjeantry, and describe the tenure of the former as a hide of land. This I take to be a mere error of compilation, and do not think that any single original can have contained both names. These latter Rolls are to be found *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 879, and *Liber Ruber*, fo. cxxiii.

<sup>5</sup> Charter at Haughton Hall. The witnesses are Sir Hugh de Bockebur, Richard

de Grenhull, William de Beggesouria, Roger his Son, Henry le Strange, Robert de Trillewordine, Henry Ywein, Elias Cocus.

<sup>6</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*, No. xlvii. Tested by Sir Madoc de Sutton, Richard de Sontford (son and heir of Ralph), Roger de Begesour, William Russell, William Cocus.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xxxix. Tested by the first, second, third, and fifth witnesses of the last; also by Henry Ywein and Elias Cocus.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xlix. Tested by Sir Madoc de Sutton, Richard de Sonford, Richard Grenhull, Roger de Beggeshour, Henry Ywein, and William Cocus.

Before Michaelmas 1240, this William Russel was dead, and Thomas, his son and heir, is entered on the Pipe Roll as owing one merk *relief* for the lands which he should hold *in capite*.<sup>9</sup>

Thomas Russel underwent sentence of outlawry and forfeiture within twelve years of his succession. An Inquest of Tenures in Brimstree Hundred, which appears to have been taken about 1251, records as follows:—

“Thomas Russel, who held of the King *in capite* two virgates of land in Brocton, by service of being in garrison at Montgomery, with whatever arms he chose for self-defence, slew a man, and his land was seized into the King’s hand. Of the said land, Robert Russel his ancestor alienated one virgate to Iweyn his (Robert’s) Brother and Agatha his Sister by service of 5*d.* *per annum*, and it (the alienated land) is now worth one merk ” *per annum*.<sup>10</sup>

The Brimstree Jurors at the Assizes of January 1256, reported the previous “indictment, flight, malcredit, and outlawry of Thomas Russel, and of his accomplices Adam Mestling and Nicholas Russel of Dunninton; also that none of the said outlaws had any chattels.”<sup>11</sup>

Thomas Russell’s land at Brockton continued an Escheat till the year 1261. It was apparently early in that year that the King ordered an Inquest to be taken by the Sheriff and Coroners as to the circumstance of this Tenure.

Of the Jury which sat on this occasion were Ivo de Brocton, Roger Bagh (Baggesore), Thomas de Brocton, Richard le Oyselur, Hugh Pym, William Dunnynger, William Fitz Elyas, &c.

They reported that Thomas Russel’s land was an Escheat of the King, who could give it to whom he chose, but that Dionisia, Thomas’s Mother, was still holding one-third thereof in dower.<sup>12</sup>

The King seems to have acted immediately on this information. His writ dated at St. Paul’s, London, May 18, 1261, runs as follows.—

“The King having regard to the long services of Nicholas le Waleys his Messenger hath granted to said Nicholas for life that Messuage, &c. in Broghton which Thomas Russel once held *in capite*

<sup>9</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 24 Hen. III Salop (*Nova Oblata*).

<sup>10</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 275. The services which, while Shrawardine was a Royal Castle, lay upon many of the King’s Tenants in Shropshire were *attorned* before this period to Montgomery. Shra-

wardine was, at the same time, probably given up to its hereditary Lords, the Fitz-Alans.

<sup>11</sup> *Assize Roll*, memb. 9 recto.

<sup>12</sup> *Inquis. incerti temporis* Hen. III, No. 96.

and which is the King's Escheat, by reason of said Thomas being outlawed for the murder of Thomas Blund of Stocton, and which the King can give to whom he will, as he learns by Inquisition which he has caused to be made by the Sheriff of Salop." The Grantee is to perform all accustomed services. At his death the premises shall revert to the Crown. The Escheator *citra* Trent is to put the Grantee in possession without delay.<sup>13</sup>

At the Assizes of September 1272, the Brimstree Jurors reported the non-attendance of Nicholas le Messenger, also that "he had for ten years withdrawn from the Hundred-Court all suit for his tenure in Brocton, whereby the King was damaged 2s. yearly; also that the said tenure was a virgate of land in Brockton, for which he was to find for the King one bow (archer) with a bolt (bosone) for fifteen days, at Mungomery, in time of war."<sup>14</sup>

The *Feodary* of 1284 exhibits the extent of this tenure, and also the service due thereon to the Crown, as again changed; though I suppose that the Tenant mentioned held under Nicholas le Messenger, and not, as stated, *in capite*.—

Alexander le Cold is entered as holding half a virgate in the *vill* of Brocton *in capite*, by service of going with the King into Wales in time of war, with one lance, for a week.<sup>15</sup>

At the Assizes of October 1292, a thorough investigation of the various rights of the Crown in this County brought this Serjantry again under notice.<sup>16</sup>

The King, by Hugh de Louthur (his Attorney), prosecuted Nicholas le Messenger for one virgate in Brocton, which he, the King, claimed as his right. The Defendant did not appear, and the Sheriff having been ordered to summon him had not done so, but certified that said Nicholas was dead. Hugh de Louthur denied this, and affirmed Nicholas to be alive and well (*in plenâ vitâ*), and was ready to prove this by Jury. The Sheriff made a similar appeal; so an Inquest was ordered thereupon, and a formal precept issued to the Coroners.

Whatever was the result of this further investigation, I find no

<sup>13</sup> *Fines*, ii, 351. *Originalia*, i, 17.

<sup>14</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, Salop, m. 22 dorso, 23 recto.

<sup>15</sup> *Kirby's Quest*. Alexander le Cold appears on a local Jury in September 1276; and, for several years after, his land in Brockton is a subject of mention

in contemporary Charters of Wombridge Priory. In most of these his Christian name is written Tandri or Gandi,—abbreviations of "Alexander" which would seem to have been then in use.

<sup>16</sup> *Placita de quo Warranto*, p. 685.



later evidence of this Serjeantry constituting an individual Tenure *in capite*.

I believe that it was afterwards held by the Burnels of Langley, in common with other acquisitions in the neighbourhood which had been secured by their relative, the princely Bishop of Bath and Wells, who died, holding the Great Seal of England, at the very time when these Prosecutions were on foot.

We should say something of the descent of that IWEYN whom we have seen to become a Feoffee of Robert Russell in the twelfth century, and whose heirs were consequently under-tenants of the successive occupants of this Serjeantry. Henry Fitz Ywein is found attesting local deeds early in the thirteenth century. As Henry Ywein he has already been mentioned at a somewhat later date.

Robert Ouewyn served on a Stockton Inquest in 1243.

Richard Iwen, Iweyn, or Weyn, of Brockton, occurs as a witness before 1249, as a Juror in 1253, and was living in 1272. From the latter date till the beginning of the next century another Henry Iweyn seems to have represented the family; and in 1316, 1318, and 1336 we have Richard Owyn, Heweyn, or Vweyn in a similar position. On May 1, 1341, Sibil, widow of Richard Owyn, occurs as holding dower in Brockton.<sup>17</sup>

#### LINLEY FEE IN BROCKTON.

I have already hinted that of several tenures in Brockton it is difficult to distinguish the one which constituted the *Domesday* Manor from others which, having been involved at *Domesday*, in Sutton, were afterwards detached therefrom and became independent.

A second tenure (of two and a half virgates) shall have notice here, as possibly representing the *Domesday* Manor of Broctone.

This, in time of King Henry II, was held *in capite* by Richard de Linley. Of him I have spoken under Linley, and shall here say no more of him than that he appears to have alienated one-and-a-half virgates of his Serjeantry in Brocton to Sibil de Linley,<sup>18</sup> his rela-

<sup>17</sup> Wombridge Chartulary *passim*, and Charters at Haughton. I have not given all the varieties which occur in the spelling of this single name "Owen." The Anglo-Saxon law-clerks were in no case

very studious of a consistent orthography; but the spelling of Welsh proper names seems to have been a subject of more than usual caprice.

<sup>18</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 60. The passage

tion doubtless, but not his heir. Sibil in turn bestowed her land in Brocton on Lilleshall Abbey, as has been before stated.<sup>19</sup>

We will presently return to the Lilleshall interest thus created here; but now we will follow the descent of those two Coheireses who eventually succeeded Philip de Linley in the residuary virgate at Brockton, as well as in the whole Manor of Linley.

These were the wives, one of William le Forcer, the other (Isolda) of Wido de Farlow.<sup>20</sup>

An Inquest of Tenures in Brimstree Hundred taken in 1227, states that William (it should be Wido) de Fernlawe and William le Forcir hold a virgate in Brockton by service of finding one serving foot-soldier at Shewrthin (Shrawardine) for eight days if necessary; and that the annual value (of the said virgate) was 15s.<sup>21</sup>

GUY DE FERNLAWE was Lord of Farlow, and has already occurred to our notice as attesting a Broseley deed about 1230, and a Pickthorn Deed about 1241-2.<sup>22</sup> And soon after that he died, leaving Philip his son and heir, who before the year 1251, calling himself Philip, son of Wido de Farnlowe, grants to Stephen, son of William Keede (elsewhere spelt Cude) of Brockton, for his homage and for 20s. entrance-fee, half a virgate in Brockton which came hereditarily to him (Philip) from Ysonda his mother:—to hold in fee at a rent of 7s. 6d.<sup>23</sup>

is inaccurate and ungrammatical; but its intended meaning is clearly that which I have assigned to it.

<sup>19</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 360.

<sup>20</sup> Before the Brockton virgate settled into this succession, *i. e.* about the year 1211, the following inconsistent and unintelligible returns appear to have related thereto:—

1. William Briware holds by serjeantry one virgate in Drayton, and he should find one serving foot-soldier for ward of the Castle of the Lord King of Srawthin (*Testa de Nevill*, p. 55).

2. William Bruere holds by serjeantry of one serving foot-soldier with a bow, for ward of Sraworthin (*Liber Rub. Scacc.* fo. exxxvii).

3. William Briwer holds Bramton by service of finding a serving foot-soldier for ward. (*Testa de Nevill*, p. 417).

That the tenure thus alluded to was

in Brockton rather than Bramton or Drayton will be clear; but who William Briwere the Tenant was I cannot surmise. He may have been Guardian of the two Coheireses, or he may have been the first husband of one of them, or again he may have been the heir of Philip de Linley and Father of them both.

It will not serve to elucidate the difficulty when I state that in 1226, Alice de Draiton was suing William Cude (whose family I know to have been Under-tenants in this Serjeantry) for disseizing her of a tenement in Brockton. Judgment was given for the Defendant because the Plaintiff had never been in seizin of the premises (*Abbrev. Placitorum*, p. 103). A confusion of the names Drayton and Brockton is not a singular occurrence.

<sup>21</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 54.

<sup>22</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 240.

<sup>23</sup> *Wombridge Chartulary, Tit. Brocton*,

I can say nothing further of this Philip de Farlow than that he was living in 1255, and dead in 1272; and that his inheritance seems to have been divided among Coheireses, who in the year 1273, were jointly in receipt of 9*s. per annum* chargeable on Linley, and 7*s. 6d. per annum*, the rent of their share of Brockton, as reserved in the feoffment of Stephen Keede already quoted.

This rent of 7*s. 6d.* and the Seignorial rights which it implied were afterwards bought up by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who was at the time a ready purchaser of any Shropshire property.

On May 5, 1280, the following Fine was levied at Westminster between said Robert, Complainant (querentem), and Matilda de Farlawe, Defendant (impedientem), of 4*s.* rent in Brockton whereof was plea.—“Matilda acknowledged the right of Robert thereto as of her own gift. To hold to Robert and his heirs of John de Cleton and his heirs for ever;—Rendering a red-rose and capital services. The Bishop gave a *sore hawk*. And this concord was made in presence and by consent of, and under warranty of said rent, by John de Cleton.” But Robert de Doditon and Isolda his wife put in a claim to said rent, as we learn from an indorsement on the Fine.

At the same time and place another fine was levied between the same Plaintiff and John de Cleton and Alice his wife, Defendants, of 3*s. 6d.* rent in Brockton, whereof was plea of warranty of Charter. John and Alice acknowledged the right of the Bishop as of their own gift;—to hold to the Bishop and his heirs at a rent of one rose and by render of capital services. The Bishop gave a *sore hawk*.<sup>24</sup>

Having now traced one interest in this Tenure to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, I proceed to show that he acquired another also, viz. that which was held in 1227 by WILLIAM LE FORCER.

This William, who has occurred as witness of two Broseley deeds about 1230, was deceased before Dec. 6, 1242, when Henry his Son and Heir fined three merks with the King, to have seizin of his Father's lands, although he (Henry) was yet under age. The King accepted his fealty, and he was to do his homage on the King's return into England. The Sheriff of Salop was to take security for the said three merks, and give Henry full seizin.<sup>25</sup>

No. xv. Tested by Adam de Doditon, Yvo de Brocton, Roger Beeg (Bagsore), Richard Beeg, Thomas Russel, Richard Pym.

<sup>24</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 8 Edw. I, Salop.

<sup>25</sup> *Fines*, i, 391. The King was in Gascony. This writ was expedited by the Archbishop of York.

On Nov. 15, 1248, Henry le Forcer having enfeoffed an Under-Tenant in his half-virgate at Brockton the following Fine was levied at Salop, viz. "between Henry le Forcer, Plaintiff (petentem), and Henry de Brocton and Sibil his wife, Tenants, of half-a-virgate in Brocton, whereof was Plea, &c. Henry de Brocton and Sibil acknowledged the right of the Plaintiff, who conceded the premises, —to have and to hold to Henry de Brocton and Sibil, and the heirs of Sibil, rendering therefore to the Plaintiff and his heir 7s. 6d. annually, and performing accustomed services to the Chief Lord of the Fee."<sup>26</sup>

About the year 1251, an Inquest of Tenures in Brimstree Hundred seems to give the then state of this Serjeantry. "Henry le Forcer and Philip de Franlasche (Farlow) hold two-and-a-half virgates (the original quantity) of the King, in Brocton, by Serjeantry of finding one man at Montgomery in war, for fifteen days. Out of this (two-and-a-half virgates) Richard de Linley alienated one-and-a-half virgates to Sibil de Linley, and it (the alienation) is worth 20s." (per annum).<sup>27</sup>

Besides what I have said, under Linley, of Henry le Forcer, I find that on March 28, 1256, he and his Brother Roger took one of the King's Deer.<sup>28</sup> Roger escaping from arrest was outlawed, but Henry was still in prison when, in February 1262, the Justices of the Forest visited Shrewsbury. A fine of 20s., for which Andrew de Wileley and John Tece of Tasley were his Sureties, seems then to have procured his release.

His attestation of two Charters as a Tenant of Shrewsbury Abbey at Astley must have passed between this period and his death (Oct. 6, 1272).<sup>29</sup>

The first Inquest as to his estate reported him to "have held half-a-virgate of the *vill* of Brocton, which a certain free man (his Feoffee of 1248) then held, by doing service for him (Henry) at Suarthin, also that the said Henry had sold all his right therein to Robert Burnell."

A second Inquest, which sat April 16, 1273, purports to be more correct. It says that he had held "half-a-virgate of the King in Brocton, of the Barony of Montgomery, by service of finding one foot-soldier in ward of the Castle there, that he before his death

<sup>26</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 33 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>27</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 60. The change of service from Shrawardine to Montgomery is again observable. (Vide supra, n. 10.)

<sup>28</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, Salop, 46 Hen. III, memb. 4.

<sup>29</sup> Salop Chartulary, Numbers 145, 151.

(had sold) the said land to Sir Robert Burnel, who has Custody of the said Barony, by some right, to himself or his heirs \* \* \* .”<sup>30</sup>

Though the deceased was thus shown not to have been a Tenant *in capite*, the King’s Escheator, seized upon his heir, claiming for the Crown the right of disposing of him in marriage.

Margery de Harcourt, daughter and (as she is on this occasion less accurately called) Coheir of William de Harcourt, claimed this wardship, and petitioned the Crown for the same in 1275. Her claim arose as having the Seignury of Ayleston (co. Leicester). She alleged that her ancestors always had custody and marriage of the Heirs of Le Forcer, who were Tenants of that Manor, notwithstanding that Henry Le Forcer had held other lands of the Honour of Montgomery and the Priory of Wenlock (she alluded to Brockton and Linley).

The King’s writ, dated 18 July 1275, directed the Sheriff of Shropshire to inquire into this matter. A Jury met at Brockton on January 2, 1276, and reported that Richard de Harcourt, Margery’s Grandfather, had had the marriage of Henry le Forcer, deceased, the latter having been a Minor at the death of his Father William; that said Richard sold the said marriage to Nicholas le Forcer, Henry’s Uncle; and that the King and his Ancestors, Lords of the Honour of Montgomery, had never had marriage or custody of the Forcers.<sup>31</sup>

Sir Robert Burnell, above mentioned as purchasing Henry le Forcer’s interest at Brockton, was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells April 7, 1275. We have already seen how in 1280 he was buying the seignury (or right to the chief-rent) of the other moiety of this Serjeantry. His object was a title to the whole rent of 15*s. per annum* (7*s. 6d.* being the reserved rent on each moiety); and it should be remembered that 15*s.* had been stated in 1227 to be the value of this virgate to its owners. The Bishop seems either to have changed the Under-Tenants here, or to have performed the services due on this Serjeantry by another deputy; but his transactions at this period were so numerous and complicated that I cannot do more than set down what I suppose to relate to Brockton. The Bishop had a relation, a Nephew I believe, Richard Burnell, to whom he granted Langley, at first for life, and afterwards in fee.—

In 1284, Richard Burnel is entered as holding one virgate in

<sup>30</sup> *Inquisitions*, 1 Edw. I, No. 47. This |  
Record is much defaced.

<sup>31</sup> *Inquisitions*, 4 Edw. I, No. 77.

Brocton of the King *in capite*, but his warrant to do so was not known.<sup>32</sup>

The Bishop however still continued seized of the chief-rent of 15*s.*; for in 1291, Sir Philip Burnel (Nephew and heir expectant of the Bishop) gave to Wombridge Priory 15*s.* rent in the *vill* of Brocton in exchange for all land and rents which the Priory had at Norton near Condoover. The said exchange was attested by the Bishop himself,<sup>33</sup> who seems, as regards this estate, to have anticipated the succession of his heir.

Nevertheless, Richard Burnel continued to hold this land, and to be reputed the Tenant *in capite*, though the service due thereon appears again to have been changed.—

In 1310, when the army of England was under summons to meet at Tweedmouth on Sept. 19th, Richard Burnel proffered service of a fourth part of a Knight's Fee to be performed by one serving man with a barded horse.<sup>34</sup>

Richard Burnel of Langley seems to have died in 1313,<sup>35</sup> and to have been succeeded both at Langley and Brockton by William Burnel. In 1328, when marriage articles were agreed upon between Edward (son of this William) and Margaret Lee, William Burnel enfeoffed the said Edward, &c. "in all his lands in Broctone near Kembrygton, except the Tenement which he held of the King *in capite*, and which he might not alienate without license."<sup>36</sup>

THE VIRGATE-AND-HALF which Richard de Linley had given to Sibil de Linley out of this Serjeantry was before 1199 granted by the latter to Lilleshall Abbey.

It would seem that one Agnes de Brocton had some claim to a rent receivable from the Abbey on this or other land in Brockton. A deed wherein she calls herself daughter of William makes over her right, whatever it was, to Ralph de Sanford,<sup>37</sup> who was at this period (1210-1224) purchasing largely in the neighbourhood.

<sup>32</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* It is obvious that whoever made this return was ignorant of the precise circumstances of Richard Burnel's Tenure, which must have been under the Bishop. Richard probably occupied the land and performed the military service due thereon.

<sup>33</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*, No. liii. Tested also by Sir Roger Sprenchose, Sir William de Huggeford, Sir Ralph Sprenchose, Sir Thomas de Russell (Rossall).

<sup>34</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, page 621.

<sup>35</sup> *Calendar of Inquisitions*, vol. i, page 253.

<sup>36</sup> Blakeway's MSS., quoting Charters of Sir Edward Smythe, Bart.

<sup>37</sup> Charter at Haughton—tested by Baldwin de Hodnet, Hugh de Beckenburi, Henry le Strange, William de Baggesoure, William Russel, Robert Cocus, Robert de Trillewardin.

By another deed A. (Alan) Abbot of Lylleshull enfeoffs Ralph de Sanford and his heirs in that half-virgate in Brockton which Alan Vangi held ;—to hold at an annual rent of 4s.<sup>88</sup>

I can trace nothing further of this Lilleshall interest in Brockton except that some later deeds occasionally mention the Abbot's land as bounding other tenements.

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## Sutton Maddock.

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THIS Manor, though then unmarked by the compound name, which was afterwards employed to distinguish it from other Suttous, is easily identified in *Domesday*. That Record tells us thus.—

“The same Gerard holds Sudtone (of the Earl Roger). Earl Morcar held it. Here are are 1111 hides geldable. There is (arable) land (sufficient) for XII ox-teams. In demesne are 11 teams and (there are) VI Serfs and XII villains and 1111 boors with VII teams ; and a certain Knight has there 1 team and 11 Serfs. In time of King Edward (the Manor) was worth XL shillings (annually). Its present value is the same.”<sup>1</sup>

I think that Sudtone must have been originally so called with reference to its position in the Southern quarter of the great Saxon Parish of Iteshale (now Shiffnal). The two places had also been manorially associated from the earliest times. Together with Tong and Donington they had constituted an estate of the Earls of Mercia.

When Edwin and Morcar, Brothers and joint Tenants of that Earldom, rebelled against King William in 1071, their outbreak, as is well known, ended in the death of the former, the captivity, or rather disappearance of the latter, and the distribution of Mercia as of a conquered province. Thus did Earl Roger de Montgomery enter Shropshire to rule and to possess.

<sup>88</sup> Charter *ibidem*,—tested by Walter de Huggeford, Hugh de Becchebur, Philip de Burwardsleg, Roger de Spephose (Sprenhose), Peter de Eytun, Robert de Mukelestun. This deed passed between 1216 and 1224. It had two Seals attached, but both are gone.

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 259, a 1.

Among the followers and countrymen of the Norman Lord one Gerard de Tornai received a share of the spoil. He held at *Domesday*, and for at least a season afterwards, eighteen Manors, of which Sutton was the largest and most valuable. I can say little more of Gerard de Tornai's career in Shropshire than that it terminated in a total and absolute forfeiture, and, whereas such forfeiture must have been very nearly contemporary with the great western Rebellion of 1088, I do not see that we can help associating the two events.<sup>2</sup>

The disinherited Baron had one, or more than one daughter. She (if only one) was Sibil the wife of Hamo Peverel, whose influence in Shropshire, already great in time of Earl Hugh (1093-1098), will have originated in this marriage, and in the accompanying favour of that seignorial Lord, whether King or Earl, who dictated the re-disposal of Gerard's forfeited estates.

The bare mention of this name of Peverel will suggest a throng of recollections to every one acquainted with the vicissitudes which befel this County during the first Century after the Norman Conquest. National Records, Monastic Chartularies, Chronicles and Legends, all speak of the Peverels; but the pervading feature of every account or hint is, that something is kept back which either was not known or was not to be talked of.

The only specific statement yet advanced, attributes the various branches of this house to a Saxon Ancestress, who, as we are told, was first the Concubine of Duke William of Normandy, and then the wife of Ranulph Peverel of Hatfield (Essex), and who, after being Mother (by the Duke) of William Peverel of Nottingham, subsequently gave lawful birth to all the other Peverels who figured in the time of Henry I.<sup>3</sup>

This story, improbable in its simplest form,<sup>4</sup> and with the fewest

<sup>2</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 296.

<sup>3</sup> This account is adopted by Dugdale, and appears to have been originally vouched by Robert Glover, some-time Somerset Herald. Glover's reputation as a Herald is I believe still high, and independently of that it may seem presumptuous to question an authority which Dugdale accepted. Nevertheless I cannot help doing so.

<sup>4</sup> Its improbability arises in two ways. It is inconsistent with the general charac-

ter of Duke William. Moreover, this alleged *liaison* with a Saxon Lady of rank can have originated in no earlier circumstance than the event of the Duke's visit to the Court of Edward the Confessor in 1051. However, William Peverel of Nottingham, whatever his parentage, must have been born before that period, for he was old enough in 1068 to be entrusted with one of the most responsible offices in the kingdom, the custody of the Castle and Province from which he took his name.



adjuncts, has further been embodied with such a variety of impossible circumstances as to leave its credibility in extreme jeopardy.

Mystery there certainly is about the whole subject, and the truth may very possibly be buried with some tale of courtly scandal, though not of the precise character hitherto pointed out.

Leaving a curious, but perhaps hopeless investigation, we should here say that *Domesday* appears to make mention of only two Peverels, viz. William (of Nottingham) and Ranulph (of Essex), and that the latter had a small territory in Shropshire held under the Norman Earl.

This accident is, I believe, the fact which has mainly induced some Genealogists to conclude that Ranulf was Father of those Shropshire Peverels who attended the Court and enjoyed the favours of King Henry I. Such a conclusion wants all substantial foundation, and is directly subverted by one chief consideration, viz. that of the many Lordships enjoyed by Ranulf Peverel in four *Domesday* Counties (Shropshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex), not one can be proved to have descended to those other Peverels of whom I am now to speak.<sup>5</sup>

The latter family consisted of several brothers or half-brothers, whose parentage is unknown, and whose very number is uncertain. If they were four, their names were Hamo, William, Pagan, and Robert, if they were only three, then Pagan and Robert constitute a single person described in different documents by different names.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Their estates lay in Shropshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgehire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire, Kent, and Northamptonshire, and they all came into court-favour before the death of Ranulph Peverel whose only son and successor seems to have been that William Peverel who was afterwards called of Essex or of London, to distinguish him from his Contemporaries William of Nottingham and William of Brun, or of Dover.

<sup>6</sup> I shall have hereafter to recur to this subject of the Peverels. I should perhaps however state here how this doubt about Pagan and Robert arises.—

Pagan Peverel had a great Fief in Cambridgeshire by grant of Henry I. He was

Founder of Barnwell Priory, and the Chartulary of that House printed in the *Monasticon* (vol. vi, p. 86) contains a document of very general truthfulness and which professes to give account of his descendants. It makes him Father of that William Peverel who died in Palestine, and of the four Coheiresses presently to be mentioned in the text.

That he was succeeded in Cambridgehire by the said William Peverel and then by the said Sisters, there can be no question; and the only doubt as to the Barnwell Chronicler's accuracy arises from his giving a date for Pagan Peverel's death at least ten years too early. So much for Pagan Peverel as Father of William.

In a charter of Thorney Abbey (printed

Hamo Peverel, as I have already said, acquired a great position in Shropshire before the death of Earl Hugh de Montgomery, and therefore during the reign of William Rufus. His two Brothers, William and Pagan, do not occur to our notice till after the accession of Henry I.

Hamo Peverel, with whom alone we are now concerned, acquired his succession to Gerard de Tornai under a title obviously ambiguous from the very first. He married the heiress or co-heiress of an escheated Barony, but such a marriage could have brought nothing to Hamo Peverel except by special favour of the Suzerain or Suzerains under whom Gerard de Tornai had held. Hence arose, as I conceive, two distinct and afterwards conflicting principles as to this succession. Hamo Peverel, and his wife Sibil, spoke of and treated this Fief as their inheritance, but yet transmitted it in such a mode as is quite irreconcilable with any known principle of hereditary descent.

With similar inconsistency Henry II once addressed the heirs of Hamo Peverel as if they were also heirs of Gerard de Tornai, and yet on all other occasions seems to have ignored and gradually to have abolished any such pretensions. He in short controlled the Fief of Gerard de Tornai as a simple escheat and as subject to every recurrent interference of himself as the immediate Seigneur.

But to return to our proper subject,—Hamo Peverel, first conspicuous in the Palatine Court of Earl Hugh de Montgomery, and afterwards enjoying the favour of King Henry I, undoubtedly held Sutton during the whole of that Monarch's reign. After Henry I's death and during the short interval of his own survivorship Hamo Peverel made to Salop Abbey that grant of the "fishery and passage of Sutton" which has already been alluded to.<sup>7</sup>

In the year 1138, Hamo Peverel was dead, and two youths whom he had apparently destined as his heirs, while living, occur to our notice, partly as dealing jointly with his and Gerard de Tornai's estates, but more prominently as linked together in the cause of the daughter of Henry I.<sup>8</sup>

in the *Monasticon* vol. ii, 601, viii) this identical William Peverel (the Crusader) mentions his Father's Christian name as having been Robert.

Dugdale has adopted both statements in different parts of his *Baronage* without adverting to their apparent inconsistency.

<sup>7</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 44.

<sup>8</sup> It is hardly possible to reconcile the anomalies which are again presented at this stage of the history of the Peverels. Though Hamo Peverel appointed William Peverel the younger and Walcheline Maminoh't his heirs, we have not a hint as to his relationship with the latter. Moreover Hamo Peverel had a daughter, and

The conduct of William Peverel of Dover and Walcheline Maminoht during the usurpation of Stephen associates their names with a great national struggle, rather than with their territorial interests in Shropshire. The former perished in the Crusade of 1147, leaving four sisters his Co-heirs.

On the Accession of Henry II, Walcheline Maminoht was surviving, but neither he nor the four Sisters of William Peverel succeeded in establishing any joint and general claim on the fief of Gerard de Tornai. With Sutton in particular they had no further concern, and we have henceforth to treat of this Manor in a new and changed relation.

My supposition is, that during the reign of Henry I, and while the Peverels were actively serving that Monarch in Shropshire and the Marches, a policy was first adopted which had for its object the disintegration of the national unity of North Wales. English lands and English marriages were bestowed on any native Chief who might be open to such bribes and worth the bribing. Thus, I conceive, that is either by affinity or interest, was Jorwerth Goch (the "Red Edward" of Border traditions) first associated with the English cause and with the Peverels, for I can look upon his claims on the Fief of Gerard de Tornai only as having originated while Hamo Peverel was seized of that *Honour*.

I understand him to have been a younger Son of Meredyth ap Blethyn ap Convyn, the last Prince who held the Kingdom of Old

that daughter did not die issueless. So far from this daughter (Seburga) having been Hamo Peverel's heir, she and her descendants were only Tenants of his collateral heirs, and so far from the same Seburga being heir of Sibil de Tornai, that which she and her descendants thus held was no part of Tornai's Fief. Seburga therefore was not Hamo Peverel's daughter by his wife Sibil nor by any other wife. She must in short have been illegitimate.

As to Walcheline Maminoht he would appear to have been more nearly related to William Peverel of Dover, the elder, than to Hamo,—a thing very possible if, as I believe, the two latter were not Brothers of the whole blood.

Nor is the statement to be passed in silence which says that this elder William Peverel of Dover married another Coheir

of Gerard de Tornai. Such a supposition appears at first to offer an elucidation, but still we find this William and Hamo dying without lawful issue themselves and transmitting estates not to any alleged heirs of their respective wives but to their own collateral heirs. If such disposal were by permission or under direction of the Crown we may indeed thus account for the hereditary principle having been afterwards set aside by the same authority.

Thus by a series of hypotheses we establish something of a consistent theory, but I have little faith in theories thus established. I have often found a single guess in similar subject-matter to prove erroneous. I have here hazarded two or three. My hope is that this statement of uncertainties may bring to light some document available for a future and necessary recurrence of the question.

Powis in its integrity. On Meredyth's death, 1133, Madoc and Gruffyth, his two elder sons, became respectively Princes of Lower and Higher Powis. Jorwerth, his younger Son, had Mochnant is Rayader, but rather as a dependency of his Brother Madoc's Fief than as a distinct Principality. Madoc was a firm ally of King Henry II, who had not been three years on the throne when Gerverd Coch (as he is written on the Pipe-Roll) appears to have made and sustained a legal claim to a great part of the escheated *Honour* of Gerard de Tornai.—

William Fitz Alan, then Sheriff of Shropshire, rendered account at Michaelmas 1157, of a sum of £7. 6s. 4d., being the current years *ferm* of the land of Gerard de Tornai. Of this sum he had paid £3. 6s. into the King's Treasury; the balance £4. 0s. 3d. he had handed over to Gerverd Coch by (order or award of) the Chancellor and the Earl of Leicester. At the same time he charges £2. 7s. for livery of the King's Archers in the Army, and by order of the King had made presents of £8. 10s. to Maddoch and £2. to Gervase (Gervetto).

These entries on the Shropshire Pipe-Roll will become very intelligible when collated with contemporary Chronicles.—

I assume that the order by the Chancellor (Becket) and the Earl of Leicester (then Chief Justice of England) implies a previous judicial decision, for had the gift to Gervase Goch been merely one of Grace it would have been authorised by writ of the King himself. However, it is probable that the claims of Gervase on Gerard de Tornai's Fief were acknowledged not simply on account of their justice but from ulterior political motives. It was in the summer of the year 1157, that Henry II undertook his first expedition against North Wales. Madoc, Prince of Powis, commanded the fleet which was destined to co-operate with the King's Army along the Northern coast of the Country, and the Welsh Chronicler tells us incidentally that in this same year "Jorwerth Goch ap Meredith got the Castle of Yale and burnt it."<sup>9</sup> We may hence infer the causes which placed Madoc and Gervase (his Brother) on the Shropshire Pipe Roll.

<sup>9</sup> Powell, *sub anno*. Yale was part of the territory of Madoc, Henry's Ally; but the Castle here alluded to was, as we happen to know by accident, built by Owen Gwyneth in 1149; and Owen Gwyneth, Prince of North Wales, being

I suppose still in possession was, in 1157, the object of the King's hostility. This undesigned agreement of scattered facts does much to establish the veracity of the Welsh Chronicler from whom Dr. Powell took his statements.

The lands which Gervase Goch acquired in Tornai's Fief seem to have been in Sutton, Brockton, and Ellardine. What he had in Sutton was however not quite identical with the *Domesday* Manor, a circumstance which has already been accounted for. He further received the Manor of Rowton (near High Ercall) from Henry II, which had not been Gerard de Tornai's at *Domesday*, though possibly Hamo Peverel had since held it.

These lands became of course a Tenure *in capite*, and the service by which the Tenant was to hold them is not the least remarkable among the Serjeantries of that period. "The Lord of Sutton, &c. was to be the King's Interpreter (*Latimarius*) between England and Wales."<sup>10</sup> The further history of Gervase Goch and his successors will afford some curious indications of their performing this and cognate services.

In 1160, the Sheriff of Shropshire charges his account with several items of expense which he had incurred in the fortification of Border Castles and in subsidizing the native Chieftains of Wales. Amongst others he had paid to "Gerverd Cok" a sum of 10s.

King Henry's Welsh campaign of 1165 was a failure, which the pressure of his affairs elsewhere allowed him no personal opportunity of retrieving. The conquest of Wales, though a favorite project, might, as he deemed, be accomplished by trusty agents and a specific policy. This policy, at times actively and openly aggressive, was much more uniformly characterized by its elements of watchful intrigue or lavish bribery. In the Autumn of 1166, the King being then in Normandy, two of his most able Lieutenants, Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, and Richard de Luci, were at Chester. Their object was hostile to Wales, but nothing more definite has transpired than that the Earl was seized with sudden sickness and died. In that same year two Welsh Princes had united in an attack on one who was their fellow-countryman and relation, but whose connection with the English King was the probable cause of their animosity. "Jorwerth Goch," says the Chronicler, was "spoiled of his lands in Powys, by Owen Cyvelioc, the son of Gruffyth ap Meredyth, Lord of Powys, and by Owen Vachan, second

<sup>10</sup> The word *Latimarius* (whence the proper-name "Latimer") was first applied to one who understood Latin. Then it came to signify one who had acquired a knowledge of any other than his native language. So the modern application of

the word Romance to any imaginary tale, is a result of the poetical narratives or Minstrelsy of a former age having chanced to be embodied in a base Latin Dialect called the *Lingua Romana*. (See Wright's *History of Ludlow*, p. 64, note.)

sonne to Madoc ap Meredyth: which lands they divided betwixt them, so that Owen Cyvelioc had Mochnant above Rayader, and Owen Vachan Mochnant beneath Rayader."<sup>11</sup>

The accompanying genealogy will show the relationship of these parties. The two Princes were Gervase's Nephews, sons of his elder Brethren, the Coparcners of Powis-land.

The Shropshire Pipe-Roll of this year supplies a further item of the King's dealings with his *Latimarius*. Earl Geoffrey and Richard de Lucy had ordered the Sheriff to purchase for the King's use fifteen horses from the stud of Gerverd Chok. The cost (£14. 16s. 8d.) had been paid to the said Gervase, and the horses had been sent, I suppose over sea, to the King; for Roger Mussun (of whom we shall hear again) had received 20s. for taking them somewhither.

At Michaelmas 1167, Gervase's Manor of Sutton (Sutton Gerverdi Cok) had been amerced one merk by the Justiciar of the Forest, but before the following Michaelmas the King, still beyond sea, had transmitted his Writ, ordering the debt to be cancelled in favour of Gervase himself.

At the latter period (Michaelmas 1168), William de Beauchamp, Sheriff of Worcestershire, obeying an order of Richard de Lucy, had delivered forty horse-loads of corn to "Yerverd Coch," wherewith to victual the Castle of Chirk.

At this precise period Gervase Goch was taken still more openly and completely into the King of England's service. In respect of his past sacrifices, or in prospect of his future usefulness, the enormous salary of £91. *per annum* was appointed for his maintenance;<sup>12</sup> and this he regularly received for the years ending Michaelmas 1169 and Michaelmas 1170, and for forty-seven weeks of the year ending Michaelmas 1171.

The cause of his salary being discontinued does not appear, but at this period a pacification was effected between the King of England and Rese Prince of South Wales;—and three years later

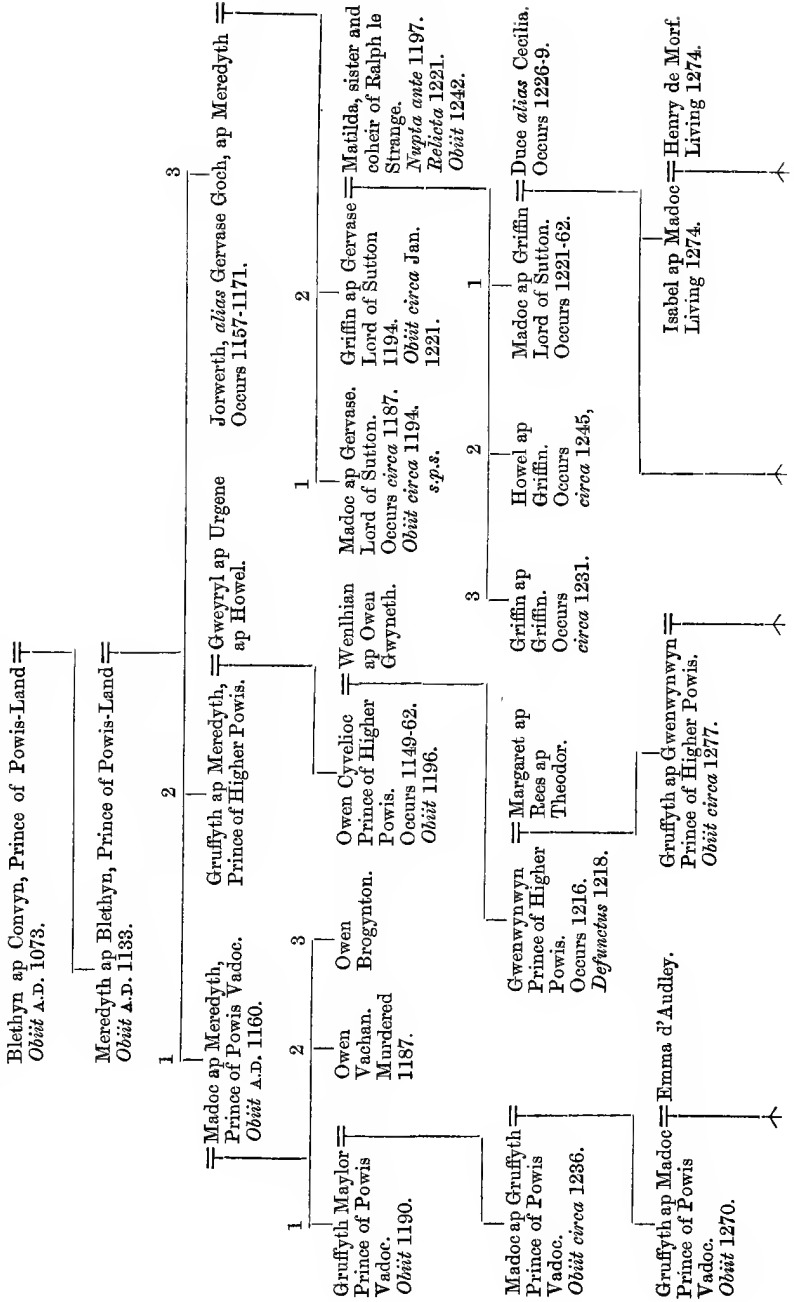
<sup>11</sup> Powell, p. 163, *sub anno* 1166.

<sup>12</sup> This salary was 5s. *per diem*, i.e. sixty times as much as the pay of a common soldier. It may be computed as equal to about £4500 of modern currency. At Michaelmas 1170, William the Clerk of Geoffery de Vere, accounting for his deceased Employer as Fermor of "The

Honor of the Constable," charges 40s. for forty horse-loads of corn given to Gervard Coch and Roger de Powis. (*Rot. Pip.* 16 Hen. II.)

The Pipe-Rolls also supply those other statements in the text of which I have not given specific authority.

PEDIGREE OF THE LORDS OF SUTTON, AS DERIVING FROM THE PRINCES OF POWIS.



David, Prince of North Wales, became not only the Ally, but the Brother-in-law of Henry II.

Possibly however, the death of Gervase Goch rather than the cessation of his diplomatic functions, was the cause of his disappearance at this crisis. I hear nothing further of him, and find little more than the name of his eldest son and successor at Sutton.—

About the year 1186-7, this Madoc, calling himself son of Gervase Ghoe, granted to Wombridge Priory the Advowson of his Church of Sutton as far it belonged to him.<sup>13</sup> He willed also that his body, wherever he might chance to die, might be buried at that Monastery; and he promised an annual payment of 2s. during his life in maintenance of the Fraternity of Saint Leonard, his Patron.<sup>14</sup>

In 1187, this County was visited by the Justices of the Forest. Among amercements imposed by them, one of two merks for some default is entered against Madoch, son of Jetun de Sutton; and this debt, though it remained on the Rolls of eight consecutive years, does not appear to have been ever liquidated.<sup>15</sup>

Before the year 1194, Madoc, son of Gervase Goch, will have deceased without issue, leaving his Brother Griffith his heir. In or shortly before that year, the latter, calling himself Griffin, son of Gervase Goch, confirms the Charter which his Brother Madoc had given to Wombridge Priory “about the Church of Sutton.” For his part, he granted to the same house an annuity of 12*d.*, to be chargeable on land held by Fulco the Clerk. He also “would wish by all means to be buried at Wombridge with his aforesaid Brethren the Canons, if he should happen to die in England.”<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Alluding apparently to a contemporary grant by King Henry II, which treats the Advowson as the exclusive right of the Crown. (Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*, No. lxxxxvij.)

<sup>14</sup> “Ad fraternitatem Domini mei Sancti Leonardi manu-tenendam.” Wombridge Priory was dedicated to St. Leonard. The witnesses of this Charter are, Richard, Archdeacon of Salop; Master Robert, Dean of the same; Master Walter de Dunstanville, Clerk; Robert Dean of Dreiton, William de Ercalew; Bernard, Nicholas, and William, Priests of Ruton, Albriton, and Dalilea (Dawley); Pagan de Hadley with \* \* \* and Richard his nephews, Peter de Heiton (Eyton), and Radulf de Horlton (Orleton), and Master

Richard of Ydeshall (Idsall). (Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*, No. lxxxv.)

<sup>15</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 33 Hen. II to 6 Ric. I, Salop.

<sup>16</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Ibidem*, No. lxxxvi. The witnesses are, Walter de Dunstanville and his Knights; Peter Fitz Thoret and his Sons, Philip and Bartholomew; Reginald de Davull and Faremus (Pharamus) de Traci; William de Hadley and Hamo his Brother; Geofrey Russel; William de Beggesour; *Henry Ruffus de Wrocwaryni*; Wurgena, Cadugane (both Welsh names); and Helias (probably Helias Cocus, of whom hereafter). The first witness died about Michaelmas 1194, and the Grantor can



Soon after the return of King Richard from captivity (March 1194), Griffin, son of Jereverth, appears on the Pipe-Roll as fining for his lands,—in succession, as I presume, to his Brother. The sum of 40 merks was thus paid by him in 1195 and 1196.

In the former year died Ralph le Strange, Baron of Knockyn, Alveley, and Weston, in the prime of his life, and leaving a fair inheritance to be divided amongst three Sisters, his Coheirs.

One of these, Matilda, became before Michaelmas 1196, the wife of Griffin de Sutton, who then appears, with the husbands of the other Coheireesses, as fining 200 merks for seizin of the said lands.<sup>17</sup>

A fine of this amount indicates a succession to no mean estate, and Griffin de Sutton's influence in Shropshire was proportionably extended. Some litigation, in which the Coparcners of Ralph le Strange's Barony came to be involved, shall be reserved till we reach the localities concerned. Here we should briefly mention that the three Coheireesses concurred with their husbands in surrendering Knockyn to their Cousin, John le Strange of Nesse and Cheswardine, who claimed it as his right. Some equivalent was however given in each case. Thus Griffin, son of Gervase Gohk, and Matilda his wife, obtained John le Strange's feoffment in the whole *vills* of Dovaneston (Dovaston), and of Kineverdeston (Kinaston), in lieu of their third of Knockyn.<sup>18</sup>

In Easter Term 1200, Griffin, son of Selverd Coc (as his name is written), happened to be under summons to appear in the Lawcourts at Westminster. The suit then pending had nothing to do with Sutton, but the reason of his non-appearance is curiously illustrative of the tenure by which he held that Manor. A King's writ had been handed into Court which vouched that Griffin could not attend there on the proper day "by reason of his service."<sup>19</sup>

not have succeeded to Sutton long before. These two facts give the date of the Deed.

<sup>17</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8 Rich. I, Salop.

<sup>18</sup> *Fines*, 9 Rich. I, Salop. The general account is that the Shropshire Kynastons are descended from Griffin, son of Gervase Goch, and took name from the very *vill* of Kinaston which he thus acquired. All this is, I believe, perfectly true, but the details which have hitherto accompanied this statement are so inaccurate as to run the risk of bringing discredit upon the whole story. John le Strange's original grant of Kinaston and Dovaston expressly

limits the succession to the heirs of Griffin, by his wife Matilda, with remainder (in default of such heirs) to the Grantor and his heirs.

The Heralds and Genealogists however give us a Pedigree of Kynaston in which no mention whatever is made of Matilda, wife of Griffin. They assign to Griffin another wife, it is true, and issue by the same. It is however clear that even if he was twice married, he had issue only by one wife, viz. Matilda le Strange, and that, through her, he and his descendants became possessed of Kinaston.

<sup>19</sup> *Rot. Curia Regis*, ii, 185.

Griffin de Sutton was rateable to *Aids* and *Scutages* in respect of his wife's inheritance, his own tenure by Serjeantry not being ordinarily liable to those imposts. It may be doubted however whether, for some of the *Scutages* of King John, he was not assessed on both accounts. On the fourth *Scutage*, for instance, which was levied in the year 1203, at the rate of 2 merks on each Knight's-Fee, Griffin, son of Yerverd, is charged £5. ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  merks) on his Serjeantry. In the year 1204, King John's fifth *Scutage* was assessed at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  merks. Here again Griffin de Sutton was charged £5. in respect of a Knight's Fee, whilst his share of Le Strange's inheritance can at no time have exceeded half-a-fee.

In 1205, Griffin Goch fined, or made composition in respect of King John's sixth *Scutage*; and in 1206, when the seventh *Scutage* was levied at the rate of £1. ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  merks) *per* Fee, Griffin Goch paid 4 merks thereon.<sup>20</sup> I do not find him or his Son assessed to more than one subsequent *Scutage*, in respect of their tenure at Sutton.

A return of the year 1211 gives the first formal statement as to Griffin de Sutton's Serjeantry. He holds, says the Record, Ruelton (Rowton), Ellewr'thin (Ellerdine), Sutton, and Brocton, of the gift of King Henry II, by Service of being *Latimarius* between England and Wales.<sup>21</sup>

On January 24, 1221, the King certifies the Sheriff of Salop that Maddoc, son and heir of Griffin de Suttun, deceased, has done homage and fealty. The Sheriff is to take security from said Maddoc for 100s., his relief for one Knight's Fee which he holds *in capite* in Suttun, and give him full and immediate seizin thereof.<sup>22</sup>

Griffin de Sutton, thus dying, left his widow Matilda surviving, and other issue besides Madoc. His sons Griffin and Hoel are however the only ones of his younger children whom we need mention here.

Something should be said of the successive grants of Griffin de Sutton to Wombridge Priory. His confirmation of 1194 has already been cited. Within ten years of that time, calling himself Griffin, son of Jareford Goch, he grants to the same Canons, for the

<sup>20</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 5, 6, 7 & 8 John, Salop. The feudal Tenants of the Crown in King John's reign do not appear to have had the option of excusing their personal service by a money payment according to the rate of the current *Scutage*. They had

especially to compound for non-attendance. Hence the high rates *per fee* at which we find many of them to have been assessed.

<sup>21</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 56.

<sup>22</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 5 Hen. III, memb. 8.

souls' health of himself, of M. le Strange his wife, and of his heirs and ancestors, all his land and wood of Berdelei in his Manor of Sutton, with all the vestures and appurtenances thereof, and free liberty to make *assart* therein or otherwise dispose thereof to their advantage.<sup>23</sup> He certifies that the Canons, having regard to his affection for their house, and in acknowledgment of the favour which he had shown them, had given him a dapple (ferrandum) Destrier and a black Palfrey.<sup>24</sup>

By another and, as I think, later deed, he grants to the Priory a rent of twenty-four cocks and hens which Thomas paid him for an *assart* in Sutton.<sup>25</sup>

By a still later deed, he grants to the Priory the *Curtilage* in Sutton which Sibil and Emma, daughters of Fulcoius (Fulco the Clerk of his former Charter), held, and of which he had already given 12*d.* rent to the Canons. He also gives 12*d.* rent (chargeable on the land of Robert Cocus in Brocton) in exchange for that *assart* on the hill of Severn which had been Thomas Pistor's, and from which the Canons were already in receipt of a rent of twenty-four cocks and hens.<sup>26</sup>

Another deed of this Griffin shall be cited when I come to speak of the many Feoffments or alienations which he made in his tenure.

His Widow, Matilda le Strange, survived him twenty-two years.

At the Assizes of November 1221, the Jurors of Brimstree Hundred reported her to be in the King's gift and not as yet bestowed in marriage. Her land of inheritance in that Hundred (*viz.* at Alvey) was worth £4. *per annum*; her dower (which must have been in Sutton

<sup>23</sup> This is the grant described in an Inquest of 1251 as an "alienation of six acres of wood worth 2*s.* *per annum* by Griffin de Sutton to the Prior of Wombridge." (*Testa de Nevill*, fo. 274.)

<sup>24</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton et Suttone Madoke*, No. lxxxvij.—Witnesses: Hugh and Richard Chaplains of Sutton, Walter de Dunstanville Parson of the Church of Ydeshal, Warin de Burwardesleg, Philip de Linleg, Richard de Ruiton, Robert de Sutton, Roger Corbet, William de Hedleg, Bartholomew Fitz Peter, and Walter his Brother, Walter de Godemoneston (probably Dodemoneston), Philip de Ydeshal, Helyas Cocus, &c.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxxxiv.—Witnesses: Hugh Chaplain of Brocton, and Richard his Brother (probably identical with the two first witnesses of the last deed); Robert de Sutton; Nicholas the Chaplain, his Brother; John Chaplain \* \* \* \* \* Hugh de Bekebur, Walter de Hufegfort, Geoffrey Griffin.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xxxv.—Witnesses: Hugh de Bekkebur, Walter de Stirchleg, Ralph de Sontford, Henry Le Strange, William Russel. This deed involves some unintelligible condition, a part of which mentions the Prior presenting the Grantor with a *sextary* of wine at Wombridge.

and Broekton) was worth £2. The Bradford Jurors reported her lands in their Hundred to be worth £10. *per annum*.<sup>27</sup> This must have included her share of Weston-under-Red-Castle and probably her dower in Rowton and Ellardine. I do not find any account of her second marriage. She died shortly before May 4, 1242, when the King received the homage of Maddok de Sutton, son and heir of Matilda le Strange, for all lands which she had held *in capite* in Alvithele and Weston. The relief payable by Maddok was to be three merks.<sup>28</sup>

Some previous circumstances in the life of this Madoe require notice. It was from him I imagine, rather than his Unele, that this Manor of Sutton acquired its distinctive name of Sutton Maddock. He was possessed of it more than forty years, and if his importance may be measured by the frequent mention of his name he was a chief among the Knightly personages who constituted the Court of the County.

Soon after his succession, Madoe, son of Griffin, and Duce his wife are found suing Imbert, Prior of Wenlock, for disseizing them of their free tenement in Dallyle (probably Dawley). The case was heard by the King himself when, in August 1226, he visited Shrewsbury. The Prior was found to have disseized the Plaintiffs of a quarter-of-an-acre of moor-land.<sup>29</sup>—

The litigation did not end here. In Michaelmas Term 1228, the Prior of Wenlock was prosecuting a suit at Westminster against Maddock, son of Griffin, and Cecilia his wife, Tenants of 12 acres of wood in Sutton and 6 acres of land in Daghele. But the King had issued mandate to his Justices *in banco*, that the case should be postponed till Madoe should be released from prison, he having been arrested by Lewellyn, Prince of North Wales.<sup>30</sup> This suit was still on foot in Easter Term 1229, when Cecilia names her husband (now I suppose at large) as her Attorney therein, removing at the same time Wymanus de Karleton her former Attorney.<sup>31</sup> I find not how it ended, but it has already supplied us

<sup>27</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 8.

<sup>28</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 26 Hen. III, memb. 3.

<sup>29</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, 10 Hen. III, memb. 4.

<sup>30</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Michaelmas Term, 12 Hen. III, memb. 1.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibidem*, Easter Term, 13 Hen. III, memb. 1, 2. I wish to mark for a future object this apparent instance of the same Lady being described under two Christian-

names. The names Dulcia (abbreviated "Duce") and Cecilia have no meaning in common. They were not therefore convertible, as some names were, in respect of their signification. I have met with many a genealogical problem, which cannot be solved on any other hypothesis than this, viz. that females were occasionally known by two distinct Christian-names.

with an interesting illustration as to the treatment which the King's *Latimarius* might suffer in discharge of his office.

In Michaelmas Term 1242, Madoc de Sutton appears with twenty-two others as impleaded in the Courts at Westminster by John de la Lawe for robbery and breach of the King's Peace. The Defendants had repeatedly failed to appear, so the Sheriff was ordered to have them bodily in Court on the *Octaves* of St. Martin.<sup>32</sup>

On that day (Nov. 18), the Sheriff had done nothing. He was ordered to distrain them to appear in Hilary Term following.<sup>33</sup> Ere that time the matter was compounded, and Madoc de Sutton acknowledged, in Court, that he owed 10 merks to John de la Lawe "for a fine in a certain appeal."<sup>34</sup>

At Michaelmas 1247, Madoc de Sutton had been amerced one merk for some default.<sup>35</sup> This perhaps arose thus,—

In 1248, certain persons, who had been assessable to the *auxilium* levied in 1235 and 1236 for the marriage of Isabella the King's Sister, and had escaped payment, appear to have been put in charge as Defaulters. Among them Madoc de Sutton pays 2 merks, the sum chargeable on a Knight's Fee.<sup>36</sup>

In 1250, when Geoffrey de Langley assessed various persons in this County for lands which they had assarted without license, Madoc de Sutton was put in charge for some land thus reclaimed in Sutton.<sup>37</sup>

Madoc de Sutton was returned in 1253-4, as one of eleven persons in the Counties of Salop and Stafford, who being of less than Baronial degree were yet possessed of lands to the extent of £20. annual value.<sup>38</sup>

In 1256, Madoc de Sutton formed the design of alienating his interest at Sutton and Brockton to Wombridge Priory. His in-

<sup>32</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* 26 Hen. III, memb. 11. Among the Defendants were, Roger Russel, Henry le Strange, Thelric the Provost, Richard de la Broke, Henry Fitz Avice, and other names connected with Sutton, Brockton, Bridgnorth, and its neighbourhood.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 29 dorso. Thelric the Provost is here written Terricus. We have, I think, met with him before as Terricus Fitz Reginald Provost of Brug. (*Supra*, Vol. I, p. 314).

<sup>34</sup> *Ibidem*, 27 Hen. III, Hilary Term, memb. 11 dorso. Madoc's Sureties for

payment were Odo de Hodcnet and Lucas de Torpell.

<sup>35</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. III, Salop. On the same Roll Madoc son of Griffin stands excused a sum of ten merks which had been lent him by the King. Unless he were identical with Madoc de Sutton I am at a loss to say who he was.

<sup>36</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 32 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>37</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 38 Hen. III, Salop, when three years of rent are charged.

<sup>38</sup> *Dukes' Introduction*, p. vii, where however the return is dated by mistake 27 Hen. III (1242-3).

ducement I imagine to have been a pecuniary consideration rather than a religious impulse. The Crown however interfered, threatening forfeiture of the whole if Madoc did more than grant a lease thereof to the Priory for a term of three years.<sup>39</sup> This alternative seems to have been adopted, for on August 7, the King being at Worcester, ratifies by Letters Patent the *Concession* which Madoc had made of the Manor of Sutton with the rents and escheats of Brocton and Hedinton (Harrington),—to hold to the Prior and Convent of Wombrig for three years.<sup>0</sup>

I doubt not that at the expiration of this term, Madoc was repossessed of the Manor, for I not only find Sir Madoc de Sutton standing as first witness to a charter of Wombridge which passed about Easter 1261,<sup>41</sup> but in February 1262, he appears on a list of the Regarders of the Forests of Wombridge, Mount Gilbert, and Haughmond. Moreover he eventually succeeded in alienating this Manor as well as Rowton and Ellardine to John le Strange, third Baron of Nesse and Cheswardine, who died early in 1269.

This sale, as I suppose it to have been, was clearly with sanction of the Crown, but the tenure by which Sutton was held was altered. The Lord thereof was no longer the King's *Latimarius*, though at first his office was of a cognate kind. Of this however presently, for we have not yet done with Sir Madoc de Sutton. He seems to have left nothing of his possessions in East Shropshire to his heirs or to his issue, if we except his share of Alveley, which he gave in frank marriage to his daughter Isabel, wife of Henry de Morf. His end is a mystery. At the time when he sold Sutton he must have been an old man, and it was a period when the conflicts between the English and Welsh were incessant.—

Something more definite may perhaps be found regarding him and his succession when we come to investigate the history of the Border. I will enumerate here some charters which passed in his name whilst Lord of Sutton.—

As Madoc son of Griffin de Sutton he enfeoffs Radulph de Sanford in an acre of land in the fields of Brocton, viz. that which Henry le Strange held in the Hemme. He also releases to said Radulf all right in the Moor of Kerswalle. Radulf at the same time

<sup>39</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 40 Hen. III.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*, *sub die*.

<sup>41</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Upinton*, No. clxxv.

concedes to Madoc a power to enclose part of said Madoc's wood of Sutthon Hays.<sup>42</sup>

As Madoc de Sutton he grants to Simon de London, Clerk, all his right in, together with a rent of 2s. issuing from, a virgate in Brocton, formerly held by Elyas Cocus.<sup>43</sup>

But this grant will have been surrendered by the Grantee, for, by a later deed,—

Madoc Lord of Sutton grants the 2s. rent, which Elyas Cocus used to pay on a virgate, to Wombridge Priory.<sup>44</sup>

Madoc Lord of Sutton grants to the same Priory 2s. which Adam Atte Tuneshende (Townsend) used to pay him for a virgate in the *vill* of Brocton.<sup>45</sup>

He also confirms to the same, several grants of Madoc and Griffin sons of Gervase Goch, before recited, as well as the grant of William Cocus hereafter to be particularized.<sup>46</sup>

He confirms the grant of Berdelay-wood made by Griffin son of Yareford Goch to the same Priory.<sup>47</sup>

He moreover grants to the same his Mill of Sutton, with suit of his men in the whole Manor of Sutton, and license to take timber, under *view* of the Forester, throughout his wood of Sutton, and to dig turf for repairs of the said Mill.<sup>48</sup>

As Sir Madoc de Sutton he grants to John, Clerk of Brocton, common right in his wood for 20 hogs and a boar, without pannage (payment per head), John paying half-a-merk down, and an annual rent of  $\frac{1}{2}d.$ <sup>49</sup>

<sup>42</sup> Charter at Haughton Hall.—Witnesses: Sir Walter de Hugheford, Thomas Corbet, Richard Walensis, Henry le Strange, Robert de Trilleworthin, William de Baggesour, Helyas Cocus, William FitzSeman. The deed passed between 1225 and 1235. The Seal, of white wax, is broken, but the accompanying lithograph re-unites the fragments.

<sup>43</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton and Suttone Madoke*, No. xxvij.—Witnesses: Peter de Neuton, William de Ercalew, Thomas de Constantin, Knights, Master Thomas de Codshall.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxxxj.—Witnesses: Sir Walter de Dunstanvill, Sir Walter de Huggeford, Walter de Kembriton, Philip de Pres, Philip de Beckehur, John de Ruton, Ralph Brocton (read "Britton") Clerk.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxxx.—Witnesses: Sir Walter de Dunstanvill, Walter de Huggeford, Odo de Hodenet, Roger Corbet, Symon de London, Roger de Pyweston (Pivelesdon), Walter de Kembrington, Herbert de Ydeshall. This deed passed between 1247 and 1256.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxxxij.—Witnesses: Sir Walter de Dunstanvill, Sir Walter de Huggeford, Walter de Kembriton, Philip de Pres, Philip de Bekebur, John de Ruton, Ralph Britton Clerk.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxxxvij.—Same witnesses excluding the last.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxxx.—Same witnesses adding Ralph de Ruton (Britton) Clerk.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibidem*. No. xij.—Witnesses: Sir Nicholas Vicar of Sutton, Ivo de Brocton, Roger Bege (*i. e.* Begesour), Thomas de Brocton.

As Lord of Sutton, he grants to Wombridge Priory a plot of land adjoining on the south to the cemetery of the Church of St. Mary in the *vill* of Sutton.<sup>50</sup>

As Madoc, son of Griffin de Sutton, he granted to the same Priory a rent of 4*s.* receivable on a half-virgate in the Heamme, and a rent of 6*d.* receivable on the Meadow of Bwbemere.<sup>51</sup>

I have already intimated that between the years 1262 and 1269, Madoc Fitz Griffin sold his Manors of Sutton, Ellardine, and Rowton, to John le Strange (III) of Nesse and Cheswardine. I find it positively stated with regard to Ellardine and Rowton, that John le Strange enfeoffed his eldest son and heir therein, and that the latter granted both to Robert his younger Brother.<sup>52</sup>

Something of the same kind evidently happened in regard to Sutton, for at the Assizes of September 1272, the Brimstree Jurors, reporting the Serjeantries in their Hundred, certify that "Robert le Strange holds the Manor of Sutton by serjeantry of conducting the King in Wales in time of war."<sup>53</sup>

This Robert le Strange, as I have already said under Willey, was one of the Crusaders then absent from England. Though he lived to return, it would appear that before his departure he had taken the precaution of granting Sutton to Fulk the second of his then infant Sons. Upon Robert le Strange's death (about August 1276), Sir Bogo de Knovile, then Sheriff of Shropshire, seized Sutton into the King's hand. This step, the result of Fulk le Strange's minority, was called in question, and an Inquest was ordered to ascertain and report all particulars to the King. The Jurors, headed by the Sheriff and the King's Escheator, sat at Shrewsbury on September 25, 1276. They reported the above particulars, and that the Manor of Sutton was of the annual value of £12. 7*s.* 9½*d.*<sup>54</sup>

<sup>50</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxxxij. — Witnesses: Oliver de Stocton, Philip de Pres, John de Ruton, John de Greuhull, Yvo de Brocton, Thomas de Brocton.

<sup>51</sup> *Monasticon*, vi, p. 390. This grant, though included in Edward II's *Inspecimus*, is not in the *Chartulary*.

<sup>52</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, Salop, memb. 16 dorso.

A Wombridge deed which passed, I think, between 1260 and 1270 is attested by John Lord of Sutton, whom I take to be John le Strange the younger. (*Chartulary*, *Tit. Brocton*, No. xxxvj.)

<sup>53</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, m. 23.

<sup>54</sup> *Inquisitions*, 4 Edw. I, No. 37. Bogo de Knovile afterwards married Alianora the widow of Robert le Strange. In her right he was seized in 1292 of £5. annual rent in Sutton, being her dower out of the estate of her first husband and "the inheritance of Fulk le Strange." Bogo was questioned at the Assizes for his authority in contracting this marriage. He called "the Record" (the Patent or Close Roll containing the King's license) "to warranty." *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 22.



We know how this investigation resulted.—Fulk le Strange continued a ward of the Crown, and Sutton an Escheat till 1289, for at the Assizes of 1292, the Jurors of Brimstree Hundred reported as follows.—“Fulco le Strange holds Sutton, which is worth £10, by Serjeantry, viz. by finding four foot-soldiers to the ward of Montgomery for fifteen days at his own cost, and he owes suit to the Hundred every three weeks.” And Fulk (being summoned into Court to give account of his due discharge of these services) came forward and said that the Manor had been in the King’s custody till three years since, when the King restored it to him, and that he did the said suit (which the Sheriff certified), and acknowledged the said (obligation to do) ward.<sup>55</sup>

About the time, when this Fulk le Strange obtained livery of Sutton by reason of his majority, he also became the heir of his elder Brother, John le Strange of Whitchurch, who, dying without issue at the early age of twenty-three, left a considerable inheritance to this his Successor. Thus, and by formal writ of Parliamentary Summons, did Fulk le Strange become first Baron of the House of Blackmere, the originator of that noble succession, which, after twice merging in lines greater than itself, is now no longer represented by a Talbot or a Howard, but is in abeyance between the heirs-general of those illustrious races.<sup>56</sup>

We have now only to notice the sequel of Fulk le Strange’s connexion with Sutton.

About the year 1291, calling himself Lord of Sutton Madoc, he confirmed to Wombridge Priory all its acquisitions in that Manor, particularly some, which the Canons appear to have recently made under grants of John de Brocton, Clerk, and Roger, son of Nicholas

<sup>55</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 23. The Inquest of 1284, called “*Kirby’s Quest*,” so misrepresents the *status* of this Manor as to be hardly worth quoting except to show that implicit reliance on that Record would be misplaced. “Fulco le Strange,” it says, “holds the Manor of *Stocton cum Brocton* of the King *in capite* by service of *one Knight* to go with the King into Wales for fifteen days in time of war at his own cost. Fulco also pays 4s. for *purpresture*.”

Fulk le Strange was under age, but Tenant *in capite* both of Stockton,

Brockton, and<sup>1</sup> Sutton. Whatever is true in the above entry applies chiefly to Stockton, but the Knight’s service possibly alludes to the tenure of Sutton. The 4s. rent was due on Stockton, but not for *purpresture*. Thus Sutton and Brockton remain all but unnoticed.

<sup>56</sup> The present Lords Petre and Stourton represent between them not less than a dozen abeyant Baronies. Among the number are those of Howard, Mowbray, Segrave, Talbot, Strange of Blackmere, Furnival and Giffard of Brimmesfield.

Brusebon. He also grants them common-pasturage throughout the Manor, except for goats.<sup>57</sup>

About the same time Fulk le Strange came to an agreement with the Canons, whereby the latter surrendered Madoc de Sutton's grant of Hadinton (that is Sutton) Mill, in exchange for a messuage, garden, croft, half-a-virgate of land, and other small parcels within and without the *vill* of Brocton.<sup>57</sup>

About June 11, 1300, he further releases to the Canons all his right in land which they held in the Moor of Brocton, in the field of Habenhul, on the day mentioned.<sup>58</sup>

On March 11, 1308, styling himself Fulco le Strange, Lord of Sutton Madoks, he grants to Richard de Sanford a parcel of his waste land in Brocton, in his Manor of Sutton, lying between lands of said Richard and of the Prior of Wombridge. The rent reserved is 6*d.*<sup>59</sup>

It would be hardly consistent with my design to enumerate the various public offices and honours which distinguished this Fulk le Strange. Suffice it to say that as holding lands and rents to the value of £20. and upwards, he was returned by the Sheriff of Shropshire among those who were to muster at London on July 7, 1297, for foreign service.<sup>60</sup>

The Feodary of 1316 mentions him as Lord of Whitchurch, Wrockwardine, Corfham, Longnor, and Sutton.<sup>60</sup>

He died in 1324, seized, either in his own right or in that of Alianore his wife (daughter and Coheir of John Giffard of Brim-

<sup>57</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton* Nos. lxi, lxxxix.—The witnesses of these deeds seem to have been nearly identical, viz. Sir Robert Corbet (of Moreton), Thomas Corbet (of Hadley), Sir William de Hugford, and Richard Horde, with Yvo de Soutlone also in the last.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibidem*, No. lxiij.—Witnesses: Sir Symon de Leybourne, Sir Peter de Eyton, Master Adam le Gust Rector of the Church of Ydeshall, Roger Fitz John, John Stivington.

<sup>59</sup> Charter at Haughton Hall.—This deed is tested by Sir Roger Corbet, Peter de Eyton, Pagan de Preston, Richard de Mokeleston, John Fitz Thomas of Brocton, and others. It is dated at Hadleye (the seat of the first witness), on the vigil of St. Gregory the Pope in the 36th year of

King Edward,—an impossible date, which probably purports to be March 11, 1308, (the Clerk who drew the Conveyance not advertg to the fact, that Edward I had died eight months previously). The Seal of this deed, though mutilated, is a specimen of the tasteful design and neat execution which distinguished the heraldic devices of the period. The lower half of a shield exhibits one of the *Lions Passant* of Le Strange. Exterior to the *dexter* margin of the shield is a Lizard beautifully engraved. The only remaining part of the Legend is the word STRAVNGE.

<sup>60</sup> Parliamentary Writs, vol. i, p. 848, and vol. iv, pp. 1468-70, where also are more than sixty entries of his offices, liabilities, and summonses, both military and parliamentary, during a period of thirty years.

mesfield), of various Estates in Nottinghamshire, Hampshire, and Shropshire, including this Manor of Sutton, which descended to John his eldest son and heir, then eighteen years of age.<sup>61</sup>

WE MUST not leave this Manor without noticing some of those Tenancies or Subinfeudations in which it abounded. The principal of these were granted by Griffin Goch while Lord of Sutton (1194-1221); but his Feoffment of Ralph de Sanford claims first attention, not only by reason of its extent and the importance of the Feoffee, but because it can be illustrated by an unusual and most interesting concurrence of evidences.

### SANFORD FEE IN SUTTON AND BROCKTON.

At Salop Assizes, Oct. 6, 1203, a Fine seems to have been levied between Griffin son of Yorward (Gervase) Plaintiff, and Ralph Wolaston, Tenant, of one hide of land in Brockton, whereof was suit at law.<sup>62</sup> The particulars of the Fine, I cannot declare, but think from what will presently appear, that it must have involved a surrender of the Tenancy.

At these same Assizes one Ralph Wallensis should be noticed as standing Surety for Ralph de Sanford in a suit which concerned possessions of the latter in Rothal (Ruthall near Ditton Priors).

Among some Pleas *in Banco* which appear to belong to Michaelmas Term 1204, the following is entered:—"Ralph de Samford offered himself against Griffin, son of Gervord, and Wilikin, his man, and Robert Cocus (and five others) in a plea of appeal. And they (the Defendants) are not forthcoming, neither have they *essoigned* themselves, and though they should be under pledges (to appear) the Sheriff has sent the names of none (such Sureties). Therefore the Court decided that they should give sufficient pledges for their appearance in Court, on the *Octaves* of St. Martin, to answer herein, and that the Sheriff do also attend to show why, &c." (he had neglected the former order of the Court).<sup>63</sup>

On the day named (Oct. 18) "Ralph de Sanford appeared against William, the man of Griffin, and others, in a plea of land" (as the

<sup>61</sup> *Inquisitions*, 17 Edw. II, No. 73.

<sup>62</sup> This Fine does not exist in the proper Custody. The extract which I give is all that can be gathered from a Memorandum in Harl. MSS. 1396, fo, 358 b; where, however, I should notice particularly that it stands at the head of some *Sanford*

Evidences, thus proving that the Sanfords were interested in its preservation and that it concerned the very hide of land which they afterwards held.

<sup>63</sup> *Placita anni incerti Regis Johannis*, No. 75, memb. 2 dorso.

Record has it). But both the Defendants and the Sheriff are absent and the latter as remiss as before. So a stringent order is made on all parties to be in Court on the *Quinzaine* of St. Hilary (Jan. 27, 1206).<sup>64</sup>

The Rolls of that Term are lost, but we have Rolls of Easter Term 1206, which say nothing of the continuance of this Suit. We may, therefore, conclude that it had been settled in the interval; and in extraordinary corroboration of such an idea a Charter happens to be found in a private collection, of which the substance is as follows:—

Grifin, son of Gervase Goh, gives and concedes to Ralph de Sanford one hide of land in Brockton for his homage and service, viz. that hide which Ralph Walensis held;—to hold to him and his heirs, rendering 2s. yearly.—For this, Sanford had given the Grantor twenty-six merks, and had *acquitted* him in that appeal in which he had drawn him into a Suit in the Court of the Lord the King. He also grants that the said Ralph shall have pannage in his wood of Sutton for all the swine which shall be reared on said hide of land.<sup>65</sup>

Thus did Ralph de Sanford, Lord of Sanford and Ruthall, obtain footing in Sutton. The transaction is described with great accuracy in an Inquest nearly fifty years afterwards, which recounted the several alienations from the Serjeantry of Madoc de Sutton. “Griffin, Madoc’s Father,” says the Record, “alienated four virgates” (equal to a hide) “of land to Ralph de Saumford, out of the Manor of Sutton.” The four virgates were at the time of this return worth 40s. *per annum*.<sup>66</sup>

The additions which Ralph de Sanford continued to make to this estate are the subject of an interesting series of documents, three of which have been already cited, one under Brockton, one under Sutton, and one under Broseley. By another Deed, Henry le Strange grants to the said Ralph, for two merks, two acres in Brockton, “called the Parroc, and which are close to Medebroc.”<sup>67</sup>—Rent to be 2d. yearly.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Ibidem, memb. 12.

<sup>65</sup> Charter at Houghton,—attested by Walter de Huggeford, Richard de Ruiton, Hugo de Beehebur, Richard de Stirgle, Robert de Say, Reginald de Tirne, Robert de Espele, Baldwin Wiscard, Robert de Longeb, Hugh de Wonlock, Geoffrey Rusel, and William de Beggesore,—whose

names would alone prove the deed to have passed between 1201 and 1211.

<sup>66</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 274.

<sup>67</sup> The small stream still known as the Mad-brook, and which gave a name both to Madeley and Brockton.

<sup>68</sup> Charter at Houghton.—Witnesses: Willism de Beggesoure, William Russel,

At the Assizes of November 1221, I find that Ralph de Sanford had a suit concerning 2 virgates of land against William de Bechesaur, which he failed to prosecute.<sup>69</sup> I cannot help associating this suspended suit with a deed whereby William de Begesoure grants to Ralph de Sanford a virgate in Brocton, half of which was held by Hugh de Beckbury, and half by Adam Ythel, at an annual rent of 5s.<sup>70</sup>

By another deed Richard de Beggesoure grants to the same Ralph an acre in the field of Hemme, "which extends to the torrent opposite the croft of Alan Infans."<sup>71</sup>

William Cocus of Broctun, grants to the same Ralph half-a-virgate in Broctun at a rent of 6d.<sup>72</sup>—

This deed passed between the years 1231 and 1235, in the former of which Helias Cocus the predecessor of William was living, and in the latter of which Ralph de Sanford the Grantee was deceased.

We have thus altogether a series of 10 deeds, commencing about 1205, and ending within 30 years later, and which exhibit the feoffments of one individual in the same Manor.

I now proceed to give the substance of another series of deeds, extending through the same period, and which show the mode in which Ralph de Sanford dealt with these acquisitions.—

By the first of these, Radulf de Sanford gives and concedes to Margaret, daughter of Richard the Priest (Sacerdotis) of Brocton, a virgate in Brocton, half of which Roger French (Francigena)

Helias Cocus, Robert Cocus, Richard de Beggesoure, Robert Dapifer, Henry Fitz Ywein, Adam Fitz Idel, William Beadle of Sutton. The Seal of this deed is well executed and bears a Legend, proving the Grantor to have been son of some Ralph le Strange.—

There was also a Roger le Strange of Brockton in 1276.

<sup>69</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 7.

<sup>70</sup> Charter at Haughton. The names of the witnesses are in perfect accordance with the date assumed (1221). They are Hugh de Becheberi, Walter de Hugesford, Richard de Ruton, Henry le Strange, Walter de Stireheleg, Robert Cocus, Richard de Begesouer, William Russel, Robert de Trillewurthin.

<sup>71</sup> Charter *ibidem*.—Tested by Henry le Strange, William de Beggesoure, Robert

Trilleworthin, William Russel, Henry Iweyn, Helias Cocus, Alan Infans, Philip de Prees, Clerk.—

The Seal of this deed is rude. The device seems to be four ears of wheat with the stalks conjoined cross-wise. In the Legend the Grantor's name is spelt "Becesovre," which gives the exact original of the name "Badger." I incline to date this deed at least ten years later than the last.

<sup>72</sup> Charter *ibidem*.—Tested by Philip de Burewardesleg, Walter de Hugesford, Gerard de Ivelith, Henry le Strange, William Rufus, William de Beggesour, Robert de Trillewurthin. The Seal has the Legend—

SIGILLUM WILLELMI LE CHV.

The deed passed between 1231 and 1235.

held, and Osbert the other half.—She and her heirs are to hold the same in fee, at a rent of 2*s.* payable to the Grantor and his heirs, But if the Grantor should be unable to warrant the land he would give an equivalent within 40 days. Margaret pays 12½ merks for this grant.—If she die without heir of her body, she may make one of her Brethren her heir.<sup>73</sup>

This deed (throwing by the way some light on the kind of clerical celibacy practised at the time) was nearly contemporary with another, whereby Radulf de Sontford, for 30*s.*, enfeoffs Richard Fitz Roger in a virgate of land at Broeton, which his Father held in Wodecrofte, and also in all that land which Richard de Grene held. The rent in this case was to be 14*s.*<sup>74</sup>

By another deed Radulf de Santford grants to John, son of Sibil de Broeton, 1 virgate in the *vill* of Broeton, viz. that which Sibil, John's Mother, held.—To have and to hold after Sibil's decease, first to John and Agnes his Wife and their heirs of their bodies, then to the heirs of John by any future wife, or to Agnes if she survive John; and then to William, son of Alan L'Enfant, for life only. A *relief* of 12*s.* is to be paid at Sibil's death, and a further rent of 12*s. per annum.* The fine, acknowledged as already paid for the grant, is 40*s.*<sup>75</sup>

Sir Ralph de Sanford was, as I have said, deceased in 1235. He was succeeded at Brockton and elsewhere by Richard his son and heir, who during the next fourteen years is found attesting several

<sup>73</sup> Charter *ibidem.*—Tested by Roger de Beggesour, Warin de Burwardsley, Warner de Willey, Walter de Hugford, Richard de Ruton, Hugh de Becheburi, Geoffrey Rusel, William de Beggesour, Helias Cocus, Robert Cocus, and many others, Clerks and Laymen. This deed passed between the years 1205 and 1211. It is worth observing that by this subinfeudation of one fourth of the land which he had obtained from Griffin de Sutton, Ralph de Sanford realized the whole rent and nearly half the purchase money payable or paid to his own Feoffor.

<sup>74</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*, No. x.—Tested by Sir Gryffin de Sutton and his heirs, Sir Roger de Beggesour and his heirs, Mancell de Petteshull (Patshull) and his heirs, Hugh de Beck-

buri and his heirs, Richard de Ruton and his heirs, William de Beggesour and his heirs.

<sup>75</sup> Charter at Haughton.—Tested by the Lord Prior of Wombrug, Madoc Fitz Griffin, Griffin his brother, Gilbert Chaplain of Kembricton, Nicholas Chaplain of Sutton, Henry le Strange, Robert de Brocton, William Russel, Thomas his son, Henry Fitz Iwein.—

This deed is of date about 1231, at least a dated Charter of that year contains nearly the same names. It appears to be in the same hand-writing as that of William Russel (*supra*, p. 94). The Seal of this deed is of green wax and well preserved. It exhibits a Knight on horseback, charging sword in hand, and this Legend—

SIGILLVM RADULFI DE SANFORT.

deeds in this neighbourhood, and who, I think, occurs as a witness in one instance before his Father's death.

He, like his Father, was a Knight. A deed which must have passed between 1241 and 1249, shows Stephen Cude of Brocton, granting to "Sir Richard, Lord of Sonford" for the sum of 4s. 6d. half-an-acre of land in Hemme.<sup>76</sup> This Stephen Cude or Keede has already appeared as holding half-a-virgate under Philip de Farlow. He, or his Father William, had also, as we shall presently see, been enfeoffed by Ralph de Sanford in a virgate at Brockton.

But to return to Richard de Sanford.—He appears to have died in 1249, and being a Tenant *in capite* at Sanford and Ruthall an Inquest was held shortly after, as to his estate.<sup>77</sup> The Jurors, among whom were Roger de Bagesore and Ivo de Brocton, said that he had held in Brocton under Sir Madoc de Sutton by service of 2s. *per annum*: that he had there half-a-carucate in demesne, which, with its meadows, was worth 20s. *per annum*; that he had a Mill there worth 10s. *per annum*, and rents from Tenants amounting to £2. 6s. 8d.; that Ralph de Sanford his son and next heir was 14 years of age.

The deceased, as I find from another Record, left a Widow, Alinora, whose lands were in 1255 estimated at 100s. annual value, and who was then remarried to Richard Burnel.<sup>78</sup>

The wardship of the heir, Ralph de Sanford, was granted by the King to Germanus Scissor, who selling the same to Odo de Hodnet, the latter obtained the King's Letters Patent dated Sept. 1, 1249, confirming such transfer.<sup>79</sup>

In Easter Term 1250, Felicia, widow of William Kede, is found suing Stephen Kede for dower in a virgate of land. Stephen called Ralph Sanford (the Minor) to warranty.<sup>80</sup> A protracted litigation ensued, for in July 1251, I find Simon de Wanton and Robert de Grendon appointed to try the suit which "Felicia, widow of William Code, had against Odo de Hodnet and Stephen Code as to a teneement in Brocton."<sup>81</sup>

<sup>76</sup> Charter *ibidem*.—Tested by Robert de Tirlawurthin, Ivo de Brocton, Roger Bagesore, Thomas Russel, Richard Iwen. By the "Hemme" mentioned in this and other Brockton deeds we are not to understand the neighbouring *vill*, so called, and which is in Shiffnal Parish. One of the large town-fields of Brockton was thus named.

<sup>77</sup> *Inquisitiones incerti temporis Henrici III*, No. 111. The date of this Inquest (1249) is found by evidence quite conclusive, but too long to insert.

<sup>78</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 57.

<sup>79</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 33 Henry III.

<sup>80</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Easter Term 34 Hen. III.

<sup>81</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 35 Henry III. Another

It is clear that Odo de Hodnet was a party in consequence of his continued guardianship of Ralph de Sanford.

At Salop Assizes, January 1256, "Robert Prudhome challenged Richard Burnel, for that whilst he, Robert (being in the King's-Peace) was in a barn of Odo de Hodenet's at Brocton, on Wednesday, August 11 (1255) Richard came and took away twelve thraves of corn. He (Robert) also charged William Parvus, Stephen Kede, Yvo de Brocton, and Thomas de Wyke, that they were aiding and abetting said Richard. This challenge was declared to be null.<sup>82</sup>

At the same Assizes there was (in continuation of the former suit) a prosecution under writ of *mort d'ancestre* by Sibil and Margery, daughters of William Kede, against Stephen Kede, to ascertain whether the said William died seized of half-a-virgate in Brocton, and whether the said Sibil and Margery were his next heirs. Stephen Kede, the Tenant, "appeared and called to warranty Ralph, son and heir of Richard de Saunford, who was under age and in custody of Odo de Odenet, by charter of Ralph de Saunford, grandfather of the aforesaid Ralph, which charter of feoffment he (Stephen) produced." The cause was adjourned till Ralph de Saunford should attain his majority.<sup>83</sup>

This Ralph must have come of age shortly afterwards, but I postpone further mention of him to another occasion, inasmuch as I find little to connect him with Sutton and Brockton beyond his attestation of a few local deeds. He thus attests as a Knight, about 1290, and dying in 1307, left a son Richard, thirty years of age, who has already been mentioned as a Grantee of Fulk le Strange in March 1308.

#### BURWARDSLEY FEE IN SUTTON AND BROCKTON.

I have already adverted to the fact of Griffin de Sutton having enfeoffed Warin de Burwardsley in two virgates here, and have suggested that the said feoffment was in composition of some claim which Warin had, in 1195, on Griffin's Manors of Rowton and Ellardine. Deeds have also been cited, showing that Warin de Burwardsley's estate in Brockton remained to Philip his son, and that the latter enfeoffed Ralph de Sanford in one-half of the pre-

Patent of the same time shows Richard Burnell and Alianore his wife, in litigation with Odo de Hodnet about their respective rights at Sandford. This will illustrate the next entry in the text.

<sup>82</sup> *Placita Corona*. 40 Hen. III, Salop. memb. 9.

<sup>83</sup> *Assizes at Salop*, 40 Henry III, memb. 2.



mises, reserving however an annual rent of 12*d.* to himself and his heirs. I neither find what became of the other virgate nor any subsequent notice of a mesne interest here continuing with the heirs of Burwardsley. In 1251, however, these two virgates are mentioned and recognized as a distinct tenement, of the annual value of two merks, but nothing whatever is said of their occupation at the time.<sup>84</sup>

### COCUS FEE IN BROCKTON.

The Record last quoted specifies another alienation made by Griffin de Sutton in this Manor. It was of one virgate to Elyas Cocus at a rent of 2*s.*, and this land was in 1251 worth 15*s.* *per annum.*

Accordingly we have Elias or Helias Cocus a witness in various deeds ranging in date from the year 1194 to 1231.

“Helyas Coqus granted to Wombridge Priory for the health of his soul an acre of land at Brocton in the field called Bedlesdun.”<sup>85</sup>

He also granted to the same, in composition of a certain debt, three acres in the field of Brocton for a term of twenty years, commencing Oct. 26, 1231.<sup>86</sup>

Contemporary with Helias Cocus was Robert Cocus, whose rent of 12*d.* payable to Griffin Goch we have already seen transferred by the latter to Wombridge Priory.

The successor of Helias Cocus was William Cocus, whose grant of half his estate (half-a-virgate) to Ralph de Sanford, reserving 6*d.* rent, has been cited as having passed between 1231 and 1235. The sequel of this name and Tenure will be best shown by a few extracts from the Wombridge Chartulary.—

John Ithell de Brocton grants to William Cocus an acre of three

<sup>84</sup> *Testa de Nevill.* fo. 274.

<sup>85</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. *Tit. Brockton*, No. lix.—Tested by Henry le Strange, Nicholas de Kembrieton, John Fitz Sibil.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibidem* No. lx.—Tested by Sir Madoc de Sutton and Griffin, his Brother, Nicholas the Priest (Sacerdote), William de Sutton, Henry le Strange. The way in which the Term of twenty years is fixed by this deed shows how unused were the Country Law-Clerks to express a date and how oddly they did it. The Term is to commence “from the year when Castle

Matilda was fortified; and Sir R. de Novsvilla, the Chancellor, was elected Archbishop; and E was the Sunday letter.” The deed was also written “on the 7th of the kalends of November in that year.” It was about July 1231 that Henry III rebuilt Castle Matilda in Elvein: soon after August 2, 1231, Ralph de Nevill, Bishop of Chichester and Chancellor, was elected Archbishop of Canterbury; and E was the Sunday letter of 1231. The deed (it may be added) passed on a Sunday.

*seilions* near Kembrichaismere, for 6*s.* paid, and a rent of 1*d.*<sup>87</sup> The same John "Idthel" grants the same acre to Wombridge Priory,<sup>88</sup> that is I suppose he grants his reserved right therein concurrently with the following grant by his former Feoffee.—

William Cocus of Brocton grants to Wombridge Priory half-a-virgate which he held in Brocton with a certain messuage and croft; also an acre which he bought from John Yethele; also 6*d.* annual rent receivable from the heirs of Ralph de Sontford on half-a-virgate which they held of him in Brocton.<sup>89</sup>

Thus about the year 1250 did this tenure in Brockton become wholly absorbed by Wombridge Priory.

#### TENURE OF BEGESOUR IN SUTTON AND BROCKTON.

I have already said that William de Begesour, who, about 1174, sold his inheritance at Badger, appears to have left successors elsewhere. That he should have an interest in Brockton becomes the more probable inasmuch as the Fief of his Suzerains, the Lords of Richard's Castle, at one time extended to that quarter.

However I cannot determine the mode in which his presumed descendants, the Begesours of Brockton, held their lands. Their deeds are unattended by any confirmation or consent of a superior Lord, and yet it is certain that they were not *Tenants in capite*.

Of this family William de Begesour occurs from 1194 to 1232; also Roger son and heir of William occurs during his Father's lifetime and subsequently till about 1263. Contemporary with both Father and Son was Richard de Begesour already mentioned.

The son and heir of Roger was a second William, occurring from about 1268 to 1280. A Richard occurs about 1300, a third William in 1316, and Thomas in 1341, all being distinctly of Brockton and in no way confounded with the family of the same name which held a higher position at Badger.

Of the persons thus named I find little more than their names.—William de Begesoure approves and attests about 1230 a transfer

<sup>87</sup> Ibidem, No. xxiv.—Tested by Madoe de Sutton, Hugh de Hadinton, Richard de Grenhull.

<sup>88</sup> Ibidem, No. xxxvij.—Tested by Sir Madoe de Sutton, Nicholas Chaplain of Sutton, Hugh de Hadington, John Lord of Grenhul.

<sup>89</sup> Ibidem, No. xlij.—Tested by Sir Walter de Dunstanvill, Walter de Huggesford, Madoe de Sutton, Odo de Hodenet, Walter de Kembriton, Herbert de Ydeshal, Hugh de Hedinton, Hugh de Bolinthal, John de Grenhul, Oliver de Knoll, Yvo de Brocton.

of land by one of his under-tenants at Brockton; <sup>90</sup> Roger was a Benefactor about 1263 to Wombridge Priory, and his deed mentions two of his Tenants, viz. Richard Fitz Edith and Thomas de Brocton.<sup>91</sup>

The second William de Begesour had three transactions with Wombridge Priory, the first a small grant, the other two exchanges.<sup>92</sup> His amercement for some default at the Forest Assizes of Nov. 1271, is all that I find further noticeable, either as regards him or the continuators of his name at Brockton.<sup>93</sup>

#### HARRINGTON FORMERLY HADDINGTON.

This was undoubtedly a member of the *Domesday* Manor of Sutton and so continued till the death of Hamo Peverel, about 1136. In 1157, part of Harrington (a virgate) went still with Sutton and the other Tornai lands, then obtained by Gervase Goch; but the remainder (more than 4 virgates) was not thus involved, probably as having been previously bestowed elsewhere.

I will first speak of the virgate obtained by Gervase Goch.—A Record already quoted, informs us that Griffin (son of Gervase), enfeoffed Hugh de Beckbury therein, by service of 12*d.* (rent), and that its full value was then (1251) 10*s. per annum.*<sup>94</sup> This fact is sufficiently illustrated by a number of Sutton and Brockton Deeds which, passing in the first quarter of the 13th century, have the attestation of this Hugh de Beckbury. His marriage, presently to be noticed, had given him a footing in Harrington before he obtained the feoffment of Griffin Goch, and at his death, which must have happened about Dec. 1226, he was possessed of other interests in this Manor or Township.

He left two sons, necessary to be mentioned here, John and Hugh. Griffin de Sutton's Feoffment having probably been limited to Hugh and his heirs, the virgate under notice will have descended

<sup>90</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. *Tit. Brocton*, No. xxvj.—The other witnesses being the Prior of Wombridge, Henry le Strange and William Ruasel; the two latter of whom attested this William's grant to Ralph de Sanford, as already noticed.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xxxvj.—Tested by Sir Walter de Dunstanville, Sir John Fitz Hugh, John de Ercalewe, John de Stiventon, Herbert de Wyke, John Lord of

Sutton, John de Grenhull, Ivo de Brocton, Richard Burnel, Adam Pollard of Lee, Oliver de Knolle.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibidem*, Nos. xxxij, xxxij and lxx.

<sup>93</sup> It is curious to observe how this name became gradually contracted after its transplantation to Brocton. The ultimate forms which it assumed were simply Bag or Beg.

<sup>94</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 274.

to Hugh's eldest son John, and again from John, who died about 1250, to John's eldest son Philip.

Madoc de Sutton's seignoral interest in this parcel of land becomes again apparent in 1256, when his Concession of Sutton to Wombridge Priory includes "rents and escheats of Hedinton."

However a moiety of this virgate seems at some subsequent period to have reverted to the Lord of the Fee.

Hence in 1284, it was found of a virgate here that Fulk le Strange held half thereof *in capite* of the King, whilst Philip de Bechebur held the other half under Fulk.<sup>95</sup>

I find no later notice of this virgate in Harrington, and conclude that it became again absorbed in the Parent Manor of Sutton.

THE OTHER AND GREATER part of Harrington followed a succession liable to be confused with, but essentially distinct from, the parcel thus far treated of. At the time of Gervase Goch's acquisition of Sutton (1157), this land had probably been bestowed elsewhere. However about March 1163, it fell into the King's hands, by death or forfeiture of the former Grantee; consequently at Michaelmas 1163, the Sheriff renders account "of the *ferm* of Hadinton, escheated land which was Gerard de Turnai's; viz. for half a year 20s."<sup>96</sup>

About this time, the name of Roger Mussun occurs more than once on the Shropshire Pipe-Rolls among those who were in the service and favour of King Henry II.

That King also, when, about the year 1175, he visited Shrewsbury, expedited a charter whereby he gave "to Roger Mussun, his Servant, Uppington under Mount-Gilbert" and, what is more to our present purpose, "50 *solidates* of land in Heddinton which had been Hamo Peverell's, and were near to Bruges" (written Burgam). The service retained by the King on the whole grant, was the payment of one *sore* Sparrow-hawk yearly, by said Roger and his heirs.<sup>97</sup>

I shall here say briefly of Roger Mussun that he was a Benefactor to Wombridge Priory, and that dying about the year 1191, he left a Widow, Galiena, and at least nine daughters and Coheireses to share his estates. Harrington, whose estimated extent seems to have been four-and-a-half virgates, was accordingly divided into several shares. Galiena, the Widow, had half-a-virgate, two of the

<sup>95</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* The Record is not very clear on this matter, but I doubt not that such is its intended meaning.

<sup>96</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 9 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>97</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. *Tit. Uppington*, No. ccxvj.

daughters, viz. Juliana, wife of \* \* \* Corbrond, and Sibil, wife of Richard de Bruges, had half-a-virgate each, Alina, wife of Hugh de Beckbury, had a share which, with the other shares (however allotted in the first instance), amounted to three virgates, and eventually centred in Hugh the second son of the said Hugh and Alina, and in Muota, daughter of the same Hugh, junior.

Galiena, Widow of Roger Mussun, gave her half-virgate in *frank almoigne* to Wombridge Priory, for the soul of her Husband and Parents.<sup>98</sup> The Priory leased it to Philip the Chaplain, for a term of years, but afterwards (about 1220) granted it to Adam de Cherleton (husband of Alice, another of the aforesaid Coheireses) in exchange for a parcel of land at Uppinton.<sup>99</sup> All I shall further say of this half-virgate is, that Richard de la Buri, Great-grandson of Adam and Alice, occurs in 1284 as holding it *in capite* of the King,<sup>100</sup> and that in 1292 he was still Tenant thereof, though the King had in the interim granted the seignery of all that was implied by the payment of the aforesaid Sparrow-hawk to Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells.<sup>101</sup>

So also the half-virgate in Harrington, which after her Father's death was allotted to Juliana Corbrond, is found in 1284 and 1292 to be similarly held by Richard Corebrond, her Great-grandson and representative.

The half-virgate of Sibil de Bruges did not so long remain with her descendants, though it reached the hands of her Great-grandson also. He, viz. Richard, son of Richard de Bruges, sold it, with the messuage thereon, about 1264, for 40s. and a  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  rent, to Jane, widow of Hugh de Beckbury.<sup>102</sup> She in turn granted it to Wombridge, on condition that at her death her body should be buried at the Priory, her name written in the "Martyrology" of the House,

<sup>98</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Hadinton*, No. v. The deed passed about 1195. The witnesses are numerous and important, viz. Master Robert of Salopesbury (who became Bishop of Bangor, March 1197), Richard his Brother, Gregory Chaplain of Worcester, Ernald Chaplain of Opinton (Uppinton), Philip de Welinton, Master Richard of Hideshal (Idsall), Will de Hedleg the younger (minor), Guy de Sagebury (Shawbury), Reinald de Tirne, Richard de Chesthull, Alexander de Novo Burgo (both sons-in-law of the Grantress), Ralph de Horleton, Gilbert

Mussun (Brother of Roger), Ralph de Perrin, Robert Angevin, Adam de Wroceworthin, &c.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibidem*, No. i. Henry is the Prior who grants. The witnesses are Baldwin de Hodnet (dead Jan. 1225), Hugh Fitz Robert, William de Hedlee, Walter de Stirglee (Stirehley), Robert de Brocton, Roger de Besselawe.

<sup>100</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>101</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 23.

<sup>102</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Hadinton*, No. ij.

the anniversary of her death be duly kept, and special prayers offered up for her soul.<sup>103</sup>

In 1292, the Prior of Wombridge was questioned as to his tenure of this half-virgate, which he is said however to have "purchased." His reply, showing that the King had in 1286 granted the Sparrowhawk (*i. e.* the seignior) reserved on this serjeantry to Robert Burnell, in exchange for other lands, seems to have stopped the enquiry. The Prior's Tenure was, in fact, no longer *in capite* nor any concern of the Crown.

I NOW COME to the residue of this Tenure, viz. three virgates which went to Hugh de Beckbury and Alina his wife, daughter and coheir of Roger Mussun, or were acquired by their descendants from the other coheirs.

This Hugh, who, be it remembered, had a distinct interest here as Feoffee of Griffin de Sutton, was also Lord of Beckbury, and an important personage in many other respects. Confining myself now to his Tenures in Harrington, I shall merely notice some quarrel which he had with a neighbour of equal consequence.

Walter, Lord of Higford, claimed a right of common-pasture in Harrington, whereof this Hugh disseized him. Walter laid his complaint before King Henry III, when that Monarch, in September 1224, was at Shrewsbury with his Justiciars. Sentence was given in the Plaintiff's favour, and Hugh was moreover amerced two merks for the offence. The King, however, passing to Montgomery, despatched a writ dated at that place on October 1, whereby the Sheriff of Shropshire was ordered to discharge Hugh of half this fine, a favour probably shown to Hugh as a sometime Servant of the Crown, and at this very moment Chief Bailiff of the King's Hundred of Bradford. Hugh paid the balance of the fine, but instead of acquiescing in the judgment given against him, proceeded to plough and sow the common-land in dispute. In August 1226, the King was again at Shrewsbury, and Walter de Hugford made a second complaint. Hugh appeared, and at first denied the charge; but presently admitting it, he was adjudged to pay 20s. damages, for which Walinge de Sydenhale and Walter de Harpote stood his Sureties.<sup>104</sup>

This Hugh de Beckbury was living in October 1226, but deceased before March 1227. His Wife Alina survived him at least ten years, but both were eventually succeeded at Harrington by their

<sup>103</sup> Ibidem, Nos. iij, iv.

<sup>104</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, 10 Henry III, | *Salop. Rot. Claus.* 8 Hen. III, memb. 3, and *Rot. Pip.* 10 Hen. III, *Salop.*

second Son, called Hugh de Hadinton as often as Hugh de Beckbury in respect of this his Tenure.

This Hugh became a much more important person than his elder Brother John. In 1229, he was already a Knight and stirring in the affairs of the County. He acquired property at Oldbury, Diddlebury, and Acton Burnell. About 1251, his interests in Harrington are thus described:—"Hugh de Bekebur' is Tenant by gift of his Ancestors (who held part of Upton (Uppington) which is holden of the King *in capite*) of two virgates in Hadinton; by what service is unknown. The Tenure is worth 20s. *per annum*. Muota, daughter of the same Hugh, holds one virgate in the same *vill* by gift of her aforesaid Ancestors. However the service is unknown."<sup>105</sup>—

The service due on Hugh's Tenure in Harrington was involved in the *Sore Sparrow-hawk*, paid by his Relations, the Coheirs of Uppington, by whom, or some of whom, he, his Father, or his daughter had been thus enfeoffed in Harrington.

In 1255, Hugh de Beckbury was farming the Hundred of Bradford under the Sheriff at an annual rent of thirty-three merks.<sup>106</sup> The extortions of some his Deputies in this, his office of Bailiff, were loudly complained of at the Inquest of 1255 by the Jurors of Hales-Owen. One Roger de Hales having, it appears, been amerced by Roger de Turkelby for some offence, Hugh de Beckbury's Beadles, or Sub-Bailiffs, made four successive seizures in satisfaction of the single debt thus incurred.<sup>107</sup>

At the Assizes of January 1256, Hugh de Beckbury had lost his Bailiwick, or Bailiwicks, for I think he had been *Fermor* of more than one Shropshire Hundred. He was, however, one of the two principal Jurors of Brimstree Hundred, whose office it was to choose their ten Collegues. He is here called Hugh de Hadington.<sup>108</sup>

At these same Assizes, he was involved in a double law-suit with Madoc de Sutton. He was sued by the latter for having disseized him (Madoc) of a right of common in Hadinton, and was convicted. Neither was he successful in certain counter-charges which he endeavoured to establish against Madoc, viz. that he (Madoc) "to

<sup>105</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 275.

<sup>106</sup> *Rot Hund.* ii, 58.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibidem* II, 68. This Record is curious in one particular, viz. that it describes Hugh de Beckbury by both his

names alternately, so that a reader, not aware of the identity, must fail to understand the story altogether.

<sup>108</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III. *Placita Coronæ*, m. 12.

the damage of Hugh's Tenement in Hadinton, had stopped the road which led to Sutton Church, and had disseized Hugh of his common rights in Sutton."<sup>109</sup>

In this year also, as was afterwards alleged, Hugh de Beckbury demised a messuage and virgate in Hadington to Thomas Corbet, for a term of twenty years, commencing June 11. Of this however presently.—

In April 1263, this Hugh was deceased, leaving a widow, Johanna, and a son and heir, Thomas. Of his daughter Muota, I learn nothing further than that her interest in Harrington seems to have reverted to her Brother or his Assignees.

Johanna, or Jane, Widow of Hugh de Beckbury, has already been mentioned more than once.<sup>110</sup> I can say little more of her than that in 1267 she appears, as Ida, widow of Hugh de Beckbury, to have fined half-a-merk for license to accord some law-suit : and that again in April 1271, she had proffered a similar sum for some writ of the King. In the last case she is called Johanna.<sup>111</sup>

Thomas de Beckbury, Son and Heir of Hugh, succeeded him at Harrington ; but about September 1270, sold all his interest there to Nicholas de Hugford, and, *inter alia*, his interest in that messuage and virgate which Thomas Corbet had now held for fourteen-and-a-quarter years. Nicholas de Hugford forthwith ejected Thomas Corbet, whereupon the latter sued the said Nicholas, laying his damages at £100. The cause was tried at Salop Assizes, October 1272, when the Parties pleaded the various circumstances already detailed, Nicholas de Hugford asserting however, that Hugh de Beckbury, Father of Thomas, had died seized of the virgate in question, so that it descended to Thomas his (Nicholas') Feoffor. In reply to this, Corbet offered to produce the deed of lease (dimissionis), adding that Hugh de Beckbury was at his death only so seized of the premises as having been appointed his (Corbet's) Bailiff. On this issue Corbet puts himself *on the Country*, and Nicholas likewise, appointing however his powerful neighbour (and probably relation) William de Hugford as his Attorney against so weighty an Antagonist as the Baron of Caus. The Jury found in due course that Hugh de Beckbury died seized of the premises, and that "Corbet had nothing therein" under his alleged deed. He was therefore *in misericordia*.<sup>112</sup>

<sup>109</sup> Ibidem, memb. 14 and 13 dorso.

<sup>110</sup> Supra, Vol. I, pp. 134, 135, 372, Vol. II, p. 133.

<sup>111</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 51 Hen. III, Salop. *Rot. Fin.* vol. ii, 534.

<sup>112</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Henry III, memb



Nothing is said in the Inquisition of 1284, as to the interest thus acquired by Nicholas de Hugford in Harrington.

In October 1292 however, it was found as regards the Serjeantry of Roger Mussun in Hadynton that it was worth 45*s. per annum*; "that it was held by service of rendering one *Sore Sparrow-hawk* for Uppinton and Hadynton at the Feast of *St. Peter ad Vincla*; that John de Huggeford now (1292) holds thereof three virgates worth 20*s. per annum*," and that the Prior of Wombrug holds half-a-virgate, &c.<sup>113</sup>

An account of several other under-tenancies in Sutton, Brockton, Ryton, and Grindle, might be extracted from the Wombridge Chartulary alone, but I must leave a matter far too diffuse for my proposed, but already transgressed, limits. This Chartulary, inaccurate as it occasionally is, affords a curious view of the assiduity and method with which a small Priory guarded its own minutest interests. It contains nearly 500 Instruments referring to property which can hardly be estimated to have extended over twice as many acres.

An Epitome of various grants to this house by Donniger, Brusebon, John the Clerk, and other Under-Tenants in Brockton, &c., has already been printed. Edward II's *Inspecimus*, the document alluded to, is to be found in the *New Monasticon* (vol. vi, p. 388).

#### SUTTON CHURCH.

The earliest notice which we have of a Church here has already been stated.—Madoc son of Gervase Goch gave the same, as far as he was concerned, about 1186-7, to Wombridge Priory.

An independent and nearly contemporary grant thereof to the same Priory was made by Henry II, who treats the Advowson as the undivided right of the Crown. It appears however, from the King's Charter, that some negotiation on the subject had taken place previously, for he reserves the life-interest of Ralph the Clerk (the Rector I presume) "in conformity with the convention already made between the said Ralph and the Canons."<sup>114</sup>

4 dorao. Thomas Corbet, Baron of Caus, employed a considerable portion of his long life in quarrels or litigations of this kind. He was generally unsuccessful, and was in short an active and violent oppressor. However, to these law-suits, I am indebted for a fund of legal, local, and genealogical information, on which I shall often have to draw.

<sup>113</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Ed. I, memb. 23, Salop.—The rest of the return has been already given, except that John de

Hugford was summoned to give account of his Tenure on a future day. The Prior of Wombridge however appeared, as before stated, and his account of the Tenure will have applied to Hugford's interest as well as his own. The heirs of Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, occur more than twenty years afterwards as seized of "9*s. rent* in Uppiton,"—doubtless a substitute for the older service.

<sup>114</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. *Tit. Brockton and Sutton*, No. xcviij. and Harl. MSS.

This Charter of King Henry II received the usual Confirmations.—Pope Urban III, in a Bull dated at Verona, June 23, 1187, confirmed it with a condition as to its being sanctioned by the Diocesan Bishop.<sup>115</sup>—

B. (Baldwin) Archbishop of Canterbury, “and Legate of the Apostolick See” confirmed it.<sup>116</sup>—

Hugh, Bishop of Coventry, confirmed it, first by a Charter which must have passed soon after his Consecration (Jan. 31, 1188),<sup>117</sup> and again by a Charter which bears date at Lichfield “on the morrow of St. Clement, in the year in which Richard King of England set out for Jerusalem” (*i. e.* Nov. 24, 1190).<sup>118</sup>—

G. (Geoffrey de Muschamp) Bishop of Coventry, in a Charter which passed at Lichfield about November 1206, not only confirms the right of the Canons of Wombridge to the Church of St. Mary of Sutton, as granted by King Henry II, and Bishop Hugh, but either authorizes or sanctions an appropriation thereof. “The Canons are to present proper Chaplains who shall receive the Cure of souls from the hand of the Bishop, and shall serve the said Church; the Canons shall assign to such Chaplains fit sustenance, according to the custom of the Country and the faculties of the Church; the residue they may retain to their own uses and the entertainment of the poor.”<sup>119</sup>

Dec. 28, 1258, Bishop Roger (de Meuland) inspected and confirmed the Appropriations granted by his Predecessors, Geoffrey and Alexander (de Stavensby), to Wombridge Priory of the Churches of Sutton, and Lopinton, and of the Chapel of Upinton.<sup>120</sup>

3868, fo. 5. The witnesses are, Hugh, Bishop of Durham, and Peter, Bishop of St. David's, H. Dean of York, Ranulf de Glanvill, Brother Roger the Almoner, Hugh de Morwic and Hugh Bardulf, Sewers. The Charter is dated at Clarendon, a circumstance which, with the witnesses' names, indicates it, all but certainly, to have passed in January 1187.

<sup>115</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, Appendix No. iv. At the date of this Bull, Hugh de Novant, Bishop Elect of Lichfield and Coventry, had not been consecrated.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibidem*, *Tit. Brocton and Sutton*, No. ciiij. This Confirmation must have passed between 1187 and 1190.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibidem*, No. ej. This Charter, as

transcribed in the Chartulary, purports to be by “Henry” Bishop of Coventry. As no such Prelate sat till the 19th Century, we have again an instance of the errors committed by Transcribers when they have attempted to identify any name represented in an original deed only by its initial letter. The witnesses of this Charter prove it to have been by Hugh de Novant.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibidem*, No. cij.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibidem*, *Tit. Lopinton*, No. vij. Dated “in the year when a Council was celebrated by John the Cardinal at Reading,” for which, as indicated in the text, see M. Paris, *sub anno* 1206.

<sup>120</sup> *Ibidem*, No. vj.

Dec. 29, 1258, Ralph the Dean, and the Chapter of Lichfield inspected and, for their part, confirmed Bishop Roger's Charter.<sup>121</sup>

April 28, 1262, William the Prior and the Convent of Coventry did the same.<sup>122</sup>

In 1281, some question had arisen as to the *Taxation* or *Ordination* of this Church, *i. e.* the proportions of its income which should be allotted to the Vicar before the Impropropriators received the residue. The Bishop's Official writes on March 5th to the Official of the Archdeacon of Salop, alluding to an inquiry, which the latter had been previously ordered to make on the subject, and acknowledging the receipt of his report resulting from such inquiry, but at the same time stating that he (the Bishop's Official) is not thereby fully informed. The Archdeacon's Official is therefore to cite the Prior and Canons of Wombridge to appear on a certain Saturday,<sup>123</sup> at Stafford, before himself (the Bishop's Official), and there in the Church of the Canons (St. Thomas the Martyr's) exhibit an instrument, if they have one, as to the last *Taxation* of Sutton Vicarage. And, not to leave the matter liable to the contingency of the Canons producing such a document,—the Archdeacon's Official is to cite the Rectors, Vicars, and Chaplains, who live nearest to Sutton, and twelve honest Laymen who best know the true value of the said Church, to appear before the Bishop's Official or his Commissaries, on May 31, in the Parish Church of Wombridge, to give information on the point. The Archdeacon's Official is also to attend himself, and to inform the Prior and Canons that they may attend if they think better to do so.<sup>124</sup>

The truth is, I suppose, that the Priory had no such Instrument of *Taxation*, but in default of Episcopal interference had interpreted their right of Appropriation with a view to their own interests.

The stringent course proposed by Bishop Roger de Meuland's Official does not seem to have led to any immediate result.

However, on March 15, 1285, a Charter of that Prelate settles the matter and embodies the particulars of his "Ordination of the Vicarage of Sutton *juxta* Bruges."—*viz.*—

"The Vicar for the time being shall have a sufficient House on the Glebe (*in solo ecclesiastico*), and half-a-virgate of land: also all *Mortuaries*, the tithes of hay in Sutton and Hadyngton, the tithes

<sup>121</sup> *Ibidem*, *Tit. Brocton and Sutton*, No. civ,—corrected by Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 4.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibidem*, No. cv.

<sup>123</sup> *Die Sabbati qua cantatur Scitientes*.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xviij.

of wool, lambs, young swine, colts, calves, white-honey, geese, apples, and pannage; also tithes of gardens and crofts under spade culture (*pede cultorum*), and all oblations and offerings at the Altar however arising; also all tithes of fisheries, mills, and of wood sold within the Parish; and the tithes of flax and hemp.—

The Vicar shall bear all expenses attaching to the exercise of his office, and the Rectors bear all charges ordinary or extraordinary, which lie upon the Church.”<sup>125</sup>

In 1291, the Church of Sutton Madok is valued at £4. 13s. 4d.<sup>126</sup>

May 8, 1320, Bishop Walter (de Langton) having recently made Visitation of the Archdeaconry of Salop, certifies that he found the Priory of Wombridge, Impropriators of this Church; that the Canons being summoned to exhibit their title thereunto had done so to his complete satisfaction. The Bishop therefore dismisses them as the true and Canonical Rectors of this Church.<sup>127</sup>

In the year 1315, the Archdeacon of Salop visiting Sutton Church, heard that the Canons of Wombridge had withdrawn *two processional candles* which they were bound to maintain in the Chancel of the said Church. The Parishioners, represented by Roger Brusebon and two others, moved a suit in the Archidiaconal Court against the Canons. A sentence releasing them from the alleged obligation was given in full Chapter at Newport on Nov. 4, 1315, and certified by the Archdeacon's Official.<sup>128</sup>

In 1341, though the Taxation of Sutton Church stood at 7 merks (£4. 13s. 4d.), the Assessors of *the ninth*, only rated the Parish at £3. because the small tithes, oblations, glebe, and other spiritualities of the Church went to make up the greater sum, and had nothing to do with *the ninth*; and because the Vicar had half-a-virgate of land, and because four virgates of land lay untilled.<sup>129</sup>

The Canons of Wombridge obtained other confirmations of their Chartered and Improprate rights at Sutton, viz. from Bishop Robert (de Stretton), dated at Heywode, July 25, 1362, from Bishop John (Bourghill), dated at Eccleshall Castle, Sept. 21, 1400, and from Thomas (Fitz Alan), Archbishop of Canterbury, dated at Lambeth, Feb. 8, 1401.<sup>130</sup>

<sup>125</sup> Ibidem, No. xcix and c compared.

<sup>126</sup> *Taxatio Papæ Nich.* p. 248.—*Decanatus Novi Burgi.*

<sup>127</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton and Sutton*, No. cvi. Dated at Edgmond,

May 8, 1320.

<sup>128</sup> Ibidem, No. cx.

<sup>129</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 184.

<sup>130</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton and Sutton*, Nos. cvij, cviii, cix.

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1534-5, by some extraordinary accident, omits to notice this Church under the Deanery of Newport. The Prior of Wombridge acknowledges however his receipt of the "tithes of the Church of Sutton Madok," amounting to £3. 6s. 8d. *per annum*.<sup>131</sup>

The Minister's Accounts of 1536-7, give the *Ferm* of this Rectory, with the Tithes of Brockton, as together worth £4. *per annum*.<sup>132</sup>

## EARLY INCUMBENTS.

RADULF THE CLERK, the Incumbent of 1187, was probably the last resident Rector of Sutton. He seems to have been followed by the Deputies of Wombridge Priory, styled at first Chaplains or Priests, and afterwards Vicars. Thus we have between 1194 and 1219 mention of HUGH, CHAPLAIN OF SUTTON or of Brockton, and also notices of one RICHARD, called indifferently CHAPLAIN OF SUTTON or Priest of Brockton.

In the next twelve years we hear of PHILIP THE CHAPLAIN as an occupier of land at Harrington, and find him attesting deeds as "Sir Philip, Chaplain of Sutton."

From 1231, for thirty years, we find repeated mention of NICHOLAS, at first called Priest (Sacerdos), then Chaplain of Sutton, and lastly Vicar of the same.

Then, between 1265 and 1280, HENRY DE IDESHALE, Chaplain, a benefactor to Wombridge Priory, seems to be identical with Henry, Vicar of Sutton, and with "Sir Henry, Vicar of Brockton."

In the last twenty years of the Century, SIR WILLIAM, Chaplain of Sutton, occurs.<sup>133</sup>

On April 12, 1302, the Bishop sequestered the Vicarage of Sutton in the Archdeaconry of Salop, for some cause which does not appear. The Dean of Newport is ordered, out of the income of the Vicarage, to provide for due service of the Church.

THOMAS, VICAR OF SUTTON MADOK, having died January 7, 1330, JOHN DE OBYNTON, CHAPLAIN, is admitted to the Vicarage on Feb. 18th following, at presentation of the Prior and Convent of

<sup>131</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 194.

<sup>132</sup> *Monasticon*, vi, 391, No.ii, *Prioratus de Wombridge*.

<sup>133</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *passim*. Mr. Dukes (*Antiquities*, p. 195) quotes the Close Rolls of 30 Hen. III, for a

Presentation by the Crown to Sutton Church. I cannot find the entry on the original Roll; but, whatever the authority for such a Presentation, I think that some other Sutton must be meant.

Wombridge. Sir John de Opynton died Aug. 15, 1345, and on December 23 following :—

JOHN DE LAWELEYE, DEACON, was admitted on the same presentation. On his resignation, Dec. 22, 1351, BROTHER THOMAS DE ETON, Canon of Wombrugg and Priest, was admitted on presentation of his Convent.<sup>134</sup>

## Stockton.

Stóc (a village, or place of habitation) and tun (a town or inclosure) are the two words hitherto supposed to enter into this compound.<sup>1</sup>

The redundancy of signification which thus arises suggests however another etymology, and that more consistent with pronunciation.

The Saxon word Stoc (with the unaccentuated or short o) means "the stock" or "trunk of a tree" and so "wood" or "fuel" generally.

Stockton therefore signifies "the town of the wood," and so involves precisely the same ideas as another and still more common Saxon name, now written Wootton or Wotton, but anciently Wudeton or Wodeton.

*Domesday* thus notices the Manor in question.—

"The same Gerard holds Stochetone; and Hugo (holds it) of him; Eduin and Ordui held it (in King Edward's time) for two Manors, and were Free Men. Here is 1 hide geldable. There is arable land sufficient for 111 ox-teams. In demesne there is half-a-team, and (there are) 1 serf and 1 villain and 1 boor with half-a-team. In King Edward's time the Manor was worth XII shillings (per annum): now it is worth XIII shillings."<sup>2</sup>

I have no evidence of Hamo Peverel having had any concern in Stockton as Successor of Gerard de Tornai. Like other Tornai

<sup>134</sup> Lichfield Register, *sub annis*.

<sup>1</sup> *Dugdale's Warwickshire* (Thomas), | <sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 259, a 1.  
203, 340.

Escheats, the Manor next appears as held *in capite* of the Crown, and by Serjeantry of service at Shrawardine Castle.

The earliest Crown-Tenants had name from the place, but the documents in which they occur are so little connected, that I attempt no fuller account of their succession than will be implied by citing those documents in chronological order.

About 1196, Adam de Stocton, with Robert and Gilbert his Brothers, attests a Charter of the second William Fitz Alan to Reyner de Lee.<sup>3</sup>

At Michaelmas 1196, Adam de Stocton and Matilda his wife had fined two merks with the King, that they might have trial against Richard Pechie concerning half a Knight's-fee in Cūpton in Warwickshire.<sup>4</sup>

At Michaelmas 1204, Herbert de Stocton had paid half a merk, the sum assessed on 1 hide of land for King John's fifth *scutage*, which (as I have said before) was levied on Tenants by Serjeantry as well as upon Tenants by Knights' service.

At Michaelmas 1207, Herbert de Stocton had been amerced, apparently by Justices of the Forest. The same thing had recurred in 1209.<sup>5</sup>

Comparing two Rolls of Tenures by Serjeantry, of date about 1211, I find it stated that Matilda de Stocton held land by service of finding one serving foot-soldier with a bow, for ward of Shrawardine Castle.<sup>6</sup>

About this time Robert de Stocton occurs as second witness of a charter quoted under Badger, and the same Robert sat as a Juror on a Forest Inquisition, of date about June 1220.<sup>7</sup>

On the 13th of July 1243, a King's Writ ordered an Inquest to be held as to the estate of Walter de Stocton, deceased. The Jury (among whom were Walter de Kenbripton, William de Sutton, and Philip de Stocton) found that Walter had held 4 virgates in the *vill* of Stocton, by service of one foot-soldier with a bow and arrows for 15 days at Montgomery;—that the tenure was worth

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MSS. 1396, fo. 253.

<sup>4</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8 Ric. I, Salop.

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6, 9, 11 John, Salop.

<sup>6</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 254, and *Liber Ruber Scaccarii*, fo. cxxxvij. Other less accurate Rolls give the same redundant evidence as to this Serjeantry, which has already been remarked upon under Brockton (*supra*, p. 94, note 4), viz.

that Herebert de Stoketon holds one hide by Serjeantry whilst Matilda de Sutton (*sic*) holds by service of finding a foot-soldier for Castle guard. (*Testa de Nevill*, fo. 879, *Liber Ruber*, fo. cxxij). Two phases of the same Tenure are evidently embodied in one Roll.

<sup>7</sup> *Inquisitiones incerti temporis* Hen. III, No. 259.

20s. *per annum*; and that Richard de Stocton was son and heir of the deceased.<sup>8</sup>

On October 27, 1244, the King received the homage of the said Richard, whose Relief was fixed at 20s.<sup>9</sup>

Soon after this it was found that several persons throughout the kingdom who held lands by Serjeantry, had alienated the same, wholly or in part, without license of the Crown. A Commission accordingly issued in 1246 to Henry de Wingham, who was at the same time appointed *Escheator citra Trent*, to make inquest into these alienations. He with an associate Knight in each County, and a Jury if he pleased, were to inquire into the state of all Serjeantries.

Subsequently, and probably on receipt of Wingham's reports, a second Commission issued to Robert Passelewe, Archdeacon of Lewes and Treasurer to King Henry III, in virtue of which he visited very many Counties to "*take fines*" or "*make arrentations*" of Serjeantries, that is to provide for the due fulfilment of the services attached to every such tenure, and also to exact and fix an annual rent in money as a composition for every illegal alienation. Passelewe seems to have taken Shropshire early in his progress, at least the *Arrentations* which he fixed here accrued from March 1247, while he is found to be in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire in April 1250.

The results of Passelewe's visit to Shropshire are preserved in duplicate. It was found that the "Serjeantry of John le Bret (which was formerly Henry de Stockton's, in Stockton, for which he was bound to provide for the Lord King one serving foot-soldier with bow and arrows, for fifteen days, at his own cost, in garrison of Shrawardine Castle in time of war, which, service was afterwards *attorned* to Montgomery Castle) was alienated altogether from the right heirs." It further appeared that Philip de Stocton held three-fourths of a virgate, worth 4s. *per annum*, of the said alienation and that John le Bret held the residue thereof, being of 10s. annual value.—

John le Bret concluded the following Fine for himself and the other Tenant, with the consent of the latter, viz. that they would pay 4s. annually (to the Crown) and perform the prescribed service.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Inquisitions*, 28 Hen. III, No. 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Fines*, i, 425.

<sup>10</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, folios 264, 270.  
Henry de Stocton I imagine to have been

the original Grantee of the Crown, living at a period of which we have no Record likely to name him.



On the Shropshire Pipe-Roll of Michaelmas 1250, John le Bret's obligations as Tenant of Henry de Stocton's Serjeantry are repeated, and he is put in charge for three-and-a-half years' arrears of the 4s. rent agreed upon.

About 1251, an Inquest of Tenures in Brimstree Hundred speaks of this Serjeantry as Richard de Stocton's, values it at 20s. *per annum*, and notes its total alienation to John le Bret.<sup>11</sup>

What became of the *Alienator* of this Serjeantry I do not find; but as late as 1259 an entry on the Pipe Roll charges Richard Lord of Stockton with an amercement of 3s. 4d. for some non-attendance.

To return to John le Bret.—In 1250, Justices are appointed to try a suit of *novel disseizen* which he had against Oliver, Parson of Stocton Church, and others concerning a tenement in Stocton.<sup>12</sup>

At the Assizes of January 1256, the Brimstree Jurors reported John le Bret as failing in due attendance.

A Seignury over these Tenants by Serjeantry seems to have been granted to the Stranges about the time when the latter established their interest in Sutton and Brockton. At the same time John le Bret disappears as Tenant; for at the Assizes of October 1272, the Brimstree Jurors reported Philip de Say as holding Little Stocton of Robert le Strange (of Sutton), in Serjeantry, for which he paid the King 4s. *per annum*. And this Philip de Say (probably identical with Philip de Stocton above mentioned) was Foreman of the Jury which sat on Sept. 13, 1276, to inquire as to the estate of Robert le Strange who had previously deceased. Again within a few years the name of the Tenant of Stockton changes; for in 12 Edw. I (1283-4), Robert Body had the King's grant of Free-Warren in Little Stocton, and in Herdwyke within the Hundred of Ellesmere.<sup>13</sup> The Inquisition of 1284 gives a confused account of this Manor, the result probably of Fulk le Strange, then a Minor, holding it *in capite* together with Sutton and part of Brockton. The Record first says that "Fulco Extraneus holds the Manor of Stocton cum Brocton of the King *in capite*, by service of one Knight for fifteen days, to go with the King into Wales at his own cost;" and that "the same Fulco pay 4s. *per annum* for purpresture." It afterwards says that "Robert Body holds Little Stocton (by serjeantry of finding one foot-soldier for forty days at his own cost with a bow and four arrows) of the King *in capite*."<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, fo. 275.

<sup>12</sup> *Patent*, 34 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Cart. Calendar*, p. 113.

<sup>14</sup> *Kirby's Quest.* The alleged Knight's

Nov. 20, 1289, Robert Bodi of Stocton, and Hawise his wife, purchased for seven merks the messuage and all the land which Richard Fitz Yvo of Brocton had in the *vill* of Brocton. About the same time Robert Bodi attests a Brockton Deed, whereby John, the Clerk surrenders his Tenancy to Wombridge Priory.<sup>15</sup>

The aggregate service and serjeantry reported by the Brimstree Jurors of 1292 as due on Sutton, evidently includes Fulk le Strange's particular liability in respect of Stockton.

At these Assizes however Robert Body the Tenant was questioned as to his right of Free-Warren in his demesne lands at Stockton. Not at first appearing, his alleged right of Warren was ordered to be escheated, but he afterwards came forward and pleaded the King's Charter, and so was dismissed *sine die*.<sup>16</sup>

The Feodary of 1316, makes no distinct mention of Stockton, evidently because it was deemed to be involved in Fulk le Strange's Tenure of Sutton.

In Edward III's time the estates of Strange of Blackmere in this quarter are described as including the Manors of Sutton Madoc, Brokton, Norton, Little Stokton, and Muchel Stokton;<sup>17</sup> and I have somewhere seen the last place written as Chirche-Stockton.

#### EWDNESS.

This *vill*, probably a member of the *Domesday* Manor of Stockton, became detached therefrom, whilst (in the twelfth century) both were in the hands of the King.

It afterwards constituted a distinct Serjeantry, the service attached to which was that the Tenant should accompany the Sheriff of Shropshire when, twice every year, the latter conveyed the *Ferm* or revenue of the County to the Exchequer, the King paying the said Tenant's charges.

service and the duty of accompanying the King into Wales must have been suggested by the older and perhaps thus modified tenure of Sutton. The 4s. *purpresture* was the *arrentation* due on Stockton. Robert Body did not hold *in capite*, nor was his service for forty days, but only for fifteen.

<sup>15</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*, Nos. ii, li.

<sup>16</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 23.

<sup>17</sup> *Inquisition*, 37 Edw. III, 2d Nos. 7. Another writ relating to the same matter (a grant of View of Frankpledge) seems to mention in addition to these possessions of Le Strange, the Manors of Ruyton, Bekkebury, and Huggesford (*Calendar*, vol. ii, p. 263). These never belonged in any way to Strange of Blackmere, and it is evident that there has been some tampering with the Record. The words Ruyton and Bekkebury are written on erasures.

Thus in 1211, was Walter d'Eudinas holding the Manor *in capite*.<sup>18</sup>

This is the same Walter d'Eudinas who has already appeared attesting a Badger deed in 1227.

Before 1255, Ralph d'Eudinas was Tenant of this Serjeantry. He seems to have enfeoffed the Prior of St. John's Hospital at Brug in half-a-virgate thereof. The Jurors of the Liberty of Brug reported this alienation in that year.<sup>19</sup>

13 Sept. 1276, Nicholas, Clerk of Eudinas, was a Juror on the Inquest concerning the estate of Robert le Strange of Sutton and Stockton.

I find no further mention of this Serjeantry or any probable Tenants thereof. I conclude it to have been re-united to Le Strange's Tenure.

#### STOCKTON CHURCH.

I have no proof of a Church existing here before the thirteenth Century, but there is a strong probability that the Foundation was much earlier.

In 1291, the Church of Stockton with its Chapel (or Chapels) was returned as annually worth £4. 13s. 4d. besides a pension of 6s. 8d. which the Prior of St. Guthlac of Hereford received therefrom.<sup>20</sup>

The only Chapel which I can suggest to be here indicated is Boningale, which remains to this day a member of the Church of Stockton.

Now Boningale, at the time of *Domesday* and for nearly two centuries afterwards, was manorially a member of Higford, and the latter was in the Parish of Stockton. The Laci who held Higford under the Norman Earl had, before *Domesday*, given that Manor to one of their principal Feoffees: but at the same period (1085-6), these Laci were zealous in the endowment and re-establishment of Hereford Priory. That House, dedicated to St. Guthlac, held pensions afterwards in very many Churches of De Laci's Fief.

I doubt not therefore that De Laci, Seigneural Lord of Higford, was Founder or Co-Founder of Stockton Church, at a period very shortly subsequent to *Domesday*, and that St. Guthlac's pension was

<sup>18</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, folio 254. One whose name is written Walter de Devines was a juror to try causes of *Grand Assize* at Salop in 1221. I doubt not

that he was the individual under notice.

<sup>19</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59.

<sup>20</sup> *Pope Nich. Taxation*, p. 248.

either a composition in lieu of tithes of Higford, previously granted to the Priory, but afterwards resigned to this Church, or else that it was an acknowledgment reserved by the Prior on his quitting some right of Advowson at Stockton or Boningale, of which he may have had a previous grant.

In 1341, the Taxation of Stockton Church stood at seven-and-a-half merks (£5), a sum which included the aforesaid pension.

The Parish was however assessed only at five merks to *the ninth*, the usual deductions in respect of small tithes, glebe, offerings, and other spiritualities having been allowed in reckoning the assessment, as also a murrain which had recently destroyed the sheep of the district.<sup>21</sup>

In 1534, the Rectory of Stoketon with the Chapel of Bonyngal in the Deanery of Newport, was valued at £14, which sum was chargeable with 6s. 8d. for Procurations and 2s. 3d. for Synodals, but with no pension of the kind before described.<sup>22</sup>

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

NICHOLAS, CHAPLAIN OF STOCTON, attests a deed already cited under Badger, and which passed early in the thirteenth Century. He will hardly have been more than a Deputy of the then Incumbent.

OLIVER, PARSON OF STOCTON, has also been mentioned under date of 1250, and must be identical with that Oliver de Stocton who stands first witness to a nearly contemporary deed of Madoc de Sutton.<sup>23</sup>

WILLIAM DE HUGFORD, CLERK, was instituted Rector of this Church by Commission, on May 31, 1321. On Oct. 30 following, he had license to study for a year, and on Nov. 5, had letters dimissory for Junior Orders and the Orders of Subdeacon and Deacon. On March 18, 1323, he had further license for a year's study and non-residence, and on Feb. 14, he had a still further dispensation for another year, to commence on March 18 following.<sup>24</sup> He occurs as Rector about 1343.

WALTER DE HUGFORD, Rector of Stockton, died in 1369, and on November 12, in that year, PHILIP DE HARLEY, Priest, late Rector of Stirchley, was presented by Walter de Hugford, Lord of Hugford. He died in 1379 on the 4th of July, in which year MASTER THOMAS DE KYRKEBY, Priest, was presented by William de Hugford.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>21</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 184.

<sup>22</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 187.

<sup>23</sup> *Supra*, p. 120.

<sup>24</sup> Lichfield Registers, *sub annis*.

<sup>25</sup> Blakeway's MSS.

## Albrighton.

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THE etymology of this word is obvious.—At an unrecorded period, earlier than the days of King Edward the Confessor, the “town” was possessed or founded by some Saxon “Alberic.” The latter name, variously written and pronounced as Alberic, Albrecht, Albert, or Aubrey, is fundamentally the same, and has its exact equivalent in the Latin word *Præclarus* or in the Greek Περιφανής.

The Manor is thus described in *Domesday* :—

The same Normannus holds Albricstone. Algar and Godhit held it (in time of King Edward) for two Manors. Here is one hide and-a-half geldable. The (arable) land is (sufficient) for IIII ox-teams. In demesne are III such teams; and (there are) XIII serfs and III villains and III boors with I team. Here is a wood which will fatten 100 swine: but at present it is in the King’s hand. In time of King Edward, the Manor was valued at XXI shillings (per annum). Its present value is XVI shillings. He (Norman) found it waste.”<sup>1</sup>

I think that the first-named of the two Saxons, who had had an interest in Albrighton must have been Algar, Earl of Mercia. His possessions in the neighbouring County of Staffordshire were extensive, and included Pattingham, a Manor not far distant from Albrighton. Earl Algar’s Staffordshire Fief was generally retained by King William the Conqueror in demesne. Hence perhaps, the *Domesday* mention of a wood at Albrighton, so singularly excepted from the jurisdiction of the Palatine Earl of Shropshire.<sup>2</sup>

Norman Venator (for such was the designation of the *Domesday* Lord of Albrighton) held seven Manors under Earl Roger. His profession, perhaps also the service by which he held his lands, is implied by his name. With his Brother Roger, also called Venator, he has been mentioned as attending the Consecration of Quatford Church in 1086, and he further appears to have been living after the succession of Earl Hugh (1093), and to have been a Benefactor

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 259, a. 2.

<sup>2</sup> This wood was, I doubt not, retained by the King with a view to the integrity

or enlargement of the neighbouring Forest of Brewood; of which, as a Royal Forest, I have yet to speak.

to Shrewsbury Abbey. The locality of two of his *Domesday* Manors is somewhat uncertain, but in the five which can be better identified he seems to have been succeeded by the family of Pichford, whom I therefore conclude to have been his heirs. These Pichfords continued for two centuries to hold the Fief of Norman Venator, immediately of the Crown. Albrighton was its reputed *Caput*, and the whole constituted a tenure held by service of one Knight's-Fee, and was so assessed to the various *Scutages* and *Aids* which were levied during that period.

Of Ralph de Pichford, who distinguished himself and added to his possessions by services rendered to King Henry I at the siege of Brug in 1102, I have already spoken. All that I can further say of him is, that he attests a very ancient deed, in the time of Henry I or Stephen, which concerns land in this neighbourhood. Mention has also been made, under Ryton, of Richard and Engelard, presumed to have been the two sons of Ralph de Pichford. Richard de Pichford seems to have died before 1157, leaving a son and heir, another Richard, whose wardship (he being a Minor and a *Tenant in capite*) was then purchased of the Crown by his Uncle Engelard.

Though, as will presently appear, this minority must have been very brief, it left Engelard de Stretton possessed of a considerable interest in his Nephew's lands. I shall quote instances of this elsewhere, but here will mention only the following peculiar circumstance.—In the year 1167 (when Richard de Pichford had long attained his majority), the town of Albricton had been amerced in the sum of one merk for some breach of the Forest-Laws, which had been adjudicated upon in the recent *Iter* of Alan de Nevill. The fine is however described on the Pipe-Roll as being set upon the town of "Albricton Engerardi" *i.e.* Engelard's Albrighton, as though Engelard was then its owner, while it is clear, from other evidence, that if still interested there, he could only have been so interested as a Tenant.

This Richard de Pichford, of whom we are principally speaking, was he, who having acquired or inherited an interest in the neighbouring Manor of Cospelford (Cosford), granted to the Abbey of Buildwas the whole service of Richard Crasset therein.<sup>3</sup>

Richard de Pichford's grant to Haghmon Abbey is all that I can further say of him. It has been already set forth, and, at the time

<sup>3</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 359; xvi.

of its passing (before 1172), Hugh, the son and heir of Richard, was old enough to be a consenting party.<sup>4</sup>

On Richard's death, in or before 1176, this same Hugh succeeded him, and, whether a Minor or not, obtained his Livery by payment of 100 shillings *relief* to the Crown.<sup>5</sup>

In 1185, Hugh de Pikeford had been fined 40s. by Justices of the Forest, for not producing those for whom he was Surety. He had paid the fine, and was quit.

At Michaelmas 1194 the *Scutage* for King Richard's redemption having been collected, Hugh de Pichford had paid 20s. on that account, the sum assessed on every Knight's-Fee held *in capite*.

In 1195 he was assessed similarly for King Richard's second *Scutage* in support of the French wars. This Charge is entered on the Sheriff's Roll of 1196, and had been paid before Michaelmas 1197.

At the latter period King Richard's third *Scutage* had been put in charge. It was at the same rate for each Knight's Fee and was again for the Army of Normandy. It was assessed upon, and paid by, Hugh de Pichford.

In the years 1199, 1201-2-3-4-5-6, he was successively charged with the seven first *scutages* of King John; but some of these assessments imply a composition in lieu of personal service, and are in excess of the current assessment on a single Knight's-Fee, *e. g.* he was charged 40s. in 1199, though the current rate was £1. 6s. 8d. *per fee*; he was charged five merks (£3. 6s. 8d.) in 1203, the rate being again £1. 6s. 8d.; he was charged six merks in 1204, the rate being two-and-a-half merks; and he was charged three merks in 1206, the rate being one-and-a-half merks.

Thus much as an instance of the heavy and constant exactions with which King John impoverished and disgusted the Feudatories of his Crown.—

Amongst Fines made in the year 1199, with Hugh de Nevill, Justice of the Forest, I find one of twelve merks contracted by Hugh de Pichford. It was, that he might *assart* forty acres of his own land at Pichford and twenty acres in his wood of Bruwude (Brewood).

In 1211, he was returned as a Knight, holding one fee by military service, of the Crown, his lands being worth £8. *per annum*.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 358.

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 22 Henry II, Salop. The Pipe Rolls are also my authority for the

succeeding statements of the text.

<sup>6</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 252.

And about this time he died, leaving by his wife Burga, daughter and sole heir of Ralph de Baskerville,<sup>7</sup> a son Ralph, who succeeded him.

I have already noticed this Ralph, as having succeeded about 1212, to his Tenure by Serjeantry at Little Brug. In 1214, when the *Scutage* of Poitou was put in charge, at the rate of three merks on each Knight's-Fee, this Ralph paid his due proportion of £2. on the same.<sup>8</sup> And thus he continued to be assessed to various *Scutages* and *Aids* in the time of Henry III, and in manner following.

In 1218, he is charged two merks on the first *Scutage* of that King's reign; in 1221, 10s. on the *Scutage* of Biham. In 1224, he was acquitted of the *Scutage* of Montgomery, probably in respect of personal service, but assessed at the current rate (two merks), to that of Bedford. In 1229, he was similarly assessed to the *Scutage* of Keri, and in 1230, at the higher rate of three merks to that of Brittany; but Ralph Fitz Nicholas had obtained the King's acquittance of half this charge in his own favour.

In 1231, Ralph de Pichford is assessed three merks to the *Scutage* of Poitou, and in 1232, £1. to that of Elvein, each being at the current rate for a Knight's Fee.

In 1235, he was charged two merks for the *Aid* levied on marriage of the King's Sister.<sup>9</sup> Half of this he paid in September 1235, "by hand of Geoffrey, Provost of Pichford," whilst the balance was discharged at Easter 1236, by Adam de Pichford.<sup>10</sup>

In 1245, he was duly assessed £1. to the *Aid*, for marriage of the King's Daughter, and in 1246, paid three merks, the sum chargeable on each Knight's-Fee for the *Scutage* of Gannok.<sup>11</sup>

Returning to an earlier period for other incidents in the life of Ralph de Pichford, I find him in November 1221, as a Juror of causes, tried at Shrewsbury by *Grand Assize*. In 1232, he fined

<sup>7</sup> By this marriage, Hugo de Pichford and his wife became, in 5 John (1203-4), mesne Tenants of a Knight's Fee in Herberbury and Chesterton (Warwickshire) held of the Earls Ferrers. See *Dugdale's Warwickshire*, under 'Herberbury' (p. 354, Thomas's Edition) for further particulars.

<sup>8</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 16 John, Salop. The name of Hugo de Pichford had in the first instance been entered on this Roll,

but the name "Hug" was crossed out and "Rad" written over apparently by the same Clerk who engrossed the Roll. In the reign of Henry III, such accuracy came to be disregarded.

<sup>9</sup> *Rot. Pip. de eisdem annis*, Salop.

<sup>10</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fos. 279, 277, the proper order of the documents being inverted on the Record.

<sup>11</sup> *Rot. Pip. de eisdem annis*.



40s. with the Crown for the privilege of holding a Market and Fair at his Manor of Albrighton, and obtained the King's Charter thereof.<sup>12</sup>

A document of the year 1234, exhibits this Ralph de Picheford as staking largely for some contingent advantage likely to result from an Irish Wardship. He gave the King three hundred merks to have marriage of the heirs, and custody of the lands, late John Fitz Deremot's, in Ireland, until the said heirs should be of age. The King, having taken security for payment of this fine in England, enjoined Maurice Fitz Gerold, Justice of Ireland, to give Ralph the necessary seizin. The King's writ bears date at Reading 22d August 1234; and on 16th Feb. following, another writ issued to the Barons of the Exchequer, allowing that payment of Ralph de Picheford's fine should be at the rate of twenty-five merks half-yearly.<sup>13</sup>

Tenure-Rolls of the years 1240 and 1251, exhibit Ralph de Pichford's Tenancy in Albrighton as immediately under the Crown,<sup>14</sup> but without further particulars, except that the former Roll includes Ryton with Albrighton, a circumstance already remarked upon.

On Oct. 5, 1252, Ralph de Pichford was dead, for then did Ralph Fitz Nicholas fine 100 merks with the King for custody of his land and heir, as well as for marriage of the latter.<sup>15</sup>

The Inquest on his death does not seem to have been held till the following year, that is, in obedience to the King's writ of *diem clausit extremum*, dated 20th April, in the 37th year of his reign. Besides Ralph de Pichford's Tenures at Dunethe and Lynne in Ireland, and those at Pichford and Little Brug, the Jurors found him to have held Albrighton of the King, by service of one knight for eight days, and that John, his son and next heir, was sixteen years of age.

I shall show under other Shropshire localities the incompleteness of this Inquisition, and that Ralph de Pichford was possessed of interests not therein enumerated.<sup>16</sup>

In 1254, he, or rather his estate, was charged 40s. to the *Aid* for Knighting the King's eldest son; and a similar sum in 1260 for the

<sup>12</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 16 Hen. III, Salop; *Rot. Cart.* 16 Hen. III, memb. 15.

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Fin.* vol. i, pp. 263, 274; and *Rot. Pip.* 18 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>14</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fos. 206, 274.

<sup>15</sup> *Rot. Fin.* ii, 141.

<sup>16</sup> Out of Shropshire he was holding in 1252 the Ferrers' Fee at Herberbury above mentioned. (*Dugdale's Warwickshire*, p. 354.)

*Scutage* of Wales.<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile John de Pichford, though occurring as a Minor in 1255, must have arrived at his full age. I find little to say of him during the troubled period which ensued. When the King's army stood summoned to meet at Worcester, on July 1, 1277, John de Pychford, Knight, acknowledged his service due on a Knight's Fee at Albricton, and was ready to discharge it in person.<sup>18</sup>

On March 27, 1278, he was among the principal Knights of the County, who made perambulation between the Bishop of Hereford's lands in Esthampton, and those of Peter Corbet in Wentnor.<sup>19</sup>

On January 28, 1281, he was one of the four Knights who made Inquest and report as to the ruinous condition of Brug Castle.

The King's Army being under summons to meet at Rhuddlan on Aug. 2, 1282, against the Welsh, John de Pichford attended in acknowledgment of his Tenure, but afterwards departed in consequence of infirmity.<sup>20</sup>

In 1284, he is entered as holding the Manor of Albricton with Hunfreyston, Wystan (Whiston), and Bispeston (Bishton), by one Knight's Fee, and by accompanying the King into Wales in time of war, for forty days at his own charges.<sup>21</sup>

In 1285, the Escheator was ordered to seize into the King's hand, the estate of John de Pichford deceased.<sup>22</sup> The King's writ of *diem clausit extremum*, dated April 13, 1285, and addressed to the same Officer, resulted in an Inquisition held at Pichford, on the 25th of the same month. The Jurors estimated the *vill* of Albryton, held *in capite* by one Knight's fee, as realizing £5. 14s. 8d. *per annum*. They also gave account of the tenure of the deceased at Pichford, and reported his son and heir Ralph to be of full age. This Inquisition proved to be unsatisfactory, as well it might. The King, in a writ, dated May 6 following, orders his Escheator to "make more diligent enquiry," and a second Inquest sat at Albrighton on the 24th of the same month. The Manor of Albrighton, with the Advowsons of Albrighton and Ryton, were in this instance estimated at £10. 8s. 6d. annual value, and the Jurors gave account also of Tenures at Lee Brockhurst and Cantlop, and

<sup>17</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 38 and 44 Hen. III, Salop. In each case the assessment is charged to the name of Ralph de Pichford. At this period the *Scutage Rolls* are no longer a guide as to the Christian name of an individual Tenant *in capite*.

<sup>18</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, i, 203.

<sup>19</sup> Hereford Register (Cantilupe), fo. xxij, a.

<sup>20</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, i, 233, 237.

<sup>21</sup> *Kirby's Quest.*

<sup>22</sup> *Originalia*, 13 Edw. I, memb. 6.

of a rent payable by Philip de Beckbury (one of themselves), all of which had been the property of the deceased.<sup>23</sup>

Margaret, wife of John de Pichford, survived him, and had her dower both in Albrighton and Pichford. In 1292, she was sued for *estovers* in Pichford Wood, by Richard de Eton,<sup>24</sup> and at the same time, under designation of "Margaret de Albrygton," was reported by the Brimstree Jurors to hold £7. of lands in Albrygton of the King *in capite*, and to be, as to any second marriage, at the King's disposal.<sup>25</sup>

In 1304, Margaret de Pichford complained to the King of having suffered a *redisseizin* at the hands of Roger Carles and William the Beadle of Brimstree, from whom, in the King's Court at Bruges, she had recovered *seizin* of eleven merks annual rent in Albrighton. The usual writ to the Sheriff issued accordingly, viz. to examine into the truth of the complaint, and if it were well grounded, to arrest the Defendants.<sup>26</sup>

I must now speak of Ralph de Pichford, son and heir of John, as of the last of his line who had any interest in Albrighton. In 1292, he was reported by the Brimstree Jurors as holding a Knight's Fee, being of full age, and yet not a Knight, whereupon he was put down as *in misericordiâ*. He was also a Defaulter in due attendance at the Assizes then held; but his right of *assizing* bread and beer, and of holding a Market and Fair at Albrighton being called in question, he came forward and pleaded the Charter of King Henry III, which granted the said market and Fair to Ralph, his *Anccestor*. He also submitted that the other privileges in question were appurtenant to those thus granted. Both pleas seem to have been admitted by the Court.<sup>27</sup>

On May 31, 1295, styling himself Lord of Albrighton, this Ralph grants to William de Parco de Ettingestal, two Burgages in the town of Albrighton, which he (Ralph) had of the Esehate of Ysabelle Persone of Albrighton.—To hold with right of common pasture, at a rent of one rose, payable on the feast of St. John Baptist's Nativity.<sup>28</sup>

Pursuant to the King's Writ, dated at Portsmouth May 27, 1297,

<sup>23</sup> *Inquisitions*, 13 Edw. I, No. 14.

<sup>24</sup> *Dukes's Antiquities*, p. 288.

<sup>25</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 22.

<sup>26</sup> *Originalia*, i, 136.

<sup>27</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 22.

<sup>28</sup> Blakeway MSS. from *Otley Evidences*. The deed is tested by John de Beumes, John Umfrey, Nicholas Carles, John Clerk of Bishton, John Fitz Henry of Bishton. The Seal has a coat of arms—Semeé of cross-crosslets, a cinque-foil voided.

Ralph de Picheford was returned by the Sheriff of Shropshire as one of those who held twenty *Librates* of lands and rents in the County, and who consequently, were under summons to muster at London on July 7 following, with horses and arms, ready to accompany the King over sea.<sup>29</sup>

This is the latest notice which I have of Ralph de Pichford, ere yet he dissipated his fine inheritance. Within three years of this time he sold his Manor of Albrighton to John, Baron Tregoz of Ewyas Harold (Heref) ; and the latter dying on August 21, 1300, was found by Inquisition to have been fully seized thereof.<sup>30</sup>

John de Tregoz had had two daughters, Clarice and Sibil. Clarice the elder, having been wife of Roger de la Warre and Mother of John de la Warre, was at this time deceased: Sibil the younger was still living and the wife of Sir William Grandison. John de la Warre and the said Sibil were therefore found to be Coheirs of Sir John Tregoz. A suit arose between them as to partition of his Estates, which was finally settled in 1302, by award of Parliament.<sup>31</sup> Thus did the Manor of Albrighton fall to the estate of John de la Warre.

In the year 1303, John de la Warre memorialized King Edward I, as to certain privileges which he claimed by prescription in this Manor, viz. View of Frank-pledge, a market every Tuesday, and a Fair of four days' duration (the vigil, the day of, and the two days succeeding the Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, *i. e.* July 6, 7, 8, and 9, in each year). The King issued a writ of *Certiorari* to the Sheriff, who, after assembling a Jury at Donington, on June 25, reported that Ralph de Pichford, who sold the Manor to Sir John Tregoz, had the said right of Market, and a right of Fair for *three* days, also View of Frank-pledge twice in the year over his own Burgesses, but not over the other Tenants of the Manor,—that the said Ralph exercised these privileges all the time while he was Lord, and that so his Ancestors had done from time whereof memory was not.<sup>32</sup>

In conformity with this report, the King's Charter issued in the same year, limiting the Fair to the 6th, 7th, and 8th days of July, and fixing that two Courts for the View of Frank-pledge should be held in the *Quinzaines* of Easter and Michaelmas annually.<sup>33</sup>

The Feodary of 1316, duly returns John de la Ware as Lord of

<sup>29</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, i, 291.

<sup>30</sup> *Inquisitions*, 28 Edward I, No. 43.

<sup>31</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, i, 131.

<sup>32</sup> *Inquisitions*, 31 Edw. I, No. 53.

<sup>33</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 31 Edw. I, Nos. 24, 25.

Albrighton,<sup>34</sup> but I must refer elsewhere for an account of his career, civil and military, as well as for the annals of the great Baronial house which he represented.<sup>35</sup>

I add some extracts relating to the UNDER-TENANTS of this Manor.—

In 1180, Siward son of Siward is assessed 2s. for *purpresture*.<sup>36</sup>

In 1188, Siward de Albrinton and Richard de Albrinton had each paid an amercement of 1s. to the Sheriff of Staffordshire.

In 1228, Elyas de Aunbritun and William Russel of Brockton are Sureties for a second William Russel.

Jan. 1256, Robert Fitz Agnes de Albrinton is a Juror for Brimstree Hundred at Salop Assizes. Thomas de Albrinton is also a Juror in a Donington law-suit.

About 1261, William Champeneys of Albrinton is on a local Jury.

Jan. 1270, Nicholas Kareles and Burgia his wife and Ranulf de Albryton and Alice his wife sold land in Donington to Hugh de Beaumes.

Sept. 1272, at Salop Assizes, Nicholas Careles was a Juror for Brimstree Hundred. He occurs also on Juries of April 16, 1273, and April 25, 1285, at Astley-Abbots and Pichford.

At the Assizes of October 1292, Nicolas Carles and Adam le Serjant of Albrinton were on the Brimstree Jury.

May 31, 1295, Nicholas Careless is a witness; and July 11, 1296, June 6, 1300, and June 12, 1305, Adam le Serjant occurs on Juries, accompanied in the last instance by Walter, Clerk of Albrinton.

Roger Careles, whom I take to have been son of Nicholas, seems to have bettered the fortunes of his family.—

As early as November 1293, that is in the lifetime of Nicholas, he was Fermor of the great Manor of Claverley under the Crown. He appears again in that position in 1296. He has already been mentioned under dates of 1304, 1316, and 1318, and his Grant of Free-Warren in the latter year extended to lands in Albrighton, Ryton, Whiston and Boningale.

On 30 Dec. 1322, as Custos of certain escheated lands in Worcestershire and Shropshire, he is ordered to restore those belonging to Hugh de Mortimer.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, p. 399.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 1582-3, and *Dugdale's Baronage*, vol. ii, pp. 15, 16.

<sup>36</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, Salop, No. 1. The

preceding name on this Roll is that of Morinus, who is assessed 1s. for *purpresture* in Dunninton (Donington).

<sup>37</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, iv, 642.

In 13 Ed. II (1319-20), he was a Commissioner for letting waste lands in the King's Manor of Ellesmere.<sup>38</sup>

His attestations of Charters during this period are frequent. All that I need further say of him shall presently be related in my account of Albrighton Church, to which he was a great Benefactor.

#### ALBRIGHTON CHURCH.

The earliest notice which I have of a Church here is only inferential, and consists in the mention of Nicholas, Priest of Albriton, about A.D. 1186-7.<sup>39</sup> Some Architectural remains indicate quite as early a period for the foundation.

In 1291, the Church of Albryhton, in the Deanery of Newport and Archdeaconry of Salop, was taxed at £5. 6s. 8d.<sup>40</sup>

About the time when Ralph de Pichford sold his Manor of Albrighton to Sir John de Tregoz, he sold the Advowson of the Church to Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. The latter sale had for some cause or other to be confirmed by Fine, and that Fine was levied by special order of the King.<sup>41</sup> It bears date at York on the *quinzaine* of St. Hilary (Jan. 27) 1301, and purports to be between the Bishop as Plaintiff (*querentem*), and Ralph de Pichford, Defendant (*impedientem*), of two acres of land in Albrighton, and the Advowson of the Church, whereof was a plea of *warranty of charter*. Ralph acknowledged the Bishop's right as of his own (Ralph's) gift,—to hold of the Chief Lords of the Fee. For this the Bishop gave one hundred merks; but an Indorsement on the Fine states that William de Grandisone with Sibil his wife and John de la Ware put in their claim.<sup>42</sup>

Bishop Langton's object in this and other purchases in Shropshire shall be spoken of elsewhere.—

The troubles which beset him about this time were probably

<sup>38</sup> *Originalia*, i, 250.

<sup>39</sup> *Supra*, p. 112, note.

<sup>40</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* p. 248.

<sup>41</sup> *Fines*, 29 Edw. I, Salop. This Fine is particularly instructive as to the Conveyancing Practice of the period. It was not the sale itself nor an accompaniment thereof, but a subsequent assurance of Title. This we learn from the language used in the Bishop's first presentation to the Church which took place seven months before the Fine was levied.

<sup>42</sup> *Apponunt clameum suum*.—I suppose

that they disputed the right of sale, as Joint Lords of the Fee, pending the partition of Tregoz' lands, and that they had an interest in the matter. *Strangers* to a Fine, deeming themselves to have a rightful claim on the premises conveyed, were allowed five years after *levy* of the Fine, wherein they might challenge it. This time was extended in certain cases; but, in general, a Fine which had stood for five years without question barred all subsequent claim.

subversive of still greater designs than some which he actually accomplished. He retained the Advowson of Albrighton for a very short period, and Sir John de la Warre presented to the Church in 1307.

On Dec. 10th, 1326, an Inquest was ordered to ascertain if it would be to the loss of the Crown, should the King allow John de la Warre to grant an acre of land in Albriton and the Advowson of the Church to the Abbot and Convent of Dore,—the said Convent to provide three Monks as Chaplains to do daily service in the Church of Dore Abbey for the soul of said John and his Ancestors. A Jury which sat at Claverley on Jan. 3, 1327, reported that the proposed grant would not injure the Crown; that John de la Warre held the Manor of Albrighton *in capite* by one Knight's fee; that the Church was worth £20. *per annum*, that the said John had various other estates, such as the Castle of Ewias Harald, the Manor of Manchester worth £200. a year, &c. &c., in Lincolnshire, Gloucestershire, and Northamptonshire.<sup>43</sup>

On May 2, 1332, a King's Writ orders a Jury to inquire whether it would be to the King's injury if Roger Careles had license to grant a messuage, sixty acres of land, and 20s. annual rent in Albrighton to a Chaplain, who should perform daily service in honour of the Blessed Virgin, and for the souls of said Roger and all the faithful departed, at the Altar of the same Virgin in the Church of St. Mary at Albrighton.

The Jury which sat at Shrewsbury on June 10 following, reported favourably of the proposed grant; that the land, &c., were held of John le Wares, Lord of Albrighton, by annual service of a *rose*; that the whole was worth 33s. 4d. *per annum*; that a messuage, two carucates of land and certain rents would remain to Roger in Albrighton and Ritton (Ryton) after the proposed Conveyance; that these last premises were held of John de la Ware by service of 6s. annually, and that they were amply sufficient to discharge all customs and services due thereon.<sup>44</sup>

In 1341, the Church of Albrighton stood at the old Taxation of eight merks (£5. 6s. 8d.), but the Parish was assessed only at five merks, for the *Ninth* of its Corn, Wool, and Lamb. The reasons of the difference were, because the Abbot of Buildwas had three carucates of land in the Parish on which he did not pay corn-tithe, but 10s. in lieu thereof; also because the glebe, offerings, small

<sup>43</sup> *Inquisitions*, 20 Edward II, No. 42. | <sup>44</sup> *Inquisitions*, 6 Edw. III, 2d Nos. No. 115.

tithes, tithes of Mills, and other Spiritualities were very valuable, and did not belong to the *Ninth* proposed to be collected.<sup>45</sup>

In 1534, the Vicarage of Albrighton (of which Thomas Wedouse, Clerk, was then Incumbent) was valued at £6. *per annum*, chargeable with 8s. for Procurations, and 2s. for Synodals. The Abbot of Dore also, at the same period, returned the Rectory as worth £6. 13s. 4d. gross annual value.<sup>46</sup>

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

After NICHOLAS, Priest of Albrinton in 1186-7, I find none till WILLIAM DE PICHEFORD,—collated to the Church by Bishop Walter de Langton on June 4, 1300. The Advowson belonging to the said Bishop by purchase (*ex adquisito*). The Archdeacon of Salop was to induct.

INGELARD DE WARLEYE, Priest, had possession of the Church committed to him by the Bishop's Vicar, "on Nov. 30, 1307, at presentation of Sir John la Warre Knight." The Presentee was to hold it as "commended to him" (*sub titulo commendacionis*) "according to the Constitution."

May 26, 1308, Sir Ingelard de Warle was canonically instituted through Adam de la More his Proctor, who took the oaths in his name.

June 10, 1308, the Church of Mukleston was conceded to the same Ingelard, "for lawful cause, according to the constitution of Gregory, to hold *sub titulo commendacionis*."<sup>47</sup>

JOHN MERTON, Clerk, was presented by King Edward II, by Letters Patent, dated at York 9 Feb. 1319, by reason of the lands &c. of Bishop Walter de Langton having been late in the King's hand.<sup>48</sup> This presentation was evidently on the false assumption

<sup>45</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 184. It does not appear at first why the Abbot's *Modus* in lieu of corn-tithe was an argument in diminution of the *Ninth*, which was a tax upon corn specifically, and which proposed to consider the *tenth* of corn usually paid by a Parish to the Church as an equivalent to the *ninth* of corn now to be paid to the King. Consequently if the Abbot paid 10s. *per annum* to the Rectors of Albrighton he should now pay apparently 10s. or (if his *modus* were a beneficial one) even a greater sum to the *ninth*. Perhaps however the truth of the matter is that the Assessors of the *ninth*

meant to except the Abbot's lands and *modus* altogether. He was not assessed to the Tax in some other instances.

The Abbot of Buildwas' land in the Parish was Cosford Grange.

<sup>46</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 186, 33.

<sup>47</sup> Lichfield Register (Langton), folios 18, 27 b, 28 b, 29.

<sup>48</sup> *Patent*, 12 Edw. II, p. 1, memb. 2. It had been the honour of Bishop Langton to incur the malevolence of Piers Gaveston, the infamous favourite of Edward II. He had not only been under forfeiture but in prison. (Vide *Anglia Sacra*, i, 441-2.)



that Langton was still Patron of the Church ; but though I do not find it cancelled, I discover that on July 1, 1319, one ROBERT, Rector of this Church, had license of non-residence for purposes of study. This probably was the same with ROBERT DE ARDEN, Priest, who, on July 12, 1323, exchanged this preferment for that of—

PHILIP DE WARLE, Deacon, late Rector of Clopton (Lincoln Diocese). The latter was instituted here on presentation of Sir John le Ware, Knight. On Aug. 17, 1323, he had license for a year's non-residence, and again on July 2, 1325; and for two years on Aug. 29, 1328, being in each instance styled Rector of the Church of Albrighton.

JOHN DE ASTON, Chaplain, was admitted to the Vicarage of the Church of Albrighton "newly founded"<sup>49</sup> on the 18th Dec. 1329, at presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Dore. He, or rather one written as Sir William de Aston, vacated the Vicarage by death on Nov. 9, 1332; and on Nov. 23 following—

WILLIAM ANSEYN, Priest, was admitted on the same presentation.

REGINALD DE CHETWYND seems to have been the next Vicar, for on January 27, in the 31st year of Bishop Roger de Northburg (*i. e.* 1353), that Prelate appoints William, Rector of Ryton, to be Coadjutor to the said Reginald who was "worn out with old age and infirmity." Sir Reginald de Chetwynd having however spontaneously resigned in the same year:—

HENRY, SON OF WILLIAM LE SMYTH of Albryton, Priest, was admitted on Oct. 17, at presentation of the Cistercian Abbey of St. Mary of Dore.<sup>50</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL AND MONUMENTAL REMAINS.

Albrighton Church has a Western Tower, the lower part of which belongs to the twelfth century; the upper part, from its similarity to Shiffnal, I should attribute to the fourteenth.

The East Window of the Chancel is a curious specimen of the

<sup>49</sup> The Vicarage was newly founded, not the Church, *i. e.* the Abbey of Dore had obtained an appropriation of the Rectory.

<sup>50</sup> Lichfield Registers, *sub annis*.—I should observe that these last two entries are given with the year A. D. 1351 as their date. They should be 1352 and

1353 respectively, for Jan. 27, 1352, and 31<sup>o</sup> of Bishop Roger are consistent dates, reckoning the ecclesiastical year to begin at Lady Day, as it did in these Registers. The correction of the second entry follows from the first; and both will fall under the year 1353 of modern reckoning.

Decorated class, with a transom,—a feature rarely found in any style except the Perpendicular. The head of the Window has rich flowing tracery.

J. L. PETIT.

DURING SOME RECENT and very extensive alterations of this Church, it became necessary to reduce the floor of the South Aisle to what would appear to have been its original level. In removing the soil an Altar-Tomb was discovered, lying buried about eighteen inches below the surface.

It has been carefully preserved, and placed outside the Church in a situation approximating to its former one.

It is of Stone, and embellished with numerous Coats of Arms, the bearings on all of which can be satisfactorily made out. This Tomb will have been thus unceremoniously buried more than two Centuries since; for neither Sandford, in his Church-Notes of 1660, nor Johnson, in 1699, make any mention of it, whereas the latter gives very full particulars of another and in many respects very similar Tomb at Albrighton.

This last was of Marble and is nowhere to be found, whilst the dishonour shown to the buried Tomb has resulted in its preservation; for it is constructed of not very durable stone, and is at the same time very ancient. The Arcade running round its four sides proves its original position to have been isolated from any wall or Niche. The Pillars and Arches which form this Arcade belong to the "Early-English" period of Architecture and to the thirteenth Century.—Altar-Tombs of that date, in memory of private persons, are by no means common. I offer full particulars of this one, rather for its curiosity and possible import in our future investigations than that I am at present able to declare in whose memory it was first erected.—

The upper slab is occupied by a fleury cross whose lower limb extends the whole length of the tomb.

In the centre-point of this cross is this coat,—

I. Three Chevronels.

Above and below the right limb of the cross are these,—

I. Bendy of ten pieces.

II. Two Chevrons.

Above and below the left limb are,—

I. Three Fleur-de-lys.

II. Two Bars and (perhaps) a Canton.



ALBRIGHTON CHURCH. A. D. 1835.



On the dexter side of the lower limb are these—

- i. Fretty.
- ii. A Cinquefoil between eight Mulletts, all pierced. (Pichford).
- iii. Three Fleur-de-lys, two and one.
- iv. Fretty, on a Canton a Cinquefoil pierced.

On the sinister side of the lower limb are these,—

- i. A Cinquefoil pierced between eight Martlets, three, two, two, and one (Pichford).
- ii. A Fesse and in chief three Roundels.
- iii. A Cinquefoil pierced between eight Cross-crosslets. (Pichford).<sup>51</sup>
- iv. Barry of ten pieces.

The North side of the tomb has the following, placed above the successive Pillars which form the Arcade.—

- i. Three Cinquefoils, two and one.
- ii. Fretty.
- iii. A Cinquefoil between eight Martlets.
- iv. Three Fleur-de-lys, two and one.
- v. Quarterly—first and fourth, a Bend; second and third, Fretty. (Despencer).
- vi. Bendy of ten pieces.

The West side has these,—

- i. A Fesse and in chief three Roundels.
- ii. Three Chevronels.

The South side has these,—

- i. Bendy of ten pieces.
- ii. Fretty.
- iii. Two Bars, on a Canton a Cinquefoil.
- iv. Three Fleur-de-lys, two and one.
- v. A Cinquefoil pierced between eight Martlets.
- vi. Two Chevrons.

The East side of the Tomb has the Arcade continued, but no Arms above the Pillars.

The corners of the Tomb immediately below the Slab are sculptured with Fleur-de-lys and Cinquefoils.

In 1699, the South Aisle of Albrighton Church contained the Marble Tomb above alluded to. Of this, as it has now disappeared, I add the particulars from an Harleian MS.<sup>52</sup>—

<sup>51</sup> *Vide supra*, p. 155, note 28. This coat was also borne by Umfravill. | <sup>52</sup> Harl. MS. 5848, fo. 41. Church Notes taken by J. Johnson, May, 1699.

The Upper slab exhibited seventeen coats of arms, five of which were arranged so as to form the upper limbs of a rude cross, which extended to the whole length of the tomb. The other twelve coats were arranged, two at the S. W. and N. W. angles of the slab, and ten down the sides of the lower limb of the cross.

The five coats composing the cross were these—

- I. (*Upper limb*) Two Bars and a Canton.
- II. (*Right limb*) Fretty.
- III. (*Left limb*) Two Chevronels.
- IV. (*Lower limb*) A Fleur-de-lys.
- V. (*Centre*) A Chevron.<sup>53</sup>

The other twelve coats were as follows—

- I. (*At S. W. angle*) Two Chevronels within a Border.
- II. (*At N. W. angle*) Three Chevronels.<sup>54</sup>
- III. (*South side*) Fretty, a Label of three points.
- IV. ( *Do.* ) Semeé of cross-crosslets, a Rose. (Pichford).<sup>55</sup>
- V. ( *Do.* ) Three Fleurs-de-lys.
- VI. ( *Do.* ) Barry of six.
- VII. ( *Do.* ) Two Chevronels within a Border.
- VIII. (*North side*) A Cinquefoil pierced, between nine Martlets.
- IX. ( *Do.* ) A Fesse, and in chief three Roundels.
- X. ( *Do.* ) Semeé of cross-crosslets, a Rose.
- XI. ( *Do.* ) Two Bars, on a Canton, a Rose.
- XII. ( *Do.* ) Fretty, on a Canton a Rose.

Johnson notices that the Windows of the South Aisle of Albrighton Church contained twelve coats of arms, in “very old glass.” We thus obtain the colours of some of the above.

They were as follows—

- I. Gu, three Fleurs-de-lys or.<sup>56</sup>
- II. Barry of six, or and az. (Pembruge).
- III. Az. Semeé of cross-crosslets, a Rose or.<sup>57</sup>
- IV. Gu, frettee d’or, a Label of three points az.
- V. Gu, frettee d’or.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Or, a Chevron Gu, is the coat of the Barons Stafford.

<sup>54</sup> Arg. three Chevronels Gu, is a coat of Langton, but not of Bishop Langton. Or, three Chevrons Gu, is the better known cognizance of De Clare.

<sup>55</sup> Here and wherever else, in these notices, Johnson has depicted a Rose, we

are to understand a Cinquefoil.

<sup>56</sup> This charge is associated with the name of De Burgh.

<sup>57</sup> Probably the charge was a Cinquefoil rather than a Rose. If so the coat was one of those borne by Pichford.

<sup>58</sup> Audley bore Gu, a Fret or.

- VI. Gu, a fesse arg. in chief three Plates.<sup>59</sup>
- VII. Arg. two Bars az. on a Canton of the second a Rose or.<sup>60</sup>
- VIII. Arg. frettee gu, on a Canton az. a Rose or.<sup>61</sup>
- IX. Bendy of eight or and az. (Montfort).
- X. Az., a Cinquefoil between five Mulletts or, all pierced of the field. (Pichford).
- XI. Az. between nine Martlets (four, two, two, and one), a Cinquefoil or, pierced of the field. (Pichford).
- XII. Gu, three Fleurs-de-lys, or.

In the Chancel Windows were the following coats.—

- I. *Blank*, empaling Az., three Stirrups with leathers or (Giffard).
- II. Ermine, a Cross patonce sa.
- III. Gu, seven Mascles or, three, three, and one, a Border argent.<sup>62</sup>
- IV. Arg. on a Bend az. three Roses or.
- V. Arg. on a Saltire gu, a Rose or.
- VI. Party per pale arg. and gu, two Lions rampant counter-changed; on a chief per pale gu and arg. three Escallops counterchanged.

Dugdale inserts in his Visitation (1663-4) from the notes of Francis Sandford, Rouge Dragon, the following.<sup>63</sup>—

In an East Window of the Chancel.

- I. Erm. a Cross patonce sa.
- II. Arg. six Mascles, three, two, and one, within a Border gu.
- III. Arg. on a Fesse az. three Cinquefoils or, pierced gu.

In a South Window of the Church.—

- I. Gu, frettee d'or.
- II. Barry of six, or and az. (Pembruge).

In an East Window.—

- I. Az. a Cinquefoil or pierced gu, between eight Mulletts of the second, pierced of the field. (Pychford).

<sup>59</sup> Johnson attributes this coat to some name which he writes *Meu* :: e.

<sup>60</sup> The charge on the Canton I take to have been a Cinquefoil rather than a Rose. The Cinquefoil was the fundamental cognizance of Pichford, whilst the *ordinaries* of this shield have been already ascribed to Hadley (vol. i, p. 100). Piyard bore a similar coat, viz. Arg. two Bars Gu, on a Canton Az. a Cinquefoil or. I am much mistaken if Ralph Baron Pypard (summoned to Parliament in Edward I's

reign) was not related to the Pichfords.

<sup>61</sup> Johnson ascribes this coat to the name "Vylile."

<sup>62</sup> This coat, without the border, was that of Quinci. It was subsequently borne by *La Zonche*.

<sup>63</sup> *Dugdale's Visitation at the Heralds' College*, fo. 42. It will easily be seen that the same coats are very differently described by Sandford and Johnson. In every case I should prefer the former authority.

- II. Arg. frettee gu, on a Canton az. a Cinquefoil or.
- III. Az. a Cinquefoil pierced, between eight Martlets or. (Pychford).
- IV. Bendy of ten, or and az. (Montfort).
- V. Gu, three Leopards' heads, two and one, jessant three Fleurs-de-lys, or.<sup>64</sup>
- VI. Gu, a Fesse arg. in chief three Plates. (Davenant).
- VII. Arg. two Bars az. on a Canton of the second, a Cinquefoil or, pierced of the second.

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## Bishton.

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THE name of this place (originally Bishops-ton) is the only evidence of its earliest *status*. It was attached to some Episcopal See probably that of Lichfield, but at a period anterior to any existing Record. *Domesday* shows us that Bispetone was in lay hands in the time of the Confessor. Its separation from the Church was therefore no matter of Norman Sacrilege.

In 1085, Normannus (Venator) held Bispetone (of Earl Roger), Turgod had held it and was a free man.

Here was 1 hide geldable. There was (arable) land for VI ox-teams. Here two French men with IIII villains and II Boors had III such teams. Here was a wood which would fatten x swine. In time of King Edward, the Manor had been worth 30s., at *Domesday* it was worth 10s. (per annum).<sup>1</sup>

Bishton followed the usual descent of Norman Venator's Manors, that is, it went to De Pichford; but being so near their growing town of Albrighton it gradually lost the distinct *status* which it had at *Domesday* and became a mere member of the greater Manor.

The Tenants who held Bishopston under the Lords of Albrighton took name from the place. The earliest of whom I find mention, was Henry de Bispeston who will be noticed under Donington, as Surety for Leticia de Humfreston in 1221.

<sup>64</sup> This coat is ascribed to Cantilupe, as well as the same with the Leopards' heads inverted.

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 59, a. 2.



Robert and Henry de Bispeston were Jurors, 20 April, 1253, on the Inquest as to the estate of Ralph de Pichford; and in January 1256, were Jurors for Brimstree Hundred at the County Assizes.

In September 1272, John de Bisopeston acted in the same capacity. Soon afterwards, in a grant made to Lilleshall Abbey by Hugh de Bolingale, the homages and services of Robert de Bispeston and John his Brother were included.<sup>2</sup>

On May 9, 1283, a Fine was levied at Salop, between John, son of Henry de Bisshopeston, complainant, and Robert, son of Henry de Bisshopeston, defendant (impedientem), of two messuages and one virgate in Bisshopeston, whereof was Plea. Robert acknowledged the right of John as of his (Robert's) gift—to hold of the Chief Lords by accustomed service. John gave for this Fine one *sore* sparrow-hawk.<sup>3</sup>

In October 1292, John Fitz Henry de Bispeston was on the Brimstree Jury at Salop Assizes. He occurs in May 1295, as a witness with John, Clerk of Bispeston, and in June 1300, as a Juror with John Fitz Robert of Bispeston. The latter is on a Jury of May 1304, and John Fitz Henry with Peter de Bispeston were fellow Jurors in June 1305, at the Inquest as to the estate of Hugh de Beaumes.

Feb. 10, 1306, John de Aula de Bispeston and Peter de Bispeston were Jurors on an Inquest at Claverley; and in May following, John Robert (*i.e.* Fitz Robert) de Bispeston was on an Inquest at Brug. Somewhat later than this John de Aula attests a deed which will be quoted under Donington.

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## Etone.

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THERE was either some uncertainty about the Tenure of this Manor, which led to its being mentioned twice over in *Domesday*, or else being then a Manor of one hide it was divided into two equal portions. The two entries which describe it are as follows.—

“The same Gerard (de Tornai) holds Etone and William (holds

<sup>2</sup> *Pat.* 18 Ric. II, p. 1, memb. 7.

| <sup>3</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 11 Edw. I, Salop.

it) of him. Turgod held it (in time of King Edward) and was a free man. Here is half-a-hide, geldable. The (arable) land is sufficient for 1111 ox-teams. In demesne there is 1 (team) and 1 serf and 1111 boors; also, there is 1 Guest (hospes) paying a rent of two shillings. In time of King Edward its value was xii shillings: now it is xi shillings. He (Gerard) found it waste."<sup>1</sup>

"The same Rainald (Vicecomes) holds in Etone half a hide. Turgot held it for a single Manor and paid geld."<sup>2</sup>

The latter entry is obviously incomplete, and if not erroneous, it exhibits Rainald's Tenure only as partial or involved. Wherever Rainald the Sheriff had a *Domesday* interest we usually find such interest subsequently represented by Fitz Alan. In the present instance I search for such a correspondence in vain. Nothing held by Fitz Alan in the later Hundreds of Stottesden, Munslow, or Brimstree is found to square with Rainald's interest in the Alnodestreu Manor of Etone.

Leaving this difficulty, and looking solely at the mention of Etone as a member of Gerard de Tornai's Fief, its identity with the modern township of Hatton will be apparent after a very few remarks.

First as to the name;—this Hatton as well as other places (so called now) are usually found to have been written Hettune or Hetune in older documents. The use or omission of the aspirate was also a matter of caprice. Its omission in *Domesday* is noticeable in the words now pronounced Hodnet, Hawkesley, and Hopton, which are represented in that record as Odenet, Avochelic, and Opetune.

Again, Turgod, Saxon Lord of Etone, also held in time of King Edward, the Manors of Cosford and Bishton, one of which adjoins and the other is near to Hatton.

Further, we observe that nearly all the escheated Manors of Gerard de Tornai became tenures *in capite* by Serjeantry, and some of them by Serjeantry of Castle-guard at Shrawardine. The latter was specifically the case with Hatton.

Lastly, Hatton is subsequently found to be a Manor of 1 hide, a measurement which will combine the contents of the two *Domesday* Manors of Etone.

I can therefore continue my account of the latter no otherwise than under the name of Hatton,—

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 259, a. 1.

| <sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 255, a. 2.

## Hatton.

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THE first Document which I have to quote with reference to this Manor is a Deed which on the whole, and notwithstanding some appearances to the contrary, impresses me with an idea of very high antiquity,—as high as the reign of Henry I or Stephen, 1100-1154. Its substance is as follows:—

Adam Traynel of Hetton grants to Ivo his Nephew (Nepoti) his Manor of Ivelith, as well in Ivelith as in Hynnynton, in the County of Salopshire, also common-right of pasture in his (Adam's) land of Hetton;—to have and to hold, &c. in fee;—rendering a Red-Rose yearly at the Nativity of John the Baptist.—Witnesses: William de Beaumeis, Walter Fitz Warin, Robert de Cadeleg, Ralph de Pichford, Richard Wudecote, John de Sahebury, Henry de Bolyng hale, William de Creswell, and many others.<sup>1</sup>

This Adam Treynel was, I suppose, identical with Adam de Hetune, one of the earliest benefactors to Buildwas Abbey. Within fifty years of its foundation, he granted to that house with concurrence of Reginald his Son, a moiety of the *vill* of Hettune, which grant was afterwards confirmed by King Richard I in his general Charter to Buildwas, dated at Winchester, 22d October 1189.<sup>2</sup>

The original Manor of Hatton seems to have been divided into two equal portions by a small stream called Tuy-brook, the course of which may still be traced through a series of artificial pools. The moiety of Hatton which Adam Traynel granted to Buildwas lay to the East of this stream, and was therefore contiguous to those other early acquisitions which the Abbey made at Ruckley and Cosford.

<sup>1</sup> This Charter is among the Rawlinson MSS. in the Bodleian Library. Having never seen more than three or four manorial deeds of this early date, I have little wherewith to compare the one under notice.—It is on an unusually large scale, both as regards the parchment, the hand-writing, and the seal. The latter is completely defaced. The objection to its extreme antiquity, as assigned in the text, is that it has the formulas "Habendum et Tenendum," and "Hiis Testibus," usually taken to indicate a date no earlier than the reign of Richard I. There were a

William de Beaumeis, a Walter Fitz Warin, and a Ralph de Pichford in Henry III's time, and each of them likely to attest a deed concerning lands in this quarter, though I should not expect their names to occur in the order indicated above. There were also persons bearing each of these three names in time of Henry I. They were all similarly likely to attest such a deed as this.

As far as I can judge, the names of the other witnesses belong to a period anterior to the reign of Richard I.

<sup>2</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 359, No. xvi.

The Monks were ever most assiduous in extending their possessions here. During the reign of Richard I, as I conclude, they obtained a grant from John de Hemes of a virgate and twelve acres of his demesne in Hettun. This was clearly a part of that moiety which lay to the west of Tuy-brook, and which John de Hemes held under Traynel.

This second acquisition was followed by a third not later than the year 1202, and of which we have full particulars—

Walter, Son of John de Hemes, with assent of his Mother, his heir and his friends, grants and confirms to the Abbey of Buldewas in perpetual *almoign* all that land of Hettun, viz. a virgate and twelve acres, which his Father gave of his demesne. He adds to the gift “all the land which is between the road of Hyvelith (Evelith) and Tuiroc, which was formerly heath, and four meadows which pertain thereto.” This latter land the Monks were to hold of Walter by an annual rent of 12*d.* payable to him and his heirs, and by discharging a further annual rent of 5*s.* which was due to the Grantor’s Chief Lord,—Robert Trainel. The Monks were also to satisfy all foreign service due on half-a-virgate of said land, but the rest was to continue free, as of demesne. For this grant the Monks received the Grantor, his Mother, and his Heirs into their fraternity.—Witnesses : John le Strange, Hugh de Pichford, Reginald de Tirne, Wido de Saweburi, Hamo Fitz Marscot, Richard de Ruiton, Nicholas de Bolinchale, William Crasset, Baldwin de Hinetun, and John his Son, Peter de Hales, Hugh de Becchebur, Reginald le Budel of Ruiton.<sup>3</sup>

Robert Trainel mentioned in the above deed as Lord of Hatton, must be taken as a Successor of Adam Trainel and Reginald his Son, but by what relationship I cannot determine. At the Assizes of Oct. 1203, he appears as *Essoigner* of Adam de Hereford, a non-attendant at the *Common Summons*, and of whom we have heard before.<sup>4</sup>

The Tenure by which the Trainels held Hatton was *Petit Serjeantry*, of which we now first begin to have some evidence. King John’s fifth *Scutage*, that of 1204, was assessed upon Serjeantries. Accordingly we read on the Pipe-Roll that Robert de Tremell fined half a merk for the same.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Charter formerly in possession of Humphrey Briggs, Esq., copied by Blake-way from Wm. Mytton’s MSS. The Seal of this deed is charged with a Lion passant. The Legend is as follows—

SIG. WALTERI FIL. JOHANNIS DE HEME.

Wido de Shawbury, one of the witnesses, was murdered about 1202, which gives the proximate date.

<sup>4</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 181.

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6 John, Salop.

And soon after this, Robert Trainel died, for I find that about March 1205, William Trammell gave the King fifteen merks to have custody of the lands and heir of the said Robert till the said heir should be of age. Mandate accordingly issued to the Sheriff of Salop.<sup>6</sup>

William Trainel seems to have been a Lawyer. He had already appeared in 1199 and 1200 in the Courts of Westminster as *Essoigner* of several parties to Shropshire Law-suits. He paid his fine of fifteen merks by instalments in 1205, 1206, and 1207.

Nevertheless, about March 1210, he seems to have lost this wardship, though the heir was still a Minor.

The lists of Shropshire Serjeantries, about 1211,<sup>7</sup> tells us that Robert de Tremeill (the said heir) was then in custody of the King; that his Tenure was Hatton, on which the Sheriff was accountable, at the Exchequer, for 40s. *per annum*.

In perfect conformity with this return I find that at Michaelmas 1212, the Sheriff accounted 100s. at the Exchequer "for two-and-a-half years *ferm* of Robert Trainel's Hatton," and that at Michaelmas 1214, he accounted £4. on the same, viz. the *ferm* of two years more.<sup>8</sup>

This *ferm* of 40s. *per annum* was the exact income of Robert Trainel's land, for, as will presently appear, he had previously to his death granted his interest in Hatton to Buildwas Abbey for a term of years, reserving only the said rent.

On Jan. 12, 1215, Robert Trainel (the younger) was of age, and fined "50s. for his *Relief*, and to have receipt of 40s. rent, which the Monks of Buildwas were to pay the said Robert for the term during which R. Trainel his Father had demised his land of Hatton to them to *ferm*, so that, the said term ended, the land may come peaceably to said Robert's hands." The King's writ forthwith issued to the Sheriff commanding him to take security for the fine of 50s. and give *seizin* of the said rent, and (when the term should expire) of the said land, to the heir.<sup>9</sup>

It was an arrear of this fine, viz. 10s. for which in 1218, Martin de Patishull a great Justiciar of that period, undertook to be answerable on behalf of Robert Trainel. Respite was accordingly given till Michaelmas for payment of the same.<sup>10</sup>

I am inclined to think that the Monks of Buildwas continued

<sup>6</sup> *Fines*, 6 John, memb. 5.

<sup>7</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 56, 417; and  
*Liber Rub. Scacc.*

<sup>8</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 14 and 16 John, Salop.

<sup>9</sup> *Rot. Claus.* i, 182.

<sup>10</sup> *Memoranda*, 2 Hen. III.

to hold Robert Traynel's land at *ferm*, either under the old lease, or a renewal thereof by himself. In 1219, they are paying the Lord of Ideshale a rent of 3s. *per annum* for common-pasture in Ideshale.<sup>11</sup>

In 1227, among Tenures in Brimstree Hundred we read that Robert Traynel holds half-a-hide in Henton (Hatton) by Serjeantry of finding one serving foot-soldier at Shrewrthin, at his own cost, for fifteen days, if need shall be, and that the Tenure is worth 40s. *per annum*.<sup>12</sup>

We now come to the transaction by which the Monks of Buildwas at length obtained full possession of that moiety of Hatton of which they had been previously Lessees, and so became Lords of the undivided Manor.—

Robert, son of Robert Traynel of Hattone, for the health of his soul, granted to the Monks in *frank almoigne*, all the land, and wood, and heath, and moor, which he had, as well in demesne as in seignery (in servicio) in a moiety of the *vill* of Hattone, viz. whatever lay “between the rivulet of Tuybroc as it descends into the stream of Worth (Worf) on one side, and the boundary fences of Hynetone (Hinington) and of Grenhull (Grindle) on the other side, down to the aforesaid stream of Worth.” He also conceded to the same Monks the other moiety of the *vill* of Hattone which they already had, by gift of Adam Traynell of Hattone.<sup>13</sup>

This Deed probably passed about 1248, and about 1251 an Inquest of Tenures found the Abbot of Buldewas holding two carucates of land in *Solde-hatton* of the gift of Robert Traynel who used to hold that *vill* of the King *in capite*.<sup>14</sup>

In 1252, Nicholas, Abbot of Buildwas, withdrew the suit of Hatton from the Hundred of Brimstree, a further proof, not only of his *seignery* there, but of the Manor being independent of any other. The King was said to be damaged 2s. *per annum* by this withdrawal, which probably was in conformity with the special privileges of a Cistercian House.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 378.

<sup>12</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 53. If one moiety of Hatton was half a hide, the whole must have necessarily been a hide. Herein we have a repetition of the *Domesday* estimate.

<sup>13</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 358; xiii. The witnesses are Sir Ralph de Picheford, Richard de Grenchul, Hugh de Leya, Osbert de Stircheleg; also (as in *Rot. Cart.* 20 Edw. I, memb. 40) Nicholas, Parson of Hope,

Ralph de Stanton, Humfrey de Humfreston, Robert de Dudmaston, and Henry Crasset.

<sup>14</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 60. I cannot account for this name or *misnomer* of *Solde-hatton*, unless it be a confusion with *Cold-hatton*; a place however where Buildwas Abbey had never any concern.

<sup>15</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 22 dorso.

At the Assizes of 1272, when this presentment was made, William Crasset sued the Abbot for his Manor of Hatton *juxta* Edeshale (Idsall), as his (William's) right and inheritance, and to be held by him of the King *in capite*. The Abbot appeared and pleaded that "there were two *vills* of Hatton in this County, viz. Hatton Crasset and Hatton Traynel," and that the Plaintiff had not specified either of them.<sup>16</sup> This plea, which however I cannot understand, was effectual, for the Abbot was dismissed *sine die*.

In 1291, the Temporalities of the Abbey of Buildwas in Atton (in Newport Deanery and Salop Archdeaconry) were thus estimated.—

Two carucates of land £1. 0s. 0d.; Profits on Live Stock £6. 2s. 6d. Pannage 2s. 0d.—Total £7. 4s. 6d.<sup>17</sup>

Hatton continued in possession of Buildwas Abbey till the Dissolution; the Abbot declared his rents there to amount to £5. 6s. 8d. *per annum*, and the tithes to be farmed at £2.<sup>18</sup>

A CHAPEL is said to have been sometime existent here, a most probable adjunct of a Manor so circumstanced. The district was however in the Parish of Idshall, and the Monks of Buildwas were, at the Dissolution, still paying a pension of 16s. 8d. to the Vicar of Idshall for administering the Sacraments in "Hatton Graunge."<sup>19</sup>

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## Donington.

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THE Saxon word *ðung* (hilly) scarcely applies to the circumstances of this locality. Dunning was however a Saxon name; and a person so called, and having sometime possessed this place, may possibly be entitled to the simple but enduring monument thus indicated in a word.

*Domesday* mentions the Manor as follows,—

The Earl himself holds Donitone. Earl Edwin held it (in time of King Edward). Here are III hides. In demesne are IV ox-

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 7 recto. There were four or five *vills* of Hatton in Shropshire, but it is clear that Hatton-Crasset and Hatton-Traynel, were names applied to two *vills*, or two parts of the same *vill*, near Shiffnal; otherwise the Plaintiff's description would have been sufficient. I

should suppose Hattou-Crasset to have lain towards Cosford, and to have been some time held by the Crassetts under the Lords of Hatton.

<sup>17</sup> *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, p. 260.

<sup>18</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 191.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 192.

teams and (there are) VIII neat-herds and 11 female serfs, and XII villains and 11 boors with 111 ox-teams; and yet there might be VII teams more (employed) here. Here is a Mill rendering v horse-loads of corn (yearly), and a wood one league long, and half-a-league wide. In Wich there are v salt-pits (belonging to the Manor), which render xx shillings (annually). In time of King Edward the Manor realized £20. (per annum); now (it pays) £9.<sup>1</sup>

The Manors, thus held in Demesne by the Norman Earl, are enumerated in *Domesday* without any formal statement as to their respective Hundreds. Donington and Tong (also a demesne Manor) stood at the convergence of three *Domesday* Hundreds, viz, Alnodestreu (which contained Albrighton), Bascherch (which contained Cosford and Idshall), and Recordine (which came up to Lilleshall). The Hundred of Idshall and Cosford was however determined by a peculiarity of tenure which did not extend to Donington and Tong; and whereas no Recordine Manors are known to have become Brimstree Manors, it follows, I think, from this, and from their proximity to Albrighton, that Donington and Tong were both in Alnodestreu Hundred.

After the forfeiture of the Norman Earls, the Seignury of this Manor passed by grant of the Crown to Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, of whom and his Successors, Lords of Donington and Tong, I propose to give a fuller account under the latter Manor.

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 253, b. 2. There is one clause in this entry which requires special notice, viz. "In Wich v salina reddunt xx solidos."—

The *Domesday* Annotators have left us to suppose that where *Salina* (salt-works or salt-pans) are mentioned in connexion with any Manor, some local advantage is indicated, e. g. that a salt-spring or the sea-coast was near at hand. It is further ascertained that Wich was a generic term applicable to any place where salt was produced. No etymological connexion has, I think, been established between the word *Wich* and *salt*; but I need only mention Droitwich in Worcestershire, and Nantwich, Northwich, and Middlewich in Cheshire, as a few instances of the relationship.

Are we then to conclude that in 1085 the Manor of Donington contained within its limits a district called Wich, wherein

were five salt-works? I suppose it just as probable that it contained five miles of sea-coast, where marine salt was manufactured.

The truth, I imagine, is that five *Salina* in Wich, that is in one of the large salt-districts of Cheshire or Worcestershire, were adjuncts of this Manor, and had been so in Saxon times.

Earl Edwin, the Saxon Lord of Donington, was, next to King Edward the Confessor, the principal owner of the Wiches of Cheshire and Worcestershire.

So much for the state of things at and before the time of *Domesday*.—In the next century (the twelfth) we find Barons, Abbots, and Priors, whose territories lay mainly in Shropshire, holding or transferring shares in the salt-works of both Cheshire and Worcestershire. Distance was no bar to the acquisition of property so essential.



Here we will speak of that collateral race of De Belmeis, whose Ancestor having been enfeoffed in Donington held the same under the elder house and transmitted it, so held, to some generations of his heirs.

Without attempting to decide who that William de Beaumeis was who stands first witness of the deed with which I have commenced my account of Hatton,<sup>2</sup> I proceed to Richard de Beaumeis undoubtedly living in the time of Henry II, holding Donington under the Lords of Tong, and perhaps having an interest at Meadowley by a similar title.

Philip de Belmeis, Lord of Tong, and Cousin as I suppose of this Richard, made, about the year 1139, a grant to the then recently founded Abbey of Buildwas. This grant, besides other advantages, included Ruckley then a member of Tong. Philip's example was in due time followed by his relation and vassal Richard, who (as I understand his deed) granted to the same Monks now established in their Grange of Ruckley, a right of common-pasture throughout his land (of Donington), and three acres of land whereunto they might attach a bridge, which must needs be made across the stream which ran between Ruckley and Donington before such common-right could be available.<sup>3</sup>

Between the years 1152 and 1159, Richard de Belmeys, as a

<sup>2</sup> *Supra*, page 169. Were the date of this deed more certain, I should consider William de Beaumeis to have been Brother of the Viceroy and his Feoffee at Donington.

<sup>3</sup> This very ancient and curious deed is in possession of George Pritchard, Esq., of Broseley. It has already been translated (in *Mr. Dulces' Antiquities*, Appendix, p. lxy), but with one or two inaccuracies, which render a transcript of the original desirable. I give it with the contractions resolved:—

Notum sit omnibus ecclesie Christi fidelibus, clericis et laicis modernis et posteris, quod ego Richardus de Belmeis, cum consensu et consilio uxoris mee et fratrum meorum concessi et dedi Abbati et Monachis de Bildwas totam communem pasturam per totam terram meam, ovibus suis et ceteris animalibus quæ habent apud Rochele.—Et ut ad illam pasturam sine ullo impedimento possint venire, dedi eis

in perpetuum tres acras de terra mea juxta rivulum subtus Chelfesford, ubi pontem suam ultra aquam ponant. Hanc itaque terram cum predicta pastura dedi Deo et Sanctæ Mariæ et predictis Monachis in perpetuam elemosinam pro salute animæ mee et patris et matris mee et ceterorum parentum meorum, ita libere et quiete ab omni terreno servicio et exactione seculari ut nichil mihi nec meis in eâ retinerim nisi tutelam et protectionem contra omnes qui eis in aliquo adversari voluerint. Hujus mee donacionis et confirmacionis isti sunt testes, Bernardus de Saint cum Alano de Bildwas et Adâ Sacerdote, Philippo fratre ipsius Ricardi, Radulfo Venatore, Hemmie de Shakerlau; De Monachis Adam et Gaufridus cum Fratre Rogerio, totusque Conventus.

The Seal of this deed has the figure of a Knight on horseback, with drawn sword and a conical helmet. The words RICARDI DE BELMEIS remain of the Legend.

Knight of Philip de Belmeys junior, Lord of Tong, attests the grant of the latter to Lilleshall Abbey.

In 1157, this Richard de Bealmes is mentioned as having fined ten merks with the King to have some trial (loquela) against Alan de Uppedun. This fine is entered as an arrear till 1160, when the King's writ had ordered it to be excused, calling it a fine for a *plea of seizin*.<sup>4</sup>

In 1167, Richard de Bealmes' (Manor of) Dunninton is entered as having been amerced half-a-merk in a recent *iter* of the Justice of the Forest.<sup>5</sup>

At Michaelmas 1189, Aaron, a very wealthy Jew of Lincoln, having died, his chattels and securities escheated to the Crown. Richard de Beumes had owed him £4. 8s. 6d. which he pays through the Sheriff of Shropshire by successive instalments, the last of which is entered on the Pipe-Roll of 1200.<sup>6</sup>

All that I can further say of Richard de Belmeis is, that he appears to have granted a subinfeudation of Shakerley a member of Donington, to Robert, Uncle of Robert de Wodecote.<sup>7</sup>

It is more than probable that the several notices above given as attaching to the name of Richard de Belmeis indicate a succession of two persons of the same name, probably Father and Son. I doubt not however that, if this were so, both were Lords of Donington. From 1185 to 1203, we have occasional notices of one Robert de Belmeis who I believe to have been representative of another branch of the family, and to have had feoffment in Tong and elsewhere. Of him and his very uncertain succession, I will say more when I come to that Manor.

The next Lord of Donington whom I can discover after Richard de Belmeis was Walter de Belmeis.

He first appears in November 1221, as having been challenged by Geoffrey de Eswell for breach of the King's peace and for robbery. His accuser, though bound over to prosecute, did not appear before the Justices in Eyre, and so was to be arrested, the Jury meantime acquitting the accused.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 3, 4, 5 & 6 Hen. II, Salop. I doubt not that the suit referred to some disputed land at Meadowley, where Alan de Upton (mentioned Vol. I, page 140.) will have been the Defendant, and where I have shown Richard de Belmeis to have been probably interested in 1180 (Vol. I, p. 150).

<sup>5</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. II. *De placitis Alani de Nevill.*

<sup>6</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 1 Ric. I to 2 John, Salop.

<sup>7</sup> Vide *Monasticon*, vi, 264, No. xiii, where Robert de Wodecote (the Nephew) transfers this Tenancy to Lilleshall Abbey.

<sup>8</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 8.

In Michaelmas Term 1223, Walter de Beaumes being one of four Knights who had to try an issue about land in Little Wythiford, was for some cause removed from the panel. About this time, and followed by Philip de Beaumes, he attests a Charter of Roger la Zouch, Lord of Tong, to Buildwas Abbey. He has already occurred as a prominent witness to a Badger Deed which passed about 1227.

About 1240, he is entered, on a Roll of Tenures, as holding a knight's fee in Doninton of the Barony of Herbert Fitz Peter.<sup>9</sup> Here, though the Tenant's name be stated correctly enough, it is probable that the Seignery is altogether misrepresented.

In 1255, Walter de Belmeis was deceased, and, as I have pointed out under Meadowley, Roger de Belmeis, who was his son, had succeeded him.

At the Assizes of January 1256, I find Johanna, widow of Walter de Beaumes, suing several under-tenants in Donington for her dower.—

Her suit against Ranulph, sou of Richard Russell, for thirds in four acres of land and two of meadow, was adjourned to one month of Easter, the Defendant calling Roger de Beaumes to warranty.—

Her suit against the same for thirds in three acres of land and five of meadow, was adjourned till the *Quinzaine* of Easter; and the land meanwhile was seized by the Crown because the Defendant did not appear.—

Her suit against the Prioress of Brewood for a third part of 100 acres, and that against Roger de Pywledon for a third of five acres of meadow, were met by both Defendants calling Roger de Beaumes to warranty, Roger de Pywledon only claiming a terminal interest under demise of Walter de Beaumes.

<sup>9</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 46. Donington was at this time held immediately of Alan la Zouche and of the Honour of Tong. So far, therefore, this entry is not strictly correct. Neither can I suppose it true that Alan la Zouche held Tong of the Barony of Herbert Fitz Peter. I can account for the mistake only in one way. The Fitz Herberts had profited largely by the forfeiture of William de Braose in King John's reign, and were subsequently sharers in his inheritance. Moreover, William de Braose had had in 1204 some Seignorial Interest over Tong. During

the temporary forfeiture of Roger la Zouch, this Seignorial Interest had further gained for Braose the actual possession of Tong as of an Escheat. His rights, therefore, may have inadvertently been taken to have descended to Herbert Fitz Peter, whereas the Tenant-right had been restored to La Zouche, and the Seignorial right (whatever it was) seems to have gone with the bulk of the Honour of Brecknock to the Earls of Hereford.

How Braose originally acquired a seignery in the Honour of Tong I have not the remotest conception.

Roger de Beaumes appeared in these cases and vouched each warranty, so that the Defendants were dismissed *sine die*, and Johanna adjudged to have equivalents out of other lands of Roger de Beaumes.<sup>10</sup>

At the same Assizes, Roger de Beaumes, being impleaded by the Prioress of the White Nuns of Brewood in regard to her right to have *estovers* in Doninton Wood, came to an agreement on the subject.<sup>11</sup>

In this year also, Roger de Beaumes was returned by the Sheriff as one of those who, holding £15. of lands, was yet not a Knight.<sup>12</sup> In 1258, he fined half-a-merk of gold (equal to five merks of silver) to have respite in this matter, and the said fine was still in arrear at Michaelmas 1259.<sup>13</sup>

All that I can further say of this Roger is contained in a deed whereby William, son of Walter Spink, of Culeshal (Kilsall) quits to Roger, son of Walter de Beaumes, all his right in the land which said Walter Spink held under the Ancestors of said Roger, with a messuage, curtilage, and other appurtenances, within and without the *vill* of Doniton.—Witnesses: Peter Giffard, Hugh de Hadinton, Hugh de Bolinehal, John de Pres, Michael de Morton, Stephen Parker (Parcarius), Robert de Piestic, John Fitz Pagan, Ranulph the Forester, and others.<sup>14</sup>

A period of at least ten years now elapses, during which I find neither deed nor Record to throw any light on this succession. In 1270, however, John de Belmeis was suing the Master of the Knights Templars under writ of *Novel Disseizin* for a Knight's Fee in Medweleye (Meadowley),<sup>15</sup> and he must have been of the Donington branch. There was also one Alan de Beaumes whom the Brimstree Jurors presented, at the Assizes of 1272, as not guilty of Larceny. John de Beaumes again occurs in 1284 as holding the Manor of Doninton with Culeshall (Kilsall) and Shakerlawe (Shakerley), under Roger la Zouch, by one Knight's Fee.

This John de Beaumes bought the Manor of Stanwey from his contemporary Hugh de Beaumes, who also had an interest in Tong and Donington.<sup>16</sup>

At the Assizes of October 1292, both John and Hugh officiated

<sup>10</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, membs. 13 dorso, 15 dorso.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 14 dorso.

<sup>12</sup> *Dukes' Antiquities*, Introduction, page vii.

<sup>13</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 43 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>14</sup> Charter in possession of the Rev. Henry Bishton.

<sup>15</sup> *Patent*, 54 Hen. III, dorso. The Templars held at this time the Barony of Castle Holgate, of which Meadowley was a member. (Vide supra, Vol. I, p. 157.)

<sup>16</sup> *Placita Corona*, 20 Edw. I. John and Hugh de Beaumes were not related, or related so distantly that the Crown-Prosecutor, questioning some privilege

as Jurors of Brimstree Hundred; the former too was returned as Tenant of a Knight's Fee, and yet not a Knight.<sup>17</sup>

July 11, 1296, both Sir Hugh and John de Beaumes were on the Inquest as to the estate of Fulk de Pembridge of Tong, but the former only is distinguished as a Knight.

A writ of King Edward I, dated May 1, 1304, directs an Inquest to be held to ascertain whether it would injure the King if he allowed John de Beaumeys to grant ten acres of land and ten acres of wood in Donyton to the Prioress of the White Nuns of Brewode. The Inquest, which was taken at Salop on May 14 following, reported in favour of the grant, adding that the land in question was held of Alan la Zouche by military service, "for that John held the Manor by half a Knight's Fee under said Alan, and therein were three carucates of land, 300 acres of wood, twenty acres of meadow, and five merks of annual rent over and above the twenty acres proposed to be alienated, which twenty acres were worth 3s. 4d. per annum."<sup>18</sup>

June 12, 1305, John de Beaumes was still living, for the Inquest then taken on the death of his contemporary, Hugh de Beaumes, shows the latter to have held a messuage, &c. in John's Lordship of Donington.<sup>19</sup>

And within ten years of the last date, John de Beaumes was deceased, leaving two sons Hugh and John, the latter of whom, being the younger, and having some interest in both Donington and Stanwey by disposition of his Father, resigned the same to his elder Brother. The deed is in the form of a common *quit-claim*, the Grantor styling himself "John de Beaumeys, son of John de Beaumeys Lord of Donython."<sup>20</sup>

In 7 Edw. II (1313-4) died Alan, last Baron Zouche of Ashby, and the Inquest on his death duly records his seignery at Donington where he is said to have held half a Knight's Fee.<sup>21</sup>

claimed by John de Beaumes at Stanwey, denied their relationship altogether. It is this single circumstance which has enabled me to distinguish the two lines which they represented.

<sup>17</sup> Ibidem, memb. 51 recto, 23 recto.

<sup>18</sup> *Inquisitions*, 32 Edw. I, No. 125.

<sup>19</sup> *Inquisitions*, 33 Edw. I, No. 16.

<sup>20</sup> Charter in possession of the Rev. Henry Bishton. The witnesses are Sirs Walter de Huggefurd and William le Forcer, Knights; Henry de Beaumeys (son and heir of Hugh who died in 1305),

Roger Carles, Roger de Pynelesdon, Richard de Knycheleye (Neachley), John de Aula de Bispeston and others. It must certainly have passed between 1305 and 1324, and, forasmuch as it is undated, probably in the earlier half of that period.

An undated deed of Fulk Pembruge's, which I shall set forth under Tong, exhibits a combination of names almost identical, and passed probably in 1312.

<sup>21</sup> *Inquisitions*, 7 Edw. II, No. 36.

But to return to Hugh de Beaumes his Tenant.—He, like his Father, wishing to benefit the Convent of White Nuns of Brewood, procured the King's Writ (dated 10th July 1315, ordering Inquest to be made as to the damage which the Crown would suffer if he granted thirty acres of wood in Donynton to the Prioress. The Jurors sat at Donynton on 28th July, and reported that the grant would be harmless; that the wood was held of William de Mortimer Lord of Ashby la Zouche, with other lands in Donynton, by service of half a Knight's Fee; that the thirty acres were worth 5*s. per annum*; that the said William de Mortimer and the Earl of Hereford were mediate between Hugh de Beaumes and the King.<sup>22</sup>

In 1316, Hugh de Beaumeys was duly returned as Lord of the Manor of Donnington.<sup>23</sup>

On April 22, 1324, styling himself Lord of Donynton, he grants to John de Beames his Brother, a messuage in Shakerlew, which John atte Syche held, and two parcels of adjacent land in addition, with two pieces of waste in Donynton Wood, &c., to hold to John and his heirs lawfully begotten, at a rent of 8*s.* payable to the Grantor and Helena his wife and the Grantor's heirs, for all services except heriots and suit of the Grantor's Court of Donynton. He also grants wood for fire and fence, and the accustomed rights of common for all the Grantee's own stock and for 240 sheep of other persons. If the Grantee die without lawful issue, then the premises shall remain to John, son of said John, and his heirs lawfully begotten, whom failing remainder is limited to the right heirs of John Senior.<sup>24</sup>

All that I can further say of Hugh de Beaumes, Lord of Donnington, is that he was returned in 1324, as a Man-at-Arms liable to attend the Great Council summoned to meet at Westminster on May 30 in that year.<sup>25</sup>

A fine of the Manor of Donnington levied in 1329, seems to indicate that Henry de Beaumeys was then Lord thereof. He, Henry, was no relation to Hugh, and therefore if any change had occurred it will have been rather by purchase than by

<sup>22</sup> *Ad quod damnum*, 9 Edw. II, No. 121.

<sup>23</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. iv, p. 399.

<sup>24</sup> Charter in possession of the Rev. Henry Bishton. This deed is dated at Donynton, on Sunday, in the close of

Easter, 17 Edw. II, and is attested by Roger de Pulesdon, John Humfrey, John Carlas, William de Blymyll, and Richard son of Syman Lucas. Sir Robert de Atterlegh, Rector of Tong, is mentioned as an adjoining freeholder.

<sup>25</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, IV. 518.

succession. This Fine shall be given at length, when I come, under Tong, to speak of the succession of the said Henry.

OF THE UNDERTENANTS at Neachley, Shakerley, and Kilsall, in Donington Manor, I have nothing more to say than has been implied already, or will appear in my notices of neighbouring places.

#### HUMPHRESTON,—

though mentioned in one instance as a Member of Albrighton, is much more generally associated with the Manor and Parish of Donington. I presume the place to have been named after some early Tenant thereof, of whose descendants, or of a family otherwise settled here, we have several distinct notices.—

At the Assizes of 1203, William de Omfreston was amerced for *default*;<sup>26</sup> and at those of 1221, Leticia, Widow of William de Umfreiston, withdrew the suit of *novel disseisin* which she had against Walter de Beaumes for stopping up a road in Brewode to the injury of her free tenement in Umfreiston. Her Sureties were Henry de Bispeston and William Fitz Ralph.<sup>27</sup>

About the middle of the Century, Humphrey de Humphreyston occurs as a witness of some local charters.

In 1272, among Pleas of the Crown connected with Brimstree Hundred, William de Unfreyston is entered as *in misericordiâ* for contempt.<sup>28</sup>

At the Assizes of Oct. 1292, John de Unfreyston sat as a Juror for Brimstree Hundred, and I find the same person under the name of John Humfrey attesting deeds, or sitting on Juries under dates of May 31, 1295, July 11, 1296, June 6, 1300, and April 22, 1324.

#### DONINGTON CHURCH.

The Record, which so accurately enumerates five Salt-pits, a Mill, and a Wood as adjuncts of Donington Manor, in 1085, would hardly have omitted the Church had it existed at the time. We must therefore ascribe this Foundation to Earl Roger de Montgomery whom we know to have bestowed the Advowson thereof on Shrewsbury Abbey.<sup>29</sup>

Donington Church will therefore have been built, endowed, and thus disposed of, within eight years of *Domesday*, for Earl Roger died in July 1094, if not a year earlier.

<sup>26</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 5 John, m. 6 dorso.

<sup>27</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, m. 3 dorso.

<sup>28</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, 22 recto.

<sup>29</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, No. 2.

This grant to Shrewsbury Abbey received specific confirmation from King William (probably Rufus), Henry I, Stephen, Henry II, and Henry III, in their various Charters to that House.

The Monks of Shrewsbury were induced to consign this Advowson to Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, who, as Lord of the Manor, will have had special reasons for such an arrangement.

The last moments of that great Statesman, when he lay dying at the Priory of St. Osyth, were devoted to certain formal acts of restitution, suggested either by some previous injustice of his own, or some doubt as to the honorable inclinations of his heir. His letter on the subject of his interest in Donington Church belongs undoubtedly to this period of his life, and was suggested by some such feeling. It is as follows,—

“Richard Bishop of London to all the Barons of the County of Scropscire greeting. I will that ye tender testimony for the Monks of St. Peter, that Roger the Earl gave them the Church of Doninton before that I obtained the *vill*; and I do have the same Church from them, not as a gift, but as a trust (non donatam sed prætitam) as long as they may will. Farewell.”<sup>30</sup>

Thus in January 1127, will the Monks of Shrewsbury have obtained a second title-deed to the Advowson of Donington.

I should have observed that Earl Roger's grant of Churches to Shrewsbury Abbey was accompanied by a right of appropriation, subject only to the lives of existing Incumbents. Such a right must have been from the first exercised under Episcopal sanction. In the case of Donington it was commuted at a very early period for an annual pension of half-a-merk (6s. 8d.), payable by the Incumbent to the Abbey.

These rights of Advowson and Pension generally were confirmed to the Abbey by Charters of Roger de Clinton,<sup>31</sup> Walter Durdent,<sup>32</sup> and other succeeding Bishops of Chester, Coventry, or Lichfield; the specific pension of half-a-merk, I also find authorized in a Charter of Richard Peche,<sup>33</sup> Bishop of Lichfield from 1161 to 1182.

In 1291, the Church of Doniton in the Deanery of Newport

<sup>30</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 353 b.

<sup>31</sup> Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 7, b, is undoubtedly the Charter of Roger de Clinton (1129-48). It confirms the Church of Donytone, with a pension of half-a-merk.

<sup>32</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 61.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 329. But a Charter of Roger Bishop of Chester (No. 328) names a pension of 3s. 4d. only as due from Donington. However the Confirmation of John de Peccham, Archbishop of Canterbury (No. 62), names the higher sum.



stands *taxed* as of £2. 13s. 4d. annual value, but mention of the Abbot of Shrewsbury's pension is omitted.<sup>34</sup>

In 1341, the Commissioners assessed the parish of Dunnynton at £1. 3s. 4d. for the ninth of corn, wool and lamb. The reasons why it was assessed so low, were because a thirtieth of wheat was payable as tithes of one carucate held by the Abbot of Buildwas, and because another carucate held by the same Abbot lay untilled; also because the Prioress of the Nuns of Brewod had three carucates of land in the Parish and paid tenths thereon to the Pope, and because the glebe, small tithes, the mill, and other spiritualities went to swell the greater sum (the Taxation) and did not affect the ninth conceded to the King.<sup>35</sup>

In 1534, the Rectory of Donyngton (of which Richard Hill was Incumbent) was of £14. gross annual value, which was chargeable with 13s. 4d. for Synodals and Procurations.—

The Abbot of Shrewsbury still continued to receive a pension of 6s. 8d. therefrom.<sup>36</sup>

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

The earliest of these, of whom I have any notice, was a victim of the times in which he lived.—

At the Assizes of January 1256, the Jurors of Brimstree Hundred reported how SIMON, Parson of Dunnynton, had been slain by unknown Malefactors, who had also burnt his house, and how the *vills* of Dunnynton, Tonge &c. had made no pursuit after the assassins.<sup>37</sup>

At this period the murdered man had been succeeded by one named JAMES, for at the same Assizes an issue was tried as to whether—

Ranulph le Forester had unjustly erected a fence in Duniton to the injury of the free tenement of Hugh de Schenton in the same *vill*. Roger de Halton (Haughton), Adam Pollard of Legh, Hugh de Bullinghal (Boningale), Thomas de Albrigton, Robert de Esthull (Astall), and John de Estwik, Recognizors in this cause,

<sup>34</sup> *Pope Nich. Taxation*, p. 245.

<sup>35</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 193. We know of no grants made to Buildwas Abbey in Donington Manor, except three acres and a right of Common by Richard de Belmeis. The Parish will therefore have originally been more extensive than the Manor, perhaps comprising part of

Ruckley, or else the right of Common must have been commuted for a definite quantity of land within the Manor.

<sup>36</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. iii, pp. 186, 189.

<sup>37</sup> *Placita Corona*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 9.

did not appear. It was found however that Ranulph had erected the said fence in the name of James, Parson of Duniton ;—so Hugh the Plaintiff was found to be *in misericordia*.<sup>38</sup>

At the Assizes of September 1272, HENRY DE BELTON, Parson of *Donington subtus Brewode*, having demised a messuage and half-virgate in Donington to Ranulf Russell, and the latter being sued for the same by John, son of John Gernyn, alleged his tenancy to be at will of said Henry, and so was dismissed *sine die*.<sup>39</sup>

RICHARD DE ALBRISTON, the next Rector of Donington of whom I find any mention, died May 4, 1311, and on June 5 following,—

RICHARD DE POLYLEYE, Subdeacon, was admitted and instituted at presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Salop. This Rector has license for a year's study Nov. 6, 1313, and resigned April 27, 1320. On May 3 following,—

SIR THOMAS DE COVENTRE, Chaplain, was admitted at the presentation of Salop Abbey. On March 10, 1329, he exchanged this preferment for the Vicarage of Wotton (Lichfield Diocese), and the late Vicar thereof,—

SIR ROGER DE BOYVYLE, was instituted here at the usual presentation. On Aug. 3, 1330, Sir Roger Doyvile (*sic*) exchanged for the Church of Chirchelalford (Church Lawford, Warwickshire)<sup>40</sup> and the Incumbent thereof,—

ROBERT LE VENER, Priest, was instituted here on the usual presentation. He did not long hold the Living, for on July 9, 1339,—

NICHOLAS DE WASTHULL, Rector of Donyngton, having exchanged this Rectory for that of Weston *juxta* Cammel (Bath and Wells Diocese), the late Rector of Weston,—

JOHN DE PENCRICH, was admitted here. Sir THOMAS (*sic*) PENCRICH, Rector of Donington, died August 25, 1349, and on Feb. 11, 1350,—

ROGER DE UMFRESTON, Chaplain, was admitted on the usual presentation.<sup>41</sup>

FRANCIS SANDFORD notices (in 1663-4) two coats of arms in Donington Church Windows, apparently the same as those which may still be seen there. They are—

<sup>38</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 15 recto (*Placita de Juratis et Assisis*).

<sup>39</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 7 recto.

<sup>40</sup> Compare *Dugdale's Warwickshire*, p. 31 (Thomas's Edition).

<sup>41</sup> Lichfield Registers, *sub annis*.

i. Gu, ten Bezants, four, three, two, and one.

ii. The same, with a Chief ermine.<sup>42</sup>

The first I take to be the coat of Belmeis Lord of Tong, as afterwards borne by his heir—La Zouche. The second will perhaps be the coat of Belmeis of Donington.

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## Brewood Forest.

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BREUDE appears in *Domesday* as a Staffordshire Manor exclusively belonging to the Bishop of Chester. It contained a spacious wood still known as the Bishop's Wood, and which is noticed in *Domesday* as an adjunct of the Manor.<sup>1</sup>

But there was a large tract of land hereabouts of which neither the Shropshire nor Staffordshire *Domesday* takes any notice, but which doubtless formed an exclusive district at the time of the Survey, and was known for more than a Century afterwards as the Royal Forest of Brewood. Its extent may be clearly ascertained.—Weston and Bishop's Wood mark its Northern boundary; Brewood and Chillington its Eastern; Albrighton, Donington, and Tong complete the circle to the South and West.

I have before intimated that land exclusively of the Forest does not necessarily claim any notice in *Domesday*. Here then is an instance of the fact. This district occupied hundreds of acres both in Shropshire and Staffordshire, and the only hint which we have of its existence, or the King's appropriation thereof, is where he is said to have retained in his own hands some, probably adjoining, forest-ground in Albrighton.<sup>2</sup>

No notice has occurred to me of any Royal visit to Brewood or its Forest before the time of King John. That Monarch, whose daily movements for the greater part of his reign are well ascertained, is found to have been thrice at Brewood, viz. April 4, 1200, January 27-29, 1206, and August 18, 1207.<sup>3</sup> Each of these visits

<sup>42</sup> *Dugdale's Visitation of Shropshire*, fo. 42.

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 247 a. 1. The Bishops of Coventry and Lichfield were generally styled of Chester in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

<sup>2</sup> *Supra*, p. 149.

<sup>3</sup> See the "Itinerary of King John," by T. Duffus Hardy, Esq.,—printed in his Introduction to the Patent Rolls of that reign.

formed a halt in a journey between Lichfield and Kinver, and the adjacent Forest was doubtless the object of attraction. Nevertheless it was King John himself who, by one grant after another, surrendered the more imperative rights of the Crown in regard to this district, so that after his reign we find no mention of Brewood as of a Royal Forest.

I will quote one or two documents which indicate the progress of this suppression—

On April 10, 1200, King John, after a visit to Brewood, having reached Worcester, addresses a precept to Geoffrey Fitz Piers and Hugh de Nevill (then Chief Justice of England and the Justice of the Forest) prohibiting them from hindering the Bishop of Coventry in inclosing a Park in his wood of Brewude; for which Park, to be two leagues in circumference, as well as for fortifying Eccleshall Castle, the said Bishop had the King's License.<sup>4</sup>

On March 13, 1204, the King being at Bruges issued his Charter to certify that he "had altogether disforested his Forest of Browud, in all respects pertaining to a Forest or Foresters. Wherefore the said Forest, and the men who dwelt therein, and their heirs, were to be disforested for ever, and *quit* of the King and his heirs, in all those same respects."<sup>5</sup>

On Feb. 4, 1206, the King informs Hugh de Nevill that he has given the Bishop of Chester "license to make a decoy (*salorium*) in his Park of Briwud towards the Forest; and Hugh de Nevill is to allow it."<sup>6</sup>

From this it would appear that the former Charter was not yet in full operation; but the King's retention of his Forest-rights appears more clearly and at a still later period. At the Forest Assizes of March 1209, the following proceeding was duly registered:—

"The Knights and men who live in Brewode in Salopesire give the King 100 merks that they and their heirs may be for ever disforested, according to that which is contained in the King's Charter which they, and the men of Staffordshire, have:—So that all they of the County of Salopesire who have hunted or taken beasts in Brewode within the County of Salopesir may bear their share of the aforesaid fine, rateably with the said Knights and men, according to their respective interests therein."<sup>7</sup>

At these same Assizes, John Bagot and Hamo de Weston were indicted for receiving Marksmen (*Bersatores*) and Hounds at

<sup>4</sup> *Rot. Chart.* 1 John, memb. 25 dorso.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibidem*, 5 John, memb. 10.

<sup>6</sup> *Claus.* 7 John, memb. 4.

<sup>7</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, Salop, No. ii, memb. 1.

Blymhill and Weston, but the result of this indictment does not appear.<sup>8</sup>

I find no later notice of Brewood as a Royal Forest nor of the Crown being seized of any lands in the district. A precept of King John, dated 26th July 1213, allows the Archbishop of Dublin to take thirty stags in Brewud Park; but this precept is addressed to the *Custodes* of the (then vacant) See of Coventry, from which I infer that the Bishop's Park was to supply the order.<sup>9</sup>

### CISTERCIAN NUNNERY OF BREWOOD, NOW WHITE-LADIES.

The Forest, whose boundaries and history I have been sketching, inclosed at the beginning of the 13th if not at the end of the 12th Century two principal objects of interest, viz. a Convent of Cistercian Nuns, whose house, dedicated to St. Leonard, and still known as White-Ladies, was in Shropshire, and a Convent of Black or Benedictine Nuns, whose house, dedicated to St. Mary, was in Staffordshire.<sup>10</sup>

So far from constituting one foundation, as these establishments are sometimes taken to have done, they had nothing to connect them but their propinquity, and nothing in common but a spirit of mutual rivalry.

It is with the Cistercian and Shropshire House alone that we are concerned, and this is the fittest time to speak of it.—

Though associated with Donington more than any other place,<sup>11</sup> the spot still retains some vestiges of its antient *status*. It is parochially and manorially independent. Its ruined wall and consecrated precinct are still protected and venerated by members of the Faith under which it was founded.

Its History, like itself, consists but of fragments, for, however

<sup>8</sup> Some words which seem to have stated the illicit objects of the accused are unintelligible.

<sup>9</sup> *Claus.* 15 John, memb. 3.

<sup>10</sup> I may, in a note, anticipate that third and more romantic interest which now attaches to this district. The Royal Forest of Brewood gave place in course of time to farms and homesteads, one of which, as yet uncleared and unnamed, was afterwards to be known as Boscobel. Perhaps indeed, and at the very time of

which we treat, the King's Forest was already nourishing that sapling oak which was destined in its maturity to shelter a King's person.

<sup>11</sup> Tanner makes this house to be in Brewood Parish, and so a part of Brewood Parish to be in Shropshire. Neither assumption is correct. The Nuns were called "of Brewood," not because their house was in Brewood Parish but in Brewood Forest.

interesting to the Antiquary, no Chartulary of this House is known to exist; we have not even a definite Legend as to its origin.<sup>12</sup>

We are told, and I believe truly, that it was founded in the time of Richard I, or of John. It certainly was in full existence during the latter reign, for besides the grant in Bridgnorth which King John made to this Sisterhood, and which has been already spoken of,<sup>13</sup> his Charter dated September 1, 1212, gives them some immunities in regard to land at Calvretton (Co. Notts) of which they were previously possessed.<sup>14</sup>

Their further endowments, as far as Shropshire contributed, will be or have been detailed in different sections of this book, and where other Counties were concerned, must be epitomized in a note.<sup>15</sup> I may however here say that all details collectively warrant an idea that the property of this Sisterhood was acquired by gradual and small instalments, and that each item represents the consignment of some female member of a wealthy or powerful family to the service of Religion. No more direct and apparent Patronage of this House can be traced in its scattered history than that of the Diocesan Bishops. No consent of the Crown seems to have been necessary on the election of its successive Prioresses.—

The Sisterhood elected their own Superior and the Bishop confirmed or cancelled their choice.

No Seal of the house is known to exist;<sup>16</sup> no earlier Charter,

<sup>12</sup> Mr. Dukes (*Antiquities*, p. 201) says indistinctively of these Black and White Nunneries, that "it is supposed that they were founded by Isabel Launder and Hubert Walter about the year 1195." Part of this supposition may rest upon a Legend, and seems to require a passing note. If Hubert Walter ever founded a Nunnery, we know enough of him to declare that it was the Cistercian rather than the Benedictine Order which would have had his patronage. If again he ever founded a Shropshire Nunnery, it will have been at about the time indicated (1195-6) when he was Archbishop of Canterbury, Legate of the See of Rome, Viceroy of King Richard, and somewhat occupied in this County. His authority in Brewood Forest must, however, have existed solely under permission or direction of the King.—

As to Isabel Launder, her name indeed

is associated with the Black Nunnery of Brewood, but in a way singularly incongruous with any concern in its foundation.—She was its last Prioress, and as such surrendered it to the Commissioners of Henry VIII.

<sup>13</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 361.

<sup>14</sup> *Rot. Chart.* 14 John, memb. 5. The King calls the Sisterhood "Nuns of St. Leonard of Brewud." His Charter of Nov. 15, 1200, to the rival House describes it as the "Church of St. Mary of Brewud." (*Rot. Chart.* 2 John, memb. 20).

<sup>15</sup> See Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, under 'Shropshire;' *New Monasticon*, vol. v, pp. 730, 731; *Leland's Itinerary*, vol. vii, p. 22; *Dukes' Antiquities of Shropshire*, pp. 201, 202; *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, p. 162.

<sup>16</sup> The two Seals alluded to by Mr. Dukes are both of Black-Ladies.

original or transcript, have I been able to discover than that of King John.

The names of a few Prioresses remain to us, viz.—

Alditha, who has already occurred about 1225.<sup>17</sup>—

Cecilia, who seems to have followed her.—

Agnes, who occurs in 1256.—

A letter of Bishop Roger de Northburgh, dated at Heywode, 10th Sept. 1326, directs search to be made through the Archdeaconry of Derby for Elizabeth la Zouche and Alice de Kallerhale, Nuns regularly professed of this House, who had left their Convent. They are when found to be admonished to return within ten days under pain of the *Greater Excommunication*. All who aid or abet their concealment are threatened with the like penalty.<sup>18</sup>

A letter, by the same Bishop, as to a recent election of a Prioress of this House, will show the names and rank of some of the Sisterhood.<sup>19</sup> It bears date at Heywood, May 29, 1332, and recites as follows:—"that the Priory of White Nuns of Brewod had recently been vacant by resignation of Dame Joan de Huggeford, the last Prioress; that on the third day of the vacancy the Sub-prioress and Convent met in the Chapter House and agreed to elect a Prioress by *method of Scrutiny*; whereupon Agnes de Weston (Sub-prioress), Beatrice de Bures, and Joan Giffard were appointed Scrutineers to collect and announce the votes of the Convent; that they did so; and that the result was the election of Dame Alice de Harlegh, a Nun of the House." The Prioress-elect had apparently offered the usual opposition to her own promotion, and at last given the not less usual consent. The premises had been reported to the Bishop whose ratification was necessary.—

He had ordered due inquiry to be made as to all particulars, and finding the process of election to have been informal, cancels it altogether, deprives the electing body of the power to elect on this occasion, and appropriates the same power to himself. The Bishop then ("in his own Pontifical Authority") appoints the same Dame Alice de Harlegh to be Prioress, lest the Convent should suffer harm by a protracted vacancy, and because he has heard of the many virtues by which the said Alice is recommended to the office.—Sir Richard Morys, Chaplain, has the Bishop's mandate to induct and instal the new Prioress.

<sup>17</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 361.

<sup>18</sup> Lichfield Register, iii, fo. 19.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem* Register, ii, fo. 210.

Dame Alice de Harley died in 1349, when Beatrice de Dene, Prioress-elect, and her Convent, agreed to submit such election to the order of the same Bishop. The Bishop in a letter dated at Heywod, July 29, 1349, appoints the said Beatrice to be Prioress, and orders the Archdeacon of Stafford to instal her.<sup>20</sup>

At this period the site and local possessions of the Priory extended to three carucates of land, which, as we have seen under Donington, were estimated to be in that Parish.

In 27 Henry VIII (1535-6), Dame Margaret, Prioress of this House, returned its gross annual income at £31. 1s. 4d., its outgoings at £13. 10s. 8d., and its net income at £17. 10s. 8d.—

The demesne lands at White Ladies contributed £6. 13s. 4d. of the gross income. The balance was made up by rents in Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire. The latter arose from small parcels of land at Higley, Chatwall, Rudge, Bold, Sutton (Maddock), Rowton, High-Ercall, Berrington, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Ingardine, Tedstill, Beckbury, and Humfreston. The Advowsons of Muntford (Salop) and Tydshull (Derbyshire) also were appropriate to White-Ladies, and a pension from Bold Chapel, already alluded to.—

Among the outgoings of the House was a chief rent of 10s. to the Lord of Donyngton; an annual fee of 16s. 8d. to Thomas Gifforde, Esq. their Seneschal; and a Salary of £5. for the Chaplain, who by appointment of the Nuns performed services within their Monastery for the souls of their Founders.<sup>21</sup>

The *Ministers' Accounts* of 28 Henry VIII (1536-7) exhibit the gross income of this House as £35. 3s. 3d.—a difference arising from the addition of a few items of revenue, the alteration of others, and the valuation of the Demesne-lands and Manor being raised to £10. 9s. 6d.<sup>22</sup>

THE ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS at White-Ladies consist of a Chapel in the Norman style with round Arches.

From an ornament over the North Door, I should assign the work to the latter part of the twelfth Century. On the north side is an open round Arch which might have led into a Transept or Chapel.

J. L. PETIT.

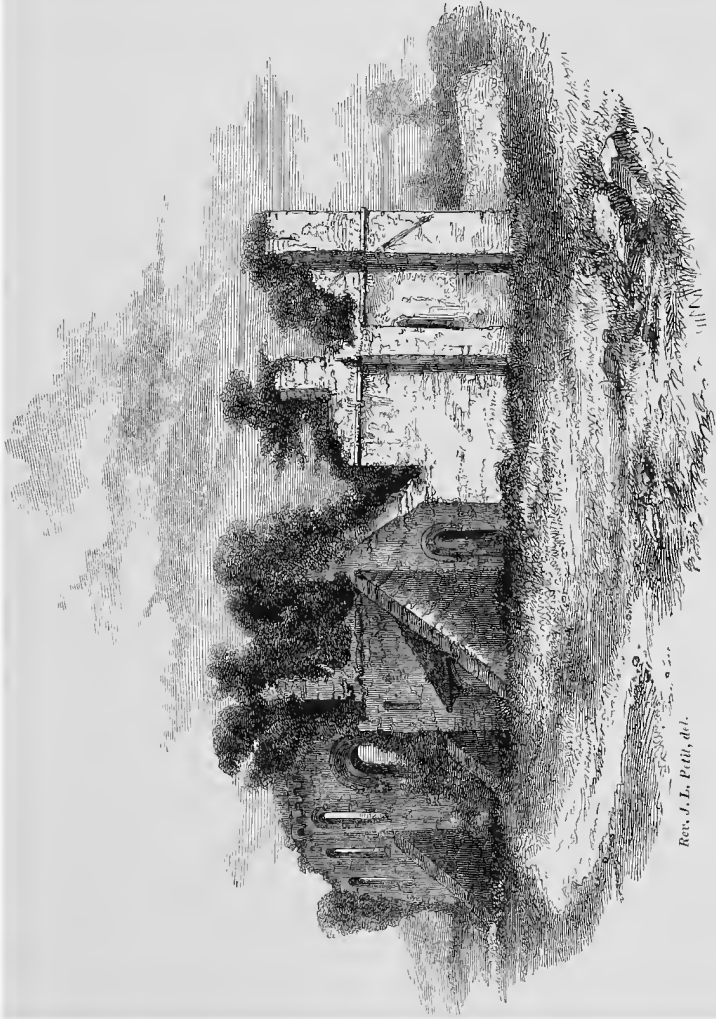
<sup>20</sup> *Ibidem*, fo. 224.

<sup>21</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 193, where the return is properly classified with other Shropshire Houses, while that of the

Black-Ladies (p. 103) is with equal accuracy given under Staffordshire.

<sup>22</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 731.





REV. J. L. PULL, del.

WHITE-LADIES.



## Tong.

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WITHOUT hazarding a conjecture as to the etymology of this name I will proceed at once to state what *Domesday* says of the Manor, whilst as yet it was held in Demesne by the first Norman Earl of Shrewsbury.

“The same Earl holds Tuange. Earl Morcar held it. Here are 111 hides geldable. In demesne are 1111 ox-teams; and (there are) 7111 serfs, and 111 villains, and 11 boors with 111 ox-teams. Here is one league of wood. In time of King Edward (the Manor) was worth £11. (annually); now it is worth £6.”<sup>1</sup>

If there be a place in Shropshire calculated alike to impress the Moralist, instruct the Antiquary, and interest the Historian, that place is Tong. It was for centuries the abode or heritage of men, great either for their wisdom or their virtues, eminent either from their station or their misfortunes.

The retrospect of their annals alternates between the Palace and the Feudal Castle, between the Halls of Westminster and the Council-Chamber of Princes, between the battle-field, the dungeon, and the grave.

The History of the Lords of this Manor is in fact the biography of Princes and Prelates, Earls and Barons, Statesmen, Generals, and Jurists.

These are the great names and reminiscences with which the place is associated!—the Saxon Earls of Mercia, brave, patient, and most unfortunate;—victims of inexorable progress: then their three Norman successors, one wise and politic, another chivalrous and benevolent, the last madly ambitious and monstrously cruel;—then the Majesty of England represented by Henry I, a Princee who, in ability for ruling, almost equalled his Father, and has been surpassed by none of his Successors;—then the sumptuous and viceregal pride of De Belmeis, Bishop, General, Statesman, and withal very Priest;—his collateral heirs with their various and wide-spread interests, dim in the distance of time, but traceable to a common origin;—the adventurous genius and loyal faith of Brittany represented in La Zouche; tales of the oscillating favouritism

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 253, b. 2.

and murderous treachery of King John;—overweening ambition and saddest misfortune chronicled in the name of De Braose;—a Harcourt miscalculating the signs of his time and ruined by the error;—a race of Pembruges whose rapid succession tells of youth and hope and the early grave;—then the open-handed and magnificent Vernons; lastly, Stanley, a name truly English, and ever honourable in English ears, yet for one<sup>2</sup> of whom it was fated to add a last flower to this chaplet of ancestral memories, to cut short the associations which five centuries had grouped around this fair inheritance.

Such summarily is the history of which I am now to give a few of the earlier details.—

That the Norman Earl of Shrewsbury should retain in demesne the richest Manors of his Saxon Predecessors was an act of comparative moderation. Tong and Donington were of this class at a period when a fertile, level, and well-watered soil can alone have constituted Manorial value. That the two Manors thus combined were objects of the Earl's special regard we may learn from the only fact which remains to us of his dealings therewith.—

Within ten years after *Domesday*, he founded a Church in each of them. Churches were at that period so thinly scattered that the necessity of two so near together can have suggested itself only to a mind intent upon the welfare of a certain locality, and the district, thus cared for by the Earl, was doubtless honoured by his frequent presence.—

There were woods wherein he might exercise his favorite diversion, waters which could supply so devout a Catholic with the proper means of abstinence, to say nothing of the salt-works attached to Donington,—those essential adjuncts of a great feudal establishment.

On the forfeiture of Earl Robert de Belesme, Tong and Donington will have been of the Demesne of King Henry I. How long they continued so, we know not; we only know the fact, but not the time or particulars, of a grant which that Monarch must have made of both to his Viceroy, Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London.

Here then is a fitting opportunity to introduce a notice of this remarkable man whose public career for forty years was more or less associated with Shropshire.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Edward Stanley, K.B., Father of the beautiful, but too famous, Venetia, Lady Digby. She was her Father's Co-heir, and, had Sir Edward not sold the estate, Tong might have further been associated with the name of Sir Kenelm Digby.

It is intimated, by a respectable authority,<sup>3</sup> that Richard de Belmeis was, in the first instance, largely and confidentially employed by Earl Roger de Montgomery. If so, he was doubtless largely rewarded; but being a Clerk, and his preferment probably Ecclesiastical, we cannot appeal to *Domesday* for any verification of this statement.<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless we find Richard de Belmeis prominent among the great men who attested the Charters of Earl Roger, and a witness also of all the Charters, genuine and doubtful, which are assigned to Earl Hugh, in the Register of Shrewsbury Abbey.

His non-participation in the treason of Robert de Belesme is apparent and most probably recommended him to the notice and patronage of Henry I. Here I must again quote the Welsh Chronicle for specific details which can be supplied from no other source, but whose veracity is warranted by a most extraordinary coherence with less relevant documents.—

Three Sons of Blethyn ap Convyn, Prince of Powis, had, in the first instance, allied themselves to Belesme, but the promises of King Henry had subsequently detached Jorwerth, the most influential though not the eldest of the three, from the confederacy. On the fall of Belesme, about August 1102, Jorwerth went to the King's Court to claim his reward, but without success. The King afterwards, probably mistrusting his intentions, invited Jorwerth to a conference at Shrewsbury. Jorwerth came, was accused of treason by the King's Commissioners and thrown into prison. This was at the close of the year 1102. The King's Commissioners who were sent to Shrewsbury on the occasion were "Richard de Belmersh or Beleasmo, afterwards appointed by King Henry to be Warden of the Marches and governour of the Countie of Salop: Walter Constable, the father of Milo Earle of Hereford, and Rayner the King's lieutenant in the County of Salop."—

If this be correct it shows us that Rainald, the *Domesday* Sheriff of Shropshire, had not joined Belesme's rebellion, but was in office at a subsequent period. It also shows that Richard de

<sup>3</sup> *Powel's Chronicle*, p. 120 (Edit. 1584). "Cheefe doer about Roger Mountgomery, Earl of Salop."

<sup>4</sup> *Domesday* does not record the names of Church Incumbents or Church Dignitaries; but the Earl had large patronage of this kind, and we know from Ordericus

that he specially affected the society of wise Clerks. Richard de Belmeis' probable tenure of a lay fee at Meadowley has been already pointed out (Vol. I, p. 149), and I am by no means sure that he does not occur elsewhere in *Domesday*, and in a similar relation.

Belmeis did not become Sheriff or Viceroy immediately on Belesme's fall.—And the latter fact can be substantiated by other evidence.—

A Precept of King Henry restores, to Ralph Bishop of Chichester, land near the wall of that City, which he had held "in the day of Robert de Belismo." This precept is addressed to R. de Belmes, Hugh de Faleyse, and all the King's Barons of Sussex. It shows Richard de Belmeis in the King's employ indeed, and as concerned with the escheated honours of Robert de Belesme, but not yet holding office in Shropshire. And this precept passed "in Council at Westminster;"—assuredly that very Council which the King is said to have held there at Michaelmas 1102.<sup>5</sup>

Within the next two months Belmeis will have been sent to Shrewsbury on the commission already described, and, as I believe, for more permanent objects. In fact, there is every reason to think that this Commission closed the Shrievalty of Rainald, and that Belmeis succeeded him,—but with fuller powers than an ordinary Sheriff, and having a deputy (Fulcoius) to discharge the routine duties of the office. This will appear from another precept of King Henry, the object of which was to support the title of the Monks of St. Remigius-at-Rheims to certain lands in Shropshire. This precept is addressed to "Richard de Belmeis, and Fulqueius the Sheriff and all the Barons of Salopesire." It is dated "at Westminster, in Council," and issued certainly at Christmas 1102.<sup>6</sup>

The Chartulary of St. Remigius-at-Rheims supplies us with another, and perhaps later precept of King Henry, which I quote here merely to show that Belmeis was on that occasion addressed simply as Sheriff of Salop;<sup>7</sup> but I have before alluded to the

<sup>5</sup> *Monasticon*, viii, 1168, No. xxviii. William de Werelwast, sole witness of this deed, attests many of the King's Charters at this period. He was sent as Ambassador to the Pope in 1103, and was consecrated Bishop of Exeter in 1107.

<sup>6</sup> We have two copies of this Deed (*Monasticon*, vii, p. 1043; v; and p. 1099), one of which serves to correct the other. The sole witness, Walter or Waldric, Chaplain, attests other deeds of the period; but immediately afterwards he became Chancellor, and as Waldric or Walter, Chancellor, attests various deeds,

the earliest of which bears date Jan. 13, 1103. Thus we obtain the limits within which this precept issued, viz. between Michaelmas 1102 (when Belmeis was not yet Viceroy) and Jan. 1103 (when Waldric was Chancellor). The Court which King Henry held at Westminster (Christmas 1102) is noticed by the Chroniclers and supplies the exact date.

<sup>7</sup> *Monasticon*, vii, p. 1043; vii; and p. 1099. The precept is also addressed to Robert Bishop of Chester, and Nicholas Sheriff of Stafford. It is tested by Henry Earl of Warwick, at Waltham.

complex nature of his office, and the variety of names by which it was consequently described.<sup>8</sup>

Within the first five years of his provincial trust we have a well-recorded instance of his "violence and might," followed however by the exercise of milder powers in his capacity of a Mediator and Judge.<sup>9</sup> Of that however hereafter. We now pass to his ecclesiastical career.—

On Whitsunday (May 24), 1108, he was elected to the vacant See of London, and, not being in full Orders, was ordained Priest on one of the following Ember days (May 27, 29, or 30), by Archbishop Anselm at Mortlake.<sup>10</sup>

In July of this year the King was waiting on the coast of Sussex to embark for Normandy. Anselm came, at the King's request, to the sea-port that he might give the King his blessing, ere he sailed. On the night of his arrival Anselm was seized with sudden illness, and when morning came was so weak as to be unable to cross an arm of the sea which separated his *hospice* from that of the King. The Monarch, hearing thereof, sent the Bishops of Exeter and Winchester to excuse Anselm's attendance, and to recommend perfect rest. He however commended himself in his journey to the Archbishop's regard, his Son, whom he left behind, and his whole Kingdom, to the Archbishop's care. He besought him moreover, by the love he bore him, that he would consecrate Richard, Bishop-Elect of London, at Chichester, since that City was near, and there were Bishops at hand who could assist in the ceremony.

The reason, says Eadmer, why the King was so urgent about this matter was alleged to be as follows:—"because the said Richard was a most able man in secular affairs and the King was arranging to send him, on the instant, far off to the Western Marches of England, there to manage the King's concerns. Anselm had special reasons for not consecrating Belmeis at Chichester, but to oblige the King he performed the ceremony in his own Chapel at Pageham, on Sunday, July 26, the Bishops of Winchester, Salisbury, Chichester, and Exeter assisting."<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 245.

<sup>9</sup> *Salop Chartulary*, No. 1.

<sup>10</sup> Eadmer, p. 96.

<sup>11</sup> Eadmer, pp. 96, 97. I have been particular in giving these details, because in the *Sheriff's of Shropshire* (p. 31) Belmeis is assumed to have relinquished

his provincial office on his Consecration. The probability is that he returned to Shropshire with larger powers than ever.—

I by no means adopt the reflection which in the same page is cast upon *Powel's Chronicle*. Its coincidences with ascertained truth are wonderful.

Thus much from the Diary of Eadmer, the friend and companion of Anselm himself, and by far the most accurate of the Chroniclers of that age.

On August 9, 1108, "Bishop Belmeis assisted at the consecration of Radulph Bishop of Rochester, and made a handsome offering to his Mother-Church of Canterbury, as indeed the King had desired him to do."

Now, probably, Belmeis returned to Shropshire, for the Welsh Chronicler describing him as "Richard, Bishop of London, whom the King had appointed Warden of the Marches," says he was at Shrewsbury in this year. There was a disturbance in Wales, for Owen ap Cadogan ap Blethyn, a Prince of the house of Powis, had forcibly carried off the wife and children of an Englishman,—Gerald Steward of Pembroke. The Bishop is represented as forthwith treating with Ithell and Madoc, sons of Riryd ap Blethyn (and so cousins of Owen) whom with other Welsh Chieftains he bribed to take or kill the offender, and revenge the insult offered to the King of England. Owen escaped to Ireland, but returning within the year was fortunate in finding his enemy Madoc ap Riryd at variance with the Bishop.

The latter had, it seems, required Madoc to deliver up certain English Felons whom he was harbouring. Madoc refused, and his quarrel with the Viceroy led to his reconciliation with Owen, and their joint attack, in the following year, on the lands of all Norman or English settlers in Wales.

Towards the end of May 1109, King Henry returned from Normandy, and the Viceroy of Shropshire was forthwith in attendance at Court. Archbishop Anselm being dead, it fell to this aspiring Prelate's lot to consecrate Thomas, Archbishop of York. This ceremony took place on June 27, 1109, in the Church of St. Paul's, London.

In the Autumn of this year the King visited Shropshire and Nottinghamshire. It was at Castle-Holgate that he issued his writ, appointing Hervey, Bishop of Bangor, to the newly created See of Ely. It was also, as I suppose, during this Royal visit that the Bishop of London adjudicated, in the King's presence, that suit about a Prebend of Morville which has been already described.<sup>12</sup> The Bishop of London passed on with the King to Nottingham, and

<sup>12</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 32. The Assessors | Peverel, Roger and Robert Corbet, and  
in this trial were Alan Fitz Flaald, Hamo | Herbert son of Helgot.



on Oct. 17, attended the General Council, at which was finally settled the constitution of the See of Ely.

At Christmas 1109, the King held another great Court at London, and with more than usual pomp. Thomas, Archbishop of York, was in attendance, expecting that, the See of Canterbury being vacant, he would have to celebrate mass before the King and place the Crown on the King's head. The Bishop of London however led the King by the hand into Church and performed the said ceremonies. Afterwards, meeting at the King's table, the two Prelates again disputed about their precedence, whereupon the King dismissed them both to dine at home, not wishing to hear their quarrel. The Bishop of London's conduct on this occasion was justified by him on two grounds, viz. that being Dean of Canterbury he was the proper representative of the Primacy; and that his Consecration having preceded the Archbishop's he was, according to St. Gregory's Institutes, the superior. Eadmer, who relates all this, knew in fact that it was for the sake of attaining this precedence that Belmeis had hurried forward his own consecration, though other grounds (as above related) had been given out to the public. Eadmer had the truth not only from private friends of the Bishop, but from the Bishop's own acknowledgment in familiar conversation with Eadmer himself.<sup>13</sup>

Belmeis now probably returned to Shropshire, where the unsettled state of the Border must have required his constant presence. Owen and Madoc, before mentioned, had wound up their enormities by the murder of a Bishop, William de Brabant, which so enraged the King that they thought it prudent to retire for a time to Ireland. The year 1110 however found Madoc again in the Principality and ready to purchase the favour of Belmeis. This he effected by murdering Cadogan ap Blethyn, Owen's Father, whom, with his said son Owen, the Bishop most specially detested. Madoc was rewarded by Belmeis with a grant of lands, but Owen, returning at the same time from Ireland, effected a separate reconciliation with the King, in person.

This is the last direct notice which we have of the interference of Richard de Belmeis in Welsh affairs. The grossest treachery seems to have pervaded this part of his policy, but it was perhaps balanced by specific circumstances with which, of course, the Welsh Chroniclers do not acquaint us. They draw, however, a general picture of Wales and its Rulers, faithful enough, and which warrants a

<sup>13</sup> Eadmer, p. 105.

suspicion of the very worst particulars. The King invaded the Country in 1114, but his success, whether in arms or negotiation, had no permanent results. Utter subjugation came in the course of ages to cure those inherent evils, which Wales self-governed must have fostered and suffered from, till the end of time.

Of the duration of Belmeis' power in Shropshire we have no direct information. The apparent dates of the various precepts which the King addressed to him in that capacity, must suffice for our information on this head. The latest of these I have already quoted, as having passed between 1121 and 1123.<sup>14</sup> His resignation at a somewhat later date will appear probable from circumstances presently to be mentioned.

Of Belmeis as a Jurist, we know little more than the great authority with which he was invested, and which, within his Province, was equal to that of Royalty itself. What appears more extraordinary still is, that he should be found presiding at a purely Ecclesiastical Synod of the district. His judgments, the few which remain, belong properly to the localities which they affected. Two of them are preserved to us in his own words as he recorded them in the royal form and style of Letters Patent. The first was given apparently about A. D. 1110, in a Court composed of Church Dignitaries and Laymen which sat at Wistanstow. The second was his decision given in an Archidiaconal Synod at Castle Holgate, about 1115.<sup>15</sup> The extraordinary prescriptive rights of Wenlock Priory were on both occasions in question, and Belmeis supported them with most determined and transparent zeal.

Something more should be said of his, not very frequent, appearance in the King's Court or in company with his fellow Suffragans, something too of his connection with his own See and Diocese.

On August 1111, he was with the King at Waltham (Hants), where the latter was waiting to embark for Normandy. In September 1114, he attended the King when similarly delayed at Burnham (Essex). On June 27, 1115, he was present at the Enthronement of Archbishop Ralph at Canterbury; and, on Dec. 28

<sup>14</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 246. He is both addressed in, and stands first witness to, a Charter of Henry I, which passed at Shrewsbury in the same interval. (*Salop Chartulary*, 46, c.)

<sup>15</sup> *Pat.* 22 Edw. III, p. 3, memb. 34.

King Edward treats the Bishop's acts with the same respect as those of any King his predecessor;—*e.g.* "Inspeximus litteras patentes quas celeberrimæ memoriæ Ricardus Londinensis Episcopus fecit Wenlocensi Ecclesiæ in hæc verba."

following, attended with the King and Queen at the Dedication of the Abbey Church of St. Alban's. On April 4, 1120, he assisted at the Consecration of David, Bishop of Bangor; on January 16, 1121, at that of Richard, Bishop of Hereford; and on October 2, 1121, at that of Gregory, Bishop of Dublin; which last two took place at Lambeth. In this same year he attests Royal Charters at Windsor and Westminster.

On February 16, 1123, William Curboil, Prior of St. Osyth's (a house of Belmeis' foundation), was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury. William Gifford, Bishop of Winchester, performed the ceremony, apparently because the Bishop of London was at the time suffering from paralysis.<sup>16</sup>

He will, however, have affixed his own signature to a great Charter which Henry I expedited, later in the same year, to the Church of Exeter.<sup>17</sup>

William of Malmsbury, speaking of Maurice, Belmeis' predecessor in the See of London, commends him for his magnificent improvements in St. Paul's Cathedral. "But such," he adds, "was the extravagance of his design that he left his successors to pay the cost of his vast undertakings. And at length, when Richard his Successor had assigned all the Episcopal Revenue to the building, supporting himself and his kindred from other sources, he seemed as though he accomplished nothing in proportion to such a prodigal outlay. Wherefore as years passed by he grew weary and despairing of the good intent which he entertained in his early Episcopacy, and by degrees fainted therein."

"There is a place," continues Malmsbury, "in London Diocese, commonly called Cic (Chich) by the East-Saxons, where rests Saint Osyth, that Virgin famous for miracles. This house had Richard amplified with certain grants of land and the introduction of Regular Canons. There were here, and still are, Clerks of noted learning; and a joyful harvest, so to speak, clothed the whole country under the example of men thus trained. And the Bishop himself was at one time minded to retire hither and cast off the ensnarements of the world, especially as he had experienced some warning from a chronic paralytic disorder; but the habit of power restrained his mind, diseased as it was with such allurements. William, who succeeded Ralph in the Archiepiscopacy, was the first Prior of this House, who, though a Clerk, and at first

<sup>16</sup> *Dicelo*, p. 504.

| <sup>17</sup> *Monasticon*, ii, 539, 20.

dreaded by the Monks (of Canterbury), yet did nothing to cause them regret, being a man of sound religion, great affability, and neither slothful nor hasty."<sup>18</sup>

Richard de Belmeis, besides his greater donations to St. Paul's Cathedral and the Priory of St. Osyth, was also a Benefactor to the Nunnery of Clerkenwell.

There is much probability that at the last, he retired to St. Osyth's and died there. The latter event took place on January 16, 1127. When he felt his end approaching, he was careful to make formal record of a certain act of restitution which he owed to the Abbey of Shrewsbury. His Confessors were his own Nephew William, Dean of St. Paul's, and Fulk, a Prebendary of the same Church, who had succeeded William Corboil in the Priory of St. Osyth. The said Prior certified this act of restitution in a series of letters addressed to the King, to William, Archbishop of Canterbury, to Bernard, Bishop of St. David's, and to G (Geoffrey), Abbot of Salop.—

The Archbishop transmitted his intelligence to Pagan Fitz John (then Sheriff) and all the Barons of Shropshire.<sup>19</sup>

This restitution related to the Manor of Betton. Another, not so circumstantially recorded, was of the Church of Donington. It has been already noticed. A third was of the Church of Tong, and perhaps took place before the Bishop was *in extremis*. It was tested by Roger, Archdeacon of Salop, Clarembald the Clerk, and John, Clerk of the Queen.<sup>20</sup>

The Canons of St. Osyth procured the interment of their distinguished Benefactor, within their Priory Church, where a marble tomb long bore the following inscription:—

Hic jacet Richardus Beauveis, cognomine Rufus, London: Episcopus, vir probus et grandævus, per totam vitam laboriosus, fundator noster religiosus, et qui multa bona nobis et ministris ecclesiæ suæ Sancti Pauli contulit. Obiit xvi Januarii, m<sup>c</sup>xxvii. Cujus animæ propitietur Altissimus.<sup>21</sup>

Belmeis, during his occupancy of the See of London, appears to have conferred some Prebendal preferment on his relations, and one at least of these would seem to have had something more than a

<sup>18</sup> W. Malmesbury, p. 134 b.

<sup>19</sup> Salop Chartulary, Nos. 22, 23.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 329 b. The Queen, whose Clerk attested this deed, was, I doubt not, Adeliza, who had been pre-

sent with the County of Salop at a great Court held in the Christmas of 1126.

<sup>21</sup> *Weever's Sepulchral Monuments*, p. 607.

collateral claim upon his consideration. We have nothing however here to do with the Prebendaries of St. Paul's.

Belmeis' successor in all those Churches and lands in Shropshire, which having first belonged to Godebald (the Priest) and Robert son of Godebald, had been conferred by Henry I on the deceased Prelate, was Richard de Belmeis his Nephew. The latter had a special grant of the same from the King, which is preserved, and must have passed about August 1127.<sup>22</sup> This second Richard de Belmeis was son of Walter de Belmeis, brother of Richard de Belmeis I. I shall have to notice him again as Founder or Co-founder of Lilleshall Abbey, and also as eventually occupying the See of London.

The temporal heir of Richard de Belmeis (I), was another son of his Brother Walter, viz. Philip de Belmeis, of whom as succeeding to the Lordships of Tong and Donington I am now to speak.

When Richard de Belmeis on his deathbed directed the restoration of Betton to Salop Abbey, he intimated the possible alternative that his Nephew Philip might be able to re-obtain it by the good will and free concession of the Monks. Fulk, Prior of St. Osyth, before the Bishop had expired, informed Philip de Belmeis, his Knights and serving-men, of the expressions of his Uncle and the state of the case. It appears however that Philip did not acquiesce in the proposed restitution. A suit in the King's Court ensued, and a trial was to have been held before the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury at Woodstock, probably about Easter 1127.—

Then however Philip de Belmeis made default (defecit a justitiâ) and Betton was restored to the Abbey, Archbishop William, Legate of the Apostolick See, certifying the same to all the faithful.<sup>23</sup>

Philip de Belmeis next appears in litigation with Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Lichfield. Philip had seized upon some land (probably lying between Tong and Brewood) to which the Bishop had a claim. The latter was consequently, in 1130, indebted two merks to the King, his fine "that Philip de Belmeis might try legal issue with him (placitet versus eum)" as to the land so seized.<sup>24</sup>

Between this time and the year 1135, we find Philip de Belmeis holding three Knights' Fees in the Honour of Arundel.<sup>25</sup> We have

<sup>22</sup> *Monasticon*, vi, p. 262, No. ii.

<sup>23</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 56.

<sup>24</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. I, Staffordshire, p. 76.

<sup>25</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 65.—The *Liber Niger* is mainly a return of the years 1165–6, and the much earlier date which I thus confidently assign to a particular section

already seen his Uncle the Bishop, interested in the County of Sussex, and the Nephew's tenure there had doubtless devolved to him from that source.

It was probably this Sussex Tenure which, in the year 1138, separated Philip de Belmeis from the cause for which the greater Feodaries of Shropshire were contending, and associated his interests with those of an Usurper. When Stephen, in August of that year, was besieging Shrewsbury, Philip de Belmeis was with him, and attested the Charter whereby the King confirmed the then recent foundation of Buildwas Abbey.<sup>26</sup>

thereof needs explanation. I enter into the question more fully as I shall again have to quote this document with reference to Shropshire names.—The Earl of Arundel making a return in 1165–6 of the Knights'-Fees in the Honour of Arundel, prefaces his statement thus:—

“Our Lord King Henry, on occasion of a certain dispute which arose among the Knights of the Honour of Arundel about a certain Army of Wales, chose four of the better, more legal, and more ancient Knights, and caused them to make recognition of the Knight's service of the Honour; and he was unwilling thereafter to listen to any one touching the legality of those four Knights' decision and their sworn return. And this was their recognition,” &c.

This preface (which I translate from the original and not from Hearne's inaccurate transcript) is followed by a list of the lands and persons on which and on whom the said four Knights assessed the relative proportions of service. Among them is the name of Philip de Belmeis, assessed at three fees; of Alan de Dunstanvill, assessed at eight fees; of Hugo de Faleise, assessed at five fees; and of Savaric, assessed at three fees. Then follows a further statement made by the Earl himself of such Feoffments as he had since granted in the Honour.

My position is, that the King Henry alluded to was Henry I and not Henry II, and that the “army of Wales” must have been levied in or before 1135, when Henry I died.

Mr. Stapleton has already pointed out

that the return made by the four Knights was referable to an earlier period than 1165. He identified the “army of Wales” spoken of with that of 1159 (meaning, I suppose, 1157). Vide *Rot. Norman*, ii, xxxij.

The same internal evidence which led Mr. Stapleton to that discovery leads me still further. Savaric, one of the Tenants of the Honour, was dead in Stephen's reign, and his Son and Successor, Ralph, dead before 1157. Alan de Dunstanvill also was dead before 1156, and Hugh de Faleise, a third Tenant, has occurred to us as a man of great trust in Sussex fifty years before Mr. Stapleton's date of 1159. Less proof than this would suffice; for, having once established the date of the four Knights' assessment to be earlier than 1156, we must go back at least to 1135. There was no intermediate “army of Wales” levied by any King Henry. Now Henry I meditated an invasion of Wales in 1135. We do not indeed hear of the levy of an English army on that occasion, and the King's immediate death (Dec. 1135) is hardly consistent with his alleged unwillingness to disturb the assessment, if of the current year. Yet I cannot help referring the whole matter to that year. At all events the assessment appears to be later than 1130.

<sup>26</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 356, No. i. Philip de Belmeis had also witnessed the Foundation Charter itself, which was by Bishop Roger de Clinton, and passed in 1136 or early in 1137. (Blakeway's MSS.; Parochial Notices, i, 76.)

Belmeis' personal interest in that House, was soon afterwards shown more substantially by a grant of his own. The original deed is extant and as a document of great interest and bearing upon a very obscure period of County History, must be given entire.

✠ Notum sit omnibus hominibus et amicis meis tam Francis quam Anglis quod ego Philippus de Belmes dono et concedo ecclesie Sancte Mariæ et Sancti Ceddæ de Bildewas et Abbati omnique Conventui ejusdem loci terram quæ fuit Selferi de Rochelai pro salute animæ meæ totiusque prolis meæ, liberam et quietam ab omni temporali servitute. Preterea sciatis me concessisse illis omnia necessaria sua simul cum pasuagio suo de bosco meo de Luseiard et de Brewud et communem pastorem de Thonga in bosco et plano. Igitur tam pro hiis quam pro aliis beneficiis prefato loco a me adjunctis ego et Matilda uxor mea et heredes mei suscipimur in fraternitatem ejusdem ecclesie de Bildewas et matris ecclesie de Savinneio et omnium aliarum ad illam pertinentium. Quapropter precipio et precor omnes qui mihi sint amici ut eandem elemosynam manuteneant et defendant sicut diligunt salutem animæ meæ atque meorum. Unde etiam in confirmationem hujus meæ donacionis presentem cartam sigillo meo munio et testes assigno. Testes, Robertus de Belmes, Herbertus de Castello Nicholas frater ejus. Philippus filius Odonis, Helias de Sai, Johannes Bagot, Robertus de Girros, Hugo de Sai, Robertus Capellanus, Thuoldus de Mainnio.

Signum Philippi de Belmes.

Signum Matildæ uxoris ejus



Signum Philippi filii ejus.

Signum R filii ejus.<sup>27</sup>



This Charter must have passed about 1138 or 1139. It shows Ruckley to have been at that period a member of the Manor of Tong. It shows the latter to have comprised the Lizard and to have extended far towards Brewood. It gives us a list of witnesses to which I shall often have to recur. It furnishes the names of the Grantor's wife and heir, and we shall see that his second son Ranulph must be the person indicated by the initial letter-R.

<sup>27</sup> Charter in possession of George Pritchard, Esq., of Broseley. Of the two Seals originally attached to this invaluable document, the first (that of the Grantor) is broken, the second (probably that of his wife) is gone.

The marks were evidently added by the parties under whose names they stand. The deed is translated in Mr. Dukes' Appendix (page lxxv) and supposed to be of date "about 1150."

It illustrates the connexion in which Philip stood to the Lord of Castle Holgate (Herbert), viz. as his Tenant at Meadowley. Its further significances I must at present postpone.—

Philip de Belmeis' patronage of the Order of Savigny was for some reason or other soon withdrawn.

Not ten years after his grant to Buildwas, he is seen to be promoting, if not himself founding an Abbey in the immediate neighbourhood of Tong, and of a totally different class. Nay further, his mode of establishing this second House must have materially diminished the value of his former benefits to Buildwas.

Philip de Belmeis was in fact the originator of that great Augustine institution which was, through the further favour of his Brother Richard, eventually to find an establishment at Lilleshall. His deed of Foundation runs as follows,—

“To his Lord and most beloved Father, Roger the venerable Bishop of Chester, and to all other prelate and subject sons of Holy Church, Philip de Belmeis, greeting in the Lord.

Know, O Father, and O beloved brotherhood of Prelates and Subjects, that I have given and conceded in lasting almoigne and perpetual possession, for the souls of my Father and Mother, of my wife, and of my other Ancestors; and for the health of myself, my wife and children (filiorum), all the land which is contained between Wathlingstreete and Merdiche, for the foundation of a Church in honour of the Holy Mary, Mother of God, to Canons of the Order of Arroasia, who having come from the Church of St. Peter at Dorchester, are there regularly serving God and St. Mary; (I give it) free and quit, and absolved of all secular service and exaction. I concede also to them advantage of the neighbouring woods, both for fire and for building materials. I have also added the Church of St. Elena of Aessevi (Ashby, Co. Leicester), with the Church of Blackfordbi, to which sixty acres are attached, and with its other appurtenances. I have further added in the same *vill* of Aessibi all that land of my demesne, which is called Suarteclive, and also the land of Haco Sutor; and tithes of my mills in the same *vill*; and tithes of my herds, viz., of mares and colts; and tithes of my pannage; and free pannage for their swine, and advantage of my wood, both for fire and building materials. Of this donation then and concession these underwritten are Witnesses: Robert, Bishop of Hereford; Philip son of Philip de Belmis, who is not only a witness but a Promoter and Conceder (Conditor et Concessor) of the aforesaid almoigne;



Dame Matilda, daughter of William Meschin,<sup>28</sup> wife of Philip de Belmis aforesaid; Herbert de Castello, Hugo de Cuilli, Hugo de Say, Philip Fitz Odo and Roger his Brother; Roger de Ewias, Robert Clerk, Walter de Aessebi. Farewell in the Lord to thy Holiness. Amen.”<sup>29</sup>

This Charter passed undoubtedly after the grant to Buildwas above recited and before May 1145; for at the latter date, these Arroasian Canons, having migrated from Tong to Donington Wood, under the auspices of Richard de Belmeis, Dean of St. Alkmuud’s, were called Canons of Duninton. They found soon afterwards a more permanent resting place at Lilleshall, and when settled there, continued to enjoy all the benefits conferred on their fraternity by Philip de Belmeis. The Lizard however instead, of being the Site of their house, became as we shall see, only a Grange thereof.

There are other points in Philip de Belmeis’ Charter which require notice. Two boundaries of the land granted for the foundation of a Church are named. These are Watling Street, the Northern boundary, and Meredich, which I conclude to have been the Eastern, and identical with the rivulet which flowing from North to South, now supplies a spacious artificial lake known as Tong-Mere. The Western limit of Belmeis’ grant will consequently have been the Manor of Idsall, its Southern his own domain of Tong.

The Lizard Grange, thus bounded, is still in name a Grange, and though the locality be otherwise unremarkable, it has its interest to the Antiquary, as having been the germ and once proposed site of an establishment, which grew elsewhere to great magnificence.

<sup>28</sup> It does not appear who William Meschin, Father of Matilda de Belmeis, was. Dugdale’s account (*Baronage*, i, 89) of William de Meschines, Lord of Coup-land, and Brother of Ranulph Earl of Chester, would not, as far as date is concerned, except him from being the person named. But this William de Meschines appears eventually to have been represented by a daughter and sole heir, Cecily wife of Robert de Romely. However, Dugdale’s, and indeed all other accounts of the Barony of De Meschines, are either confused or inconclusive, and I think it

possible that further evidence may connect Matilda with that house.

The second William D’Albini of Belvoir is also said to have been surnamed Meschines. A probability that his family might intermarry with that of Belmeis, arises from their relative positions in the same County (Leicestershire); but the era of the Albini specified is too late to allow of his having been Father of Matilda de Belmeis.

<sup>29</sup> *Monasticon*, vi, 262; iii;—where the document is accurately printed in the original Latin.

It is probable that Philip de Belmeis' possession of Ashby (now Ashby de la Zouch) and Blackfordby in Leicestershire arose under a grant thereof by Henry I, to his Uncle the Bishop.

Be that as it may, we have now seen Philip seized of lands in Shropshire, Sussex, and Leicestershire. It is almost certain that he had Manors also in Staffordshire, and probable that some estates in Cheshire and other Counties which were held by his heirs were derived from him.

The last feature which I shall here notice in his Charters is that attestation by Tenants of the *Honour* of De Lacy which may serve to throw some light on a great and as yet unexamined genealogical problem.

I cannot suppose that Philip de Belmeis long survived his grant to the Arroasian Canons of Dorchester.

Of Philip de Belmeis the younger I have only one notice as his Father's Successor. Calling himself Philip, Son of Philip de Beumes, and addressing Walter, Bishop of Coventry (who sat from Oct. 1149 to Dec. 1159), he confirms to "the Canons Regular of St. Mary of Lilleshill, of the Order of Arroasia, all the land which lies between Watlingestret and Merdische, and also the Church of Acssibi with that of Blackfordbye."<sup>30</sup>

Philip de Belmeis junior, who was living at the time of Henry II's

<sup>30</sup> Dodsworth, vol. cx, fo. 43, b. I am favoured by T. Rossell Potter, Esq., with another transcript of this deed, including the Testing Clause, which is very important. The names given are Richard Bishop of London (consecrated 28 Sept. 1152), Richard Archdeacon of London (omitted in Le Neve's List), Hugo à London, Radulf de Belmeys "my Brother," Peter Fitz William, Roger de Arundel, Richard de Belmeys, William de Costenteine "my Knights," and Roger "my Clerk," and Robert Fitz William, William de Pontefract, Robert de Belmeys, William his Brother, Peter "Candarius (Qy. *Camerarius*) meus," Maurice Pincerna, Robert Camerarius, and other Servants of the Bishop of London.—

The deed therefore passed between 1152 and 1159. Another transcript by Dodsworth (vol. 141, fo. 49, b.) gives Hugh Archdeacon of London, and Philip Fitz William, as second and fourth witnesses.

Dodsworth appends to this deed his idea of the descent of Belmeis and La Zouche. The scheme is however inconsistent with the very evidence on which Dodsworth founds it. A Trial about the Manor of Betton, which is recorded on the Rolls of Hilary Term, 1226, gives William de Belmeis as the Brother and next heir of Philip Junior, and omits all mention of Ranulph. This is a mere mistake of the Law-Clerk. At a previous stage of the same suit, during the County Assizes of 1221, the descent was declared to have been as stated in the text; and much secondary evidence confirms the better authority of the Provincial Record.

The annexed Pedigree of Belmeis and La Zouche is, I believe, accurate in all points which it distinctly asserts. The doubts which are inseparable from such an investigation I have indicated by *waved* lines, or such other marks as seemed suitable for the purpose.

accession (1154), was succeeded by his Brother Ranulph, of whom I have the following notices.

In a *donum* of the Knights of Nottinghamshire, recorded Michaelmas 1159, Radulf de Bealmes' proportion (two merks) is pardoned by writ of the King.<sup>31</sup>

A Certificate remains on the Salop Chartulary, whereby Ranulph de Belmeis, addressing all his heirs, kindred, friends, and vassals, tells them that he came before the full County of Salop and there acknowledged that he wrongfully held Betton, which belonged to the Monks of Shrewsbury, and which his Ancestors had unjustly held. He restored it, and was thereupon received into the Society of the said Monks. Of this were witnesses the Barons and Knights of the whole County.<sup>32</sup>

In the *Liber Niger* (1165-6), his return as a Tenant *in capite* is not preserved. His Tenure at Meadowley, indicated in that Record, has been already noticed. But a Tenure of three Knights' Fees held by him under the Baron Stafford at that period, is fully stated and requires particular notice. These fees were apparently of *old feoffment*, that is, had been bestowed on Ranulph's ancestors before the death of Henry I. His Under-Tenant in two thereof was John Bigod (Bagod) and in the third, Hervey de Wilbrichtone.<sup>33</sup>

Ranulph de Belmeis therefore may be taken to have been Mesne-Lord of Blymhill, Brinton, and Wilbrighton, all in the County of Stafford. His Tenure in Sussex at the same period has before been noticed, viz. as standing in the Record under the name of his Father.

At this period Ranulph de Belmeis seems to have been employed by Henry II in Wales. The Castles of Rhuddlan and Basingwerk had remained in the King's hands since 1157, when they were garrisoned by him as a result of his first Welsh campaign. At Michaelmas 1166 the Sheriffs of Warwickshire and Leicestershire had paid £10. by the King's order to Randulph de Belmes for garrison (*munitionem*) of the Castles of Basingwer, Roelend and Prestinton (Prestatton).

At Michaelmas 1167, Tong and Tong-Norton (entered as "Tonge et Norton Randulf") had been amerced one merk by Alan de Nevill for some offence against the Forest-Laws.

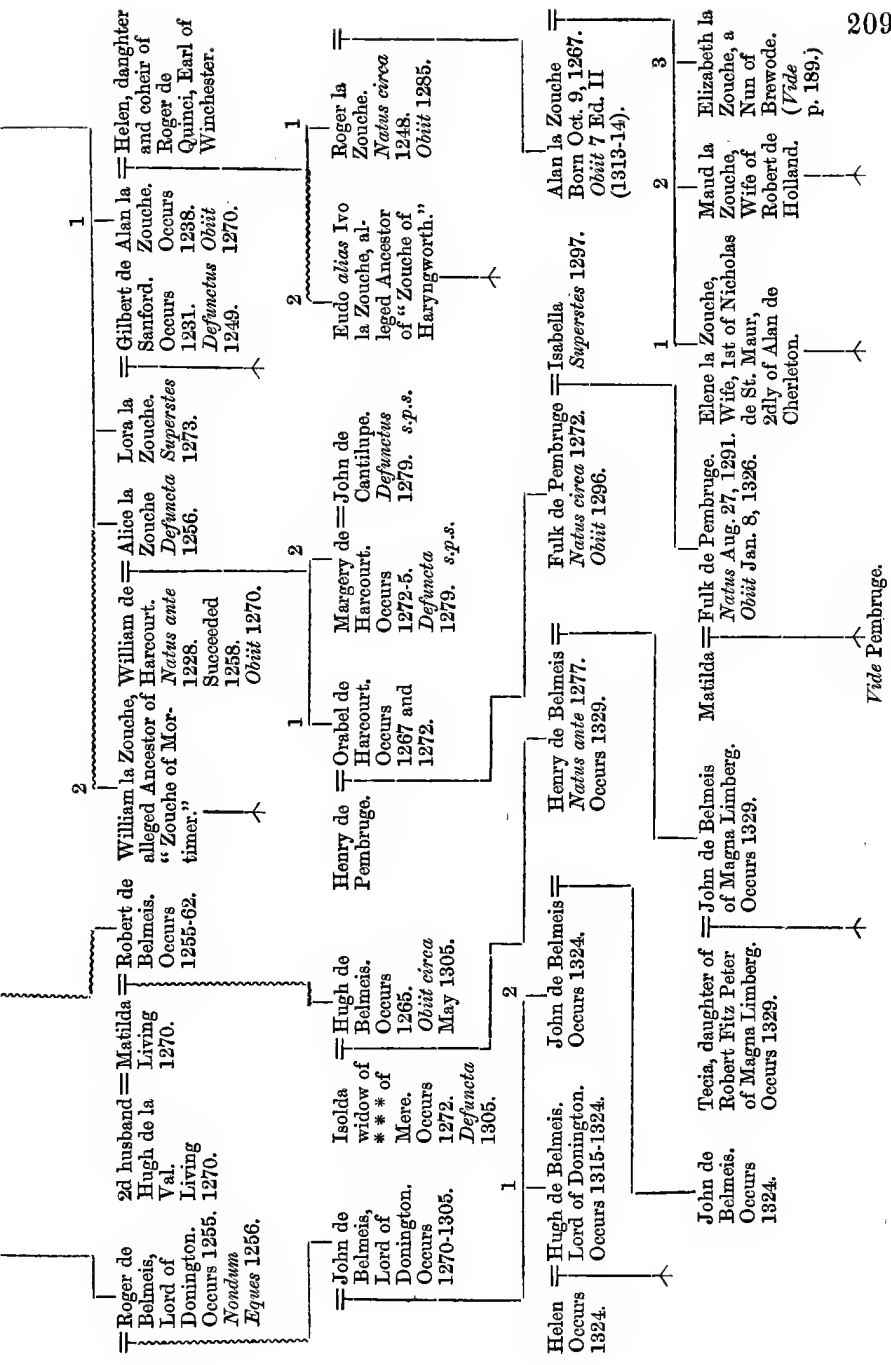
At the same period, Ranulph de Belmeis was deceased, for the Sheriff of Shropshire accounts to the Crown, for a sum of

<sup>31</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 5 Hen. II.

<sup>32</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 294.

<sup>33</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 136.





Vide Pembruge.

£3. 10s. 6d. "of the *ferm* of Twanga, the land of Randulf de Belmeis."<sup>34</sup>

Thus terminated the elder male line of De Belmeis, for Ranulf died without issue, and his heir was his Sister Alice.

She, whether single at the time or a Widow, is recorded under the name of Alice de Beaumeys as having granted the Mill of Tong to Lilleshall Abbey.<sup>35</sup> I do not find this gift to have had any subsequent confirmation, nor can I think that it was operative.

I proceed now to speak of the Husband and the descendants of this Heiress.—

Alan la Zouche, son of Geoffrey Vicomte of Rohan in Brittany, was doubtless descended from the reigning Earls or Dukes of that province.<sup>36</sup> The particular line of such descent I will not here attempt to determine. Its general probability arises from three considerations, viz. that those Earls had had various interests in England ever since the Conquest, that others of their descendants were surnamed La Zouche, and that Swavesey (Cambridgeshire), which had originally been given to one of these Earls, subsequently belonged to Zouche of Ashby.

It was in the Spring of 1166 that Henry II, by an able negotia-

<sup>34</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 12 & 13 Hen. II.

<sup>35</sup> *Patent*, 18 Ric. II, p. 1, memb. 7.

<sup>36</sup> Dugdale (*Baronage*, i, p. 688), pre-  
facing his account of Zouche of Ashby,  
says as follows:—

"That this Ancient and Noble Family is branched from the Earls of Brittany, all our Genealogists do agree; though they do not deduce the Line of that Descent in each Point alike. To the intent therefore that it may the more clearly appear how it is, I have thought fit to take notice, That William la Zouche in that confirmation to the Monks of Swavesey in Cambridgeshire, of the grants made by his Ancestors unto the Abbey of S. Segius and Bacus in Anjow (whereunto this Priory of Swavesey was a Cell) calleth Roger la Zusche his Father, and Alan la Zusche Earl of Brittany (Son of Geoffrey) his Grandfather.—

Which William died in 1 John."

The parenthetical "Son of Geoffrey" seems to have been adopted by Dugdale on the authority of Glover (*Somerset Herald*). It serves but to increase con-

fusion.—The only *Earl* Alan of Bretagne whose Father's name was Geoffrey was Guardian of William I, when Duke of Normandy, and died by poison in 1040; whereas Alan, first Lord Zouche of Ashby, was living in 1186, and is not said on good authority to have been son of any *Earl* Geoffrey, but of Geoffrey Vicomte of Rohan. Moreover this Alan la Zouche of Ashby was succeeded by his son William, William by his Brother Roger, and Roger by his son Alan,—a descent not strictly identical with anything implied by the Swavesey Charter.

That document, if it proves anything (and is accurate as well as genuine), proves that other descendants of the Earls of Brittany, besides Zouche of Ashby, were called La Zouche and had a claim upon Swavesey.

Further to explain the Swavesey Charters (*Monasticon*, vii, 1001) I am unqualified. The attempt would involve a dissertation on the descent of the Earls of Bretagne, a problem of sufficient interest and difficulty to fill a volume.

tion annexed the substantive sovereignty of Bretagne to his foreign dominions. Conan Le Petit, the reigning Earl, gave his daughter Constance to Geoffrey, third son of the English King, a boy then in his eighth year, and ceded his power to Henry, as Guardian of the infant couple. Henry, after receiving the homage of the Bretons at Thouars (in Poitou), passed on to Rhedon and Dol, principal Cities of the newly acquired Province, to settle the details of his future government.

As a natural sequence of these transactions I reckon the promotion of Alan la Zouche in England.—

It was clearly the policy of our early Kings to contrive that the most influential of their foreign Vassals should have possessions on this side the Channel. The allegiance thus secured was based on the most available though not the noblest of human motives,—self-interest.

Thus, I conceive, did Henry II deal with Alan, Son of Geoffrey Vicomte of Rohan.

In 1172, I find Alan La Zuche assessed at and paying 20s. for the *Scutage* of Ireland, in respect of one Knight's Fee which he held *in capite* in Northamptonshire.<sup>37</sup>

Two law-suits which concerned lands in that County, and in which he was Defendant, are mentioned on the latter Pipe-Rolls of Henry II. One of these seems to have involved a great interest, and to have originated about 1177; the other which concerned land of £5. annual value commenced about 1186.

This Alan la Zouche describing himself as Son of Geoffrey the Vicomte, and for the health of himself, his wife Alice, and their children (puerorum), and for the souls of Philip de Beumeis senior, Philip junior, and his (Philip senior's) other Sons, confirmed and increased the grants above cited to Lilleshall Abbey. His Charter specifies the Church of Essebi; the Chapel of Blackfordeby with sixty acres in the latter and three virgates in the former *vill*; a fourth virgate outside the *vill* (of Ashby) which was William Forester's; the land of Haco Sutor; all the land of Suarteclive between the road from Pakynton to Bredon and the boundaries through the wood; the land of Overton; tithe of his mills; the land of Lusard; and accommodation in his wood of Tong Castle.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>37</sup> *Liber Ruber*, fo. xlix; *Madox Exchequer*, page 403, p.

<sup>38</sup> *Monasticon*, vi, 263, No. v. I am favoured by T. Rossell Potter, Esq., with

a transcript of this deed, which gives the witnesses. Another transcript is in Dodsworth, vol. cxli, fo. 49.

The witnesses seem to have been Roger

This Alan and Alicia left three Sons, William, Roger and Philip. I cannot determine the exact period when William, the eldest, succeeded. His confirmation to Lilleshall Abbey is well worth notice. Therein he styles himself "William de Belmeys son of Alan la Zouch." He also makes mention of "Adelhiza de Belmeys his Mother" and of "Philip de Belmeys Senior, Philip Junior and Ranulph Brother of Philip Junior" as his (William's) *Antecessors*.<sup>39</sup> The Charter is in other respects a repetition of the grants already specified.

Another notice which I have of this William is in connexion with Tong; viz. how, conceiving the Advowson of the Church to belong to him, he forcibly ejected a Clerk who had been admitted thereto by Hugh Bishop of Coventry (and therefore between 1188 and 1194), on presentation of Salop Abbey.

William la Zouche was deceased before June 1199, and without issue; for then did Roger his Brother fine £100. for his lands. The Sheriffs of Devonshire, Sussex and Shropshire were ordered each to take security for a third of this debt.<sup>40</sup> But, at Michaelmas 1201, the Sheriff of Devon had received the final instalment of £40.

At the Salop Assizes of 1203, Roger la Zuche *essoigned* his attendance, his excuse being that he had gone beyond sea before the *general summons* had issued.—

Herewith are connected some matters of contemporary History.— King John is said to have assassinated Arthur Earl of Brittany, the son of Geoffrey and Constance before mentioned, on Thursday

de Mortimer, Aleher, Richard de London, William Cardiffe, Roger Clerk, Elias Codrell, Robert de Sudenhall (Sydnall), Dame Adheliza de Belmes, William de Belmes her Son, Philip de Belmes his Brother, and Robert de Horseley.

I suppose the deed to have passed between 1185 and 1190.

<sup>39</sup> Transcript communicated by T. Rosell Potter, Esq.—

The witnesses are Philip de Belmeys (probably William's Brother), Geoffrey de Blie, Ivo Brito de Seun, Roger Clerk, Roger de Flamville, Master Robert de Willesburgh, Robert Chaplain, Thomas and Ranulph Priests, Henry Parson of Hartishorn, Ralph his Brother, Simon

Nephew of Abbot William, Radulf Cau-drell, Hugh Trullemag.

This deed had a Seal two inches wide, exhibiting the figure of a Knight on horseback brandishing a Sword. The shield on his left arm was charged with a Fesse, and circumscribed thus,—

SIGIL' WILLIELMI DE BELMES FILIVS (sic) ALANI LA ZVCH.

That this William commonly went by his maternal name is further shown by an acquittance of the *Scutage* for King Richard's Redemption, which, in 1195, the Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicester-shire enters, by order of the King, against the name of William de Belmes (*Madox Exchequer*, p. 411, t.).

<sup>40</sup> *Oblata*, page 4.



April 3, 1203. The King was certainly at Rouen on that and three following days (Good Friday and Easter Sunday were two of them), and Arthur was never seen afterwards. When this crime was rumoured in Brittany, the Bretons determined to avenge it. They joined with Philip Augustus in that united attack on John's territory which ended in the loss of Normandy. Roger la Zouche was a Breton by descent, as we have seen already. We now see why the Lord of Tong was not in attendance on the King's Justices when summoned to Salop in October 1203.

Roger la Zouche's foreign sympathies involved the forfeiture of all his English possessions;—

On June 14, 1204, King John's precept issued to the Sheriff of Shropshire, commanding him to give William de Braose full seizin of such lands in his Bailiwick as had been Roger La Zouche's and which were of the Fee of said William.<sup>41</sup> It is quite clear that under this writ William de Braose, then a great favourite of King John, became seized of Tong, but how Zouche had held it under him or how he (Braose) had any previous interest there I have never seen the slightest evidence.—

Later hints however are not wanting to show that Tong was reputed to be held of the Honour of Brecknock and of the Barony of Braose.

But to continue—on August 15, 1204, the King's Bailiff in Sussex had orders to give up to William Briwere all Roger la Zouche's lands in that quarter, which lands were of the Honour of Petworth.<sup>42</sup>

In the 6th of John (1204), a valuation was taken of the "Lauds of the Normans," that is, of the English possessions of such Vassals of the King as had adhered to Philip Augustus. Roger la Zouche's lands appear more than once on this Record. His Manor of Northmolton in Devonshire was worth £12. *per annum*, without the stock thereon; Bricteleg a member of Northmolton was worth 40s. It belonged to William Fitz Warin, a Feoffee and Partizan of Roger la Zouche.—

Esseby La Zuche in Leicestershire, the land of Roger la Zuche was estimated, if stocked, to yield £10. *per annum*. John Le Strange had removed part of the Stock therefrom.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>41</sup> *Rot. Claus.* i, p. 1. I have before alluded to the *mesne* interest which Braose seems to have had in Tong and Donington. It perhaps explains why Belmeis and La Zouche were not usually

assessed to *Scutages* in Shropshire, as Tenants *in capite*.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 5, b.

<sup>43</sup> *Rot. Normannicæ* (by T. Duffus Hardy, Esq.), pp. 130, 139.

These valuations can scarcely have been completed when Roger la Zouche returned to the allegiance of his English Suzerain, paying a hundred merks for scizin of his lands and all issues thereof which had not been converted to the King's use. Geoffrey Fitz Piers, the great Justiciar, stood surety for this Fine.<sup>44</sup>

But on the 25th of April 1205, the debt was excused, Roger la Zouche undertaking to serve the King a year in Poitou with another Knight.<sup>45</sup>

On May 1, 1205, the King had lent Roger la Zouche fifty merks, for repayment of which William Fitz Warin appears to be liable.<sup>46</sup>

Roger la Zouche accompanied King John in his Irish expedition of 1210. On the 28th of June, being at Dublin, 40s. is lent to him by the King's Treasurer.<sup>47</sup>

About this time the following, not very consistent, returns were made as to Roger la Zouche's tenure of Tong.—

A list of Tenures, apparently taken in 1211, says that "Roger de Tusche holds *in capite* of the King and is bound to the service of finding two serving men in the King's Army in Wales."<sup>48</sup>—

Two nearly contemporary Rolls give a similar account of "Roger de la Zuche's" Shropshire Tenure;<sup>49</sup> but a Roll, apparently of 1212, says that "Roger la Zuche holds the Manor of Thonk which was of the Fee of William de Braose by service of half-a-Knight's-Fee."<sup>50</sup>

At this period the forfeiture and miserable fate of William de Braose had been consummated. He died an Exile and, if we may believe the Chroniclers, his Wife and Son were starved to death in the Dungeons of Windsor Castle.

Roger la Zouche on the other hand continued to advance in the favour of John. In February 1214, he accompanied the King into Poitou, and on May 26 had the usual Letters of *Scutage* in regard of his personal service.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>44</sup> *Rot. Fin.* p. 221.

<sup>45</sup> *Claus.* i, 28. The *disseizin* of Roger la Zouche is expressly said to have taken place "whilst he was in Brittany."

<sup>46</sup> *Claus.* i, 30; *Rot. Fin.* p. 266.

<sup>47</sup> *Rot. de Præstitis*, p. 182.

<sup>48</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 254.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibidem*, fo. 880, and *Liber Ruber*, fo. cxxij.

<sup>50</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 256. A fifth Roll (*Liber Ruber*, fo. cxxxvii) omits all

mention of Roger la Zouche among the Shropshire Tenants *in capite*; but it exhibits the name of "Philip de Doniton" without any statement as to service. I cannot help thinking that this indefinite, and probably inaccurate entry, was in allusion to Roger la Zouche's tenure of Tong and Donington, and that the officer who made the return was uninformed of the true particulars.

<sup>51</sup> *Claus.* i, pp. 166, 200.

On Oct. 14, 1215, he had a grant of the Manors of Peterfield and Mapledurham (Co. Hants) which Geoffrey de Mandeville had forfeited to the Crown.<sup>52</sup>

On Nov. 18 following, he had a grant, during the King's pleasure, of Samihes̃ (Southants) and Kidderminster (Worcestershire), lands which had been Henry Biset's.<sup>53</sup>

On April 25, 1216, the Sheriff of Gloucestershire is ordered to give him Fairford, a Manor which belonged to the Honour of Gloucester.<sup>54</sup>

Faithful to King John in every later extremity, he appears in his Retinue at Corf on June 11, 1216; and on that King's death shortly afterwards was no less faithful to his Son, King Henry III.

On the 15th March 1217, still retaining the Lordships of Mapledurham and Peterfield, he is ordered to allow her dower in the same to Milisent, widow of the Earl of Evreux and then wife of William de Cantilupe junior.<sup>55</sup>

On the 4th of April and 10th and 11th of May 1217, various Precepts issued to the Earl of Salisbury, to Hugh de Vivon, to the Sheriffs of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, and to Peter de Maulay, to give Roger la Zouche seizin of all such lands in his Fee as were tenanted by the King's enemies.<sup>56</sup>

I should here take notice that the Vicomtes of Rohan, who seem to have constituted an elder branch of the house, from which Roger la Zouche sprung, were at one time seized of considerable estates in England. Alan, who appears to have been the last Vicomte thus seized, occurs in 1201, as Grantee of King John in the Manor of Costesei.<sup>57</sup> The fact of this Alan's forfeiture of all his English estates is certain, though I am unable to ascertain its exact time and cause.—

Probably it resulted in the usual way, viz. that, during the reign of John, every man possessed of lands on both sides of the Channel was constrained to elect between two allegiances. His decision once made, all that he held under the Suzerain of his choice was confirmed and perhaps augmented, whilst he suffered a correspondent forfeiture in the other quarter.

Thus while Alan Vicomte of Rohan adhered to his French allegiance and forfeited his English Fief, so did his kinsman,

<sup>52</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 231.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 237.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 266.

<sup>55</sup> *Claus.* i, p. 300, b.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 304, 308.

<sup>57</sup> *Rot. Canc.* 3 John, p. 340, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Roger la Zouche adopt a contrary policy. And it further appears that King Henry III compensated Roger la Zouche for his losses in Brittany, not only by increasing his estates in England generally, but by granting him some of those very lands which Alan Vicomte of Rohan had lost.—

For instance, on July 22, 1218, the Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk is ordered to give him lands in Costesey which had belonged to the "Vicomte of Roain;" and on Jan. 10, 1219, the same Sheriff is to give him Huningeham and Eston, which the same Vicomte had once held, "unless those Manors were parcel of the Honour of Eye."<sup>58</sup>

Meanwhile, that is on July 28, 1218, Roger la Zouche had license to hold an annual fair at his Devonshire Manor of Northmolton; and on January 22, 1219, the Sheriff of Devonshire is ordered to give up to him for his maintenance, and during the King's pleasure, lands in Blaketorinton and Nymed, which had once been Joel de Maine's. This grant is expressed to be in recompense of lands which Roger "had lost in Brittany, in the King's service."<sup>59</sup>

On May 1, 1219, he has a grant of Fair and Market at Blactorinton; and on July 9, the Sheriff of Norfolk is to give him certain lands in Bambure, to hold during the King's pleasure, which lands had once belonged to the Vicomte of Roain, but had since been held of the "King's Bailiwick," by William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex.<sup>60</sup>

In July 1220, he appears in account with the Crown as one of the Executors of Enjurer de Bohun;<sup>61</sup> and on August 6 of that year, has Royal License to go on a Pilgrimage to St. James' (of Compostella).<sup>62</sup>

At the Salop Assizes of November 1221, Roger la Zouche appears in various relations. His suit with the Abbey of Shrewsbury for the Manor of Betton came on for hearing. The details of this cause belong to another portion of our History, but it happened that Roger la Zouche offered a statement of his descent, which is much to our present purpose as proving a great deal of what has been asserted above, merely on the evidence of Charters.—

On this occasion Roger la Zouche claimed to be heir of Philip

<sup>58</sup> *Claus.* i, pp. 366, 385.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 366, 386.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 391, 423.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 424.

<sup>62</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 4 Hen. III.

de Beaumes whom he described as his Uncle (avunculum). He of course alluded to Philip de Beaumes junior. He traced his heirship as follows.—The Successor to Philip's rights was Ranulph, Philip's Brother: to Ranulph succeeded Alice, Ranulph's Sister, because Ranulph died without issue; to Alice succeeded William her Son; and to William, his Brother Roger, the present Litigant.<sup>63</sup> All that need here be further said of this matter is that Roger la Zouche's Pedigree passed unquestioned, and, though the Suit continued for years, the undecided issue was not as to his heirship, but as to the original seizin of Philip de Belmeis.

At the same Assizes, Roger la Zouche sued the Abbot of Shrewsbury for the Advowson of Tong, and without success. The particulars shall be given, when we come to speak of the Church.

His resistance of Thomas de Chabbenore's claim on his estate shall also be noticed among the various contingents of his Shropshire Fief, which we shall hereafter have to give account of. His quarrels with Buildwas Abbey should however be here particularized, inasmuch as they probably resulted in a composition, and in a Charter of Roger la Zouche to Buildwas, whose date it is much to our purpose to establish.

At these Assizes then, the Abbot of Buildwas was found to have "erected a fence to the injury of Roger la Shuch's tenement in Tong." The fence was to be taken down, but the Abbot was excused any amercement by writ of the King.<sup>64</sup>—

The Abbot of Buildwas further appoints Brother Walter de Bolingehal, a Monk, his Attorney in several suits, one of which was a suit of *novel disseizin* between the said Abbot on the one hand, and Roger la Shuche and William de Vigeford (Hugeford) on the other. I cannot determine whether this was the same suit of *novel disseizin* which William de Hugeford had against the Abbot about a right of common pasture in Ideshal and which he withdrew.<sup>65</sup>

Soon after these transactions, as I imagine, "Roger, son of Alan la Szouche," granted a full Charter of confirmation to Buildwas.

<sup>63</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 6.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 6 dorso.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 1 and 6 dorso. This right of common pasture probably arose from some interest of William de Hugford at Upton.—

Upton was then held by the Lords of Tong, perhaps under the Lords of Idsall. It adjoined lands of Buildwas Abbey, both at Ruckley and Hatton. Hugford's Sureties in this litigation were Reginald and Robert de Upton, and Hugh de Beckbury.

He specifies the land of Selfer de Rockle, *easements* and *pannage* in his wood of Brewode; in Ruckley, dead wood for burning; common-pasture in Tong; also that they may make their bridges on each side of their Grange of Roclei, viz. one towards Hupton, and one towards Doninton, in the places where they used to be, and that they shall have his (the Grantor's) Banks (*i. e.* the abutments at the ends of these bridges) and free egress and regress through his land, to and from the said bridges.<sup>66</sup>

It will be observed that this Charter is not only a confirmation of the Grant of Philip de Belmeis senior, before recited, but it implies some cognizance of the grant which had been made by Richard de Belmeis, as set forth under Donington. Roger la Zouche therefore was confirming not only his Ancestor's grant, but the grant of his Ancestor's Feoffee. Consequently this Deed implies his continued Seigneurie over Donington, whose Lord is in fact the fifth witness.

I should here notice that in May 1224, William de Serland and Nicholas de Molis were intrusted respectively with the Cambridge-shire Manors of Fulburn and Suavesey, which, having once belonged to the Vicomte of Rohan, had since been committed to William de Breant during the King's pleasure.

In October following, the privileges which had been enjoyed by "Allan de Roien," what time he was Lord of Fulburn, were ordered to be renewed to William de Serland.<sup>67</sup>—We shall presently recur to this subject.

In November 1229, Margery Bagot was suing Roger la Zouche under writ of *novel disseizin* for her *free tenement* in Blymhill.<sup>68</sup> La Zouche doubtless retained at this period the same mesne interest in Blymhill which we have already ascertained to have belonged to his predecessor, Ranulph de Belmeis.

<sup>66</sup> This Charter is in possession of George Pritchard, Esq., of Broseley.—The witnesses' names are Walter de Hugeford, Henry de Hugeford, Gerard Fitz Toret, Engeram Chavel, Walter de Beaumeis, Philip de Beaumeis, Thomas son of Reiner de Le, Thomas Clerk of Maumesbury, Master Richard of Ideshale, Nicholas his Son, and many others.—

The Seal, of white wax, exhibits a shield of arms, charged with a Fesse between six \* \* \*. The following Letters of the Legend remain :—

SIG. \* \* \* ROGERI LA ZUCH.

I should here say a word about the

armorial bearings proper to La Zouche, as distinct from those which the family afterwards adopted as inheriting from the Houses of De Quinei or De Belmeis. The seal of William La Zouche, elder Brother of this Roger, exhibits a Fesse as the bearing on his shield (*supra*, p. 212, note 39). Alan la Zouche son of this Roger, and husband of Elen de Quinci, sealed a grant to Mayden Bradley (Wilts), with *Gules, a fesse between six pears or.* (*Nicholl's Leicestershire*, iii, 563).

<sup>67</sup> *Claus.* i, pp. 599, 624.

<sup>68</sup> *Patent*, 14 Hen. III, dorso.

On April 20, 1230, Roger la Zouche has the King's Letters-Patent of Protection, dated at Portsmouth, "so long as he should be with the King in foreign parts."<sup>69</sup>

"In 14 Henry 3," says Dugdale, "Roger la Zouche had a confirmation from the King, of the Manor of Swavesheye and of all his lands in Fulburne, in Com. Cantabr. which he possessed by the gift of Alan Vicomte of Roan, in exchange for all those lands which he, the said Roger, then possessed in Brittany."<sup>70</sup>

This requires further illustration.—Roger la Zouche was at this time Sheriff of Devonshire, and high in the King's confidence. Henry himself was warring in France, if his first puny effort to recover his continental dominions can so be described.—

The contest was one of diplomacy rather than strategy, and Henry's success seems mainly to have consisted in receiving the homage and allegiance of the Earl of Bretagne and of Alan Vicomte of Rohau. His concessions to both were enormous. Those to the Earl or Duke are not to our purpose; but on the 12th of October, being then at St. Pabus, the King granted his Letters-Patent to Alan Vicomte of Rohan, promising that, if ever there should be variance between him (the King) and the Earl of Bretagne, the said Alan should not thereby lose his lands in England as long as he and his heirs discharged their services due thereon. Moreover the King granted to the said Alan an annuity of 200 merks,—to date from Michaelmas 1230, and to be paid to him and his heirs, till the King should assign them lands in England of equal value.<sup>71</sup>

It does not appear that any of the old possessions of the Vicomtes of Rohan were restored under this contract. Certainly Roger la Zouche transmitted Swavesey to his own descendants.

I have thus far traced the evidences of this family of La Zouche in parts of the Kingdom distant from the County with which I am immediately concerned.—

In so doing I have at least been able to correct some previous error as to the origin and relations of a great Baronial House. I doubt not that a still wider search among foreign documents might ascertain the precise affinity which existed between these English Zouches, the Earls of Brittany, and the Vicomtes of Rohan.

Returning now to Shropshire, we find "Roger la Zuche" assessed

<sup>69</sup> *Patent*, *Ibidem*.

<sup>70</sup> *Baronage*, i, 688, quoting *Pat.* 14 Hen. III, p. 1, memb. 2.

<sup>71</sup> *Pat.* 14 Henry III, page 1, memb.

1.

in 1236 to the *Aid* for marriage of the King's Sister. His "Honour of Tange," constituted a Knight's Fee and so was rated at two merks.<sup>72</sup>

Dugdale has thought fit to notice, in his Baronage, the curious Deed of Feoffment which this Roger la Zouche granted to Henry de Hugford in Tong-Norton and Shaw.<sup>73</sup> I can add little to Dugdale's ample notice of the particulars of this Deed, except to say that Henry de Hugford was also a Tenant under La Zouche at Upton, and that this Deed passed during the last ten years of Roger la Zouche's life.

This Roger la Zouche must have lived to a great age, but I find no better evidence of the exact period of his death than is supplied by a license bearing date November 3, 1238, whereby the King allows Alan la Zouche, his Son and Heir, to pay his Father's debts to the Crown as he (Roger) had done, viz. by instalments of forty-five merks yearly.<sup>74</sup>

The public career of Alan la Zouche was distinguished by steady loyalty, much capacity, and a proportionate advancement of his house in riches and honour. This great Jurist married Helen or Ela, daughter and co-heir of Roger de Quinci Earl of Winchester, in whose estates, involving a share of the older Earldom of Leicester, Zouche of Ashby was thenceforth a Co-partner.

But leaving to the more honourable pages of National or Baronial History the great events in which Alan la Zouche took part, I confine myself to his very brief connexion with Tong.—

On December 7, 1240, a Fine was levied at Lichfield between Nicholas Abbot of Buildwas, plaintiff (*querentem*), and Alan la Zouche, defendant (*impedientem*), of two carucates in Rocleg, whereof was plea of *warranty of Charter*. Alan acknowledged the Abbot's

<sup>72</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 277. Roger La Zouche's personal payment of this *Aid* was an exception to the general rule. It only perplexes us as to the exact nature of his Tenure, viz. how far it was a Tenure *in capite* and how far a Tenure under the Honour of Brecknock.

<sup>73</sup> *Baronage*, vol. i, p. 689. A transcript of this deed is preserved among the Cotton Charters (ii, 8) at the British Museum.—The Witnesses are, Sir Walter de Huggefurd, Sir Walter de Beaumyes, Sir *Xsangrue Plaunce-folie*, John de Beckbury, Hugh de Bolingale, Unfrey de Unfras-

ton (Humphrey de Humphreston) and others.—

The third witnesses name I give as I am able to read it, but doubt whether its original form is thus retained. It is John de Beckbury's name, which, in conjunction with the era of the Grantor, gives the date assigned in the text.—

Besides Norton and the Shaw, and the particulars given by Dugdale, the deed mentions these localities, viz. Scherley, the Brand, Luttleford, Le Pas, and Trenswall.

<sup>74</sup> *Rot. Fin.* i, 315.



right thereto as the gift of Philip de Beaumey's, Alan's relation (consanguinei), whose heir Alan is.—To hold, &c. to the Abbot and his Successors, &c.—

Also Alan conceded common-pasture for all the Abbot's stock at Rocleg Grange through the whole Manor of Tonge, except in his (Alan's) Park of Tonge, which is called Holy (Holly), and in the wood which is called Rocleg, and that they (the Monks) may have one swine-stall (porcariam) in Alan's wood of Brewde, and eight cart-loads of fuel yearly. For this the Abbot received Alan and his heirs to all benefits and prayers which should thereafter be made in his Church of Buildwas for ever.<sup>75</sup>

On July 1, 1247, another fine was levied at Westminster between the same plaintiff and Alan la Zuche, deforciant (by his Attorney Walter Fitz Warin), of two carucates in Rochley, whereof was plea of fine-levied. Alan acknowledged the Abbot's right to said land, with the site and approach of Rochley Grange and whatever was contained between said land and the water of Wrgh (Worf) down to Rochley wood, without any right of common therein belonging to Alan or his heirs,—all of the gift of Philip de Belmeis (as before).

And besides this, Alan conceded that the Abbot might take old stumps (sucum boscum for zucum boscum) in Rochley wood. Also he gave to the Abbot all the Tenement which he had in Upton on the day of this fine, in pure almoigne, but reserving foreign services due thereon. And Alan would warrant and defend the same against the Chief Lords from all services, suits of Court at Ideshall, &c. for ever. A provision follows in case of the Abbot's animals straying into Tonge Manor; and the Abbot's free right of road between Rochley and the bridge towards Doneton is assured.—

For all this the Abbot renounced his right of common-pasture in Thonge Manor and Brewde Wood, also his swine-stall in the latter; also his right in a virgate of land which he and his Convent had by grant of the Black Nuns of Brewde. But he reserved a certain site for a mill at Tylemoneslode, with water course, stank, right of road, &c. Lastly, he renounced all his right to common-pasture of Lusyard, towards the Grange of the Abbot of Lilleshall there, for ever.<sup>76</sup>

About the year 1250, as I suppose, Alan la Zouche seems to have

<sup>75</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 24 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibidem*, 31 Hen. III, Salop. Tylemoneslode (*i. e.* Tylemon's-Ford) is still to be identified. The Bridge and part of

the road which connect the North Western boundary of Tong-Manor with Shiffnal are still known as Timlet-Bridge and Timlet-Holloway.

given this Manor with his Sister Alice, in *frank Marriage*, to William son of Richard de Harcourt.

William de Harcourt was, as I take it, first Cousin to Alan la Zouche's wife, his Mother being of the house of Quinci and his Father a principal Feoffee in that Honour.

William de Harcourt, thus seized of Tong, appears in January 1256, as subject to a very extraordinary prosecution by the Abbot of Lilleshall.<sup>77</sup> He was summoned to give account as to "wherefore he had made such sales and wastes in the wood of Tong as that the Abbot could not get therein reasonable *Estovers* for his Grange of Lesyard." The Abbot complained that whereas he and his Predecessors from the first foundation of Lilleshall Abbey had been in continual seizin of such right of *Estovers*, now the said William had wasted the wood, for he had given away 3000 oak-trees, had sold 3000 more, and had *assarted* 300 acres of the wood-land. The Abbot laid his damages thereby at forty merks.—

William de Harcourt replied, denying all violence and injury, and asserting that the writ under which the Abbot sued him was of a novel and unheard-of nature, and that the Abbot could not be deprived of *estovers*, for that the wood in question extended to five leagues, and that the Abbot's Grange aforesaid did not contain more than one or two hearths (*astras*).—

The Abbot rejoined, that though Harcourt did not deprive him of *Estovers*, he had already destroyed that part of the wood which was nearest to Lizard Grange, and was about to destroy it all.—

The parties were ordered to attend at Westminster and hear sentence in the suit, on the *Quinzaine* of Easter.

The loss of many Plea-Rolls prevents my tracing the successive adjournments of this suit, but in Easter Term 1260, it was still unsettled, and the Sheriff had been ordered to distrain William de Harcourt to appear at Westminster and hear judgment. He appears accordingly and requests that the Record of what had passed at Salop be read over in Court. This being done, William expresses his willingness to let the Abbot have what is sufficient, and avers that enough of wood remains for that purpose. The Abbot replies, that he cannot have *estovers* so conveniently as he claims, and appeals to a Jury of the district. The Sheriff is ordered to summon such a Jury to Westminster for the *Quinzaine* of St. John the Baptist; but afterwards, it is added, the Parties agreed.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>77</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 5  
dorso.

<sup>78</sup> *Placita*, Easter Term, 44 Hen. III,  
memb. 25 recto. The Abbot fined one

On July 19, 1260, Giles de Erdinton is commissioned to try an action of *novel disseizin* which John de Pres had brought against William de Harcourt and others, for a tenement in Thong.<sup>79</sup>

This Suit is doubtless connected with a Charter which John de Pres sometime obtained from Alan la Zouche as Seignoral Lord of Tong: and it is worth observing, that, though Harcourt has appeared above to be seized of the Manor at least as early as 1255, yet this deed of Alan la Zouche must have passed subsequently. He (Alan) grants and confirms to John de Pres and his heirs all lands, tenements, and liberties contained in the Charter of Sir William de Beumys, of the feoffment of Roger le Verner, and of Sir Roger his (Alan's) Father, and of Robert Collet, which Charter said John has in his keeping. He also grants him in addition (de incremento) the land which Robert de Betterton held in the Barnde, also his (Alan's) waste near the Pole, between the wood and the marlpit of Metheplekes, against the road which passes from Tong towards the wood,—also all the Brodmore between his (John's) culture and the water-course called Lutleford,—also his (Alan's) waste between the Brodmore and the wood of Lutleford.—To hold, &c. at a rent of 5*d.* payable to the Grantor and his heirs.<sup>80</sup>

I should now observe that Alice La Zouche, first wife of William de Harcourt, was deceased in the beginning of the year 1256. She left two daughters Orabel and Margery, of whom I shall speak presently. Harcourt hereupon espoused Hillaria, Sister of Henry Lord Hastings, who, in December 1256, became the Mother of Richard de Harcourt, the eventual heir of his Father William.

In the troubled times which ensued, William de Harcourt's political choice will have been a matter of some perplexity. Alan la Zouche, his first wife's Brother, was the staunchest of Royalists,

merk for "licence to accord," which, says a Postscript on the Plea-Roll, "appears on the Roll of Easter Term, 45 Hen. III." This alludes to the Pipe-Roll of that year, where among the *Nova Oblata* is the following entry:—*Abbas de Lilleshall debet 1 marcam pro licentia concordandi.*—

The system of adding postscripts to the Plea-Rolls of any particular Term is worth notice, and explains many entries in those Records which otherwise would be unintelligible. Often too we find a blank space left for this purpose at the foot of an unfinished Plea. In these cases

the Postscript would appear to have been forgotten or un-needed.

<sup>79</sup> *Patent*, 44 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>80</sup> *Cart. Cotton*, ii, 9. This Charter has been applied by Nicholls (*History of Leicestershire*, iii, 731) to some localities called "Tonge" and "The Brand" in that County. The witnesses are, Sir William de Hugford (who succeeded after 1255), Hugh de Bolyngdale, Hugh de Beckbury (deceased 1263) and Humphrey de Humfreston. These prove not only the date of the Deed, but that the locality concerned was in Shropshire.

while the disaffection of Henry de Hastings was so rank and obstinate that he was one of the few who, on the promulgation of the *Dictum de Kenilworth*, were excluded from its benefits.

Harcourt had chosen the losing side and had forfeited all his estates in 1265; but his infant daughters were no sharers in his loss. The better-chosen and more successful policy of their maternal Uncle, Alan la Zouche, secured them a powerful intercession.

On the 22d of October 1267, the King's Letters-Patent certified that at the instance of Alan la Zuche and in aid of the marriages of Orabell and Margery, daughters of William de Harecourt and Nieces of the said Alan, the King conceded the redemption of Tonge and Ayliston and the *Soke* of Stratton, lands of William de Harcourt, according to the *Dictum de Kenilworth*.<sup>81</sup>

As regards Tong this transaction only entailed upon these Sisters that which was reasonably theirs as the only issue of their Mother.

In July 1270, Sir William de Harcourt was dead, leaving his second wife Hillaria surviving. Later in the same year died Alan la Zouche, and apparently without having apportioned between his Nieces the lands which he had redeemed for them conjointly.

About this time Orabell the elder of these Ladies married Henry son of Henry de Pembruge, whose family, if not himself, had been distinguished among the Anti-Royalists of the preceding period. Of that however presently.—

A story somewhat complicated in itself and rendered still more intricate by the verbal inaccuracy of certain Law Records has now to be dealt with.

On December 26, 1271, King Henry III, being then at Winchester, granted by Charter to his beloved and faithful Henry, son of Henry de Pembrig and Orabil his wife, the following privileges, viz. that they should have a weekly Market on Thursday in their Manor of Tong, and an annual Fair to last for three days (the vigil, the day and the morrow of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle) unless such Fair should be injurious to other Fairs in the neighbourhood; also that they should have Free-Warren in their demesne lands at Tong.<sup>82</sup>

In July 1272, Henry de Penbrigg and Orabil his wife and Margery, Orabil's Sister, gave the King a merk that an *Assize* might be taken before Gilbert de Preston (a Justiciar of that period); and the King's mandate issued accordingly to the Sheriff of Leicester—

<sup>81</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 51 Hen. III.

| <sup>82</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 56 Hen. III, memb. 6.

shire,<sup>83</sup> in which County the lands or other matters in question, will have lain, either wholly or in part.

The result of this Assize or process of Law seems to be contained in a Fine, levied at Westminster on February 3, 1274, between Margery de Harecurt, plaintiff (querentem), and Henry Penybrigg and Orabil his wife, Defendants, of the Manor of Ayliston and the Advowson of the Church of the same *vill*, and six merks of annual Rent in the *Soke* of Stratton (Leicestershire), whereof was *Plea of Convention*. Henry and Orabil acknowledged the premises to be the right of Margery, to hold of the Chief Lords of the Fee by accustomed services; and Margery conceded to Henry and Orabil the Manor of Tonge (Co. Salop) to hold to Henry and Orabil and the Heirs of Orabil, of the Chief Lords of the Fee, for ever.<sup>84</sup>

The Suit and Fine therefore constituted nothing more than a legal and perhaps amicable partition of the estate of two Coparcners.

Soon after this Margery de Harecourt married John de Cantilupe, and within five years both she and her husband were deceased without issue.

Moreover within the same period died Orabil, wife of Henry de Pembruge, leaving an only son Fulk. Also Henry de Pembruge himself died,<sup>85</sup> having however married a second wife Alice, by whom he left a son Henry.

At their Father's death, in February 1279, Fulk and Henry were both Infants, the former and elder being eight years old according to one authority, or hardly so much if, according to another, he was still under age in October 1292.

I must now retrace my steps, not only that I may give some earlier account of these Pembruges with whom so many Shropshire Families claim affinity, but that I may render more intelligible their various interests and connexions whilst Lords of Tong.

In 1235, as I infer from various entries in the *Testa de Nevill*, Henry de Pembruge was holding two Knight's-fees, less a twentieth part of one fee, at Weston and Woneston (Gloucestershire) of the Honour of Cormeilles. So also about eight years later is the same Henry found holding Pembridge, in Stretford Hundred, Herefordshire, of the Honour of Radnor, by one Knight's-fee.<sup>86</sup> The

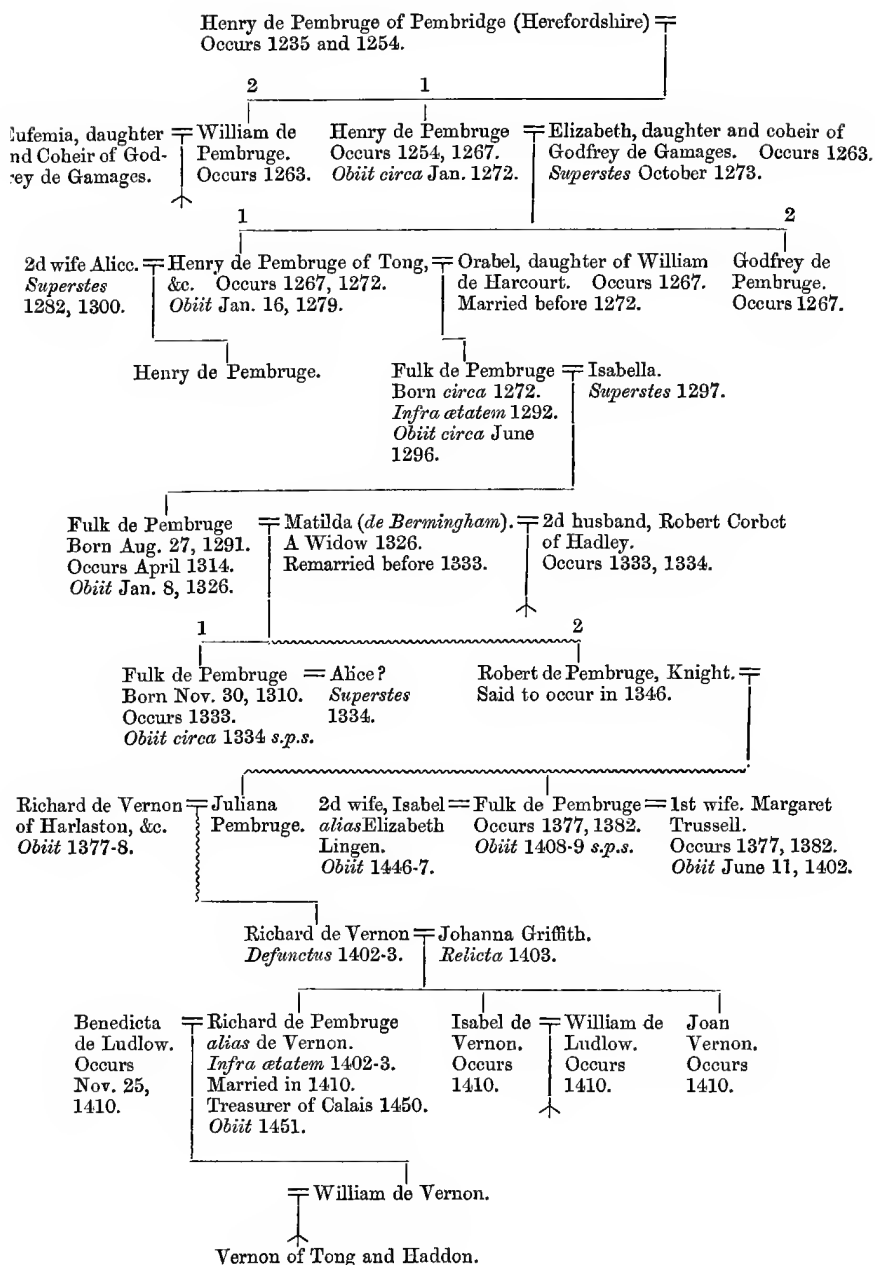
<sup>83</sup> *Rot. Fin.* 56 Hen. III, memb. 10.

<sup>84</sup> *Pedes Finium (Divers. Comitatus)*  
2 Edw. I, Salop and Leicestershire.

<sup>85</sup> *Originalia*, i, p. 32, anno 7 Edw. I.

<sup>86</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, folios 301, 317, 345,  
349.

## PEDIGREE OF PEMBRUGE AND VERNON.



Honour of Radnor was, at this time, held by Ralph Lord Mortimer of Wigmore, whose Vassal therefore Henry was.

In 1248, Henry de Penbrigg had a Charter of Free-Warren at Weston.<sup>87</sup>

On May 10, 1254, he fined one hundred merks to have custody of all lands, &c., which were the hereditary right of Lucia and Eufemia, two of the daughters and coheirs of Godfrey de Gamages, out of the lands which were said Godfrey's. He was to hold such lands till those coheireesses came of age, and was to have their marriages for two of his Sons. Margery de Lacy who had the said wards in her custody was to deliver them up, so to be married.<sup>88</sup>

On July 1, 1263, the Plea-Rolls of Westminster exhibit Henry de Penbrug, and Elizabeth his wife, with William de Penbrug, and Eufemia his wife, as suing Hugh de Plessetis for the Shropshire Manor of Stottesden, which the Plaintiffs claimed as the right of the said Elizabeth and Eufemia. The Defendant not appearing, the Manor was ordered to be seized into the King's hand, and the cause was adjourned.<sup>89</sup>

Of Godfrey de Gamages and his sometime interest in Stottesden it will be better to speak when we reach that Manor. Here I would observe that Henry de Pembruge's wife Elizabeth, though a daughter and Coheir of Godfrey de Gamages, was either a different daughter to Lucia for whose marriage Henry de Pembruge senior had fined in 1254, or else was described at different periods by two distinct names.

Henry de Pembruge does not appear to have ever recovered any interest in Stottesden, and for this or some other cause of discontent, he became a strenuous supporter of Montfort's treason in 1265:—nay it was alleged that after the Battle of Evesham (August 4), and after the Council of Winchester (in September following), he insulted Prince Edmund at Warwick, committed depredations, set fire to that Town, and was there taken prisoner.

He seems to have been given in charge to Roger de Mortimer, under whom he held his Manor of Pembruge. Mortimer bestowed his captive in the dungeons of Wigmore, with what object or result we shall presently learn.

<sup>87</sup> *Rot. Chart.* 32 Hen. III, memb. 4. He appears to have fined 20 merks for this privilege; but the printed *Originalia* Roll (vol. i, p. 10) describes

the Manor as "Eston" in Herefordshire.

<sup>88</sup> *Rot. Fin.* ii, 186.

<sup>89</sup> *Placita*, Trinity Term, 47 Hen. III, memb. 23 dorso.

Of course all the estates of Henry de Pembruge were forfeited. Weston (Gloucestershire) was given to Walter Giffard, Archbishop of York, Leye (Worcestershire) to Matthew de Gamages, and Gyllock (Herefordshire) to Hugh de Mortimer.

Roger de Mortimer of Wigmore, in virtue probably of a general licence which he had to confiscate all such lands of the King's enemies as were of his Fee, entered upon his Prisoner's Manor of Pembridge. Foreseeing however that such occupation would eventually be null and void, and that Henry de Pembridge, by the King's clemency, would ultimately have that power of redemption which was accorded to Rebels in general, by the *Dictum de Kenilworth*, Mortimer strove rather to realize the escheated Manor than to reclaim the unsteady faith of his Vassal. The Prisoner made a formal conveyance to Mortimer of the Manor and Advowson of Pembridge; and not only that, but he wrote to his Tenants informing them of the transfer and their consequent change of fealty. He was further taken, or, as Mortimer afterwards asserted, went willingly, before the full Court of the County of Hereford and ratified the transaction.

Mortimer seems however to have felt that all these concessions, extorted from a Prisoner, could not amount to a legal conveyance. A further security was desirable. He therefore got to his Castle of Wigmore the two sons of his Prisoner, Henry and Godefrid, and leaving them there as hostages to secure his own ascendancy over the Father, journeyed with the latter to the King's Court, then sitting at Clarendon.

There on the *Quinzaine* of St. Martin in the 52d year of King Henry (Nov. 25, 1267) appeared Henry de Pembruge senior (so called with reference to his eldest son and because his own Father was now deceased), and acknowledged that he remitted and quitted to Roger de Mortimer all his right and claim in the Manor and Advowson of Pembruge for ever. He also undertook to give any such other security as Mortimer should devise in the matter, whether by Fine, to be levied in the King's Court, or otherwise.<sup>90</sup>

From Clarendon Mortimer seems to have conducted his Prisoner

<sup>90</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, Michaelmas Term, 51 & 52 Hen. III, memb. 25, where this *Quit-claim* is given independently, and without any allusion to the circumstances under which it was obtained.

Those circumstances, as detailed in the text, transpired at a trial long afterwards, when however this very *Quit-claim* was cited in evidence.



to Ernevode, one of his Shropshire Manors, but for what purpose does not appear. Mortimer's object was gained, and Pembruge lost for ever the estate which gave name to his House. It is probable therefore that he was soon released, and indeed thus much is implied by a statement which says that he took measures in accordance with the *Dictum de Kenilworth* to redeem his other estates. Three years, or four at most, remained to him for such a purpose; for in 1270, or 1271, he died, leaving his wife Elizabeth a widow, and that son Henry his heir, whom we have already noticed as a Hostage at Wigmore and as Lord of Tong in right of his wife Orabell, niece of Alan la Zouche.

This youth, the third Henry de Pembruge of whom we give account, set himself strenuously to redeem the fallen fortunes of his house.

In December 1271, his peace with the King is obviously implied by the terms "faithful and beloved" already quoted in connection with his name. On January 20, 1272, "Henry, son of Henry de Pembrigg lately deceased," had been suing the Archbishop of York, Matthew de Gamages, and Hugh de Mortimer, that they should allow him to redeem those, his lands, of which they were seized. On their refusal so to do, the King had issued a mandate to Nicholas Fitz Martin and his companions, Justices appointed to hear and determine all such suits in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, and Worcestershire, apprising the said Justices of the Claimant's readiness to abide by the *Dictum de Kenilworth*, and ordering them, if he was entitled to the benefits of that edict, to summon the parties before them and do their duty, according to the form of the said edict, touching Henry de Pembruge's right to recover seizin of his estates.

It would appear that the Justices thus instructed found the case to be beyond their jurisdiction.—Pembruge's claim to the benefits of the *Dictum* were denied by the Archbishop and others. So on the day last mentioned (Jan. 20, 1272) the parties appeared before the King himself.

The Archbishop pleaded for all. He denied young Henry's right to the benefit of redemption, inasmuch as the *Dictum de Kenilworth* excluded, *inter alios*, those who had persisted in rebellion and rapine after the Council of Winchester (the "peace proclaimed at Winchester" he calls it). He then instanced the elder Pembruge's conduct before recited.

Young Pembruge, on the other hand, urged that the *Dictum de*

*Kenihworth* applied to all transgressions up to the time of its promulgation, except those of the Citizens of London; that his Father and, after his Father's death, he himself sued for redemption of their lands in conformity with the *Dictum*, which *Dictum*, he added, contained a special concession of the King's, viz. that no Rebel should suffer disinherittance.

The suit or suits did not end on this occasion, but a postscript on the Roll states that soon after the King's death, in the *octaves* of Hilary (Jan. 20) the parties accorded by License, and it gives reference to a Roll of the said term in the first year of Edward I (1273) for particulars.<sup>91</sup>—

I find the Concord thus indicated. Thereby Henry de Pembruge relinquished to the Archbishop all his right to the Manor of Weston super Egge (Weston sub Edge) receiving in exchange 1000 merks and the Manor of Ullingwyke (Herefordshire) which he is to hold under the Archbishop at a penny rent, for all services. He also remits to the Archbishop all his right in the Manor of Norton (Gloucestershire), for a sum paid down and an annuity of £10. chargeable on the Archbishop's Manor of Brockwode during the life of Elizabeth, Henry's Mother.<sup>92</sup>

How Henry de Pembruge recovered his other Manors of Gillock (Herefordshire) and Leye (Worcestershire) from Mathew de Gamage and Hugh de Mortimer I have not thought it worth while to inquire. Suffice it to say that he did regain them.

Thus far successful, he opposed himself to the gigantic influence of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore, suing him before the Justices Itinerant at Hereford for the lost Manor of Pembruge.

The cause was adjourned to Westminster, where it came on for hearing before the King's Council in the *octaves* of Hilary (Jan. 20) 1274. The pleadings are given at an unusual length but are well worth epitomizing.—

“Henry son of Henry de Penebrigg sued Roger de Mortimer, Matilda his wife, and Ralph his Son for the Manor, &c. (except ten *Librates* of Land) of which Manor, &c. Roger and Ralph had unjustly disseized the Plaintiff's Father, whose heir the Plaintiff is.”—

The Record is ambiguous as to the appearance of the Defendants, whether all or only Matilda pleaded by Attorney. Her plea was that she claimed to hold nothing in demesne; Ralph's was that he

<sup>91</sup> *Placita coram Rege*, Hilary Term, 56 Hen. III, memb. 11 dorso.

<sup>92</sup> *Abbrev. Placitorum*, p. 185, b.

held nothing except at will of his Father. So Roger was virtually the sole Defendant.

He took exception to the word "disseized" used in the Plaintiff's writ, and alleged the Charter of Henry de Pembruge Senior, his letter to his Tenants, and his voluntary *quit-claim* in the County-Court as inconsistent with "*disseizin*."—

He produced also the documentary proofs of each transaction.

The Plaintiff replied that Mortimer had ingress in the Manor by *disseizin*, not by the documents produced; for he entered on the Manor while his (the Plaintiff's) Father was a prisoner and before the documents were executed.

Mortimer took exception to the form of the Plaintiff's proceedings and asked judgment of the Court as to whether the Plaintiff was competent to sue under a writ "de ingressu" which involved mention of the term "*disseizin*."<sup>93</sup>

The Plaintiff answered, that if his Father had demised the premises while in prison, a writ "de ingressu," making mention of such imprisonment, was a form in which he was competent to sue; he was however prepared to show that neither in nor out of prison had his Father ever *demised* the premises.—

He repeated that Mortimer had ingress by *disseizin*, notwithstanding that his Father had given him (Mortimer) a *seizin* by *feoffment*. He appealed to the Court to say whether he was competent to sue under any other form of writ than that which he had employed.

The Court's assent to this proposition may be inferred from the continuance of the pleadings.—

Mortimer now again alleged the *quit-claim* in the County Court, his own *seizin* of the Manor for a long period, and finally Pembruge's acknowledgment in the *Curia Regis*. To the Rolls of Pleas in that Court he now appealed.

Henry acknowledged that such *recognition* had been made by his Father at the time and place stated; but he also showed how himself and his Brother being in Prison at Wigmore, his Father had acted under fear on their account and lest evil should befall them (*ne de eis pejus eveniret*). He asks the Court's Judgment

<sup>93</sup> There was a technical distinction between the writ "de ingressu" and the writ "de nova disseizina." The former applied to cases of disputed property or right, the latter to cases of disputed pos-

session. If a party had brought his action under the superior form, "de ingressu," he could not, while that action was pending, sue under the inferior form.

whether a *recognition* thus obtained should have force; and that it was thus obtained he was prepared to prove before a Jury (*per patriam*).

Mortimer hereupon expatiated on the freedom and impartiality of the *Curia Regis*, adding that if things had been as the Plaintiff stated, Pembruge Senior might have proclaimed the oppression in open Court at Clarendon, and, refusing the *Recognition* required of him, might have procured the enlargement of himself and his Sons.

Thus far the pleadings on this occasion.—

A Postscript on the same Roll intimates that another hearing took place at Westminster on Feb. 3 (1274), before Martin de Littlebury and other Justices appointed to terminate pleas; that again, after death of said Martin, the cause came before Ralph de Hengham and his Fellows, and that then Mortimer appeared in Court and asserted that judgment had been given in his favour at the previous hearing before Martin de Littlebury, Nicholas de Stapleton and Master Richard de Stanes. The two latter, being survivors of the three, he called to bear record of the fact. Their record was that judgment was given to this effect, viz. that “Mortimer and the other Defendants were dismissed *sine die*, and that Henry de Pembruge was adjudged to be *in misericordiâ* for a false claim.”<sup>94</sup>—

Such was the redress which misfortune obtained when it wrestled against power in the early years of King Edward,—the “English Justinian.”

I now proceed to give the substance of the Inquisitions which were taken after the death of this Henry de Pembruge.

The King’s writs of *diem clausit extremum* bear date 18 February and 3 March 1279. A Worcestershire Inquest, which sat in consequence, reported that the deceased held Leye (Legam) of the Abbot of Pershore and that Fulk his son and next heir was eight years of age.

A second Inquest, which sat at Salisbury Castle on May 5, said that the deceased was Tenant of Lora de Saunford at North-Tudeworth (Wilts), but that of the age of Fulk his next heir, the Jurors knew nothing as he was not living in Wiltshire. The same Jurors found that Henry de Pembruge once held Weston sub Egge (Glouc.) of Walter Giffard, Archbishop of York, by

<sup>94</sup> *Placita apud Westm. coram Consilio Regis*, Hilary Term, 2 Edw. I, memb. 17 recto et dorso.

service of one Knight's-fee, but that the deceased, son of the said Henry, had quitted all his right in Weston to the Archbishop, for the Manor of Ulyngwyke (Heref.) and 1000 merks.

A third Inquest was taken at Salisbury Castle on December 28, 1279. The Jury found that the deceased had not held Tudworth *in capite*, but that Roger la Zouche, who formerly held it under John Biset, gave the Manor to Gilbert de Stanford (Sanford) with his daughter Lora in *frank-marriage*, and that, after Gilbert's death,<sup>95</sup> Lora gave it to Orabell, formerly wife of Henry de Pembruge, and to Fulk the son of said Henry and *Lora* (read Orabell).

A fourth Inquest which sat in Herefordshire on Jan. 8, 1280, found that the deceased had held Gillock *in capite* by service of finding one man for fifteen days in time of war, &c;—also that he had held a third part of the Manor of Ullingewyk of the Bishop of Hereford (read Worcester) by one-third of a Knight's-Fee;—also that he held £4. 17s. 8d. annual rent in Catteley of the gift of William Devereux by service of 1d. *per annum*.

A fifth Inquisition sat Jan. 26, 1280, in Leicestershire, and gave the following almost accurate account; viz. that William de Harcourt, formerly Lord of Ayliston (Elstow), had two daughters, Orabell and Margery, to whom conjointly he gave the Manors of Ayliston and Tonge;—that afterwards Henry de Pembruge married Orabell, and John de Cantilupe Margery;—that by consent, Tong remained to Henry and Orabell, and Ayliston to John;—that John and Margery died seized of Ayliston, but without issue, so that thereby Ayliston reverted to Fulk the son and heir of Henry de Pembruge, which Fulk was now under age;—that Henry, Fulk's Father had therefore not died seized of Ayliston;—that the Manor was held of Richard de Harcourt by one Knight's-fee, and by Richard of the Earl of Winchester.<sup>96</sup>

These details, though slightly inaccurate, supply a general and quite intelligible truth. In this respect they differ widely from some Records of Law proceedings which took place during Fulk de Pembruge's minority. These latter, taken as they stand, present us with inconsistent and impossible results; in fact, it is evident that the Law-Clerk who recorded these pleas did not

<sup>95</sup> Gilbert de Saunford died in 1249, leaving a son and heir under age. Either that heir never attained his majority, or

else was Gilbert's son by another wife than Laura la Zouche.

<sup>96</sup> *Inquisitions*, 7 Edw. I, No. 12.

understand their drift. I have therefore thought it better, while giving the substance of the original minutes, to insert in brackets whatever I conceive to be necessary for their correction or explanation. I should premise that Walter Giffard, Archbishop of York, seems to have conveyed, between 1272 and 1279, the Seigncury of Ullingwike to Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester.

In October 1282, the following is given as the result of a *plea* heard before the King or his Deputies.

“The Bishop of Hereford (read Worcester) recovers his seizin of two parts of the Manor of Ollingwyk *alias* Ullingwyk by reason of the Minority of Henry de Penebrigg. Fulco, brother of the same Henry,<sup>97</sup> who had custody of the said Henry by gift of the Queen, concedes that all tenements which he holds of his brother’s inheritance together with the dower of Alice his wife (read Mother, *i. e.* Mother of Henry, step-mother of Fulk, and widow of Henry Fulk’s father) shall be put in *hochepot*;—and that Fulk shall have two parts and Alice the third part, but not of the Manor of Todeworth in Co. Wilts.”<sup>98</sup>

Another Record of this same *plea* intimates that it was heard at Salop, in three weeks of Michaelmas 1282, before the King or his Deputies. Its substance is as follows;—

“The Sheriff had mandate to bring into Court Alice, widow of Henry de Pembruge, that she might respond to Godfrey, Bishop of Worcester, in the following suit,”—viz. “Whereas custody of two parts of Ollingewyk, which belonged to Henry de Pembruge deceased, except 17*s.* rent, pertained to the Bishop until the age of the heir” (read devisee), “in that it was held by Knight’s-service,—and whereas Alice now held those parts in dower,—whether she, Alice, had ought to allege why the said Bishop should not have those two parts in custody.”

The Sheriff had also mandate to bring into Court “Fulk de Pembruge, who was to have with him the heir (read younger son) of Henry de Pembruge, in order that he Fulk, might do and receive as regarded the tenements which Fulk holds of the inheritance of the aforesaid heir (read younger son), and which had belonged to Henry his (Henry’s) Father, and brother (read Father) of the said Fulk, whatever might appear just.”—

<sup>97</sup> Fulk Pembruge himself was not yet twelve years of age.

<sup>98</sup> *Abbrev. Placit.* 274. I am unable to discover the original or duplicate of

the original Record which the Abbreviator of the *Placita* must have used in compiling this abstract.

Now Fulk appears; and Alice appears, and concedes that the Bishop may have custody of the said two parts of Ullingwyk saving to Alice her goods lying in that Manor. So the Bishop recovers the same.

Fulk, on the other hand, pleads that he cannot bring the heir (devisee) into Court, because he is in the Queen's custody: and as to the dower of Alice, Fulk concedes that all the tenements which he, Fulk, holds of the inheritance of Henry his Brother, together with the dower of Alice, be put in *hochepot*, and that Fulk should have back two parts thereof and Alice have her dower. And Alice agrees to this, if so be that she shall have such dower in the Manor of Toddeworthe, Wiltshire.—

Fulk replies that Toddeworthe was not of the inheritance of Henry (his Father), nor had he anything there except in the name of Orabell his first wife, because he, Fulk, says that Lora de Sanford gave the Manor to Orabell and to Fulk, Orabell's son, by a charter which he produces. Whereupon Fulk asks judgment of the Court if Alice ought to have dower therein.

Alice replies that Henry (her husband) held the same by inheritance, and asks that inquiry be made if it were not so. And Fulk agrees.

Afterwards at Bristol in the *Quinzaine* of Hilary, 13 Edw. I, (Jan 27, 1285), a Jury found that Lora gave Tudworth to Orabell and her heirs, so that Henry de Pembruge had held nothing there except in name of Orabell, once his wife. A day to hear sentence was given to the parties in the *Quinzaine* of Easter following. "The whole of this last enrolment," adds the Record, "is to be found in the Rolls of Hilary Term in the 13th year."<sup>99</sup>

Of Alice widow of Henry de Pembruge and her son Henry, I will attempt no further account, except to notice that she was living in 1300 and unsuccessful in a suit about lands in "Brencheslc and Pepingbury (Co. Herts)."<sup>100</sup>

We return to Fulk de Pembruge, son and heir of Henry, whose minority, though for some inexplicable cause, it is not once

<sup>99</sup> *Placita apud Salop*, Michaelmas Term, 10 & 11 Edw. I, memb. 22. An abstract of this plea, but taken from another and third original, is given in the *Abbrev. Placitorum* (page 104). It indicates the dismissal *sine die* of Fulk de Pembruge.

<sup>100</sup> *Originalia*, i, 113. Henry de Pem-

bruge son of Alice seems to have founded a distinct house. It was probably he who in 1303, and as a Knight, made a grant in Wyneston (Gloucestershire) sealing the deed with arms—Barry of six \* \* \*, over all a Bend. (*Glover's Collections*, A, fo. 109).

mentioned in the law-suits above detailed, endured for many years after.

At Michaelmas 1280, the Sheriff of Shropshire rendered account of £17. 14s. 9½*d.*, “issues and rents of the Manor of Tonge, formerly Henry de Pembrugge’s, viz. from Monday, January 16, 1279, till January 13, 1280, before that the Manor was given up to William Burnell as Custos in behalf of John de Binelard, to whom the King had given custody of Henry’s lands.”<sup>101</sup>

The Feodary of 1284, says as follows,—

“Fulco de Penebrugge holds the Manor of Togge with the *vill* of Norton (Tong Norton) of the Honour of Breyseynok (Brecknock is meant), for one Knight’s-fee; nor is there mention in the inquisition as to whom the said Fulco holds under.”<sup>102</sup>

At the County Assizes, October 1292, the Brimstree Jurors reported that Fulco de Penebrugg, a minor in the King’s custody, claimed to have *assize* of bread and beer, also to hold a Market and Fair in his Manor of Tong.<sup>103</sup>

In March 1293, the heir of Henry de Pembrugge was found to be holding Ayliston (Leicestershire) of the estate of Richard de Harcourt then deceased, by service of one Knight’s-fee.<sup>104</sup>

Very soon after he attained his majority, Fulk de Pembrugge died. He left his wife Isabel surviving, and a son and heir Fulk, not yet five years of age. On June 20th, 1296, the King’s writ of “*diem clausit extremum*” issued to the Escheator *citra* Trent, and the Inquests which followed contain further particulars as to the estate of the deceased.—

That which sat at Boscomb (Wilts) on July 23, 1296, reported his tenure of Tudeworthe and found that Fulk his heir would be five years of age on August 27, then next coming.—

The Leicestershire Inquest reported his tenure of the Manor of Ayleston and rents in Stretton, and gave a similar account of the age of his heir.—

The Herefordshire Inquest gave August 24, as the heir’s birth-day, and reported the tenures of the deceased in Gyllouch, Ullingwyk, and Catteley *juxta* Upleden.—

A Fourth Inquisition sitting at Tong on July 11, 1296, found the deceased to have held that Manor under Sir Alan la Zouche, whose Grandfather Alan gave it (said these accurate Jurors) in marriage

<sup>101</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8 Edw. I, Salop.

<sup>102</sup> *Kirby’s Quest.* Brimstree Hundred.

<sup>103</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, m. 23.

<sup>104</sup> *Inquisitions*, 21 Edw. I, No. 46.



with Alice, grandmother of Sir Fulk, lately deceased, who owed no service thereon. They valued the Capital Messuage at 5*s.*, the Fishery of the *Vvary* at 2*s.* 8*d.*, the Dove-cot at 1*s.* 8*d.*, the Water Mill at £2. *per annum*. They enumerated various rents due from the free tenants of the Manor, among which one of a *Chaplet of Roses* is observable. The whole Manor and income they estimated as worth £20. 19*s.* 8½*d.* yearly. They found Fulk, the son and heir, to have been four years old on Saturday August 27 previous.<sup>105</sup>

I presume that Isabel, widow of the deceased, had Tong in dower, for pursuant to the King's Writ dated at Portsmouth, May 24, 1297, the Sheriff of Shropshire returned Isabel Lady of Tong, among those who, holding lands or rents to the yearly value of £20. or upwards, were (generally) liable to be summoned to perform military service in person, with horse and arms, in parts beyond the seas, and were to muster at London on July 7 following.<sup>106</sup>

In 4 Edw. II (1310-11), consistent mention is made of Fulk de Pembrugge's heir as still under age. The King then intrusted his land to Oliver de Bordeaux till he should attain his majority.<sup>107</sup>

This last event will have been on August 27, 1312, and we have several notices of him during the fourteen years of his remaining life.

On the 1st of April 1314, being at Stanton Harecourt (Oxfordshire), he acknowledges to have received from his Cousin, Monsieur de Harecourt, Lord of Bosworth, a Charter of the Manor of Tong, whereby Alan la Zouche gave and granted the same Manor to Sir William de Harecourt and Alice his wife in *frank-marriage*.<sup>108</sup>

On June 15, 1314, Fulk, son of Fulk Penebrugge, was a Knight. So describing himself and as Lord of Tong he quits to Sir Walter de Langton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, all his claim to a plot of wood called Stryfwode, in Brewood. For this the Bishop paid him £10.<sup>109</sup>

<sup>105</sup> *Inquisitions*, 24 Edw. I, No. 31.

<sup>106</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, i, 291.

<sup>107</sup> *Originalia*, i, 113.

<sup>108</sup> *Dodsworth*, vol. 96. The consanguinity implied in this deed was thus:—Sir William de Harecourt was Grandfather of Sir John (the person who gave up the Tong Charter); he was also Great-grandfather of Fulk de Pembrugge who acknowledges receipt thereof.—

It would seem that when Alan La Zouche had, by composition under the

*Dictum de Kenilworth*, secured Tong for his Sister's issue, the Title-deeds had remained with the male line of William de Harecourt, that Sister's husband.

<sup>109</sup> Lichfield Register (Ashmol. MSS. 1527). The deed is dated at Lichfield, and tested by Sir Robert de Stepulton, Sir Alexander de Frevill, Sir John Giffard, and Sir Roger de Oeovre, Knights; also by William de Freford, Henry de Harecourt, and Roger de Pulesdon.

In time, as it would seem, of Edward II, Fulke de Pennebrugge, Lord of Tonge, appoints Nicholas le Taylour of Tonge, his Attorney, to overlook an exchange between William de Pres and Fulke's tenants of Norton and Tonge, of that land called the Old-Castle.<sup>110</sup>

This Fulk de Pembrugge also granted a Charter of Confirmation to Buildwas Abbey which contains several points of interest. It specifies free road for the Monks' sheep and animals, to be driven to and from their Grange of Rochlegh, to their pasture of Donyntone, beyond the rivulet under Chelfesford, through Fulk's wood of Rochlegh; also that the Monks may make a fence from the corner of their field of Rochlegh to the rivulet aforesaid; also that they may make and maintain a bridge upon Fulk's land beyond the said rivulet and have *easements* of the bank of the said rivulet to repair said bridge when needful, as by the Charters of Roger, son of Alan la Zouche, and of Richard de Bealmey's is testified respecting the said bridge: also that, if at any time, from scarcity of their live stock, the Monks should neglect to use these liberties of road and bridge, it should not be to their prejudice or prevent them from reviving the dormant right when they chose; he also grants them a site for making a Mill at Tylesmendeslode-stank, with water-course and right of road through his land to the said mill, and earth to repair the stank when needful, "as was contained in a fine levied in the *Curia Regis* about making the said Mill, between the Abbot of Buildwas and Alan de la Zouche formerly Lord of the Manor of Tonge."<sup>111</sup>

On 16 Oct. 1313, Fulk de Pembrugge was included among those adherents of Thomas Earl of Lancaster who having participated in the death of Piers Gaveston had the King's pardon.

In the Feodary of March 1316, called *Nomina Villarum*, he

<sup>110</sup> Dugdale's MSS. (vol. K, fo. 11) in Bibl. Ashm.—from a deed in Dugdale's own possession. The transcript gives 30 Edw. II for the date of this document, where of course there is a mistake as to the year, or else the reign. I have supposed the former, as the Fulk de Pembrugge of 30 Edw. I was an Infant, and the last Fulk de Pembrugge will hardly have succeeded so early as 30 Edw. III. Still there is doubt about the matter. The Deed was sealed with Arms—Barry of six.

<sup>111</sup> Charter in possession of George

Pritchard, Esq. of Broseley. The witnesses are Sir Walter de Huggesford, Sir William de Forcer, Knights; Roger Carles, Hugh de Bealmey's, Henry de Bealmey's, and others. I have already estimated the date of this deed to be about 1312, *i.e.* on Fulk Pembrugge's attaining his majority. The seal is a coat of arms, well executed, and charged with—Barry of six. The Legend is—S. FULCONIS DE PEMBRIGG.

Mr. Dukes (Appendix, lxvi) has given an abstract of this deed, but the date assigned thereto (1229) must be a typographical error.

is returned as Lord of Tong (Co. Salop) and of Ullingswick (Herefordshire).<sup>112</sup>

On Aug. 14, 1319, he had license to exchange ten acres in Tong with the Prioress of White-Ladies who was to give him other ten acres in the same Manor.<sup>113</sup>

He served as a Knight of the Shire of Salop at the Parliament of York in May 1322, and was returned as a Knight of the Shire of Gloucester to a second Parliament holden at York in November of the same year.<sup>114</sup>

His various employments as a Commissioner to levy Archers, a Commissioner of Array, or Inspector of Levies; his summonses to Councils at home or military service abroad, are too numerous to mention here. In the years 1323-1325, his name occurs no less than eighteen times in one or other such connection.<sup>115</sup>

He died on January 8, 1326. The King's Writ of *Diem clausit extremum* issued to the Escheator of Salop, Staffordshire, and Gloucestershire on January 21, and an Inquisition as to his estate was held at Tong on Feb. 25 following. The Jurors found that he had held nothing *in capite*, that he and Matilda his wife had held jointly the Manor of Tong under William la Zouche, by service of one Knight's-fee and as a member of Ashby de la Zouche: that they had it by feoffment of Henry de Byrmentham (Birmingham), who by fine levied in the King's Court had enfeoffed them, with entail upon their heirs male: that Fulk their son and heir was fifteen years of age on Nov. 30 previous.<sup>116</sup>

The Inquisitions of other Counties do not seem to be preserved.

Of Fulk de Pembruge (III), thus proved to have been born Nov. 30, 1310, I have only one notice after he attained his majority. In 1333, Robert Corbet of Hadley and Matilda his wife had recovered against Fulk son of Fulk de Pembruge, the Manor of Ayleston (Leicestershire).<sup>117</sup>

I presume Matilda, thus named, to have been Fulk's Mother, who,

<sup>112</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, iv, 1271.

<sup>113</sup> *Pat.* 13 Edw. II, memb. 37.

<sup>114</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, 366, 399.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 1271; *Fœdera*, ii, 592.

<sup>116</sup> *Inquisitions*, 19 Edw. II, No. 56. Henry de Birmingham had, of course, been a Feoffee in Trust. I doubt not that Matilda, wife of Fulk de Pembruge, was of the family of Birmingham.

<sup>117</sup> *Originalia*, ii, 82. In 8 Edw. III (1334-5) I find, by an unvouched note, that Alice de Penneburge was suing under writ of *novel disseizin* for land in Tonge. Robert Corbet of Hadley *Chevr.* and Matilda his wife were the defendants.

Whether this Aliee were Sister or Widow of Fulk Pembruge of 1333 I will not venture to say.

having since 1326 remarried to Robert Corbet, had now recovered Ayleston as her dower.

I have seen no original documentary evidence which will enable me to state the descent from Fulk Pembruge III (living 1333) to Fulk IV who died in 1408-9.

Shaw informs us of a Robert de Pembruge living in 20 Edw. III (1346-7), and whom Shaw takes to have been Brother and Heir of Fulk III, and Father of Fulk IV.<sup>118</sup>

The latter occurs in 1371, with Margaret his wife, daughter and eventual sole heir of William Trussel of Cublesdon, by his wife Ida (or Idonea) le Botyler.<sup>119</sup>

Margaret, first wife of Fulk de Pembruge IV, died without issue June 11, 1402. Fulk took a second wife, Isabel or Elizabeth Lingen, but dying without issue, in 10 Henry IV (1308-9), closed the male line of his succession at Tong.

In 12 Hen. IV (1410-1) Isabel, relict of Fulk Pembruge, was busy in the Religious Foundation, since known as Tong College, the particulars of which are amply detailed elsewhere.<sup>120</sup>

Isabel long survived her first husband, long enough (as Shaw has it) to remarry twice, viz. to Sir Thomas Peytevine and Sir John Ludlow.<sup>121</sup> She died in 25 Hen. VI (1446-7).

The heir of the last Sir Fulk Pembruge of Tong was Richard de Vernon (sometimes called Richard de Pembruge). He was, if former accounts be correct, son and heir of Richard de Vernon, son and heir of another Richard de Vernon, by Juliana, sister of the said Fulk de Pembruge.<sup>122</sup> All that I shall here add of this Richard de Vernon, thus succeeding to his supposed Great Uncle's estates after the death of Isabel, the said Great Uncle's surviving wife, is, that he was a Minor in 1402, a Knight in 1418, and that he died in 1451, seized of various Vernon and Pembruge estates, viz. Pychecote (Bucks.), Harlaston (Staffordshire), Haddon (Derbyshire), Tong, Ayleston and Ullingwyke.

<sup>118</sup> *History of Staffordshire*, i, Additions, p. 38.

<sup>119</sup> Dugdale (*Baronage*, p. 595) makes Ida le Botyler to be wife, not wife's Mother, of Fulk de Pembruge. The true account is however given in the *History of Warwickshire*.

<sup>120</sup> *Monasticon*, viii, 1401.

<sup>121</sup> I hardly credit this.—Shaw's notion

seems to have arisen from the circumstance that Henry IV's charter of Nov. 1410, directed that the future Canons of Tong should pray for the souls (*inter alios*) of these two Knights. So the Dame Isabel would, at that rate, have got rid of three husbands in less than the same number of years.

<sup>122</sup> *Dukes' Antiquities*, pp. 188, 189.

Of the UNDERTENANTS in this Manor I can say little more than is implied in the above account of the Lords of the Fee.

Distinct notice should however be taken of a younger branch of the family of De Belmeis, which had early feoffment in Tong and elsewhere, and is on the whole easily distinguishable from those other *Cadets* of the same house of whom we have given account under Donington.

Whether William de Beaumeis who stands first witness of the very ancient deed quoted under Hatton were progenitor of the Tong or Donington branch, of both or of neither, I will not undertake to say.—I only guess him to have been of Donington.

I should be similarly doubtful as to that Robert de Belmeis, who about 1139 was first witness of Philip de Belmeis' grant to Buildwas: but the nearly contemporary deed of Richard de Belmeis (of Donington) seems to exclude Robert from that branch of the family. Therefore very possibly the said Robert was of Tong.

Again I notice suggestively how the Deed of Philip de Belmeis Junior to Lilleshall, which passed between 1152 and 1159, is attested not only by Sir Richard de Belmeys (undoubtedly of Donington) but by Robert de Belmeys and William his Brother. On the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 1185, among some payments arising from a recent visit of the Justices of the Forest, it is entered that Robert de Belmes owes one merk, apparently for something sold out of the King's Forest.<sup>123</sup>

The same Justices holding pleas in Shropshire in the same year had further amerced Robert de Beaumes 20s. for some default.—

The latter fine he paid and was *quit*, but the former is renewed as an unsatisfied debt on the Staffordshire Pipe-Roll of 1186, with a note to the effect that payment should be required in Shropshire.

However in 1187, he pays half-a-merk to the Sheriff of Staffordshire, the other half remaining a debt on the Staffordshire Rolls of 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191; but transferred to the Shropshire Roll of 1192, and liquidated in Shropshire in 1193.

On Nov. 24, 1194, Robert de Beaumis is the first named of the four Knights who reported to the Courts at Westminster their *view* of certain litigated lands at Astley Abbots and Brug.<sup>124</sup>

<sup>123</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. II, Staffordshire. *Pro extravendito de foresta* is the expression,—explained by the entry on the Roll

of 32 Hen. II, which gives "*Pro bosco in foresta vendito.*"

<sup>124</sup> *Supra*, Vol. I, p. 47.

At the same period or rather earlier, he attests a grant of Walter de Dunstanvill, Lord of Idshale.<sup>125</sup>

On April 23, 1200, the same Robert appears as Recognizor in a suit which concerned lands at Evelith (near Shiffnal).<sup>126</sup>

At the County Assizes, October 1203, Robert de Beaumeys *essoigned* himself from attendance at the general summons.

In succession as I imagine to this Robert, was that Sir William de Beumys who has already been mentioned as having given to John de Pres some feoffment in Tong Manor;<sup>127</sup> which feoffment, apparently granted in the first half of the thirteenth Century, was confirmed by Alan la Zouche between 1255 and 1263.

In 1255, another Robert de Beaumes occurs under circumstances which leave no doubt of his being a vassal of the Lords of Tong.

Such a person had obtained from Alan la Zouche the wardship of *Ralph*, son of Nicholas de Wililey, so far as related to a hide of land at Gretton (Munslow Hundred); which hide of land, as I shall elsewhere show, was held by De Wililey under La Zouche, and by La Zouche *in capite* of the King.<sup>128</sup>

Though I shall be somewhat interfering with the history of another locality, I should here state briefly that on Aug. 17, 1260, Giles de Erdinton was appointed specially to try a suit of *novel disseizin* which William, son of William le Fraunceys and Agnes his wife, had brought against Robert Beumys concerning a tenement in Stanwey.<sup>129</sup>

On December 28, 1260, King Henry III granted his Letters-Patent of Protection in favour of Robert de Beumes, so long as the said Robert should be in the service of Prince Edward in parts beyond sea.<sup>130</sup>

On June 3, 1261, a Fine was levied at Westminster which indicates the purchase by Robert de Belmeis of half-a-virgate and one acre of land in Nether Stanwey, for which he paid ten merks to the Vendors.<sup>131</sup>

In 46 Hen. 3 (1261-2), the King granted to Robert de Belmeis

<sup>125</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris, &c.*, No. ii.

<sup>126</sup> *Rot. Curie Regis*, ii, 199.

<sup>127</sup> *Supra*, p. 223.

<sup>128</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 70, where however I suspect that we should read *Andrew* for *Ralph*, the former being the name of Nicholas de Wililey's infant heir. The

mistake, however, if it be one, is circumstantially repeated in a contemporary notice of Kenley, another of De Wililey's Manors.

<sup>129</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 44 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>130</sup> *Ibidem*, 45 Hen. III.

<sup>131</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 45 Hen. III, Salop.

a license, empowering him to hunt certain animals, under the usual limitations, and only in the County of Salop.<sup>132</sup>

Within the next five years, Robert de Belmeis was deceased, leaving a widow Matilda, who remarried to Hugh de la Val. His heir, and, as I imagine, his Son, was Hugh de Belmeis, a youth whose loyal services to King Henry III are matters of frequent and honourable mention in the annals of the period.

On Sept. 30, 1265, that is in the month following the great victory of Evesham, the King grants his Letters of Protection in behalf of Hugh de Beumes.<sup>133</sup>

In 1266, being one of that Monarch's Valets, he attended him at the siege of Kenilworth Castle, and, losing his two horses in that service, was recompensed for the same. The Sheriff of Shropshire, in 1268, charges ten merks which he had paid on this account to Hugh de Beaumes by Royal Warrant.<sup>134</sup>

On March 15, 1267, being at Cambridge with the King, Hugh de Beaumes obtained the Royal License to hunt the fox, the badger, and the wild cat anywhere in the King's Forests of Shropshire or Staffordshire.<sup>135</sup>

In August 1267, the King being at Shrewsbury and various Pleas coming before him, Hugh de Beaumes was, with others, prosecuted about some right of common-pasture in Over and Nether Stanwey. Hugh amicably compounded his concern in the suit.<sup>136</sup>

On Sept. 19, the King, still at Salop, in recompense of the long and laudable service which his beloved Valet, Hugh de Beaumes, had rendered him, granted to said Hugh the marriage of Isabella widow of Robert de Beysyn, lately deceased, or at least the fine which belonged to the King for the said marriage.<sup>137</sup>

On January 20, 1270, two Fines were levied at Westminster which show Hugh de Beaumes intent upon increasing his property in the neighbourhood of Tong.

The first, levied between the said Hugh as Plaintiff (by Stephen Fitz Henry Tateshale his Attorney) and Ranulf de Albrython and Alice his wife, Defendants, was of six acres in Donyngton, whereof was Plea of Warrantry. The Defendants acknowledged the same to be the Plaintiff's right by their own gift—to hold to Hugh and his heirs, of Ranulf and Alice, and the heirs of Alice, by a *clove* rent and

<sup>132</sup> *Patent*, 46 Hen. III.

<sup>133</sup> *Patent*, 49 Hen. III.

<sup>134</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 52 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>135</sup> *Patent*, 51 Hen. III.

<sup>136</sup> *Placita coram Rege apud Salop*, 51 Hen. III, memb. 7.

<sup>137</sup> *Patent*, 51 Hen. III.

by rendering all services due to the Chief Lords. For this Hugh gave six merks.

A second Fine between the same Plaintiff and Nicholas Kareles and Burgia his wife Defendants, was of forty acres in Dunnington and was (*mutatis mutandis*) settled as the last, Hugh paying the greater sum of thirty-nine merks.<sup>138</sup>

On Feb. 9, 1270, by another Fine, Hugh de Beaumes purchased for twenty-five merks from Hugh de la Val and Matilda his wife a third part of two carucates in Stanwey, claimed by the latter as Matilda's dower in the estate of Robert de Beaumes, her former husband.<sup>139</sup>

On July 5, 1270, the King, by Letters Patent, again making mention of the services of his beloved Valet, Hugh de Beaumes, grants him, as far as he (the King) had it, the marriage of Hillaria Widow of William de Harecurt deceased; or else such fine as said Hillaria might be about to make with the King for her own marriage; or, in the last place, such forfeit as would be coming to the King if Hillaria married to any other, without license of the King or of said Hugh.<sup>140</sup>

It will presently appear that neither Isabel de Beysin nor this Hillaria (daughter of a Hastings and Mother of a Harcourt) became the wife of the King's Valet.—

Unhonoured with the hand of either, but doubtless enriched with the Fines of both, Hugh de Beaumes found a wealthy wife elsewhere.

On May 18, 1271, Hugh de Beaumes had the King's Charter, to him and his heirs, of the privilege of holding a Fair and Market in his Manor of Nether Stanwey.<sup>141</sup> This Manor, with all his rights therein, he sold, within the next twenty years, to his contemporary and perhaps distant kinsman, John de Beaumeis Lord of Donington.

On June 24, 1272, a Fine was levied at Lichfield between Hugh de Beaumes and Isolda his wife on the one hand, and William de Mer on the other. Hugh, for an annual rent of 40s., released, for the life of Isolda, to said William, all her demesne in Norton and Mer (Staffordshire) being her dower, also a third part of half-a-virgate of land and a meadow, held by John de Mer in Norton. Sir Nicholas de Audley and others attested the transaction.<sup>142</sup>

<sup>138</sup> <sup>139</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 54 Hen. III, Salop. |

<sup>141</sup> *Rot. Chartarum*, 55 Hen. III.

<sup>140</sup> *Patent*, 54 Hen. III.

<sup>142</sup> *Blakeway's Parochial Notices*, vol.ii,



At the County Assizes, September 1272, the Jurors both of Stottesden and Brimstree Hundreds, reported Hugh de Beaumes to be a Defaulter in due attendance. His liability arose doubtless in circumstances already alluded to, viz. in Stottesden Hundred, as Custos of certain lands of Robert de Beysin deceased, in Brimstree Hundred, as a Tenant at Donington and perhaps Albrighton.

Between this period and the close of the Century, the name of Sir Hugh de Beaumes appears in connection with various Inquisitions and Charters affecting lands in Brimstree Hundred.

In October 1292, as a Knight and Juror, he tried several of those suits *de quo warranto* which were then pressed by the Crown against every class of Freeholders in Shropshire.<sup>143</sup>

Something I should also say about the larger interests of this Hugh de Beaumeis in Lincolnshire.

In 1277, and preparatory to a Muster at Worecester against Llewellyn, which was fixed for July 1, he was returned as holding the township of Limberge (Lincolnshire) of the honour of Chester (then in the Crown) but by unknown services.<sup>144</sup>

For a similar Muster at Rhuddlan, fixed to take place on Aug. 5, 1282, he is returned under the same County, as ignorant of what service was due from him, but prepared, on being informed, to do it.<sup>145</sup>

For the Muster against the Scots, to take place at Carlisle on June 24, 1300, he was summoned in Lincolnshire, viz. as holding lands, whether *in capite* or otherwise, to the annual value of £40. or upwards.<sup>146</sup>

This Tenure *in capite*, for such it really was, caused the usual Inquisitions to be holden as to his estate after his death. This event took place in 1305, when, on May 20, the King's writ of *Diem clausit extremum* issued to the Escheator.

An Inquest held at Limbergh found that he held that *vill in capite* by service of half-a-Knight's-Fee, that the whole proceeds of the same were £5. 7s., and that his son and next heir, Henry, was twenty-eight years of age and more.

A second Inquest held at Lude Muchegros (Herefordshire) found that he had been Tenant for life of half that *vill*, holding it under

p. 319. It caused me much perplexity when, on first meeting with this Record, I hastily concluded that Norton and Mere were in Tong Manor, and so that Hugh de Beaumes must after all have married William de Harcourt's Widow. The Norton and Mere alluded to were on

the Western Border of Staffordshire, near Market Drayton. Isolda was probably widow of some Feoffee thereof.

<sup>143</sup> *Plac. de Quo Warranto*, pp. 674, &c.

<sup>144</sup> <sup>145</sup> <sup>146</sup> *Parliamentary Writs*, vol. i, pp. 200, 233, 334.

Gerard de Benefford by service of a sixth part of a Knight's-Fee; that it was of the inheritance of Isolda formerly Hugh's wife, and that he had held it for life by Law of England (having had issue by her); that Henry, son of Hugh and Isolda, was the heir of both and that he was twenty-eight years of age on Dec. 21, 1304.

A third Inquest taken at Albrighton on June 12, 1305, said that the deceased held in Donynton under John de Beumys by services of 18*d.* and a pound of *cumin*; that he thus held a Capital messuage, a dove-cot, thirty acres of land, and one acre of Meadow: that he further held under John la Warre, Lord of Albrighton, forty acres of land by service of 8*d.* The age and name of his heir were returned as in the last Inquest.<sup>147</sup>

Henry de Beaumes, thus succeeding, seems by various lists of Jurors and Witnesses to have resided in this neighbourhood.<sup>148</sup> I have already mentioned his name in such relation and shall content myself with one more notice of him and his succession.

In Trinity Term 1329, a fine was levied at Westminster between John, son of Henry de Beaumes of Magna Lymbergh, and Tecia, daughter of Robert Fitz Peter of Magna Lymbergh, Complainants (*querentes*), through Hugh de Kilby her (Tecia's) Guardian, on the one part, and Henry de Beaumes of Magna Lymbergh, Deforciant,—of the Manor of Donynton whereof was plea of convention. Henry conceded the same to John and Tecia, to hold to them and the heirs of their bodies under Henry and his heirs; rendering to them a Rose yearly at the feast of John Baptist's Nativity, and accustomed services to the Chief Lords of the Fee. Remainder was contingently reserved to Henry and his heirs.<sup>149</sup>

This Fine was in short a settlement and entail on the marriage of John de Beaumeis, son, and probably expectant heir, of Henry; but how their interest in Donington came to be described as the Manor I cannot determine.

#### RUCKLEY.

This ancient member of the Manor of Tong seems to require some distinct notice, though I have already given the chief particulars of its early history.

<sup>147</sup> *Inquisitions*, 23 Edw. I, No. 16.

<sup>148</sup> It was, I imagine, to the estate of this branch of the Belmeis family that the Messuage still known as Beamish Hall belonged. It is in Albrighton Parish. The old Manor House was taken down some years since.

The name Beamish is yet to be found among the poorer classes of Tong or its neighbourhood.

<sup>149</sup> *Fines*, 3 Edw. III, Bundle i, No. 14, Salop.

When Philip de Belmeis in 1138-9 gave to Buildwas Abbey all the land of Selfer de Rochelai, his gift undoubtedly included the whole township<sup>150</sup> of Ruckley, except a wood which, under the name of Ruckley-Wood, was, as we have seen, retained by his Successors.—

This was then the germ of that estate, which by successive accumulations in Cosford, Donington, Hatton, Upton, and Ryton, constituted at the end of the thirteenth century by far the fairest of the outlying possessions of Buildwas Abbey.

The matter stood thus in 1291 ;—

The whole Temporalities of Buildwas, in the Archdeaconry of Salop and Diocese of Coventry, were returned as annually realizing an income of £76. 12s. 3d. Of this sum, more than a quarter (viz. £19. 5s. 4d.) came from the estate in question, that is from Rokeleye £3. 6s. 4d., from Atton £7. 4s. 6d., from Ritton 10s., and from Cospeforde £8. 4s. 6d., which sums must be taken to include whatever the Monks had at Donington and Upton.

Rokeleye (contributing £3. 6s. 4d. in gross) was estimated as half-a-carucate of land worth 10s. *per annum*, and as maintaining stock, the profits on which (£2. 16s. 4d.) made up the balance.<sup>151</sup>

#### TONG CHURCH.

The early history of Tong Church is as that of Donington. It was founded, endowed, and bestowed on Shrewsbury Abbey within eight years after *Domesday*, by Earl Roger de Montgomery. The transfer was sanctioned by the same succession of Royal Charters as have been mentioned under Donington. Also, as in the case of Donington, Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, held Tong Church under the Abbey for his life, and took care to restore it before his death.<sup>152</sup>

Furthermore the pension to which Shrewsbury Abbey was entitled from Tong Church was half-a-merk, and this pension was confirmed, first by the Charter of Bishop Roger de Clinton, and afterwards, by Charters of his Diocesan Successors, and of more than one Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>153</sup>

<sup>150</sup> In 1180 the *villate* of Rocaleia was one of those in this neighbourhood which were amerced for *purpresture* (*Forest Rolls at Westminster*, No. i, Salop.) It is with reference to this fact that I use the word "township" in the text.

<sup>151</sup> *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, p. 260.

<sup>152</sup> *Supra*, page 200.

<sup>153</sup> See the authorities specified under Donington (*supra*, p. 166). No. 328 of the Salop Chartulary, purporting to be a confirmation by Roger Bishop of Chester,

These rights of Pension and Advowson were, I should observe, two distinct things. The Abbot might present one Clerk to the Incumbency or Parsonage, and another to the Pension, or he might present the same Clerk to both, or he might reserve the Pension to his House. These points as well as the Abbot's title to Tong Church are well illustrated by some legal proceedings between Roger la Zouche and Salop Abbey, in the course of which the following facts transpired.

Between the years 1188 and 1194, H (that is Hugh de Novant), Bishop of Coventry conceded and gave by Charter, to Ernulf, a Chaplain, the Church of Tong,—in pure almoigne,—to possess in perpetuity,—saving to the Bishop all rights Episcopal and Parochial.

This institution, as it afterwards appeared, was to the Parsonage as distinct from the Pension, and was on the presentation of Salop Abbey.

William la Zouche, Lord of Tong, was not well-pleased with this proceeding. He expelled Ernulf from Tong and would not allow him to live there. Ernulf's expulsion lasted some time.

Ernulf at length returned and continued to hold the Church all his life (*i. e.* till 1220, when he died), as Presentee of the Abbey, not as Roger, brother and heir of William la Zouche, afterwards affirmed, by gift of the said William.

Meanwhile, that is between 1215 and 1220, William de Cornhull, Bishop of Coventry, at presentation of H (Hugh), Abbot of Salop, gave and conceded by Charter to Robert de Shireford, Clerk, the Church of Tong, saving the Vicarage therein of Ernulf, Canon of Lichfield, who was to pay a yearly pension of half-a-merk to the said Robert.—

This was in fact an immediate institution only to the pension, a circumstance rendered still more clear by the words of Abbot Hugh's presentation, on receipt of which the Bishop instituted. Therein the Abbot conceded to Robert de Shireford half-a-merk out of the Church of Tong, viz. that half-merk which Ernulf, Clerk, Canon of Lichfield, had used to pay to the Abbey, and which

puts the pension at 3*s.* 4*d.*, like that of Donington. This Charter contains so many points of identity with Bishop Roger de Clinton's Charter (Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 7 b), that I cannot doubt them to have been copied from the same

original. If so, their few discrepancies are mere *scribal* errors. The Harleian Transcript is undoubtedly the more correct, and gives the pensions in question as 6*s.* 8*d.* each.

for remainder of Ernulf's life was to be paid to Shireford; but after Ernulf's death, Shireford was to have the Church wholly (*i.e.* the Parsonage), and pay the pension, previously received by himself, to the Abbey.

Therefore, on the whole, Robert de Shireford had been presented to the pension and to the reversion of the Incumbency, and Bishop Cornhull's institution must be taken to have sanctioned such a mode of presentation.

On November 3, 1220, Ernulf, the Vicar and Parson, being lately dead, Roger la Zouche sued the Abbot of Shrewsbury, at Westminster, under writ of *darrein presentment* for the Advowson of Tong. The question in such trials was always—"who presented the last Parson, then dead, to the vacant Church under litigation?" In the present instance, the Abbot pleaded at once that the Church was not vacant, for Robert de Shireford was Parson. In proof of this, he produced Robert de Shireford in Court. Also Bishop Cornhull's Charter of Institution was exhibited, also Earl Roger's grant of the Advowson, and Henry II's Confirmation, and a Papal Bull, and Abbot Hugh's presentation.

Roger la Zouche persisted that Ernulf, lately deceased, had been presented by William la Zouche, saving to the Abbot an annual pension, in name of benefice (*nomine beneficii*), and that the right of presentation to all else remained to him.—

As Roger la Zouche asserted that Ernulf, now deceased, was the last Parson, the Court decided on an adjournment, and that that point should be referred to a Jury of Knights and other Freemen, who were summoned to attend at Westminster on Feb 3, 1221.<sup>154</sup>

The cause however was not finally decided till the County Assizes of November 1221.—

The Abbot again produced the Charters of Earl Roger, King Henry II, and Bishop Cornhull. Roger la Zouche said that the two former Charters ought not to injure him, for that, since they passed, his Brother William had presented to the Church. He admitted that his Ancestors had charged Tong Church with half-merk pension payable to Salop Abbey, and allowed that to such pension the Abbot might present any Clerk he pleased. He asserted again that Ernulf had been Parson, and had been admitted on presentation of his (Roger's) Brother.—

The Abbot now produced the Charter of Bishop Hugh de Novant,

<sup>154</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Michaelmas Term, 4 & 5 Hen. III, memb. 14 dorso.

which decided indeed that Ernulf was Parson; but whereas the Charter did not express by whom the said Ernulf was presented to Bishop Hugh, it would seem that at this point the case went to the Jury. The latter decided that Ernulf, late Parson, had been presented by the Abbot and admitted on such presentation: they also found how Ernulf had been expelled for a time by William la Zouche and then suffered to return.<sup>155</sup> In fact, I suppose that this return by permission of William la Zouche had caused Roger la Zouche's error, he identifying it with a presentation by William la Zouche. Be that as it may, the Court gave sentence that "The Abbot do recover his Seizin and that Roger be *in misericordia*."

In 1291, the Church of Tonge in the Deanery of Newport (Novi Burgi), the Archdeaconry of Salop, and Diocese of Coventry, was valued at £4., besides the Abbot of Shrewsbury Pension therein, which was put, as before, at 6s. 8d.<sup>156</sup>

In 1341, the Assessors and Vendors of the Ninth of wheat, wool, and lamb in Tong Parish, returned the proceeds at £3. 6s. 8d. *i. e.* £1. less than Pope Nicholas' Taxation of the Church. This low return, if I understand their statement, arose thus.—The Abbot of Buildwas held a carucate of land in the Parish (at Ruckley, I presume) which did not pay tithe, but, in lieu of tithe, three quarters of fine wheat (which I infer was all he could be charged to the Ninth).<sup>157</sup>—also the Abbot of Lilleshull had a carucate of land here (Lizard Grange), and paid 3s. 4d. only thereon, in lieu of tithe; also the small-tithes, glebe-land, oblations, tithes of Mills, and other profits went to make up the greater sum (the taxation), and did not pertain to the Ninth now granted to the King.<sup>158</sup>

When Isabel, Widow of Sir Fulke de Pembruge, proposed to found the Collegiate Church of Tong she procured in the first instance the Royal License to purchase the Advowson from Salop Abbey.—

King Henry IV's Patent, dated Nov. 25, 1410, enabled her so to do, calling the Church that of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, and

<sup>155</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 6 dorso.

<sup>156</sup> *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, pp. 245, 247.

<sup>157</sup> It would appear however from some other entries (*e. g.* Idsall, Albrighton, and Stirchley) that the Abbot of Buildwas was exempt from contributing to the Ninth at all; but at Cound he was spe-

cially assessed.

On the whole the Abbot of Buildwas' Tenure in any Parish operated to reduce the Ninth assessed on such Parish; but it is not clear whether this result was in consequence of special compositions of tithe or of some more general exemption.

<sup>158</sup> *Inquis. Nonarum*, p. 193.

reserving to the Abbot the pension of 6*s.* 8*d.* which he and his predecessors had been used to receive therefrom.<sup>159</sup>

In the receipts of his House, during the year ending Michaelmas 1534, the Abbot of Salop returned the ancient pension of 6*s.* 8*d.* as paid by the College of Tong; and in the following year the Master of Tong College stated the value of the Parochial Church, annexed to the said College, to be £6. 13*s.* 4*d.* *per annum*, but made no deduction on account of the said Pension. He deducted only 4*s.* *per annum*, payable out of the Church to the Diocesan Bishop, 2*s.* Senage payable to the same, and 8*s.* Procurations payable to the Archdeacon of Salop.<sup>160</sup>

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

ERNULF, CHAPLAIN, and afterwards a Canon of Lichfield, has already been mentioned as instituted to this Church between 1188 and 1194. On his death in 1220, ROBERT DE SHIREFORD, CLERK, entitled by a previous grant to the reversion of the Parsonage, succeeded, not however without question, till November 1221, when his title to do so was established in the Secular Courts.

WILLIAM, PARSON OF TONG, was in 1255 reported by the Jurors of Brug as having impleaded Walter de Ingworthin, a Layman, before a spiritual Court, and having got from him 10*s.* because said Walter would not sell him boots to his wish.<sup>161</sup>

The first Incumbent on the Diocesan Register is:—

ROBERT DE ATTERLEY, Rector of Tonge, who has a two years license to study on May 9, 1308. He has occurred to us under Donington in 1324. On May 30, 1334, he has leave of five months non-residence on the score of ill health (*causâ medicinæ*); and on Jan. 29, 1335 he proposes to exchange benefices with—

MASTER WILLIAM DE KYNARDESEYE, Acolyte, late Rector of St. Mary's, Bristol, who is admitted to Tong by the Bishop of Worcester on Feb. 4 following.

On April 13, 1351, this Rector has a year's leave of non-residence; and again on July 15, 1354, at instance of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. On Jan. 9, 1355, he is negotiating an exchange of benefices with—

SIR ROBERT ALEWY, late Rector of Farnebergh (Dioc. Bath and Wells), who is admitted here on Jan. 19 by the Bishop of Bath and

<sup>159</sup> *Monasticon*, viii, p. 1402.

<sup>160</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 189, 196.

<sup>161</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59. The word which

I have translated "boots" is in the original "estimalia." In so translating it I have ventured to read "estivalia."

Wells), and on Feb. 7 has the Bishop of Lichfield's Mandate of Induction directed to the Official of the Archdeacon of Salop, and alleging the presentation of this Rector by the Abbot and Convent of Salop. On Nov. 27, 1355, Alewy is exchanging benefices with—

JOHN DE CAYNTON, Rector of Axebrugge (Bath and Wells Dioc.) who is admitted here, in the usual way, on Dec. 15; and the mandate for whose Induction bears date Dec. 22 following.<sup>169</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL NOTICE OF THE CHURCH.

Tong Church, which consists of a nave with aisles, a Chancel, and a central octagonal tower with a low spire, was principally built during the reign of Henry IV, and is a pure and beautiful example of the Early Perpendicular. To this date also belongs the south porch, and the vestry attached to the north side of the Chancel. But a Chapel on the south side, forming a sort of transept, was added during the latest period of Gothic, and has a rich fan vaulting, all the other roofs of the Church being timber. I gave a notice of this Church in the second volume of the 'Archæological Journal,' but at the time I wrote it, I had not remarked some earlier features which appear in the south aisle, in the shape of labels of arches, with their corbels or brackets, and the capitals of the piers. These lead me to suspect that the face of the arcade now looking to the south aisle, originally faced the nave of an older building, the north aisle of which would fall into the area of the present nave;—for a greater amount of ornament would naturally be introduced in the side facing the central passage, than in that towards the aisle; that is, if any difference between the two was made. At any rate, a part of the present structure, however small, may be referred to the thirteenth century.

J. L. PETIT.

#### OLD MONUMENT.

I have already descended far later than my usual limits in order that I might trace the History of Tong down to the extinction of the male line of Pembruge and the foundation of the Collegiate Church by the Widow of the last of that House.

Many temptations there are to descend yet later,—a brilliant succession of Knights and Nobles who continued to inherit or

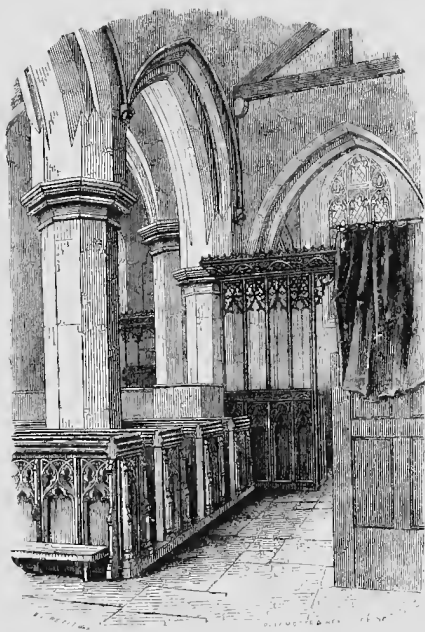
<sup>162</sup> Lichfield Registers.





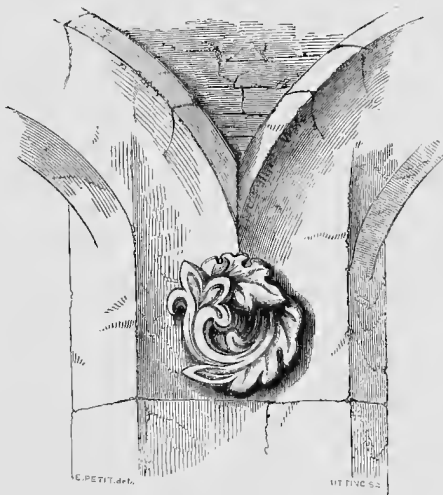
TONG CHURCH.





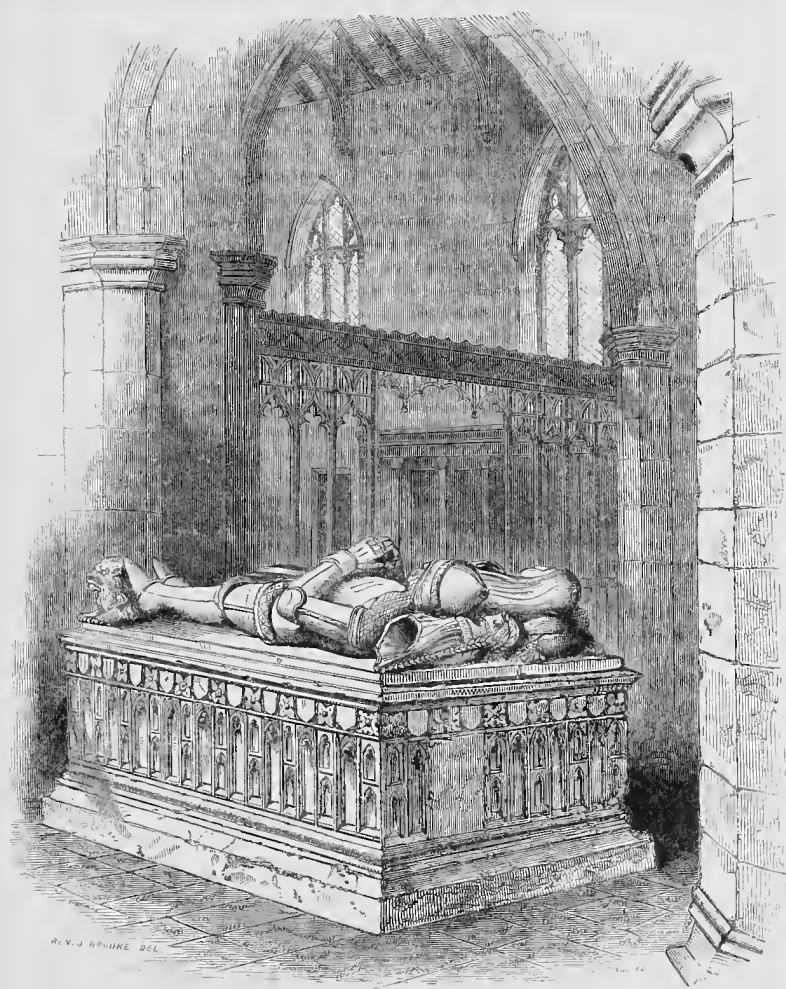
SOUTH AISLE OF TONG CHURCH.





**CORBEL, SOUTH AISLE, TONG.**





MONUMENT OF SIR RICHARD VERNON AND WIFE (*as supposed*), TONG CHURCH.





possess the Lordship, a Church well known in the present day as a model of its class, also a series of Monuments such as can be found in few edifices of equal scale and pretension.<sup>163</sup>

To one of these Monuments, the oldest and perhaps the fairest of the series, I will at least extend my remarks, associated as it is with the era to which I have already descended, and because some curiosity exists as to the persons whom it was intended to commemorate.

Sir William Dugdale, visiting Tong Church in September 1663, notices this Monument as follows;—

“Towards the North side of the Church stands a faire Tombe of Alabaster whereon do lye the figures of a man in armour (partly male and partly plate armour) and of his wife on his right hand, and on her chin a Wimpler. Upon the Helm whereon the man resteth his head is this Crest (upon a Wreath) viz. a Turkish woman’s head with a wreath about her temples; her haire platted and hanging below her shoulders, with a tassel at the end of the plating.—

“This iss ayde to be the monument of Sir Fowke Pembrugge Knight, sometime Lord of Tonge Castle.”<sup>164</sup>

This Tradition still exists, and, if it be true, the Monument comes fairly within our scope as the tomb of Sir Fulk Pembruge, the last of his line, who died in 1408-9, and of one of his wives.

His Widow was within the next three years active in founding the Collegiate Structure which we now know as Tong Church.

<sup>163</sup> One of these Monuments is embellished by an ornament higher than architecture or heraldry could supply—a verse (its epitaph) written by Shakespeare. I may hardly thus allude to it without giving it. It is as follows:—

“Not Monumental Stone preserves our fame,

Nor sky-aspiring Pyramids our name;  
The Memory of him for whom this stands  
Shall outlive marble and Defacers’ hands;  
When all to Time’s consumption shall  
be given,

Stanley, for whom this stands, shall  
stand in Heaven.”

Sir William Dugdale, in his *Visitation of Shropshire*, says positively that this epitaph was written by Shakespeare. Probably however it was an early effort

of the Poet’s genius; for Sir Thomas Stanley, to whose memory it was written, died in December 1576, when Shakespeare was not yet thirteen years of age.

The opposite, or eastern, end of this tomb exhibits six verses which I cannot help thinking to have been in imitation of the former and by an inferior Poet. Possibly also they are in praise of Sir Edward Stanley (son of Sir Thomas), to whose memory the Monument is in part devoted, for they speak of one who “lyes here,” that is, was hurried beneath. Now Sir Thomas Stanley is said to have been buried, not at Tong, but at Walthamstow (Essex).—

These verses are not worth transcribing.

<sup>164</sup> *Dugdale’s Visitation of Shropshire at the Heralds’ College*; Church Notes, p. 18.

A strong probability therefore arises that the earliest Monument in a Church of this Lady's building should be to the memory of herself and her deceased husband.

Some opinions which I have taken as to the date of this Monument, and which were grounded on its details of architecture and costume, are not very positive, but not inconsistent with the idea that it was Sir Fulk Pembrugge's.<sup>165</sup>

Thus much for one view of the matter, and now for another.—

Fulk Eytone, Armiger, a member of the family of Eyton on the Wildmoors, having apparently been serving in the French wars of Henry VI's time, directs by his Will that he shall "be intombed by his Godfather Sir Fouk de Pembrugge in our Lady Chappell of Tonge."<sup>166</sup>

Now the person whose burial-place is thus indicated must necessarily be that Sir Fulk Pembrugge who died in 1408-9; and as it is not very probable that the Lady-Chapel of Tong was in the North Transept of the Church;<sup>167</sup> so it is unlikely that Sir Fulk Pembrugge was buried in that Transept.

But as the relative position of "The Lady-Chapel" was not invariable, we will strengthen this doubt still further.—

I again quote Dugdale who continues his notice of this Monument as follows;—

"On the sides of this Tombe are divers Escocheons whereon Armes have been antiently depicted: but I suppose it was since the Vernons became Lords of Tonge Castle by marriage with the heire female of Pembrugge, for the painting is as followeth."

Dugdale then gives, as beneath, the bearings of twelve shields, to

<sup>165</sup> There is always some uncertainty in judging from these *indicia*, *e. g.* all Counties cannot be supposed to have advanced in parallels of Architectural fancy: some tombs were constructed during the lives of the persons whom they were intended eventually to commemorate, others again were built long after their decease. So too as to the Armour and Dress of monumental Effigies;—an older fashion than the one in vogue might very possibly be adopted in some cases, for aged people cling to the customs of their earlier life, and would naturally, if directing the order of their future burial, give instructions in accordance with such feelings.

And in case of a monument erected to the memory of one long deceased, it is impossible to say what anachronisms of costume might not have been adopted.

For these or some similar reasons, I suppose it comes to pass that those who should be most adequate to form an opinion as to the date of a given building or monument will seldom express a very definite one.

<sup>166</sup> Lansdowne MS. 860 A, fo. 370 b.

<sup>167</sup> The Lady Chapel in large Churches was usually at the East, behind the High Altar. There is an exception at Ely, where it joins the North Eastern Angle of the North Transept.

which I add the names of those families to whom I conceive the said bearings to have belonged.

- i. *Blank*.
- ii. Party per pale ;—  
Dexter.—Barry of six (Pembruge), empaling,—A Lion Rampant (Ludlow).  
Sinister.—*Blank*.<sup>168</sup>
- iii. Barry of six (Pembruge), empaling Fretty (Vernon).
- iv. Arg Fretty Sa (Vernon).
- v. Arg Fretty Sa (Vernon), empaling Barry of Six (Pembruge).
- vi. Arg Fretty Sa (Vernon).
- vii. } Barry of six Or and Az (Pembruge).
- viii. }
- ix. Barry of six Or and Az (Pembruge), empaling—Az, a bend lozengy Or (Bermingham).
- x. Az a Bend lozengy Or (Bermingham).
- xi. } Barry of six Or and Az (Pembruge).
- xii. }

These coats are not all which the tomb has or once had ; but some others, still to be recognized, are repetitions of Nos. vi and xi ; others again are wholly defaced and were apparently so in Dugdale's time.

Now, notwithstanding one or two difficulties in accounting for each of these *insignia*, it is clear on the whole that the tomb is that of a Vernon. If compared also with the annexed Pedigree it will further appear I think, that it is the tomb of Sir Richard Vernon, Treasurer of Calais, who died in 1451, and of his wife *Benedicta de Ludlow*.<sup>169</sup>

This Sir Richard Vernon was the first of his line who inherited the estates and arms of Pembruge, and who, on one occasion at least, bore the name of Pembruge also. If he were commonly called Sir Richard Pembruge (and we do not know to the contrary) then the Tradition about the Tomb instead of being disproved has only been explained and corrected.

<sup>168</sup> This I take to be the significant coat of the series. It must be that of Sir Richard Vernon, who died in 1451. The Pembruge Arms are assigned to him as Heir of Pembruge. Empaled therewith are the Arms of his first, but perhaps not only, wife, *Benedicta de Ludlow*. He married, I presume, a second wife, whose

Arms were either not known or else were omitted.

<sup>169</sup> No one, I presume, will undertake to say that Sir Fulk Pembruge's Widow emblazoning his tomb after his decease would add thereto the *insignia* of his apparent heirs, omitting her own arms (Lingen) and those of his first wife (Trussel).

Before I leave this Tomb another curious circumstance, in probable connection therewith, should be told.—

A Tourist visiting Tong Church towards the close of the eighteenth Century, after mentioning the Monuments, says that he “noticed one of Alabaster to the memory of a *Vernon*. The effigies,” he continues, “lie on an altar-tomb and had the remains of a garland of flowers (then nearly reduced to dust) round the neck and breast. The Sexton told me that on every Midsummer day (June 24), a new garland was put on and remained so until the following, when it was annually renewed. As this is a singular custom, I could not forbear noticing it, and wish to be informed what was the origin of it.”<sup>170</sup>

My Brother Antiquary’s inquiring spirit is ere this at rest, and, though the custom which he describes is now disused, others may care to hear a suggestion as to its origin.—

When Roger la Zouche, between the years 1227 and 1237, enfeoffed Henry de Hugford in lauds at Tong (as before recited) the only acknowledgment reserved was “a Chaplet of Roses payable to the Grantor and his Heirs upon the Feast day of the Nativity of St. John Baptist (June 24), in case he or they should be at Tong; if not, then to be put upon the Image of the Blessed Virgin in the Church of Tonge.”

We have seen this quit-rent to have been payable to Fulk de Pembruge (who died in 1296) among his other receipts in Tong Manor; we now, as I think, see it either paid, or commemorated, six centuries later; no longer indeed appended to the Image of the Virgin, which was of course removed in the sixteenth Century, but placed instead on the earliest Monument of the Manorial Lords which the Church happened to contain.

THE WINDOWS of the Collegiate Church of Tong were formerly embellished with armorial *insignia*. These deserve notice, some of them as illustrating the ascertained history and alliances of the houses of Pembruge and Vernon, others as suggesting further genealogical truths.

Dugdale, in 1663, observed the following shields in the South Windows of the Chancel.—

- I. Barry of six Or and Az (Pembruge); empaling Barry of six Or and Az, on a bend Gu, three Roses Arg (Lingen).

<sup>170</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 70, p. 934.

- II. Pembruge.
- III. Lingen.
- IV. Gu, a Lion rampant Or (Fitz-Alan).
- V. Arg Fretty Sa (Vernon).
- VI. Arg Fretty Sa, a Canton Gu (Vernon).
- VII. Az two Pipes between nine cross-crosslets Or (Pype).
- VIII. Az a Bend Arg cotized between six Martlets Or (De la Bere).  
In the North Windows of the Chancel.—
  - I. Arg Fretty Gu, with a bezaut on each joint of the fretté (Trussel);—empaling,—Or, a Lion rampant Sa (Ludlow).
  - II. Ludlow, empaling Lingen.
  - III. Ludlow, empaling,—Arg Fretty Sa, a Canton Gu (Vernon).
  - IV. Lingen.
  - V. Pembruge.
  - VI. Pembruge empaling Lingen.
  - VII. Arg Fretty Sa, a Canton Gu (Vernon) empaling—(*blank*).
  - VIII. Az a Bend Arg cotized, between six Martlets Or, empaling,—Gu a Lion rampant Or.<sup>171</sup>

Some Church Notes taken about A.D. 1699, show that many of the above Coats were then remaining.<sup>172</sup> Thus we have,—1, Pembruge; 2, Lingen; 3, Pembruge empaling Lingen; 4, Pembruge empaling Bermingham; 5, Pembruge empaling Trussell; 6, De la Bere empaling Ludlow; 7, Vernon empaling Pype :—and also these—

- I. Arg Fretty Sa (Vernon) empaling,—Or a Lion rampant Sa (Ludlow).
- II. Arg Fretty Sa, a Canton Gu (Vernon),—empaling—(Ludlow).
- III. Ludlow, empaling, Arg Fretty Sa, a Canton Gu (Vernon).
- IV. A Lion rampant double-queued,<sup>173</sup>—empaling (Lingen).
- V. Arg on a Bend Sa, three Harvest-flies of the first.

<sup>171</sup> Some Church Notes taken by Francis Sandford, Rouge Dragon, in 1660, make it probable that the coat here empaled was—"Or, a Lion rampant Sa" (Ludlow).

<sup>172</sup> Harl. MS. 5848, fo. 44 b; Church Notes by J. Johnson.

<sup>173</sup> "Arg, a Lion rampant double-queued Gu," is a coat of Montfort.

Domesday Name.	Saxon Owner. T.R.E.	Domesday Tenant in Capite.	Domesday Mesne, or next, Tenant.	Domesday Sub-Tenant.
				FIRST
Chenbritone	Aluric . . . . .	} Rogerius Comes .	Rotbert Fitz Tetbald . . . . .	
	Elmer . . . . .			
	Uluuin . . . . .			
	Edmer . . . . .			
Costeford . . . . .	Turgot . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	Radulf de Mortemer . . . . .	
Huchefor . . . . .	Goduin . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	Roger de Laci . . . . .	Berner . . . . .
Iteshale . . . . .	Morcar Comes	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	Rotbert Fitz Tetbald . . . . .	
				SECON
Burertone . . . . .	Azor . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	Radulf de Mortemer . . . . .	Helgot . . . . .
Celmeres . . . . .	Eduin Comes . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	
Cleberie . . . . .	Seuuard . . . . .	Rogerius de Laci . . . . .	Uluuard . . . . .	
Eldone . . . . .	Edric . . . . .	Rogerius Comes . . . . .	Radulf de Mortemer . . . . .	
Newentone . . . . .	Azor . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	Roger . . . . .
Sudberie . . . . .	Wiga . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	

TABLE OF PART OF THE DOMESD

Alvidelege . . . . .	Algar Comes . . . . .	Rogerius Comes . . . . .		
Bubintone . . . . .	Wifare . . . . .	Robertus deStatford	Helgot . . . . .	
Claverlege . . . . .	Algar Comes . . . . .	Rogerius Comes . . . . .		
Nordlege . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .		
Wrfield . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	{ Hugo de Montgumeri . . . . . }		

PART OF THE DOMESI

Hala . . . . .	Oluuin . . . . .	Rogerius Comes . . . . .	Roger Venator (of part) . . . . .	
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TABLE OF A DETACHMENT OF THE DOMESI

Quatone . . . . .	Outi . . . . .	Rogerius Comes . . . . .	Outi . . . . .	
Rameslege . . . . .	Acbi . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	Walter . . . . .	
Rigge . . . . .	} Edric, de Comite Leurico	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	Radulf (de Mortemer) . . . . .	
Sciplei . . . . .		Alsi . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .	. . . . . Idem . . . . .

\* For an explanation of the plan on which this and similar Tables are constructed, see Vol. I., pp. 20, 21.

Domesday Features.	Domesday Hidage.	Domesday Reference.	Modern Hundred.	Modern Name.
<b>HMENT.</b>				
Silva . . . . .	3 hides	fo. 256, b. 2	Brimstree . . . . .	Kemberton.
. . . . .	1 hide	257, a. 1	Ibidem . . . . .	Cosford.
Molendinum. Silva . .	3 hides	256, b. 1	Ibidem . . . . .	Higford.
Silva . . . . .	7 ½ hides	256, b. 2	Ibidem . . . . .	Shiffnall.
	14 ½ hides			
<b>HMENT.</b>				
. . . . .	½ hide	257, a. 1	Stottesden . . . . .	Burwarton.
. . . . .	5 hides	Ibidem	Ibidem . . . . .	Chelmarsh.
Molendinum . . . . .	2 ½ hides	fo. 260, b. 1	Ibidem . . . . .	Cleobury North.
. . . . .	2 hides	257, a. 1	Ibidem . . . . .	Eudon George.
. . . . .	½ hide	Ibidem	Ibidem . . . . .	Neenton.
. . . . .	1 hide	Ibidem	Ibidem . . . . .	Sidbury.
	11 ½ hides			

**TY\* OF STAFFORDSHIRE.**

{ Presbiter . . . . . } { Pratum. Silva . . . }	1 hide	fo. 248, a. 1	Stottesden . . . . .	Alveley.
Silva pastilis . . . . .	5 hides	249, a. 2 {	Brimstree, Salop (part) Seisdon, Staffordsh. (part)	} Bobbington.
{ Molendinum. Pra- tum. Silva . . . }	20 hides	248, a. 1	Brimstree . . . . .	Claverley.
Molendinum. Silva . .	2 hides	Ibidem	Stottesden . . . . .	Norley Regis.
{ Presbiter . . . . . } { 3 molendina. Piscaria } { Pratum. Silva . . . }	30 hides	fo. 248, b. 1	Brimstree . . . . .	Worfield.

**DRED OF CLENT, WORCESTERSHIRE.**

{ Ecclesia cum 2 pres- bitris . . . . . } { Salina in Wich. . . } { Domus in Wirecestre }	10 hides	fo. 176, a. 1	Brimstree . . . . .	Hales Owen.
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**DRED OF STANLEI, WARWICKSHIRE.**

{ Silva. Molendinum. } { Pratum . . . . . }	3 hides	fo. 239, a. 2	Stottesden . . . . .	Quat.
Silva . . . . .	1 hide	Ibidem	Stottesden . . . . .	Romesley.
. . . . .	5 hides	Ibidem	Ibidem . . . . .	Rudge.
Quarentena Quereuum .	1 hide	Ibidem	Brimstree . . . . .	Shipley.

\* Only one of these Manors (Bobbington) has its Staffordshire Hundred assigned in *Domesday*. That Hundred is Saisdone, in which also will have been situated Alveley, Claverley, Norley and Worfield. But their Hundred is not expressed and possibly their *status* was *extra-hundredal*.

## SHROPSHIRE MANORS AND DISTRICTS,

ALREADY ISOLATED IN *DOMESDAY*, OR SUBSEQUENTLY DETACHED  
FROM OTHER COUNTIES.

HAVING now completed our Survey of the ancient Hundred of Alnodestreu, we proceed to classify those various detachments of other Counties and Hundreds which, at the time of *Domesday*, lay intermixed with, or adjacent to, the Manors of Alnodestreu, or else have been since annexed to those Hundreds (Brimstree and Stottesden) which mainly represent Alnodestreu.

The foregoing Table presents this series in a succinct form, and, when compared with the Map already given, will indicate the proposed plan of our further investigations.

It is not however my intention to give any detailed account of Hales Owen. That Manor is no longer a part of Shropshire, and its anomalous position has already procured for it the notice of the Historian of its proper County, Worcestershire.<sup>1</sup> Its former connection with Shropshire demands however this passing mention, and I insert its name in the annexed Table not merely for the sake of completeness, but because it will serve to illustrate some remarks which I have to offer with respect to these eccentric divisions of territory,<sup>2</sup>—their causes, meaning, and objects.

Dugdale, speaking of a part of Worcestershire, which in his time was isolated in Warwickshire, says as follows; <sup>3</sup>—

“Before I go farther, it will not be amisse to give some probable reason (for apparent proof I have none) why this, and such parcells so encompassed (as is frequently seen) became thus severed from the Counties wherein they lye; which, in short, I conceive to be no more than this; viz. that they being originally (I mean before the division of Counties was absolutely made and settled) belonging to some great person, whose residence was far distant; and in the old assessments rated there, continued afterwards so tax; and for that respect have been, and are still reputed part of those Shires. And that this was the first ground thereof, will be evident enough from the instances that might be given therein, through sundry parts of this Realm, as in this particular here before us;” Dugdale then proceeds to show how certain Worcestershire Manors, surrounded in his time by Warwickshire, had anciently belonged to the Church of Worcester, or to the Monastery of Pershore, and

<sup>1</sup> Nash, vol. i, pp. 508, 535.

<sup>2</sup> Supra, Vol. I, p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> *History of Warwickshire* (Thomas's Edition), vol. i, p. 628.



how they had continued to be parts of Worcestershire, notwithstanding all subsequent territorial arrangements.

Mr. Blakeway, commenting upon and assenting to this doctrine of Dugdale's, quotes a passage of Ordericus to show how it was "in the power of any great man to throw his estates into whatever district he pleased."<sup>4</sup>—

The transfer, thus alluded to by Mr. Blakeway, belongs to the provincial history of Normandy, early in the eleventh century, and only exhibits instances where certain Nobles submitted their territories to a specific and comparatively distant Episcopal supervision, not to any secular jurisdiction.<sup>5</sup> Their object was clearly to escape all imperative control whatever. Nevertheless the case is well cited by Mr. Blakeway; for an analogy of motives is observable in all such transfers whether ecclesiastical or temporal.

We may now consult the annexed Table to see how far these observations of Dugdale and Blakeway bear upon our own immediate subject.—

It will be observed that four names are prominently connected with the *Domesday* Manors therein enumerated. They are Earl Roger, Ralph de Mortimer, Roger de Lacy, and Robert Fitz Tetbald.

Now each of these was "a great man," and doubtless the peculiar *status* which then or afterwards was obtained for their respective Manors had its object. They either had in view the concentration of their own jurisdictions, or else an escape from all superior or coordinate interference.

Thus I presume that Mortimer, Lacy, and Fitz Tetbald procured their Manors to be registered in the *Domesday* Hundred of Basechurch; not because they themselves had any other and paramount interest in that Hundred, but to escape being classified with those ordinary Tenants of Earl Roger, who owed suit and service to Alnodestreu. Thus too Roger de Lacy, being Tenant *in capite*, and not Earl Roger's Tenant at Cleobury-North, will have had a still stronger motive for keeping that Manor in an isolated condition.

These, however, are instances where boundaries of Hundreds only were affected. As regards the limits of Counties the cases under notice present a totally distinct feature. Four Manors in Staffordshire and one in Worcestershire, which had been originally in those Counties, and which Earl Roger and Hugh his Son held almost wholly in demesne, retained at *Domesday* their ancient *status*.

<sup>4</sup> Stottesdon Parochial History, *Tit.* |  
*Farlow.*

<sup>5</sup> *Liber*, iii, p. 464, A, B.

The obvious convenience of attaching them to Shropshire was not yet recognized. It came however to be seen, and probably soon after *Domesday*. The change then, in this instance, was not based upon prescription or the authority of *Domesday*, but was brought about afterwards; its object being evidently to give integrity to the Palatine Earldom of Shropshire.

The last and most curious case is that of the four *Domesday* Manors which, being locally in Staffordshire at that period, are yet exhibited in Warwickshire. These were not held by Earl Roger in demesne, but by his Tenants, one of whom I identify with Ralph de Mortimer.

It is again clear that the said Tenants were interested in disuniting these Manors, not only from the Manors of Earl Roger's demesne, wherewith they were intermixed, but also from the yet more alien Staffordshire Hundred of Saisdone: they therefore procured them to be recognized as in Warwickshire. A combination with any nearer jurisdiction or district would have been to the disadvantage of these Manors. They would in fact have constituted an *hundredal* minority. Summarily then there were cases where the isolation of a Manor added to its importance; there were also cases, where a Manor, already isolated, might profit by being annexed to some distant jurisdiction where its Lord was already paramount.

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## C o s f o r d .

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THE etymology of this name is more traceable in the older ways of spelling it than in that which is now current.—*Gop̄teŕ Fop̄d* (Gorstes-ford) or “The ford of gorse” is a term relevant both to the shallow stream, which flows hereby, and to the nature of the soil, which in this quarter is favourable to the shrub thus indicated.

*Domesday* says that “Radulfus (de Mortemer) holds Costeford (of Earl Roger). Turgot held it (in time of King Edward) and was a free man. Here is one hide geldable. There is (arable) land sufficient for III ox-teams. In demesne there is one (such team). In time of King Edward it was worth xls. (per annum); afterwards it was waste; now it is worth vs.” (per annum).<sup>1</sup>

This small Manor introduces to our notice one of the greatest names which occur in the Shropshire *Domesday*. The connection of Mortimer with Cosford was however very transient, and we must

<sup>1</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 257 a, 1.

postpone our account of that extraordinary race till we reach some locality more associated with its fortunes. A probable reason should meanwhile be given why this and some other Manors, held by Mortimer at *Domesday*, appear at no subsequent period in the hands of his Successors.—

I have already suggested (under Ryton) how an outlying Manor might be a mere incumbrance to a great Fief, and so be surrendered by its Tenant as a matter of policy. I have further imagined that some involuntary loss may have befallen those who shared in the rebellion of 1088. Either consideration will apply to Ralph de Mortimer's tenure of Cosford; for it was isolated from all his other possessions, and he shared prominently in that rebellion. In short, the very name of Mortimer implies turbulent restlessness and never-sated ambition, alternate honour and disgrace, the greatest ascendancy succeeded by the most utter ruin.

Besides this case of Cosford, I shall hereafter notice other early dismemberments of Mortimer's Fief, and one which must have happened within thirteen years of *Domesday*,—that is before the death of Earl Hugh de Montgomery in 1098.

Cosford, after its separation from the Fief of Mortimer, seems to have been annexed to that Tenure *in capite* which the Pichfords enjoyed in the neighbouring Manor of Albrighton.

Richard de Pichford, before the year 1176 (when he was deceased), granted to Buildwas Abbey "all the service of Richard Crasset, of the land of Cospelford."

Such is the Record of a Charter of King Richard I, dated at Winchester, October 22, 1189.<sup>2</sup> But another Charter of the same King, dated in the first instance on October 20, 1189, and afterwards renewed at Roche-Andely on October 24, 1198, speaks of the same or other land acquired by the Monks at Cosford in a different way. This Charter confirms them in possession of "the land of Cospelford which they had in exchange by gift of William Crasset."<sup>3</sup>

Of William Crasset, thus ascertained to have had an interest in Cosford, we meet with other mention. A deed dated in 1176, and which is a grant of William son of John Bagoth (of Blymhill) to Buildwas, is attested by William Crasset.<sup>4</sup> So also is the somewhat

<sup>2</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 359; xvi.

<sup>3</sup> Blakeway's MSS., from W. Mytton's Collections. King Richard thus renewed many of his Charters. The reason was, that, during his captivity, the Great Seal

had been lost. Its impression was therefore no longer a Guarantee of a genuine Document.

<sup>4</sup> This Deed which, though it concerns land in another County, must again be

later Charter of Walter de Hemes to the same Abbey, which I have quoted under Hatton.

Again, we have seen Henry Crasset standing last witness, about 1248, to Robert Traynel's grant of Hatton to Buildwas, and finally we have William Crasset in 1272, suing the Abbot of Buildwas for his Manor of Hatton, which appears at that time to have comprehended two Townships, one called Hatton Traynel, the other Hatton Crasset.<sup>5</sup>

Thus from the time of Turgod the Saxon, who held, as I have already concluded, both Cosford and Hatton before the Conquest, two Centuries had elapsed;—two centuries during which nearly every notice of one Manor is either directly or indirectly associated with the other. Now at length both belonged to Buildwas Abbey, whose specific interests in Cospeforde were thus estimated in 1291, viz. *two carucates of land worth annually (at 10s. each carucate) £1. 0s. 0d.*—

Annual profits of Stock £6. 4s. 6d.—

Two Mills annually worth £1. 0s. 0d.<sup>6</sup>

In 1341, as we have seen under Albrighton, the Abbot of Buildwas is said to hold *three* carucates in Albrighton Parish. I know however of nothing which he had therein except Cosford; but these estimates are very often thus irreconcilable, and can be taken to prove little more than that the returns and assessments of that period were either made very carelessly or very dishonestly.

In 1535-6, Stephen, last Abbot of Buildwas declared his Rents derived from "Gofford" to be £3. *per annum*, from Abrighton 2s. 4d., whilst he paid the Prior of Wenlock 12s. *per annum* for Common near Gofforde, and 10s. to the Vicar of Albrighton for administering the Sacraments in Gofforde.<sup>7</sup>

The *Ministers'-Accounts*, a year later, give £3. as the *ferm* of Gosforde Grange, and 4d. as the ground-rent of a Mill there.<sup>8</sup>

quoted by me, is as follows:—"I, William, son of John Bagoth, have conceded to the Abbot and Convent of Buldewas the whole Convention which was made between them and my Father about the land which is beyond the Rivulet, from the boundaries of Westune to the boundaries of Broctune. And to observe all these things firmly for the (specified) term we have made affidavit in the County Court at Staffort, viz. I, my Mother, and my Brothers, Roger, John, and Thomas. And of all these things are

witnesses Hervey de Stratton, Sheriff (he was Sheriff of Staffordshire from 1166 to 1184), Geoffrey Salvage, Adam de Wrotesleg, Nicholas de Mutton, Ralph le Beleher, Alan de Bildewas, William Crasset. This last Convention was made in the year from the Lord's Incarnation 1176." (Blakeway MSS. from Mytton's Collections.)

<sup>5</sup> *Supra*, page 173.

<sup>6</sup> *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, p. 260.

<sup>7</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 191, 192.

<sup>8</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 361, No. xxv.

## Iteshale, Idsall, or Shiffnal.<sup>1</sup>

*Domesday* notices this place as follows,—

“Rotbert son of Tetbald holds Iteshale of Earl Roger. Earl Morcar held it. Here are 7½ hides geldable. In demesne are ix ox-teams; and (there are) xxvi Serfs, and xxxvii villains, and iii boors, and iii radmans, with xxvii ox-teams. Here is a wood which will fatten three hundred swine. In time of King Edward (the Manor) was worth £15. (per annum); afterwards it was worth 6s. Now it pays £15.”<sup>2</sup>

It is not always that *Domesday* records the value of a Manor at the period of its transfer from a Saxou to a Norman Lord. In the case before us we have however a statement on the point; and most significant that statement is.—

Iteshale, once an estate of Morcar Earl of Mercia, and ordinarily a Manor of £15. annual value, was worth no more than 6s. *per annum*, at the said period of transfer.

The rebellion and fate of Earl Morcar in 1071, have already been alluded to. We have here another feature of the same tragedy, viz. the almost utter desolation which visited his lands and dependants.

To this, then recent, state of disorganization, I must attribute the silence of *Domesday* as to a Collegiate Church which doubtless had existed here in Saxon times,<sup>3</sup> and which will have been re-established by the Norman Lord very soon after the period of that Survey.

<sup>1</sup> It is probable that the names Idsall and Shiffnal originally represented two districts lying respectively West and East of the small stream which divides the Town. Each however has, in its turn, served to describe the whole place. The name Schuffenhale, as that of the *vill*, first occurs to me in a deed of 1320; but deeds of that and four following centuries speak of the “Lordship, Manor, Fee, and Church of Idsall,” sometimes adding “*alias* Shiffnal,” sometimes not. Now, at length, the latter name is the only one

recognized by common usage.

I take both to be Saxon words:—Iber-heal is the Hall of Ide, Scear-an-heal the Hall of Sceafa.

<sup>2</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 256 b, 2.

<sup>3</sup> Vide *History of Shrewsbury*, ii, p. 14, note 1, where my idea that this Church was originally Saxon seems to be countenanced.

The statement that, (in the same note) “traces of the interest of Shrewsbury Abbey are wanting in regard to Idsall Church,” is however premature.

We must now speak of Robert Fitz Tetbald, who receiving this dilapidated Manor and Church from Earl Roger, seems to have restored both.

He had in 1085 three other Shropshire Manors, viz. Kemberton, Woodcote, and one whose extent was very small, and whose name is unrecorded.

He is mentioned in authentic documents not only as a witness to part of Earl Roger's endowment of Shrewsbury Abbey, but the Earl himself names him as one of his Coadjutors in that pious work. "Robert son of Theobald," says the Earl, "gave them (the Monks) the Church of Iteshale with the tithes of the same *vill.*"<sup>4</sup>

This grant seems to have been increased, or more fully specified, during the time of Earl Hugh or Earl Robert, who are said to have confirmed the grant which "Robert Fitz Theobald, *Viccomes*, made of the tithe of Cambriston (Kemberton), and the Church of Ithessal with all things pertaining thereto, and with the tithe of the same Manor, viz. in monies, and in animals, and in crops."<sup>5</sup>

Rothbert *Viccomes*, or Robert Fitz Theobald next appears, both as a witness of the genuine, and an alleged witness of the more suspected Charters of Earl Hugh to Shrewsbury Abbey. There is, I think, no probability that his jurisdiction as *Viccomes* was in Shropshire.—Of that however presently.

He does not appear to have been involved in the fall of Earl Robert de Belesme, for Richard Bishop of London (consecrated July 1108) is said to have attested a grant, whereby Robert *Viccomes*, son of Tedbald, not only repeated his donations to Shrewsbury, but directed that, as fast as the Clerks (that is Canons) who were then in possession of the Church of Ithesal should die off, the Church should come into the demesne of St. Peter.<sup>6</sup>

Thus far of Robert Fitz Tetbald, as connected with Shropshire. I must now speak of him in a much more important relation, hitherto unnoticed by local Historians.

The *Domesday* Survey of Sussex presents Robert Fitz Tetbald

<sup>4</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 2.

<sup>5</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 35.

<sup>6</sup> *Monasticon*, iii, 518. "Et quia eandem ecclesiam tunc clerici habebant, precepit isdem Robertus, ut cum illi morerentur, ecclesia in dominio Sancti Petri veniret." This was an exact imi-

tation of Earl Roger's dealing with regard to Morville. The Normans first restored the Saxon Collegiate Churches, and then disposed of them in such a way as that they should eventually lose their Collegiate character.

as holding under Earl Roger two burgages (hagas) at Arundel, and being entitled to levy his own tolls on strangers. The same Robert Fitz Tetbald is described as holding the large Sussex Manor of Treverde (Trayford) under the Earl.<sup>7</sup> The same person, easily recognized under his Christian name *Robertus*, further appears as Tenant of more than thirty Manors in the Honour of Arundel.

Being thus by far the greatest Feoffee in Roger de Montgomery's Earldom of Arundel and Chichester, it was doubtless in this relation, that Robert Fitz Tetbald acquired his title of *Vicecomes*, though his Shrievalty is nowhere noticed in *Domesday*, and perhaps had not then commenced.

It will answer a present as well as a future purpose, if I give a summary of Robert Fitz Tetbald's Sussex Fief.—It included Peteorde (Petworth), Cochinges (Cocking), Hericdeham (Hardham), and a number of Manors which constituted that integral portion of the Earldom of Arundel known afterwards as the Honour of Petworth. It also included Poleberge (Pulborough) and Garinges (Goring).<sup>8</sup>

I have already cited evidence to show that Robert Fitz Tetbald did not share the fall of Earl Robert de Belesme in 1102. His Fief both in Sussex and Shropshire will accordingly have been held after that event under King Henry I. It is however clear that during that Monarch's life the whole lapsed to the Crown, but whether by surrender, forfeiture, or failure of heirs, I cannot determine.

The Honours of both Earl and Vicomte were thus at the redisposal of King Henry. The estates of Robert Fitz Tetbald do not however appear to have been granted to any Subject during that Monarch's reign; for the Feodary of the Honour of Arundel (which I have already determined to belong to the period between 1130 and 1135) enumerates the following Tenures and Fees without naming any Tenant. "Pettewrtha—22½ fees, Garinges—11 fees, Poleberga—3 fees, and Trierferda—1 fee."<sup>9</sup>

Thus at the close of Henry I's reign, was the Fief of Robert Fitz Tetbald in the King's hand. I shall hereafter have to trace its subsequent history in connection with Shropshire names and estates.

At the time I speak of (1130-5), another large portion of the

<sup>7</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 23 a, 1.

<sup>8</sup> *Domesday*, fo. 23-25.

<sup>9</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 64, 65.

Earldom of Arundel, estimated at eight Knights'-Fees, had been placed at the disposal of the King. This he had granted to Alan de Dunstanvill, who was then holding the same. He had also, if I mistake not, granted to the same Alan the Shropshire Manor of Idsall.

And here, in attempting to declare who this Alan de Dunstanvill was, I must undertake the history of a great Feudal Barony, the early part of which was left unexplored by Dugdale, and has only been misrepresented by others.

#### BARONY OF DUNSTANVILL.

In the Wiltshire *Domesday*, one Humphrey de Lisle (Humfridus de Insula) is recorded as holding of the King a Fief of not less than twenty-seven Manors. Of these it will suffice for our present purpose to name the following, viz. Broctone, Contone, Sterte, Cumbrewelle, Wili, Colerne, Poltone, Bedestone, Come, and Wintreburne.<sup>10</sup>

Of this Humphrey de Lisle, I can say no more than that in January 1091, he was in attendance at Hastings on King William II, then about to embark for Normandy.<sup>11</sup>

He appears to have left a daughter and sole heiress, variously called Adelina de Insula, and Adeliza de Dunstanville, for it was the custom of great heiresses to retain their paternal names after marriage.

The husband of Adelina de Insula was Reginald de Dunstanville, whose marriage of so wealthy an heiress bespeaks some Court-influence, but of whose origin I can form no conjecture. The name is associated with the liaisons of Royalty, but certain it is that this Reginald was deceased before his great namesake the illegitimate son of Henry I, and afterwards Earl of Cornwall, had passed the age of boyhood.

This Reginald, under the name of Rainald de Dunestanesvill, gave to the Priory of Lewes the Church of Winterburne in Wiltshire with all that appertained thereto.<sup>12</sup> Now as Winterburne was among the *Domesday* possessions of Humphrey de Lisle, so will the various confirmations which Lewes Priory had of this Church enable us to judge of his succession.

<sup>10</sup> *Domesday*, fos. 70, b 2, and 71, a 1.

<sup>11</sup> *Monasticon*, viii, 1294; ii.

<sup>12</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 14, No. vi. A pen-

tion from the Church of Wynterborne Basset (Wilts) was payable to Lewes Priory at the Dissolution.



Adelina de Insula, wife of Reginald de Dunstanvill survived him. In her widowhood and yet previous to the year 1124, she granted to Tewkesbury Abbey the land of Poltone for the soul of the said Reginald her husband.<sup>13</sup> She appears also on the Wiltshire Pipe-Roll of 1130, under the name of Adeliza de Dunestanvill as Surety for one who owed ten merks to the Crown.<sup>14</sup> She further seems, by a document which I shall quote presently, to have made some grant or confirmation of Winterbourne Church to Lewes Priory.

In 1130, there was one Reginald de Dunstanvill who had a very large property in Wiltshire, whose Sister Gundred had also lands there, and who both seem to have been high in Royal favour.<sup>15</sup> If this Reginald was in the succession of Humphrey de Lisle, I can say nothing further of him. If, as, notwithstanding some evidence to the contrary, I must believe, he was identical with Reginald Fitz Roy, then I have no present concern with him.

In the succession of Adeliza de Dunstanvill came one Walter de Pinkney. Whether he were her heir (the son of a former husband), or whether his claims superseded those of others in consequence of his siding with the dominant political party of his day, I can hardly determine. The following evidences are all I have to offer on the point.—

In or about the year 1145, this Walter, having been left by Stephen as Governor of the garrison of Malmesbury, was distinguished for his fidelity to the Usurper, and his readiness in

<sup>13</sup> *Monasticon*, ii, pp. 66, 86. Polton, near Marlborough (Wilts), continued to belong to Tewkesbury till the Dissolution. It was a *Domesday Manor* of Humphrey de Insula. Adelina's grant thereof was confirmed by Henry I, apparently when at East-Bourne (Sussex), and certainly before 1124.

<sup>14</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. I, p. 21.

<sup>15</sup> He is excused £7.1s. of the Danegeld assessed on Wiltshire. His liability to such a sum indicates a large property. Several Hundreds in the same County were also under amercement, for murders committed within their limits;—but a sum of 40s. chargeable on Reginald, and one of 24s. chargeable on his Sister Gundred, in that respect, had been excused by Royal favour. Similarly 24s. of the

Danegeld assessed on the County of Surrey had been excused to Reginald de Dunestanvill (*Rot. Pip.* 31 Hen. I, pp. 22, 51). The doubt about this Reginald being Reginald Fitz Roy arises thus:—William of Jumieges, writing apparently between the years 1135 and 1140, speaks of Reginald Fitz Roy as “adhuc juvenis et sine casamento” (still a youth and without territorial provision). Nevertheless Reginald Fitz Roy was fighting for the cause of the Empress, in Coutance, in 1138; and there are other reasons for thinking that Henry I's illegitimate children were all born at an earlier period than the Monk of Jumieges' account would imply (Vide,—*Willelmus Gemmeticensis*, p. 306; and *Ordericus*, p. 915;—inter *Normannorum Scriptores*).

the field. Falling however into the hands of William Peverel de Dover, an equally zealous supporter of Matilda, he was given up to the latter. Neither persuasions nor threats would induce the captive to cooperate in a scheme which the Empress entertained of obtaining possession of Malmesbury-Castle through his agency. He would not and could not further her design, for Stephen, hearing of his captivity, came to Malmesbury himself and took measures for its future defence. The Empress, cruel in her disappointment, consigned Walter de Pinkney to chains and a dungeon.<sup>16</sup>

It must have been two years afterwards, that Walter de Pinkney (Pinchenei) escaping from prison flew again to arms. Backed by the assistance of Roger Earl of Hereford and an efficient band of soldiers, he got possession of Christ-Church (Hants), a Castle then garrisoned for the Empress. His conduct was now marked by violent extortion, sacrilege, and the most wanton cruelties. A combination of the Citizens of Christ-Church and the neighbouring tenantry resolved to put an end to his barbarities. Passing, as it seems, from the Castle to the Church, he and his suit were waylaid by the conspirators, who in the first instance addressed him as suppliants deprecating his extortionate conduct. The answer they received was a defiant look, and a threat of yet harsher treatment. The look and the threat were the last;—in another moment Walter de Pinkney fell lifeless under the stroke of a battle-axe, his followers were put to the sword, and the Castle of Christ-Church surrendered to the Conspirators.<sup>17</sup>

This Walter had in his life-time, and probably before his imprisonment, expedited a Charter to Lewes Priory of which the following is a translation.

To the Venerable Lord Prior of Lewes, &c., Walter de Pencheni, greeting. Know ye that I give ye, the Church of Wintreburne, which my Mother<sup>18</sup> (*materna mea*) Adeliza gave ye;—I give it after the decease of the Clerk my kinsman (*clerici, parentis mei*) to whom I granted it, and as long as that Clerk shall live, he shall hold it of ye, and he shall pay ye every year, whilst the War shall last, 10s., and when God shall have given peace, he shall pay one merk of silver. But after his decease, ye shall have it wholly

<sup>16</sup> · <sup>17</sup> *Gesta Regis Stephani*, pp. 111, 112, 132, 133.

<sup>18</sup> In translating *materna mea* as if it were simply *mater* I follow the *Rubricator*

of the Lewes Chartulary, who thus heads the deed,—“*Carta Walteri de Pencheni de confirmacione ecclesie de Winterburne quam Adeliza mater sua dedit.*”

and freely (*solidam et quietam*),—Hugo de Cumbrevilla and his two Brothers Roger and Reinald de Insula being witnesses;— This (I do) that I may partake in all the benefits of your Church.<sup>19</sup>

With this curious and not uninteresting document, I close my notice of Walter de Pinkney, and pass to those who were with less doubt the eventual heirs, and, as I think, the sons of Adeliza de Lisle and Reginald de Dunstanvill.

These were the two Brothers Robert and Alan de Dunstanvill, the former of whom, dying in course of time without issue, left his estates to the children of his younger Brother. The latter, Alan, having in the first instance no paternal inheritance, seems to have obtained certain grants in Sussex and Shropshire, which I have already ascribed to the favour of Henry I.

I will first speak of Robert de Dunstanvill, and endeavour to show by his attestation of various Charters how true he was to the cause of the Empress and her Son Henry.

On July 25, 1141, it must be he, who as Robert Fitz Reginald witnessed that famous Charter whereby the Empress, grateful for a temporary success, created Milo de Gloucester Earl of Hereford.<sup>20</sup> This Charter passed at Oxford, as did two others nearly contemporary, one to Geoffrey Earl of Essex, and one to St. Benet's of Hulm (Norfolk). The first of these is attested by Robert Fitz Reginald, the other by Robert Fitz Reg: probably the same person.<sup>21</sup>

About the same time, but at Devizes (Wiltshire), and as Robert de Dunstanvill, he attests two Charters which the Empress expedited in favour of Shrewsbury Abbey.<sup>22</sup> Another Charter of the Empress dated at Devizes, and granting to the Monks of Radmore (Staffordshire) has the same attestation.<sup>23</sup>

In 1153, he attests a Charter which Henry, as yet only Duke of Normandy and Earl of Anjou, granted to Bristol Abbey:<sup>24</sup> but on that Prince's accession to the throne, he appears constantly at Court both in England and Normandy, at the siege of Brug also in 1155, and attesting charters which passed then and afterwards to the Shropshire Houses of Shrewsbury and Haughmond, and to the Flintshire Abbey of Basingwerc.

In 1156 (2 Hen. II), he stands exempted, by Writ Royal, from

<sup>19</sup> Lewes Chartulary (Cotton. Vespas. F, xv), fol. 169 b. | *ticon*, iii, 87, No. xiii.

<sup>20</sup> *Selden's Titles of Honour*, p. 537.

<sup>22</sup> Salop Chartulary, Nos. 40, 50.

<sup>23</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 446, No. i

<sup>21</sup> *Dugdale's Baronage*, i, 201; *Monas-*

<sup>24</sup> *Ibidem*, vi, 366; iii.

the *quota* of Danegeld assessed upon him in Wiltshire, Hampshire, Dorsetshire and Surrey, also from his share of the *Donum* of the last two Counties.

In this same fiscal year, he had had a grant from the King of the Royal Manor and Hundred of Heytesbury (Wiltshire), reputed to pay a *blanch ferm* of £40. *per annum* to the Exchequer.<sup>25</sup>

The Sheriff of Wiltshire, till September 1167, annually deducted that sum from his own debts to the Crown, alleging Robert de Dunstanvill as the recipient thereof, in the usual form.

But in September 1168, Robert de Dunstanvill being dead, his heir Walter de Dunstanvill is similarly entered as entitled to the Manor.<sup>26</sup> Of him however presently.—

It should here be noted that Robert de Dunstanvill's interest in Surrey arose by purchase. He gave for Shalefeld (Shalford) and Aldeford 100 merks and 11 greyhounds to Robert de Watevill, a great Feoffee in the Honour of Clare. Hence, in 1165, Robert de Dunstanvill is returned as holding 1 Knight's-Fee in Surrey, of that Honour.<sup>27</sup>

I must now speak of his works of piety. Being Guardian I suppose of his Nephew Alan, he gave to Lewes Priory the Church of Bercham (Sussex), of the Fee of said Alan, a grant which the latter afterwards increased by giving an annual rent of 20s. He (Robert) also gave to the same Cluniac House the Chapel of Gretham.<sup>28</sup> Lastly, he gave to the Priory of Farleigh (Wilts), a Cell of Lewes, the land of Cutiford, a grant which, after his death, was confirmed by his Nephews.

He died, as I have said, about 1168, without issue; but before we proceed to his Successors, we should speak of Alan de Dunstanvill his younger Brother, who died long before him. This

<sup>25</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2, 3 & 4 Hen. II, pp. 57, 78, 116. "In terris datis.—Et Roberto de Dunstanvilla, xl, li, bl, in Hehtredebiria cum hundredo."

When the King granted away a Manor together with the Hundred, or with the issues of such Pleas within the Manor as were of the jurisdiction of the Hundred-Court, the land was said to be given "blanch" (*blanca*); and when, on the contrary, the King retained the *Hundredal* jurisdiction, and simply gave the land, it was said to be given "by tale" (*numero*). These terms came into use

because it was currently estimated that the values of a Manor with and without Hundredal Jurisdiction were as the values of blanch (*i. e.* refined) money and common money (*i. e.* money counted by the piece, without reference to its purity).

(See *Stapleton's Rotuli Normanniæ*, i, xv).

<sup>26</sup> *Rot. Pip. passim, sub annis.*

<sup>27</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 294.

<sup>28</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 14; iii; where the grant is confused with, but must be understood as distinct from, another by Roger de Caisneto.

Alan seems to have held 8 Knights'-Fees in the Honour of Arundel, by favour of King Henry I, and before 1135. Though thereby questioning a high authority, I hesitate not to say that he was also Lord of Idsall, which he probably acquired by a similar patronage.

In July 1141, he attests at Oxford a Charter which the Empress granted to Haughmond Abbey, his fellow-witnesses being several of them connected with Shropshire.<sup>29</sup>

He granted to Wombridge Priory half a *ferdendel* (or virgate) of land, which Eilric held in Leies (afterwards Prior's Lee), with all the children of the said Eilric.<sup>30</sup> Lee was then a member of Idsall, of which Manor Alan de Dunstanvill is thus proved to have been Lord. This grant, as well as a further one of nine acres in Leia, passed before 1156, and both were confirmed by a Bull of Pope Urban in 1187, as the grants of Alan de Dunstanvill.<sup>31</sup> Either in conjunction with his wife, or for the weal of her soul, this Alan granted to Lewes Priory the land of Netimbre (Newtimber, Co. Sussex), and this Charter was confirmed, during the reign of Stephen, by William de Albini Earl of Arundel, of whose Honour the said land was held.<sup>32</sup>

I can say nothing more of this Alan de Dunstanvill than that in 1156 he was deceased. He left two Sons at least,—Walter and Alan, the latter probably under age. He had also a daughter Alice, who married Thomas Basset.

Of Walter de Dunstanvill, eldest son and heir of Alan, we have innumerable notices. He first occurs at Michaelmas 1156, as having been excused, by writ of Henry II, his *quota* of the Dane-

<sup>29</sup> Harl. MSS. 2188, fo. 123. The other witnesses are David King of Scots, R (Robert) Bishop of London, A (Alexander) Bishop of Lincoln, W (William Fitz Gilbert) the Chancellor, R (Richard) de Belmes Archdeacon, Rainald Earl of Cornwall, William Fitz Alan and W (Walter) his Brother.

<sup>30</sup> - <sup>31</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. xiv, and Appendix, No. iiij. The former is a confirmation by Walter de Dunstanvill I, son and heir of Alan.

<sup>32</sup> Lewes Chartulary, fo. 126 dorso. This Confirmation purports to be that of William Earl of Lincoln, but is addressed

to his Barons and men of the Honour of Arundel.—

The mistake of the transcriber is obvious. Dugdale, taking extracts from this very Chartulary, as I think, writes the Grantor as William Earl of Arundel without note or comment (Ashmol. MSS. vol. 39, fo. 62). The witnesses of the Earl's Charter are Hugh, Prior of *Neuham*, Roger and Hermann Chaplains, Ralph Fitz Savarie (deceased 1157), Geoffrey de Tresgoz, Amaury de Bellafago, William de Dunstanvill and Walter his Brother, Peter Alan's Dapifer, Harold Priest of Burcham and Robert his Brother, and Helias Nephew of Ralph Fitz Savarie.

geld assessed on the County of Sussex. The sum thus excused was £3. Again, in 1158, he is excused 14s. 6*d.*, his share of the *donum* of the same County.

In 1156, he had also been assessed £1. 6*s.* 3*d.* for the Danegeld of Shropshire, which debt, being left in arrear, was excused by the King in 1157. In 1158, the King further excused him a sum of 16*s.*, his proportion of the *donum* of Shropshire.<sup>34</sup>

In 1162, when the Danegeld was again levied, Walter de Dunstanvill was assessed at and excused 27*s.* 6*d.* in Shropshire, and 58*s.* in Sussex.<sup>35</sup>

In 1165, he is returned as holding one fee of old feoffment under Adam de Port, of Herefordshire.<sup>36</sup> I cannot identify this Fee. His Sussex Tenure of eight Fees in the Honour of Arundel was returned by the Earl under name of Alan de Dunstanvill (Walter's Father),—the Earl, as I have before explained, quoting a Feodary taken thirty years previously. Walter himself makes no return of his Shropshire Tenure *in capite*.

In 1167, the Demesne of Walter Dunstanvill paid a fine of one merk, inflicted by Alan de Nevill, who had been holding Pleas of the Forest in Shropshire.<sup>37</sup>

In 1168, it appears that having been assessed eight merks (on eight Knights'-Fees held of the Honour of Arundel) to the *Aid* for marriage of the King's daughter, he had refused to pay more than five merks, alleging that the other three merks were in excess of the just demand.<sup>38</sup> In other words he asserted his tenure under the Earl of Arundel, to be by service of five, not eight Knights'-Fees. At or about this time, he became the heir of his Uncle Robert, succeeding thereby to Heytesbury, and other estates in Wiltshire, Surrey, and elsewhere. He is accordingly entered among the Wiltshire Grantees of the Crown as having the Manor and Hundred of Heytesbury, of £40. annual value. This entry continues on the Wiltshire Pipe-Roll till Michaelmas 1170, inclusive. It is then suspended altogether for two-and-a-half years, *i. e.* till

<sup>33</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2, 3 & 4 Hen. II, pp. 61, 182.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 43, 89, 170.

<sup>35</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8 Hen. II, Salop and Sussex.

<sup>36</sup> *Liber Niger*, i, 151.

<sup>37</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. II, Salop.

<sup>38</sup> *Madox Exchequer*, 405, k; *Liber Ruber*, fo. xlix. These 3 merks were still in arrear in 1170, and the debt subse-

quently disappears from the Rolls without any appearance of its ever having been liquidated.—

In fact Dunstanvill gained his point; for a *Feodary* of the Honour of Arundel, drawn up in 1242, shows his Grandson as holding, by service of five Knights'-Fees only, in Bergham. (*Testa de Nevill*, pp. 222, 223).

March 1173. This break in an otherwise uniform account, indicates I doubt not a contemporary forfeiture of Walter de Dunstanvill, but it began rather earlier, and ended rather sooner than would tally with any supposition that the disgraced Baron was associated with the Treason of Prince Henry or the Norman rebellion of a somewhat later date. At Michaelmas 1173, the Sheriff of Wiltshire recognized his tenure of Heytesbury during the preceding half-year, and accordingly deducts £20. *blanch* from his own liabilities at the Exchequer. In following years the usual entry allowing Walter de Dunstanvill's full tenure of Heytesbury, is continued. At Michaelmas 1177, the King having himself sat in judgment on those who were accused of trespassing on the Royal Forests, had amerced Walter de Dunstanvill in £100,—an enormous sum, and greatly in excess of other ameracements inflicted on some principal persons in Shropshire. Walter had already paid £50 of this fine, and before Michaelmas 1178, he discharged the balance in two sums of £20. and £30, paid to the Sheriffs of Shropshire and Wiltshire respectively.<sup>39</sup>

Besides his possessions in England, Walter de Dunstanvill had large estates in Normandy, situated apparently in the Bailiwick of Dieppe and Arques. He seems to have mortgaged his land of Roumaisnil in that quarter, to one Peter de Bures, who, having been Vicomte of Dieppe and Arques during the war (1173-4), was himself indebted to the Crown in vast sums of money. In part payment of such debts, Peter de Bures transferred Walter de Dunstanvill's mortgage to the King. Hence, on the Norman Exchequer-Roll of 1180, the said Walter appears as owing the King £70. for Peter de Bures, which sum he formerly owed to said Peter, on his (Walter's) land of Roumaisnil.<sup>40</sup>

I should here notice that the Wiltshire Manors of Come, Colerne, and Wili, which had been of the *Domesday* Fief of Humphrey de Insula do not appear to have continued in his ordinary succession. They had been in possession of Reginald Fitz Roy, better known as Reginald de Dunstanvill Earl of Cornwall, and on his death (A.D. 1175), had escheated to the Crown.—

The Sheriff of Wiltshire continued to account for *tallages*, *scutages* and *ferms* assessable on these Manors in 1189; but at Michaelmas 1190, Walter de Dunstanvill rendered account through the Sheriff “of one hundred merks for his fine of the land of

<sup>39</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 14 to 24 Hen. II.

<sup>40</sup> *Rot. Normanniæ* (Stapleton) i, 67.

Cumbe, and Colerne, and of Wili.”<sup>41</sup> He had in fact recovered part of his inheritance, and these Manors went to his Successors.

In 1192, Walter de Dunstanvill appears to have been of the Retinue of John Earl of Moreton.<sup>42</sup> Whether he was also implicated in the subsequent treason of that Prince I cannot determine. That he was no favourite of King Richard is certain, but there is some obscurity, and something too of contradiction in the documents which bear upon this question. Those documents shall presently speak for themselves.

Another matter of uncertainty is the precise period of his death; and this I propose to investigate at length. Though the case is one in which a definite conclusion can hardly be established, it involves some points of collateral interest.—

To men in those days, and in the position of Walter de Dunstanvill, there were other deaths than that of physical dissolution. There was what may be termed a civil death, the consequence of forfeiture or political disqualification; and there was the death *quantum ad sæculum*, as it was termed, when a man, as men often did, retired from the world to a Monastery. By one of these deaths, died Walter de Dunstanvill in 1194, but by which, let a comparison of documents decide if adequate so to do.

The County of Wilts appears to have been visited by Justices Itinerant in October 1194, *i.e.* about six months after the King’s return from captivity.—

A Record of this *Iter* is preserved. It contains an Inquisition as to several matters in the Hundred of Heytesbury. From this mutilated document I think that I gather the following facts; viz. that Walter de Dunstanvill’s Manor of Hectredesburi, worth £40. *per annum*, was in the King’s hands;—that Wido de Diva had so seized it for the King during some part of Easter Term preceding;—that the stock thereon had been escheated; that the Manor without such stock was worth £23. *per annum*,—and that William de St. Mary-Church (then the King’s Escheator) had made a more recent seizure thereof. It would also appear from another entry

<sup>41</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 Ric. I, Wilts.

<sup>42</sup> On May 13, 1192, he attests with Ingeram de Pratellis a Charter of John, Lord of Ireland and Earl of Moreton, dated at Reading (*Monasticon*, vii, 1143; ii). On the following day, at London, the same two persons attest a Charter of that

Prince to the City of Dublin (*Fœdera*, i, 55.) About the same time a Charter of the Earl in favour of the Metropolitan Church of Rouen is tested by Walter de Dunestanville, Gilbert Basset, and many others,—Abbots, Earls, and Barons (*Rot. Normannie*, II, clix).



that Walter de Dunstanvill was not deceased; for he seems to have appeared in Court, and to have deposed that a former companion or follower of his, then a fugitive and accused of murder, had left his company before the said crime was perpetrated.<sup>43</sup>

That Walter de Dunstanvill suffered forfeiture before his death will also appear in another way. More than thirty-five years after this Wiltshire *Iter*, his Widow, claiming her dower in Shalefeld (Shalford, Surrey), asserted that he (Walter) had held that Manor "all his life, nearly to the last of his days, until King Richard, in the ninth year of his reign, of his own will and without judicial sentence, disseized him of that Manor and of all his lands."<sup>44</sup> This Plea involved a false computation as to the regnal year of King Richard in which the alleged disseizin took place. Substituting the fifth for the ninth year of the King as the date of the disseizin, I have no doubt that the further fact (*viz.* that Walter de Dunstanvill survived his disgrace a very short time) is correct.

At Michaelmas 1194, the Sheriff of Shropshire accounted 20*s.* for the *Scutage* of Walter de Dunstanvill in that County; and William de St.-Mary-Church, as the King's Escheator, accounted £21. 4*s.* for his *Scutage* in Wiltshire.<sup>45</sup> This was the *Scutage* for the King's Redemption, which was assessed at 20*s.* on each Knight's Fee. Walter de Dunstanvill had therefore been a Tenant *in capite* of 22½ Knights'-Fees, thus charged.

At Michaelmas 1195, William de St.-Mary-Church, as Escheator, accounts for a full year's *ferm* of certain Manors which were Walter de Dunstanvill's. Hectrediber, Brocton and Cumb, all in Wiltshire, and Bercham in Sussex, are thus enumerated; and in one instance (that of Cumb) it is expressly said, that "the King has the Manor in his hand, together with the Heir."<sup>46</sup> Here then we have evidence, not only of the summary forfeiture, but also of the death of Walter de Dunstanvill.

Before I proceed to speak of the succession of Walter de Dunstanvill, I should say something of a number of Charters wherein his name occurs, and which further inform us of his connexions, possessions, and character.

About the year 1167-8, Henry II, being then at Le Mans (in Maine), concedes and confirms to the Church of Ferlea (Farleigh, Wilts.), and the Monks there serving God, the land of Cutiford,

<sup>43</sup> *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, pp. 15, 16.

<sup>44</sup> Dodsworth, vol. 42, fo. 149, quoting  
a Plea-Roll now lost.

<sup>45</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 6 Ric. I, Salop, and *Escaeta*  
in *Wills*, enrolled therein.

<sup>46</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 7 Ric. I, *Escaeta*.

which Walter de Dunstanvill and Alan, his Brother, had reasonably conceded and given to the said Monks, in pure alms, for the health of their own souls and for the soul of Robert de Dunstanvill, their Uncle. Wherefore the said Monks were to enjoy the said land as Walter de Dunstanvill, and his Brother Alan, and the same Robert, their Uncle, had given and by their Charters confirmed it.<sup>47</sup>

A Charter by Walter de "Donstanvill" himself gives to Lewes Priory the land of Niewetimbre, for the health of his soul and the souls of his Father and Mother, who had before given the same. He also gives the Church of Winterburn, the tithe of his demesne of Scaldeford (Shalford, Surrey), the Church of *Bernham*, with the tithes of Hammes and the Chapel of Gretham (all in Sussex).<sup>48</sup>

Another Charter names the land of Niewtembre only, but has the same witnesses and is confirmed by "William, Earl of Arundell, the third," in a separate deed.<sup>49</sup>

The Charters of Walter de Dunstanvill to the Priory of Wombridge, in Shropshire, were numerous. I hardly can pretend to notice them in the order of their dates. In perhaps the earliest of the series,—

"Valter de Dunstanvill," addressing all the faithful of Holy Church and all his men, English and Norman, informs them that he has given to the Priory the land which his Father had given, viz. that which Eilric de Leis held;—with all the children of the said Eilric, for the health of the souls of his Father and himself.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Harl. Chart. 43, C, 23.—Tested by Rotrode Archbishop of Rouen, Joceline, and Hilary, Bishops of Salisbury and Chichester, Earl William de Mandeville, William Malet Dapifer, William de Curci and William de Hasting.

<sup>48</sup> Lewes Chartulary (ut supra) fo. 126.—Tested by Robert de Dunstanvill, Richer Priest of Toring, Herbert Brother of Earl Reginald, Peter Fitz-Tored, Baldwin de Frolavill, Robert de Torvill, Henry Archdeacon of Chichester, Master Jordan, Hamo de Bosco, Ralph de Schireburn, Gilbert, Aldred, Norman, Ralph de Bigenever, Gerard Cursor.—

If the first witness of this deed be, as is most probable, the Uncle of the Grantor, then the deed will have passed before 1168, and Robert de Dunstanvill will have enfeoffed his Nephew and Heir in Shalford

before his own death. Robert de Dunstanvill has also been mentioned as the original Donor of the Chapel of Gretham.

<sup>49</sup> Ibidem, fo. 127.—Tested by Roger Rusteg the Seneschal of the Earl, Robert de Vilers, and Manasser Aguilon, who was dead in 1194, a hint, by the way, as to the great errors which pervade all received accounts of the succession of D'Albini Earl of Arundel.

<sup>50</sup> Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris, &c.*, No. xxviij. This Charter is tested by the Abbot of Haemon, Alan the Clerk, Peter Fitz Torret (Toret), Robert Fitz Osbert, Hugh Fitz Warin, Roger de Saint Martin. It passed, I think, before the year 1181, which seems to be the date of a general Charter of Confirmation granted by Henry II to Wombridge, wherein this grant is verbally recited.

In another Charter "Valter de Dunstanvill" confirms his Father Alan's grant of *half-a-Ferendel* which Eilric held in Leies; and he adds, for the health of the souls of himself, his wife, and parents, fourteen acres, to be held by the Canons together with the said land.<sup>51</sup>

The next grant of Walter de Dunstanvill to Wombridge, seems to be that of Aynulf's Lee; but the two deeds which he executed in this matter, have been so inaccurately transcribed in the Wombridge Chartulary, that I will venture to say nothing more of the premises conveyed, than that they seem to have been within the Lordship of Idsall, and to have constituted a part of that estate which the Canons of Wombridge afterwards enjoyed under the comprehensive name of Prior's Lee.

By the first of these transcripts he is represented, as Walter de Dunstanvill, to give for the souls' health of himself and Predecessors "Leias Amulsi" to the Priory; he wills also that his body shall be buried in the aforesaid place of St. Leonard (that is in the Priory Church of Wombridge, dedicated to St. Leonard) if it should befall him to die in England.<sup>52</sup>

The second Transcript shows him as granting "Amusne's Legam" in the same way, but with a different set of witnesses to the Deed.<sup>53</sup>

His other gift to Wombridge Priory is the Main subject of three separate deeds, transcribed in the Chartulary.—Each deed has its peculiar significance.—

By one, he gives for the soul's health of himself, his Wife, Hawiz de Praheus, and of his Predecessors and Successors, his

<sup>51</sup> Ibidem, No. xiv. The Testing Clause of this Charter seems to have been misunderstood by its Transcribers. The witnesses are Alan de Dunstanville (probably the Grantor's Brother), Roger de Fretteville, William de Hedlega, Peres Derliton (probably De Eiton), Radulf Panton, Roger de Preston, Walter de Dunstanvill Clerk, Walter de Wattedevill, Thomas de Leis, Robert de Linton (probably Lintot). I should incline to date the Deed about 1188.

<sup>52</sup> Ibidem, No. i. The witnesses are Peter Fitz Thoret and Philip and Bartholomew his Sons, Reginald de Dauvill and Pharamus de Traci, William de Headley, Walter de Lega and Leonard his Brother,

William the Clerk and Robert de Lintot, Oliver, and Robert de Grenhul, Master Richard of Ideshal, &c.

<sup>53</sup> Ibidem, No. ij. The witnesses are William Earl of Ferrers, Thomas Basseth and Alan Basseth, Peter Fitz Thoret and his Sons Philip and Bartholomew, Reginald de Dauvill, (Pharamus) de Traci, and John his Brother, William de Hercz, Robert de Lintot, William Paternoster, Walter de Lega and Leonard his Brother, Master Richard (of Idsall, I suppose), William de Cutona, John de Hemmes, Robert de Belmes, &c.

There can be little doubt that this deed passed between 1191 and 1194.

Mills of Ydeshal saving the *multure* of his own house, and of others who ought to have free *multure* therein. He also gives twenty acres of his wood of Lehes near the land of Thomas de Lehes, as he and his free men shall provide.<sup>54</sup>

Another deed, with a similar *movent-clause*, gives the two Mills which he had in his Manor of Ydeshal, with all the *suit* of his men in the said Manor, and with free water-course from every and all sources, and means of repairing the mill-stanks whenever necessary, saving the *multure* of his own house. And for this the Canons were to find a Chaplain who should celebrate daily service in their Church of Wombrugg, for the souls'-health of himself, his wife, his Ancestors and Successors, for ever.<sup>55</sup>

In the third phase of this grant, Walter de Dunstanvill, Lord of Idshall, with the same *movent clause*, grants to the Priory two Mills which he had in his Manor of Ideshall, viz. the Mill of Ideshall and the Mill of Patesford, with sites of both, and *suit* of his free tenants, &c. with the same condition as to a Chaplain officiating daily for the souls of himself, his wife Hawise, &c. for ever.<sup>56</sup>

I close these extracts from the Wombridge Chartulary with reference to a deed, before set forth ;—wherein Walter de Dunstanvill, with his Knights, attests the Charter of Griffin de Sutton to that House.<sup>57</sup>

And he seems to have been interested in the concerns of other Religious Houses in Shropshire.—He attested the Certificates of Roger de Powis and John le Strange (I), wherein those great men recorded their remembrance of the first William Fitz Alan having granted Wroxeter Church to Haghmon Abbey. These Certificates, as I have before said, must have been drawn up about the year 1175 ; and, between that period and 1190, Walter de Dunstanvill, being

<sup>54</sup> Ibidem, No. xxvij. The witnesses are Abbot Leonard of Dublin, Abbot Richard of Haemon, Abbot Walter of Lilleshull, Robert Prior of Wenloke, Walter de Dunstanville Clerk "my kinsman" (cognato meo), Thomas Basseth "my nephew," Eugeran de Praheus, Peter Fitz Thoret and B. (Bartholomew) his Son, Ralph Pantulf and William his Son, Peter de Heiton, &c.—

The same limits may be assigned for the date of this deed as of the last.

<sup>55</sup> Ibidem, No. xxvi. The witnesses are as those of the last deed, omitting the

Abbot of Dublin and William son of Ralph Pantulf, but adding Roger de "Stalevill" (probably Fralevill) and Alan de Dunstanvill, and giving Peter de "Eyton" with an intelligible orthography.

<sup>56</sup> Ibidem, No. xlvi. The witnesses are Walter Abbot of Lilesull, Richard Abbot of Hamond, Robert Prior of Wenlok, Walter de Dunstanvill Clerk, "my kinsman," Roger de Frala-Villa, Thomas Basseth "my nephew," Robert (read Roger) Corbet of Hedley, Peter de Eiton, &c.

<sup>57</sup> Supra, page 112, note 16.

Lord of Adderley, in Shropshire, came to an agreement with Ralph, Abbot of Salop, as to some boundary ;<sup>58</sup>—the particulars of which agreement shall be given hereafter.

A Charter by which this Walter de Dunstanvill made provision for his Harper, Oliver, is so relative to his Seignury at Idscall and to his other Charters, and so instructive in itself, that I must needs give it in full and in the original Latin.<sup>59</sup> It is as follows :—

Sciant omnes et presentes et futuri quod ego Walterus de Dunstanvilla dedi et concessi Olivario Citharedo meo pro suo servicio tutelam terre Rogerii de Halechtuna ad totam vitam suam cum uxore Rogerii quam predictus Olivarius assensu meo desponsavit, et tutelam heredis predicti Rogerii et ipsum heredem ad consulendum ad voluntatem sepedicti Olivarii. Et hanc predictam tutelam concessi liberam et quietam de tac et de tol illi et hominibus suis et de omnibus serviciis excepto quod ille mutabit unum spreverium singulis annis ad suum custum vel unum ostorium ad custum domini et tunc homines domini parabunt muiam in qua ponetur. Et cum ista predicta tutela dedi et concessi predicto Olivario pro homagio suo et pro servicio suo in expectatione sue Warisonis nominatam illam virgatam terre quam Achi et Swein de Knolla tenuerunt et omnia assarta que ego illi dedi de Longa Ruddigga usque ad Sumerlonam sicuti Smelebrock illa dividit et quieta de tac et de tol illi et hominibus suis et de omnibus serviciis et consuetudinibus in feudum et in hereditatem cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in bosco et in plano tenendam de me et de heredibus meis ille et heredes sui reddendo inde annuatim ille vel heredes sui mihi vel heredibus meis in die pasche quedam calcaria vel vi. d. Hanc vero donacionem et concessionem quia volo ut ille rate et inconcusse permaneant illas presentis scripti auctoritate simul et sigilli mei impressione firmiter corroboravi. Hiis testibus Alano de Dunstanvill.<sup>60</sup> Hawis' de Pratellis.<sup>61</sup> Thoma Basset.<sup>62</sup> Alano Basset.<sup>62</sup> Waltero persona de Idesal.<sup>63</sup> Petro filio Thoret.<sup>64</sup> Reginaldo de Daivill.<sup>65</sup> Baldwino de Fredevill. Alano filio Galfridi.<sup>66</sup> Gisleberto de Bernevall.<sup>67</sup> Willielmo

<sup>58</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 21.

<sup>59</sup> Charter in possession of the Rev. John Brooke of Haughton.

<sup>60</sup> The Grantor's Brother probably.

<sup>61</sup> Now, or afterwards, wife of the Grantor.

<sup>62</sup> The Grantor's Nephews.

<sup>63</sup> The Grantor's Cousin.

<sup>64</sup> Lord of Moreton, Evelith, Hem, Hinnington, &c.

<sup>65</sup> A Knight holding under the Grantor at Winterburn, Wilts.

<sup>66</sup> Probably Alan la Zouche, Lord of Tong.

<sup>67</sup> Barnevill is a Norman *vill*, midway between Arques and Rouen.

Clerico. Rodberto de Lintot.<sup>65</sup> Alano nepote suo. Bartholomeo filio Petri de Morton.<sup>69</sup> Willielmo juvene de Hedleia.<sup>70</sup> Alano de Hedleia.<sup>71</sup> Willielmo Pater-Noster.<sup>72</sup> Henrico Buberel et Marcando, et multis aliis.

This Walter de Dunstanville is said to have "married Ursula a daughter and Coheir of Reginald de Dunstanvill Earl of Cornwall, and to have obtained in her right the Lordship of Ideshale."<sup>73</sup> We have already seen that he acquired Idsall hereditarily from his Father, nor is it probable that the Earl of Cornwall ever had any interest there. And though the Manors of Cumbe (Castle-Cumb), Colerne, and Wili, in Wiltshire, having at one time been the Earl's, were afterwards given to Walter de Dunstanvill, yet I cannot account that circumstance to be evidence in proof of the alleged match. Those Manors seem to me to have been restored by the Crown to Walter de Dunstanvill, as his own hereditary right rather than in the right of any wife.

Be this as it may, and supposing that Walter de Dunstanvill had another wife or wives previous to his marriage with Hawise de Préaux, it is certain that by any such wife or wives he had no issue surviving him, and that his only Son, another Walter, was the Son of Hawise, and a mere infant at his Father's death.

Without attempting to ascertain who was that wife of Walter de Dunstanvill to whom he alludes in his second Charter to Wombridge, we have it on Hawise des Préaux own testimony that she became his wife after the accession of King Richard I (Sept. 1189), and we have also seen that within the next five years Walter de Dunstanvill had suffered forfeiture, under which he shortly died.—

I have hinted a possibility that during such short interval he became a Member of some Religious Community. If so it was unquestionably the House of Augustine Canons at Wombridge

<sup>65</sup> Lintôt was a *vill* in the Bailiwick of Arques, where also lay Dunstanvill's Norman Fief.

<sup>69</sup> Son, that is of Peter Fitz Thoret, the previous witness.

<sup>70</sup> Eldest son, and afterwards heir of William de Hadley Lord of High Ercall.

<sup>71</sup> The preceding witness had an Uncle and a Brother named Alan. The Uncle was Lord of Hadley and High Hatton, and Patron of Wombridge Priory.

<sup>72</sup> Of Drayton, near Idsall.

<sup>73</sup> Dugdale (*Baronage*, p. 591) quotes Vincent, *Corr.* p. 130, and *Rot. Pip.* 8 Ric. I, Salop, in support of these facts. The Pipe Roll however lends them no corroboration whatever, and I am much mistaken if Vincent drew his information from any sound authority. I think that both Vincent and Dugdale were, in this matter, dupes of a most scandalous imposture and forgery, which I shall, in due course, endeavour to expose.





**TOMB IN THE ABBEY CHURCH, SHREWSBURY;**

**SUPPOSED TO BE THAT OF SIR WALTER DE DUNSTANVILL, LORD OF LISHALL AND AUBERLEY.**



which afforded him a retreat ; and there too I suppose him, according to his own desire already expressed, to have been buried.

The following notice of his presumed Monument expresses the opinion of one who is well entitled to be heard on this or any other subject connected with Shropshire Antiquities :<sup>74</sup>—

“ In 1825,” says my authority, “ the upper part of a very ancient monument, consisting of the cumbent effigy of a cross-legged knight in mail armour, with surcoat, sword in scabbard by his side, gauntlets on hands (the left holding the scabbard of, and the right on the hilt of, as if about to draw, the sword), spurs on heels, head resting on a cushion and the feet on a lion, was removed from Wombridge, where it had lain in the church-yard ever since the demolition of the old church, and where it went formerly by the appellation of ‘ old Dansyfyld,’ but previous to its removal by that of ‘ old Dangerville,’ to the south aisle of the Abbey Church, Shrewsbury. On its removal it was thought to represent the Walter de Dunstanville who died 25 Hen. III.”<sup>75</sup>

My authority then refers to the Charter of the first Walter de Dunstanville, which expresses the Grantor’s wish to be buried at Wombridge, and concludes the Effigy to be his.—In that view I most entirely concur.

Having undertaken to give an account of this Barony and Family of Dunstanvill, I should before I pass to the immediate succession of Walter (I), say something of his Brother Alan and his Sister Alice.

Alan de Dunstanvill follows Walter in attesting several deeds of their Brother-in-Law, Thomas Basset, and his Son Gilbert, which deeds passed before the year 1181.

In 1185-6, Alan de Dunstanvill appears as having to wife the Coheirress of Emma de Langetot, which Emma, then sixty years of age, was of the race of “ Chedney and Joceline Crispin.” Her lands were in Buckinghamshire. The wife of Alan was then aged thirty.<sup>76</sup>

This Alan seems to have been largely enfeoffed in Cornwall ; probably during the time when the Earldom was held by Reginald de Dunstanvill. In 1187 he, Alan, was returned as holding twelve Fees *in capite* in that County.<sup>77</sup>

Passing some minor notices of his name it would appear that he long survived his elder Brother, for, on 5 Sept. 1216, King John empowers his beloved and faithful Alan de Dunstanvill to seize the lands of William Basset which are of his Fee, the said William being with the King’s enemies.<sup>78</sup>—

<sup>74</sup> Mr. George Morris of Shrewsbury,— who contributed this notice to the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica* (vol. v, p. 176), and by whose permission I transcribe it.

<sup>75</sup> *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, Additions, p. 532. Dugdale probably originated

this mistake by ascribing the grant of Aynulf’s Lee to the second Walter de Dunstanville (*Baronage*, p. 591).

<sup>76</sup> *De Puellis et Dominabus*, p. 21.

<sup>77</sup> *Liber Ruber Seaccarii*, fo. xlix.

<sup>78</sup> *Claus.* i, 286. William, son of John son of Osmund Basset, married Cecily

These lands appear to have been in Cornwall.—

It is, I presume, from this Alan de Dunstanvill that the present Barons De Dunstanvill and Basset allege a lineal descent, but Tehidy (Co. Cornwall), from which they take their title, remained with the elder branch of the family long after the era of Alan de Dunstanvill.

Alice de Dunstanvill, sister of Walter and Alan, was married, before the year 1160, to Thomas Basset, usually styled of Hedendon. He died about February 1181, but she was surviving in 1186.—

Their issue was three sons, and a daughter, wife first of Albert de Gresley, who died about 1179, and secondly, of Wido de Creoun.—

The Sons of Thomas and Alice Basset were Gilbert, Thomas, and Alan. Each of them attained a great position and has been reputed of Baronial Rank. Gilbert, the founder of Burchester Priory, has usually been styled of Hedendon. He died in 1205 leaving a sole daughter and heir, Eustachia, then the wife of Richard de Camvill.

Thomas Basset, usually styled of Colinton, died in 1220, leaving three daughters his coheirs.

Alan Basset, usually styled of Wycombe, seems to have lived till 1232, and left three sons, who, each in turn, enjoyed his honours, but had no male issue to continue their line.

It was necessary to state thus much in order to explain various matters which came to be litigated during the life of Walter de Dunstanvill (II).

His Father Walter (I), is said to have disposed of several Manors to his relations, *e. g.* to have given to his Sister Alice in *frank-marriage* the Manor of Shalford (Surrey), to have petitioned King Richard to grant to Thomas Basset his Nephew, the Manors of Culinton and Witeford (Devonshire),<sup>79</sup> and to have himself granted to Alan Basset, another Nephew, that Manor of Winterburn which we have so often mentioned.

daughter of Alan de Dunstanvill, and had with her lands in Cornwall. These were given in *frank-marriage* by Alan. The Lady deceased before February 1208, when her Father was living. She is therefore improperly said by Writers on the Peerage to have been "sole heir" of Alan. She can only have been so in her issue.

<sup>79</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, fo. 838. Thomas Basset after his Uncle's death, and for the

soul of his said Uncle, gave to Wombridge Priory some land at Wich-Malbank (Cheshire). His deed is attested by Gilbert Basset and Brice Pantulf, &c. It passed between 1094 and 1206. It was confirmed by Ranulf (Blundevil) Earl of Chester, and after Thomas Basset's death (1220) by Philippa Malbank his widow, daughter and coheir of William Malbank. (Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Wyche*; Nos. ii, iij, iv).

We will now follow the events of the minority of Walter de Dunstanvill (II), according to their order.—

On Dec. 12, 1194, King Richard, then at Chinon, confirms to his faithful Knight Alan Basset, the donation which “Walter de Dunstanvill made him of Winterburn, as said Walter’s Charter, which Alan had, did testify.” The Royal confirmation was again repeated Aug. 22, 1198.<sup>80</sup>

Gilbert Basset had, before his Uncle’s death, been suing him in the King’s Court for Scandeford (Shalford), as the marriage portion of Alice, Gilbert’s Mother; and King Richard, as was afterwards alleged, rendered the same (Shalefeld and Aldeford) to Gilbert, before Walter de Dunstanvill (I) had married Hawise des Préaux. King Richard’s Charter on the subject was fully confirmed by King John on 20 March, 1200,<sup>81</sup> Gilbert Basset fining twenty merks for such confirmation.<sup>82</sup> Nevertheless the Widow of Walter de Dunstanvill (I), afterwards claimed dower in that Manor, and the right of Gilbert Basset’s heirs thereto was otherwise disputed.

At Michaelmas 1196, William de St.-Mary-Church, accounted £21. 4s. for the *Scutage* of Normandy, being the sum chargeable on twenty-one and one-fifth Knights’-Fees of Walter de Dunstanvill, in Wiltshire.—

The Sheriff of Shropshire, similarly accounted 20s. for *Scutage* of one Fee of the same Walter in that County.—

Further, the wife of the said Walter had been deprived of Ydeshale about half a year, and William de St.-Mary-Church paid to the Crown, a sum of £5. 6s. for rents received by him, in the interval, out of that Manor; and 13s. 4d. for other perquisites thereof.<sup>83</sup>

At Michaelmas 1197, the Sheriff of Shropshire, on similar accounts, paid 20s. for the third *Scutage* of King Richard,—£6. 3s. for one half year’s issues of Ydeshal, and £8. 5s. 2d. (less certain arrears and charges) for the issues of a second half-year.<sup>84</sup>

At Michaelmas 1198, the Sheriff discharges his arrears of this *ferm*; and accounts for £16. 10s. 4d., the gross receipts of the current year, as certified by Thomas Noel, and Hugh de Chaucumb.<sup>85</sup>

Also in this year, I find that Geoffrey de Say, Bailiff of Arques (in Normandy), accounted to the King £40. for issues of Walter de Dunstanvill’s lands in that Province.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>80</sup> *Fœdera*, i, 67.

<sup>81</sup> *Rot. Chart. Regis Johannis*, p. 41.

<sup>82</sup> *Rot. Canc.* 3 John, p. 275.

<sup>83</sup> <sup>84</sup> <sup>85</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 8, 9, 10 Ric. I.

<sup>86</sup> *Rot. Normannie* (Stapleton), iii, cxxxi.

For the two years ending Michaelmas 1200, Stephen de Turnham was *Fermor* of Ydeshal. His debt of £16. 10s. 4d. for each year remained in arrear till April 8, 1204, when it was discharged from the Rolls, in consequence of a fine of 1000 merks which he offered the King to be quit of all accmpts and arrears, in respect of escheats and wardships held by him up to that time.<sup>87</sup>

These arrears included a debt of £30. due from the said Stephen, as *Fermor* of Heytesbury up to Midsummer 1200.<sup>88</sup>

From the latter period till March 1201, Robert de Berneres seems to have fermed Dunstanvill's Wiltshire and Sussex Manors. He subsequently accounted for various sums, which had thus become due on Heytesbury, Brocton, Cumb and Bercham.<sup>89</sup>

About April 1201, William Briwerr proffered to the King a fine of 300 merks to have custody, and marriage of the heir of Walter de Dunstanvill, saving the dower of said Walter's Widow.<sup>90</sup> This Fine seems in the first instance to have been accepted; for on the Levy of a *Scutage* in 1201, William Briwerr had received £12. 6s. 8d. from the Knights of Dunstanvill's Wiltshire Fief.<sup>91</sup> However Briwerr's fine was eventually cancelled; for about June 1201, Gilbert Basset proffered the double sum of 600 merks for the same Wardship. This Fine was received;—and at Michaelmas 1201, Gilbert Basset's name appears as accredited, in the usual way, with the current half-year's *ferm* of Heytesbury.<sup>92</sup>

In April 1205, Gilbert Basset has respite for a portion of his Fine then due; <sup>93</sup> but on Dec. 24, in the same year he was dead; for then the Tenants, both of his own lands, and of the land which he had in custody with Dunstanvill's Heir, are enjoined to answer to John Fitz Hugh, and Bartholomew a Clerk, whom the King had apparently appointed his Receivers in this matter.<sup>24</sup>

About February 1206, Thomas Basset proffered 200 merks, and all arrears of his Brother Gilbert's Fine, for this wardship.<sup>95</sup> And it is clear that he had it;—for on March 3 following, the King orders John Fitz Hugh to ascertain whether Scaldeford (Shalford) had belonged to Walter de Dunstanvill (I), and, if it had, to give it up to Thomas Basset, as *Custos* of the heir.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>87</sup> <sup>88</sup> <sup>89</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 to 6 John.

<sup>90</sup> *Oblata*, p. 133. A previous fine, recorded on the Oxfordshire Pipe Roll of Michaelmas 1200, is quoted by Dugdale. Thereby Thomas and Alan Basset proffered 500 merks for this Wardship, but had it not. (*Baronage*, i, p. 591.)

<sup>91</sup> *Rot. Canc.* 3 John, *Wilts.*

<sup>92</sup> *Oblata*, p. 169.

<sup>93</sup> *Claus.* i, 29.

<sup>94</sup> *Patent*, p. 57.

<sup>95</sup> *Oblata*, p. 349.

<sup>96</sup> *Claus.* i, 66.

On March 15 following, King John restores to Gerard de Camville the Manors of Scaldeford and Anfald, which Gilbert Basset had held after his fine for custody of Walter de Dunstanvill's land. Gerard is to hold those Manors till it be cleared up in the King's Court (*coram Rege*), whether said Manors ought to remain to the heir of Gilbert Basset or to the heir of Walter de Dunstanvill.<sup>97</sup>

In Easter Term, 1206, it was settled in the King's Court that Scandeford should remain to Richard de Camvill and Eustachia, his wife, by concession and will of the King, till the son of Walter de Dunstanvill (apparently represented on this occasion by his guardian, Thomas Basset) should be of age.<sup>98</sup>

Meanwhile, and, as I think, before the death of King Richard, Ingelram de Pratellis (or des Préaux) had married Hawise, Relict of the first Walter de Dunstanvill. This Ingelram was a younger son of a powerful Norman family. He had been in the Retinue of Dunstanvill and was probably related to Hawise. He afterwards appears in the suit of King Richard, and among the special Favourites of King John. On her marriage with him, Hawise de Dunstanvill appears to have changed her Christian name. She is on all later occasions called Sibil.<sup>99</sup>

Her dower became matter of much litigation, but as early as Michaelmas 1199, I find Ingelram de Pratellis acquitted of his *Scutage* in Salop (assessed on the Fee of Walter de Dunstanvill), by writ of the King's Justiciar.<sup>100</sup> Under similar writs, of the King, he was exempted by the Sheriff of Shropshire from the second, third, fourth, and fifth *Scutages* of John, as assessed in the years 1201, 1202, 1203, and 1204. To the sixth *Scutage*, that of 1205, he was assessed two merks for one Knight's-Fee. In 1206 he was exempted from the seventh *Scutage* of the same reign.<sup>101</sup>

In June 1211, Ingeram de Pratellis was returned by the Sheriff as a Knight of Shropshire, holding the dower of his wife of the King *in capite*, by the service of one Knight's-Fee. His land was estimated as annually worth £10.<sup>102</sup>

A similar, and nearly contemporary, return of Knights holding

<sup>97</sup> *Claus. i.*, 67. Gerard de Camvill was Father of Richard, which Richard had already married Eustachia only daughter and Heir of Gilbert Basset.—

It is singular that this matter should have been kept in abeyance, when the Charters of both King Richard and King

John had confirmed Shalford to Gilbert Basset.

<sup>98</sup> *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, p. 47.

<sup>99</sup> For this change or plurality of names vide *supra*, p. 116, note 31.

<sup>100</sup> <sup>101</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 1 to 8 John.

<sup>102</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 55.

*in capite* in Shropshire, says that Ingelram de Pratellis holds one Fee in Hideshale, with the Mother of Walter de Dunstanvill.<sup>103</sup>

At Michaelmas 1214, Ingeram de Pratellis was exempted from the *Scutage* of Poitou, then assessed at the rate of three merks on each Knight's-Fee.<sup>104</sup>

Previous to this date Walter de Dunstanvill (II) had attained his majority, and it is fitting that we should mark the first opening of his career.—

On April 22, 1213, having married a daughter of William Fitz Alan, lately deceased, the King gives him 100 merks, and, as I presume, out of Fitz Alan's estate. The money was paid to Roger, a Knight and Companion of said Walter.<sup>105</sup>

About Dec. 1213, he occurs as a Surety in a sum of twenty merks, for a Fine proffered by Isolda Biset in Wiltshire.<sup>106</sup>

In February 1214, he went with King John to Poitou,<sup>107</sup> and the same year is Surety for a Fine proffered in Sussex by Robert le Sauvage.

On Feb. 7, 1215, being styled the King's "faithful and beloved," he has a grant of Market and Fair, to be held in his Wiltshire Manor of Heytesbury.<sup>108</sup>

On Oct. 9, 1215, having been apparently under some suspicion of disloyalty, the King commands his Constables of Bristol, Marlborough, and Devizes, not to injure him or his lands, and to restore aught which they might have taken therefrom.<sup>109</sup>

On Dec. 10 following, Henry Fitz Count (Son of Earl Reginald) and the Sheriff of Cornwall are ordered to give him reseizin of Tiggedun, of which said Henry had disseized him.<sup>110</sup>

On July 23, 1216, his final secession from King John's allegiance is apparent. Thomas de Samford is then ordered to give his lands of Cumb, Brocton, and Heytesbury to Geoffrey and Oliver de Butevill for their support in the King's service.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>103</sup> *Liber Ruber*, fo. cxxxvij. Another return made between 1210 and 1212 shows Walter de Dunstanvill to be the reputed Tenant *in capite* of Heytesbury, Cumbe (Castle Comb), Colerne, and Bracton, and Engeram de Pratellis to have some interest in Colerne. (Ibidem, fo. cxxxij, *Tit. Wiltsh.*)

<sup>104</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 16 John, Salop.

<sup>105</sup> *Misa.* 14 John (printed in *Cole's Documents*, p. 259). The name of Fitz Alan's daughter was Petronilla.

<sup>106</sup> *Oblata*, p. 512.

<sup>107</sup> *Claus.* i, 166, 200.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 186.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 231.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 241.—It does not appear how the elder branch of the Dunstanvilla acquired its Cornish Estates, whether by feoffment of Earl Reginald, or of King John himself, whilst Earl of Moreton and Cornwall.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 278.

Before November 4, 1217, he had returned to the allegiance of King Henry III, and the Sheriffs of Shropshire, Cambridgeshire, Wiltshire, and Surrey are ordered accordingly ;—to restore his estates.<sup>112</sup>

About the same time he has Letters of *Scutage* addressed to the Sheriffs of Sussex and Wiltshire ;—that is, being, I suppose, in the King's service, he was discharged of *Scutage* himself, but empowered to collect it from such of his Tenants as were not similarly in attendance.<sup>113</sup>

At Michaelmas 1218, not having had Letters to the Sheriff of Salop exempting him from assessment to the first *Scutage* of Henry III, and being probably at this time seized of Idsall, owing to some variance with his Mother, he, and not Ingeram des Préaux, is charged two merks on one fee in Ydeshall on that *Scutage*. He paid the same in the year following.<sup>114</sup>

On Feb. 19, 1221, he had the usual Letters of *Scutage* in respect of his personal service in the Army of Biham, but at Michaelmas following, the Sheriff of Shropshire entered the Royal exemption of the Idsall Fee as in favour of Ingelram de Pratellis.<sup>115</sup>

At the Shrewsbury Assizes of November 1221, the cause between Engeram de Pratellis and Sibil his wife complainants (querentes) and Walter de Dunstanvill, concerning Sibil's Dower in Ideshall was compounded. The lands which Engeram and Sibil held in dower on the day of concord were to remain to them. And Walter would give to them, in augmentation, six *librates* of land in Hammes (Sussex) and in Berkshire. And they would remit to Walter all their right in his remaining lands. And if the lands in Hammes (Sussex) and in Berkshire were not sufficient to realize an annual income of £6. then the deficiency should be made up out of lands in Wiltshire. This was the foundation of their agreement, and the parties were appointed to meet at Westminster on the octaves of Hilary (Jan. 20, 1222) to receive their respective Chirographs (formal Fines) ; and in the mean time, *extent* (valuation) of the lands concerned was to be made.<sup>116</sup>

The final Concord thus contemplated was levied at Westminster

<sup>112</sup> Ibidem, p. 341. Dunstanvill's Cambridgeshire lands were acquired with his wife, Petronilla Fitz Alan. Letters of safe conduct, enabling him and John Fitz Alan (his Brother-in-Law) to come to the Court, bear date Oct. 2, 1217. (*Patent*, 1 Hen. III.)

<sup>113</sup> Ibidem, p. 372.

<sup>114</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 2 & 3 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>115</sup> *Claus.* i, 475, and *Rot. Pip.* 5 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>116</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 6 Hen. III, memb. 3.

on June 5, 1222, between Engeram de Pratellis, and Sibil his wife plaintiffs (petentcs),<sup>6</sup> and Walter de Dunstanvill, Tenant of the Manor of Idehall with its appurtenances, which Engeram and Sibil claimed to be the dower of Sibil out of the free tenement which had been Walter de Dunstanvill's, the Tenant's Father.—And whereof there was suit at law, &c.—The Fine was, that Walter conceded to the Plaintiffs a third of the issues of all woods pertaining to the Manors of Ideshale and Aldredesle (Adderley); he also conceded Roger de Ideshale with his tenement, and Richard Was of Aldredesle with his tenement, and belongings (sequelâ); and the residue (of those Manors) was to remain to Walter. And Engeram and Sibil were to hold the Manor of Culne (Colerne, Wilts), and all the tenements which were of Walter's Fee in the same; but the Manor of Sterte and twenty-five virgates in Cumb (Castle Comb), and two mills, one meadow, and one wood, and all the tenement of Wily (which Nicholas Fitz Thomas held for £8. *per annum*, at fee-farm, and by knight's service) and all the Manor of Heterede and of Brocton were to remain to Walter. Walter further conceded to Engeram and Sibil the Manor of Hammes in Sussex, except the homage and service of Hamo de Hammes, and except the meadow, which was of old appurtenant to the Manor of Bircham, which was to remain to Walter. Moreover Walter conceded the service of William de Selinton (due) on one hide in Bercham and the tenements of divers persons in Bercham and in Waldo. And Engeram and Sibil were to have all the Knight's Fees which they held before, viz. two fees of Hugh de Cumbwell in Cumbwell and in Cumpton, and one hide in Pacheshag and one fee which Adam de Cardunull held in Polton, and one fee in the same which the Abbot of Tewksbury held, and three parts of a fee in Brictefeld which William de Nevill held, and half a fee in Wily-Bechampton which Gilbert de Meleford held, and the foreign service of four hides (whereof five hides were equivalent to one fee) held by Richard de Lucteshull in Lucteshull, and the Knight's service pertaining to five hides in Bideston, which William de Bideston held. All these were to be held by Engeram and Sibil (for the life of Sibil), of Walter and his heirs, in name of dower. And it was to be noted that this concession was made out of lands and tenements whereof Walter, formerly husband of Sibil had given dower to the said Sibil. It was also to be noted that all rents, which Engeram and Sibil had previously in Bercham, were to remain to them, except the demesne, which they surrendered to Walter.<sup>117</sup>

<sup>117</sup> *Fines Divers. Comit. 6 Hen. III, No. 21.*



Before I continue my account of Walter de Dunstanvill (II), I will say what remains to be said of Ingeram de Préaux and his wife Sibil.—

On May 2, 1225, a King's writ allows Ingeram some facility for conveying corn by sea from his Manor of Hammes in Sussex.<sup>118</sup>

In September 1226, he and his wife appoint Attorneys in a suit which they had against William Longespee and Idonea his wife, concerning a third part of the Manor of Shalford.<sup>119</sup>

Idonea, wife of William Longespee, was sole daughter and heir of Richard de Camvill by Eustachia, sole daughter and heir of Gilbert Basset.—

Hence her tenure of Shalford.

Another appointment of Attorneys in November 1226, calls the Defendant, "William son of William Longespe," and states the claimed to be a third part of three carucates.<sup>120</sup>

At Michaelmas 1229, Ingelram de Préaux was deceased; and his heir was inadvertently entered on the Shropshire Pipe-Roll as owing two merks on one Knight's-Fee for the *Scutage* of Keri. But this entry has a mark of cancellation affixed, and the reason thereof given thus,—“because Walter de Dunstanvill son and heir of Ingelram's wife, answers below.” Accordingly an entry lower down on the Roll charges the said Walter with these two merks, but he had subsequent exemption by writ of the King.<sup>121</sup>

Sibil de Préaux, now a second time a Widow, continued her suit against William and Idonea Longespee.—

On May 16, 1230, the cause came to trial at Westminster.—“Sibil de Ferrers” (so written for Praers)<sup>122</sup> “sued William de Longespee and Idonea his wife, for a third part of a Knight's-Fee in Shalefeld and Aldeford as her dower, whereof Walter de Dunstanvill, formerly her husband,” (had been seized on the day when he had espoused her).

William and Idonea say that “Sibil ought not to have dower thereof, because said Walter was not seized of said land, so as to be able to grant dower thereof, neither on the day when he espoused Sibil nor ever afterwards;—because that King Richard, before

<sup>118</sup> *Claus.* ii, 35.

<sup>119</sup> *Claus.* ii, 155.

<sup>120</sup> *Ibidem*, 205.

<sup>121</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>122</sup> It is singular to observe the amount of confusion which this one *scribal* error

has produced. *Manning and Bray*, in their *History of Surrey*, have developed it into a complex mis-statement. *Kennett*, in his *Parochial Antiquities*, has annexed it to other mistakes with which he encumbers the genealogy of Dunstanvill.

Walter married Sibil, restored the said land to one Gilbert Basset, as the right and marriage portion of Alice Dunstanvill, Sister of said Walter, and Mother of said Gilbert, to which Alice the said Walter had given the same land in marriage. And (William and Idonea) produce the Charter of the King (Richard), which testi- fieth hereunto.”—

And Sibil comes into Court and says, that “the Charter ought not to injure her, forasmuch as Robert de Dunstanville, Uncle of Walter aforesaid (her husband), bought that land from Robert Watevile for 100 merks and two greyhounds, and held it all his life. And because he (Robert) died without heir of his body, the land descended to the aforesaid Walter as his Nephew and heir, which Walter held the same all his life, nearly to the last of his days, until the same King Richard, in the ninth year of his reign, by his own will and without judicial sentence, disseized him (Walter) of that and all his other lands. And to prove this Sibil puts her- self on the Country, &c. And the Court decides that a jury should make inquest thereon, &c.”<sup>123</sup>

Unable to trace the result of this suit, which I conceive must have been unfavourable to the Plaintiff, I return to Walter de Dunstanvill (II), who at Michaelmas 1224, is found to be exempted, on the Shropshire Pipe Roll, from both the *Scutages* of Montgomery and Bedford.

On May 14, 1225, he is appointed a Commissioner to convey to Gloucester the tax of the *Fifteenth* then levied in the Counties of Salop and Stafford.<sup>124</sup>

On March 27, 1227, he has a grant of Market and Fair at Heytesbury, identical as to days and duration with the previous Charter of King John.<sup>125</sup>

His acquittance of the *Scutage* of Keri in 1229 has already been noticed.

In Easter Term 1230, he had a suit against Reginald de Valletort and Johanna his wife and her coparcners, concerning land un- speci- fied :—but it should be noted that this Joan was one of the daughters and coheirs of Thomas Basset, Walter’s Cousin ; which Thomas had, as was said, the Manors of Collinton and Witeford by gift of Walter’s Father.<sup>126</sup>

In 1230, 1231, and 1232, Walter de Dunstanvill was acquitted,

<sup>123</sup> Dodsworth, vol. 42, fo. 149, quoting *Placitade Banco*, Easter Term, 14 Hen. III, Surrey.—The original Roll is lost.

<sup>124</sup> *Claus.* ii, 74.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibidem*, 179.

<sup>126</sup> Dodsworth, vol. 42. fo. 150.

in respect of one Fee in Ideshale, of the *Scutages* of Bretagne, Poitou and Elvein.<sup>127</sup>

In 1235-6, towards the *Auxilium* for marriage of the King's Sister, this Walter paid three merks on one-and-a-half Knights'-Fees in Shropshire and 16s. 8d. on one *Lesser Fee* at Tehidy in Cornwall.<sup>128</sup>

In 1238, he pays a fine of 20s. through the Sheriff of Shropshire for license to compound some law-suit.

About 1240-1, he is returned among the Shropshire Feudatories as holding one-and-a-half Knight's-Fees *in capite* of the King. Ideshale alone is specified as the locality of the Tenure, but I presume that Adderley was included in the estimate of service due.<sup>129</sup>

On Aug. 21, 1241, Walter de Dunstanvill (II) was deceased, for then did the King, at Chester, receive the homage of Walter his son and heir; and Mandate issued to the Sheriff of Shropshire to take security from the said heir for due payment of his *Relief* (£100);—to give him seizin of his lands;—and to certify the Sheriff of Wiltshire of such security being found, so that the latter, who also had the King's Mandate on the subject, should give further seizin of the lands which lay in his County.<sup>130</sup>

The memory of Walter de Dunstanvill (II), to whom I return for a moment, is not associated with works of piety. The Chartulary of Wombridge does not, that I can find, mention his name. A grant which he made to Shrewsbury Abbey was only his part of a bargain, whereby he recovered the Advowson of Idsall, as will appear when I come to speak of the Church.

He so far benefited the Abbey of Haghmon as to allow the Canons a right of road through his land of Adderley when they were going to, or returning from, Wiche in Cheshire, where they had some salt-pits. This grant, in which he is styled Galter de Dunstanvill, probably passed soon after his marriage to Petronilla Fitz Alan, for it purports to be for the health of himself, his

<sup>127</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 14, 15, 16 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>128</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 46, 201. The Shropshire Assessment included Adderley, I suppose. The Honour of Cornwall, or Moreton (as it was sometimes called), consisted chiefly of lesser fees (*minuta feoda*). The value of these lesser fees was reputed to be two-thirds that of the

greater (*quorum tria faciunt duo*); but when *Scutage* was levied at the rate of 2 merks (26s. 8d.) on the greater fees, I find the lesser usually assessed (as in the text) at 16s. 8d., which is below the exact proportion.

<sup>129</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, p. 46.

<sup>130</sup> *Rot. Finium*, i, 351.

wife and heirs, and for the souls of his ancestors and for the soul of William Fitz Alan (who died about 1210).<sup>131</sup>

One Record says that William Fitz Alan himself gave Iselham (Cambridgeshire) to his daughter Petronilla as her marriage portion (*ad se maritandam*) and that she married herself (*se maritavit*) to Walter de Dunstanvill.<sup>132</sup>—

The inference is that the marriage took place after Fitz Alan's death, and we know it to have been completed before 1213,—exactly the interval in which I should suppose Walter de Dunstanvill (II) to have attained his majority.

I have no further notice of his wife Petronilla nor of his having left a Widow to survive him.—

Neither have I met with any secular Deed or Charter issued in his name, except one referred to by Dugdale whereby he, as Walter de Dunstanvill, gave &c. to Alan Basset the whole Manor of Winterborne.—Witnesses: Geoffrey Fitz Piers Earl of Essex, William Marshall Earl of Pembroke, William Earl of Warren, William Earl of Ferrers, Warin Fitz Gerold.<sup>133</sup>

Of his son and heir, Walter de Dunstanvill (III), succeeding, as I have shown, in August 1241, we have very full accounts.

Of his relief (£100.) he paid £20. to the King at Winchester, before Michaelmas 1242, and the balance in 1243.<sup>134</sup>

About this time he is returned as holding five fees in Bergham (Sussex) of the Honour of Arundel.<sup>135</sup>

In 1245, he was assessed 20*s.* in respect of one fee in Ideshal to the *Auxilium* for marriage of the King's daughter; so also in 1254, to the *Auxilium* for making Prince Edward a Knight.<sup>136</sup>

In this latter year he was also returned among those who held twenty *librates* and upwards of lands in this County.<sup>137</sup>

In 29 Hen. III (1244-5), he had a grant of Market and Fair in his Manor of Hydeshale.<sup>138</sup>

<sup>131</sup> Haughmond Chartulary, fo. 4. The witnesses' names are not given.

<sup>132</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 504.

<sup>133</sup> *Glover's Collections*, A, fo. 99. This deed passed about the year 1212, probably in the Court of King John, and when Walter de Dunstanvill attained his majority. Had it not been for William Earl Warren's attestation, I should have hesitated whether to assign the deed to the second Walter de Dunstanvill or his Father,

so much has it the appearance of an original grant rather than a Confirmation. The latter, however, it clearly was. It was sealed with Arms—Fretty, on a dexter canton a Lion passant.

<sup>134</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 26 & 27 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>135</sup> *Testa de Nevill*, 222, 223.

<sup>136</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 29 & 38 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>137</sup> *Dukes' Antiquities*, Introduction, p. vii.

<sup>138</sup> *Rot. Chart.* 29 Hen. III, memb. 2.

In 1255, his Tenure of the Wiltshire Hundred of Heytesbury is the subject of a full return, as also are his interests in other parts of the County.<sup>139</sup>

In 1257, he was called upon as one of the Barons-Marchers to assist Hamo Le Strange on the borders of Montgomeryshire. He had Military summons to meet the King at Chester on July 1, 1258, to oppose the hostilities of the Welsh, and in 1260 was ordered to become resident in the Marches for the better security of those parts.<sup>140</sup>

In the same year he had quittance of the *Scutage* of Wales in respect of his Shropshire Fee.<sup>141</sup>

He had Military Summons to be at Hereford on January 9, 1263, to oppose the incursions of the Welsh, and again to be at Ludlow on February 9 following.<sup>142</sup>

On the 14th of May 1264, he fought on the Rebels' side at Lewes, a transgression which was pardoned by Letters Patent issued in the name of the captive King on April 16, 1265.<sup>143</sup>

The following month, the King, being at Hereford, was similarly assumed to have appointed him Governor of Salisbury Castle.<sup>144</sup>

Whatever the pains visited upon his disloyalty no long or permanent forfeiture was the result.

He died on January 14, 1270, and an Inquisition held forthwith at Castelcombe reported him to have so died, seized of the Wiltshire Manors of Cumbe, Colerne, Sterte, Hurdecote, and Heytesbury,—that Petronilla his daughter was his next heir, and would be twenty-two years of age on February 22 following; and that she was already married to Robert de Montfort.

The Inquisitions of other Counties do not seem to be preserved, but on February 11, 1270, the King's Writ issued to the Escheator *citra* Trent, ordering him to give seizin of all Dunstanvill's lands to "Robert de Montfort, who had married Petronilla, daughter and heir of the deceased."<sup>145</sup>

The Charters in which the last Walter de Dunstanvill's name

<sup>139</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 232, &c.

<sup>140</sup> *Dugdale's Baronage*, i, p. 591.

<sup>141</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 44 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>142</sup> *Dugdale's Baronage*, i, p. 591.

<sup>143</sup> <sup>144</sup> *Rot. Pat.* 49 Hen. III.

<sup>145</sup> *Glover's Collections*, A, fo. 11 b. The printed Calendar of Inquisitions gives this

as an inquiry on the estate of "William de Dunstanvill."

Dugdale has represented Petronilla's age to have been twelve instead of twenty-two, which would have made her a Wife when only eleven years old, and a Mother before she was sixteen.

## GENEALOGY OF DE L'ISLE

Humphrey de Insula, *Domesday* Lord of Castle-Comb, Winterburne, and twenty-five other Manors in Wiltshire. Occurs 1085, 1091.

Ralph Basset, Justice of England  
Occurs 1115, 1122.

Gilbert Basset, supposed younger  
Son of Ralph. Occurs 1130.

Walter de Pinkney.  
Occurs *circa* 1145.  
Murdered *circa* 1147.

Thomas Basset "of Hedendon" = Alice de Dunstanvill.  
Occurs 1158. *Superstes* 1186.  
Sheriff of Oxfordshire 1164.  
Living 1179. *Obiit circa* 1181.

1

Egelina (de Courtney).

Gilbert Basset.  
Occurs 1182.  
Living April 1205.  
*Defunctus*  
Dec. 1205.

Thomas Basset  
"of Colinton."  
*Obiit* 1220.

Philippa, daughter  
and coheir of  
William Malbanc.

Alan Basset  
"of Wycombe"  
and Winterburn.  
Occurs 1194-1232.

Basset of Wycombe.

1

3

1st husband = Thomas de Verdon.  
*Obiit* 1199.  
*s.p.*

= Eustachia Basset,  
daughter  
and sole  
heir.

2d husband, Richard de Camvill.  
Married in 1199.

Henry de Newburgh,  
Earl of Warwick.  
*Obiit* 1229.

= Philippa Basset.  
Had Livery 1220.

Alicia Basset.  
*Innupta* 1220.

= William Malet.  
*Defunctus* 1229.

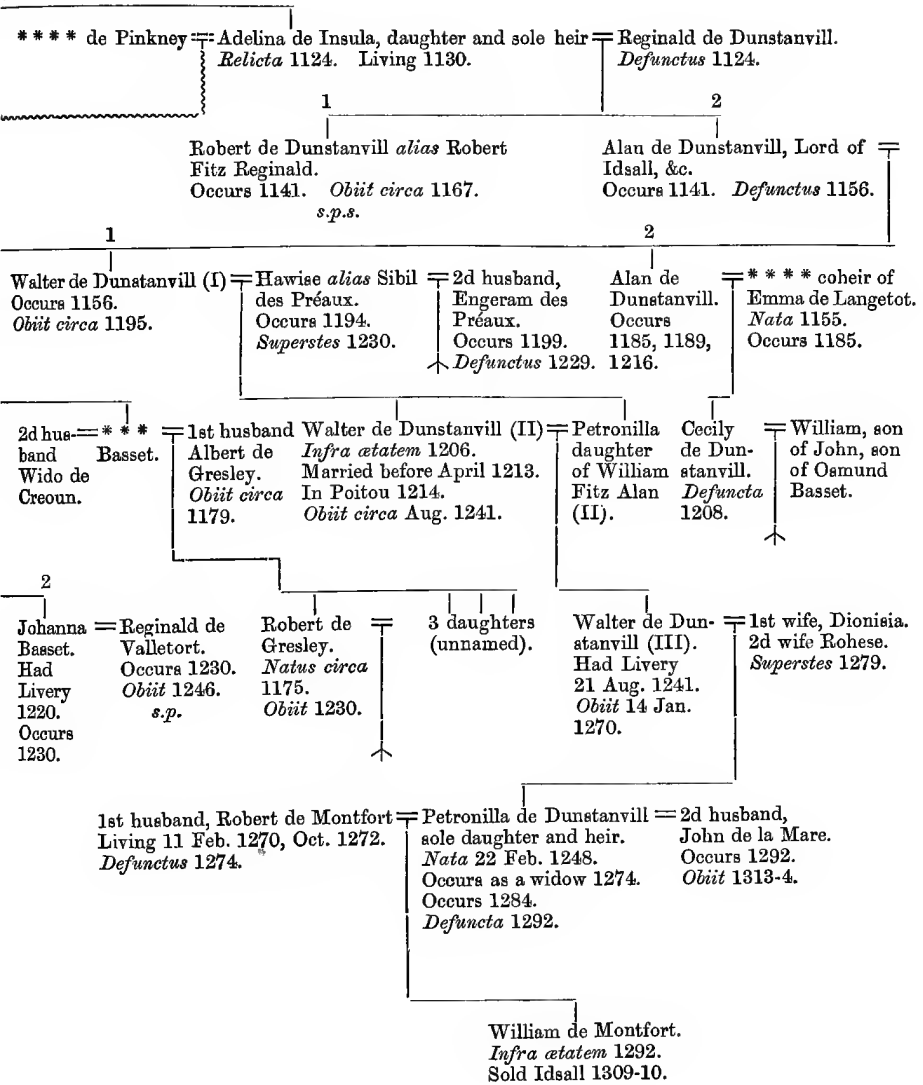
William Longespee, son  
of William Earl of Salisbury.  
Slain in Palestine 1250.

= Idonea de Camvill,  
sole daughter and heir.  
Of full age 1226.

William Longespec  
*Obiit* 1257.

= Maud, daughter of = 2d husband, John Gifford  
Walter de Clifford. of Brimmesfield.

## DUNSTANVILL, AND BASSET.



occurs are very numerous. From the Wombridge Chartulary I select the following.—

1. The Charter wherein Sir Walter de Dunstanvill is Grantee of Richard de Grenhull in a Mill at Grenhull, and which passed between 1241 and 1249.<sup>146</sup>

2. The Charter whereby Walter de Dunstanvill first granted the said Mill to Wombridge Priory, and which seems to have passed between 1260 and 1265.<sup>147</sup>

3. The Charter whereby Walter de Dunstanvill *Tercius* again grants the same, and which probably passed between 1265 and 1269.<sup>148</sup>

4. The Charter whereby Walter de Dunstanvill grants to the same the *assart* which Gilbert Bluet once held of him, with an acre of wood near thereto, and *house-bote*, *haybote* and free *pannage* in all out-woods belonging to the Manor of Ydeshall;—at a rent of 3s.<sup>149</sup> This and the three following deeds I should suppose to have passed about 1269.

5. The Charter whereby the same grants to the same a piece of land and wood near the *assart* of John Stiventon containing twelve acres.<sup>150</sup>

6. The Charter whereby Walter de Dunstanvill *Tercius* grants to the same all his part of that wood which was in dispute between him and Thomas Tuschet (Lord of Lee-gomery).<sup>151</sup>

7. Charter of the same to the same granting his side of a certain rivulet which ran between the wood of the Canons of Wombridge and the Grantor's wood of Snelleshull (Snedshill), also that wood which was in dispute between the Grantor and Grantees, and

<sup>146</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Grenhul*, No. i.—Witnesses: Sir John Dunstanvill (probably Brother of the Grantee), Sir Walter de Hugford, Sir Richard de Sanford, the Lord Prior of Wombridge, Sir Walter de Kemberton, Sir Yvo de Brocton. (Vide *Supra*, p. 92.)

<sup>147</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xi.—Witnesses: Sirs William de Hugford, Roger de Pyvelesdon, Walter de Pedwarthin, Knights; Ralph de Stanford (probably Sanford), John de Prese, Thomas de Brocton, Roger Bees (Begesore) of the same, Robert Corbet (of Moreton), John de Stiventon.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibidem*, No. ij.—Witnesses: Sir Robert de Halegtone, Sir John Fitz Hugh, Sir Walter de Pedwrthyn, Sir John Fitz

Aer, John de Ercalwe, John de Stiventon, Herbert de Wyke.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibidem*, *Tit. Lega Prioris et Ideshale*, No. ij.—Witnesses: Sirs John de Ercalwe, John Fitz Aer, John Fitz Hugh, Walter de Pedewardin, Knights; Thomas Corbet of Hedleg, Robert de Staunton, John de Stiventon.

<sup>150</sup> *Ibidem*, No. iij.—Witnesses: Sirs William de Hugford and most of the last, also Robert Corbet of Morton, John de Stiventon Bailiff of Edeshall (Idsall), and Oliver de la Knoll.

<sup>151</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xij.—Witnesses: same as No. ij (note 149), adding Michael de Morton and Herbert de Wyke.



license to make a stank and water-banks (agistiamenta aquæ) on his land of Stamford in Watlingstrete, &c.<sup>152</sup>

In the nature of a Monastic Charter is the Convention, which in 32 Henry III (1247-8), this Walter de Dunstanvill, Lord of Ideshale, came to with Nicholas Abbot of Buildwas, and the Convent thereof. Thereby the Abbot, &c. conceded to Walter and his heirs the *vill* of Upton which they (the Monks) had from Alan de la Zuche. Walter and his heirs were in turn to pay the Abbot and his Successors a-half-yearly rent of 20s. at the Church of Ideshale, and he charges the said rent on the following of his free-tenants, viz. on Herbert de Wyke 17s. *per annum*, for a virgate which he held in Wyke; on Richard de Castello 8s. for a virgate which he held at the Castle; on Thomas Golding 5s. for half-a-virgate in Wyke; on the Prior of Wombridge 2s. for an *assart* in Lega; on Robert the Provost 4s. for half-a-virgate in Wyke; on John Muggleston 3s. for ten acres at Woodhouse; and on Oliver de Knolle 1s. for a virgate in Knolle.

Besides these rent-charges Walter *quit-claimed* to the Abbot, &c. a rent of 4s. which he was used to receive from said Abbot, &c. for the heath of Hathtone (Hatton); he gave them also pasture for 300 of their sheep (reckoning by the long hundred), being at their granges of Hatton and Ruckley, within these boundaries (except in corn and meadowland), viz. from the land of Hattone along the King's highway which leads from Bishopswey to the *vill* of Upton, and thence along the same road to Stauntone, and so under Stauntone along the ditch which is called Sparkmore, descending down to Wornh (Worf) and thence to Ruckley-bridge.

A Charter of general confirmation to Lewes Priory is *rubricated* in the Chartulary of that House as the Deed of this Walter. Thereby he concedes the land of Nytembre for the souls' health of himself, his wife Dionisia, and his Ancestors, who before gave the said land. He also concedes the Church of Wynterburn, the tithes of Scaldeford (Shalford), a pension of 20s. receivable by the Priory from the Rector of the Church of Bernham, and the Chapel of Gretham.<sup>154</sup>

<sup>152</sup> Ibidem, No. xix.—Witnesses: exactly as No. iij (note 149).

<sup>153</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 20 Edw. I, n. 41, *per Inspeç.* The original is printed *Monasticon*, v, 357; v; as inspected by Petronilla de Montford, Dunstanville's

daughter, about the year 1274. The witnesses belong to her *Inspeçimus*.

<sup>154</sup> Cotton Vespasian, F, xv, fo. 126.—*Carta Walleri tertii de Donstanvilla.* Walter de Dunstanvill (III) may have had a kind of seignury at Winterburne and

Some Manorial Deeds of this Walter de Dunstanvill shall be given under Upton, to which Township they probably refer. I should here state, that, as by the last recited Charter, the name of one of his wives was Dionisia, so must he have been married more than once; for the name of his widow and last wife was Rohese.

The latter appears to have had her dower in Great Iselham (Cambridgeshire). She was living in 1279, when Master Giles de Bridport, her Tenant at Iselham, is returned as holding the Manor under her, whilst she had held it of the heirs of Walter de Dunstanvill, and they of the heirs of Fitzalan.<sup>155</sup>

Petronilla, daughter and sole heir of the last Dunstanvill, was, at her Father's death, wife of Robert de Montfort, who thus in her right became Lord of Idsall and other great estates. These he enjoyed not long for he was deceased in the year 1274.

In the interval, that is at the County Assizes of September 1272, Robert de Montfort was returned by the Brimstree Jurors, as a defaulter in due attendance.<sup>156</sup>

As Robert Monteforde Lord of Ideshale, and for the souls' health of himself, his wife Petronilla, and all his children and Ancestors, he granted to Wombridge some small additions to Walter de Dunstanvill's grants, in the wood of Wyke, and in the direction of Storchley-wood.<sup>157</sup>

Robert de Montfort dying, as I have said, in or before 1274, his wife Petronilla had sole *Livery* of her estates.<sup>158</sup>

It was probably during her widowhood, that Petronilla de Montford inspected and confirmed her Father's agreement with Buildwas Abbey, as before recited.<sup>159</sup>

Her eldest son William de Montfort was, at the time of his Father's death, and for long after, a Minor. Petronilla very soon remarried to John de la Mare.

Shalford, but clearly nothing more. This deed is attested by Sir William de Wystereston, Hugh \* \* turmi, Ralph de Stapeham, Henry le Flemeng, &c. whose names, not belonging to Shropshire, do not enable me to judge of its date.

<sup>155</sup> *Rot. Hund.* ii, 497, 504. The entry which describes another Tenant as then holding under Walter de Dunstanvill himself is a mere inaccuracy of expression.

<sup>156</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, memb. 22 dorso.

<sup>157</sup> Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris, &c.* No. 1.—Witnesses: John de Stiventon, Herbert de Wyke, Walter Marescall, Oliver de Knoll, Richard Pater-Noster.

<sup>158</sup> *Dugdale's Baronage*, i, p. 591.

<sup>159</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 20 Ed. I, n. 41. The witnesses of Petronilla's deed were Sir Henry de Pembruge (of Tong), Sir Walter de Pedwardin, Sir John Fitz Philip (of Bobbington), Sir Hugh de Weston, Knights; Malcolm de Harley, Master John de Cherlton.

In 1284, under the name of Petronilla de la Mare, her liberties in regard to the Forests of this district seem to have been matter of inquiry.<sup>160</sup>

At the time of the County Assizes, October 1292, Petronilla being dead, John de la Mare was questioned as to his right of having *Assize* of bread and beer, Stocks, *infangthef*, a fair, a market, and free-warren in the Manor of Ideshale. His Attorney pleaded that John de la Mare was Tenant of the Manor by the Law of England; that it was of the inheritance of William de Montfort, without whom, as being under age, he would not answer. The Crown prosecution was therefore ordered to remain till William de Montfort should come of age.

At the same Assizes "Petronilla de Montfort's" former Tenure in Ideshall was returned as worth £80 *per annum*.<sup>161</sup>

In 3 Edw. II (1309-10), John de la Mare, of Bradwell (as he was called from his own estate in Essex), was still holding Idsall, by *courtesy of England*, when William de Montfort sold the Manor to Bartholomew de Badlesmere,<sup>162</sup> who indeed purchased from him Adderley, and all, or almost all, his other estates.

About four years later, viz. in 7 Edw. II (1313-14), died John de la Mare;—and thus ends a history of nearly two centuries, which connected the Manor of Idsall with the name and race of Dunstanvill.

I will follow the subject no later, except to remark that, coincidently with its change of Lords, the Manor appears to have been first described by its other name of Shiffnal. Thus Bartholomew de Badlesmere, in 9 Edward II, obtained a Charter to hold two Fairs in his Manor of "Suffenhale," and a contemporary grant of free-warren in his Manor of "Ideshale."<sup>163</sup>

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The Genealogy which I have given for Dunstanvill is so different from one which rests on other authority that I cannot quit the subject without stating some points at least in what I will for the present assume to be an authentic account.—

<sup>160</sup> *Calendar of Inquisitions*, vol. i, p. 85.

<sup>161</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 23, 22. Mr. Dukes' account (pp. 141, 193) would make it appear that Petronilla was living at the time of these Assizes.

John de la Mare had himself obtained the King's Charter of Free Warren in 11 Edw. I (1283), and for the following Manors, viz. Idshall and Adderley (Salop), Cumbe, Colerne, Sterte, Heytesbury, and

Herdecote (Wilts), Iselham (Cambr.), and Bergham (Sussex), all his wife's Manors; also in Micham (Surrey), Bradwell (Essex), and Bergholt (Suffolk), which were his own (*Rot. Cart.* 11 Edw. I, No. 24).

<sup>162</sup> *Dukes' Antiquities*, page 194.

<sup>163</sup> *Rot. Cart.* 9 Edw. II, No. 57. The same document shows Badlesmere to be Lord of Adderley, Castlecomb, Colerne, Hcytesbury, Sterte, and Herdecote.

This is a MS. Pedigree of Dunstanvill, at the British Museum, marked—"P. 4." It is apparently the work of a Herald, and belonged to, or was written by, one of the Wriothesleys, three of whom bore office in the College of Arms in the reigns of Edward IV, Richard III, and Henry VII. The principal points in which this Heraldic Pedigree differs from or agrees with the one I offer are these, viz. that Rainold (Reginald) de Dunstanvill married Atheliza daughter of Reginald de Warren, Brother of William 2d Earl Warren;—that said Rainold was Baron of Castelcomb, that he granted in Waston to Tewkesbury, and that he died 3 April, 2 Hen. II (1156);—that Atheliza his wife died 1 May, 4 Hen. II (1158); that she was buried at Tewkesbury, and that her heart was buried at Castel-Aere (a Cell of Lewes, in Norfolk);—that the son and heir of Rainold and Atheliza was a second Rainold de Dunstanvill who died at Wilton in 30 Hen. II (1184), and who by his wife Isabella daughter of R \* \* \* of Tholouse had a son Walter de Dunstanvill, Baron of Castel-Combe, whose wife was Ursula daughter of Reginald Earl of Cornwall; that the second Walter de Dunstanvill, son of Walter (I) and Ursula, married Matilda daughter of William Earl Marescall, and had by her a son and heir, the third Walter;—that Walter de Dunstanvill (III) married Isabella daughter of Thomas de Clare Earl of Gloucester (a person whose existence is not elsewhere recorded), and that their only child Petronilla, married to Robert Montfort, had by him a Son and Heir, William, who "sold by fine his lands and possessions to Bartholomew de Badlesmere in 3 Edw. II."

Now there is something in this account which indicates that the Compiler had, to a certain extent, consulted the same authentic documents as those which I have quoted in my own narrative. There is something also which implies a reference to other authentic documents, not indeed specified by the Compiler, nor ever seen by me, but which for the present we will presume him to have used honestly.

But this Pedigree involves a third class of assertions, directly contradictory of facts which I have advanced on what appeared to me sound authority; and these assertions are supported by written documents,—by professed copies of original Deeds.

A better *primâ facie* guarantee of honesty could not be offered. Here, then, are Wriothesley's Votchers—The first is a Mandate of King John—"John, D. G. &c., to the Sheriff of Wiltshire, greeting. Whereas Reginald late Earl of Cornwall, by fine levied in our Court at Westminster, in the 8th year of the Lord Richard late King of England, acknowledged that a moiety of the Manor of Colern and a third part of the Manor of Addersley in your County, were the right of Walter de Dunstanville and of Ursula his wife, daughter of the said Earl, Father and Mother of Walter de Dunstanville now living, and whose heir he (Walter II) is, as a gift in frank marriage, the which moiety Sir Richard Marischall now holds, and the which third part aforesaid William Beauchamp occupieth,—We command you, &c., that you make known to the said Richard and William that they are to appear before our Justices on the Morrow of All Souls (Nov. 3) if they have aught to say on their parts why execution of the aforesaid moiety and third part should not be made according to the aforesaid Concord. And you are to have there the names of those summoned, &c."

To say that this document does not remain on any existing Roll of John's reign, to raise a question whether it may not have formed a part of one of the lost Rolls, to criticize its want of date and other technical informalities, is but to trifle with the truth. It is a detestable forgery, for Reginald Earl of Cornwall, whom it alleges to have been Recognizor in a Fine levied in 8 Ric. I (1196-7), died in 1175.<sup>164</sup>

Whether Wriothesley himself adopted or connected this document is a matter of small importance to us now,—a question only as to the credulity or dishonesty of a

<sup>164</sup> Almost certainly, too, Walter de Dunstanvill (I) was dead before 8 Ric. I (1196-7).

very ancient Herald. It suggests however the idea that Vincent and Dugdale may have derived their information, about the marriage of Walter de Dunstanvill (I) and Ursula, from this, or some other equally spurious and too hastily adopted, authority.

The mention of Addersley in the forged Charter is also curious. The Forger seems to have had some indistinct knowledge of a place so named having belonged to Walter de Dunstanvill, though he did not know that it was in Shropshire, and that Walter was Lord thereof before 1190.

Another Wriothlesley Voucher exhibits "Reginald Earl of Cornwall as releasing an annual rent of £10, which he had out of the Manor of Combe, to Walter de Dunstanville his son-in-law in frank marriage."

Nothing is given whereby we may test the genuineness of this document. It is rather plausible than otherwise, for Reginald Earl of Cornwall was sometime Lord of Castle-Combe, and Walter de Dunstanvill, after the Earl's death, obtained the whole Manor.

The third Voucher runs thus :—

"The Market of Combe was conceded to the first Walter de Dunstanvill by King Henry II, as is plain by Letters Patent having a cord of red silk (ut patet per litteras patentes habentes rubeam sericam)."

A grant of Market under Letters Patent of Henry II would, I believe, be a solecism; but, passing that question, I find that Cumbe did not belong to Walter de Dunstanvill (I) till after the death of Henry II.

The fourth document says, that "the Market of Colern on Fridays was granted to Walter son of the aforesaid Walter, by King Henry III."

The Charter Rolls of that King do not, I think, corroborate this statement. However, it may be true.

The fifth Voucher is a deed—

"Know all men, &c., that I, Walter Secundus de Dunstanville, for a marriage to be had between Robert de Dunstanvill my Nephew, son of John my Brother, and Gracia de Bohun, sister of the venerable Lord, Earl of Hereford, have given, &c., to the said Gracia £50. of rents issuing out of the Manors of Colerne and Heytesberye in Com. Wiltes, to hold all her life in name of dower. The witnesses are Robert de Dunstanville my younger Brother, Roger de Budeston, Reginald de Fyloppe."

This Charter is in itself suspicious, and more so from its appearance in bad company. The testing clause is introduced in a manner not in use in the thirteenth Century. It was very unusual for a Grantor to be so minute in describing relationships, however such a practice might suit the convenience of later Genealogists.—

I doubt much whether the second Walter de Dunstanvill had two, or even one Brother.

The sixth and last document informs us that—

"The Market of Heytesbery was conceded to Walter de Dunstanvill and Dame Matilda his wife, daughter of William Marescall Earl of Pembroke, by King John in his 16th year, as appears by Letters Patent and Charter marked thus"—(a mark is here added indicating the original documents implied).

Here again we have a genealogical statement quite unusual to a grant of Market. Moreover, it is almost certain that the Earl of Pembroke of this period had no such daughter as Matilda, thus announced. However, in this case, as a consequence of a date being given, we are enabled to refer to the enrolment of King John's Charter.—

It is found to have passed at Marlborough on Feb. 7, in his sixteenth year (1215). It is enrolled both on the Close and Charter Rolls.<sup>165</sup>—Not a word does either Copy of the Grant say about Matilda or any other wife of the Grantee !

<sup>165</sup> *Claus.* i, 186; *Rot. Chart.* p. 205 (Hardy).

We may here dismiss this tissue of falsification and forgery. That very ancient School of Heraldry which originated such documents is perhaps extinct. Genealogy and Heraldry, apart from their moral and historical uses, are degraded studies.<sup>166</sup> How can that be of moral use which perverts truth, and ministers to the worst form of family pride? How can that be an available element of History which poisons the very fountains of History itself?

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The Manor of Idsall involved many Townships or Members, held by Tenants of various rank and importance. Before I speak of any of these I will give account of—

#### EVELITH—

which, though locally situated within Idsall Manor, is not known ever to have been a member thereof.

Its *Domesday status* is very uncertain. Our next subsequent notice of it would make it a separate Manor, or associate it with Hatton rather than Idsall.

We have still later and stronger indications that it was an outlying Member of Moreton (now Moreton Corbet). If this were the case at *Domesday*, Turolde will have been its first Norman Lord and Hunnit and Uluiet his Tenants; but that Record makes no mention of any outlying member of Moreton. Such an omission is however by no means negative of the connexion.<sup>167</sup>

The Tenure was perhaps at *Domesday* a complex or a disputed one. In a case of such uncertainty it is better to follow the rule suggested by situation. I therefore treat of Evelith under Idsall.

I have set forth under Hatton the Deed whereby Adam Traynel of Hatton granted to his Nephew Ivo, "his Manor of Ivelith as well in Ivelith as in Hynnynton, at an annual rent of a red rose."—

I have treated this Deed as one of debatable antiquity, but to which I was myself inclined to assign a very ancient date, viz. the earlier half of the twelfth Century.

In the end of that Century, we have several notices of Evelith

<sup>166</sup> For some remarks on the falsification of written documents I refer to Mr. Blake-way's Preface to the *Sheriffs of Shropshire* (page vi); also to the same Author (*History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i, p. 309, note) for a statement of the moral uses of Genealogical research.

<sup>167</sup> It is the general rule of *Domesday*

to mention by name any such outlying members of a Manor as may have lain in another Hundred. As regards Moreton and Evelith this rule would not apply; for, whether we consider Evelith a member of Moreton or of Idsall, it was equally within the district described in *Domesday* as Baschcerch Hundred.

or its owners; but none of them connected in any manner with the said Deed.—This, by the way, is a further reason for attributing to that Deed a greater antiquity.

I will now notice indifferently, except as regards chronology, the circumstances which exhibit Evelith as a member of Moreton rather than of Idsall.

Hunnit with his Brother (Uluet) held Mortone in Saxon times. At *Domesday* they still continued to hold it, but under Turolde its Norman Lord. I have mentioned, under Willey, that several Manors which were thus held by Hunnit and Uluet at *Domesday* were afterwards held by Toret (another Saxon) and by Toret's descendants.<sup>168</sup>

Thus it was with Moreton and with Evelith, for Toret and his representatives will appear to have held Moreton under Turolde or his representatives; and Evelith was eventually, if not primarily, held in the same feudal *ratio*.

Toret the Saxon, living in the time of Edward the Confessor, noticed in *Domesday*, and surviving in the early part of the 12th Century, was undoubtedly the progenitor of a family which took its name of Toret or Fitz Toret from him. Whether Peter Fitz Toret who lived in the last half of that Century was the grandson or great-grandson of Toret, I will not attempt to decide. His son he can hardly have been.<sup>169</sup>

From the year 1160 to the year 1194, the name of Peter Fitz Toret is constantly occurring in connexion with Shropshire places or Shropshire men; but in far the greater number of instances this Peter appears as a follower, a witness to the deeds of, or as a Knight of Walter de Dunstanvill (I) Lord of Idsall. But it is more than probable that he was Dunstanvill's Tenant, not indeed at Evelith,

<sup>168</sup> Supra, page 49.

<sup>169</sup> Nothing has been a more fruitful source of genealogical paradox than the mistaken idea which some Writers seem to have entertained with regard to the personal nomenclature of the twelfth Century. The Norman Aristocracy of that period adopted a system which, though in idea patronymic, was in practice anything else. In short, if I may coin the words, it was equally *avonymic* or *proavonymic*, or something higher still.

Thus (and merely for example), if we hear of Corbet before *Domesday*, and of Alcher or Odo at *Domesday*, and then hear of Roger Fitz Corbet in 1160, or of

Robert Fitz Aer (Alcher), or Roger Fitz Odo in 1165,—and if we forthwith conclude that the last three were sons of the first three, we shall probably be only in degree less mistaken than those who might conclude that Peter Corbet, or Hugh Fitz Aer, or William Fitz Odo, of the fourteenth century, were also Sons of the same original founders of a race.—

The term "filius" or "Fitz," as generally used in the twelfth Century, means "descendant of," not "son of;"—but in some exceptional cases a strictly patronymic nomenclature, like that of the Welsh, seems to have obtained among the Normans.

but at Hem and Hinnington and perhaps elsewhere. Of that we shall have to speak hereafter.

Here it should be noticed how that in some late appearances of Peter Fitz Toret he is accompanied by Philip and Bartholomew his sons, how also, in the latest of all, Bartholomew alone is his Father's attendant.

The inference is that Philip died in his Father's lifetime and without issue, for Bartholomew certainly succeeded to Peter.

As I have thus far been able to connect Peter Fitz Toret with Dunstanvill, Lord of Idshall, rather than with Evelith, so now shall I show Bartholomew Fitz Toret rather in association with Evelith than with Dunstanvill or Idsall.

On April 23, 1200, Emma Fitz Roger is suing, at Westminster, Bartholomew Fitz Peter, the Tenant, for one carucate of land in Ivelithe, under writ of *mort d'ancestre*. The Recognizors making default, the cause was adjourned till the King's Justices should be in those parts.<sup>170</sup>

I find no conclusion of this suit, but during the next thirty-five years one Gerard Fitz Toret is frequently occurring in this neighbourhood either under that name or as Gerard de Ivelith. He, I doubt not, was a younger Brother of Bartholomew, and also his Under-Tenant at Evelith.

He has already been mentioned as attesting grants of Roger la Zouche and Philip de Burwardsley to Buildwas, and also a Brockton deed of William Cocus.

Furthermore, Bartholomew de Moreton (that is Bartholomew Fitz Toret or Fitz Peter) and Gerard de Yvelith attest a grant which Richard, son of Richard Corbet (Bartholomew's Son-in-law), made to Buildwas Abbey before 1225;<sup>171</sup> and in 1229 both witnesses again appear in company, and, as Knights, superintending a *Convention* to which Madoc de Sutton was a party.<sup>172</sup>

Bartholomew Fitz Toret appears to have deceased before 1235.

<sup>170</sup> *Rot. Curie Regis*, vol. ii, p. 199. Two of the Recognizors named as Defaulters were Robert de Belmes and Nicholas de Bolinchall (Boningale).

<sup>171</sup> *Monasticon*, v, 358, No. ix. The additional witness is supplied from the original Roll.

<sup>172</sup> Charter in possession of Mr. George Morris. This Convention, as well as the last-named Buildwas Deed, are also at-

tested by Geoffrey de Foleville, a Knight, and whose concern in this neighbourhood I cannot particularize. I cannot however help connecting the name with that of Baldwin de Frolavill, or Fredevill, and Roger de Freteville, or Frala-Villa, whom we have seen with Peter Fitz Toret and his Sons attesting Walter de Dunstanvill's Deeds of the previous Century.



I omit to say here much that still remains to be said of his Ancestry and Succession both in this and other Counties. His Shropshire estates passed with his daughter to Richard Corbet of Wattlesborough, her husband, and in course of time to Robert Corbet their Son. Robert Corbet, Lord of Wattlesborough, &c. in right of his Father and of Moreton Toret (afterwards Moreton Corbet) and Evelith, in right of his Mother, had succeeded before 1255. His connection with Evelith made him frequently a visitant here and probably an occasional resident, for he certainly held the estate partly in demesne. We have seen him attesting the Charters of Walter de Dunstanvill (III) Lord of Idsall, and his name appears in other Deeds concerning this neighbourhood.

At the County Assizes (September 1272), the Brimstree Jurors reported that John Ivelithe had broken open the Grange of Robert Corbet. The accused was outlawed.<sup>173</sup> The Tenure-Roll of 1284, commonly known as "Kirby's Quest," says under Brimstree Hundred that "Robert Corbet holds one virgate in Yevelye of the Lord of Moreton 'Tubaud,' but that the Inquisition (from which the Roll was framed) did not mention whom the said Lord (of Moreton) held under."—

That the Scribe who wrote this entry meant to present by "Moreton Tubaud," the place at first called Moreton Toret and afterwards Moreton Corbet, is evident, and his ignorance of the seignorial Lord is compensated by the entry under Moreton itself, where it is said that,—“Robert Corbet holds the *vill* of Moreton with its members, viz. Preston in Pymhill Hundred (*i. e.* Preston Brockhirst), and Ivelithe in Brimstree Hundred, under Reginald de Chetewinde, and he (Reginald) holds under Richard Fitz Alan.”<sup>174</sup>

A Tenure-Roll of Bradford Hundred, made not three years later than the last, repeats the same statement, substituting "Ivelynton" for "Ivelithe," "Roger de Chetwene" for "Reginald," and adding that "Richard Fitz Alan holds (over Chetwind) of the King *in capite* by half a Knight's Fee, and that the Manor is geldable.”<sup>175</sup>

I have said, under Willey, that the usual representative of Tuold's *Domesday* Interest is found to be De Chetwynd in the next succeeding period. Here is an instance of that fact, as well as of the

<sup>173</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 56 Hen. III, Salop, memb. 23.

<sup>174</sup> *Kirby's Quest*.—Bradford Hundred —(where Moreton was).

<sup>175</sup> Tenure Roll, in my possession.

further observation that Hunnit was relatively succeeded by the descendants of Toret.

At the Assizes of October 1292, Robert Corbet was questioned as to the right of Free-Warren exercised by him at Ivelyth.

He adduced a Royal Charter of Free-Warren in Morton Corbet and Wattlesburgh, and averred that Ivelith was an appurtenance of Moreton. But Hugh de Louther (the Crown Prosecutor), asked that Judgment should be given for the King, because that Ivelyth was not named (in the said Charter), and was distant from Moreton as much as ten leagues. The Court decided that the aforesaid land of Ivelyth should be deprived of Warren (*dewarrenetur*), and found Corbet to be *in misericordiâ*.<sup>176</sup>

An Inquisition on the death of Robert Corbet of Moreton, was ordered by writ of Nov. 14, 1300. The return is sadly defaced, but is sufficiently legible to show him as having held "Ivelith under John de Chetwynd."<sup>177</sup>

A CHAPEL existed some time at Evelith. Its site was pointed out at the close of the last Century.<sup>178</sup>—

A field adjoining the spot where the Manor House formerly stood is still known as the "Chapel Yard."

### HINNINGTON.

This was undoubtedly a member of the *Domesday* Manor of "Iteshale." It was subsequently held under the Lords of Idsall, by the same men who held Evelith under the Chetwynds.

Perhaps Hunnit or Hunninc, the usual predecessor of Toret and Corbet, was also their predecessor at Hinnington. The latter name, anciently written Hunnington, indicates almost as much. If so, this is one of a very few instances where a Saxon of so late an era as the reign of the Confessor, can be supposed to have given its name to any Shropshire locality.

Adam Traynel's very early grant to his Nephew Ivo, conveys the Manor of Evelith, as if Hinnington were part and parcel thereof. That Deed however, probably in consequence of its great antiquity, can be coupled with no other known fact, either as regards the succession of Traynel or of Hunnit.

<sup>176</sup> *Placita Coronæ*, 20 Edw. I, memb. 23. The Charter of Free Warren adduced by Corbet was granted on March 20, 1284 (*Rot. Cart.* 12 Edw. I, memb. 49). It

extended only to his demesne lands in Morton-Corbet and Wattlesburg.

<sup>177</sup> *Inquisitions*, 29 Edw. I, No. 45.

<sup>178</sup> Blakeway MSS.

I have alluded to the very frequent attestations of Fitz Toret and his descendants, which are found in Dunstanvill Deeds. These may chiefly be attributed to Peter Fitz Toret's tenure of Hinnington and Hem, under the Lords of Idsall. That Baldwin de Hinetun, who, with John his Son, attests the Charter of Walter, Son of John de Hemes, to Buildwas, was probably Fitz Toret's Under-Tenant at Hinnington.<sup>179</sup>—

The said Charter passed before 1202, and in the succeeding period I find John de Hinitun attesting a deed which will be given under Upton. I find no other mention of Under-Tenants here, but the Inquisition taken on the death of Robert Corbet of Moreton, in 1300, says expressly that he held Hemme and Hynyton under John de la Mare.<sup>180</sup>

And a later Inquisition, taken May 7, 1310, on the death of Thomas Corbet of Moreton, is still more explicit. He died seized of the "Hamlets of Hemme and Hynyton, within the Manor of Ideshale, which were held of Sir John de la Mare, Lord of Ideshale, by half a Knight's-fee."<sup>181</sup>

#### THE HEM.

Nearly all that can be said of the Tenure of this Hamlet has been implied under Hinnington. Like Hinnington, it was held under the Lords of Idsall, perhaps by Hunnit in the first and Toret in the second instance, but more certainly by Fitz-Toret and Corbet in the third and fourth.

John de Hemes, and Walter his Son, who granted to Buildwas in the 12th Century, were probably Peter Fitz-Toret's Under-Tenants here. Their being also Under-Tenants of Traynel at Hatton, is only another phase of that inexplicable connection which associates and at the same time confuses the relative histories of Hatton, Hem, Hinnington, and Evelith.

We have further seen John de Hemmes attesting between 1192 and 1194 (with Peter Fitz Thoret and his Sons) a Grant of the first Walter de Dunstanvill, that is, as I take it, the Under Tenant attesting with the Mesne Lord a grant of the Seignoural Lord of Hem.

I have little to say more of the family of these Under-Tenants, which seems to have decreased in importance. At the Assizes of

<sup>179</sup> *Supra*, p. 170.

<sup>180</sup> *Inquisitions*, 29 Edw. I, No. 45.

<sup>181</sup> *Inquisitions*, 3 Edw. II, No. 22.

January 1256, one John de la Homme sat on the Brimstree Jury. At the Assizes of September 1272, John le Knicht was found to have disseized Henry Dud of a messuage in Hemme, and William de Ruton (Ryton) was a *Recognizor* on the trial but had made no appearance.

### WYKE.

This was a member of Idsall. About the year 1219, Walter de Dunstanvill (II) conveys to Shrewsbury Abbey, among other rents, one of 12*d.* payable by Alan the Chaplain, his Tenant in Wyches.<sup>182</sup>

Walter Mareschall and Robert de Wikes were perhaps Tenants here between 1220 and 1230.

The next Tenant who occurs is Herbert de Wyke a person of some importance and apparently Bailiff to the Lords of Idsall; for I take him to be identical with "Herbert, formerly Bailiff of Ydeshall" who attests a Wombridge Charter between 1227 and 1240;<sup>183</sup> and Herbert Seneschal of Ideshall is found attesting a deed of very little earlier date.

In 1248, Walter de Dunstanvill (III) had three Tenants in Wyke whose Quit-Rents he assigned to Buildwas Abbey in part exchange for Upton. These were Herbert de Wyke who paid 17*s.* annual rent on a virgate, Thomas Golding who paid 5*s.* on half-a-virgate and Robert the Provost, who paid 4*s.* on half-a-virgate.<sup>184</sup>

For the five years ending October 1254, Herbert de Wyke was *Agistator* of the Royal Forest of Morfe and the *Haye* of Wellington. He attests deeds of this period as Herbert de Ideshal, and, under that name, sat as third Juror of Brimstree Hundred at the Assizes of 1256.

Soon after this he died; for when, in February 1262, the Justices of the Forest visited Shropshire they summoned Herbert son and heir of Herbert de Wyk (or de Ydeshal) to answer for the five years in which his Father had been *Agistator*.<sup>185</sup>

From this period for the next twenty years, I find Herbert de Wyke and Walter Marshall of Wyke frequent witnesses of local deeds. Two of these bear date Oct. 21, 1270, and Aug. 9, 1279.

In 54 Hen. III (1269-70), Walter le Mareschall of Wyke and Edith his wife were suing John de Stevinton under writ of *novel*

<sup>182</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 378.

<sup>183</sup> Chartulary, *Vit. Upinton*, No. clxix.

<sup>184</sup> *Cart.* 20 Edw. I, No. 41.

<sup>185</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, 46 Hen. III, Salop.

*disseizin*, for a tenement in Wyke.<sup>186</sup> In November 1271, Herbert de Wyke occurs as a *Verderer* of the Royal Forests, and at the Assizes of September 1272, he and Walter Marescall were Jurors of Brimstree Hundred. This Jury reported, *inter alia*, that Alice, wife of Walter Carter of Routhton, had challenged, in the County Court, Thomas, son of Herbert de Wyke (probably the Juror's Brother) and Robert de Duddlegh, for murder of said Walter her husband. She had also accused the Abbot of Buildwas of harbouring the murderers. Alice not appearing at the Assizes the Abbot and Duddlegh were acquitted, but it was shown that Thomas Fitz Herbert was dead.<sup>187</sup>

Between 1280 and 1292, Herbert de Wyke was succeeded by his Son John, who sat as 12th Juror of the Hundred at the October Assizes of the latter year, and occurs as a witness of various local deeds, and as a Juror on several Inquests of the next twenty-four years; after which Elyas de Wyke, a Clerk, seems to occupy his position.

Meanwhile, that is on Feb. 23, 1293, a Fine was levied at Stafford between Master John de Kenleye, Clerk, complainant (*querentem*), and Robert de Clone, and Mabel his wife, deforciant, of a messuage and twenty acres in Wyk, whereof was *plea of convention*. The Deforciant, relinquished the same,—to be held by the Complainant, of the Lords of the Fee. For this he gave £5.<sup>188</sup>

On Jan. 27, 1297, this same Master John de Kenleye was Complainant in a fine levied at Westminster, whereby Roger de Orleton, and Rohese his wife, surrendered to him a messuage and twelve acres in Ideshale, whereof was *plea of warranty*;—to hold of the Lords of the Fee. For this the Complainant paid £10.<sup>189</sup>

### TRILWARDYNE.

The name of this Hamlet or Tenement is now lost. Its situation, however, may be nearly identified, by comparing the different relations in which it is mentioned.

Between the years 1220 and 1250, Robert de Trilwardyne, with his name spelt in various ways, is a witness of local Charters, more particularly of those which relate to Brockton.

On July 13, 1253, a Fine was levied at Westminster between

<sup>186</sup> *Pat.* 54 Hen. III, dorso.

<sup>187</sup> *Placita Coronæ* 56 Hen. III, Salop, |  
memb. 23 recto.

<sup>188</sup> · <sup>189</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 21 & 25 Edw. I,

Salop.

Petronilla, Widow of Robert de Trillewardyn plaintiff (petentem), and Robert de Trillewardyn Tenant, of a third part of forty acres in \* \* shal (probably Idshal) which Petronilla claimed as reasonable dower out of the estate of her former husband. Petronilla renounced her claim, and Robert conceded to her nine acres in the same *vill* (viz. three acres in Rudingfeld, three acres in Winterfeld, and three acres in the field towards Wyk), to hold to Petronilla for her life, at a rent of one penny.<sup>190</sup>

This second Robert de Trillewardyn occurs occasionally as a witness during the next sixteen years; but on Sept. 29, 1269, he would appear to be deceased, for then did Edith, daughter of Robert de Trillewardine, lease to Wombridge Priory all her land within and without the *vill* of Brocton, for twelve years, reserving to herself a house and orchard and certain stipulated shares of the produce of the said land.<sup>191</sup>

A great part of the district of which we are speaking had, in ancient times, been within the jurisdiction of the Royal Forest.—

The Perambulation of 1300 recognizes the following *vills* and hamlets as disforested, viz. the *vills* of Pioreslegh and Wodehous (Woodhouse), a moiety of Dreyton (near Shiffnal), Haghton (Haughton), La Cnolle (still traceable in Knowle-Wood), Trillewardyn, Wyk a moiety of Hem, the wood of Kembrithton (Kemberton), a third part of Sutton (Maddock), a moiety of Brockton, &c.—

Hence we approximate to the locality of Trilwardyne.

We have seen Master John de Kenleye a purchaser of land in Wyke and Idsall in 1293 and 1297. On June 8, 1301, Thomas Skybrass and Burga his wife grant to the same John and his heirs their capital messuage and forty acres of land at Trillewardyn in the Manor of Ideshale, which formerly belonged to Ralph de Kenleye, Father of Burga, and which constituted her share of his inheritance;—to hold of the Grantors and their heirs, rendering to them yearly a red rose, and accustomed services to the Lords of the Fee.<sup>193</sup>

<sup>190</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 37 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>191</sup> Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*, No. xxviii. The agreement is attested by John de Stivinton, John de Grenhull, Master Ranulph de Coleham, Clerk; Adam Pollard of Lee, Robert his Son, Walter Coeus of Lee, &c.

<sup>192</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 279. Since writing the above, I learn that two fields

of the Haughton Farm are still known as the "Big" and "Lesser Tillerdine." They are nearly in a line between Knowle Wood and the Wyke, and precisely where I should suppose the Hamlet of Trilwardyne might have been.

<sup>193</sup> Charter in possession of The Rev. John Brooke, of Haughton.—It is dated at Dublin, and attested by four Justices

## PRIORS LEE.

The House of Augustine Canons, founded at Wombridge as early as the reign of Stephen, acquired its first interest in the Lordship of Idsall under grant of Alan de Dunstanvill.

His gift, described as the land of Eilric de Leis, was subsequently increased. His Son Walter gave Aynulf's Lee (less intelligibly written as "Leias Amulsi") to the Canons.

These two grants, with some later additions, constituted, I suppose, the estate afterwards known as Priors Lee. The Canons once established in such a position, were not slow to improve it. They acquired various parcels of land and other rights in adjoining Townships. Some of these have been already instanced in our account of the succession of Dunstanvill. Others again will have to be noticed under their proper localities. One or two shall be mentioned here.—

About 1260, Thomas, Son of Roger Guest, of Lega, gave the Priory a noke of land, in the *vill* of Lega, which John de Mocleston once held of him.<sup>194</sup>

About ten years later, and apparently in completion of a previous grant of Walter de Dunstanvill (III), Alice, widow of Gilbert Bluet, quits all right which she had for life in an *assart* in the Manor of Ydeshall. For this the Priory paid her 20s. in hand, and allowed her an annuity of 2s. for her life.<sup>195</sup>

Again, about ten years later, Thomas de Brocton (of Brockton *justa* Sutton Madok), gave the Priory an annual rent of 5s. 6d., which Robert, called Pollard, of Priors Lee and his heirs were bound to pay on half-a-virgate in the said *vill* of Priors Lee. The Canons were to apply this income as follows, viz., 2s. to the work of the fabric (the conventual buildings), 2s. to the lights in their Church, and 1s. 6d. to the Convent of the said House, to keep the anniversary of the Donor for ever.<sup>196</sup>

of the King's Bench there. Two seals, originally belonging to the deed, are gone. The writing is remarkably fine.

<sup>194</sup> Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. xvj. Attested by Madoc de Sutton, Walter de Kembricton (he was Rector of Idsall), Oliver de Knoll, and Roger de Hadeleg.

<sup>195</sup> *Ibidem*, No. V.—Witnesses: Adam Pollard, Robert his Son, Alan de Haleheton (Haughton), Walter Cocus, &c.

<sup>196</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xlix.—Witnesses: John

de Stivinton, John Son of Herbert de Wyk, William de Devises, Richard Colle, Robert de Clone, &c. This grant was afterwards confirmed by John, Son and Heir of Thomas de *Dreyton* (read *Brocton*, and compare, *supra*, p. 98, note 20).—Witnesses: John de Stivinton, John Herbert of Wyk, William Pater Noster, William Hode of Drayton, Richard Cocus of Legh, and Roger Cocus.

Previous to the Dissolution, and in 27 Hen. VIII (1535-6), the Prior of Wombridge returned, among the annual receipts of his House, the following :

Rents of 7 Messuages in Prioeres Lees . . . . £8. 19s. 4d.  
Rents of 2 Water-mills and 2 Cottages in Sheffnal . 5. 6s. 8d.<sup>197</sup>

The Total of £14. 6s., thus stated to arise from the Prior's possessions within the Fee of Shiffnal, is not very inconsistent with the more detailed *Ministers' Accounts* of the following year.

In the latter are enumerated	£	s.	d.
Rents of Tenants-at-will in Shyffenall . . . . .	0	8	0
Rent of Land and Cottage at Prior's Lye . . . . .	1	9	0
Ferm of Land and Messuage at Prior's Lye . . . . .	7	12	2
Ferm of a Mill in Idsall Park . . . . .	3	0	0
Ferm of a Mill at Shiffenall . . . . .	2	0	0
Total . . . . .	£14	9	2 <sup>198</sup>

#### LEE PARVA OR LEONARD'S LEE.

This was another member of Idsall, taking its distinctive name of Leonard's Lee, from an early possessor, the Tenant of Dunstanvill.

The situation of the *vill* is not to be identified by any existing name. Its whereabouts may be however surmised from one or other of the following particulars.—

At the Forest Assize of 1180, Thomas de Legh fines 1s. 6d. for an *imbladement* (3 acres of oats) within Jurisdiction of the Forest.<sup>199</sup>

This Thomas was I doubt not the same person who under the name of Thomas de Leis attests one Charter of Walter de Dunstanvill (I), and who in another Charter is mentioned as Thomas de Lehes, and as owner of land near the Grantor's wood of Lehes.

I think also that Walter de Lega and Leonard his Brother, who, before the year 1194, witness two other Charters of the same Baron, were sons of this Thomas, attesting in their Father's lifetime ; for at the Forest Assizes of March 1209, both Thomas de Legh and Walter son of Thomas de Lega, are assessed under what

<sup>197</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 194.

<sup>198</sup> *Monasticon*, vi, 391, No. ii.

<sup>199</sup> *Forest Pleas*, Salop, No. 1. The line taken by the Record seems to be Lilleshall, Tibberton, Legh (as in the text),

Ketley, and Stirechley. All these, as well as Kemberton, Dawley, Lawley, Idsall (and its members), and Leegomery, were within *Regard* of the Forest of Mount Gilbert.



is called a "Regard of Mount Gilbert," that is a statement of the liabilities of those, who living within jurisdiction of the Forest of the Wrekin, had made *purpresture*, *imbladement*, or other eneroachment on the King's rights. Thomas de Lee seems to have been eventually succeeded by his second son Leonard, from whom this *vill* derived its distinctive name.

About the year 1219, Walter de Dunstanvill (II) in composition of the claim which Shrewsbury Abbey had to the Advowson of Idsall, assigned to the monks 27*s.* annual rent, chargeable on several of his Tenants.—

A sum of 2*s.* receivable from Leonard de Leges in respect of his fee of Leges was thus assigned.<sup>200</sup>

In November 1220, Leonard de Lega was a Juror in the great suit then pending about the Advowson of Tong.

Soon after this, Osbert Lord of Stirchley, granting a parcel of land to Wombridge, within the Fee of Stirchley, mentions among the boundaries of the said parcel a meadow which belonged to Richard Fitz Ralph of Parva Legh, and a fence which ran between Leonard's Ley and Stirchley Wood. Sir Leonard de Ley himself stands first witness to this grant.<sup>201</sup>

Another Wombridge Charter which passed in or after the year 1231, is attested by men of knightly degree, and last of all by Leonard de Lega and Walter his Son.<sup>202</sup>

At the same time a deed which will be quoted under Upton, and which certainly passed in or before 1232, is attested by Walter de Lega, whom I therefore take to have succeeded his Father about this time. Ten years later, and we have Henry son of Leonard de Lega as his Father's, or rather Brother's, Successor;—for on November 18, 1240, a Fine was levied at Salop between William de Eyton and Matilda his wife, Plaintiffs, and Henry Fitz Leonard, Tenant,—of a third part of six acres of lands and two messuages in Parva Legh, whereof was suit of *mort d'ancestre*.—William and Matilda relinquished, for themselves and for the heirs of Matilda, all right in the premises and in all lands of Henry; for which the latter paid them four merks.<sup>203</sup>

I should imagine from what follows, that this Matilda was a Sister or Half Sister of Henry de Legh; for on January 27, 1249, Johanna and Nicholaha de Legh, who certainly stood in one of

<sup>200</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 378.

<sup>201</sup> Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. xl.

<sup>202</sup> *Ibidem*, No. ix.

<sup>203</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 25 Hen. III, Salop.

those relations to Henry, released, for five merks, some lands in Stirchley to the Abbot of Buildwas;<sup>204</sup> and on January 27, 1256, a Fine was levied between Nichola, daughter of Leonard de Lega, Plaintiff, and Henry de Leye, Tenant, of two virgates in Parva Legh whereof was suit at law. Henry surrendered the premises, to hold to Nichola and her heirs, of the Lords of the Fee. In return Nichola conceded half the land which she had hitherto held in the same *vill*, viz. half-a-virgate which Richard Fitz Ralph (whom we have heard of before) sometime held, and the messuage which Roger, Parson of Styrchley, sometime held, and the messuages, &c. formerly held by Adam Hubert, Alan Hubert, and Richard Stok; to hold to Henry and his heirs, of Nichola and her heirs, at a penny rent.<sup>205</sup>

At the same Assizes at which this Fine was levied, other suits which concerned the same family were in progress; and though they did not relate to the locality now under notice it will be better to introduce them here.—

Joanna de Leye and Nichola her Sister sued under writ of *Mort d'ancestre* for two merks annual rent in Weston, which they alleged Leonard their Father to have died seized of, and which William de Forde withheld from them. The latter offered a fine of half-a-merk to the Crown that he might have a “good Assize,” Thomas Boterel and \* \* \* de Overton being his Sureties. It was found that Leonard had not died thus seized, for that the rent was the marriage portion of Joanna, Mother of William de Forde, who after holding it for many years surrendered it to her said Son for ten merks. The Defendant was dismissed *sine die*.<sup>206</sup>

In another suit, Sibil wife of Henry de Lega appoints the said Henry her Attorney against Robert de la Forde. This seems to have been a cause wherein the latter sued the former for a virgate of land in Preston (on-the Wild-moors), and which Sibil and Henry had by grant of Thomas Rabaz.<sup>207</sup>

In Easter Term 1258, a fine was levied at Westminster between Robert de la Forde, Plaintiff, and Thomas Rabaz, whom Henry and Sibil had called to *warranty*,—of a virgate in Preston, and who vouched such *warranty*.—Thomas now acknowledged the right of Robert, who allowed Thomas to hold the land for life, at a penny

<sup>204</sup> · <sup>205</sup> *Ibidem*. 33, 40 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>206</sup> *Salop Assizes*, 40 Hen. III, memb. 8.

It is difficult to determine what Weston was here alluded to. Aston Botterell,

Overton and Ford, are near together, and not very far from Cold-Weston.

<sup>207</sup> *Ibidem*, memb. 1.

rent and performing all capital services;—but it was to remain to Robert and his heirs.<sup>208</sup>

About this time Henry son of Leonard de Lega granted to Wombridge Priory a parcel of land called Blakesicheshurst with the wood thereon. Its boundaries are described minutely, and among them are the “water-course of Lestewike under the grange of Wombridge,” and “the road which leads to Blackpull.”<sup>209</sup>

“Walter son and heir of Henry, son of Leonard de Lega,” reciting that “Peter, son of Sir Peter de Eyton had granted to the Wombridge Canons free right of road through his (Peter’s) land of Lega, for all their vehicles,” and calling himself (Walter) “a Comportioner in the same *vill* of Lega,” grants a similar privilege.<sup>210</sup>

### KNOWLE.

The situation of this *vill*, formerly a member of Idsall, may be identified by a small Coppice still called “The Knowl Wood.”

It has been seen how the first Walter de Dunstanvill, about the year 1185, granting to Oliver his Harper a rich marriage and wardship at Haughton, increased the gift, in terms following:—

“And together with the aforesaid wardship, I have given and conceded to the aforesaid Oliver, for his homage and service, and as a forestalment of his release from office (in expectatione Warisonis sui), that reputed virgate of land which Achi and Swein, of Knoll, have held, and all the *assarts* which I have given him in Long Rudigg, up to Sumerlone, as Smelebroc divides them (the *assarts*); and quittance of *tac* and of *tol* for him and his *meu*; and (quittance) of all services and customs; in fee and inheritance; with all the *appurtenances*; in wood and in field; to hold of me and my heirs, by him and his heirs; rendering therefore yearly, he or his heirs to me or my heirs, on Easter-Day, certain Spurs (*calcaria*), or six pence (in lieu thereof).”<sup>211</sup>

Thus did Oliver, Minstrel of the Lord of Idsall, become not only a Husband and Guardian (advantages which could entail

<sup>208</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 42 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>209</sup> Chartulary, *Vt. Lega Prioris*, No. vi. Witnesses: Sir Madoe de Sutton, Philip de Pres, Thomas Rabas, Adam de Prestone, Ralph de Prestone, Adam Pollard, Oliver de la Knoll, &c.

<sup>210</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xv. This Charter purports to be dated at Wombridge, on St.

Mark’s Day, “13 Edw. I” (April 25, 1285).

It is tested by Roger Corbet, Reginald de Chernese, Roger Carles, Pagan de Preston, and John de Appeleie; a series of witnesses quite inconsistent with the alleged date. The deed passed after 1300 certainly, perhaps in 1320 (13 Edw. II).

<sup>211</sup> *Supra*, p. 281.

nothing on his heirs) but a Feoffee with more permanent interests.

Under his, as yet unlocalized, name of Oliver, he has been seen to attest the Deed, whereby his Lord bestowed his body in burial at Wombridge.

I think too that it must have been his wife or widow who, under the name of Sibil de Halton, occurs as holding lands within Regard of the Forest of Mount Gilbert, in 1209. Be that as it may, he or his Son or Grandson, under the one name of Oliver de Knolle, continue to occur for about 90 years in this neighbourhood, dating from the time of the above Deed.

Besides their attestations of various Charters, one of these successive Olivers appears in 1248, as holding a virgate of land in Knolle, under the third Walter de Dunstanvill, at a shilling rent, which rent was then transferred to Buildwas Abbey.<sup>212</sup>

At the Assizes of 1256, an Oliver de la Knoll officiated as a Juror for Brimstree Hundred; and the same or another Oliver de Knoll attests a Charter of his Lord, Robert de Montfort, between 1270 and 1274.

We have then a Richard de la Knoll attesting a few local Deeds, and sitting as a Juror (Sept. 25, 1276) on the Inquest which reported about Robert le Strange's disposal of Sutton Maddock.

From August 9, 1279, to November 12, 1335, I find Thomas atte Knolles, or Thomas de la Knolle, a constant witness of local Deeds, and on November 17, 1336, this uniformity is interrupted by the occurrence of Pagan de la Knolle in a similar position.

### THE CASTLE.

A Tenement, thus entitled, was by no means the residence of the Lords of Idsall; but one of the smallest members of the Manor, still to be traced, as regards name and situation, in the "Castle Farm."

In 1248, an annual rent of 8s., due from Richard de Castello, on a virgate of land, to Walter de Dunstanvill (III), was transferred by the latter to Buildwas Abbey.<sup>213</sup>

About the year 1270 Emma, widow of Richard de Castre, and apparently daughter of Roger de Halaton (Haughton), quits to Hugh de Halaton (Son of said Roger) the house which her late Husband bought from said Roger, in the *vill* of Cnolle, with a garden and croft adjacent, and two acres of land, one in the field

<sup>212</sup> · <sup>213</sup> *Cart.* 20 Edw. I, No. 41.

of Hopemon, and the other towards the Horeston. She also surrenders to the same Hugh three acres of land, which said Roger had given her in *frank marriage*.<sup>214</sup>

At the Assizes of September 1272, the name of Richard de Castro was called in question in a matter which concerned several others in the neighbourhood, but which may be mentioned here as well as elsewhere, though I am not sure whether Richard himself was living at the time or whether he had left a successor of both his names. William, son of Robert de Divises, had been apprehended and imprisoned on some charge, but, by precept of the King, had been given into custody of the following persons (bail for his appearance), viz. Richard de Castro in Ideshale, Richard Hologode of Chaffenhale (Shiffnal), Robert de Lotwych in the same, Robert Bernehoud in Upton, Roger de Howele in Upton, Henry Bluet in Ideshale, Adam le Lymer of the same, Adam de Dreyton, Thomas de Brerlakton of Staunton, Simon de Ideshall, and Richard de Stapenhull in Wodehous. Now (1272) these Sureties were reported by the Brimstree Jurors as not duly producing the accused, so they were found to be *in misericordiâ*, but at the same time the accused was acquitted of any crime.<sup>215</sup>

#### WOODHOUSE.

A rent of 3s. *per annum*, payable by John Mugleston for twelve acres in Wodehous, was in 1248 assigned by Walter de Dunstanvill (III) to Buildwas Abbey.<sup>216</sup>

This John de Moeleston has already occurred, about 1260, as a Tenant in Priors-Lee.

The principal Tenants at Wodehous seem, however, to have had name from the place.

Sometime in the thirteenth century, Henry de Wodehous appears to have given towards the lights of the Church of St. Mary and St. Leonard of Wombridge some land and 6*d.* rent, which he had purchased from Richard de Stapenhull<sup>217</sup> (just mentioned under The Castle).

This Henry was, if I mistake not, the same person who, under the name of Henry son of Hamund de Wodehus, was Grantee of Robert le Strange (of Sutton and Wroekwardine) in the latter Manor.

<sup>214</sup> Charter at Haughton.—Witnesses:  
John de Styvinton, Herbert de Wyks,  
Oliver de Cnolle, Roger Hod (of Drayton),  
Alan de Halaton, &c.

<sup>215</sup> *Placita Corona*, 56 Hen. III, Salop,  
memb. 22 dorso.

<sup>216</sup> *Cart.* 20 Edw. I, No. 41.

<sup>217</sup> *Monasticon*, vi, 388.

This will have been before 1270, but the same person was again Grantee of Fulk le Strange, of Blackmere and Wrockwardine, at the end of the Century, and also in 1305.<sup>218</sup>

The Family of this Henry would seem to have been originally of Hadley, but I will say more of him under Wrockwardine, where his chief property lay.

From July 1296, to May 1306, I find one Roger de Wodehous, or atte Wodehous, doubtless of this place, and a member of almost every local Jury which sat during that interval.

### HAUGHTON.

In 1180, the Township (villata) of Haleton was fined half-a-merk by Justices of the Forest for *purpresture*.

About 1185, Roger de Halechtune, Dunstanvill's Vassal here, being dead, the said Baron granted to "Oliver, his Harper, custody of the land of the deceased, for his life, together with the Widow of the said Roger, whom Oliver had already espoused, with Dunstanvill's consent. Also Oliver was to have custody of the heir of Roger, and was to take order concerning the said heir according to his own will. And this wardship was to be free of tac and tol to Oliver and his men, and free of all services except that Oliver was to mew one sparrow-hawk annually at his own cost, or to mew a goshawk (ostorium) at the cost of his Lord, in which case the Lord's men were to provide a cage wherein the bird should be placed."<sup>219</sup>

The remainder of this Charter, so illustrative of feudal tenures and customs, has been recited under Knowle. The Heir, thus disposed of, seems to have been that Hugh de Haltun whom we shall see attesting an Upton Deed, before 1232.

Between 1242 and 1248, Roger de Halghton, doubtless of this place, was on a Jury which settled certain forest-rights of the Abbot of Lilleshall.<sup>220</sup>

Between 1248 and 1256, a second Hugh de Alcton or Halghton occurs, first as attesting an Upton Deed of Walter de Dunstanvill (III), and next as being assessed, about March 1250, for certain small parcels of *assarted* land within the jurisdiction of the Forest. In this case, he is described as Hugh de Halghton *apud* Ideshal,

<sup>218</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Lopinton*, Nos. x, xi, viij. Among the witnesses of the last deed (1305) is Richard de Mokeleston.

<sup>219</sup> *Supra*, p. 281.

<sup>220</sup> *Pat.* 18 Ric. II, p. 1, memh. 7, per *Insuperimus*.

and before Michaelmas 1254, he had paid three years arrears of the said assessment.<sup>221</sup>

Now again a second Roger de Halton occurs, viz. as a Juror in a Donington Inquest of January 1256, and on a Forest Inquest, held at Sheriff-Hales, in October 1259. He is moreover a witness of several local deeds at this period.

This Roger was succeeded by his son, a third Hugh, before 1274; for between 1270 and 1274,—

“Robert de Montford, Lord of Idesale, grants to Hugh de Haltone and his heirs, thirteen acres of land in the Manor of Idesale, lying between Richard le Hope’s *assart* and Hotunalle, near the *assart* of Roger Hod (of Drayton), in a place called Ulet-hay.—

For this Hugh paid two merks down, and was to pay an annual rent of 6s. in lieu of all services except suit of the Lord’s Court.”<sup>222</sup>

This same “Hugh de Halaton” has been already noticed as having purchased about this period certain premises from Emma, Widow of Richard de Castro, perhaps his (Hugh’s) Sister.<sup>223</sup>

In September 1276, Hugh de Halenton sat as second Juror on the Inquest as to Robert le Strange’s disposal of Sutton.

On August 9, 1279, an agreement was come to between John de Stiventon and Hugh son of Roger de Halton. John undertook that Hugh and his heirs should peaceably hold all *assarts* within the Manor of Hydeshale, which they held at the time of agreement. It was also settled in regard to certain woods, plains, roads, paths, water-mills, and other liberties (in which the parties seem to have had some common interest), that either party should, with consent of the other, make improvements. Hugh also gives a similar undertaking, as regarded John’s *assarts*, to that which John had given. Further, John quitted to Hugh one part of the wood and waste which he had in the wood of Wyke from John de Grenhull, as the parts were fenced adjacently to Trillewardin. Hugh is to pay for this donation an annual rent of 2*d.* to John and his heirs,

<sup>221</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 38 Hen. III, Salop.

<sup>222</sup> Charter at Haughton. Tested by Robert Corbet (of Moreton), John de Stiventon, Herbert de Wyke, John de Grenhul, Walter le Marchal, &c. The Seal of this deed is well preserved. It consists of a coat of arms—Bendy of 10, and in chief a label of 5 points. The Legend is—

\*\* GILLUM ROBERTI DE MONTEFORTI.

<sup>223</sup> Contemporary with this Hugh was also an Alan de Haughton, perhaps also a relation. He (Alan) occurs about 1270 and in 1276.—

There was also a Robert Chop of Haughton, a landholder, Juror, and witness of local deeds, from 1289 to 1303. His name was, I think, afterwards written Job.

besides 40s. now paid down. Two deeds alternately sealed with the seals of each party were written and exchanged.<sup>224</sup>

On September 2, 1281, King Edward I, wishing to do the Prior of Wombridge a favour, and to relax in his case the stringency of the recent *Statute of Mortmain*, gives him license "to take in *fee-farm* the mill of Hugh de Halghton in Halghton, at such terms as Hugh and the Prior may agree upon between themselves. And Hugh may demise the same, saving the rights of any other party."<sup>225</sup>

This permission was not immediately acted upon, perhaps in consequence of a dispute which arose between the parties in reference to another matter.—

In Trinity Term 1282, the Prior of Wombridge recovered a right of common-pasture in twenty-one acres of *Waste*, in Halghton and Knole, which right was appurtenant to the Prior's tenement in Prior's Leigh. And Hugh and his son were *in misericordia*.<sup>226</sup>—

This decision seems to have been inconclusive; for, on October 20th, 1282, a cause was heard before Ralph de Hengham and his Fellow-Justices at Shrewsbury, in which the Prior of Wombridge sued Hugh de Halghton and Roger and Henry his Sons, under writ of *novel disseizin*, viz. that they had disseized the said Prior of common pasture in Halghton and Knole. Hugh pleaded that Robert de Montfort had enfeoffed him and his Sons therein; but nevertheless judgment was given for the Prior.<sup>227</sup>

On March 18, 1284, a Convention between Philip, Prior of Wombridge, and Hugh de Haleston, about Haleston Mill, was at length concluded. Hugh gives the same to the Priory, together with a water-course which he had recovered under writ of *novel disseizin* against the Lords of Ydeshale, saving to Hugh the fishery of said watercourse. The whole to be held in *frank and perpetual almoign*, together with the right of road which Hugh had obtained by gift and charter of John de la Mare, Lord of Ydeshale. Hugh is to make no other mill within the Manor of Ydeshale, nor to grind elsewhere; he is to allow earth for repair of the watercourse and other *casements*. The Prior in return grants to Hugh and his heirs

<sup>224</sup> Chyrograph at Haughton.—Witnesses: Philip de Beckebur, John de Prees, Alan de Kembriton, Herbert de Wyk, Walter Marescall of Wyk, Thomas att Knolles, Roger Hod of Draiton, Richard Pater-noster of Drayton, Walter de Staunton, Master Robert of Bruges, Clerk; and others.

<sup>225</sup> Wombridge Chartulary. *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. xliij (being in fact a copy of the King's Letters Patent on the occasion).

<sup>226</sup> *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, p. 204.

<sup>227</sup> *Placita apud Salop*, Michaelmas Term, 10 Edw. I, memb. 5 dorso.



free *multure* in his mills of Ydeshale and of Haleston, for all grain necessary for Hugh's household or guests. Also the Prior and his Successors shall, on presentation of Hugh or his heirs, always receive a fit person as a Canon of their House, and on the death of one such Nominee shall receive another, so that for ever they should have one in their house, doing services for the souls of said Hugh and his wife Alice, of his Ancestors and Successors, of Sir Robert Burnel, of Master John de Kenley, of Ralph de Hengham, and of the Chief Lords of Ydeshale, and all the faithful. And the said Canon was to take his weekly turn of Monastic duties (sit ebdomadarius), and be obedient in all things, as other professed Canons of the House. To faithfully keep this peaceful adjustment (paciis reformationem) the Prior and Hugh took personal oath, and each bound himself in case of non-observance to pay 100s. for relief of the Holy-Land, and 40s. to the *Aurum Reginae*, for each offence. And if it should happen that the said Mill should fall down or be destroyed, then the Prior was to be free from all his obligations. *Chirographs* sealed with the seals of either party were exchanged.<sup>228</sup>

The peace thus established was very transient. In 1286, a King's Writ issues to the Sheriff of Shropshire, reciting how the Prior had formerly recovered seizin of common pasture in Halegh-ton and Knoll against Hugh and his Sons, and how the Prior had now petitioned the King, asserting that Hugh had *redisseized* him. The Sheriff is therefore to take the usual course against Hugh under the statute of *Re-disseizin*.<sup>229</sup>

The modes in which the interests of this family of Haughton vanished from the Fee of Idsall is matter of much conjecture and only partial evidence.—

We have seen that in the Convention of 1284, Alice, wife of Hugh de Haughton, and Master John de Kenley are mentioned. My idea is that Alice was Sister and eventual heir of the latter, whom we have

<sup>228</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. xxix. This curious Charter has been inaccurately transcribed in the Chartulary, or I should have given it in full. It is attested by the Lord Ralph Abbot of Lilleshull, Sir Thomas Corbet (of Hadley), Sir Peter de Eyton, John Dovorose (Devereux), Master Laurence, Adam Alimund (both written as if one name), and William de Wyros (probably Devyses).

<sup>229</sup> *Originalia*, i, 52. The penalties for *Redisseizin* were heavy, because it was a contempt of the King's Court. The Statute of Merton (20 Hen. III) inflicted imprisonment on the *Redisseizor*; the Statute of Marlborough (52 Hen. III) added a fine to the Crown; and the Statute of Westminster, which had only passed a year before the above (*viz.* 13 Edw. I), had given double damages to the aggrieved Party.

further seen in 1293 and 1297, making purchases in Knowle and Idsall.

I also imagine that Alice, after Hugh de Haughton's death, re-married to Peter de Carmarthen, and in a second widowhood granted all she had at Haughton to Sir John de Cherleton. Certainly the eldest son of Hugh de Haughton, whose name we have already seen was Roger, was afterwards called Roger de Kenley, and made at least one concession of property in Idesall Manor to the same Sir John de Cherleton.

These ideas are borrowed from the following Deeds:—On Feb. 16 (2 Edw. II) 1309, John de Cherleton, Knight, appoints John de Cherleton Rector of Wrocwardin, William de Morton Rector of Holm, and Reginald Charles, his Attorneys to receive seizin of all lands and tenements which had belonged to Alice de Kenley, formerly wife of Peter de Kermerdin, in the *vill* of Halghton *juxta* Ideshale, whereof the aforesaid Alice, in *liege* and pure widowhood, had expedited her Charter to said Sir John Cherleton.<sup>230</sup>

Again on August 4, 1309, Roger de Kenley son of Hugh de Halghton quits to Sir John de Cherleton Knight, and his heirs, all his claims, &c. in two *assarts* in the Manor of Ideshale, which are called Flethay and the Barnd.<sup>231</sup>

That Sir John de Cherleton made other and fuller purchases at Haughton and in Idsall than are implied by these Deeds, is evident from later Documents. By a Charter of September 15, 1309, he (Sir John) grants to Alan de Cherleton his Brother, his Messuage in the *vill* of Halctun *prope* Ydeshale and all the land which he bought from Alice de Keirmerdin.—To hold to said Alan and the heirs of his body under the Chief Lords of the Fee, rendering therefore to the said Chief Lords accustomed services

<sup>230</sup> Charter at Haughton. This Power of Attorney is dated at Dublin. The Seal is well executed, containing a coat of arms, apparently Or, on a chevron, three spread Eagles. Sir John Cherleton of Powis, the purchaser of these lands, &c., became, in 1313, a Baron by Summons.

<sup>231</sup> Charter at Haughton.—Witnesses: John de Everoys (Devereux), John de Styvinton, John Herbert (of Wyke), William Paternoster, William Hod, John de Coleshulle, &c. Dated at Salop, on "Sunday, in the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, in the third year of

the reign of King Edward." This Deed is a proof of what I have often alluded to, viz., that, in the early years of Edward II, Charters were often dated in a way which would not distinguish them from Charters of the same regnal year of Edward I. Thus, in this case, we find that St. Bartholomew's Day (Aug. 24) fell, in 3 Edw. I (1275), on Saturday, but in 3 Edw. II (1309), on Sunday. And the date, thus rectified, is further proved by what is known of the Grantee, who was not born, much less a Knight, in 1275.

and rents. But if Alan should die without Heirs of his body remainder is reserved to the Grantor and his Heirs.<sup>232</sup>

About 1305, Hugh, son (and as I suppose younger son) of the last Hugh de Haughton, gave a piece of laud in "Knolle" to Idsall Church in exchange for another piece in "Halhton."

I must close the present account with merely stating that after the feoffment of Alan de Cherleton (who was of Apley), by his Brother Sir John de Cherleton (of Powis), Haughton and its adjuncts continued in the line of Cherleton of Apley for several generations.

A CHAPEL formerly belonged to the *vill* of Haughton. Some remains, apparently existing in the last Century, have now totally disappeared.<sup>233</sup>

### DRAYTON.

The principal Tenants here were of the family of Pater-Noster. The first whom I find named is William Pater-Noster, who before 1194, attests two Deeds of Walter de Dunstanvill, and who probably was identical with William de Drayton, assessed in 1209 as one living within jurisdiction of the Forest of Mount-Gilbert.<sup>234</sup>

At the Assizes of 1272, Alice de Drayton was found not to be prosecuting her suit of *novel disseizin* in Suffenhale (Shiffnal) against Robert de Montfort and John D'Evereus.

Between 1270 and 1280, Richard Pater-Noster occurs more than once, as a witness of Deeds or as a Juror.

From 1292 to 1316, William Pater-Noster occurs in similar positions, being accompanied by Thomas de Drayton in 1304, and by Richard Pater-Noster in 1316.

The last occurs repeatedly from 1320 to 1348; and John, son of Richard Pater-Noster and Nephew of William de Steventon, occurs in 1335.

ROGER HOD of Drayton represented another family which held here under the Lords of Idsall. He (Roger) occurs in 1261, and from thence till 1279. From 1296 to 1335, William Hod seems to hold the Tenancy.

<sup>232</sup> Charter at Haughton.—Witnesses: John Deverrois, John de Stivinton, John Erberd, William Pater-Noster, William Hod, William de Devises, and Thomas de la Knolle. This Charter is dated "at Salop, on the Morrow of the Exhaltation of the Holy Cross, in the third year of the reign of King Edward."—Again, the

King, thus indicated, must have been Edward II.

<sup>233</sup> Blakeway MSS. Dukes' App. p. xii.

<sup>234</sup> *Placita Forestæ*, 10 John, Salop, memb. 4. Assessments are charged consecutively on the Prior of Wombrigg, William de Drayton, Aky, the *vill* of Tibberton, and the *vill* of Idchall.

On May 21, 1311, William Hod of Drayton quitted to Wombridge Priory all right of common in the herbage and *pannage* of the Canons' Wood of Leshwyke.<sup>235</sup>

On Oct. 2, 1334, William Hod of Drayton leases for his own life his hall (aulam) and homestead (boverium) at Trilwardyne with a *curtilage* and two crofts.<sup>236</sup> William Hod seems afterwards to have sold his property at Trilwardine to Sir Alan de Cherleton, who renews the lease in 1336.<sup>237</sup>

#### STANTON.

About 1219, Walter de Dunstanvill (II) assigned to Shrewsbury Abbey rents of 4s. and 2s. payable by Robert Fitz Adam and Thomas le Hog on land in Stanton.<sup>238</sup>

From about 1235 to 1265, I find a Ralph de Stanton occurring under circumstances which induce me to consider him as Tenant here.

About 1269, Robert de Staunton appears in a similar position, and in 1279, Walter de Staunton seems to have had a chief interest in the *vill*.

#### UPTON.

There may be some doubt whether Upton were originally a member of Tong or of Idsall. Though the Lords of Idsall seem to have claimed some manorial authority here, they ultimately established an unquestioned seignery, by composition, and not as a matter of right.

The first Under-Tenants whom I can find holding Upton seem to have been *Cadets* of the family of Hugford.

Walter, Lord of Hugford, in 1096, had a Brother Henry, who has already occurred under date of 1203,<sup>239</sup> and who very possibly was of Upton. Again William de Hugford, whom we have mentioned as at issue with the Abbot of Buildwas in 1221,<sup>240</sup> was, I think undoubtedly, La Zouche's Tenant here.

We have also seen how Henry de Hugford became about 1228-38, a Feoffee of Roger la Zouche in Tong-Norton and Shaw. There is good reason to believe that at an earlier period this Henry de Hugford was Tenant of the same Baron at Upton.—

<sup>235</sup> Chartulary. *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. xx. —Witnesses: Roger Corbet, Peter Lord of Eyton, John d'Everoys, John de Stevinton, William Pater-Noster, &c.

<sup>236</sup> Charter at Haughton.—Dated at Ideshale, and attested by Richard Pater-Noster, Thomas de Stevinton, Thomas

de la Knolle, Hugh Colle, Walter de Vises (a corruption of De Devises).

<sup>237</sup> Charter at Haughton.

<sup>238</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 378.

<sup>239</sup> *Supra*, page 85.

<sup>240</sup> *Supra*, page 217.

In virtue of the latter tenure, and before the year 1231, Henry de Hugford granted the following *subinfeudation* here, viz. He gave, &c. to Peter, Clerk, son of Master Richard of Hydeshall, for his homage and service, and for 15s. paid down, half-a-virgate of land in Upton, viz. that which Alfwin held, with all appurtenances except the orchard and curtilage, in lieu whereof he, Henry, gave two acres elsewhere. He also gave seventeen acres of his demesne, viz. six acres in the field towards Stanton, seven acres in the field towards Hettun, on this side Blakenhul, and five acres in Binstun in the field of Brunestree:—to hold to the grantee and his hereditary assignee, so that he commit not the premises to any House of Religion,<sup>241</sup> rendering a rent of 3s. annually in lieu of all other services, except foreign service.<sup>242</sup>

This deed implies Henry de Hugford to have been Mesne-Lord of other parts of Upton besides the premises conveyed. Probably indeed he held the whole Township under La Zouche.

I find no mention of Henry de Hugford later than 1247; <sup>243</sup> nor can I suppose that his heirs continued to possess any mesne tenure in Upton. I believe their interest here to have been purchased by the seignoural Lords of Tong or of Idsall. Certainly the 3s. rent, reserved in the above Deed, was afterwards paid by the heirs of the Feoffee to Walter de Dunstanvill (III).

Following events however in chronological order, we pass to July 1, 1247, for the next notice of Upton, after Hugford's Deed.

On that day, as has appeared by a Fine already cited, Alan la Zouche conveyed to Buildwas Abbey "the whole tenement which he had in Upton, with special warranty against the capital Lords, as regarded all services, suits of the Manor-Court of Ideshale, &c. for ever."<sup>244</sup>

I have already quoted the *Convention*, whereby the Abbot of Buildwas conceded the *vill* of Upton to Walter de Dunstanvill (III), in 1248, for an annual rent of 40s. and other considerations.<sup>245</sup>

Very soon, as I think, after he had acquired Upton, "Sir Walter

<sup>241</sup> An unusual caution in deeds of so early a date,—but suggested in this instance, I imagine, by the coterminous acquisitions of Buildwas Abbey.

<sup>242</sup> Charter at Haughton. Attested by Richard de Ruton and Gerard de Ivilith, Knights, Walter de Stiriclega (Stirchley), Walter de Lega, Hugh de Haltun, Walter Marescald, Roger Stuiorius, Ro-

bert de Trilleworthin, Alan de Lauelg (Lawley), John de Hinitun, Robert de Wikes, &c.

<sup>243</sup> His attestation of a Broseley Deed between 1244 and 1249 is the latest notice of him which I can mention. (Supra, p. 22.)

<sup>244</sup> . <sup>245</sup> Supra, pp. 221 299.

de Dunstancville *Tercius* granted to Reginald de Upton, Clerk, a parcel of land lying between the Ditch without Haghul and another Ditch towards the Park of Ydeshale.<sup>246</sup> The Feoffee may give or sell the ground to any one, except a Religious body."<sup>247</sup>

The heir or successor to Peter Clericus (Hugford's Feoffee in Upton) seems to have been Richard Irish of Dawley, to whom succeeded his Son John.

The latter, styling himself "John Son of Richard Hybernensis of Dalileg," grants to Petronilla his Sister, all his land in the *vill* of Upton, viz. that which Robert Bernehout held of Richard his (John's) Father. The Deed provides against any transfer of the Premises to a Religious House, and reserves "a rent of 3s. to Sir Walter de Dunstanvill, according to that which is contained in the Charter of Sir Henry de Hugford, which Charter the Grantor (John) had given to Petronilla, when he put her in *seizin* of the said land."<sup>248</sup>

Walter de Dunstanvill *Tercius* inspects, recites, and confirms this last Deed as Seignoural Lord, reserving the rent of 3s. to himself.<sup>249</sup> The confirmation seems to have immediately followed the Charter, and to have been necessary, inasmuch as the former implied an absolute change of Tenants, not a mere *subinfeudation*, which last would have left John Fitz Richard Irish a mesne Tenant.

Perhaps the Grantee in the last Deed is the same person who more than forty years afterwards, under the name of "Petronilla

<sup>246</sup> Idsall Park seems to have lain to the South of the Town, and so to have abutted on Upton to its East. A mansion at the Southern extremity of the Town is still known as Park-House, and a road leading due South is still called Park-Lane.

<sup>247</sup> Charter at Houghton.—Witnesses : Sir Roger de Pivelesdon, John de Beckebur (deceased in 1254), John de Grenhul, William de Divises, John de Stivinton, Herbert de Wike, Hugh de Alcton (Houghton), &c.—

The Seal of this deed is broken, but the label (a slip of parchment cut from some older and then useless deed) contains a few words of writing which I shall have hereafter to give as evidence in a question of some difficulty.

<sup>248</sup> Charter at Houghton.—Witnesses :

Radulph de Stanton, Roger de Haltun, Oliver de la Knolle, Robert de Trilleworthin, Herbert de Wyke, Adam Pollart, Robert Pollart, Robert de Lotwic, Philip Ybernensis, &c.—

This deed is fastened with those of Henry de Hugford, and with the following Confirmation of Walter de Dunstanvill. It probably passed between 1260 and 1270.

<sup>249</sup> Charter at Houghton.—The witnesses precisely the same as the last. The Seal of this deed is preserved. It has the Effigy of a Knight in the armour of the period, on horseback, charging sword in hand. On his shield is a Coat-of-arms—

Fretty, with a fesse ;—  
—though the latter would hardly be discoverable without some pre-expectation of such a bearing.

de Upton, gives to Richard her Son twelve acres and three roods of land in the heath of Upton, lying between lands of Richard Pater-Noster, Richard Fitz Roger, and John le Taylur.—To hold of the Lords of the Fee.”<sup>250</sup>

SUCH WERE the principal Members of the extensive Manor of Idsall in early times. There were other Tenants in the Manor of equal standing with those enumerated, but whose interests were rather associated with the Town itself than with any particular member of the Manor. Some of these families shall be briefly noticed, *e. g.*—

STEVINTON.—John de Stevinton occurs from 1260 to 1304, as a Juror, on no less than eight occasions, and a witness of numberless deeds. He was in fact Bailiff of Idsall, and attests under that title, at least on one occasion.—

About 1280, being apparently resident at Wyke, he quits to Wombridge Priory all his claim in the wood of Leftwich (or Lestwyk).<sup>251</sup>

And John de Stevinton his son and heir granted to the Priory, on April 13, 1309, a fuller acquittance of the said claim. His Charter recites previous grants in connection with the said wood of Lestwyke *juxta* Wombridge, viz. how in the first instance Sir Walter de Dunstanvill (III) had given his (John’s) Father *estovers* there, and how he had afterwards concurred with Thomas Tuschet (Lord of Leegomery) in granting the wood to the Priory, how also his (John’s) Father had quitted all his right therein, in favour of the Canons.<sup>252</sup>

On the same day (April 13, 1309), Philip Prior of Wombridge quitted to John de Stevinton all right of his House in the *assarts*, wastes, and improved lands of John de Stevinton in Ideshale Manor.<sup>253</sup>

<sup>250</sup> Charter at Haughton.—Witnesses : John le Taylur, Richard Pater-Noster, William de Levereshet, Elyas Clerk, Richard Howle, &c.—The deed probably passed in the time of Edward II.

<sup>251</sup> Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. xxij.—Witnesses : John the Grantor’s son and heir, Adam de Preston, Philip de Bekeburi, Ranulf de Grenhul, Thomas de Brocton, &c.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibidem*, No. xxj.—Witnesses : Sir Roger Corbet, Sir William de Wrotteslye,

John de Bekeburi, &c.—The Charter is dated 2 Edw. I, according to an usual error of transcribers. It passed doubtless in 2 Edw. II.

<sup>253</sup> *Ibidem*, No. liij. This deed is properly dated 2 Edw. II. It is tested by the same two Knights as the last, also by Sir Walter de Huggeforde, Sir Walter de Beysin, and Sir Thomas Corbet (of Moreton).—

The different mode in which the same day (April 13) is expressed by these con-

On February 24, 1316, I find this second John de Stevinton attesting a Deed as "Seneschal of the Manor of Ideshal," an office which, if identical with Bailiff, will have descended to him from his Father.

He was living in 1320; after which William, Hugh, and Thomas de Stevinton occur as witnesses of manorial deeds.

DEVEREUX.—John Devereux,—his name spelt with all those varieties to which Norman names were especially subject,—occurs earlier than 1280, and later than 1340,—as a Juror or Witness, in Idsall Manor or its neighbourhood. Perhaps more than one or two persons may be thus indicated, but the place of his or their Tenancy does not transpire.

DEVISES.—We have already mentioned the acquittal in 1272 of William son of Robert de Divises, who had been bailed by the men of Idsall. As William de Divises, he is constantly occurring in local concerns till 1316. In 1322 and 1334, we have mention of Walter de Divises, called, in one instance, son of William senior, and appearing to be interested in Upton.

POLLARD.—There was an Adam Pollard, Juror, in the matter of Tong Advowson in 1220. The same name occurs repeatedly for the next fifty years. In some cases the bearer is described "of Legh." About 1269, Adam Pollard appears attesting deeds with Robert his Son. Then we have Robert singly till 1316. Between 1270 and 1274, this Robert had a grant of *assart-land* from Sir Robert de Montfort, which he afterwards surrendered to Dame Petronilla, Sir Robert's Widow.<sup>254</sup>

#### IDSALL CHURCH.

I have already stated how the Saxon and Collegiate Church of Iteshale was granted by the first Norman Lord of the Manor to Shrewsbury Abbey; how also the same Norman (Robert Fitz Tethald) did, during the reign of Henry I, make such further assignation of this Advowson to the same Abbey, as that the Collegiate character of the Church came to be extinct, and its

temporary Deeds is curious. The former dates itself on "Sunday after the feast of St. Leo the Pope" (meaning Leo the Great); the latter is dated on "Sunday, before the feast of Tiburtius and Valerian." Each date in 2 Edward II (1309) will

be found to be reducible to Sunday April 13th.

<sup>254</sup> Blakeway MSS. (from Newport Deeds). The surrender is tested by Hugh de Bolyngdale, Philip de Beekburi, and John de Stivinton.



revenues only an augmentation of the Treasury of a distant Monastery.

The Saxon Parish of Iteshale was, like other Saxon Parishes, extensive. It included Kemberton, Ryton, Sheriff-Hales, and Dawley, as we may gather from indications or evidences still existing. It was probably far more comprehensive.

I have shown how the assignation of these great Saxon Churches to Monasteries of Norman foundation or patronage, resulted in an utter neglect of all spiritual cure as regarded rural districts. The Churches or Chapels which were built to remedy this state of destitution were usually the work of Laymen. Some such were founded in the Parish of Idsall, and probably in the early half of the twelfth Century. Our present concern is however with the Parent Church.—

Robert Fitz Tetbald's gift thereof to Shrewsbury Abbey was confirmed by Charters of Henry I, Stephen, Henry II, and Henry III, though at the date of the last-named confirmation the Advowson no longer appertained to the Monks.

The earliest confirmation to Shrewsbury Abbey by any Bishop of Chester Diocese is that of Bishop Roger de Clinton (1129-1148). It is very similar in expression to those contemporary Charters of Robert de Betun Bishop of Hereford (1131-1148) which have been quoted under Morville. The two Bishops seem to have adopted the same principles as regards the subject condition of recent Churches, and the pensions and other rights of the older establishments.<sup>255</sup>

Bishop Roger of Chester, addressing his Archdeacons and Deans (Rural Deans) and all the faithful who shall see his letter, informs them that he "confirms the Churches or Tithes which have been given to the Brethren of St. Peter's Monastery by the faithful. The Clerks however who, by appointment of the said Brethren, preside over their Churches, are to pay the annual pensions due to the said Brethren out of such Churches, according to the mode allowed by the Bishop to the Monks. The Monks are to continue to have all tithes, as well in their own demesnes as in the demesnes

<sup>255</sup> There is another reason for thinking that these two Prelates acted in concert. Archbishop Theobald, confirming to Shrewsbury Abbey, addresses them together (Chartulary, No. 55);—where however the Transcriber has attributed the Charter to Archbishop Thomas, and the Writer of

the Index to "St. Thomas the Martyr," meaning Becket. The latter however was not contemporary with the Prelates whom he is supposed to address. The original Charter of Confirmation begun T. d. g. Cant. Archiepiscopos, as we may learn from Harl. MS. 3863, fo. 7, b.

of others, which they, previously and without dispute, enjoyed." "And because," adds the Bishop, "necessity compelling,<sup>256</sup> we have consecrated Cemeteries and dedicated Chapels in certain Parishes of theirs, we enjoin that said Chapels be subject to the Mother Churches, as daughters; and that on solemn days the people assemble not at the Chapels but at the Church; and that the Priest of the Mother Church, if he wishes, may cause the bodies of the dead to be carried to the Cemetery thereof."

"We have thought proper," continues the Bishop, "to confirm with the seal of our authority, all Churches, and all Tithes, and the Pensions of the underwritten Churches."—

The list which follows, includes the "Church of Ideshale, with its Chapels, and a pension of 30s." The Bishop enjoins in conclusion that the aforesaid Brethren hold these Churches, Tithes, and Pensions in peace. He threatens with *anathema* any one who shall in future trouble them in the matter.<sup>257</sup>

The confirmation of Bishop Walter Durdent (1149-1159), to Shrewsbury Abbey, is prefaced nearly word for word as that of his Predecessor. It would imply that he too had consecrated several Chapels and Cemeteries as a matter of necessity. As regards the rights of the Abbey under Robert Fitz Tetbald's grant, he is more specific than Bishop Roger. He confirms the "Church of Itesall with the tithe of the Manor, and the tithe of Cambrestone, and with the Chapels pertaining to the aforesaid Church." His Charter makes no enumeration of Pensions.<sup>258</sup>

The confirmation of Bishop Richard Peche (1161-1182), to Shrewsbury Abbey, includes the Pension of 30s., but makes no mention of Tithes or Chapels attaching to "Idesale Church."<sup>259</sup>

Between the years 1184 and 1190, Archbishop Baldwin seems to have confirmed the Charter of Walter Durdent; and Archbishop John Peckham visiting the Diocese of Lichfield in 1280, confirmed the Pension of 30s. as due to Salop Abbey from the "Church of Ideshale."<sup>260</sup>

Long previous to this last date, the Advowson of Idsall, had returned to the Lords of the Manor. In what way I will now declare.—

<sup>256</sup> An allusion doubtless to the civil wars of the period.

<sup>257</sup> Harl. MSS. 3868, fo. 7, b.

<sup>258</sup> Salop Chartulary, No. 61.

<sup>259</sup> *Ibidem*, No. 329.

<sup>260</sup> *Ibidem*, Nos. 61, 62. The first

Charter has been improperly attributed to Archbishop Boniface. It begins with the letter "B." in initial only;—which the Writer of the Index has, as usual, interpreted according to his own ideas, and interpreted wrongly.

Early in 1219, the Abbot of Shrewsbury and Walter de Dunstanvill (II) were at issue on the subject, but seem to have arrived at some basis of agreement before the date of the following.—

On October 6, 1219, the Justices at Westminster appointed the Morrow of St. Martin (Nov. 12) for the parties to receive their *Chirograph* (formal fine). It was enjoined to the Abbot's Attorney that he should on that day bring with him the Charter of the Abbot and Convent concerning their *Quitclaim* to the Advowson of a Church, whereof there had been agreement, and Walter was ordered meanwhile to assign to the said Abbot and Convent land and rent which he had given for the said *Quitclaim*, viz. 30s. Walter appointed Henry de Waltham his Attorney.

On the day named (says a postscript), the Abbot's Attorney produced the Charters and rendered them up; so the Parties were ordered to have their *Chirograph*.<sup>261</sup>

This *Chirograph* or Final Concord is preserved.—

It purports to be levied at Westminster on the Morrow of St. Martin in the 4th year of King Henry son of John (Nov. 12, 1219), between Walter de Dunstanvill, Plaintiff, by Henry de Wautham his Attorney, and Hugh, Abbot of Salopesbir, Deforciant, by Thomas, a Monk, his Attorney,—concerning the Advowson of the Church of Ydesdal, whereof was suit of *darrein presentment*, &c. The Abbot renounced all right therein to Walter and his Heirs, saving to the Abbot the due and ancient Pension which the same Abbot was wont to receive from the said Church.<sup>262</sup>

The Salop Chartulary supplies its contingent to all but a complete understanding of this transaction.—

By a Charter therein, Walter de Dunstanvill grants to the Abbey 27s. (not 30s.) annually, viz. 10s. to be received of William Fitz Ralph ✓ of Blancmunster (Whitchurch) for the Fee which he held under the said Walter in Chalvrehalle (Calverhall), 3s. receivable from Henry de Savinton (Shavinton), 2s. from Leonard de Leges, 1s. from Alan the Chaplain, 4s. and 2s. from Robert Fitz Adam and Thomas le Hog for their respective Fees in Shavinton, Leges, Wyches,

<sup>261</sup> *Placita apud Westm.* Michaelmas Term, 3 & 4 Hen. III, memb. 1.

<sup>262</sup> *Pedes Finium*, 4 Hen. III, Salop. Mr. Blakeway, weighing apparently the genuineness of Earl Roger's Foundation-Charter to Shrewsbury Abbey, says adversely, that "there are no traces that either the Churehes of Kemberton or

Idshall ever belonged to the said Abbey, except that it enjoyed to the last a pension of 30s. issuing out of that of Idshall" (*History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 14, note). I believe that none of the objections to Earl Roger's Charter are much better founded.

and Stanton; also 3s. *per annum* from the Abbot of Buildwas for common-pasture which he enjoyed in the Manor of Hydeshale.<sup>263</sup>

In 1291, the Church of Ydesale was valued at £20. *per annum* over and above the Pension of 30s. which the Abbot of Salop received therefrom.<sup>264</sup>

In 1341, the Assessors of *the Ninth* of wheat, wool, and lamb, in the Parish of Idsall, recited the *Taxation* at which the Church stood as one of 20 merks (£13. 6s. 8d.), but reduced their assessment to £12. 9s. The reasons which they gave for the difference were, because the Abbot of Buldewas had in the Parish a certain Grange, called Hatton, in which were three carucates of land and many sheep; and this tenure, though included in the *Taxation*, was not rateable to the *Ninth*; because also the glebelands, rents and services of Tenants, tithes of hay and pasture, oblations, and other small tithes of the Church, went to constitute the greater sum (*the Taxation*), and did not belong to *the Ninth* now granted to the King; lastly, because the corn had been destroyed by sundry storms.<sup>265</sup>

In 1534, the Abbot's pension of 30s., issuing out of Idsall Church, is duly returned among his current receipts. The Church itself, then a Vicarage, of which William Moreton was Incumbent, was valued at £16. 5s. 10d., out of which sum 16s. 8d. was payable for Procurations, and 2s. 6d. for Synodals.

The Rectory, *fermed* at £10. *per annum*, belonged to Battlefield College, as did also the Tithes of Dawley (originally a Chapelry of Idsall), which were *fermed* at £3. 6s. 8d.<sup>266</sup>

#### EARLY INCUMBENTS.

WALTER DE DUNSTANVILL,<sup>267</sup> the first Rector of Idsall, of whom we have any notice, was also Rector of St. Michael's, Salop, a piece

<sup>263</sup> No. 378. Tested by John Fitz Alan, Vivian de Rossall, and Robert de Gyros. The date is of course 1219.

<sup>264</sup> *Pope Nicholas' Taxation*, p. 248.

<sup>265</sup> *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 184. The "3 carrucates of Hatton" probably included Upton.

<sup>266</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, iii, 188, 187, 195. The Rectors of St. Andrews of "Yddessall" also paid a pension of 13s. 4d. to the Bishop and Archdeacon, a *Senage* of 4s. and a triennial Procuracy, averaging 8s. 10d. *per annum*, to the Bishop.

They, that is Battlefield College, had lands at Aston, described in the same Record as Aston juxta "Shuffnal." Up to this period (1534), I do not remember that the name Shiffnal was ever applied to the Church.

<sup>267</sup> Mr. Blakeway (*History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii, p. 417) suggests that he was a Son of Reginald Earl of Cornwall, clinging, I suppose, to the old idea that the latter was sometime Lord of Idsall.—

Even if we assign him such a parentage it does not appear how he could be Cousin

of preferment which he can only have obtained by favour of the Crown. He occurs as Rector of St. Michael's before the death of Henry II (1189), who will therefore have been his Patron. He was Cousin (cognatus) of Walter de Dunstanvill (I) of Idsall, and as such attests one of his Charters. Others he attests, simply styling himself "Clerk" or "Parson of Idsall." "As Master Walter de Dunstanvill" and "Master Walter" he appears to have attested Charters of Hugh de Novant Bishop of Coventry, one of which will have passed about 1188, the others on Nov. 24, 1190.<sup>268</sup>—

He was living in 1206, and, as Master Walter de Dunstanvill, then stands first witness of a matter referred to high ecclesiastical arbitration by Pope Innocent III.<sup>269</sup>—

His successor<sup>270</sup> (immediate or otherwise) at St. Michael's, was appointed by King John, on January 18, 1215; and the vacancy which four years afterwards we know to have existed at Idsall, may have originated at the same period, for during the interval no Law-Courts had been sitting, such as might have decided any pending cause of *darrein presentment*.

On gaining the right of Advowson in 1219, Walter Lord of Idsall seems to have presented one Philip, for PHILIP PARSON OF IDESHAL had, on 29 July 1221, Letters Patent of Protection till the King should be of age.<sup>271</sup>

In the middle of the thirteenth Century—

WALTER DE KEMBERTON is a frequent witness of local Deeds. In one of these he is expressly styled Rector of the Church of Ideshall.

MASTER JOHN JOYE was Rector here in 1269; on August 29th of which year he came to an agreement with the Prior of Wombridge, abandoning a claim which he had been urging on the Prior for Tithes of certain live-stock which had apparently been only

to Walter Baron of Idsall. He would have been his Brother-in-Law, *i.e.* Brother of the apocryphal, if not fabulous, Ursula, of whom we have already spoken. The family of Dunstanvill was numerous.—There was a William de Dunstanvill, with a younger Brother Walter, in Stephen's reign, and both of these may have again been Brothers of Robert and Alan. If so, our Clerk, being son of either said William or Walter, will have been also first-Cousin of Walter Baron of Idsall.

<sup>268</sup> Wombridge Chartulary, *Tit. Brocton*. Nos. c*j*, c*ij*.

<sup>269</sup> *Madox Formulæ Angl.* No. xlvi.

<sup>270</sup> "Master Richard of Idshall," who occurs before 1190 and after 1220, and often in the interval, and who was Father of at least two sons, Peter and Nicholas, does not seem to have been Rector of the Church. His apparent importance however requires some specific mention of his name, and I think that he must have been an Ecclesiastic.

<sup>271</sup> *Patent*, 5 Hen. III.

used and fed within the Parish of Idsall accidentally, but belonged to another district. The special privileges granted by the Pope to Wombridge Priory seem to have exempted it from this liability.<sup>272</sup>

MASTER ADAM LE GUST,<sup>273</sup> "Rector of the Church of Idshall," attests a Charter of Fulk le Strange, already cited, and which appears to have passed in June 1300.

In Trinity Term 1305, "Adam Gest, Parson of Ideshale," would seem to be under prosecution of John de la Mare, Lord of Ideshale, on two matters, one for cutting down trees of the said John, the other for some trespass in regard to Deer. To the first charge Adam replied that he was only taking *house-bote*, to the other that at the time of the alleged offence he was Seneschal of the said Lord of Idsall.<sup>274</sup>

Master Adam Gest died Sept. 11, 1328, and on Sept. 16 following, MASTER THOMAS DE CLOPTON was admitted to the Rectory on presentation of Dame Margaret D'Oumframvill, Lady of Badlesmere.<sup>275</sup>

In 1329, and, as I suppose, ignoring the last presentation, the King presented—

ROBERT SWYNNERTON to this Living, the Patronage whereof belonged to the Crown by reason of the Barony of Bartholomew de Badlesmere being *in manu Regis*.<sup>276</sup>—

This however seems to have been revoked, for on December 17, 1330, I find the Bishop readmitting SIR THOMAS DE CLOPTON, Priest, but on the presentation of King Edward III. On March 5, 1331, Thomas de Clopton resigned, having exchanged preferments with Simon de Clopton, Incumbent of Walton. Accordingly on the same day the Bishop admits—

SIR SIMON DE CLOPTON, Subdeacon, at the King's presentation.<sup>277</sup>

<sup>272</sup> Chartulary, *Tit. Lega Prioris*, No. li.

<sup>273</sup> Mr. Blakeway quotes Prynne (iii, 593) for a Protection granted in 22 Edw. I (1293-4) to Master Adam de *West*, Parson of Ideshale.

<sup>274</sup> *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, p. 254.

<sup>275</sup> Lichfield Register, B, fo. 206 b. The Patroness of Idsall Church on this occasion was Margaret, Widow of Bartholomew Lord Badlesmere, who, having been taken prisoner at the battle of Borough-Bridge, in March 1322, was executed for High Treason. His Widow is said to have been by birth a De Clare, to have been impri-

soned in The Tower for some time after her husband's death, and on her release to have gone into a Nunnery; but she is also said to have had Idsall assigned to her in part of her dower in 1331.—

One or other of these statements must require modification from the fact of her being styled Dame Margaret D'Umframville in 1328.

<sup>276</sup> *Patent*, 3 Edw. III, p. 1, memb. 34.

<sup>277</sup> Lichfield Register, B, 208 b. The presentation of Simon de Clopton is also on the *Patent Rolls* of 4 Edw. III (part 2, membs. 12 & 24).

On March 6, 1331, the said Simon had license to study for four years. He died August 20, 1349; and on Sept. 10 following, the Bishop admitted—

RICHARD GARLAUND, Clerk, at presentation of Sir William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton and Constable of England.<sup>278</sup>

#### FABRIC OF THE CHURCH.

Shiffnal Church is a large building of several dates. It has a nave with aisles and a south porch, north and south transept, and central tower, and a chancel with a south aisle or chapel, called the Moreton Chancel.

Part of the south transept, part of the north wall of the chancel, and the chancel arch, which is eastward of that under the east wall of the tower, are of a transitional style between the Norman and Early-English, and probably belong to the end of the twelfth century. The chancel arch is round, and the mouldings are somewhat remarkable; in one of them, the Early-English dog-tooth ornament appears.

The south porch, which has a Parvise or upper story, is of Early-English character; perhaps with a slight tendency to the Decorated, but I doubt not, belonging to the thirteenth century, though probably to the latter half of it. The outer door has a trefoiled arch. The bay of the aisle corresponding with the porch has a stone-ribbed vault, and is lower than the rest of the aisle, its pier arch too is not so high as the others.

The nave, chancel (with the exception already noticed), and central tower are of the Decorated style; I should say somewhat early in the fourteenth century. The north aisle has had some very late windows inserted. The central tower is very plain, and has a large stair-turret at the north-west angle. The tower stands on four piers of which the two eastern ones do not range with the eastern wall of the transepts, so that it is not so large as a tower fitted to the actual intersection: notwithstanding this, it is still massive rather than the contrary. The east window of the chancel, and those on the north and south, near the east end, have a peculiar character, and seem Early in the style. The west window I think must have been modernized. The chancel has some good Sedilia.

<sup>278</sup> Register, B, 224 a & b. William | of his wife Elizabeth, Sister and Coheir of  
de Bohun was Lord of Idsall in right | Giles last Baron Badlesmere.

The Moreton chancel, now screened off as a vestry, is of a later Decorated, and exhibits flowing tracery in its windows.

The north transept is entirely of Perpendicular work, of the fifteenth century; and the south transept has windows and parapet of the same style.

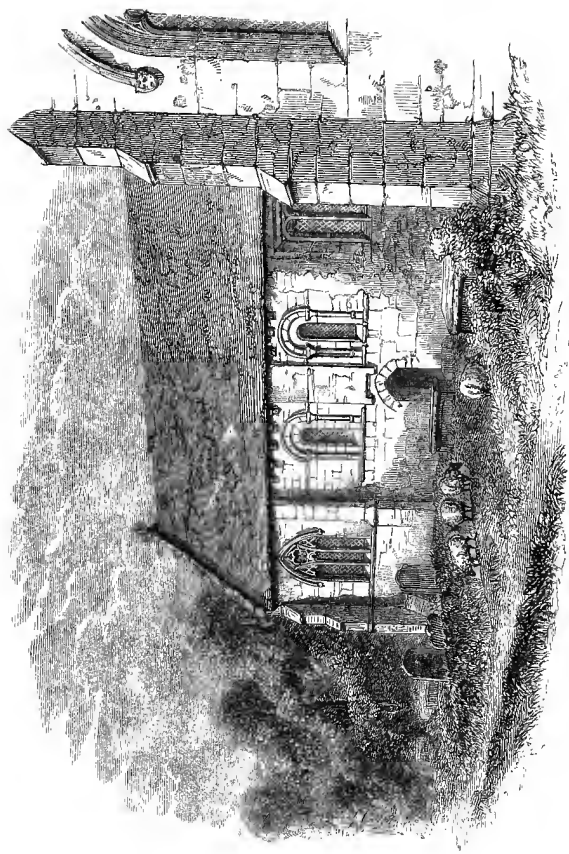
The portion of the south aisle between the porch and the transept is of very late work; I should say of the sixteenth century; it is much wider than the western part of the aisle, or than the north aisle.

The Church is on the whole in good preservation, and both the Transitional, the Early-English, and the older Decorated portions may be studied with confidence, as retaining their principal features unaltered.

J. L. PETIT.

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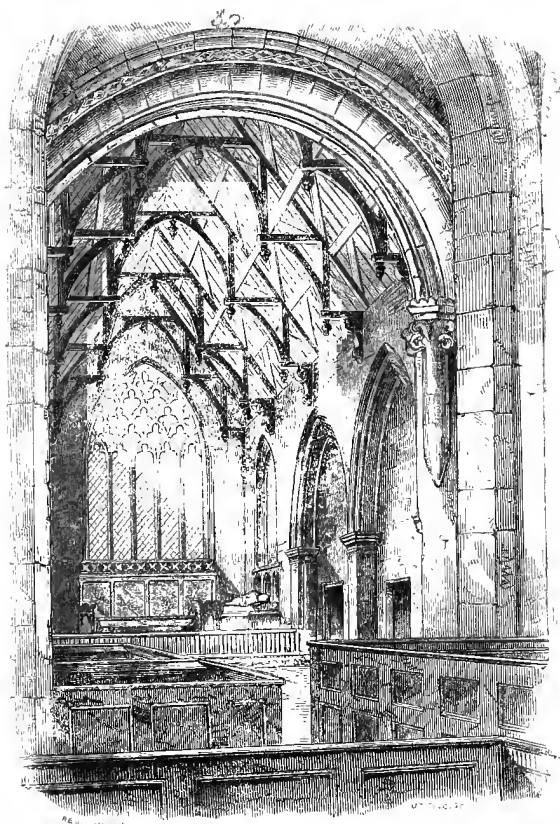




CHANCEL OF SHIPFNAL CHURCH

(North Side.)





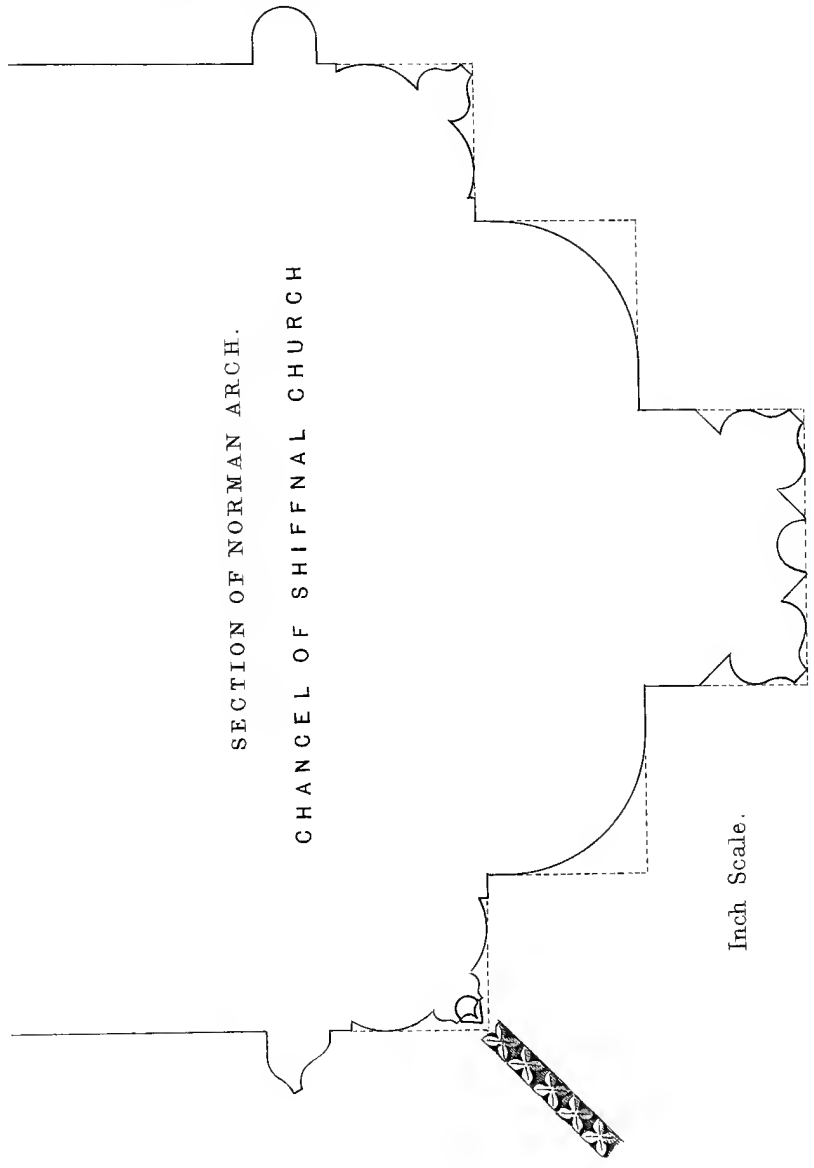
CHANCEL, SHIFFNAL.



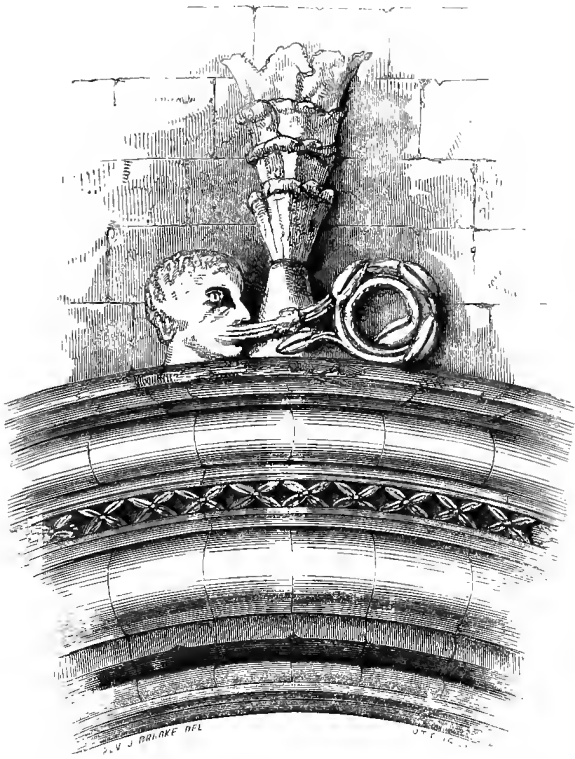
East Side.

SECTION OF NORMAN ARCH.  
CHANCEL OF SHIFFNAL CHURCH

Inch Scale.







FINIAL AND DEVICE OVER THE WESTERN FACE OF  
CHANCEL-ARCH, SHIFFNAL





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\* \* \* The name of each Place, which has formed the subject of a distinct notice, is printed in Capital Letters.

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