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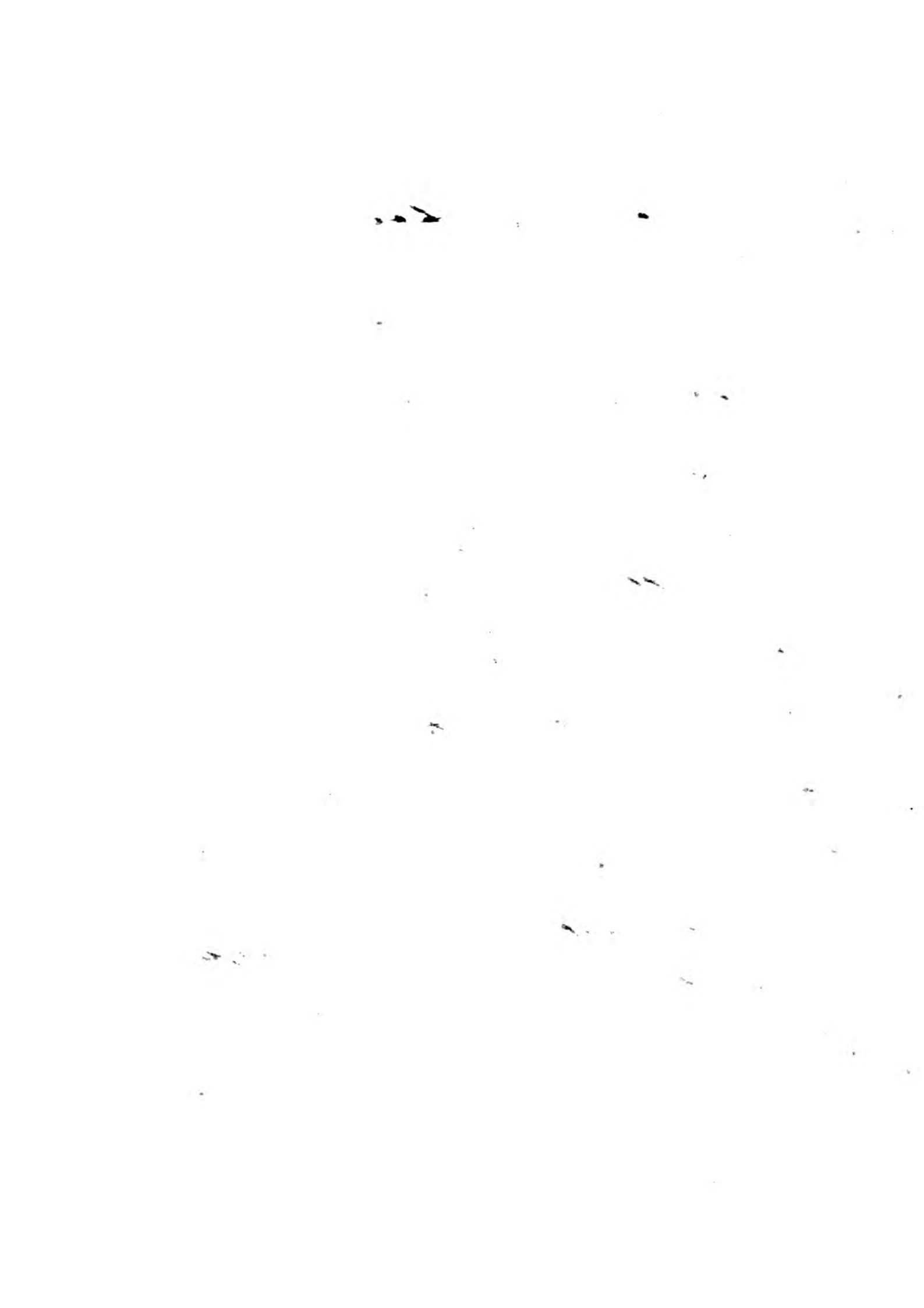


These Memoirs, of which only 100
copies were printed for private
distribution by George John Hall
Lord Kerriera, were written by
Thomas Stapleton Esq. Barrister
a distinguished Antiquary, & brother
of the gentleman who afterwards
became Lord Beaumont. Unfor-
tunately Mr. Stapleton did not live
long enough to complete them although
he had prepared much historical matter
of great interest all of which is now lost.
The present copy is presented to Sir John
Hugh Sumner Subright Bart by a
very sincere friend

Beechwood

Warren

Michaelmas day 1856.





HISTORICAL MEMOIRS
OF THE
HOUSE OF VERNON.

CHAPTER I.

Origin of surname of Vernon—Description of Vernon-sur-Seine—Etymology of the word—Pagus Madriacensis—Osmundus Vicecomes—Territory of Vernon—Castle of Vernon—Guy of Burgundy Comte de Vernon—Genealogies of Robert du Mont—Osmund de Centumvillis—Houses of Anet and of Ivry—House of Reviere-Vernon—Hugo Monachus, Castellan of Vernon—William de Vernon, his son—Tomb of William de Vernon, Founder of Nôtre Dame de Vernon—Tomb of Sir William Vernon, Kt. and Wife, at Vernon—at Tong Com. Salop.—Emma wife of first William de Vernon—their issue.

671—1077.



THE origin of the distinctive appellation of the noble House bearing the surname of Vernon, is derived, in common with many now constituting the Baronage of England, from the place of their primitive domicile in Normandy, the parent country of the last race who effected the subjugation of the older inhabitants. Fortunately in the instance of the family of Vernon, we have not the labour of tracing a dubious connection with an obscure vill or fief; the Chatellenie of Vernon formed one of the territorial subdivisions of Normandy, and the Castle, with its hereditary Lords, are on record in the Anglo-Norman Chronicles.

A.D. 671.

Derivative of
Name of
Vernon.

A. D. 671. According to the present territorial division of France, Vernon is a *Commune* in the *Département* de L'Eure, and *arrondissement* d'Evreux; and as being the *chef-lieu*, gives name to the *canton* in which it is situate. Few places can boast of a more picturesque site; the hills, which wall in the basin of the Seine, rise behind the town in a gentle slope, richly clothed with groves and vineyards, and sweeping towards the west in the form of an amphitheatre, leave an extensive plain enclosed in the hollow between the two extremities of the curve. On the opposite bank, steeper acclivities intersected by deep valleys, and crowned with dense woods on their rocky summits, front the river, which in this part of its course is dotted with islets. Upon one of these rests the bridge which joins the town of Vernon to the suburb of Vernonnet, the lesser Vernon as its name imports. The fosses of the town are still traceable in their whole extent, and the shape of the area enclosed by them will be seen by referring to the bird's-eye view of the *Ville de Vernon*, taken from the original drawing by C. Chatillon engraved in 1648;¹ with which should be compared the *plan de Vernon* in 1593, preserved in the Royal Library.²

Commune of
Vernon.

Castle of
Vernon.

Of the Castle, the great round tower at one of the angles, is still remaining, a work of the thirteenth century, the lights being trefoil headed, and the arches pointed. It is remarkable for its height and the thickness of its walls; in the upper story the groins of the vaulting rest on corbels of massive heads and crouching figures, carefully sculptured. The wall, with which there was a communication from the tower only by a drawbridge, and to which the door

¹ Topographie Française ou Représentations de plusieurs villes, &c. dessinez par deffunct Claude Chastillon et autres, et mis en lumiere par Jean Boisseau, Enluminateur du Roy pour les cartes Géographiques. Paris, 1648, fol.

² Portefeuille à la Bibliothèque du Roy à Paris, marquée France 5 Eure $\frac{v a}{14}$. Le plan de Vernon est numeroté v. 2, venant de la collection de Gaigneres.



that opened is visible externally, remains perfect as far as the low round tower at the next angle, seen in the drawing of Chatillon. Beyond is a pointed arched gateway, in which the grooves for the portcullis are yet discernible, but which was apparently isolated from the castle and surrounded as now by buildings before the plan and view were taken. Much also of the old town-wall remains, and the recessed pointed arches show it to have been coeval with the Tower. There are now two water-gates, one is as old as the wall, the other of recent construction; the South-gate, marked (E) in the drawing, has been replaced by a handsome arch: the remainder are now down. The fortress of Vernonnet, which commanded the *tête-du-pont*, has been rebuilt in the upper part and a vast store-house added between it and the river, but the ancient base indicates its former shape and strength. Of the other public buildings which are objects of note in the drawing, the Church of St. Jacques and the Halles (P and O) have their sites now occupied by the Place d'Armes. The Church of St. Geneviève (M) has also undergone destruction, the outer wall of one of the aisles of the nave being the only fragment left. Notre Dame (Q) remains uninjured, as does also the Hôtel Dieu of St. Louis, (R) but there are no conventual buildings.³ The religious houses without the walls, of which that of the Capucins is marked (G) in the plan, were pulled down after the breaking out of the Revolution, as were likewise those of the Cordeliers near the Castle, and of the Congregation de la Vierge within the town.

A.D. 671.

Upon the etymology of the word Vernon, a tedious disquisition has been inserted by Dom. Toustain Duplessis, in his geographical

Etymology
of the word
Vernon.

³ The Churches of St. Jacques and St. Geneviève were in their origin chapels to the Collegiate Church of Notre Dame. In the sequel they were made parochial. The charter of St. Louis for the foundation of the Hôtel Dieu, bears date at Paris, May, 1260, in the 34th of his reign.

A.D. 671. description of Upper Normandy;⁴ he assigns to it a Celtic root, though apparently with some misgivings as to whether it may not be Teutonic, or a mixture of both those ancient tongues. It is needless to advert to the arguments adduced, as the conjectures founded upon the casual form which the word has assumed in modern language, are, in this instance, rendered futile by the discovery of the archaic name, of which Vernon is the corruption. In a manuscript of the 11th century,⁵ formerly in the archives of the Abbey of Fontenelle St. Vandrille, in the Pays-de-Caux, and now in the public library of the town of Havre, which contains the acts of the early Abbots of that Monastery, this passage occurs in the chapter entitled, *Gesta Sancti Lantberti Abbatis et Episcopi Lugdunensis*.

Gesta
S. Lantberti.

“Elevato namque in sede regni Hilderico in tanto apud eum est honore habitus (Lantbertus) ut quicquid ab illo postulasset absque alicujus obstaculo difficultatis promereretur. Quod etiam ex largitionibus quarundam possessionum quas eidem venerabili patri et isto cenobio contulit liquidum fore constat. Denique ad petitionem regine sue Biltrilde atque venerabilium episcoporum id est bone recordationis Leodegarii episcopi qui postea gloriosissimus effectus est martyr Nivonis et etiam episcopi et Ermonii atque illustrium virorum quorum hec sunt nomina Fulcoaldi Amalrici Wlfoaldi majoris domus regie Bavonis Waningi et Adalberti Gerini fratris clari prefati Leodegarii episcopi largitus est prefato venerando patri fiscos duos quorum sunt vocabula Ulmirus et Warinna qui sunt siti in pago Tellau juxta fluvios Tellas et Warinna nominatos cum universis adjacentiis eorum id est Crisciaco, Seda, Magneroto et item Magneroto necnon et Foscarias simulque terram super litus maris et areas salinarum piscationumque que ibidem institute erant. Vineas etiam in Warnaco super fluvio Sequano sitas in pago Vilcassino cum omni integritate earum. Hec universa auctoritate sua duo privilegia condens eidem venerabili patri istique cenobio

⁴ Description de la Haute Normandie, 2de partie, p. 215, Paris, 4to. 1740.

⁵ Small folio, on vellum, lettered Chronicon Fontanellense.

Fontanellensi jure firmissimo in evum contradidit possidendam. Edita ^{A.D. 734.} est hec regia largitio Arlauno jucundo Palatio undecimo anno prefati regis in Austria qui fuerat primus in Neustria,"

which regnal date answers to A.D. 671. Again, in the Acts of Teutsindus, ninth Abbot of Fontenelle, in 734, these acquisitions of Lantbertus, are a second time enumerated by the compiler.

"Rathario Comiti tradidit Ulmirum et Warinnam . . . vineas etiam in Warnaco super fluvio Sequana sitas in pago Veliocassino quas impetraverat sanctissime recordationis Lantbertus abba a rege glorioso Hilderico suadente regina sua Blithilde necnon et aliis illustribus viris quorum hec sunt onomata Leodegarii episcopi demumque martiris egregii Nivonis Ermonis Falcoaldi Almarici Wlfoaldi majoris domûs regie Bavonis Waningi Adalberti Gerini sicut in gestis prefati Lantberti patris eximii plenissime scriptum fore constat."

Now, in the margin of the manuscript, opposite the lines containing the words in *Warnaco*, there has been written, in both places, in a very early hand, "*in Vernone*," a reference expressive of the knowledge of the writer that the vineyards there spoken of were situate at Vernon. But as the Seine was the limit of the *Pagus Veliocassinus* or *Vilcassinus*, these vineyards will have been on the same side of the river as Vernonne, which is situate in the Vexin Normand; and it was in fact in this suburb that the Chapel of St. Michael *de Vernone* stood, which, after long continuing to be a dependance of the Abbey of Fontenelle St. Wandrille, was in the days of Abbot Anfrid transferred to the Abbey of Montebourg, upon condition of rendering a rent of twenty shillings annually.

St. Michael
de Vernone.

"Sciânt tam presentes quam futuri quod Anfridus Dei gratia Abbas Sçi Wandregesili et omnis conventus ejusdem monasterii concesserunt Abbacie beate Marie Montisburgi capellam Sçi Mychael de Vernone in perpetuam possessionem. Ita quod Abbacia prefata Montisburgi annum censum

A.D. 734. reddet abbacie S̄ci Wandregesili xx solidorum apud Vernonem in festo secundo S̄ci Michael et de usuali moneta reddent censum. Ad hanc conventionem interfuerunt prefatus Abbas Anfridus S̄ci Wandregesili in presentia totius conventûs et Ricardus Abbas Montisburgi cum Roberto priore suo et ceteris monachis suis et Victor Abbas S̄ci Georgii cum Ansgoto qui capellanus fuit H. Rotomagensis Archiepiscopi.”⁶

Warnacus. Warnacus is also among the places named in a testament written upon papyrus, presumed to be of the seventh century, which was formerly among the muniments of the royal Abbey of St. Denis.

“Simili modo villare Warnaco que est in pago Vilcassino porcionem meam ad jamdictas Basilecas cum omni solidetate habendum et possidendum relinco.”⁷

Guernes. Guernes (*Warnas*) Giverny (*Guiernei*) Garenne or Varenne Giverny. (*Waremma*) Gournai (*Gornacus*) are all cognate names for places, Garenne. allusive it would seem to a site near water; *Vadiniacus*, which Gournai. had its name from its proximity to the ford of St. Nicaise, is now *Gany*, and the French word derived from *vadum* (a ford or crossing) has been changed from *Wey* or *Vey* into *Gué*. The root of Vernon has apparently the same signification; and to this day a well-known spot on the river Aure, near Bayeux, retains the archaic name of the “Ver-au-Quesne,” *i.e.* the *Gué* or *Vé-au-Chêne*.⁸

Under the Princes of the Merovingian and Carolingian dynasties, the tract of country lying south of the Seine, between the district of Poissy and the river Eure, was called the *Pagus Madriacensis*, from the name of the river which traverses it—the *Mandre*.

⁶ Cartularium Abbacie Montisburgi penes le Comte Alfred de Beaufort, p. 83.

⁷ Felibien, Histoire de St. Denis.

⁸ Vide Essai Historique sur la ville de Bayeux, par F. Pluquet, p. 124, Caen, 1829.

Thus the early anonymous writer of the life of St. Leuffroy describes the site of the Abbey of the Croix-St.-Leuffroi upon the river Eure, as being *ad fines Madriacensis pagi*.⁹ Again, a charter of Vandemir, a nobleman of the court of Theodoric III, in the seventeenth year of whose reign it is dated, has this grant : A.D. 911.

“Donamus ad monasterio Portmauro ubi vir venerabilis Amalcarius abba præesse videtur locello cognomento Alticio in pago Maceracius.”¹⁰

Ecclesiastical historians rightly place the monastery to which this deed relates, at Portmort in the Vexin, though the name is probably incorrectly latinized ; in the testament already quoted from, it is rendered *Villa Porcariorum*, and in charters of more recent date by *de Porco mortuo*. Autils is the name of the vill which with Longueville constitutes the Commune of St. Pierre d’Autils, on the south bank of the Seine, opposite to Portmort, and was doubtless the place given by Vandemir ; it would therefore be correctly described as situate in the *Pagus Madriacensis*, or *Maceracius*, as corruptly written by the scribe.

By the treaty of St. Clair in 911, the Epte was made the boundary line between the French kingdom and the then newly created Norman duchy to the north of the Seine, with which river it has its confluence a little to the east of Vernon ; but as late as 918 the abbey of the Croix-St.-Leuffroi continued to be under the rule of the King of France. Charles the Simple, in his grant of this abbey to the monks of St. Germain-des-Prés, in the twenty-sixth year of his reign, excepts a part he had given to the Normans of the Seine, viz. to Rollo and his followers ; that is to say, so much of the abbey as was without the limits of the *Pagus*, on the left bank of

Treaty of
St. Clair.

⁹ Neustria Pia, p. 347.

¹⁰ Mabillon Diplomat. p. 472.

A.D. 1012. the Eure : “*preter partem ipsius Abbatiae quam annuimus Nortmannis Sequanensibus, videlicet Rolloni suisque Comitibus.*”¹¹

William
Longsword,
Son of Rollo.

In 923 the Normans claimed of King Raoul an extension of territory on the farther bank of the Seine, and made compliance with the demand the condition of peace : “*si eis terra daretur quam spatiosam petebant ultra Sequanam;*” and as in the following year, when the war broke out afresh, the cession of Maine and the Bessin was their new demand, it may safely be conjectured that their previous claims had been yielded to. The western half of the *Pagus Madriacensis* was at all events a fief of Normandy in 927, when William Longsword, the son of Rollo, contracted marriage with Leutgardis, the daughter of Herebert *Comte du Vermandois* ; for of the places assigned to her in dower, one was Longueville in the Commune of St. Pierre d’Autils. After the assassination of the Duke in 943, his widow remarried Theobald *Comte de Chartres*, and by him was the mother of three children, Odo *Comte de Chartres*, Hugh Archbishop of Bourges, and Emma, wife of William *Comte de Poitiers*. Upon this lady a third part of Longueville devolved after the death of her mother, and with it she endowed the abbey founded by her in honour of St. Peter, at Bourgueil-en-vallée in Anjou : but some years afterwards, in 1012, an exchange was agreed upon between Berno, Abbot of Bourgueil, and Robert, Abbot of Jumièges, by which Longueville was ceded to the latter for a vill in Poitou. An authentic record of these acts, which gave birth to the Priory of St. Pierre de Longueville, or d’Autils, dependant on Jumièges, has been preserved by the *Frères St. Marthe*, and printed in the *Gallia Christiana*.¹²

¹¹ Histoire de l’Abbaye Royale de St. Germain-des-Prés. Pièces justificatives, p. 21.

¹² Gallia Christiana, tom. xi. instr. appendix col. 283.

“ Fundatio Prioratus Longuævillæ. ”

A. D. 1012.

Fundatio
Prioratus
Longuævillæ.

Quidam vir præpotens nomine Alfasius, possedit allodum in villa quæ vocatur Tortoniacus et immissa est voluntas cordi ejus a Domino ut ipsum allodum sibi pertinentem traderet Deo et S. Petro in venerabili Gemeticensi cœnobio. Concessit ergo, ut diximus ipsam suam possessionem Deo et Sancto Petro, videlicet tertiam partem ipsius villæ et totam ecclesiam, et totum flumen in ipso loco decurrens; hoc igitur donum dedit S. Petro pro redemptione animæ suæ. Deinde posthæc multi in eodem loco Tortoniaco viri terram possidentes voluntate spontanea dederunt de ipsa terra possessionis suæ tantum quantum eis bonum v̄isum est, Sancto Petro qui colitur in venerabili Gemeticensi loco.

“ Igitur post multa curricula annorum extitit nobilissimus Comes Willelmus Rotomagensi civitate qui uxorem habuit nomine Leyardam, cui dedit dotem in villa quæ vocatur Longavilla. Ipsa vero Leyarda habuit quandam filiam cujus est nomen Emma, cujus possessio tertiæ partis ipsius terræ in eadem fuit villa. Ipsa ergo suam partem ipsius villæ dedit Deo in loco qui nuncupatur Burgulio ubi coluntur merita almi Petri.

“ Igitur posthæc, temporibus Roberti humillimi abbatis Gemeticensis sacri cenobii et venerabilis Abbatis Berni Burg . . . almi cenobii, eorum voluntate spontanea libentique animo ipsam terram ipsius villæ, que vocatur Longavilla concesserunt Sancto Petro in Gemeticensi cenobio. Ex hac erga re existunt testes Richardus comes inclytus, cujus imperio atque voluntate filii Richardi, principis magni, &c. Iterumque alii testes succedunt, scilicet filius ejus Richardus et nobilissima mater Richardi Gunnor, que tribuit pro redemptione animæ suæ triginta libras nummorum et uxor Comitis Richardi Judith. Hi sunt alii testes idonei Robertus Archiepiscopus Rotomagensis et Willelmus et Malgerus fratres Richardi Comitis, Willelmus Pictavorum comes et uxor Prisca, Gislebertus episcopus, Radulphus Vicecomes et uxor ejus et mater ejus Heldiardis et Gofredus frater ejus; nomine monachorum, Robertus abbas, Albertus monachus, Gerardus, Bernardus, Odo, Gislebertus monachus, Berno abbas, Tedelindus abbas, Garnerus monachus, Robertus, Helgothus, Lambertus, Osmundus sacerdos, Kainos sacerdos, Walterus sacerdos, &c. Acta sunt hæc anno ab incarnatione Domine MXXII indictione x. epacta xxv. concurrentes II. bissextus etiam eodem fuit anno, regnante Roberto Francorum rege gloriosissimo.”

A.D. 1025. *William Comte de Poitiers*, whose name is among the witnesses to the exchange, was the son of Emma; her husband William had died in 994, having embraced a religious life some years prior to his decease. She must have survived until 1004, as her name twice occurs among the signatures at the foot of charters of that date. A Bishop Gislebert may have occupied the see of Evreux, in which diocese Longueville is situate, in 1012, and so have witnessed the exchange, but there is no corroborative proof to show that a bishop of the name sat at this period. Ralph *Vicecomes* was probably the military deputy of the *Comes Normanniæ* then in charge of the district. Some years later, Richard II granted to the monks of Jumieges a general charter, confirming their various acquisitions in Normandy, in which this mention is made of what they held in Longueville and its vicinity :

William de
Poitiers.

“ Divina propitiante clementia, ego Ricardus Dux Normannorum, &c. In Longavilla dedimus Haltiz et quicquid ad hoc pertinet de vineis, pratis, terris cultis et incultis, silvis, aquis, et de piscariis quartam noctem cum ingeniis, quantumcumque commutavimus pro villa in Pago Pictavensi sita que dicitur Tortiniacus cum suis appenditiis. Item in eadem villa ecclesiam que est in honore Sancti Petri quam emit nostro consensu ipsius loci abbas Theodoricus cxi^{ta} libras denariorum, et in duabus ecclesiis, una in honore Sancti Marcelli et altera Sancti Justi, terciam partem omnium decimarum . . . et comparationem viii in Brochivilla et in terris que ad eam pertinent et in dominio hospitium unum. . . . Actum Fiscanni publicè. Data mense Augusto, consistentibus nobis Fiscanni palatio, anno ab incarnatione Domini MXXVII. indictione viii. regnante Roberto rege anno xxx^{mo}. viii.”¹⁴

¹⁴ From a paper chartulary of Jumièges, now in the Archives de la Seine Inférieure at Rouen. Above the Latin text are interlineations in French, identifying the property given; the “comparatio viii.” is translated “La mueson de viii. a Brocheville près Longueville.” Broville is now a hamlet near Autils; “mueson” is explained by Roquefort “droit sur des vins vendus.”

By another charter of the same date, twelve acres of land were confirmed to the Abbey of Fécamp, in Longueville : A.D. 1025.

“ Propitia divinæ gratiæ clementia, ego Richardus Normannorum Dux, &c. In Longavilla de vineis arpentos duodecim Actum Fiscanni publicè. Data mense Augusto, considentibus nobis Fiscanni palatio, anno ab incarnatione Domini MXXVII. indictione octava, regnante Roberto rege anno XXX^{mo}. VI^{to}. ”¹⁵

To a third similar charter of confirmation, made in favour of the abbey founded by Judith, the consort of Richard II, at Bernay, an *Osmundus Vicecomes* is one of the attesting witnesses, and one of that name is said to have been *Vicomte de Vernon*.

Osmundus
de Vernon.

“ Divina propitiante elementia, ego Ricardus Normannorum dux, &c. Actum Fiscanni publice, mense Augusto, considentibus nobis Fiscanni palatio, anno ab incarnatione Domini MXXVII. indictione octava, regnante Roberto rege anno XXXVIII. Richardus Vicecomes Osmundus Vicecomes Goeffredus, Rodulphus frater ejus, &c. ”¹⁶

In the dates of these charters, the writing of the year of the Incarnation 1027 is an error of the notary, and at variance with the number of the Indiction. A charter of the same Duke, in favour of the abbey of Fontenelle St. Wandrille, likewise given at the Palace of Fécamp, in the same month of August, has this date :

“ Actum Fiscanni publicè, mense Augusto anno ab incarnatione Domini MXXIII indictione septimâ regnante Roberto Rege, ”¹⁷

¹⁵ Neustria Pia, p. 217, where the regnal year, as appears from the observations which follow, is a misprint for XXX^{mo}. VIII^o.

¹⁶ Charte inséréé dans le Mémoire de M. le Prevost sur quelques monumens du département de l'Eure, dans le volume de la Société des Antiquaires de Normandie, pour l'année 1828, p. 377. Geoffrey and his brother Ralph are probably the same personages as *Radulphus Vicecomes et Gofredus frater ejus* who witnessed the exchange of 1012.

¹⁷ Neustria Pia, p. 166, ex cartulario magno Fontanellensi.

A.D. 1025. where the year of the incarnation rightly accords with the indiction, according to the usual mode of calculating. We should therefore read 1025 for the year of our Lord, in which the month of August fell, in the eighth indiction. In the charters before us we have also a further guide to their true date in the number of the regnal year of King Robert. The date of an act of Odoric, Bishop of Orleans, in favour of the abbey of St. Euverte, shows the fortieth year of Robert's reign, and the first of his son Henry, to have been concurrent with the year 1027-8 and tenth indiction :

“Anno MXXVII, indictione x. Actum in mense Januario, anno Regni Roberti Regis XL, et filii ejus Henrici primo. Actum Aurelianis publice.”¹⁸

As Henry was associated with his father on the throne, and crowned at Rheims on the feast of Pentecost, 14th May, 1027, this act will be of the following January ; and its date affords a proof that the writers and notaries who began the civil year on the 25th of March, or at Easter, in making use of the Pontifical indiction, did not change the number on the feast of the Nativity, or first of January, but on the day adopted by themselves for the commencement of the year. Robert was crowned at Orleans in his father's lifetime, 1st of January, 987-8 ; and as, when a Prince ascended the throne in the middle or towards the close of the civil year, that year was sometimes reckoned for an entire year,¹⁹ the computation of King Robert's regnal years makes his thirty-eighth year accord with the eighth indiction, and year of our Lord 1025. Richard II, Duke of Normandy, died in 1026, in the month of August ;²⁰ and the remarkable deed of his successor, Richard III, by which he appoints what lands were to constitute the *jus dotalis* of his wife

¹⁸ Gallia Christiana, tom. viii. app. col. 491.

¹⁹ See Nicholas's Chronology of History, p. 260.

²⁰ Gul. Gemeticensis. Odericus Vitalis. Nécrologe de St. Germain-des-Prés.

Adeliza, is a proof that the custom noticed above, of continuing the number of the Indiction and the year of the Incarnation unchanged until the commencement of the civil year at Lady-day or Easter, was likewise followed in Normandy. It has *datum mense Januario anno Incarnationis Domini millesimo vigesimo sexto, indictione ix.*²¹ A.D. 1025.

Modern writers are wont to identify Osmund, the *Vicomte* of Vernon, with the tutor and preserver of Richard I, when left a minor, after the assassination of his father, Duke William, in 943: such a supposition, as far as identity of person is concerned, whatever it may be in respect of family, is utterly irreconcilable with the date of 1025, or the tradition of his marriage with a niece of the Duchess Gunnora, first the concubine, and afterwards the wife of Richard I. The contemporary historian, Dudo, the Dean of St. Quintin, says simply—“*Erat autem quidem tyro, nomine Hosmundus, Richardi summæ celebritatis pueri educator et altor sagacissimus.*”²² nor do other early writers ever mention his name in connection with Vernon. It appears however to have been a popular belief with the inhabitants of that place; for the “*trois bottes de cresson*” in the armorial bearings of the town, evidently allude to the rescue of the infant Duke from the meditated treachery of Louis of France, concealed in a bundle of grass, and borne on the shoulders of the faithful Osmund.²³ Osmund, tutor of Richard I.

Of the fact of an Osmund holding considerable property in Normandy in the reign of Richard II, we have proof in a charter of that Duke to the abbey of St. Ouen, in which the grants made by his predecessors and himself, and by the barons of his duchy, are recapitulated. Osmund, son of Tudebert.

²¹ Spicilegium d'Achery, edit. 1723, Paris, folio, vol. iii. p. 370.

²² Dudonis Sancti Quintini decani de Moribus et Actis Normannorum, Lib. iii. apud Duchesne, Normanniæ Scriptores, p. 117.

²³ Dudo of St. Quintin, in narrating this escape, says the child was wrapped up in a cloak: the “*fasciculus herbæ*” is an addition of William of Jumièges.

A.D. 1025. “Divinæ pietatis misericordia ego Richardus secundus Normannorum dux, &c. . . . Addimus et Wanciacum cum omnibus appendiciis et pratriis molen-
dinis et silvis quam dederunt Osmundus et Helto et ecclesiam ejusdem
villæ quam dedit Robertus clericus Addimus et gordum in fluviò
Sequanæ et id quod dedit Osmundus, id est, partem illam quam tenebat in
Grenvilla et quod datum est in villa quæ dicitur Warcлива.²⁴

Wanchy-Capval, is a commune in the Département de la Seine Inférieure, *canton de Londinières*, and was anciently the head of a barony belonging to the abbey of St. Ouen.²⁵ Grainville and Mesnil-Verclives are two communes of the Département de l'Eure, *canton d'Ecouis*, where, by reason of this gift, the feudatories were styled in old muniments *Vavassores ecclesiæ Sancti Audoeni*.²⁶ The Osmund here named, was doubtless Osmund son of Tudebert, who signed as one of the principal laymen, along with Roger son of Hunfrid, the instrument of exemption from episcopal dues, granted by Robert, Archbishop of Rouen, to the abbey of St. Père of Chartres, in favour of their church at Fontenay, to which his suffragans, Herbert of Lisieux, Radbod of Seez, Rodbert of Coutances, and Hugh of Evreux, were parties, and which had the signatures of Maingisus, bishop of Avranches, of Henry, abbot of St. Ouen, and of other ecclesiastics.²⁷ A connection, beyond that

Helto, son of
Gulbert.

²⁴ From a copy of the original charter in the municipal archives at Rouen.

²⁵ Description de la Haute Normandie, 1^{ère} partie, p. 725.

²⁶ Vide Cartam domini Rotrodi Rothom. Archiepiscopi de compositione facta inter ecclesiam Sancti Audoeni Rothomagensis et ecclesiam Mortuimaris de quibusdam terris quas ecclesia Mortuimaris tenebat apud Bremulam de feodo de Greinvilla, apud Mesengeriam de feodo de Warcлива, quas ecclesiæ Mortuimaris contulerant vavassores ecclesiæ Sancti Audoeni qui de ejus feodo tenebant.—Additions aux Preuves de l'Histoire de la Maison d'Harcourt, vol. iv. p. 1385. Paris, folio, 1672.

²⁷ Annales Ordinis S. Benedicti, par Mabillon. Paris, folio, 1739, tom. iv. p. 304, n. li. sub anno, 1024.

of being merely joined together in the ownership of the same vill, ^{A.D. 1030.} probably existed between Osmund and Helto; for the latter was also a possessor of lands at Longueville, in the territory of Vernon. In the cartulary of the abbey of the Holy Trinity of the Mont de Rouen, a monastery founded by Gozelin of Arques, the *Vicomte* of Rouen, before 1030, this notice of him occurs:—

“ Inter beneficia quæ pro animæ suæ remedio vicecomes Rotomagi Gozelinus huic s̄cæ Trinitatis loco, cujus idem ipse fundator et consummator primus extitit, vineæ decem arpendos in territorio Vernonensi in Longavilla devotissime largitus est. Hanc ille ab illustri Heltone generosi Gulberti filio, datis denariorum probatæ monetæ sexaginta libris, emit cum tocius censûs libertate, jure hereditario, coram fidelibus suis et plurimis nobilibus et honestis testibus, de quibus nonnulli signa sua subscripserunt, quorum hæc sunt nomina.

“ + S. Rotberti comitis. + S. Rotberti Archiepiscopi. + S. Gozelini Vicecomitis. + S. Emmeline uxoris ejus. + S. Heltonis. + S. Walberti fratris Heltonis. + S. Willelmi heredis Heltonis.”²⁸

Helto, the son of Gulbert, may be presumed to have been identical with the Helto whose land was appropriated by William the Conqueror, when Duke of Normandy, to the restoration of the abbey of the Croix-St.-Leuffroi, which had long lain in ruins; “ *sub duce Willielmo restauratum est monasterium sanctæ crucis sanctique Leuffredi de terra quæ fuerat Helthonis de cruce.*”²⁸ The heir of Helto was William, a member of the great House of Eu; but how the right of heirship was acquired does not appear.

Helto du Croix-
St.-Leuffroi.

It is, moreover, important to observe, that Longueville is in this record for the first time described as situate in the territory of

Territory of
Vernon.

²⁸ Ex cartulario Sanctæ Trinitatis de Monte Rothomagensi in archivio Rothom. asservato, fol. 3, verso.

²⁸ Tractatus de Abbatibus Normannorum, Mon. Ang. vol. ii. p. 1004.

A.D. 1035. Vernon; a description which affords grounds for conjecturing that the Castle of Vernon had been built, and the surrounding district annexed to the Honour, in the interval between 1025, the date of the charter of Richard II to the abbies of Jumièges and Fécamp, and 1030, in which year the Duke Robert confirmed to the abbey of the Trinity the endowment of Gozelin of Arques, and (*inter alia*) “*In territorio Vernonensi in Longavilla decem arpentos vineæ.*” It is likewise in an act of Duke Robert that we first meet with the local adjective, derived from the name of Vernon, applied to distinguish persons.

“ Item ego Robertus dispositione divina Normannorum Princeps hanc cartam quam prædecessores mei confirmaverunt egoque cum eis firmavi, nunc quoque firmo, perpetuæque immunitati ea qua utor potestate roboratam mando; et quæ subterscripta nostris temporibus sunt addita, suggerente Gradulpho abbate cœnobii Fontenellæ, eadem firmitatis astipulor auctoritate; id est, Siervillam cum ecclesia²⁹ et cum omnibus ad ipsam pertinentibus in planis in silvestribus, quam idem Gradulphus a me petiit, rogante Vernonensi Hugone, qui eam de me tenebat eo tempore.”³⁰

Guy of Burgundy, Lord of Vernon.

Willelmus Pictaviensis, the biographer of William the Conqueror, is the earliest writer who makes mention of the castle of Vernon. In treating of the events which ensued in Normandy, after Duke William, who was only in his eighth year at the time of his father's death in 1035, had attained to sufficient manhood to take part in military enterprizes, he incidentally relates that Guy of Burgundy then held the very strong castles of Brionne and Vernon of the gift of the duke :—

²⁹ The barony of Sierville, to which the right of presentation to the cure was attached, continued to form part of the possessions of St. Wandrille in 1740.—Descr. de la Haute Normandie.

³⁰ The charter is printed entire in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. ii. p. 1004.

“Wido filius Burgundionum comitis Reginaldi qui validissima castra ^{A.D. 1035.} Brionium et Vernonium Ducis dono tenebat a puerilibus annis cum ipso familiariter nutritus.”³¹

Up to this date, therefore, the Counts of Normandy had retained the *suzerainté* of the Honour of Vernon in their own demesne, and had only made grants of the fief of the *Vicomté*. A *Vicomté*, I should observe, consisted in the lieutenancy either of a whole *Comté*, or merely of one of the bourgs which depended of a great Honour or *Comté*; and he to whom such a grant was made, had from that time a right to share with the *Comte* in the issues from fines and other ordinary and extraordinary imposts. These officers were appointed to have the guard and governance of a place, and to command the troops of the town, and of the whole district constituting the *Vicomté*, which, when it did not include the whole country, was more usually denominated a *Chatellenie*; hence the use of the epithet *Vicecomes* by writers synonymously with *Castellanus*. These appointments were not unfrequently made hereditary, and a part of the castle, with a considerable domain in the bourg and the adjoining vills, as well as the *suzerainté* in it and in other fiefs held of it elsewhere within the *Comté*, were attached to the possession of the office. The *Vicomte* had the power of summarily punishing offences committed in his presence, in accordance with martial law, but it remained in the discretion of the *Comte* to provide for the ordinary administration of justice; and for this purpose he had the right to place a provost in the town which was the seat

³¹ *Gesta Willelmi Ducis*; Duchesne, *Norm. Scriptores*, p. 179. Ordericus Vitalis puts these words into the Conqueror's mouth, when on his death bed: “Guido Rainaldi Burgundionum Ducis ex Adeliza amita mea filius malum mihi pro bono reddidit. Namque ego eum de alia regione adventantem benignitur susciperam ac ut unicum fratrem honoraveram atque Vernonum et Brionum partemque Normanniæ non modicam donaveram.”—*Ibid.* p. 657.

A.D. 1047. of the *Vicomté*. The creation of this *Comté* in favour of Guy did not therefore necessarily abrogate the preceding grant of the *Châtellenie* of Vernon to Osmund or his descendants; they only changed their immediate suzerain.

Not long afterwards, Guy aspired to the supreme rule in the Duchy of Normandy; but the defeat of the insurgents in the battle of the Val-és-dunes, near Bellengreville, in the Pays d'Hyèmes, in 1047, proved fatal to the ambitious designs of the Burgundian prince, who, after sustaining a three years' siege in the Castle of Brionne, was compelled to make terms with his kinsman. Leave to reside at the court of William, and a provision for his maintenance, were stipulated for and conceded: but shame ere long forced him into voluntary exile, when his forfeited *Comté* reverted to the Duke.

Osmund de
Centvilles,
Vicomte de
Vernon.

The statement that Osmund *de Centumvillis, Vicecomes Vernoniæ*, married a niece of the Duchess Gunnora, is contained in the *Historia Normannorum*, in the 37th chapter of the 8th book. This book is entirely the composition of Robert du Mont, who, when a monk at Bec, re-edited the history of William of Jumièges, which had been brought down to the accession of Duke Robert, eldest son of the Conqueror, and added thereto the life of Henry I, then recently deceased.³² I give the paragraph entire.

“Et quoniam de sororibus Gunnoris comitissæ fecimus mentionem, licet etiam de illis qui secundo gradu consanguinitatis affines eidem fuere prout,

³² When at a later period Robert du Mont intended to write his annals as an appendix to the Chronicle of Sigebert, he thus notices his earlier work in the prologus:—“Ad quod opus me adjuvabit et historia quam de ipso Rege (Henrico) noviter defuncto edidi et gestis Ducum Normanniæ adjeci.” The “*Historia Normannorum*” closes with the events of the year 1137, the second after the death of Henry I. Robert was removed from Bec to be abbot of Mont St. Michel in 1154. See the Prologus and the letter to Gervase, Prior of St. Cenery, printed in the Appendix ad Opera Guiberti, edited by D'Achery, Paris, folio.

ab antiquis accepimus, aliqua dicere. Habuit ergo ex fratre suo Herfasto eadem Comitissa nepotem Osbernum de Crepon, patrem videlicet Willelmi Comitis Herefordie, viri per omnia laudabilis. Neptes vero plures predicta Gunnor habuit: sed solummodo de quinque quibus maritis nupserint, audivi. Una itaque earum matrimonio copulata est patri Willelmi de Warena, ex qua natus est idem Willelmus, postea Comes Surreiæ, et Rogerus de Mortuomari frater ipsius. Altera Nicholao de Bascherivilla, ex cujus posteritate natus est Willelmus Martellus et Walterus de Sancto Martino. Tertia Richardo vicecomiti Rothomagensi, patri, videlicet, Lamberti de S̄co Sidonio. Quarta Osmundo de Centumvillis Vicecomiti Vernonii, ex qua natus est primus Fulco de Aneio et plures filiæ, quarum una mater fuit primi Baldevini de Revers. Quintam Hugo de Muntegummerei duxit, ex qua natus est Rogerus pater Roberti de Belismo.”

A.D. 1047.

In examining the degree of authority due to any genealogical statement, it is indispensably necessary to have an exact knowledge of the time of its composition, and the place of the author's residence. With the names of his contemporaries, and the parentage of persons in his vicinity, we may suppose him sufficiently well acquainted; but when there was no frequency of communication, and no means of access to earlier records, reports transmitted from a distance, or founded upon hearsay, can only be taken as evidence of general reputation, and are not to be depended upon as an accurate detail of facts. A lapse of but a few years was often sufficient to cause the actions of one generation to be confounded with those of another, and a line in the descent to be omitted; thus producing conflicting accounts in the works of contemporary writers, sometimes even at variance with their own former statements. For instance, in the 22nd chapter of the seventh book of this “*Historia Normannorum*,” which is in part an interpolation of Robert du Mont, it is said: “At Rogerus de Mortuomari filius primi Willelmi de Warena monasterium Sancti Victoris in proprio solo fundavit;” whilst in the *Tractatus de Immutatione Monachorum, de abbatibus*

Robert du Mont's genealogies. Their authenticity.

A.D. 1047. *et abbatibus Normannorum*, by this writer, we find the same personage called “*filius Walteri de Sancto Martino frater vero primi Willelmi de Warennæ.*” This last account differs also from the genealogy extracted above, in which Walter de St. Martin appears as the brother of William Martel. Ordericus Vitalis, who terminates his history in the year 1141, but which he had begun to write at a much earlier date, says simply that Roger de Mortimer was cousin (*consanguineus*) to William de Warren. The testimony of these two writers may therefore be deemed conclusive of the existence of kindred between the parties; but we require further evidence to clear up the jarring traditions, and determine the degree of relationship. It would seem also, that when the word *primus* is found prefixed to a proper name by Robert du Mont, the phrase must be understood as merely descriptive of the first ancestor of the living personage of the surname, whose own name is occasionally substituted for the forgotten one of his predecessor. The authority of Robert du Mont may therefore be admitted as establishing the reputed descent of his contemporaries, of the families d’Anet and de Reviers, from Osmund *de Centumvillis*,³³ and a niece of the Duchess Gunnora; and, with this clue to guide us, the scattered notices to be found in the muniments of religious houses, will serve partially to trace the line of succession, and ascertain the proper nomenclature of the preceding generations.

Lords of Anet. A Fulk d’Anet and his sister Albreda were among the early benefactors to the abbey of Bec-Hellouin :

“Ex dono Fulconis de Aneto et hominum suorum manerium de Mesnillo-Simonis cum ecclesia et omnibus ecclesiæ et manerii pertinentiis. Ex dono

³³ The origin of the surname here given to Osmund, *Vicomte* of Vernon, I am unable to discover; apparently it was not the name of any fief or vill. May it have been an epithet, denoting merely the number of his possessions, and indicative of his wealth and rank?

Albredæ sororis ejusdem Fulconis assensu et voluntate ipsius terram de A.D. 1047.
Groselers quæ est juxta landam sita cum omnibus pertinentis suis."^{33*}

Mesnil-Simon is a commune in the Département du Calvados, *canton de Lisieux*, and Les Groisilliers the name of another commune in the same Département, *canton de Cambremer*; but Anet itself is a *chef-lieu de Canton*, in the Département de l'Eure et Loir, and was situate in the district called *Belsia* (La Beauce) lying within the diocese of Chartres, and next the confines of Normandy. It is, however, probable that this portion of La Beauce was included in the chatellenie of Dreux, which formed part of the Norman dominions prior to 1005, the date of the marriage between Matilda, sister of Duke Richard II, and Eudes, *Comte* of Chartres, to whom a moiety was conceded as her marriage portion. But she dying without issue, restitution was claimed by Richard, and upon refusal on the part of Eudes, a war ensued, which ended in the retention of the disputed territory as far as the river Arve by the *Comte* of Chartres. From this time Anet was held as a fief of France, but its lords, like the *Comtes* of Meulan, and other Lords Marchers, were likewise owners of considerable territory in Normandy. Thus, when all the barons of Normandy assembled by order of King Henry II, at Caen, on the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, *anno 1172*,³⁴ to make recognition

^{33*} Carta Regis Henrici secundi, donatorum concessionem abbatiae de Becco recitans et confirmans.—Mon. Ang. vol. ii. p. 953.

³⁴ On this occasion each baron signed two briefs, the one sealed and the other not; the first containing the number of knights whose service they owed to the King, and the other the names of the same knights, and the parts and divisions of their fees. They were deposited in the Royal Treasury, and appear to have been partially transcribed into the *Liber Rubeus Feodorum* of the Exchequer of England, and the Registers of Philip Augustus, as printed by Ducarel and Duchesne: "Anno ab Incarnatione Domini 1172 convenerunt omnes Barones Normanniæ Cadomi in nativitate B. Virginis ex præcepto

A.D. 1047. before the King's justices, as to the service of how many knights they owed to the King as Duke of Normandy, and as to the number of knights owing service to themselves, the lord of Anet acknowledged this quantity of service :

“ Simon Aneti (Danet) II milites et ad servicium suum IIII milites.”

Simon d'Anet. Besides these fiefs, others were held by Simon d'Anet of the honour of Ivry, under the *Comtes* of Meulan, who had inherited the title of the lords of Breteuil to this *Chatellenie*. It was at the request of his lord, Comte Waleran, that he made a grant in favour of his monks at Beaumont-le-Roger, and of all monks of the parent monastery of Bec-Hellouin, for passage free of toll through his land and within his jurisdiction.

“ Notum sit presentibus et futuris quod ego Simon de Aneth concessi pro salute animæ meæ et omnium antecessorum et heredum meorum et ad petitionem domini mei Gualeranni Comitis Mellenti monachis suis de Bello monte ut imperpetuum libere et quiete eant, redeant, ducant et reducant per totam terram et potestatem meam sine contradictione et exactione aliqua vinum et quæcumque necessaria fuerint ad proprios usus eorum et manupastus eorum. Et ideo prohibeo ne aliquis ministrorum vel hominum meorum eos vel homines eorum in aliquo disturbet sub pœna decem librarum. Hanc etiam libertatem concedo omnibus monachis de Becco. Testibus Radulfo de Grolai, Bocharo de Hulmo, Roberto Crassa Lingua, Ranulfo de Misi, Moraherio de Hillies, et multis aliis.”³⁶

Regis Henrici II, et ibi recognitum est ab unoquoque Baronum ante justitiam Regis quot milites unusquisque Baronum deberet ad servitium Regis, et quot haberet ad suum proprium servitium, et unusquisque Baronum fecit duos Breves: unum cum sigillo, alterum sine sigillo. In sigillato erat numerus militum quos debebant Regi. In altero non sigillato erant nomina eorundem militum et partes et divisiones. Et omnes isti Breves Baronum tam sigillati quam non exportati sunt et positi in Thesaurario Regis, et pro hoc fecit Robertus abbas hanc intitulationem, etc.”—Extraits des Chartes, &c. de l'abbaye de Mont St. Michel. Ecrit par D. Denis. MSS. Bib. du Roy, à Paris, No. 5430, A.

³⁶ Neustria Pia, p. 491.

In the *Chatellenie* of Ivry, Simon d'Anet gave the tithes of Illiers ^{A.D. 1047.} l'Évêque, a commune in the Département de l'Eure, and *Canton de Nonancourt*, to the Chapter of the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Chartres.³⁷ This was before 1157, about the time when he had also the custody of the forest of Bréval, where he succeeded William Lovel, son of Ascelin Goel, of the house of Ivry.³⁸ In 1188, on Thursday the feast of St. Giles (Sept. 1) the Walloons of the King of England (Henry II) entered without his knowledge the territory of the King of France, and burnt the castle of Simon d'Aneth, viz. Danevilla (*Ville d'Anet*) and many other vills, and carried off the plunder; and sparing no one, killed all whom they found.³⁹ In the register of Philip Augustus, compiled by Garin, Bishop of Senlis, in 1220, we find among the fiefs this entry relating to the *chatellenie* of Anet.

³⁷ "Vide cartam Rotrodi Episcopi Ebroicensis datam Carnoti Anno 1157 de præpositura Normanniæ et de ecclesia de Illeis et decimis a Simone de Aneto Domino Isleiarum et Willelmo Golferio datis ecclesiæ beatæ Mariæ et Sancti Petri Carnotensis."—Histoire du Comté d'Evreux, Preuves, p. 2, Paris, 4to. 1722. Illiers was part of the demesne of the Honour of Ivry. Vide Diploma Ricardi Regis Angliæ pro S. Taurino in Gallia Christiana, vol. xi. instr. col. 140, D. *Gohellus de Ivreio dedit capellam quæ sita est intra castellum Illeis, &c.*

³⁸ "De usuagio quod presbiteri exigunt in foresta Brehevallis. Presbiter de Sancto Cherone juratus dixit quod tempore Guillelmi Lovel milites et presbiteri et clerici habebant in dicta foresta mortuum nemus et postea vidit quod dominus Symon de Aneto custodiebat ita forestam quod nullus in ea capiebat, eciam ipse Symon faciebat emere ligna ad arandum in domo sua. Renaldus Coubis dixit quod nichil sciebat de tempore Symonis de Brehevallis sed tempore Johannis filii sui habebant mortuum nemus et brancas viridas et siccas." (Ex registro Philippi Augusti, f. xxxiv, *inter inquisitiones*.) It was in the castle of Bréval, during Lent of the year 1089, that Goel of Ivry was besieged for two months by the King of France and Duke of Normandy; being forced to surrender, he made peace with his suzerain William of Breteuil, and gave up to him the fortress of Ivry, which he had taken by surprise.

³⁹ Benedictus Abbas de Vita Hen. II, t. ii. p. 517. Hearne, Oxon. 1735.

A.D. 1047. "Aneti. Phs. de Alneto tenet Aunetum et Bociam cum omnibus pertinentiis unde debet Domino Regi exercitum et equitatum ad custum domini. Preterea tenet domum suam de Aneto unde debet roncinum servitii vel ire in exercitum utrum voluerit rex.

Family of
Anet.

"Breevallis. Johannes de Breehevall tenet de rege famultatum Breehevall et per unum feodum, undi debet custodiam in foresta Breehevall ad suum costum."⁴⁰

Of Bréval.

This John of Bréval was son of Simon of Anet, who is himself designated *de Brehevallis* in the inquisition extracted in the note, and with his father assented to the acts of Fulk de Marcilly, John son of Philip, and Philip son of Payn, in confirmation of their ancestor's gift to the Abbey of Breuil-Benoit, in the Commune of Marcilly-sur-Eure, in the diocese of Evreux.

"Hæc autem omnia supradicta Simon de Aneto ad cujus feodum pertinent, concessit et Joannes filius ejus etc. Actum anno gratiæ millesimo ducesimo tertio decimo, mense Aprilis."⁴¹

Of Marcilly.

The family of Marcilly were in fact an affiliation from that of Anet, as appears by a charter of Lewis, King of the French, concerning a claim made before him at Dreux, by Abbot Roger, against Fulk de Marcilly, who had taken away land from the church of Coulombs, which Fulk de Marcilly had given, and Simon his brother, father of the said Fulk, had confirmed, "*præsentibus dicto Ludovico rege, Ludovico filio suo, Radulfo comite de Verona, Philippo fratre Regis, Guillelmo Buticulario. Anno ii. unctionis filii Regis.*"⁴² The date of this transaction is A.D. 1132; and on the 8th of May 1137, the same Fulk de Marcilly founded, in the parish of Marcilly, the

⁴⁰ Ex eodem Registro, f. xxiii. et xxiiii. *inter feoda.*

⁴¹ Gallia Christiana, tom. xi. instr. col. 143.

⁴² Histoire de la Maison de Dreux, par Duchêne: Preuves, p. 222, Paris, fol. Extrait du cartulaire de l'abbaye de Coulombs, près Nogent-le-roy.

Cistercian Abbey of Breuil-Benoit, in honour of Blessed Mary and St. John the Baptist.⁴³ These dates shew the father of Fulk to have been the Simon de Aneto who accompanied Boemund, Prince of Antioch, to the Holy Land, on his return thither in 1106;⁴⁴ and the charter is evidence that he had a brother named Fulk, called of Marcilly.

A.D. 1047.

The patronage of the church of Anet had belonged to the abbey of St. Père-en-vallée at Chartres from a very remote period.⁴⁵ By a charter which Mabillon cites in the *Annales Benedictini*, under the year 1024, Urso *Miles*, son of Germund of Ezy (*Aisiacum*), restored to that abbey a mediety of the sluiceage of their mills *apud Anetum*, granted by his grandfather and ancestors, and which he had taken away.⁴⁶ In testimony of this act, he calls upon the *seniores de castello Ebriaco* to be witnesses; an invocation which seems to imply that there was an identity at that time between the lords of the bourgs of Anet and Ivry, which are in close proximity to each other: this inference demands our attention to the descent of that Honour.

Lords of the Castle of Ivry.

Hugh of Ivry was butler to King William the Conqueror in Normandy,⁴⁷ and is named by the historian Ordericus Vitalis among

Hugh of Ivry.

⁴³ Gallia Christiana, tom. xi. col. 663.

⁴⁴ Histoire de Normandie, par Orderic Vital. liv. xi. Caen, 1826, tom. iv. p. 187, 208.

⁴⁵ Vide Gall. Chr. tom. viii. instr. col. 325, in privilegio Honorii II Papæ pro cenobio S. Petri Carnot. de pluribus ab eo confirmatis ecclesiis. Datum Anno 1127.

⁴⁶ Annales Benedictini, tom. iv. p. 304, n. 52.

⁴⁷ Pateat fidelibus Christi qualiter capellæ sanctæ Trinitatis medietatem et terram ad ipsam pertinentem, prius quidem Erchembaldo filio Erchembaldi vicecomitis ultra mare proficiscenti datis sex libris denariorum, deinde Hugoni Pincernæ de Ivri, qui eam in vadimonio de ipso Erchembaldo tenebat, datis XII libris, ex omni parte redemimus et liberrimam in perpetuam hereditatem suscepimus, annuente rege Anglorum et duce Normannorum Guillelmo ejusque optimatibus + S. Willelmi Regis + S. Mathildis Regine

A.D. 1047. the laymen who shone conspicuous in Normandy at the time of the conquest of England. *Signum Hugonis Pincernæ* is at the foot of the joint charter of William and his queen Matilda to the abbey of the Holy Trinity at Caen, which bears date in 1082, and contains a recital of his own benefactions, and those of others of his family.⁴⁸ He occurs among the tenants *in capite* in Domesday, under the names of *Pincerna*, *de Luri*, and *de Ivri*, in the counties of Bedford, Dorset, Northampton, and Oxford, in which last he held in demesne the capital manor of Ambroseden. He died during the abbacy of Gislebert, abbot of St. Stephen, Caen, which continued to 1101.

“Rogerus de Ivreio reddidit sancto Stephano totam terram quam Hugo avunculus ejus tenuerat in Ceusio (*Cheux*) sicut eam Hugo habebat in die qua mortuus fuit, pro qua redditione dedit ei abbas (*Gislebertus*) XIII marcas argenti.”⁴⁹

Roger of
Ivry.

Roger of Ivry, brother of Hugh, shared with him the feudal office of Butler, and was the founder of a monastery in honour of the Virgin Mary, in the vicinity of his castle of Ivry, which he erected as a token of a divinity to be appeased, in his abhorrence of the crime of kinsmen and connections, stained with each other's blood, “anno quinto postquam Guillelmus Comes Normannorum in bello superavit Anglos.”⁵⁰ He stood high in the favour and confidence of his sovereign, by whom he was intrusted with the custody

+ S. Willelmi filii Osberni + S. Emme matris ejus + S. Ansfredi filii Athelise + S. Bernardi Forestarii. Ex nostris + S. Ricardi Senescalli + S. Bernardi Coci + S. Turstini filii Wigrin.—*Ex cartulario sanctæ Trinitatis de Monte Rothomagensi, ubi supra.*

⁴⁸ Gallia Christiana, t. xi. instr. col. 72.

⁴⁹ Ex rotulo emptionum abbatum Cadomensium *cum signo Henrici Regis* in archiviis Cadomi. It will be found printed at length, but with numerous clerical errors, in *Neustria Pia*, p. 628, where Ivreio is read *Mireyo*.

⁵⁰ Annales Ordinis S. Benedicti, et Gallia Christiana, tom. xi. col. 652.

of the castle of Rouen, and which he on one occasion successfully guarded against a secret enterprize of Robert Courte-heuse and his adherents.⁵¹ To the charter of 1082 in favour of the *Abbaye aux Dames*, at Caen, is affixed “Signum + Rogerii Pincernæ de Ibriaco.” His wife was Adelina, daughter of Hugh de Grand-menil. In England he had ample possessions of the gift of the Conqueror, and was sheriff of the county of Gloucester before Durand of Eu, as appears by the record of Domesday; from which we also learn that he was a mesne-tenant of the Bishop of Bayeux in more than one county. Eventually, and apparently at the time of the imprisonment of Bishop Odo in 1083, he fell into disgrace, and not long after died in exile, his honours and estates being confiscated. “Nec ipse impune super ravina gavisus est,” exclaims the Monk of Worcester, whose church had suffered from his rapacity. “Nam vivens, cum esset ditissimus et Pincerna Regis carissimus, regalem incurrit iram, vixque fuga vitam ad modicum protexit; omnesque suas possessiones permaximas perdidit, et exul a patria, ignominose post parvum tempus obiit.”⁵² His issue, Roger and Adelia, after the death of William, found favour with his sons and successors in England and Normandy.

Contemporary with Hugh and Roger, and, it may be presumed, their brother, was Robert of Ivry, who married the blessed Hildeburgis, daughter of Hervey, Lord of Chateau-Galardon, who flourished in the time of Philip I, King of France. In her life, written by a contemporary, Robertus Ibriensis is described as

Robert of
Ivry.

⁵¹ Histoire de Normandie, par Orderic Vital. liv. iv. p. 287, Caen, 1826. This event happened immediately upon the breaking out of the quarrel between William the Conqueror and his eldest son, and is incidentally mentioned by the historian at the end of the fourth book; but he reverts back to his narrative in the following book, and there enters into details, from which it is manifest that these dissensions first sprung up shortly after the holding of the great Council at Lillebonne in 1080.

⁵² Mon. Ang. vol. i. p. 131. ex Hemingii cartulario.

A.D. 1047. “vir generosus facultatibus locupletatus;”⁵³ and we have proof in the following charter, that lands north of the Seine were given to the abbey of St. Ouen, with the assent of a Robert d’Ivry, as suzerain.

“Notum esse volumus sanctæ ecclesiæ fidelibus tam futuris quam presentibus, quod Osbernus de Schetoth filius Hugonis monachorum habitum sumpsit deditque beato Audoeni, pro abolitione delictorum suorum ac vitæ eternæ merito, decem acras de pratis et tractum quendam ad capiendos pisces ac piscaturas subtus Oissel; necnon etiam ecclesias ac decimam de eodem Schetoth et partam quandam de sylva ejusdem villæ et septem equites apud Grinvillam atque vineas de Givernei, cum autoritate Roberti de Ivrei ac sororum predicti Osberni; et si quis ab hodierna die imposterum, quod absit, modo quolibet calumniando supra, memoratas res beato Audoeni surripere presumpserit, indubitanter maledictioni perpetuæ cum Dathan et Abiron et Juda impiissimo traditore subiacebit + Signum Willelmi Northmannorum ducis + Signum Maurilii archiepiscopi + Signum Mathildis comitisse + Signum Nicholai abbatis + Signum Osberni qui hec dedit.”⁵⁴

House of
Ivry.

Schetoth is the commune d’Ectot, *Canton d’Yerville*, which has now the adjunct of *L’Auber* from the name Osbern; Giverny is in the territory of Vernon; and Grinvilla is the same commune, a portion of which had previously passed into the hands of the monks of St. Ouen, through the liberality of Osmund. The other members also of the house of Ivry, the *Pincernæ Regis*, were, equally with Robert, connected by tenure with the *chatellenie* of Vernon. Osbern, son of Hugh de Corneil, gave to the monks of St. Taurin at Evreux, the customs of all the vineyards of Geoffry the provost and of Ermengardis, which the monks held in demesne at Longueville, and were the perquisite of the said Osbern, and all the land of Ansgar quit, “annuente domino suo Rogerio pincerna Regis;”⁵⁵

⁵³ Vita Dominæ Hildeburgis ex cartulario abbatiæ Sancti Martini Pontisarenensis, cap. 134, apud D’Acherii Spicilegium, tom. ii. col. 153.

⁵⁴ Ex originali in archiviis Rothomag. See also Histoire de l’Abbaye de St. Ouen, par Dom Pommeraye. Rouen, folio, 1672. Preuves, p. 424.

⁵⁵ Gallia Christiana, vol. xi. instr. col. 141A.

and Wascha Ubasta, daughter of Rainier, gave, with her brother A.D. 1047.
Hilduin's assent, to St. Mary of Montivilliers, "quia ibi monacha facta est," five acres of vineyard in Longueville, and a carucate of land :

"Concedente rege Gulielmo, cujus signum est hoc +, sub testimonio horum, Hugonis Pincernæ regis, de cujus feudo erant terra et vinea, quæ omnia concessit Hugo prædictæ ecclesiæ, annuente Raynaldo Regis capellano, et Raynaldo de Monasterio-Villarensi, et Alunedo, et Gisleberto de Ceveron, et Gulielmo nepote ejusdem Hugonis, et Wimondo Gaillard."⁵⁶

Robert d'Ivry ended his days in the abbey of Bec, leaving three sons, Ascelin Goël, and William, "milites insignes,"⁵⁷ and Robert, in holy orders. The eldest of these succeeded to his father's patrimony, and built thereon the castle of Bréval ; his wife, Isabella, was daughter of William of Breteuil, who had obtained from Duke Robert and from Roger de Beaumont, (to whom the *chatellenie* had been given after the exile of Roger Pincerna, and who was now indemnified with the castle of Brionne in exchange) the cession of the Honour of Ivry, which he claimed in right of his descent from Count Ralph, uterine brother of Richard I, Duke of Normandy. After the death of William, King Henry I retained the castle of Ivry in his own hands for a time, but about the year 1119 he restored the wardship to Robert Goël, son of Ascelin Goël and Isabel de Breteuil. Of this marriage there was issue, seven sons and a daughter, the wife of Ralph Le Roux. The names of three sons have been preserved ; Robert Goël above-mentioned ; William William Lovel
of Ivry. surnamed Lovel (Lupellus) his next brother, who after the death of Robert acquired the castle of Ivry and the whole patrimony ; and Roger, surnamed the Stammerer (*Balbus*) who was lord of the castle at Grossœuvre (*Grandis-silva*) in the diocese of Evreux,⁵⁸ captured by King Stephen in the year 1137. The wife of William Lovel was

⁵⁶ Ibid. Appendix, col. 329D.

⁵⁷ Vita Hildeburgis, ubi supra.

⁵⁸ Grossœuvre, Eure. Ar. Evreux, C^{on} St. André. In Latin, Grandissilva ; just as

A.D. 1047. a sister of Waleran, *Comte* of Meulan, and by her it is presumed
 Waleran of he had a son Waleran, who in 1172 made this return to the King's
 Ivry. precept for recognition of service :

“Waleranus de Ivreio 1 militem de Pincernatu et sibi 111 milites et dimidium. Idem habet de Ivreio VIII milites et dimidium et Regi quod Rex voluerit.”

King Henry II had the castle of Ivry in his own ward after the death of Waleran, but his descendants continued in possession of the fiefs held of the Honour, which, in a register compiled shortly after the conquest of Normandy by Philip Augustus, are entered among the *Feoda Comitatus Britolii (Breteuil)* :

“Robertus de Ibriaco 111 milites pro Ibriaco.”⁵⁹

Robert Lovel
 of Ivry.

In the same register, under the title *Feoda de Grentemenil*, he has the name of Lovel ; “Robertus Lupellus apud Mortuam aquam 1 feodum :” which entry is given more in detail in the subsequent register of Garin, Bishop of Senlis, under the same heading.

“Robertus Lovel unum feodum apud Vendèvre, Cerni, Mort-eue, Cressanville, et Quatre-puits.”

Houses of Ivry
 and Anet.

The possession of these fiefs furnishes the best proof of the line of descent, and early genealogy of the House of Ivry ; and they are important, inasmuch as they help to shew the connection with Fulk d'Anet and the *Vicomte* of Vernon. This will appear by the following recitals in charters of confirmation for the abbies of the Holy Trinity of Caen, and of St. Taurin at Evreux :

“Alberada Hugonis et Rogerü mater, dedit, annuentibus ipsis, hoc quod habebat in ecclesia et decima de Hainolvilla (*Henouville-en-Caux*) et unam acram terræ in eadem villa pro anima sua. Hugo Pincerna supradictæ

Pleinescœuvres, Calvados, Ar. Vire. C^{on} St. Sever, is now the translation for Plana-silva, and Villiers-en-Désœuvre, Eure. Ar. Evreux, C^{on} Pacy-sur-Eure, for Villariæ in Dianæ-silva.

⁵⁹ Duchesne, *Scriptores Normanniæ*, p. 1037.

ecclesiæ dedit terram de Fago (*St. Christophe du Foc*) ita ut ipse teneret A.D. 1047.
 in vita sua, et post obitum ejus dicta possideret ecclesia, Radulfo de Todenio
 annuente, de honore cujus erat; cui ego Mathildis regina pro concessu illo
 dedi de pecunia mea. Gunnor Willelmi de Braiosa mater, Sanctæ Trinitatis
 monacha, dedit eidem cœnobio terram quam habebat in Badvent (*Bavent*)
 annuentibus Hugone Pincerna et Rogerio de Cuilli, de quorum honore erat,
 cui Rogerio ego regina Mathildis pecuniam dedi pro assensu suo. Donavit
 etiam eadem Gunnor terras quas habebat in Roures, et in Cirreni, et in
 Craiscenti-villa, et in villa quæ dicitur Quatuor Putei, Mauricio et Alberada
 uxore ejus consensum præbentibus de quorum hereditate fuerat.”

“De hiis quæ ad fiscum comitis Ebroicarum pertinent, Robertus Lovellus
 terram quæ Ciconia (*La Sogne*) dicitur, sicut quietam et liberam tenebat
 de eodem comite, consensu Willelmi comitis, facta solenni donatione, con-
 cessit cum ecclesia et quæ pertinent ad eam; qui comes Willelmus pastionem
 monacho ibidem commoranti ad proprios porcos dedit. Dedit etiam ipse
 Robertus eas decimas quæ de suo feodo erant, scilicet de Aurille et de
 Guerrel et de Plassiers et de Gorchan (*Plessis-Grohan*) et de Beschoire.
 Preterea Gostho presbyter ecclesiam de Lissei (*Louye*) cum decima sicut
 quietam tenebat, concedente domino suo Simone, dedit ibi factus monachus,
 et Simon dominus ejus dedit quinque acras terræ cum duobus hospitibus, et
 decimam molendini apud Ebroas, quod dicitur Mareschal. Denique Albereda
 decimam Grandis-silvæ, quam proprie tenebat, dedit et liberi homines sui
 suam, consensu illius. Inde monachi ecclesiam fecerunt. Adjunxit quoque
 terram Albereda in eadem villa, sex acras terræ et terram ad hospitandum.”⁶⁰

Of the places named in the last charter, Louye was a fief of the
Chatellenie of Anet,⁶¹ and Gros-sœuvre of that of Pacy;⁶² La
 Sogne was of the Honour of William, Comte of Evreux, who suc-

⁶⁰ Gallia Christiana, vol. xi. instr. col. 71, and col. 139.

⁶¹ Aneti. Guill. de Jumellis tenet hoc quod habet apud Saucium ultra aquam (*L'Eure*)
 et Lisiacum in feodo et dominio ad feodum plenarium armorum, excepta valle de Coudon.—
 (*Reg. Garini, ubi supra.*) The *ruisseau, Caudanne*, flows by Illiers l'Evêque, Louye,
 and Le Val, into the Eure. At Louye was a priory or cell.

⁶² Feoda de Paciaco. Grandis-silva 1 feodum.—*Reg. Ph. Aug. apud Scriptores Nor-*
manniæ, p. 1142.

A.D. 1047. ceded his father Richard in 1073, and continued in possession till 1118. Two of the vills of the fief of Robert Lovel were of the *mouvance* of Evreux for half a knight's fee in each;⁶³ the rest were of his own *chatellenie* of Ivry. So that, taking into consideration the ascertained descent of the fief of the butlership of Normandy to Waleran d'Ivry, of Gros-sœuvre to Roger Balbus, and of the fief at Quatrepuits and the other places within the *mouvance* of the Honour of Grand-menil to Robert Lovel, these points in the genealogy of the House of Ivry may be said to be established by the context of these documents:—1. That Alberada, the mother of Hugh and Roger d'Ivry (*Pincernæ*) is to be identified with the Lady of Gros-sœuvre, and that she was the mother of Robert Lovel d'Ivry, the father of Ascelin Goel, from whom that lordship descended to Roger Balbus. 2. That Simon d'Anet, suzerain of Louye, was closely allied to the lords of Ivry, whose mesne-tenant he was, at Bréval, Illiers-l'Evêque and Marcilly. 3. That Alberada, the wife of Mauricius, was in fact no other than the sister of Fulk d'Anet, father of Fulk de Marcilly and Simon, benefactors to Coulombs, and the same who with her brother gave lands to the abbey of Bec-Hellouin, as above related.⁶⁴ The possession of lands and fiefs near Vernon by the family of Ivry in the time of William the Conqueror will be then accounted for, if we take Alberada to be one of the *plures filiæ*, whom, as well as the *primus Fulco de Aneio*, Robert du Mont affirms to have been born of the niece of the Countess Gunnora, the wife of Osmund de Centumvillis, *Vicecomes Vernonii*, upon the credit of the sayings of old men. The name of her first

⁶³ Feoda Ebroicarum.—Aprilæ dimid. feod.—Gartel dimid. f.—*Reg. Ph. Aug. ubi supra*, p. 1142.

⁶⁴ Vide *antea*, p. 20. The name of the vill *Mesnillum-Simonis* suggests the probability that Simon was the name of the possessor before Fulk d'Anet; if so, then we should read Simon for the *primus Fulco de Aneio*, and conclude that there was a second Alberada, niece of the first, the daughter of Simon d'Anet.

husband has not been precisely ascertained, but it is probable he held the office of Chief Butler to the Dukes of Normandy, and transmitted the fief attached to it to be shared between his sons; Mauricius appears to have been her husband at one period of her life, but of him nothing is known. Alberada had her sepulture in the cloisters of the convent of the Holy Trinity, and, as appears by a recital in the royal charter of William and Matilda, must have died before 1080; in which year, and in 1082, her benefactions to the abbey were confirmed in these words: A.D. 1047.

“Alberada, soror Fulconis, eidem ecclesiæ tribuit terram, quam pater suus tribuit ei in villa quæ dicitur Guillon, annuente eodem Fulcone; quæ cum esset illius loci soror, sepulta ibidem jacet in atrio.”⁶⁵

Gunnora, the mother of William de Briouze (*Braiosa*) was apparently another daughter of the same parentage as Alberada, but it is unnecessary to pursue the inquiry further; and having now verified the general authenticity of our author's genealogical statement, I proceed with the history of the family of Vernon, who trace their descent from that one of the daughters, who was mother of the *primus Baldwinus de Revers*.

Revers is a commune in the Département du Calvados, *canton de Creully*. In the muniments which remain, the first names in point of time which occur with the adjunct of *de Redveris*, are those of Richard and Hugh. Richard de Redvers was the father of William de Vernon, from whom sprung the Norman family, inheritors of the honour and surname of Vernon: of him, a detailed account will be given in the following pages. Hugh de Redvers is named in the catalogue of losses and injuries, which by reason of the unsettled state of the Duchy, the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Caen

House of
Redvers.

⁶⁵ Gallia Christiana, v. xi. inst. col. 70. But see preceding Note.

A.D. 1052. sustained after the death of William the Conqueror. “*Ex quo Rex finivit,*” writes the compiler of the memorial, “*Hugo de Redvers aufert v modios vini et vineam quoque anno ad Vernun.*”⁶⁶ This vineyard had been confirmed to the nuns of Caen by William and his royal spouse, Matilda, their founders, in 1080 and 1082, and comprised three acres, of which two and a half, together with a messuage, were the gift of Godelef, who had taken the habit at Caen, and the other half acre was given by her sister.⁶⁷

House of
Vernon.

In a charter, with the date 1186, Richard de Vernon, a lineal descendant of Richard de Redvers, speaks of his remote ancestor as “*primus Willelmus de Vernone antecessor meus ;*” I will, therefore, now adduce proof that this was the name of the son of Hugh Monachus, the Castellan of Vernon at the time of the accession of William the Conqueror to the Ducal sceptre, and also of the founder of the Collegiate Church of Notre Dame at Vernon.

Hugh, the
Monk, Castel-
lan of Vernon.

“*Tunc etiam (circa anno 1052, according to Mabillon) Hugo Monachus cum Willelmo filio suo puerulo teloneum, quod apud Vernonem, castrum suum, percipere solebat, sancto Petro atque Josiaci seu Gesiaci cellæ ad Sequanam infra Mellentum positæ et monachis eam incolentibus, rogatu Landrici abbatis, remisit, ita ut nullum deinceps teloneum de rebus sancti Petri, sive per fluvium Sequanæ, sive per terram, Rotomagum adductis vel inde reductis, a monachis exigatur. His litteris apposita sunt signa Hugonis monachi, Willelmi ejus filii, Burchardi vicecomitis, et multorum aliorum. Actum est hoc in Vernone castro, die festivitatis sancti Clementis martyris,*

⁶⁶ Cart. Sanctæ Trinitatis Cadomensis, fol. 39, verso. MS. Bibl. Reg. Par. No. 5650.

⁶⁷ Ad hæc addidimus pretitulatæ ecclesiæ xx acripennos vineæ de quibus . . . ad Vernon tres: de istis tribus agripennis Godelef dedit duos et dimidiam cum una domo pro eo quod monacha facta est in ecclesia prælibata, et soror ejus alterum dimidium. *Diploma Willelmi Regis, et Mathildis Regina Anglorum, ex eodem cartulario.*—Gallia Christiana, xi. instr. col. 69.

regnanti impavido rege Henrico, et Willelmo illustri comite tenente Nortmanniæ monarchiam.”⁶⁸ A.D. 1054.

An earlier notice of William de Vernon occurs in a memorandum of the date of 1044, three years before the battle of the Val-ès-dunes, when one Huelin of Franqueville, near Rouen, gave what he possessed in that vill, Les Faux, and Belbœuf, to the monastery of the Holy Trinity of the Mont de Rouen, with the consent of his Lord, William of Vernon.

William
de Vernon.

“Anno Dominicæ Incarnationis MXLIIII. Huelinus de Francavilla, pro remedio animæ suæ et parentum suorum, et pro societate monasterii, donavit ad altare Sanctæ Trinitatis in perpetuum decimam terrarum omnium quas possidet in Franchavilla, sive in villa quæ dicitur Falc, vel in Bellebueth, annuente domino suo Willelmo Vernonensi, pro qua et monachi dederunt eidem Hugelino unum equum et vj solidos. + S. Willelmi domini sui. + S. ipsius Huelini. Testes Ricardus Senescal, Osbernus Bruncosted, Heldo de Canaan, Bernardus Cocus.”⁶⁹

Hugh de Vernon, the father of William, whose grant of Sierville to the monks of Fontenelle St. Wandrille has been noticed above, was yet living in 1054, and although then and long before a monk of that abbey, he continued to be a party to acts touching the fiefs he had heretofore possessed.

Son of Hugh
de Vernon.

“Liqueat omnibus Sancti Dei ecclesie fidelibus quod anno ab Incarnatione Domini MLIIII. Guillelmus de Vernono cum patre suo nomine

⁶⁸ Annales ordinis Sancti Benedicti, Johanne Mabillon auctore, tom. iv. p. 536, n. 26. Paris, folio, 1739. Juzy, near Meulan, was a cell to the great abbey of St. Père at Chartres.

⁶⁹ Ex cartulario abbatiae Sanctæ Trinitatis de Monte Rothomagensi in archivio Rothomagensi asservato, fol. 17, recto. I suspect, however, that the numerals in the MS. have been accidentally transposed by the scribe, and that we should read MLXIII, and not MXLIIII. See another charter of Hugh of Franqueville, *postea*, with the date MLXIII.

A.D. 1063. Hugone Sancti Wandregisili monacho ad Sanctæ Trinitatis Rotomagense usque venit cœnobium, et ibi a domino abbate Rainerio acceptis xxx libris denariorum, prata et reditiones eorum cunctas, que cum suis militibus apud Martinvillam possidebat, vendidit ei in perpetuam hereditatem, clericis ejusdem ac laicis hac precautionem nominatis illi ex utroque latere astantibus, qui etiam hujusmodi venditionis veredici et nunc et semper quocunque opus sit testes erunt. Idem ipse Willelmus vendidit eidem abbati et monachis ejus medietatem supradictæ villæ, quæ sibi jure hereditario competebat, cum omnibus appenditiis suis, annuente et propria manu confirmante hoc Willelmo Normannorum consule + S. Willelmi Comitis + S. Mathildis Comitissæ + S. Hugonis Vernonensis + S. Willelmi filii ejus + S. Ricardi filii Gisleberti comitis + S. Tuoldi Hostiarii + S. Wernonis monachi sancti Audoeni. Testes Richardus Senescal. Bernardus Cocus. Osbernus Brun-costed.⁷⁰

Gozelin, the founder of the Holy Trinity at Rouen, had given “*in pago Liciatensi Martainvillam cum omnibus appenditiis suis* ;” but the place to which this document relates, was doubtless Martainville in the immediate vicinity of the Mont St. Catherine, and which at the present day gives name to one of the suburbs of Rouen.

Castellan
of Vernon.

Ten years later, William de Vernon is styled, in a deed relating to the property possessed by the same monks in Martainville, Castellan of Vernon.

“Anno ab Incarnatione Domini MLXIII. quidam miles Franchevillæ, Hugo nomine, filius Senreth, annuente domino suo Willelmo Vernonis castellario, vendidit in perpetuam hereditatem quendam ortum in Martinivilla sedecim solidos denariorum cuidam monacho Sanctæ Trinitatis Rotomagensis Franconi nomine. + S. Willelmi Vernonensis. + S. Hugonis filii Senreth. Testes Ricardus Senescal, Bernardus Cocus.⁷¹”

Another charter, the date of which is subsequent to the conquest of England, as in it Duke William of Normandy has the title of

⁷⁰ Ex eodem Cartulario, folio 9, recto.

⁷¹ Ibid. folio 16, recto.

King, is yet more explicit ; for it contains the words, *jure hereditario*, ^{A.D. 1068.} the usual legal phrase binding the heirs of the grantor, affording clear proof that the *Châtellenie* or Honour of Vernon was an hereditary fief.

“ Notum sit Christi fidelibus, qualiter Willelmus Vernonensis filius Hugonis ejusque conjunx Emma, pretio, simul et societate nostri monasterii accepta, dederunt Sanctæ Trinitati jure hereditario omnium nostrarum rerum per terram vel aquam commeantium thelonium, seu consuetudines omnes quæ sibi competebant, vel ad ipsum castrum Vernonense pertinent. Facta est hæc conventio a domino abbate Rainerio in predicti castri foro, sub idoneis testibus, quibus etiam obnixè petentibus prefatus abbas pro confirmatione hujus conventionis fraternitatem monasterii contulit, annuente hoc Willelmo rege Anglorum et duce Normannorum. + Signum Willelmi regis Anglorum. + Signum Willelmi Vernonensis. + Signum Emmæ uxoris ejus. + Signum Odardi. + Signum Normanni filii Ruil. + Signum Anseredi filii Geremari. + Signum Walteri filii Ricardi. + Signum Raherii Longi. + Signum Letardi Thelonarii. + Signum Gisleberti Taillant. + Signum Herberti Macerarii. + Signum Willelmi filii Gonfredi Macerarii. + Signum Osmundi filii ejus. + Signum Ricardi filii Herberti Gravatoris.”⁷²

In the signatures to this convention a due regard to precedency has been observed ; after the names of William, and his wife Emma, come those of the knights holding of the Honour, Odard, Norman, Ansered, Walter, and Raher ; then follow those of the toll-collector, the tailor, the butcher, and others, all having met in the market-

⁷² Ex cartulario Sanctæ Trinitatis de Monte Rothomagensi, fol. 4 verso. The name of William de Vernon also occurs in the same cartulary as a witness to a gift of a woman of Longueville. “ Quædam mulier de Longavilla, nomine Emma, mater Ivonis, dedit Sanctæ Trinitati in alodio portiolunculam terræ quæ sui juris erat, coram subscriptis testibus. + S. ejusdem Emmæ. + S. Willelmi Vernonensis. + S. Willelmi Macerarii. + S. Osmundi filii ejus. + S. Raherii Longi. + S. Ricardi Senescal. + S. Bernardi. + S. Rodulfi fratris ejus. Ibid. fol. 9 verso.

1077. *place of the bourg of Vernon, to witness the agreement of the abbot with their Lord, in the presence of the King. According to the date which appears to another charter giving similar franchises to the monks of Bec, we must extend the term of life of this William de Vernon to 1077.*

“ Ego Willermus de Vernon, pro salute mea et antecessorum et heredum meorum, do et concedo Deo et Sanctæ Mariæ de Becco et monachis ejusdem loci ut naves eorum et omnes res eorum ad usus et victum illorum proprie pertinentes, liberæ sint et quietæ imperpetuum per totam terram et honorem et potestatem et feodum de Vernon, quocienscunque ibi transierint, de omni consuetudine et pontagio⁷³ et passagio et theoloneo et traverso et omni alia exactione. Hoc in perpetuam elemosinam dictis monachis presenti carta mea confirmo et sigilli mei auctoritate corroboro. Actum anno gratiæ m^o septuagesimo septimo. Testes, Petrus filius Odardi. Hugo frater ejus. Rogerus filius Raheri. Robertus Furonus. Ricardus Borsart.”⁷⁴

*William de
Vernon,
Founder of the
Church of
Notre Dame
de Vernon*

These dates, it will be seen, are at variance with that set forth in the following epitaph, as being the year of the death of the founder of the collegiate church of Vernon :

“ Cy repose Guillaume de Vernon,
Digne de nom, Prince et Gouverneur
De ce lieu cy, dont ha pris son surnom,
Pour droit canon des siens vrai zelateur,
Du college de ceans fondateur,
Et colateur des prebendes et cure,
Des biens qu'ils ont principal donateur,
Conservateur de toute leur droiture.
Autres grans biens selon Dieu et nature
Osmosnés a perpetuellement ;
Puis mort, qui est commune a creature,
Mettre la fait dedans ce monument,

⁷³ The exaction of pontage shows the bridge of Vernon to have existed in 1077.

⁷⁴ Rot. Norm. 8 Henry V. m. 21. De confirmatione Beccensis.

En l'an mille soisante droutement,
 Le dix huit Feburier : partant dis
 A un chacun de vous, que dulcement
 Pries à Dieu qu'il lui donne paradis."

A.D. 1077.

That a William de Vernon was the founder of the college, and that his body was interred in the church of Notre Dame, at Vernon, are indeed facts attested by Richard de Vernon in 1186, in the charter already alluded to :

" Confirmo," he says, " donationem quam primus Willelmus de Vernone antecessor meus, cujus corpus in ecclesia de Vernone jacet, donavit ecclesiæ Vernonensi quando Gislebertus Ebroicensis episcopus eam dedicavit, scilicet terram apud Giverneium sitam, quæ vulgo Cultura prati dicitur, et quartam partem totius forestæ Vernonensis quæ est inter forestam Archiepiscopi Rothomagensis et forestam sancti Audoeni."⁷⁵

But as the years of Gislebert's prelacy only extend from 1071 to 1112, the presence of William de Vernon at this dedication is, equally with the dates of the preceding charters, at variance with the epitaph, which makes him to have died in 1060.

Before the Revolution, the tomb of the Founder stood raised in stone in the centre of the nave of the church of Notre Dame, before the crucifix, and was seen in that state by the late Dr. Ducarel, when he made his antiquarian tour in Normandy, in 1752. But when Millin visited Vernon, about the year 1790, the altar part had been demolished, and the table, with its inlaid effigy, let down on a level with the floor. In the pavement at the foot was also inserted the stone tablet, having on it the above inscription in small capitals, which had heretofore been affixed to the east side of the monument. Both writers give copies of this epitaph ; but that in the " Antiquités Nationales" terminates with the line *Osmosnés a perpetuellement*, owing probably to the tablet having been mutilated

Tomb of the
 Founder.

⁷⁵ Vide cartam Ricardi de Vernone postea.

A.D. 1077. at the time of removal. The church was new paved about six years ago, and both the sepulchral stone and tablet are now gone.

It appears from the descriptions and delineations of the two writers named above, that the effigy of William de Vernon was of white marble, and that he was represented armed, but without his helmet and gauntlets, which were figured lying by him on opposite sides ; the hands were joined in prayer over the breast, while the head rested upon a pillow, and the feet upon a dog. On the surcoat was the armorial bearing of a saltier in front and upon each sleeve ; a dagger hung on the right side, and a sword on the left. Over his head was figured a rich canopy arched in ogee and crocketed, resting on pilasters surmounted with griffins. Other griffins were interposed at half length, and griffins on pedestals formed the bases. Above this canopy on either side were shields of arms ; the bearings, gules, a saltier, ermine, and fretty, sable. The style of the canopy, and of the sculptured decorations on the sides of the monument as figured in Ducarel's *Anglo-Norman Antiquities*, is characteristic only of works of the sixteenth century ; a style usually designated *La Renaissance*, by reason of its being an approach to a revival of classic architecture. The above epitaph was therefore written at the time when this monument was erected, and is simply an amplification of a Latin inscription, in small capitals, which ran round the edge of the slab, and of which this was the reading :

“ Vernonus princeps, urbs cui cognomina fecit,
 Tristia te hoc saxo busta, Gulelme, tegunt ;
 Cui dum saxa paras, hujus fundator et ædis,
 Funere Parca ferox ultima fila secat.
 Mille super centum binis sex addite lustris,
 Flectit iter Piscis dum Boreas medium.”⁷⁶

⁷⁶ Ducarel, *Anglo-Norman Antiquities*, page 92, plate xi. Millin, *Antiquités Nationales*, tome iii. No. xxvi. art. Ville de Vernon, p. 15, planche iii. Le Brasseur, *Histoire du Comté d'Evreux*, Paris, 4to. 1722, p. 152. The two last lines of this Latin

The edifice, for which William de Vernon was preparing the stones when cut off by fate, yet remains, a noble specimen of the ecclesiastical architecture of the Normans. The two lateral arches which support the lantern tower in the centre, with part of the superincumbent structure, certainly date from the first foundation of the building; and the arcade, consisting of a bay in the centre and of four others on each side, which forms the abscis of the choir, is of progressive antiquity. The rest of the church is a rebuilding: early pointed arches, shaped with the utmost elegance, have been run up under the lantern, between the nave and the chancel, and of this character are the external decorations of the lantern itself with its tiers of intersecting arches. The beautiful western façade and the Lady-chapel are examples of the enriched style observable in buildings of the fourteenth century. The aisles of the new choir were, it seems, intended to have been carried out so as to form chapels at the eastern ends, but the design was left incomplete; and they now terminate with a plain wall, having a circular window. In the lateral chapels and the upper parts of the building the forms of the fifteenth century appear, and apparently much was done to enlarge and beautify the church at this period. On the south side is the sacristy, and above it the *Salle du Chapitre*, a construction of very modern date. The church is rich in painted glass, but there are no coats of arms; the Vernon bearing, the saltier, is however sculptured on the bosses of the vaulting in the north aisle of the choir, and in an adjoining chapel.

A.D. 1077.
Description of
the Church of
Notre Dame, at
Vernon.

epitaph are added from the author last cited; Ducarel has left the space they occupied blank in his engraving, nor does he give them in the text. Millin simply copies from his work, as in his time the edge of the slab was concealed by the pavement. Ducarel is also at variance with both Le Brasseur and Millin, in placing the monument in the middle of the choir, instead of the nave, where it must have stood. *Vernonius princeps* is the reading of the first line of this epitaph in Le Brasseur, but Ducarel has VERNONIS PRINCEPS, which is probably correct.

A.D. 1077.

Tomb of
Sir William
Vernon, Kt.
of Tong,
Com. Salop.

Beside the tomb of the founder, Ducarel gives a drawing of another monument, said by him to have been in this church when he visited it, but which was no longer there in 1790. He further describes it as having on the top stone the portraitures of a knight and his wife, together with those of their seven sons and two daughters; there were also escutcheons of the arms of Pembruge, Pypis, Petrus de Sancerlis, Vernon, Ludlow, Camville, Vernon and Pypis together, with one unknown, all inlaid in brass. On this monument the following epitaph was inscribed :

HIC JACENT
DOMINUS WILLELMUS VERNON, MILES, QUONDAM CONSTABULARIUS ANGLIE,
FILIUS ET HERES DOMINI RICARDI VERNON, MILITIS,
QUI QUONDAM ERAT THESAURARIUS CALESIE ;
QUI QUIDEM DOMINUS WILLELMUS
OBIIT ULTIMO DIE MENSIS JUNII ANNO DOMINI MILLESIMO CCCCLXVII.
ET MARGARETA, UXOR DICTI WILLELMI
FILIA ET HEREDITAR. DOMINI PYPIS DE SPERNORES MILITIS ;
QUE QUIDEM MARGARETA
OBIIT DIE MENSIS ANNO DOMINI MILLESIMO CCCCLX.
QUORUM ANIMABUS PROPITIETUR DEUS.
AMEN.⁷⁷

It is not a little singular to find a monument erected in honour of a member of the English family of Vernon in a church of Vernon, in the middle of the fifteenth century, when France had regained quiet possession of the Norman duchy ; but the singularity of the circumstance will appear still more extraordinary, when upon comparing the delineation in Ducarel with the annexed engraving taken from the rubbings of the brasses still remaining on a monument in the church of Tong, in the county of Salop, and making allowance for the inaccuracies usual with draughtsmen of that day,

⁷⁷ Ducarel, *Anglo-Norman Antiquities*, p. 93. The plate in Ducarel was contributed by the Right Honourable George Vernon, Lord Vernon, Baron of Kinderton, ancestor of the Right Honourable George John Warren, the present possessor of those titles.

it is seen that the one was a facsimile of the other. The defunct A.D. 1077.
 thus honoured is represented in armour, his head resting upon a helmet, with lambrequin and crest; the latter, a boar's head erased upon a wreath. Above him is a scroll, with the words "*Benedictus Deus in donis suis.*" By his side is his wife in her wimple and gown, the long folds of which conceal her feet and partly shroud an elephant on which she is standing, probably the crest of her family; above her head, on a scroll, the words "*Jesu, fili David, miserere nobis.*" The children are twelve in number, seven sons and five daughters. From the mouths of three of the former, and one of the latter, issue scrolls with these legends. "*Speravi in Domino et eripuit me. . . . Fili Dei, memento mei. . . . Domine, levavi animam meam ad te. . . . Jesu, filius Marie, pietatis, miserere nobis,*"—indicating that these among them had died in the lifetime of their parents. The shields of arms are: 1. Three bars. 2. Crusilly, two sackbuts or pipes. 3. A fess checky, between six escallops. 4. Fretty.⁷⁸ 5. A lion rampant, collared, and ducally crowned. 6. Three lions passant. 7. Fretty, impaling crusilly, two sackbuts or pipes. 8. A bend.⁷⁹

The inscription round the edge reads as follows:

Hic jacent dominus Willelmus Vernon miles Quondam Miles⁸⁰ constabularius Anglie filius et heres domini Ricardi Vernon Militis qui quondam erat thesaurarius Calesie, qui quidem dominus Willelmus obiit ultimo die mensis Junii anno Domini Millesimo cccclxxii. et Margareta uxor dicti Willelmi filia et hereditaria domini Roberti Pypis Et Spernores Militis, que quidem Margareta obiit...die Mensis...Anno Domini Millesimo cccclx...quorum Animabus propicietur Deus. Amen.

⁷⁸ Sir Henry Vernon, son of Sir William, bore simply a fret for the coat of Vernon. See his standard emblazoned, *Excerpta Historica*, p. 336. In the old rolls of blazon, the terms frette and fretté indicate the same bearing, though now distinguished as a fret and fretty.

⁷⁹ In Dugdale's Visitation of Salop, 1664, marked C 35 in Coll. Arm. the bend is engrailed. The monument is in the nave of the church, on the south side.

⁸⁰ This material word is omitted by Ducarel. The Knight-Marshal was an officer of

A.D. 1077. The will of this Sir William Vernon bears date in the year in which he died, and was proved on the 27th June, 1468. By it he directs his body to be buried at Tong; makes bequests to his daughters Elizabeth, Margaret, Bennet, and Alice, provided they marry with the consent of their mother, and of their brother Henry; bequeaths the manor of Haselbach to his son Richard; leaves annuities to his sons William and Ralph; and appoints his wife Margaret his sole executrix and administratrix.⁸¹ The instruction in this will for his interment at Tong was, therefore, it appears, fulfilled: and further, the blank spaces left for inserting the day and month of his wife's death, together with the omission of the second decimal after the numerals CCCCLX, make it certain that the moulds for these brasses were prepared before the year 1470, and consequently previous to her demise, she being surviving in 1471.⁸² From what motive a cenotaph was likewise raised to his memory in the church of Vernon, it is difficult to conjecture; but the introduction of the English coat of Vernon, along with the bearing of the Norman branch of the family, upon the tomb of William de Vernon, suggests, that veneration on the part of the Vernons of Tong for the birth-place of the first ancestor of their illustrious House, may have been the incentive: and it may also be conjectured from this circumstance, that the erection

similar grade, and they sat in the same court, in which all appeals in regard of offences and felonies committed without the realm were ordained to be tried, before the Constable and Marshal of England, of whom these knights were the deputies.—*Vide Rot. Parl.* iv. p. 349*b*. Thus we learn from the epitaph of Sir Sampson Meverell, in Tideswell Church, in the county of Derby, that the Duke of Bedford made him Knight-Constable, and that by his commandment he kept the Constable Court of this land.—*Gent. Mag.* vol. lxiv. p. 1102.

⁸¹ Reg. Godoy, f. 23.

⁸² Nichols' Liecestershire, vol. iii. p. 913*, from an original deed.

of a monumental shrine to the memory of the Founder, a not uncommon practice among religious communities at this period,⁸³ A.D. 1077.
 was aided by the benefactions of this English family.⁸⁴

The eighteenth of February was doubtless the day marked in the Necrology of the College for the celebration of the obit of their founder, and was on this account introduced into the modern epitaph, as being that on which he died: but in registers of this description the year was never added, at least in ancient times. We know, however, that William de Vernon was alive in 1077, and that Hugh de Redvers held the sway at Vernon at the close of the Conqueror's reign; the first will therefore have died in the interval, which accounts for our not finding his name among those who held lands in England at the time of the general survey.

The parentage of Emma, the wife of William de Vernon, is unknown; but there is reason to suppose, from a recital in the confirmation charter of William the Conqueror, and his Queen Matilda, to the Abbey of Caen, that he had an aunt named Billetheldis, the daughter of Roger: Emma, wife of
William de
Vernon.

“Billetheldis filia Rogerii quod pater suus donaverat ei in Vernun pro conjugio, et ipsa dedit prædictæ ecclesiæ, nepote ejus annuente Willelmo, de ejus Honore erat, cui pro concessu suo, ego Regina Mathildis dedi de censu meo.”⁸⁵

The Honour of Vernon has been shown to have belonged to a

⁸³ At Valmont, in Normandy, the cenotaph of Nicholas de Stuteville, the founder, is still remaining uninjured. The style shows it to be nearly contemporary with the monument of William de Vernon, and here also the date in the epitaph is incorrect. The monks of that day were very indifferent chronologists.

⁸⁴ The use of the word *hereditaria* in the Vernon epitaph, obviously taken from the French word signifying heiress “*heritière*,” and which I know no other instance of in English monuments, makes it more than probable that the brasses were of French manufacture, and not unlikely, cast in the town of Vernon.

⁸⁵ Gallia Christiana, xi. instr. col. 70.

A.D. 1077. William between the years 1066 and 1080, when this gift must have been made; and thus by identifying the nephew of Billeheldis with the castellan of Vernon, we are enabled to ascend a step higher in the pedigree, and deduce the descent of the latter from Roger, father, it is presumed, of Hugh de Vernon, the monk of St. Wandrille.

Their issue. The subsequent connexion of the family of Redvers with the hereditary ownership of the *Châtellenie* of Vernon, gives additional weight to the traditional statement of Robert du Mont; and if we admit, that when he reports a daughter of Osmund de Centumvillis, *Vicomte* of Vernon, to be the mother of the "first" Baldwin de Revers, a more remote ancestor of the head of the family who then bore the surname he intended to be designated, then it may be safely presumed upon his authority that the first William de Vernon, a boy (*puerulus*) in 1052, was her son by Hugh de Vernon, the monk, and that through her, Richard and Hugh de Redvers and Adelis, the sons and daughter of William de Vernon and Emma, claimed kindred with the Dukes of Normandy, and the Kings of England of the Norman race.



CHAPTER II.

Hugh de Redvers, called De Vernon—Etymology of the word Redvers—Description of the Vill of Redvers—Richard de Redvers, an account of him—His Honours in England, Isle of Wight, Christchurch, Plympton, and Tiverton—In Normandy, Néhou—Patron of the Abbey of Montébourg—Gives to it the cells of Loders and Armouth in England—Dies, and is buried there—His tomb—Legend of Notre Dame de l'Etoile—Adeliza, daughter of William Peverel of Nottingham, wife of Richard de Redvers—Their issue.

1077—1107.



OF the two sons of William de Vernon, Richard, the eldest, appears to have borne the surname of De Redvers only, but Hugh is generally distinguished by the local surname of his father, from which it may be inferred that in the distribution of the paternal inheritance, some of the fiefs which composed the Honour of Vernon had been awarded to him in *parage*,¹ agreeably to the custom of Normandy, and that he had the custody of the place under his brother. Thus it is as Hugh de Vernon, that his signature is attached to a charter of Duke Robert in favour of the Priory of St. Vigor, near Bayeux, dated in 1089, on the day of the surrender of the castle of Eu.

A.D. 1077.

CHAP. II.

Hugh de Redvers, alias de Vernon.

“ Cum omnis sit a Deo potestas et omnis potestatis conditio in sua distantia, hæc etiam principibus seculi concessa est gratia ; ut ea quæ a suis fidelibus data vel reddita recipit ipse Deus in sua ecclesia, ut in jus perpetuæ

¹ Land in Normandy was said to be held in *parage*, when it was held by the junior branches directly of the head of the Family, after the fief forming the paternal estate had been dismembered for their advancement.

A.D. 1089. possessionis transisse sibi ex lege sunt decreta, eorum demum sanctiat auctoritas. Ergo tantus honor eis datus cum onere, tantum eis onus impositum cum honore, conveniens eos suo modo in cubili mentis suæ, incessanter debet eis suggerere, ut caveant ne ingrati esse decernantur de munere, ne ve sibi minus providentur circumspecti ruinam patiantur, suffocati tanta fasce. Ego igitur Robertus Dux Normannorum et comes Cenomanensium, et si cum majora a Deo acceperim in majoribus sibi deberem ministrare, in hoc tamen, quantumcumque sit, animæ meæ et parentum meorum volens saluti consulere, illud quod patruus meus Odo, Baiocensis episcopus, in predio Sanctæ Mariæ Bajocensis ecclesiæ, astruit monasterium, ex proposito ut ibi semper monachi serviant a se dispositi, nostri assensûs manum dans, quantum possum nostræ concessionis auctoritate corrobore, dans ei quam possum libertatem; videlicet, omnes consuetudines per totam terram meam quæ ad me pertinent de dominicis suis rebus, tam in passagio et in theloneo quam in ceteris exitibus, et de meo proprio in cotidiano usu fratrum ibidem servientium onera quatuor asinorum singulis diebus de viridi ligno in nemore meo de Verneio. Concedo etiam ut omnium abbatum ejusdem loci Bajocensis episcopus electionem faciat et omnis ejusdem loci abbas a Bajocensi episcopo baculum pastorem recipiat. Hoc autem privilegium trado Bajocensi ecclesiæ jure sempiterno. Quisquis autem de terramea aliquid sui monasterio predicto tradiderit, id sibi ratum fore concedo, ne occasione juris mei ullo modo possit revocari. Hæc vero quæ subscribuntur de suo beneficio dat predictus episcopus eidem monasterio, quod manu mea signum faciens confirmo, viz. plenam decimam totius villæ in qua monasterium situm est, et omnium ad eandem villam pertinentium et quicquid ad ecclesiam quæ ibi erat prius pertinebat. Et preterea, medietatem ejusdem totius villæ tam in hominibus et in territorio quam in ceteris redditibus, et unum hominem in burgo Episcopi cum terra ejusdem hominis, qui serviat de faciendo braisio, et unum molendinum prope civitatem, Baiocas, quod est super Oram fluvium, et plenam decimam de tota Chriccavilla cum terra presbyteri et ea quæ ad ecclesiam pertinent. Et plenam decimam de Carchinneio cum terra quæ ad ecclesiam pertinent et terra presbyteri, et plenam decimam de Lion et omnibus terris quæ ad Liun pertinent cum terra quæ ad ecclesiam pertinent et terris presbyterorum, et preterea xl acras terræ in eadem villa. Et quicquid

idem episcopus habebat in Basenvilla et ecclesiam de Cruiseio et de Olferes et de Colgrino cum plenis decimis et terris quæ ad ipsas ecclesias pertinent et terris presbiterorum. Hæc itaque prefato monasterio omnia concedo, et ut ea habeat, sicut habuit etiam tempore patris mei, confirmo. Signa. Robertus Comes. Gislebertus Episcopus Ebroacensis. Willelmus Episcopus Dunelmensis. Odo Episcopus Baiocensis. Willelmus Comes Ebroacensis. Robertus Comes de Mellent. Willelmus de Bretoil. Hugo de Vern(one). Ricardus de Corceio. Elgelranus filius Ilberti. Willelmus Crispin. Robertus de Monfort. Willelmus monachus de Archis. Serlon de Maton. Willelmus de Molendino. Willelmus Bertranni.

A.D. 1089.
CHAP. II.

“Anno ab Incarnatione Domini MLXXXIX. indictione XII. secundo anno principatûs Rotberti Guillelmi Regis Anglorum filii ac Normanniæ comitis. Dum idem Rotbertus esset ad obsidionem Auci, ea die qua idem castrum sibi redditum est. Hæc carta manu sua firmata est ac sigillo suo assignata.”²

This date concurs in time with the seizure of the wine-rents of the nuns of Caen by Hugh de Redvers at Vernon, and also with the following charter of Rainald de Orval, whereby he grants his purparty of the manor of Beaupré, Département de la Manche, *canton de Periers*, to the monks of St. Etienne at Caen, and of which Hugo de Redvers is one of the sureties.

“Ego Rainaldus de Orivallo, pro amore Dei et anima patris et matris meæ, pro salute animæ meæ, uxoris et filiorum meorum, pro salute domini mei Roberti Ducis Normannorum, pro anima Willelmi patris ejus, Regis Anglorum, et Mathildis Reginæ uxoris ipsius, et pro animabus parentum meorum, trado cenobio Sancti Stephani de Cadomo partem totam quam habeo in manerio Balte, liberam, solidam et quietam cum universis qui ad eam pertinent, concedente hoc predicto Duce Roberto, Odone episcopo Baiocensi, domino meo, uxore ac filiis meis. Ut autem hæc mea donatio firmior permaneat posterum dedit mihi Gislebertus Abbas ejusdem cenobii ducentas et quinqua-

² Vetus Cartularium ecclesiæ Baiocensis, carta vi. folio 3, recto.

A.D. 1089. *ginta libras nostræ monetæ pro ista donatione. Hujus itaque donationis et*
 CHAP. II. *conventionis sunt testes ex parte Rainaldi, Willelmus filius ejus, Odo Baiocensis Episcopus, Ricardus de Mererio, Rannulfus de Vileriis, Radulfus de Aniseio. Ex parte Sancti Stephani, Willelmus Episcopus Dunelmensis, Ricardus filius Hugonis filii Baldrici, Gauffredus Joganeus, Robertus de Maisnil, Robertus de Grainvilla, Bernericus de Trum, Rogerius filius Radulfi filii Marie. Hanc cartam firmaverunt omnes subscripti, Robertus Comes. Willelmus Rotomagensis Archiepiscopus. Odo Baiocensis Episcopus. Willelmus Dunelmensis Episcopus. Girardus Sagiensis Episcopus. Gislebertus Lexoviensis Episcopus. Michael Abrincensis Episcopus. Rainaldus de Orivallo. Ricardus filius Hugonis filii Baldrici. Serlo de Maton. Hunfridus Bohun. Ingilrannus filius Ilberti. Robertus Marmion. Willelmus filius Rainaldi. Robertus Comes de Mellent. Robertus de Corceio. Eudo frater Nigelli. Nigellus de Constantino. Hugo de Redviers. Willelmus Crispin. Willelmus de Bretoil.”³*

In 1086, Richard de Redvers held a single manor in England, being one of the French-born (*Francigenæ*) tenants of lands in the county of Dorset: but the name of Hugh de Redvers does not occur in Domesday.

“Hic annotantur Tenentes terras in Dorsete.

[LIIII. Hugo de Luri⁴ et alii Francigenæ.]

Ricardus de Redvers tenet Mortestorne. Ælmerus tenuit T. R. E. et geldabilis pro vi hidis. Terra est v carucarum. In dominio sunt ii carucæ et v servi et vii villani et v bordarii cum iii carucis. Ibi molendinum reddens

³ Ex cartulario sancti Stephani, penes Mons. le Comte de Mathan.

⁴ Luri is an error for Iuri, and Hugh Pincerna de Ivri is no doubt the person intended to be named. So in folio 224 b. the same mistake is made in recording the names of both Hugh and his brother Roger, which have there also Luri written over them. The contents of that folio form part of the survey of Northamptonshire, and in it Roger's name is found amongst those who held land under Hugh de Grantmaisnil, whose daughter was the wife of Roger Pincerna de Ivri.

vi solidos et vi denarios et xxx acræ prati. Silva i leuga longitudinis et dimidia leuga latitudinis. Valuit et valet xii libras.”⁵

A.D. 1089.
CHAP. II.

Mortestorne, *alias* Mosterne or Mosterton, is a chapelry, tithing, and large hamlet, in the parish of South-Perrot, in the hundred of Beaminster Forum, in the county of Dorset. In the *Inquisitio Geldi*, in the Exeter Domesday, Richard de Redvers, and the other tenants *in capite* in Beaminster Hundred who were entitled to have their demesne land quit of this tax, are designated *Barones Regis*.

“ In Beieministre hundret sunt c hidæ et vi, i virgata minus. De his habent Barones Regis in dominio viiii hidas i virgata minus. De isto dominicatu Episcopus Sarisberiensis habet v hidas i virgata minus, quæ sunt de victu monacorum, et Ricardus de Reveris iii hidas et dimidiam, et Godwinus dimidiam hidam. Hungerus filius Audoeni adquietavit i hidam in alio hundreto quæ habet in isto. De i hida et iii virgatis quas tenet Aiulfus de Osmundo Episcopo non habuit Rex geldum. Et de hida et dimidia quam tenet Drogo de Comite de Moritonio non habuit Rex geldum. Et de i virgata quam tenet Willelmus Malbeenc de Comite Hugone nunquam habuit Rex geldum. Et pro lxxxii hidis et dimidia habet Rex xxvii libras et xv solidos et ii denarios.”⁶

In accordance with the usual mode of softening the pronunciation of a word by elision, after the use of the French tongue had modified the harshness of the dialects of the Northern invaders, the local surname is in this extract written “ de Reveris,” the d or rather ð being suppressed. In the ancient cartulary of the abbey of the Trinity of the Mont de Rouen, in the annexed extract, the name is written *Rethueres* : here the letters *th* correctly represent the Saxon

⁵ Lib. Domesd. fol. 83.

⁶ Exon. Domesd. p. 21. The family of Maubank, who derived their descent from the William de Malbeenc here named, continued in possession of the advowson of the mother-church of South-Perrot to a late period.

A.D. 1089. character ð , but the constant omission of the cross stroke by
 CHAP. II. writers and their copyists, and the conformity of sound, has caused
 the word to be usually written Redvers : I shall therefore continue
 to use this mode of spelling.

“ Ricardus de Rethueres dedit Sanctæ Trinitati ecclesiam et decimam villæ Opiniensis, acceptis tamen ab abbate Waltero et fratribus xv libris denariorum. Testibus Ricardo de Rethuers. + S. Girardi de Gornaco. + S. Hugonis de Belle-bouf. Testes ex nostris, Ricardus Senescal. Bernardus Cocus. Rodolphus frater ejus. Wilermus de Barentin. Ansgerus. Robertus de Barentin.”

Walter was Abbot of the Holy Trinity from about 1080 to 1120. The vill of Houpenies, or Ampenoix (*Openees* in a charter of the twelfth century) is more generally known by the name of Bourg-Beaudoin, having been apparently so called from Baldwin de Canteleu, a later possessor : it is situate in the Département de l'Eure, *canton d'Ecouis*, adjoining Franqueville, which we have seen formed part of the possessions of William de Vernon.

In regard to the etymology of the name of Redvers, it may be observed, that in the fourth century the Saxons occupied so much of the northern coast of Gaul as to obtain for it the name of *Littus Saxonicum*.⁷ Gregory of Tours speaks of the Saxones Baiocassini ;⁸ and under the Carlovingian dynasty a district of the Bessin went under the appellation of *Otlingua Saxonica*.⁹ Reth, in Saxon,

⁷ Notitia Imperii, Honorio et Arcadio Imperatoribus tunc nuper defunctis.

⁸ Greg. Turon. Hist. lib. v. et x. sub annis 578 et 590.

⁹ Vide *Præceptum Karoli Regis* de dono facto Attoni fideli Regis quarundam rerum de dominio, sitarum in comitatu Bajocensi, in pagello qui dicitur Otlingua Saxonica, id est, villæ nostræ Herdra cum omnibus suis integritatibus, e.c. apud Baluzium, ex cartulario Monasterii Fossatensis, in Appendice Actorum veterum ad Capitularia Regum Francorum, vol. ii. p. 1439. To a capitulary of Charles-le-Chauve with the date November,

signifies fierce or violent, an epithet which would certainly not apply to either of the sluggish streams in the vicinity; but if it be taken in the sense of deep, then the Ver (*the ford*) may have been aptly so distinguished. The bourg is situate in a hollow, by the side of a rivulet, called La Mue, which falls into the river Seule a few paces beyond; and but a little below the place of junction, an ancient road leading from La Delivrande to Bayeux, near which vestiges of a Roman encampment are visible, crosses the Seule, the ford at which spot I look upon as having given name to the vill. Ecclesiastical writers identify Réviers with the *Vicus Rede- verus* near which St. Vigor, Bishop of Bayeux in the sixth century, is said in his Acts to have founded a monastery, named from this locality *Redeveriacum*, but of which all other memorial has perished.

A.D. 1089.
CHAP. II.

A.D. 853, at Senliz, the names of the *Missi dominici*, and of the districts into which their respective circuits were subdivided, are subjoined. Basse Normandie formed the seventh circuit. VII. *Eirardus episcopus, Theodoricus abbas, Herloinus, Harduinus, missi in Aprincato, Constantino, Bagisino, Coriliso, Otlingua Saxonia, et Harduini Oxmiso, et in Lisuino.* The Avranchin, the Cotentin, the Bessin, the Oximin or Exmois, and the Lieuvin, are names of districts which are still in familiar use. The bourg of Creully may be supposed to have derived its name from Corilisum, in which case that *pagus* will have been the district commensurate with the limits of the Archdeaconry of Caen. In like manner the word Otlingua is traceable in the name of the ridge of hill which forms the boundary between the deaneries of Villers and Evrecy and those of Condé-sur-Noireau and Chateau de Vire, the *Mons Linche* of the early Latin charters, Mont de l'Encre in modern writings. As late as 1180, the bailiwick of Condé-sur-Noireau is called in the Exchequer rolls "*Ballia de ultra Montem Linche;*" but as the prefix Ot is the Saxon preposition Oȝ (unto), the Otlingua Saxonia will have been co-extensive with the Archdeaconry of Bayeux, which included the deaneries which reach on either side to Mont de l'Encre: this district is now called the Bocage. The Exmois of Hardouin was apparently that portion of the county of Exmes included in the diocese of Bayeux, and which afterwards gave name to the Archdeaconry of Exmes, Harduinus being merely the name of the Missus in whose circuit it was, and who was perhaps also the superintendent of the district.

A.D. 1089. There is now at Réviers a modern structure, belonging to the
 CHAP. II. Vicomte de Canisy, called the Château, but it does not appear to be
 Description of on the same site as the ancient baronial residence of the lords of
 Réviers. as there are no traces of the deep fosses by which the
 strongholds of the Norman feudatories were usually encircled. It
 stands on the right bank of the Mue, at the foot of a slope,
 which has been formed into an ornamental background, and cut
 into terraces. On the opposite side of the rivulet, at some distance,
 is the parish church, and near it the remains of a second ecclesias-
 tical edifice of considerable dimensions. Owing to the subinfeuda-
 tion of a moiety of the fief of Réviers, the cure came to be divided
 at a very early period into two portions. This circumstance may
 have been the cause of these two edifices having been erected within
 a few paces of each other ; and, judging from their architecture,
 at nearly the same period. The only patron of the parish, however,
 named in the charters and terriers is St. Vigor, and to this saint the
 church which is now in use is dedicated. It has a lofty steeple sur-
 mounted with a spire at the west end, and it will be seen from the
 drawing taken on the spot by Mr. J. C. Buckler, that the architecture
 presents that mixture of round and pointed forms which marked
 the transition from the former to the latter style : it is probable,
 however, that the upper portion is a rebuilding of much later
 date. The entrance to the church is from under the tower, and the
 arch opening the porch into the nave, is circular ; but those which
 rest upon the pillars, separating the nave from the north aisle, are
 pointed, as also the chancel arch. The pillars which support the
 groined vaulting of the choir are also coeval with the earliest por-
 tion of the building, but the vaulting is of as late a date as the
 sixteenth century. Two of the bosses are formed of angels hold-
 ing shields, on one of which are traces of lozenges, the armorial
 ensigns of the mesne lords of Réviers, patrons of a moiety of the
 Cure : the other is defaced. On a third is a sculptured *Pietas*.

Externally, the east end of the church is very plain ; the semicircular heads of the three narrow lights, now closed up, are without ornament, their imposts being merely formed by one stringcourse, and their sills by another, which last is alone carried over the flat buttresses at each angle. The wall of the north aisle has been rebuilt, and the south aisle is an addition since the Revolution.

A.D. 1089.
CHAP. II.

The ruined church of the other portion stands west of the one above described, and is said to have been dedicated to Ste. Christine ; half the nave has been pulled down, and the existing portion converted into a barn. The east end is occupied as a dwelling-house. The whole building has been fronted with ashlar, and is rich in those fanciful decorations which were usually adhered to in the first essays to introduce the pointed style into Norman ecclesiastical buildings. The segment which remains of the north door of the chancel proves the arch to have been circular, but all the other openings are pointed. The length of the choir is about forty-three feet, and of this part of the edifice an accurate drawing by Mr. Buckler will be found among the plates which illustrate these Memoirs.

On the 24th day of April, 1089, Richard de Redvers was at his town of Vernon in company with Robert Duke of Normandy and his court, as the latter was about to cross the frontier on an expedition into France, and there witnessed the charter of the Duke in favour of the see of Bayeux.

Richard de
Redvers at
Vernon.

“ Quoniam antiquus hostis sanctæ Dei ecclesiæ, semper excubans in ejus persecutione, bonum fieri dum nequit impedire, cum factum est, quantum posset molitur minuere, id exercitium debet esse omni militanti Deo animæ Christianæ, ut sua conditione ad ea que potest opera bona nitatur assurgere, et quæ parta fuerunt diligenter studeat conservare ; nobis autem principibus hujus seculi, quos ad pacem interiorem ecclesiæ suæ Deus, quantum ad exteriora et terrena bona, defensores disposuit, quosque in hoc genere negotii

A.D. 1089. CHAP. II. voluit operari, attendendum est magnopere, ut ea que jam collata sunt ei beneficia, inconcussa sibi faciamus permanere, et ex nostra parte, prout Deus facultatem dederit, curemus ampliare. Ego igitur Robertus Dux Normannorum et Comes Cenomannensium, pro salute animæ meæ, et parentum meorum, quicquid ab aliis concessum est Sanctæ Mariæ Bajocensis ecclesiæ ut ex integro semper habeat concedo et confirmo, et de meo proprio jure hæc quæ subscribuntur tam honorifice et quiete ut ego habeam imperpetuum possidenda trado; videlicet, quicquid prediorum vel de feudo habebat Ebremarus a patre meo ea die qua monachus factus est, tam Baiocis et Rothomagi quam in cæteris partibus Normanniæ, in terris, in domibus, in monetis, et in aliis redditibus. Et quicquid Samson a me habebat, tam in prediis quam de capellaria Sancti Johannis; et quicquid a me habebant fratres Ebremari, Eren-garius et alii Osbertus et Vitalis, et totam terram Tort-capel, et terram Hugonis, quæ est Rosel, et quicquid terra continetur inter fluvium Ore et mare a veteri ponte usquequo idem fluvius pervenit in mare, excepta terra Comitis de Moretonio, et terra Rannulfi quam ipse principaliter a me tenebat, et terra Willelmi Camerarii, et Roberti Girardi filii, et Elgelranni filii Ilberti, et terra Walteri Giffardi, videlicet, Maisez. Reddo etiam predictæ ecclesiæ villam de Salhuz. Do etiam apud Cadomum domum Theodorici presbyteri et domos Vitalis Rateri filii et omnes consuetudines quas habebam de habitatoribus ipsarum domorum. Baiocis autem domos Rannulfi Ricardi filii et totam terram quam tenuit Turstinus filius Ansfridi a patre meo. Si quis igitur de his aliquid ecclesiæ abstulerit, Ego Willelmus Rothomagensis archiepiscopus et ceteri coepiscopi nostri eum sub anathemate ponimus et usque ad adventum Domini a consortio Sanctorum separamus. Robertus Comes Normanniæ, Willelmus Rothomagensis Archiepiscopus, Willelmus Dunelmensis Episcopus, Gislebertus Abbas Sancti Stephani de Cadomo, Rogerus Pincerna de Vireio, Engelrannus filius Ilberti, Ricardus de Redveris, Willelmus Monachus, Willelmus Bertrannus, Rannulfus filius Rannulfi Vicecomitis, Hugo filius Baldrici, Rannulfus Vicecomes, Nigellus de Constantino.

“ Anno igitur ab Incarnatione Domini millesimo octogesimo nono. Indictione XII. Principatûs Roberti Comitis anno secundo. Dedicacionis ejusdem ecclesiæ anno XII°. Ordinationis Odonis ejusdem ecclesiæ Episcopi anno XL°. VIII. Kt. Maii, dum esset idem Robertus Comes apud Vernonem quod-

dam castrum Normanniæ, iturus in expeditionem in Franciam, Hæc quæ supra scripta sunt coram primatibus suis predictæ ecclesiæ imperpetuum possidenda contradidit, contradita per hanc cartam, sigilli sui assentione firmatam, posteritati mandavit.”⁹

A.D. 1089.
CHAP. II.

But not long after Richard de Redvers withdrew from the court of Robert, to attach himself to the fortunes of his younger brother Henry, then *Comte* of the Cotentin, who had personally solicited the transfer of him and of his services from Duke Robert. The *trouveur* Wace, whose residence at Bayeux and Caen, in the vicinity of Réviers, favours a belief in the truth of the particulars he details, has thus narrated this incident in his *Roman de Rou et des Ducs de Normandie* :—

Transfers his
services to
Henry, brother
of the Duke.

“ Dunc a Henris li Dus requis
E fit requerre à ses amis
De Richart de Reviers par non,
K’aveir li face à cumpaignon,
Son servise è li li otreit,
Od li remaigne et od li seit,
Ses corteisies li enseint,
Et as torneiemenz le meint.
Richart esteit corteiz è proz
E mult esteit preisié de toz ;
E li Dus li a graanté,
Richart li a quite-clamé.
Jo ne sai ke Richart pensa,
Maiz semblant fist ke li pesa
K’il deveit del Duc tot partir
E son frere Henris servir.
Richart, dist li Dus, si fereiz ;
Henris mon frere servireiz,
Votre fieu è vos li otrei ;
N’est pas meinz gentil hom de mei ;
Sis hoem seiez, jel’ vos comant ;
Servez le bien d’ore en avant :

⁹ Vetus Cartularium Ecclesiæ Baiocensis, carta, N^o. 4.

A.D. 1090,
CHAP. II.

Vos n'arez jà de li hontage,
Nos somes andui d'un parage.
Issi fu Richard od Henri,
Tote sa vie l'a bien servi."¹⁰

The poet also alludes to Richard, when he describes the Sire de Réviers as present at the battle of Hastings :—

“ Cil ki fu Sire de Reviers
Grant plenté out de chevaliers,
Cil i ferirent as premiers,
Englez folent od li destriers.”¹¹

The fiefs which entitled Richard de Redvers to the services of any great plenty of Knights were the gifts of his patron, Prince Henry, at a later period, and at the date of the battle of Hastings he must have been of tender years. But though there is this anachronism in the description, yet here as elsewhere real traditions of the past are mixed up with circumstances applicable to a later generation; William de Vernon, the ancestor of the *Sire de Reviers* known to Wace, was doubtless the personage he meant to record as having taken a personal share in the glories of the fight. It is in 1090 that the historian Ordericus Vitalis first makes mention of Richard, when he notices him among the attendants upon Prince Henry, together with Hugh, Earl of Chester, and some other nobles of the Cotentin. Ten years later, Richard de Redvers is again named, together with Hugh, Earl of Chester, Robert, *Comte* of Meulan, and Roger Bigod, as the chief counsellors of Henry upon his becoming King; and in the following year (1101) honourable notice is taken of his loyalty to his sovereign amid the general disaffection of the courtiers, when Duke Robert landed in England to claim the crown.¹²

Passage
des Normans
en 1090.

¹⁰ Le Roman de Rou et des Ducs de Normandie, par Robert Wace. Rouen, 1827. tome I., p. 206.

¹¹ Ibid. p. 206.

¹² Orderic. Vitalis. Hist. Norm. tom. III. p. 208. et tom. IV. p. 76. 88. Et vide infra

Richard de Redvers reaped the reward of his fidelity and services in the acquisition of ample domains ; in Normandy, he added to the fiefs of his paternal inheritance the Honours of Néhou and Sainte-Mère-Eglise, which appear to have been given when he first attached himself to Henry, at the time when the Prince, who had been left unapportioned in land by his father, became by the cession of his brother Duke Robert, *Comte* of the Cotentin, in which district they are situate. In England, he had of the gift of Henry, when King, the lordship of the Isle of Wight, the Honour of Christchurch in Hampshire, and the manors of Plympton and Tiverton in Devonshire.

A. D. 1101.

CHAP. II.

His domains in
Normandy and
England.

The Isle of Wight had at the Conquest been given by King William to his Seneschal, William Fitz-Osbern, Earl of Hereford, but it was forfeited by his son Roger de Breteuil in 1074. From that time, and during the reign of Rufus, it continued in the custody of a Sheriff, as reverting to the demesne of the crown by escheat. The regrant to Richard de Redvers gave him the castle of Carisbrook with the demesne lands, and the entire suzerainté of the Isle, the King's writs being thenceforward directed to him and to his officers. The following are examples :—

Isle of Wight.

“ Henricus, rex Anglorum, Ricardo de Redveriis, salutem. Præcipio tibi ut permittas ecclesiæ Sancti Petri de Wintonia, et episcopo, et monachis, terram quam habuit ipsa ecclesia tempore patris et fratris mei, ubi est quadraria in *Insula*, ita habere pacifice, sicut unquam melius habuit et sicut breve fratris mei præcepit ; quod si non feceris, Alveraldus de Lincolnia faciat ecclesiæ et episcopo habere. T. Rogero Canc. et E. dap.”

“ Henricus, rex Anglorum, Ricardo de Redveriis et ministris ejus, salutem. Præcipio vobis ut permittas monachos Sancti Swithini de Wincestre, omnino

of Henry I, appended by Robert du Mont to the History of the monk of Jumièges, Richard de Redvers and Roger de Mandeville are represented as having been chiefly instrumental in enabling Prince Henry to recover possession of the greater part of the Cotentin, after the capture of Domfront in 1092.

A.D. 1101. in pace et quiete tenere hidam terræ in *Insula* de Wight, in qua solebat capi
 CHAP. II. petra, sicuti unquam melius et quietius tenuerunt tempore patris et fratris
 mei, et prohibeo ne aliquis se intromittat de terra illa, quia volo ut ita
 quieta sit terra illa sicuti tunc tempore fuit. Et monachi Sancti Swithini et
 servientes eorum ita quiete et pacifice capiant petram ad opus ecclesiæ Sancti
 Swithini sicut tunc tempore facere solebant, et sine aliqua disturbance.
 T. Eud. Dap. apud Suthantona."¹³

Castle of
 Carisbrook.

In the name of Carisbrook may be recognized a corruption of the *þiġhtzajær býriġ* of the Saxon chronicle, the burgh of Withgar. This etymology has indeed been rejected by Sir Richard Worsley, and reckoned the mere fiction of a monkish legend, because no part of the parish is surveyed in Domesday under this name; but there is the testimony of a charter of William Fitz-Osbern, the first Earl of Hereford, to the church having been so described soon after the Conquest. By this deed he gives *ecclesiam de Carisbroco et totam decimam de dominio de Booliub* to the abbey of Lyre, founded by him in Normandy on the banks of the Rille, now the commune of Vieille Lyre in the Département de l'Eure, *canton de Rugles*.¹⁴

The manor of Bovecombe, or as now written Buccombe, in the parish of Carisbrook, had been parcel of the royal domain on the Island in the time of Edward the Confessor;¹⁵ at the Conquest, it passed to the Earls of Hereford, and was, upon its again falling to the Crown by escheat, farmed with other manors by William Fitz-Stur, the Sheriff.¹⁶ It appears to have had its name from the Hundred in which it was situate, the place of meeting of the

¹³ Printed in Worsley's *Isle of Wight*, appendix Nos. iv. and v.

¹⁴ *Gallia Christ.* vol. xi. instr. col. 124. A. Booliub is an erroneous reading for Bouecüb.

¹⁵ *Terra Regis.* In insula de With. Bouecombe H'd. Ipse rex ten. in d'nio Bouecombe. De firma Regis E. fuit. Huj^s m. æcl'am cū una v' t'ræ tēi monachi de Lire. Ad hanc æcclesiam adjacent xx masure bordariorum et redd't. xiiii sol. Ibi molin. de vi solid. et om's decimæ Bouecombe sunt ipsius æcl'æ.—Vide *Lib. Domesd.* fol. 52.

¹⁶ Heldelie, (Idle-combe?) Levintun, (Lemmerston?) and Side (Shide) were the

Hundredors being within the limits of the manor. This was usually some open spot at no great distance from the capital burgh ; in this instance, probably, some eminence in the valley watered by the streamlet which has its course by Carisbrook : at least, the etymology of the word denotes as much, being compounded of *buƿan* *above*, and *comb*, the British vernacular word for valley, which the Saxon invaders were unable to eradicate. The annexation of the tithes and of a virgate of land of this royal extra-parochial manor, (which after the Conquest formed what was specially the *Dominium Comitum*, and is usually so called in the Charters), to the benefice of Carisbrook, may have been the reason for entering that church under the survey of Bouecombe in Domesday, and for describing it as “*æcclesia hujus manerii*.” On the other hand, though it was a virgate of the manor of Avington which was occupied by the precinct of the castle built in the island by the Earls of Hereford,¹⁷ yet the name it invariably went by was that of “Carisbrook Castle ;” while the forest which extended over the whole of the northern part of the parish of Carisbrook, including that of Northwood, since carved out of it, was called “Avington Forest.” A portion of this forest was enclosed at the time of the survey in 1086, which still retains the name of Park-hurst. The church of Carisbrook, after the grant of it to the abbey of Lyre, was surrounded with conventual buildings, and placed under the governance of a prior ; and when Richard de

A.D. 1101.
CHAP. II.

other manors which yielded with Buccombe a rent of sixty pounds in 1086. “De his iiii^{or} p^{nominatis} m. redd. Will’s f. Stur. lx lib. quāvis min^s valeant.”—*Lib. Domesd.* ubi supra. This William Fitz-Stur continued to act as Sheriff in the reign of William Rufus. See the writ addressed “W. Vicecomiti de Insula,” in the appendix to Worsley’s *Isle of Wight*.

¹⁷ Isd. Rex ten. Alwinestune. Donnus tenuit. T^c pro duab^s hidis et dim. Modo pro ii. hid. qia castellum sedet in una v^a. — *Lib. Domesd.* f. 52b.

A.D. 1101. Redvers received the island from King Henry, the monks residing at
 CHAP. II. Carisbrook had the tithes of the deniers of the Suzerain of the Island ;
 “ *decimæ nummorum domini de Insula.*” In lieu of these they
 agreed to accept an annual sum of fifty shillings, and this is the
 only transaction in which Richard de Redvers is found to have
 borne part, that I find recorded in the Cartulary of their monastery.

Honour of
 Christchurch. Christchurch, or Christchurch Twynham, (the former name only
 accruing to the place from its church dedicated to the Holy Trinity
 being usually so called in contradistinction to those churches which
 had particular saints for their patrons) had been “ *de firma Regis*”
 in the reign of the Confessor ; and continuing so to be in 1086, it
 was in the hands of the Sheriff of Hampshire, Hugo de Port, when
 the general survey was taken.¹⁸ In the Saxon chronicle, Ethelwald,
 the rival of Edward the Elder, is said to have ridden against Wim-
 borne and Twynham — *aet tpeon-eam.*¹⁹ The locality of Christchurch
 at once explains the origin of this name, which denotes a place
 between rivers, the more ancient parts of the town being situate
 betwixt the rivers Avon and Stour. In like manner, the Saxon
 name of the Hundred in which it lay, now supplanted by that of the
 town, was Egheiete—*eg-hehðe*, i.e. the height by the river, from the
 place where the men of the Hundred had their meetings, (probably
 St. Katharine’s Hill) and which gave name to the gate leading to it
 from the burgh.²⁰ The Church had been made collegiate under the
 Saxon Kings, and to it belonged of their gift the whole tithes of

¹⁸ Hic annotantur tenentes t’ras in Hantescire.—Terra Regis. In Egheiete Hund.
 Rex ten. in d’nio Thuinam. De firma Regis E. fuit. Tunc et m^o una virg. t’ræ. T’ra
 e. xiii car. In d’nio &c. Silva ē in foresta regis ubi erant v vill’i cū iii car. In burgo
 de Thuinā xxxi masuræ redd’t xvi den. de gablo. T. R. E. et post valuit xix lib. ad nu-
 merū. Modo x lib. de xx^d in ora &c.—*Lib. Domesd.* fol. 44.

¹⁹ Vide Ingram’s Saxon Chronicle, p. 124. 4to. 1823.

²⁰ Ex dono Ranulfi et Walterii filii ejus xxxiii solidatas terræ apud Christechurche, scilicet,
 tres virgatas terræ quæ sunt extra portam de Eggerte.—*Carta Baldewini Comitis* postea.

Twynham and part of the tithes of Holdenhurst. Moreover, besides the original glebe, consisting of four hides and a rood in Twynham, and a hide in the Isle of Wight, two manors, Barton and Bashley, had been attached to the College as prebends, to be held of the King without doing homage.²¹ Such was the quantity of its endowment when Domesday was compiled; after which time, the grant of the vill and manor to Ranulph Flambard by William Rufus was productive of considerable change. Previously, Godric, the head of the community, had been merely distinguished as the senior amongst his brethren; but from the time of his removal, Flambard, who was himself an ecclesiastic and afterwards Bishop of Durham, entitled himself Dean of the College. At his suggestion, the old buildings were taken down, and the foundation of a new church laid: but his further plans for the introduction of Regular Canons, after the then Seculars had died off, were interrupted by the violent death of the King, an event which was quickly followed by his own disgrace and exile. The church of the Holy Trinity was next conferred by King Henry upon a clerk named Gilbert de Dousgunels, who having undertaken a journey to Rome, to obtain the consent of the Pope to the change proposed by his predecessor, died on his way back.²² In the meanwhile, the Honour of Christchurch, with

A.D. 1101.

CHAP. II.

²¹ Terra Canonicorum de Thuinam. In Egheiet Hund. Canonici S. Trinitatis de Thuinā ten. in ipsa villa v hid. et una v. et in Wit insula unā hidā. Hæ hidæ sēp. fuer. in ipsa æccel'a. Tunc &c. In burgo vi masuræ de xiii sol. et iiii den. Ad hanc æccel'am p'tin. tota decima de Tuinā et pars decimarum de Holehest. Alnod pb'r ten. de Rege Bortel. In paragio tenuit de Rege E. T'c se def'd. pro una v^a. et dim. modo similit. T'ra &c. et ii masuræ in Tuinā. Alsi pb'r ten. de rege Bailocheslee. Ipse tenuit de Rege E. T'c se def'd. pro una hida et iii virg. Modo pro iii virg. tantū.—T'ra &c. *Lib. Dom. fol. 44a.*

²² Vide Mon. Ang. vol. ii. p. 177, pro Historia Foundationis, ex reg. de Twineham. MS. Cott. Tib. D. vi. fol. 193*b*. The nine first leaves of this Register were destroyed in the fire of 1731, and till lately the remainder was supposed to be lost. It is now in the British Museum, and only one additional leaf is missing, as I learn from Sir Frederick Madden.

A.D. 1101. the patronage of the Church and the chief rule throughout the
 CHAP. II. County, had passed into the hands of Richard de Redvers : by him
 the benefice was bestowed upon one of his Norman clerks, a native
 of Orglandes in the Cotentin, to whom the possessions of the church
 were at the same time confirmed, together with the added vill of
 Ningwood in the isle of Wight.

“ Omnibus fidelibus presentibus et futuris Ricardus de Redveriis, salutem. Sciatis quod postquam placuit domino meo, nobili Regi Anglorum Henrico, dare michi ecclesiam de Cristeschircheia, dedi eam et ista carta mea confirmavi cuidam clerico meo Petro de Oglandes, cum omnibus libertatibus quas Ranulfus et Gilbertus decani habuerunt : et cum omnibus præbendis, terris, et ecclesiis et earum, quarum hæc sunt nomina, pertinentiis ; villam de Hurna, terram de Bostel, terram totam de Stamputta, terram de Huburne, et terram de Strode et Dudecompa, terram de Prestun, et aliam Prestunam. In insula de Wiht terram de Apsa, terram de Hamstede in eadem insula, ecclesiam de Hordulla cum capella de Melneford, ecclesiam de Bolra cum capella de Brokehurst, capellam de Holeherst, capellam de Soppele, præbendam apud Pideletonam. Adjeci etiam dare et præsentī scripto confirmare ei Christi Ecclesiæ et Petro Decano et successoribus suis in liberam et perpetuam elemosinam quandam villam in insula Wiht cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, Ningwedam, cum quadam terra in Suthamtuna quæ pertinet ad eandem villam, tenendam eidem Christi ecclesiæ de me et heredibus meis libere et quiete ab omni seculari servitio. Hujus meæ donationis et confirmationis testes sunt, Galfridus de Mandevill, Rogerus frater ejus, Radulphus Tessun, Rogerus de Lestra, Tuold de Pampillun, Ricardus de Morevill, Rogerus de Nunant, Robertus Foliot, Bernardus et Osmundus capellani, Godwinus et Ailmerus canonici Christi Ecclesiæ, Picot de Pideleton.”²³

Honour of
 Plympton.

Plympton was also *Terra Regis* when the survey of Domesday was taken, and as such, in the ferm of Baldwin, the Sheriff of Devon. The river Plym gave name to the tun, where likewise met the Hundredors of the district, which had its name from this their place of

²³ Ibid. p. 179, ex eodem reg. fol. 13a.

meeting. The parish church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, had, as at Twynham, been made collegiate for Secular Canons before the Conquest, and two hides lying within the manor of Plympton, at Colebrook and Wembury, continued to be held by them in 1086, of which the arable land was sufficient to give annual employment to six plough teams. The number of teams in the rest of the manor, might, it is said, be raised to twenty, though only fourteen were in use at the time of the survey; a valuation from which its then great extent and fertility may be inferred.²⁴ This collegiate benefice, together with the church of Branton, and St. Stephen's church in the city of Exeter, were by the Norman Conqueror conferred upon William de Garelguest, one of his chaplains, who being made afterwards, A.D. 1107, Bishop of Exeter, obtained of King Henry I a charter annexing them to his see. "*Surquoi,*" according to the averment of an ancient pleading, "*William adonque Evesque d'Excestre, founda et ordyna la Priorie de Plympton en la maison de la Rectorie, en dite esglise de Plimpton, et dona la dite esglise de Plimpton a les Chanons Rewelers q'il mist illoeques, ove terres, dysmes, et toutes autres choses a la dite esglise appartenants.*"²⁵ This

A.D. 1101.
CHAP. II.

²⁴ Hic annotantur tenentes terras in Devenescira.—Terra Regis. Rex teñ Plintone T. R. E. geld' b. pro ii hid. et dim. Tra ē xx car. In d'nio &c. Redd. xiiii lib. et x solid. ad pensū. Præter hanc t'rā teñ canonici ej'd. m. ii. hid. T'ra ē vi car. Ibi xii vill'i h'nt iiii car. Valet xxxv solid.—*Lib. Domesd.* fol. 100b.

D'nicatus Regis ad regnum pertinens in Devenescira.—Terra Regis. Rex h't i mans. q. vocat' Plintona q. ten. E. rex ea die q^a ipse f. v. et m. et redd. gildū pro ii hidis et dim. has poss. arare xx car. Inde h't rex i hidā et ii carr. in d'nio et vill. i hidā et dim. et xii carr. Ibi &c. hec reddit xiiii libras et x sol. ad pensū et qn. B. recep. xii lib. et x sol. ad pensū.

Exceptis his ii hidis et dim. h'nt canonici d'ci Petri de Plintona ii hidas. has poss. arare vi carr. Ibi h'nt canonici xii vill. qⁱ h'nt iiii carr. et valent p. annū xxxv sol.—*Exon Domesday.*

²⁵ Plac. coram Rege de term. Hill, 2 Ric. II, rot. 20 Devoniam.—*Mon. Ang.* vol. ii. p. 7.

A.D. 1101. was not done, however, till the year 1121 ;²⁶ in the meanwhile, the
 CHAP. II. Secular Canons of Plympton had their property enlarged, through
 the liberality of Richard de Redvers, after he became Lord of
 Plympton, who with the consent of his son Baldwin, gave them
 the land lying between the ridge of Plym (*Plim-rhigia*), now
 Ridgeway, and the road leading from Colebrook to the sea.²⁷

Manor of
 Tiverton.

Tiverton is also in a hundred which has its name from the tun
 being the place of meeting. The etymology is apparently the
 same with that of Twineham, tpeon-ea-tun, the place being encom-
 passed by the two rivers Exe and Tamar. It had belonged to
 Ghitha, the mother of King Harold,²⁸ until the Conquest trans-
 ferred it to Matilda, the Queen of William.²⁹ After her death it
 was held in demesne by the crown for a time, and was then granted
 to Richard de Redvers. There was here formerly a chief mansion
 near the church, and a park ; but no stronghold, though the fief
 was accounted a barony. Christchurch was probably a fortified
 burgh, and there may also have been some protecting earthworks
 at Plympton in the time of the Saxons ; but the castles, the ruins
 of which are still conspicuous at the present day in both places,

²⁶ The charter of King Henry I, bears date in 1123, but the exact date of the first introduction of the Canons Regulars was the 24th August, 1121.—*Vide excerpt. ex Registro. Harl. MS. 6974.*

²⁷ Carta Regis Henrici II, Prioratui de Plympton, donatorum concessionibus recitans et confirmans.—*Mon. Ang.* vol. ii. p. 8.

²⁸ Devenescira.—Terra Regis. Hæc subsequencia maneria tenuit Ghida mat. Heraldici Comitis. Tovretone. T. R. E. geld' b. pro iii. hid. et dimid. Tra ē xxxvi car. Ibi &c. Valet xviii lib. ad pond. et arsurā.—*Lib. Domesd.* fol. 100b.

²⁹ Terra Mahillis Regine in Devenescira.—Rex h't i mansionē q. vocat' Touretone q. tenuit Gida ea die qua E. Rex f. vivus et m. et redd. gild. pro iii hid. et dim. xxxvi carr. has poss. arrar. Inde h't Rex in d'nio i hid. et dim. et vill. ii hid. et xxx carr. Ibi, &c. et val. xviii lib. ad pond. et arsurā.—*Exon Domesday*, fol. 102.

were doubtless of Norman foundation, and erected subsequent to the compilation of Domesday, probably in the reign of Henry I, when the greater barons sought to multiply their places of strength.³⁰

A.D. 1101.
CHAP. II.

In Normandy, Néhou, now a commune in the Département de la Manche, canton de St. Sauveur-sur-Douve, was the seat of the castle which became the caput of the Barony held by Richard de Redvers and his descendants, in the peninsula of the Cotentin, and for which a service of five knights was due to the Duchy. The castle stood upon a holm³¹ or island, where two arms of the Douve encircle a narrow strip of broken ground, which seems to jut out from the hills on the west side into the marshy valley through which the river has its course. The great square donjon tower continued standing until the year 1771, when it suddenly fell during a storm, on the Monday before Ash-Wednesday. Huge, shapeless masses of masonry, for the most part stripped of their ashlar covering, a desecrated chapel of the plainest structure, and a few cottages, now mark the site; but the ground-plan of the existing ruins, which is annexed, serves partially to indicate the form of the building.

Castle of
Néhou.

The angles appear to have been rounded off externally on the side where was the principal entrance, which faced the west. On that side lies the village of Néhou, together with the parish church, about half a mile distant from the castle. The road which conducts to it from the latter, crosses the arm of the Douve by a bridge, which retains the name of the Pont-de-Boelle, i.e. the bridge of

³⁰ For a detailed description of the ruins of Christchurch, see the Antiquities of the Priory of Christchurch, Hants, by Benjamin Ferrey, architect, the literary part by Edward Wedlake Brayley, Esq. London, 1834.

³¹ Holm was a term descriptive of the low grounds left dry by the rivers near their edge, as well as of the islets formed by them in their course.

A.D. 1101. the Baily. In modern times a channel has been cut from the
CHAP. II. Douve, which now passes close under the castle-mound, on the east side, and feeds two mills with its waters below. The other sides are protected by a deep double foss, which encompassed the mound, and which is yet perfect on the west and north. On the island between the mill-stream and the main channel of the Douve, the chapel of St. Eloi, built in 1686, is yet standing, which is supposed by the historian of the parish to be identical with the Hôtel Dieu of Néhou :³² but it is clear from the deed of partition made between the coheirs in 1283, that at that period this ground was under water, and the site of the *vivier dessoulz le Manoir*. The two mills are moreover described to be “*sur la chaussée du vivier de Néhou,*” and this causeway still exists, though the pond has been reduced to a simple mill race. It passes below the chapel, and serves as a dam to the mills, against which it abuts. Along it is the only road across the river and marsh, between Néhou and the commune of Ste. Colombe, on the east side of the valley. In Mr. Buckler’s sketch of the ruins the church of St. Colombe is seen in the distance through the opening, the site of the gateway of the castle.

Anciently the higher grounds of the parish of Néhou were almost entirely covered with wood; the forests of Mont-rond, La Roquelle, Daneville, and Beau-quesnay occupying a vast extent of territory between the rivers Scie and Soudre, which both fall into the Douve, and are the limits of the commune on the north and south. These have been successively cut down, and the soil is either laid bare, or brought into cultivation—a labour which appears to have been begun as early as the

³² Histoire de la Paroisse de Néhou, p. 203. 12mo. Cherbourg, 1835. The chapel of the Hôtel Dieu was in the bourg of Néhou.

twelfth century, as we shall have occasion hereafter to remark. A.D. 1101.
 Rendered thus secure from attack by its natural defences of forest and marsh, it may readily be supposed that the site of Néhou was early selected to be the seat of a strong-hold, either by the sovereign of the Duchy, or by some one of his vassals and feudatories in the Cotentin. CHAP. II.

The name (*Nigelli-humus*) raises a presumption that the district was originally a member of the great Honour belonging to the hereditary *Vicomtes* of the Cotentin, many of whom bore the name of Néel (*Nigellus*) and whose castle of St. Sauveur was situate upon the banks of the same river, a league lower down. Derivative of Néhou.
 The severance of the holm of Néel from the domain of St. Sauveur will in that case date from the time of the conspiracy (1047) to raise Guy of Burgundy to the Ducal throne, which caused the exile of many of the revolted barons, and, among them, of Néel of St. Sauveur. Under which of the Néels the castle of Néhou was begun to be built can only be matter of conjecture; but it must have been made the Caput of an Honour at an early period, for in an act of foundation by Richard de Redvers of a collegiate church in the bourg of Néhou, it is distinguished as the *Vetus Honor Nigelli-humi*. Much, however, of its subsequent importance must be attributed to the policy of the Conqueror, who when the castle of St. Sauveur was restored to the Néels, strengthened this place, with a view to keep in check those formidable vassals.

The church of Néhou was dedicated to St. George, and, as at Réviers, the cure was divided into portions; a division here also owing to an extensive subinfeudation made in favour of one of the vassals of Richard de Redvers, the effect of which had been to partition the parish into two fiefs, known as the fief of Néhou, and the fief of Réviers. Fief of Réviers at Néhou, or of the Prevoté.
 The latter name arose from the local appellation borne by the feudatory, whose ancestor appears

A.D. 1101. to have held the hereditary feudal office of Provost of the con-
 CHAP. II. joint Honour of Réviers and Néhou. *Signum + Rodberti de Redveriis* is written twice at the foot of a charter of William the Conqueror granting the vill of Hemmingbrough to the monks of Durham ; and a William de Redvers was present at a council held at London, in the King's presence, in 1082, when the establishment of the same monks at Durham was fixed by William of St. Calais, the Manceau Bishop of that see.³³ This same personage designates himself "*Willielmus de Reviere, filius Roberti presulis,*" in his signature to a charter to Montebourg, an abbey of the Cotentin, afterwards under the patronage of the lords of Réviers ; so that there is little reason to doubt this family having been already in possession of the fief of the *Prevoté*, when the Honour of Néhou was granted to Richard de Redvers, and that they exercised their jurisdiction in what was heretofore the demesne of the Sovereign in whose court they were attendant.³⁴ The manorial seat of the possessors of the fief of Réviers is called *manerium de Breupararia* in the earlier documents, and *de la Beurrière* in 1252. It faced the *Cour de Magneville*, a parish which joins Néhou to the north : a lofty mound in a field, called *Les Buttes*, now alone indicates the site. The church is an edifice of no great antiquity ; the choir was built at the expense of the rector, Bon de Montchal, in 1592, as appears from an inscription : the transepts and central tower are the work of the same century : the nave is more modern. There is a tomb in a niche in the south wall of the chapel of St. Sulpice, at the

Church of St.
 Georges de
 Néhou.

³³ *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. i. p. 49A, and 44A. Of the first charter there is a *facsimile* in Hickes.

³⁴ See the signatures to the charter of William de Vernon, *postea*. The fief of Réviers in Néhou had the title of *Prevoté*, and was so styled in the *Pleiges et Aveux* ; a description which corroborates its presumed descent, in the line of Robert de Réviers, the Provost under William the Conqueror.—*Hist. de la Paroisse de Néhou*, p. 93.

end of the transept, beneath a window of *flamboyante* tracery, which has had a motto and a coat of arms sculptured on the apex of the arch in front; but the latter is defaced, and the former so rudely carved that it baffled all attempts to decypher it. In a window of the choir is a fragment of another coat, and beneath it these words are legible: “*En l’an 167... Scolastique la Fournière, v^{ve} de feu Charles de la Haulle, S^{re}. du lieu, et de la Haulle, et du Hommet. . . .*” La Haulle was a manor place at the western extremity of the parish, where stood in the seventeenth century a chapel under the invocation of St. Anne and All the Saints. The chapel of the manor place of *La Beurrière* was dedicated to the Holy Innocents, whence originated the name sometimes given to it of *Le Château des Innocens*.

A.D. 1101.
CHAP. II.

There was also, besides the domestic chapel of St. Peter in the castle of Néhou, a second church in the bourg, dedicated to Our Lady.³⁵ It was built by Richard de Redvers, who made it collegiate for a Dean and Canons, with prebends annexed, by virtue of the following grant:

Church of
Nôtre Dame
du Bourg de
Néhou.

“*Sciant omnes tam futuri quam presentes quod ego Richardus de Reviers, impeditus plurimis peccatis, consilio Henrici Regis Anglorum, et consilio Radulphi Constantiensis episcopi,³⁶ et Baronum meorum, in castello Nigellihumi constitui ecclesiam in honorem Sanctæ Mariæ Virginis pro remissione peccatorum meorum, et animabus antecessorum meorum ac omnium fidelium, in qua posui Canonicos supradicto consilio, quibus prefeci Richardum, sacerdotem de Sancto Georgium, decanum; et ibi seipsum canonicum constituit, concedens ei ecclesiæ in perpetuam elemosinam omnia quæcumque*

³⁵ This bourg is believed to have extended westward from the castle to the Pont de Boelle.

³⁶ Ralph was consecrated Bishop of Coutances on Passion Sunday, 2nd April, 1094, and was surviving in 1108.

A.D. 1011. in terris et in ecclesiis tenebat,³⁷ et in omnibus rebus pertinentibus ad ecclesias predicti clerici, scilicet, in garbis, et piscariis; et ei dedi sedem cujusdam domûs in elemosina in castello supradicto et viginti solidos in Anglia ad supplementum necessariorum. Et eidem ecclesiæ quam constitui concessi in proprio dominio decimam telonii de castello ad lumen et ad necessaria ecclesiæ; oblationes vero quæ fierent in ecclesia et dona concessi Canonicis in communi, et omnia alia concessi prebendæ Richardi supradicti. Et eidem ecclesiæ dedi ecclesiam Sancti Laurentii³⁸ in prebenda Guillelmo sacerdoti, cum elemosinis ad ecclesiam Sancti Laurentii pertinentibus; et unam mansuram cujusdam rustici dedi prebendæ hujus Guillelmi in manerio Sanctæ Mariæ Ecclesiæ, et sedem domûs in castello, et in Anglia viginti solidos. Et eidem ecclesiæ dedi ecclesiam Sanctæ Columbæ de Golevill in prebenda Rogero filio Hernulphi, cum omnibus elemosinis pertinentibus ad ecclesiam Sanctæ Columbæ, sicut Hugo sacerdos unquam eas melius tenuit in vita sua; quas elemosinas in ortilugio³⁹ dividit quoddam fossatum ex parte altera et ex alia rivulus procedens de molendinis Rogerii de Runevill, dividit, dico, ab agris vicinorum, et ex alia parte dividit Unva, exceptis agris de campania,³⁹ et viginti solidos in Anglia. Et eidem ecclesiæ dedi in prebenda et elemosina Radulpho Grammatico capellariam meam in Nigelli-humo, et omnia mea videnda et custodienda de clientibus meis cum dapifero meo; et decimam dedi eidem ecclesiæ et eidem Radulpho in prebenda et elemosina de forestis meis pertinentibus ad Veterem Honorem Nigelli-humi, scilicet, de Mondrooldo et de haya Nigelli-humi et de haya Morevill, scilicet, de careto et de pasnagio et de placitis careti et pasnagii, et de omnibus aliis placitis forestæ et hayarum, et de brostagio et herbagio, et de venatione. Dedi et supradictæ ecclesiæ et Radulpho in prebenda et elemosina decimas molendinorum meorum pertinentium ad Veterem Honorem Nigelli-humi, molendino-

³⁷ Richard, the priest of St. Georges de Néhou, was also incumbent of the portion of Richard de Redvers, in the church of St. Martin de Golleville.

³⁸ Rauville-la-Place, canton de St. Sauveur-sur-Douve.

³⁹ A distinction is apparently here meant between what was garden and what was open field within the described limits, the glebe lands including only what was *de ortilugio* and not *de campania*.

rum, dico, tam factorum quam faciendorum, et decimas de placitis moltæ et decimam anguillarum de piscaria de Lungaracha,⁴⁰ et decimam de piscaria molendini de Colombeio, et decimam anguillarum quartæ partis molendinorum Nigelli-humi, et unum allodium extra portam ubi Radulphus fecerit granchiam suam; dedi etiam unam mansuram cujusdam rustici in manerio Sanctæ Mariæ Ecclesiæ, et viginti solidos in Anglia. Dedi etiam supradictæ ecclesiæ et Radulpho partem meam de ecclesia Colombei et omnes elemosinas pertinentes ad eam partem ecclesiæ.⁴¹ Et dedi etiam huic ecclesiæ et canonicis, tam presentibus quam futuris, consuetudinem de Mondrooldo de panagio porcorum suorum et de mairemiis ad domos suas faciendas, et ligna ad suum ignem, sicut Baronibus meis. De his vero quatuor libris esterlingorum, quas huic ecclesiæ dedi et his quatuor canonicis et subsequentibus suis, sunt in Tuertona sexaginta solidi, et viginti solidi in Torleia.⁴² Hic supradictus Episcopus, laude Henrici, Regis Anglorum, et mea prece, et consilio Goccelini et Petri archidiaconorum suorum, dedit michi in feodo tenere scholas in Nigelli-humo. Has scholas concessi prebendæ Radulphi. Wil-

A.D. 1101.

CHAP. II.

⁴⁰ Racu (*racu*) signifies a flood of water in Anglo-Saxon, and the word is still recognizable in what at the present day is called a reach, usually applied to denote the extent of a continued current of deep water in a river. In the north, the word has retained much of its original sound: thus we have Long-ratch in the Tyne, and Langrick, anciently Lang-rak, in the Ouse, yet the name of a hamlet on its banks. See also Brockett's Glossary of North-country Words, *sub voce* Ratch.

⁴¹ The Church of Colomby forms the subject of one of the etchings in Cotman's Normandy, p. 47; but the note subjoined respecting its history is full of errors. Colomby and Sainte Colombe de Golleville are in the same canton as Rauville-la-Place. The subinfeudation to the Provost in the time of William the Conqueror comprised moieties of the vills of St. Martin de Golleville and Colomby, and at the latter place the cure was split into portions, as at Réviers and Néhou.

⁴² Tiverton has been mentioned above as one of the chief manors of Richard de Redvers in England. Thorley is a parish in the Isle of Wight. This pension of 20*s.* continued to be paid to the abbey of Montebourg, to which the Chapelry of Néhou was afterwards given, in the year 1305. *Vide* return made by the Dean of the Isle of Wight to Bishop Woodstock.—*Worsley, App.* p. 154.

A.D. 1101. CHAP. II. lielmus, vero, de Reviens, postquam fuit concordatus mecum,⁴³ commotus magna pietate, dedit eidem ecclesiæ in villa Nigelli-humo mansuram Anfridi filii Briardi in elemosina quiete, pro anima sua et antecessorum suorum, quam concessi in prebenda Richardo filio Baldoini, et consuetudines ut aliis Canonicis. His itaque compositis, consilio Baronum meorum, misi hanc chartulam supradicto episcopo per Hosmundum, capellanum meum, ut in ea faceret signum suum, et hanc donationem ecclesiæ supradictæ et Canonicis, tam presentibus quam futuris, concederet; et dixit, “si quis hanc chartulam violare presumpserit, perpetuo anathemate et mala morte feriat atque condemnetur, et omnis quicumque huic cartulæ concesserit, perhempni vita fruatur in secula seculorum.” Hujus cartulæ testes existunt hi. + Signum Radulphi, Episcopi Constantiensis. + Signum Richardi + Reveris. Signum + Richardi de Morevilla. Signum Rogeri + Magnavilla. Signum Gaufridi + Manneville.”⁴⁴

The establishment of schools in the castle of Néhou, and the appointment of Ralph the Grammarian, who was to direct them, to be also the incumbent of his domestic chapel, and to act, along with the steward, as the guardian of his clients, which facts we collect from this Charter, would seem to indicate that Richard de Redvers was chosen to be the special counsellor of King Henry, the Beauclerc, as well by reason of his taste for literature, at that time singular in a layman, as for his prowess in the field. This collegiate

⁴³ The creation of the new *châtellenie* in favour of Richard de Vernon, had, it seems, been productive of disagreement in the first instance with William de Redvers, who had succeeded his father Robert in the great fief of the *Prevoté*, and who had then to exchange his holding immediately of the Crown, here, and at Réviens, and at Montebourg, for a mesne tenancy.

⁴⁴ *Ex cartulario Abbatie Montisburgi*, fol. 67. The local surnames of the witnesses are derived from communes in the same arrondissement as Néhou, viz. Morville and Magneville, *Canton de Briquebec*. From Geoffry de Magneville sprang the line of the Earls of Essex. His brother Roger was ancestor to the barons of Merswood, in Dorsetshire, in which county considerable property was also owned by the De Morvilles.

Church was, as will hereafter appear, shorn of its revenues by the son of the founder, and continued only as a Chapel annexed to the Baron's portion in the Church of Néhou, wherein service was to be performed each alternate week by the Rector and an assistant Chaplain. Notre Dame de Néhou is mentioned, as yet existing, in the survey of the Barony taken in January 1743; but all trace has now disappeared, and the site only is traditionally pointed out, at a little distance from the entrance to the Castle, by the side of the road leading from the causeway to the Pont-de-Boelle.

A.D. 1101.
CHAP. II.

A second religious establishment in Normandy which claimed Richard de Redvers as its Patron, was the abbey of Montebourg, near the vill of that name, now a *chef-lieu de Canton*, in the arrondissement of Valognes.

Description of
the Abbey of
Montebourg.

“The Church,” writes M. de Gerville, “was, prior to the Revolution, the largest and most remarkable in the peninsula of the Cotentin.” Since that period its demolition has been gradually progressive. On the 18th February, 1818, mines were sprung under the piers which supported the central lantern tower, and on the 22nd of that month the whole superstructure fell in a mass, burying all that was yet standing of the church in the ruins. Before this last catastrophe, M. de Gerville had procured some sketches to be made of the ruins, one of which will be found among the lithographed plates forming the *Atlas* to the *Mémoires de la Société des Antiquaires de Normandie, anno 1825*; the architectural features of the building are, however, imperfectly delineated, and the style of the drawing evinces an unpractised hand. But the description of an eye-witness, written on the spot, is at any time valuable; and I, therefore, insert it from the *Mémoire* of Monsieur de Gerville in his own words:

“Cette église avait des bascotés réguliers dans toute sa longueur, et une croiséé entre le chœur et la nef. Le clocher, haut de 106 pieds, était au

A.D. 1101. centre de cette croisée. Les arches sous ce clocher étaient à ogives, excepté
 CHAP. II. celle du côté méridional, qui était semi-circulaire. Le clocher et la partie orientale du chœur étaient plus modernes que la croisée et le haut du nef.”⁴⁵

All that can now be gained from an inspection of the site, is a ground-plan of the edifice, exhibiting its form and proportions, by which it appears that the east end was semi-circular, and that the aisles of the choir terminated in a similar form. Of the ancient monastic buildings, a portion of the south wall of the cloister court, shewing the return of the angle in the direction of the south transept, is all that now remains. From the abbey, on the east side, the ground slopes down to a rivulet, now called *de la grosse Planque*, but *rivus Fullonum* in old deeds, and hard by is a mill which still retains the name of *La Foullerie*. Over the stream is the commune of St. Floxel, into which the abbey inclosure extends. The gate-house is entire: and has its arch of the early pointed form; but the whole structure is extremely plain, though large, and with a double entrance. This second gate led to the Abbot's manse, converted in modern times into an elegant *château* for the residence of those who held the abbey in *commendam*. The rule of St. Benedict, of the observance of Monte Casino, was that adhered to by the monks of this establishment; and the name of *Cásines* or *Cassins* is to this day an epithet contemptuously applied to the inhabitants of the bourg.

Its foundation
and early
history.

Of the foundation, and the early succession of the abbots in this monastery, Robert du Mont gives the following account:⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Mémoire de M. de Gerville, intitulé “ Recherches sur les Abbayes du Département de la Manche, adressées en 1821 à M. Esmangart, alors préfet;” tome ii. p. 42. Caen, 1825.

⁴⁶ Tractatus de Immutatione Ordinis Monachorum, &c. apud *Mon. Ang.* ii. 947.

“Monasterium Montis Burgi ædificatum est a Rogero, monacho Sanctæ Crucis, in dominio Ducis Normanniæ : cujus primus abbas effectus est idem Rogerus, vir religiosus, et socius Wimundi, qui postea fuit Episcopus Aversanus. Huic Rogero predictus Wimundus scribit librum “De corpore Domini.” Secundus abbas fuit Ursus, subprior Gemeticensis, qui et ordine et in ædificiis eundem locum nobilitavit. Tertius, Petrus. Quartus, Walterus, ejusdem loci monachus. Hanc Abbatiam dedit Henricus, Rex Anglorum, Ricardo de Revers, ut eam custodiret et augmentaret sicut propriam, quod et idem facere curavit.”

A.D. 1101.
CHAP. II.

Wimond or Guitmond, with whom Roger had been a fellow-monk in the monastery of La-Croix-Saint-Leuffroi, was elected to the metropolitan see of Rouen in 1079 ; but the election being declared void, he obtained leave from his abbot, Odilo, to withdraw into Italy, and was there made a Cardinal by Pope Gregory, and had the see of Aversa. The book *De Corpore Domini* was written by him against Berengarius, when he attempted to disseminate his doctrines in Normandy about the year 1053, and the dedication of it to Abbot Roger is a proof that the church of Montebourg was conventual at that date.

English writers,⁴⁷ copying from the *Neustria Pia*, have attributed the foundation of Montebourg to a Baldwin de Redvers in the year 1090. This date is a mere conjecture on the part of Du Monstier,⁴⁸ the compiler of that work ; but his adopting the name of Baldwin de Redvers for that of the founder is grounded upon an interpolated passage in the *Historia Normannorum* of William of Jumièges, where in the twenty-second chapter of the seventh book, which treats of the monasteries founded in Normandy, is this sentence ;

⁴⁷ Gough's *Alien Priories*, vol. ii. p. 8 ; and *Mon. Ang.* new ed. vol. vi. part ii. p. 1097.

⁴⁸ Arthur du Monstier, the author of *Neustria Pia*, printed at Rouen in 1663, had died in 1662, and the work bears evident marks of the want of a supervising hand.—Placide Galleman was the Editor.

A.D. 1101. "Balduinus etiam de Revers aliud [monasterium] apud Montis-
 CHAP. II. burgum fecit."

This erroneous statement is however rectified by Robert du Mont, the very writer with whom it doubtless originated, (for to him the interpolations are ascribed) in the treatise which we have extracted from above, and in which he gives us the true history of the foundation of this monastery.

Its endowment
 in Normandy.

Among the *Instrumenta* annexed to the eleventh volume of the *Gallia Christiana*,⁴⁹ is one purporting to be *charta Willelmi Regis Angliæ pro Montisburgo*, with the marginal date 1080. This charter the brothers Sainte-Marthe⁵⁰ and Du Monstier ascribe to William Rufus, an error into which M. de Gerville has also fallen : but it is evident, from the names of the witnesses,⁵¹ and the similarity of the preamble and general wording to the charters of Henry the First and of Richard de Redvers which follow, that it was a production of the same date, and merely commemorative of the Conqueror's grants, and meant as an attestation by the witnesses who subscribed to it, of their belief in the truth of its contents. The extent of these grants may, however, be collected with certainty from the recital of them in subsequent charters of unquestionable authenticity. To the fief of Montebourg, which in the subsequent charter of Richard de Redvers *Willielmus rex qui Angliam conquisivit* is expressly declared to have given to the Church of Montebourg, was annexed by him the right of market in

⁴⁹ *Gallia Christiana*, vol. xi. instr. col. 229. See appendix for a copy of this deed.

⁵⁰ The brothers Sainte-Marthe were the authors of the original *Gallia Christiana*, in four volumes, folio : both they and Du Monstier appear to have copied this charter from Du Chesne, lib. ii. *Hist. Angl.*

⁵¹ Among them is the name of William Bishop of Exeter, who was not consecrated till 11th August, 1107. The Editors of the new *Gallia Christiana* were aware of and noticed the discrepancy.

the vill, and that of having the necessary timber and wood for firing, and fences in the forest of Montebourg, together with feeding there for the swine of the community, and pasturage for other cattle. In the forest of Brix the monks were privileged to cut down timber for the building of the church and other conventual edifices, and had a right of feeding swine in it and in all the other forests of the Cotentin. A plot of ground at Barfleur, the vill of Saint-Cyr as far as the middle of the stream, together with the church, the land of Ranulph de Scamesçon lying in Coyeres, a carucate in Sortosville together with ten acres of the *Terra Rosce* and three plots of ground of the fief of Turgis le Gros in the same, thirty acres in Joganville, and a carucate in Emondeville,⁵² were likewise possessions held by the abbey of Montebourg in the Cotentin, of the gift of the Conqueror. To him also the monks were indebted for an exemption from the customary dues and from toll for their goods. The precept for this franchise is the most ancient of the muniments transcribed in the Cartulary of the Monastery :

A.D. 1101.
CHAP. II.

“ Willelmus Rex Anglorum. Omnibus suis ministris tocius Normanniæ, salutem. Præcipio vobis ut res Sanctæ Mariæ de Monteborc quietæ sint ab omni consuetudine et sine theoloneo transeant quocunque venerint.”⁵³

In England, this abbey held no land of the gift of the King ; but, by his consent, Nigel, his physician, granted to it in free alms a manor in the Hundred of Frome, in Somersetshire, which had been held by a Saxon priest named Spirtes before the Conquest. In England.

⁵² Cohière is a hamlet in the commune of St. Floxel, and with the communes, St. Cyr, Sortosville, Joganville, and Emondeville, situate in the Canton de Montebourg.

⁵³ *Cartul. Montisb.* p. 7, penes Le Comte Alfred de Beaufort, demeurant à Beuzeville-la-Bastille, La Manche. The pleonasm in which the word Montebourg originates, is disclosed in the orthography of this early writ ; the *Mont* of the *Langue Romane* has been superadded to the *boꝝ* (*Mons*) of the Saxon settlers.

A.D. 1101. The following is the entry relating to the above manor, under the
 CHAP. II. heading *Terræ quæ datæ sunt Sanctis in Elemosina in Sumerseta* in the *Inquisitio Gheldi*.

“Abbas Sanctæ Mariæ de Monteburgo habet i mansum quem tenuit Spirites presbiter die qua Rex E. fuit vivus et mortuus. Et reddidit geldum pro v hidis. Has possunt arare iii carrucæ. Hanc dedit Nigellus medicus per concessionem Regis W. abbatix de Monteburgo. Ibi habet Abbas ii hidas et dimidiam et ii carrucas in dominio et villani habent aliam terram et ii carrucas. Ibi habet Abbas v villanos et xii bordarios et ii servos et x porcos et lx oves et xviii capras et dimidium molendinum quod reddit per annum xxx denarios et dimidiam leugam nemoris in longitudine et tantum dem n latitudine et xx agros pascuæ. Et reddit per annum iiii libras et quando Nigellus recepit valebat tantumdem.⁵⁴”

In the same record, in a summary of the number of hides held by the “Barones Regis” in demesne in the Hundred of Frome and as such exempt from the tax, we have “*Abbas de Montebor (tenet) ii hidas et dimidiam.*”

“*Terra Sanctæ Mariæ de Monteburg,*” is the heading in Domesday Book, to the survey of this manor in Somersetshire; and in Wiltshire, under that of “*Terra Nigelli Medici,*” the Church of Montebourg is set down as being tenant of four hides in Sutton; which manor, with *Shrawton*, *Chesbury*, and *Netherhaven*, had also belonged to the benefice of Spirtes, who was probably rector of the church of Netherhaven, to which the three last named manors appertained.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ *Exon Domesday*, pp. 178, 180.

⁵⁵ *Liber Domesday*, Sūmerset, fol. 91. Wiltscira. Terra Nigelli Medici. Stratone Chesigeberie Nigraure. Hæc p'tin. ad æcc'l'am de Nigraaura. Idē N. ten. iiii hid. in Sudtone et pro tanto geld'b. T. R. E. T'ra ē iii car. S. Maria de Monteburg ten. de Nig. De hac t'ra s't in dominio ii hidæ et ibi i car. &c. Hæc iiii. m. tenuit Spirtes p'b'r. T. R. E.—*Ibid.* f. 73.

Abbot Roger, the builder of the monastery, survived the Conqueror, and was alive in 1093, he having in that year assisted at the interment of Geoffry de Montbray, Bishop of Coutances.⁵⁶ The only memorial naming him, in the Cartulary, is the following precept :

A.D. 1106.

CHAP. II.

Roger, first
Abbot.

“ Ro[bertus] Comes Eu Vicecomiti, salutem. Præcipio tibi ut facias saisire Rogerium abbatem de terra Nuillei et de terra Rusce, quia ego dedi Sanctæ Mariæ abbatia de Monteburgo predictam terram in elemosinam pro anima patris mei et meæ matris et pro animabus fratrum meorum et pro anima mea et parentum meorum. Testibus, Symone dapifero, et Willelmo de Watevill, et Roberto filio Balduini.”⁵⁷

Robert, *Comte* of Eu, was contemporary with the Conqueror, whom he survived but a short time, and William de Watevile, one of the witnesses to this precept, occurs among the tenants *in capite* in Domesday. The next document in point of date, in the Cartulary, is a precept of King Henry the First, addressed to his Sheriffs and officers throughout England and the sea-ports, renewing, in favour of the monks and their servants, the quittance from toll and custom for things bought, sold, transported, or hired for their own exclusive use. It has the *teste* of the Chancellor *apud Phalesiam*; and its being dated from that town shows it to have been issued in 1106, after the victory of Tinchebray, of which the result was the immediate surrender of Falaise.

Henry I,
patron of
Montebourg.

“ H. Rex Angliæ omnibus Vicecomitibus et Ministris tocius Angliæ et portuum maris, Salutem. Præcipio quod omnes monachi et homines abbatia de Monteburgo sint quieti ab omni theloneo et consuetudine ubique vadant vel vendunt vel emant vel conducant aliqua unde homines sui

⁵⁶ *Gallia Christiana*, vol. xi. instr. col. 224. *Ex libro nigro Capituli Constantiensis.*

⁵⁷ *Cartul. Montisb.* f. 63.

A.D. 1106. affirmare poterunt quod sint ad opem monachorum, et nullus eis super hoc
 CHAP. II. injuriam faciat. Teste Cancellario apud Phalesiam.”⁵⁸

From Falaise, Henry repaired to Rouen, and in two writs *tested* at that city, Henry speaks of the abbey of Montebourg as being *mea propria capella*, and as belonging to him. The first is addressed to his justices and officers of his demesnes at Saint-Marcouf and Varreville in the Cotentin.

“ Henricus Rex Angliæ justicariis et ministris suis de Sancto Malcupho et de Varrevilla et omnibus dominis de quibus abbatia de Montisburgo tenet, salutem. Præcipio quod Abbatia de Montisburgo teneat omnia sua ita bene quiete et honorifice, sicut liberior abbatia totius Normanniæ, et nominatim elemosinam meam, terram de Foucarvill, liberam et quietam de theloneo et de verec⁵⁹ et de omnibus consuetudinibus, et de omnibus querelis. Nolo enim ut habeant occasionem mittendi manum ullo modo super elemosinam meam; qui si quid injuriæ fecerint, videat justitia mea, ne perdam rectum meum. Abbatia namque est mea propria capella, et ideo præcipio vobis ut eam custodiatis. T. R. de Haia apud Rothomagum.”⁶⁰

The second is a precept for the Abbey of Montebourg to enjoy the same privileges of tenure as the Abbey of Fécamp “*quia ad me pertinet*,” and is addressed to the Bishop of Coutances.

“ Henricus Rex Angliæ Episcopo Constantiensi et Justiciis Normanniæ et omnibus dominis de quibus abbas de Montisburgo et ecclesia sua tenet, salutem. Præcipio quod abbas de Montisburgo et ecclesia sua teneant terras et homines et ecclesias et decimas et molendina et consuetudines et

⁵⁸ *Cartul. Montisb.* f. 7.

⁵⁹ “Verec” was the right of the Lord of the soil to everything thrown upon the coast, to which Foucarville, and the other places named, are contiguous.

⁶⁰ *Cartul. Montisb.* f. 7. St. Germain and St. Martin de Varreville, and Foucarville, are communes in the canton de Sainte-Mère-église: St. Marcouf is in the canton de Montebourg.

omnia sua ita bene et in pace sicut abbatia Fiscanensis, quia enim ad me pertinet cum ea omni concessi illi in elemosina. T. R. de Wen[esval] apud Rothomagum."⁶¹

A.D. 1106.
CHAP. II.

These precepts were doubtless issued before the transfer of the patronage of the Abbey by King Henry to Richard de Redvers, and serve to limit the date of that act to the interval between the King's arrival at Rouen and the death of Richard, who, it will be seen, terminated his career in the following year. But before the day that concession was made, "*illa die*," to use the words of one of his charters, "*qua mihi eam dominus meus Henricus Rex Anglorum concessit habendam*," the possessions of the Abbey had been augmented in the Cotentin. Half the mill of St. Martin d'Audouville was given by William de Beaumont-le-Richard,⁶² the tythe of Vaudiville by William, the Chamberlain of Normandy,⁶³ and the tythe of Gatteville by Walter Broc.⁶⁴

Transfer of
patronage of
Montebourg.

⁶¹ *Cart. Montisb.* ubi supra. Robert de Wesneval had his *caput Baronie* in the valley watered by the river L'Esne, in the Commune of Pavilly, Département de la Seine Inférieure.

⁶² St. Martin d'Audouville is a commune in the canton de Montebourg, but Beaumont-le-Richard is a hamlet in the Bessin. The adjunct to the name was probably acquired from Richard de Humez, who possessed it in right of his wife Agnes de Beaumont, heiress to William.

⁶³ Vaudiville is a hamlet in the commune of St. Floxel, which belonged to William, the Chamberlain of Normandy, who had also the surname de Tancarville, from his castle of that name on the banks of the Seine, near Lillebonne.

⁶⁴ Walter and Hugh Broc, brothers, were living in 1079, when, as recorded in a cartulary of Jumièges, they gave the church of *Crichebou* to that monastery. The latter had a son named Walter, who was a witness to his father's gift of the church of Topesfield, in England, which he held of the fee of Richard Fitz-Gislebert, to the same monastery. The fief of Broc in Gatteville was, it seems, held of Hugh, Earl of Chester, in 1168, as in that year he confirmed to Montebourg by a charter dated at Trévières:— "*illud quod est de feodo Broc in ecclesia Gatevillæ, cum omnibus rebus eidem de terra*

It was also witnessed upon the monks of Montebourg by their new patron, the gift of some lay vassals in Burgundy. In Normandy he having given the tythe of the mills at Bezeva, and at some other places in the Saracul, and confirmed the gift of the *Baronia*.

In nomine sancte et individue Trinitatis. Ego Ricardus de Revere, vobis presens et vobis propriis dominum in omnia esse radices et vassallos obligata, et que post mortem annis meae possint subvenire. In et concessi aduocare baronia Martini Montebourg, et monachis indomiti dei seruitutibus, quoddam manerium in Leueseta quod vocatur Laotris, et alium in Leuensseta nomine Luxembuda, et terram in insula de M. nomine Sainfort, et haec iura et quae ad vniuersas guerras, pacem, et inquietudinibus, et auxiliis, nisi de eadem que ad me pertinet, cum vniuersis consuetudinibus et dignitatibus cum quibus terram meam rex Henricus III. michi dedit, que in eis sunt retenta, similiter in eis michi retinenda, nisi garantiam; que scilicet facio pro salute anime mee, et patrie et matris mee, et filiorum meorum, et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum. Idem etiam cum predictis maneribus in perpetuam elemosinam habendas prefate ecclesie donationes baronia meorum in terris liberis et quietis, et decimam molendinorum de Beuere, et de molendinis de Gatteville, et de molendinis de Farmandruil, et de Toriavilla, et de Bevraut. Et ut haec donatio sit imperpetuum rata et inuincibilia, signo Sanctae Crucis confirmo, sub presentium testium testimonio.

Ricardi de Revere - Signum
Rogerus de Magneville

Ricardus de Moreville
Waiteus de Hamo.⁶⁵

ipsa pertinentibus sicut Galterius Broc dedit eidem abbacie consensu antecessorum meorum." Gatteville is situate, *Canton de St. Pierre-église*, but the mediety of the cure to which this tythe belonged was subsequently transferred by the monks of Montebourg to the chapter of Coutances *pour droit de chanoine*, which was shared by several religious houses, and among others, the Priory of Brewton in England.

⁶⁵ *Cartul. Montisb.* f. 69. Le Ham is a commune in the canton de Montebourg.

Before the Conquest, Lodres, in the county of Dorset, was one of the manors belonging to King Harold ; it was afterwards farmed as crown land by Roger, the Sheriff,⁶⁶ along with two hides of tainland which had not belonged to the manor in the Confessor's time : and conjointly with the latter, it constituted an entire Hundred, now called the Liberty of Loders and Bothenhampton, otherwise Baunton, in the Bridport division of Dorsetshire. It had originally been rated to the geld as for eighteen hides,⁶⁷ but after Richard's grant, Urso, second Abbot of Montebourg, obtained of the King to have it reckoned as of five hides only, and to be charged in proportion.

A.D. 1106.
CHAP. II.
Manor of
Loders in
Dorsetshire.

“ Henricus rex Anglorum Rogero Sarisberiae Episcopo et Aiulfo Camerario et omnibus Baronibus suis et omnibus fidelibus suis, Francis et Anglicis, de Dorsetta, salutem. Sciatis me concessisse monasterio Sanctae Mariae de Monteburgo et Ursoni, ejusdem loci abbati, pro salute animarum patris et matris meae, pro salute etiam animae meae et uxoris meae et liberorum meorum et omnium parentum meorum, ut manerium de Lodres, quod in ejusdem monasterii ditio Ricardus de Redveriis, me accedente, donavit, pro solis v hydīs amodo et inperpetuum tam in geldis quam in aliis consuetudinibus se acquietet. Testibus, Rannulfo Cancellario, Rogero de Magnavilla, et Walcelino Camerario. Apud Sanctae Mariae ecclesiam.”⁶⁸

The name Ricardus is incorrectly printed “ Benedictus ” in the *Monasticon*, into which compilation this writ has been transcribed from the *rolls* on which are copied the *Cartae Antiquae* at the Tower, and, in this instance, as in many others, no subsequent editor or topographer appears to have taken the pains to collate the faulty impression with the original document, but each has contented him-

⁶⁶ Roger de Arundel had, at the time of the Survey, succeeded to Hugh Fitz-grip, the first Norman Sheriff of Dorset.

⁶⁷ *Exon. Domesd.* pp. 26, 28, and *Lib. Domesd.* f. 75b.

⁶⁸ *Cart. Antiquæ.* R. n. 23 (collated with the original roll.)

A.D. 1107. self with ascribing the gift of the manor to Benedict *or* Richard de
 CHAP. II. Redvers.⁶⁹

This grant of exemption was apparently made contemporaneously with the benefaction of Richard, for its being tested at Sainte-Mère-église, a vill lying on the road to the port of Barfleur, refers it to the spring of the year 1107, when Henry I was on his journey back to England, after the pacification of Normandy.

At the foot of a copy of this same charter in one of the cartularies of Montebourg, is written the name of Nigellus de Calna, as if he was also present with Roger de Mandeville, the King, and Chancellor.⁷⁰

Axmouth in
 Devonshire,
 and Week in
 the Isle of
 Wight.

Axmouth, in Devonshire, is in the hundred of Axminster, and is surveyed as ancient demesne in Domesday Book.⁷¹ Sandford is a hamlet of the parish of Godshill, in the Isle of Wight, and as early as 1086 formed one manor with Week, another hamlet in the same parish.⁷² The grant to Montebourg included the entire manor, and it is usually referred to under the name of Week in the subsequent charters.

Another charter of Richard de Redvers, the postscript to which is in the name of the King, enumerates the several possessions of the Abbey of Montebourg in Normandy and England more speci-

⁶⁹ Vide Gough's *Alien Priories*, vol. ii. p. 10. Hutchins' *Dorsetshire*, vol. i. p. 591, and *Monasticon Anglicanum*, new edit. vol. vi. part ii. p. 999.

⁷⁰ This Cartulary is preserved in the archives of the Département de la Manche, at St. Lo; it is a small folio containing the charters relating to the property of the Abbey of Montebourg in England, and I shall therefore cite it as the Cartulary of Loders, the alien priory through which the rents of their other possessions, and of the cell of Axmouth, were transmitted. The copy of the above charter is the tenth in numerical order, and after the name of the place where it was given, follows another line with the names *Nigellus de Calna, Rogerus de Magnavilla. Rex. Canc'*.

⁷¹ *Lib. Domesd.* f. 100*b*.

⁷² *Ibid*, folio 39*b*.

fically ; (*inter alia*) two parts of the tythe of the mills and of the eels caught at Néhou, the tythe of the forest of Fermanbruil and of the dairies at Brix, half Foucarville, half a plough land in Ecoqueneauville, the applotment of a villain in Sebeville, the land which William de Redvers had in Montebourg, and the whole vill of Benoit-ville,⁷³ which had been held by Adelis, sister of Richard de Redvers, and Richard de Angervilla.⁷⁴ It is printed (*ex cartulario*)

A.D. 1107.
CHAP. II.

⁷³ Benoit-ville is a commune, *canton des Pieux*, and Ecoqueneauville and Sebeville are situate *canton de Sainte-Mère-église*, in the Département de la Manche. The tenure was apparently *jure uxoris*, who there can be little doubt was the sister of Adelis de Redvers, who possessed the other moiety of the fief; so that the name of Mabel should be added to those already enumerated of the issue of the first William de Vernon.

⁷⁴ The church of *Angervilla* is named among those of the Deanery of Carentan, in a terrier of the diocese of Coutances of the date of 1332, and of it the *dominus de Angervilla* is set down as patron. That this was the place from which Richard derived his surname is rendered probable by the grant he made to his son Humphrey, a canon of Cherbourg, of a third part of the church of St. Peter of Sainteny, a parish in the same Deanery. (*Reg. Capitul. Constant.*) The following is a copy of the charter made by Richard de Angerville in favour of the monks of Montebourg, for the soul of Richard de Redvers, his suzerain: "Ego Ricardus de Angervilla, cuncta preterire temporalia conspiciens et me non semper hic victurus sciens, divina michi suggerente clementia, pro anima domini mei Ricardi de Redvers, et predecessorum meorum animarum, et meæ, uxorisque ac liberorum redemptione, Deo et Beatæ Mariæ de Monteburg, ad fratrum sustentationem ibi degentium, omnem terram et partem ecclesiæ quam in Benedicti villa habebam tradidi, ut ipsa mater misericordiæ pro nobis apud filium suum misericordem efficitur interventrix. Hanc vero donationem ego et uxor mea Mabilia propriis manibus super sacrosanctum posuimus altare; et quia predictam possessionem in melius restaurare decrevi, ab abbate Ursone eandem, excepta ecclesia et ad eam pertinentibus, ad firmam recepi, ea nimium conditione, ut illam possessionem quamdiu vixero teneam, et quicquid in ea meliorationis vel restaurationis fecero, ipso mei obitûs die, totum ecclesia Montisburgensis sine qualibet contradictione vel calumnia veluti propria confidenter accipiat et perpetualiter possideat. Porro singulis annis xii quartarios frumenti de firma debeo reddere, et summarios ad illud deferendum sufficientes invenire, et infra primam festivitatem Sancti Michaelis firmæ

A.D. 1107. among the *Instrumenta* of the diocese of Coutances, in the eleventh
 CHAP. II. volume of the *Gallia Christiana*, but with omissions denoting
 obliterations. These I have filled up from the copy at page 65 of
 the cartulary in the possession of the Comte Alfred de Beaufort.

“ In nomine sanctæ et individuæ Trinitatis. Ego Richardus de Redvers
 hujus mortalis vitæ conditionem considerans, et omnia quæ in ea sunt muta-
 bilitati subjecta et transitoria esse non ambigens, atque de salute animæ meæ,
 non cum corpore morituræ, sed in eternum victuræ sollicitus, et quæ etiam
 post dissolutionem corporis futura sint penitus ignorans, secundum sententiam
 qua dicitur, ‘ Abscondite eleemosynam in sinu pauperis, et ipsa orabit pro vobis
 ad Dominum;’ pro salute animæ domini mei Henrici regis, et Mathildis reginæ,
 atque omnium antecessorum et successorum suorum, necnon etiam pro
 salute animæ meæ et uxoris meæ, atque omnium antecessorum et successo-
 rum meorum, do et concedo abbatîæ Montisburgi, ad usus monachorum ibi-
 dem Deo servientium, unum manerium in Anglia, quod dicitur Lodres, in
 Dorseta, sicut et aliud, nomine Viceam, in insula nomine Wichd, et aliud
 manerium, Auxemidam, quod est in Devenescira, libera et quieta ab omnibus
 secularibus consuetudinibus atque servitiis, cum omnibus rebus eisdem ma-
 neriiis pertinentibus, et cum socca et sacca et tol et them et infangenethef, et

solvere medietatem, et infra Nativitatem Domini alteram medietatem. Hujus rei sunt
 testes ex parte Ricardi, Osmundus presbyter. Herbertus miles ejus. Robertus miles.
 Ex parte monachorum, Raginulfus de Sortovilla. Anchtillus de L’Estre. Anchtillus
 filius Wimarc. Radulfus Privignus Anchtilli de L’Estra. Rogerus clericus de Arou-
 devilla. Robertus de Monteburc. Pelvilain. Ansgot Bedel. Willelmus Jocator.
 Hundulfus. Ricardus Cocus. Tomas Pistor. Taison. Giwirs. Gaufridus de Runevilla.
 Rogerus de Magnavilla. Ricardus de Moravilla. Tuoldus Papilio. Willelmus de
 Wauvilla. Walterus de Hernou. Gaufridus de Ferevilla, et alii plurimi.”—*Cart.*
Montisb. folio 64.

In the charter of appropriation by the Bishop of Coutances of ecclesiastical benefices
 in behalf of the monks of Montebourg, the gift of the church of Benoitville is thus noted :
 “ Ex concessu et tutione Ricardi de Redvers et Ricardi de Angervilla, Benedicta villa
 et ejusdem villæ ecclesiam cum omnibus appendiciis suis et duas partes decimæ frugum et
 cemeterii in proprios usus vestros.”—*Cart. Montisb.* p. 25.

aliis consuetudinibus et quietudinibus. In Normannia vero do eidem Abbatiaē apud Redvers decimam molendinorum meorum atque duas partes decimæ totius terræ meæ ipsius villæ et terram Huberti presbyteri, ac decimam molendini de Bevrant, et dimidiam Furcarvillam, atque terram dimidiæ carruæ in Escoghernevilla, et mansuram unius villani in Sebevilla, atque decimam molendinorum et anguillarum de Nigelli-humo, et terram quam Willelmus de Redvers habuit in Monteburgo, et decimam molendini de Gonnovilla, atque decimam molendini et forestæ de Fermambruil, et decimam molendini de Torlavilla, et decimam vaccariarum mearum de Bruis, et totam Benedictam villam, quam habuit Adelis soror mea et Ricardus de Ansgervilla. Hæc omnia, sicut predicta sunt, concedo dictæ abbatiaē cum rebus illis de quibus saisita erat, die illa qua mihi eam Dominus meus Henricus, rex Anglorum concessit habendam ; id est, terram Montisburgi quam Willielmus rex qui Angliam conquisivit, dedit eidem ecclesiaē, cum mercato et materia et lignis in foresta de Montisburgo, foco et clausuræ necessariis, et pastione porcorum atque pastura ceterorum animalium ; et in foresta de Bruis materiem ad ecclesiam et alia edificia, et pastionem porcorum, et in omnibus aliis forestis Regis per totum Constantinum. Et unam mansuram terræ apud Barbatum-fluctum, et Maisnillum Sancti Cyrici usque ad medium fluvii villæ cum ecclesia, et terram Ranulphi de Scamesçon quæ est in Coères, et tres mansuras terræ in Sortoevilla de feodo Turgisi Grossi, et decem acras de terra Rosce et terram unius carruæ in eadem villa, et triginta acras terræ in Joganvilla, et terram unius carruæ in Amundevilla. Hæc omnia dedit primus rex Willielmus. Et dimidium molendinum de Alduvilla quod dedit Willelmus de Bello-monte, et decimam de Waldinvilla quam dedit Willelmus Camerarius, atque decimam de Gatevilla quam dedit Walterus Broc. Et ego Henricus Rex Anglorum do predictæ abbatiaē terram Alberici Camerarii Reginaē de Torpo, et terram de Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia, et vaccariam de Bernawast, et triginta acras terræ quas Ricardus de Lestra habuit in Coères, et omnia telonea et consuetudines de propriis rebus predictæ abbatiaē per totam Angliam et Normanniam libera et quieta. Et homines abbatiaē sint quieti ab omni expeditione, excepta ea quæ sub nomine belli submovetur. Et hæc omnia concedo et confirmo manu mea + Signum Henrici Regis. + Mathildis Reginaē. + Baldwini filii Ricardi de Redvers. + Willelmi filii Ricardi de

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A.D. 1107. Redvers. + Comitibus Eustachii. + Comitibus Symonis. + Comitibus Willelmi
 CHAP. II. de Varena. + Humfredi de Bohun. + Rogeri de Magnavilla. + Ricardi
 de Lestre. + Ricardi de Angervill. + Alfredi de Lincolia. + Roberti
 Episcopi Lincolia. + Radulphi Episcopi Cicestria. + Ranulphi Episcopi
 Dunelmi. + Signum Anselmi Archiepiscopi Cantuarie.

The first leaf of the cartulary of Loders in its present state contains the concluding lines of a charter of the same import, but to which this more extended list of witnesses is subjoined :

“ . . . de Bernardwait, et triginta acras terræ quas Ricardus de Lestra habuit in Coieres, et omnia thelonea et consuetudines de propriis rebus abbatie predictæ et totam Angliam et Normanniam libera et quieta. Et homines de Burgo abbatie sunt quieti ab omni expeditione, excepta illa quæ sub nomine belli submovetur. Et hæc omnia concedo et confirmo manu mea cum omnibus rebus quæ in ea ad me pertinent. Signum + Henrici Regis. Matildis + Reginæ. Rogeri + Episcopi Salesberie. Rannulfi + Cancellarii. W. + Pevrel. W. + Episcopi Wintonie. Tevoldi + capellani. Anselmi + Archiepiscopi Cantuarie. Baldewini + filii Ricardi de Redvers. Willelmi + filii Ricardi de Redvers. Roberti + Episcopi Lincolie. Willelmi + Episcopi Exonie. Johannis + Batonie Episcopi. Rainnelmi + Herenfordensis Episcopi. Ricardi + abbatis de Sancto Albano. Comitibus + Eustachii. Comitibus + Symeonis. Hunfredi + de Bohon. Rogeri + filii Ricardi de Ansgervilla. Hervei + Episcopi de Pengcore.⁷⁵ Herberti + Episcopi Norwicensis. Radulfi + Episcopi Cicestrie.

“ Ranulfi + Episcopi Dunelmensis. Sansonis + Episcopi Wigorniensis. Roberti + Comitibus Mellentis. Petri + abbatis Glocestrie. Hugonis + abbatis Sancti Augustini. Germundi + abbatis de Wincelcumba. Herlewini + abbatis Glastenberie. Alberici + Camerarii. Roberti + Foliot. Raschi + filii Alberici. Ricardi + de Lestra.⁷⁶ Rogeri + de Magnavilla.

⁷⁵ Pengcore for Bengcore (Bangor), the P being put for the B in accordance with the Welsh pronunciation.

⁷⁶ Lestre is a commune of the canton de Montebourg.

Hugonis + Maltravers. Huberti + de Sancta Susanna.⁷⁷ Willelmi + filii Ricardi de Lestra."⁷⁸

A.D. 1107.

CHAP. II.

Charter of Henry I to Montebourg.

About the same time Henry I conceded to the monks of Montebourg numerous fresh privileges, and confirmed their former immunities in Normandy and in England.

The chief of these privileges were, the right of holding three fairs, one on the feast of the Purification, another on that of the Assumption of the Virgin, and the third on the feast of the Ascension of our Lord;⁷⁹ plenary jurisdiction during the days the fairs or markets were held;⁸⁰ freedom from toll, transit, and harbour dues for all their goods, by sea and land, whether bought, sold, lent, borrowed, or exchanged; in the forest of Montebourg, firewood for the kitchen, bakehouse, and brewhouse, palings for inclosures, timber for building, and feeding for swine and all other animals with quittance of pannage and all forest dues; in the forest of Brix, one tree each week in the year for the fire in the Guests' hall,⁸¹

⁷⁷ St. Susanne is in the arrondissement de Coutances, *canton de Périers*. Ratso Camerarius and Hubertus de Sancta Susanna were both living, 31. H. I. (*Rot. Pip. de eod. anno.*)

⁷⁸ Most of the prelates, witnesses to this charter, have their names at the foot of the one purporting to be of the Conqueror, noticed in a preceding page.

⁷⁹ These three fairs continue to be held at Montebourg.

⁸⁰ The following writ of a subsequent date enforces this privilege:—"Henricus rex Angliæ Vicecomiti et præpositis et ministris suis tocius Constantini, salutem. Præcipio vobis quod non capiatis hominem aliquem vel nampnum ejus aliqua occasione in mercato de Monteborc, die ipsa qua mercatum est, si tamen alia die et alibi in terra mea eos capere poteritis, quia nolo quod mercatum elemosinæ meæ per occasionem destruat. T. R. comite Glocestriæ apud Dangu per Willielmum Glastoniæ.—*Cartul. Montisb.* p. 7.

⁸¹ The following precept was issued at a later period to enforce this privilege: "Henricus Rex Angliæ justiciis Costentini et Willelmo de Bruis et forestariis suis, salutem. Mando vobis atque præcipio quod permittatis habere monachos de Montisburgo tot arbores in Bruis ad focum suum quot ebdomadæ habentur in anno et materiem ad sua

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CHAP. II. as also timber for building, and quittance of pannage and all forest dues, which last privilege was extended to all other royal forests in the Cotentin; the right sides of the tails of all whales or large fish caught or stranded within the limits of the Bishoprick of Coutances; the free choice of another Abbot upon the death of his predecessor; and lastly, freedom from all exactions for military service, except in case of declared war. In England, beside the three manors already named, King Henry confirmed to the Abbey the church of Lodors with the chapel of Bothenhampton (*Bolmenton*), the church of Axmouth with a piscary and two draughts of nets, and the usual customs of sac and soc, tol, theam and infangtheof. In Normandy the Church of Gateville, of the fief of Walter Broc, with the glebe, is specified, in addition to the old endowment. Of this royal charter there are copies in the cartularies both of Montebourg and Lodors; I extract from the latter:

“Henricus rex Angliæ Archiepiscopis, Episcopis, Abbatibus, Comitibus, Baronibus, Vicecomitibus et omnibus Justiciis suis, Salutem in Domino. Sciatis me presenti carta confirmasse abbatia Sanctæ Mariæ Montisburgi et abbati et monachis locum in quo sita est abbatia, et villam Montisburgi cum molendinis et mercato, et tribus nundinis ad hos terminos, unam ad Purificationem, alteram ad Assumptionem beatæ Mariæ, tertiam ad Ascensionem Domini. Volo autem et districte præcipio ne Justiciæ meæ manum mittent pro justiciâ faciendâ in villa Montisburgi diebus mercati sive nundinarum, sed plenariam habeant justiciam suam abbas et monachi de omnibus quæ in villa Montisburgi diebus illis evenerint. Et de omnibus rebus, de quibus affidare poterint homines sui quod sunt propriæ res ipsorum, liberi et quieti sint predicti abbas et monachi per omnem terram meam a theloneo et passagio

edificia et pasnagium suum quietum et omnes consuetudines suas liberas et quietas; et de tot arboribus sint quieti forestarii in placitis meis de quot garantizaverint eos monachi per suas taillias. T. R. comite Glocestriæ apud Rothomagum per R. de Haia.”—*Cartul. Montisb.* ubi supra.

et omni consuetudine, ubicunque fuerint, in terra et in mari et in portibus, ementes et vendentes, locantes et conducentes, commutantes, sive de loco ad locum transferentes. Concedo et confirmo prenominatæ abbatie et abbati et monachis in foresta mea Montisburgi ligna ad focum in coquina sua et ad panem coquendum et ad cervesiam preparandam et clausuram omnibus necessariis suis et marramenta ad omnia edificia sua. Et ut habeant in eadem foresta omni tempore pasturam porcis et omnibus animalibus suis, et libertatem et quietantiam pasnagii sui et omnium consuetudinum ad eandem forestam pertinentium. Et in foresta mea de Bruis concedo et confirmo prefatis Abbati et monachis Montisburgi ad focum hospitem suorum tot arbores singulis annis quot ebdomadæ sunt in anno, quos per manus forestariorum recipient, et de tot arboribus quieti sint forestarii in placitis ejusdem forestæ de quot garantizaverint eos predicti monachi per tallias suas. Et in eadem foresta de Bruis habeant sæpedicti abbas et monachi Montisburgi marramenta ad ecclesiam et ad alia edificia sua et libertatem et quietanciam pasnagii sui et omnium consuetudinum ad eandem forestam pertinentium et in omnibus aliis forestis meis in Constantino. Concedo et confirmo prenominatæ abbatie Montisburgi et monachis dextros cutellos caudæ omnium crassorum piscium qui capti fuerint vel applicuerint infra terminos episcopatus Constantiensis, et ecclesiam Gatevillæ de feodo Gauterii Broc cum terris elemosinæ et decimis et omnibus pertinentibus. Et ut sepedicti monachi Montisburgi habeant potestatem et libertatem, cum abbas eorum obierit, eligendi alium quem ad hoc noverint idoneum, absque alicujus contradictione vel reclamatione, vel pars etiam capituli quamvis minor, sanioris tamen consilii, secundum Dei timorem et ordinis sui consuetudinem. Concedo et confirmo prenominatæ abbatie Montisburgi et monachis unam mansuram apud Barbeffluctum et Maisnillum Sancti Cirici cum ecclesia, et terram Ranulfi de Scamesçon quæ est in Coeres, et tres mansuras in Sortoovilla de feodo Turgisi Grossi et decem acras de terra Rosce, et unam carucatam terræ in Sortoovilla, et triginta acras terræ in Joganvilla, et unam carucatam in Amondevilla, et terram Alberici Camerarii Reginæ quæ est apud Turpum,⁸² et terram de Sanctæ Mariæ

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⁸² Le Tourp is a hamlet lying to the east of Montebourg, in the commune of St.

A. D. 1107. ecclesia, et vaccariam de Bernawast,⁸³ et triginta acras terræ quas Ricardus
 CHAP. II. de Lestra habuit in Coëres. Ad donationem Ricardi de Redvers concedo
 etiam et confirmo superius memoratæ abbatia Montisburgi et monachis, in
 Anglia, quoddam manerium, quod dicitur Lodres, in Dorseta cum ecclesia
 ejusdem manerii et capella de Bolenton et omnibus pertinentiis, et aliud
 manerium, quod dicitur Axemud, in Devonia cum ecclesia ejusdem manerii
 et piscaria et duobus tractibus qui ibi sunt ad trahendum cum retibus et
 omnibus pertinentiis, et tertium manerium in insula de With, quod appel-
 latur Wica, cum omnibus pertinentiis. Hæc predicta maneria confirmo
 prenominatæ abbatia et monachis libera et quieta ab omnibus consuetudi-
 nibus secularibus et servitiis cum omnibus rebus ad eadem maneria pertinen-
 tibus, et cum soca et saca, et tol et teim, et invangenetheof, et aliis consuetu-
 dinibus. Confirmo etiam ex concessu ejusdem Ricardi de Redvers donationes
 quas fecerunt vel fecerint homines sui predictæ abbatia Montisburgi et
 monachis de terris sive de quibuslibet rebus aliis, liberas et quietas ab omnibus
 servitiis et consuetudinibus et ab omnibus exactionibus secularibus et ab
 omnibus rebus prorsus ad ipsum sive ad heredes suos pertinentibus.
 Volo autem et firmiter præcipio ut homines de villa Montisburgi liberi et
 quieti sint ab omni exercitu et expeditione, excepta illa quæ sub nomine
 belli submovetur.

“ Signum + Matildis Reginae. Signum Anselmi + Cantuarie Archi-
 episcopi. Signum Rogeri + Episcopi Salesberie. Signum Herberti +
 Episcopi Norwic. Signum Roberti + Lincolie Episcopi. Signum Wil-
 lelmi + Episcopi Wintonie. Signum Sansonis + Episcopi Wigornie.
 Signum Willelmi + Episcopi Exonie. Signum Radulfi + Episcopi Cicestrie.
 Signum Ricardi + de Redvers. Signum Ricardi + Abbatis de Sancti
 Albano. Signum Rogeri + Abbatis de Abbdone.⁸⁴ Signum Herlewini

Floxel; but Alberic, the Queen's Chamberlain, was also of Ver in the Département
 du Calvados, *Canton de Ryes*, and progenitor of the Earls of Oxford.

⁸³ Bernawast is a hamlet and wood in the commune of Le Theil, *Canton de St.-Pierre-
 église*.

⁸⁴ Faritius was Abbot of Abingdon at this date, and no abbot of the name of Roger
 occurs before 1176. This Roger of Abingdon appears also among the witnesses to the
 charter drawn up in the name of William the Conqueror.

+ Abbatis Glastingeburiæ. Signum Symonis + Comitis. Signum Ranulfi + Cancellarii. Signum Balduini + filii Ricardi de Revers. Signum Willelmi + fratris ejusdem Balduini.”⁸⁵ A.D. 1107.
CHAP. II.

The nobles of England, Richard de Redvers and Roger Bigot, are recorded by Ordericus Vitalis to have died about the same time as Maurice, Bishop of London, who deceased 25th September, 1107. Roger Bigot was buried in the Cluniac monastery founded by him at Thetford, and we are told in the monkish verses on his tomb, that the Virgin had been wedded to the Sun for twenty-four nights when he paid the debt of nature, or, in other words, that he died on the 25th of August, 1107. Richard de Redvers, the same authority informs us, was buried at Montebourg : Richard de Redvers dies, and is buried at Montebourg.

“Tunc optimates Angliæ Richardus de Radvariis et Rogerius cognomento Bigotus mortui sunt et in monasteriis monachorum sepulti sunt, quæ in propriis possessionibus ipsi condiderunt. Rogerius enim apud Tetfordum in Anglia, Richardus vero tumultus est apud Montisburgum in Normannia.”⁸⁶

The spot selected by the monks of Montebourg for the place of interment of him who had been their patron and second founder, was the chapel wherein they assembled in chapter, commonly known as “La Chapelle de Nôtre Dame de l’Estuille.” Before the revolution, on the floor of this chapel, were nine tombs in demi-relief, five in one row, and four in another. That of Richard de Redvers was in the centre of the first row, and was inscribed : His sepulture in the Chapter House.

RICARDUS DE REVIERS FUNDATOR HUIUS CŒNOBII;

the gravestones on each side were unlettered; but of the outermost, one had on it a figure of a mitred ecclesiastic bearing a crosier and

⁸⁵ *Cartul. Montisb.* f. 6 ; *Cartul. de Lodres*, cta. xi.

⁸⁶ *Ordericus Vitalis*, lib. xi.

A.D. 1107. the name ROGERIUS II ; on the other was sculptured a cross and
 CHAP. II. the name WILLELMUS ABBAS. All the tombs in the second row
 were plain.⁸⁷

His tombstone. Some years ago, M. de Gerville discovered, amid the ruins of the
 abbey, the headstone which had covered the sarcophagus wherein
 the remains of Richard de Redvers lay interred ; but of the in-
 scription these letters only were traceable **Ric De**
Rebiers Fundator ; the rest having been purposely chi-
 selled smooth, when the tomb was first violated. The stone was
 subsequently purchased of the proprietor of the site of the abbey
 by an English gentleman of the name of Wood, and presented to
 M. de Gerville, in the garden of whose residence at Valognes it is
 now deposited.⁸⁸

Legend of
 Nôtre Dame
 de l'Estoille.

What we have above gleaned respecting the foundation of the
 abbey of Montebourg and the family of Redvers, has been woven
 into a fictitious narrative by some monkish legendary of the four-
 teenth century, apparently with the view of securing to his monas-
 tery the reputation of a miraculous origin, and the attendant
 advantages in a credulous age. The following is the tenor of the
 legend ; and it will readily be perceived that the type of the story
 of the foundation is recognizable in the election of the monk
 Guitmond to a foreign see, and in the fact of a Nigellus Medicus
 being the first benefactor to the monastery in England.

“In former days lived in Savoy two hermits, who, led by the
 Holy Spirit, came from thence into France to seek for a solitary
 retreat. They followed first the course of the River Seine to

⁸⁷ MSS. Boze in Bib. Reg. Paris. $\frac{\text{s.f. } 1027}{2}$ *Abbayes du Diocèse du Coutances.*

⁸⁸ See *Recherches sur les Abbayes du Département de la Manche*, par M. de Gerville,
 published in the *Mémoires* of the Société des Antiquaires de Normandie, tome ii. 1825,
 p. 25.

Rouen, and to the sea—then tracked the winding shore as far as the port of Grandcamp in the Bessin—there, worn out with fatigue, one of them sought for shelter and repose in a fisherman's boat, left dry upon the beach, and the other under the brow of the cliff. During their sleep the tide flowed, till it reached the boat, which was carried out to sea, and after being long tossed about, to the no small terror of the awakened hermit, thrown at last upon the English coast. At the time of this happening, the Church of Salisbury was without a pastor, and the Canons unable to come to a decision in the choice of a successor. When lo! they were suddenly inspired to elect the stranger hermit, whom Providence had thus miraculously brought among them. Elevated to the episcopal see, the hermit of Savoy shone resplendent for sanctity and wisdom; his fame spread through the island till it resounded in the court of King William. The monarch had at that time for his physician a native of Savoy, who, anxious to be better informed of the truth of what was passing in the diocese of Salisbury, hastened thither, and was instantly recognized in spirit by the holy Bishop to be the brother of his fellow hermit, Roger, whom he had left sleeping under the cliffs at Grandcamp. The Bishop told his tale to the physician, and the latter, being now convinced of his near consanguinity to Roger, returned to the King. Roger, meanwhile, had reached the district of the Cotentin in a fruitless search along the coast for tidings of his companion; he then betook himself to Montebourg, and upon its summit poured forth his prayers for the soul of him whom he believed to be dead, and earnestly besought the Lord to indicate to him a fitting place where to lead a life of solitude. His petition was heard: a voice warned him in his sleep to go where he should see a globe of fire descend from heaven, and there build an oratory, and dedicate it to the Virgin. The following night he beheld the

A.D. 1106.

CHAP. II.

A.D. 1106. promised star descend from the firmament, and there where it fell,
CHAP. II. the flames consumed the thorns and brambles which had hitherto rendered the place wild and inaccessible. Thus heaven-directed, Roger built a chapel and a cell.

“Some time afterward, King William, wishing to revisit Normandy, sailed with his fleet to Cherbourg, and during his stay there, word was brought him of the miracle which had resulted from the separation of the two hermits, and of the building of the oratory of Montebourg. Whereupon the King dispatched thither his physician, who was overjoyed to find in the hermit his uterine brother Roger. Having ascertained the truth of the miracle, the physician returned to give an account of his mission to the King, who forthwith determined to build an abbey on the spot, and to set over it the venerable hermit. Under his auspices the works were begun, and franchises and privileges conferred upon the rising monastery, together with fair lands. Not long after King William died, and of his three sons Henry became, in the course of time, the sole possessor of his father’s dominions. Wishing to aid in the pious undertaking of King William, Henry gave the abbey of Montebourg to his illustrious Constable, Richard *Comte* of Réviers and Vernon, and Baron of Néhou, with strict injunctions to complete the structure, assigning to him for that purpose all the rents of the crown in the bailiwick of the Cotentin, for the space of seven years. When ready for divine worship, the king sent for Hugh, Archbishop of Rouen, Richard and Rotrou, Bishops of Coutances and Evreux, to assist at the dedication, the royal offering at the ceremony being a precious vase brimful of charters and royal privileges.

“Here monks from the Benedictine monasteries of Jumièges, Croix-St.-Leuffroy, and other places, came to serve God under the guidance of Abbot Roger, in holy community; and when, after a life of sanctity, he died, they buried him in the crypt of

the chapter-house, in a small sarcophagus, in front of the image of the Virgin Mary; "*quæ*," concludes the writer of this legend, " *de ipsius stellæ apparitionis Nostra Domina de Stella usque in hodiernum diem vulgo nuncupatur.*" A.D. 1106.
CHAP. II.

Richard de Redvers married Adeliza, daughter of William Peverel, of Nottingham, who had the custody of the three great manors of Bakewell, Ashford, and Hope, with their numerous berewicks in Peaclond, in Derbyshire, in the reign of William the Conqueror. In this district, on the lands formerly of Gernebern and Hundine, *in Pachesers*, but in 1086 held by him in demesne, he built the castle of the Peak, the ruins of which are conspicuous at the present day. The same monarch had also confided to him the defence of the town of Nottingham, and of the fort he had erected there, in 1068; and he possessed many mansions in the place, when it was surveyed in 1086.⁸⁹ Some writers report him to have been a natural son of the Conqueror, but the statement does not rest on any satisfactory evidence, and he does not hint at any such distinguished birth in his charters to the monasteries of his foundation, Lenton and St. James of Northampton. His son William possessed the fief of Torgistorp with the *vavassorie* of Grainteville, in the commune of Clitourps, and he was himself Castellan for William Rufus of the fort of Le Homme, in the commune of Picauville, in the Cotentin;⁹⁰ but of any castle of his own inheritance, in Normandy, I find no mention in any record.

Adeliza, wife
of Richard
de Redvers,
daughter of
William
Peverel, of
Nottingham.

⁸⁹ *Lib. Domesd.* fol. 273, *et seq.*

⁹⁰ The Castle of Homme, *de Hulmo*, had been bought of Duke Robert, the father of the Conqueror, by the Countess Adeliza, his sister, from whom it was forcibly wrested by her son, Guy of Burgundy, and given to Néel of St. Sauveur, whose father had formerly held it as *Vicecomes* of the district, and had afterwards farmed it of the Countess Adeliza. Upon recovering possession, she made over the place with its appurtenances to the convent of the Holy Trinity of Caen; this was in 1075, and the bourg was

A.D. 1106.

CHAP. II.

Manor of
Wolleigh
given with her
in frank
marriage.

Of the English possessions of William Peverel, of Nottingham, the manor of Wolveley or Olvelei, now written Wolleigh or Wooley, in the parish of Chaddlesworth, in the Hundred of Kentbury Eagle, in Berkshire, formed part.

“ Berchscire xxiiii. Terra Willelmi Peurel. In Eglei Hundred. Willelmus Peurel tenet de rege. Olvelei Radulfus Comes tenuit de Rege E. Tunc se defendebat pro x hidis, modo pro iii hidis et dimidia. Terra est vi carucarum. In dominio sunt ii carucæ, et x villani, et viii bordarii cum iii carucis. Ibi iii servi.”⁹¹

This manor was bestowed by him upon Richard de Redvers in frank marriage with his daughter Adeliza, and by her, after his death, given in perpetual alms to the abbey of Montebourg, with the consent of her sons and grandsons. It is probable also, that as this transfer of property had not taken place at the time of the compilation of the survey, the union of Adeliza with Richard de Redvers was subsequent to its date, 1086; a conjecture which receives strength from our finding that Adelina, her mother, was living as late as 1130, when she had eighteen shillings remitted for her demesne, out of the whole sum chargeable upon her land

confirmed to the nuns by King William and his Queen Matilda in 1080 at her instance, with the consent of Adeliza, Countess of Albemarle, who might however retain it for her life, and with whose descendants the *suzeraineté* of the fief seems to have continued. In the cartulary of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte, there is a charter of an Adeliza, daughter of an Earl of Albemarle, confirming to the abbey the gift of the church *Sanctæ Mariæ de Hulmo quam in dote mea habeo*, and from which it appears that she was the daughter of Earl Stephen, and successively the wife of Robert Bertram, and Engelger de Bohun. William Peverel was castellan of Le Homme in 1094, and, being besieged in it by Duke Robert, was compelled to surrender with the garrison which King William Rufus had placed in it. Le Homme is now more commonly called L'Isle Sainte-Marie, and is a hamlet in the commune of Picauville, *canton de Sainte-Mère-église*.

⁹¹ *Liber Domesd.* fol. 61a.

for Danegelt.⁹² The following letter from Adeliza de Redvers to Joscelin, Bishop of Salisbury, is our authority for these facts : A.D. 1107.
CHAP. II.

“ Domino venerando ac patri karissimo, Goscelino, Dei gratia Salisberien-
 episcopo, Adeliz de Revers, salutem et servitium. Jam multis esset notum
 et bene noverit sanctitas vestra me dedisse sanctæ Mariæ Montisburgi in
 perpetuam elemosinam pro salute animæ meæ et antecessorum et succes-
 sorum meorum manerium de Ovelaio, liberum et quietum, quod est in vestra
 situm dyocesi, concessu filiorum et nepotum meorum. Quod manerium
 pater meus W. Peverel de Notingeham dedit mecum Ricardo de Revers, et
 quod habui in proprio dominio post mortem ejus usque dum illud dedi
 prefatæ ecclesiæ. Unde vestram clementiam nobilitatemque excellentissimam
 imploro misericorditer, quatinus prefatam elemosinam vestræ auctoritatis
 sigillo confirmatis, et ipsis monachis ibidem commorantibus consilium, patro-
 natum, atque presidium vestrum, paterno modo, pro dei amore, unde quod
 ipsi vos requirant, impendatis, ne pro ecclesiasticæ justiciæ penuria quæ ad
 vestrum pertinet negotium, qui elemosinas sub vestra habetis tutela, aliquid
 perdant. Non enim, nisi Dei et vestri, aliud habent refugium contra guerram
 nefandorum hominum. Valetè.”⁹³

The manors of Feltham and Kempton, near Staines, in the hun-
 dred of Spelthorne, in the county of Middlesex, were likewise of
 the inheritance of the wife of Richard de Redvers, according
 to the averment in the livery to her grandson in 1206. They had
 been parcel of the forfeited demesnes of the *Comte* of Mortain,
 under whose name they are entered in Domesday, and were
 probably regranted out by King Henry to Richard de Redvers
 immediately after they fell into his hands by forfeiture.

Lands of her
 dower in
 Middlesex.

The children by this marriage were three sons and one daughter :
 1. Baldwin, who succeeded to the English Honours and was afterwards

Their issue.

⁹² *Rot. Mag. Pipæ*, 31 *Hen. I.* Notingehamsc. et Derbiesc. p. 12. Et idem Vic' (Osbertus Sylvanus) reddit compositum de danegeldo. Adeline matri Will. Peur. de Noting. xviiiis.

⁹³ *Cartul. de Lodres, in fine.*

A.D. 1107. Earl of the county of Devon; 2. William, who had the Norman baronies of Vernon, Réviers, and Néhou, and reassumed the surname derived from the first; 3. Robert, who bore the distinctive appellation *De Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia*, by reason of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, now a *chef-lieu de canton* in the Département de la Manche, having fallen to his share out of the acquisitions of his father in Normandy.⁹⁴ The daughter was given in marriage by King Henry to William de Romara, uterine brother of Ralph, Earl of Chester, and for some time Earl of the County of Lincoln.

House of
Romara.

The vill of Roumare is now a commune in the Département de la Seine Inférieure, *canton de Maromme*, on the skirts of a vast forest which bears its name. Its ancient lords derived their descent from Girolld *Dapifer*, whom Ordericus Vitalis names as the castellan associated with Hugh de Grandménil in the defence of Neuf-marché

⁹⁴ Sainte-Mère-église, in the Cotentin, does not appear to have been the *caput* of any Honour; but there was a district in the diocese of Lisieux, which had the jurisdiction of a Vicomté, called *Honor Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesiæ*. The castle of this district gave name to the parish of St. Pierre du Châtel, now again united with that of Nôtre-Dame-du-Val-sur-mer, and constituting with it the commune of St. Pierre-du-Val, in the Département de l'Eure, *canton de Beuzeville*. A Robert *de Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia* was possessed of a fief in this châtellenie in the reign of King Henry II, and was uncle to Oliver and William d'Aubigny, the former of whom was his heir. His feudal mansion was near the church of Tricqueville, where its site still retains the name of the *Baronnie d'Aubigny*. The lords of Tricqueville, which is in the canton of Pont-Audemer, were benefactors to the neighbouring religious establishments, the Abbey of Preaux, and the Hospital of St. Gilles. From the cartulary of Preaux, now in the possession of M. le Marquis de Blosseville, I extract the following deed, which occurs fol. 60, *recto*: “Sciant tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Robertus de Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia dedi Eustachio filio Ricardi de de Tregueville xl^a. solidatas redditus apud Treguevill in molendino meo, qui vocatur molendinus episcopi, pro servitio suo, et hoc perpetualiter. Testibus Herberto, abbate de Gresten. R. Abbate de Valle-Richeri, Hugone de Folebec, Hugone de Fastoville, Roberto filio Erembure, Willelmo Cubiculario et multis aliis.” Then follows the charter of Eustace, giving this rent to Preaux, “*sicut*” adds the scribe, “*in carta domini Regis Henrici filii Matildis imperatricis confirmatur.*” The communes of Foulbec and Fatouville, are in the immediate vicinity of St. Pierre-du-Val.

on the French border in 1064. Of this latter place he ultimately obtained a grant in fee, and it became the *caput Baronie* of his descendants in Normandy. Robert, son and heir of Girolde, occurs in the Domesday Survey as tenant *in capite* of Corfe Mullen and other manors in the southern counties of England, one of which, viz. Povington, a manor and liberty in the parish of West Tineham in the Isle of Purbeck, was given by him to the abbey of Bec in Normandy. Amid the frequent mistakes in the nomenclature of historical personages by the copyists of manuscripts, it might have been assumed that Robert was the father of William de Romara, notwithstanding that he is called the son of Roger by the historian above-named; but that this was his father's right name is proved by the following writ, transcribed into the cartulary of the Priory of Spalding.

A.D. 1107.
CHAP. II.

“Willelmus Rex Anglorum R. episcopo et Rogero filio Geraldii et omnibus Baronibus suis de Nicholaa-shira, salutem. Volo et præcipio ut homines de Spalding juste reddant monachis de Spalding firmam suam et sensum, et quod juste illis reddiderunt tempore Ivonis Tailbois, et ad illos terminos, scilicet ad quos suo tempore reddiderunt. Et nolo quod Osbernus vicecomes vel Colgrin de eorum rebus se intromittat, donec ego ipse inde aliud præcipio. T. &c.”⁹⁵

Spalding, a manor of the Saxon Earl Algar, had after the Conquest been allotted to Ivo Tailbois, the Sheriff of the county of Lincoln, who gave it to the Abbey of St. Nicholas of Angiers, and it was made the seat of an alien priory. The barony of Ivo Tailbois was in the reign of William Rufus held by Roger son of Gerald, in right of his wife Lucy; and she remarrying after his death Ranulph de Briquesard, surnamed Le Meschin, hereditary *Vicomte* of the Bessin, and afterwards Earl of Chester, carried to him the same

Lucy, Countess
of Chester,
mother of
William
de Romara,
daughter of
Ivo Tailbois.

⁹⁵ Ex Cartul. de Spalding, pars 2da, f. 89a. apud Cole. MSS. Addit. No. 5844, in Museo Britannico.

A.D. 1107. possession. Contrary to the opinion hitherto adopted, upon the
 CHAP. II. authority of the History of Croyland, written under the borrowed
 names of Ingulph and Peter of Blois, we may now feel assured that
 this Lucy was the daughter and not the wife of Ivo Tailbois ; for we
 learn from the great roll of the Exchequer that she was surviving in
 1130, and that she had fined to have the land of her father, being then
 a widow for the second time by the demise of Earl Ranulph.⁹⁶ It
 may even be doubted whether she could boast of being descended
 from the line of the Saxon Earls of Mercia by her mother's side.

Niece of
 Robert Malet.

In the Cottonian collection is an illuminated and sealed copy⁹⁷ of
 the convention made at Devises, between Henry II, then bearing
 only the title of Duke of the Normans, and Ranulph Earl of
 Chester, son of the Countess Lucy, in which one of the provisions
 stipulated for, was a grant to the Earl of the entire Honour of Eye
 in Suffolk, as fully as Robert Malet, his mother's uncle, had held it—
 “*totam honorem de Eia sicut Robertus Malet avunculus matris suæ
 illam melius et plenius unquam tenuit*”—which relationship of Malet
 to the heiress of Ivo Tailbois is apparently corroborated by Domes-
 day, where, under the survey of the land of the fee of Ivo in
 Lincolnshire, the manor of Alkborough (*Alchebarge*) is stated to
 have previously belonged to William Malet.⁹⁸ This Norman Baron
 had died in the Conqueror's lifetime ; but the lands he acquired in
 England descended to his son Robert, and the exception in this
 instance is best explained by the manor having been a gift in frank
 marriage to his sister Lucy, the wife of Ivo Tailbois, whom we
 know to have borne the same name as the daughter.

⁹⁶ Rot. Mag. Pipæ, 31 Hen. I. Lincoliescira p. 110. See this point discussed at some
 length in the History of Laycock Abbey, into which illustrations of the pedigree of
 Romara have been introduced by J. G. Nichols, F.S.A. p. 65.

⁹⁷ *Carta Antiqua*, in Brit. Mus. No. xvii. 2.

⁹⁸ *Lib. Domesd.* 350b.

By the same convention the fief of another of his mother's uncles was to be given to the Earl of Chester—" *et feudum Alani de Lincolnia, qui fuit avunculus matris suæ, et feudum Ernisii de Burun, sicut suam hereditatem.*" Alan de Lincoln, it is presumed, was the son of Alured de Lincolia, as he held in the reign of Henry I the same manors in Lincolnshire, of which the latter had been possessed from the time of the Conquest until after the accession of William Rufus. Another son was Judhel "de Totenais," the church of which place he gave to the abbey of Sts. Sergius and Bacchus of Angiers. This act bespeaks him an Angevin, and we may therefore not unreasonably suppose that they were of the same family with Ivo Tailbois, and uncles to the Countess Lucy.

A.D. 1107.

CHAP. II.

Niece of Alan
de Lincoln.

Of William de Romara we have several notices in the contemporary historians. In 1118, he steadily opposed the rebellious attempts of Hugh de Gournai and his associates, in Normandy, and often wrested from them the plunder which they had collected, as he watched his opportunity from the castle of Neuf-marché. In the next year, he was present, on the side of the King, in the battle of Brenmule, and not long after he was fortunate enough to have quitted the Blanche-nef, with the Earl of Mortain and others, before the fatal shipwreck. This event, however, involved him in a contest with his Sovereign. In return for the Earldom of Chester, which Henry confirmed to Ranulph Le Meschin, as cousin and next heir to Earl Richard, who was drowned on that occasion, his father-in-law made over to the King the land of his wife, thus sacrificing the interests of the legitimate heir. This William de Romara resented, and demanded restitution, putting forth at the same time his claim to Corfe and the inheritance of Robert son of Girold, his uncle. Neither request was granted, and he was even roughly rebuked by the King. Exasperated, he crossed over to Normandy, and threw himself into rebellion, which he ceased not from until the

William de
Romara, her
son, of Neuf-
marché in
Normandy.

A.D. 1107. King had restored to him great part of what he claimed.⁹⁹ This
 CHAP. II. reconciliation took place about the year 1122, and from that time
 he was specially favoured by the King, becoming both his intimate
 friend and messmate, and receiving at his hands the daughter of
 Richard de Redvers for his wife :

Marries the
 daughter of
 Richard de
 Redvers.

“ Primus itaque Guillelmus de Rolmara Regi honorifice reconciliatus est, et exinde familiaris ejus conviva et amicus factus est. Generosam quoque Matildam, filiam Richardi de Radveriis, illi Rex conjugem dedit, quæ filium ei spesiosum nomine Gulielmum Heliam peperit.”¹⁰⁰

Created Earl
 of Lincoln.

Upon the death of Henry I, he was specially commissioned to guard the frontier, and was by Stephen invested with the Earldom of Lincoln. In 1141, he took part with his uterine brother, the Earl of Chester, in surprising the castle of Lincoln, and holding it for the Empress Maud ; at which time he had a daughter born, who was by Earl Ranulph given in marriage to Gislebert de Gand. The fair son died before his father, in 1152, leaving issue by a sister of William Earl of Albemarle. The year of his own death is not recorded, but he was buried in the Cistercian monastery he had founded at Revesby, in the county of Lincoln.

⁹⁹ The following entry on the Close roll of the 7th of King John, fully corroborates the statement of Ordericus Vitalis, the historian who furnishes us with these details, as far as regards the restitution of the manor of Corfe-Mullen. “ Precipimus tibi quod in Corf, et Clif, et Camel, quæ fuerunt Willelmi de Romara, assignes Gillberto de Clara centum marcas terræ cum rationabili extensione et id quod residuum fuerit de predictis maneriis in manu nostra retineas. Et si quid ei defuerit de predictis centum marcis terræ, nobis significes quantum ei inde defuerit. T. G. filio Petri apud Ferndon xxvi. die Decembris.” (*Rot. Claus. 7, Joh. m. 6, p. 60b.*)

Camel, in Somersetshire, was the head of the Honour of Romara in those parts, and in an inquisition of the reign of Edward I, Corfe Molin is described as held of the honour of Camel.—Vide Hutchins' Dorset, vol. iii. p. 39. At Cleeve (*Clif*) in the same County, William de Romara, the grandson of the Earl, founded a Cistercian convent.

¹⁰⁰ *Hist. Eccl. Ord. Vital.* apud Duchesne, *Norm. Scriptores*, p. 886.

The Countess Matilda, or, to speak more correctly, Hadewysia, which name is alone found in the contemporary charters,¹⁰¹ survived her husband; and in her widowhood was a benefactress to the Hospital of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, near London. Among the possessions set forth in a bull of Pope Alexander in favour of this religious house, we find of the gift of Earl Baldwin de Redvers and of the Countess Hawysia, the church of Feltham and the land which they held in the same vill. Of Feltham I have already spoken as having been the property of Adeliza, the mother of Baldwin and Hawyse, and that it was the Countess of Lincoln who joined in the gift, is shown by the description of her in the charter of King Henry II, in which the church and land are said to be the gift of Hawysia, Countess "de Rumare."¹⁰² To the priory of Christchurch she gave, after the death of her nephew, Earl Richard, that is, after 1162, the land of Bure, one of the eight tythings into which the parish of Christchurch is divided, and the hamlet of Chuton in the adjacent parish of Milford, together with everything belonging to the same; which gift is expressed to be *cum corpore suo*, in the subsequent charters of William de Romara, her grandson, and of Earl Baldwin, the son of her nephew, Earl Richard:

A.D. 1107.

CHAP. II.

Hawyse
de Romara,
Countess of
Lincoln.

"Carta Hadewysie Comitissæ de Rumara de terra sua de Chyvetona et Bera.

"Henrico Dei gracia nobillissimo Regi Anglorum, suo karissimo domino

¹⁰¹ The name is Hawdewisa in the three charters constituting the endowment given to William, Abbot of Rievaulx, to construct an abbey of the order of Citeaux at Revesby, and Hadewisa in her signature as witness to a charter of Ranulph Earl of Chester, by which he granted *Watteleia* to his brother, the Earl of Lincoln, in the year the latter returned from his pilgrimage to St. Jago de Compostella.—*Vide Mon. Ang.* vol. i. p. 822, et seq.; and *Ormerod's Cheshire*, vol. i. p. 21.

¹⁰² *Mon. Ang.* vol. ii. p. 381; apud Cartular. Sancti Egidii, *Harl. MS. n.* 4105.

A.D. 1107. et venerabili patri suo, Henrico Episcopo Wyntoniam, omnibusque fidelibus
 CHAP. II. tam presentibus quam futuris, Hadewysia Comitissa de Rumara, salutem in Christo. Notum sit vobis quod ego inspirante Deo dedi partem mariagii mei, scilicet, terram de Bera et de Chevetona cum omnibus appendiciis suis ecclesie Sancte Trinitatis de Twynham et Canonicis regularibus in eadem ecclesia summe Trinitati servientibus atque servituris. Has autem terras, sicut in franc mariagio diu tenui, sic illas eisdem canonicis libere et quiete, in perpetuam elemosinam tenendas concessi. Hoc autem feci pro salute anime meae et pro anima domini mei Willelmi Comitis de Rumara, filiique mei Willelmi de Rumara, et pro anima cari fratris mei Baldwini Comitis, qui dedit mihi terras illas in franc mariagium quando me desponsari fecit predicto nobili viro, domino meo Willelmo de Rumara, et pro salute Willelmi de Rumara nepotis et heredis mei, et fratris sui Roberti, et pro animabus patris mei Ricardi de Redvers et Adeliz matris meae, et nobilis nepotis mei Ricardi comitis, et pro salute fratrum meorum Willelmi de Vernoun et Roberti de Sancte Marie ecclesia, et nepotis mei Willelmi de Vernoun, et pro animabus omnium antecessorum meorum. Precor eciam et ex corde desidero quatinus omnes qui hanc elemosinam meam manutenuerint, ejusdem elemosinae apud omnipotentem Deum participes existant. Hujus meae donacionis testes sunt nepos meus Robertus de Rumara, et Roger frater ejus et alii.”

“ *Confirmacio Willelmi de Rumara de eadem donacione.*

“ Sciant omnes qui modo sunt et qui futuri sunt, quod ego Willelmus de Rumara pro amore Dei, et pro salute anime meae, et pro animabus omnium antecessorum meorum concessi et dedi, et praeterea super altare Sancte Trinitatis optuli, in liberam elemosinam terram de Bera et de Chevetona cum omnibus appenditiis suis, ita honorifice sicut Hawisa comitissa avia mea eam cum corpore suo dedit ecclesie de Cristeschurchia et Canonicis regularibus ibidem Deo servientibus atque servituris, liberam et quietam ab omni servicio quod ad me pertinet et ad heredes meos. Quod si contigerit ac oporteat me vel heredes meos servicium facere de mariagio aviae meae Regi vel heredibus Comitis Ricardi, predicti Canonici de Christeschurche eciam partem servicii facient mihi et heredibus meis, nisi quietanciam habere

possint. Hujus meæ concessionis, et hujus cartæ confirmacionis testes sunt Robertus frater meus de Rumora, Matheus de Bruugw[alter] et alii.”¹⁰³ A.D. 1107.
CHAP. II.

Adeliza, the widow of Richard de Redvers, lived to see her grandson, Richard Earl of Devon; and will, therefore, have survived her husband nearly fifty years, her son, Earl Baldwin, not having died till 1155. The following charters record her gifts to the religious communities of her husband’s foundation :

Adeliza, widow
of Richard
de Redvers,
her charters to
Montebourg.

“ Notum sit omnibus scire volentibus, quod ego Adeliz de Reviers do et concedo abbatiæ Sanctæ Mariæ Montisburgi, concessu filiorum meorum ac nepotum, quoddam manerium in Berchescire, nomine Oувелai, liberum et quietum cum omnibus pertinentiis, pro salute animæ meæ, et pro animabus venerabilis domini mei Ricardi de Reviers, et patris mei, et matris meæ, et venerandi Comitis Balduini, et Willelmi de Vernone, et Roberti de Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia, filiorum meorum, et omnium antecessorum sive successorum meorum. Et ut hæc donatio sit rata, et inconcussa, et in perpetuam elemosinam habenda dominæ meæ, Sanctæ Mariæ Montisburgi, signo dominicæ crucis + hanc donationem confirmo atque sigilli mei protectione communitio, cum istorum testium testimonio, venerabilis filii sui, videlicet, Comitis Balduini, Willelmi de Vernone, Roberti de Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia, Ricardi filii Nigelli.”¹⁰⁴

This gift was made by Adeliza out of affection to Abbot Walter, as we learn from another charter, which purports to have been witnessed in the first instance by Earl Baldwin, William de Vernon, Stephen de Magneville, William le Moigne, and William Avenel, in the chapter house at Montebourg, in the presence of Abbot Walter and the whole community; and, again, in the Isle of

¹⁰³ Reg. de Twynham, fol. 61*b*; et vide Cartam Baldewini comitis, filii Ricardi comitis, *postea*.

¹⁰⁴ *Cartul. Montisburgi*, p. 198.

A.D. 1107. **Wight, at Carisbrook, by Brian de l'Isle, Payn Trenchart, and others :**
CHAP. II.

“Notum sit omnibus presentibus et futuris quod ego Adeliz de Redvers do et concedo in perpetuam elemosinam habendam abbatiæ Sanctæ Mariæ Montisburgi, pro salute animæ meæ, et patris mei . . . i Pevrel, et matris meæ Adelinæ, ex quorum dono illud poss. et filiorum meorum et omnium predecessorum atque successorum, quod. . . . manerium, quod vocatur, Ouvelay, liberum et quietum cum. manerio pertinentibus. Quod manerium meum est proprium. Quam donationem ego facio concessu filiorum meorum Idewini, et Willelmi de Vernon, et Roberti de fratris mei, Willelmi Pevrel de Notingeham, et nepotum meorum, Ricardi de Redveris, Henrici, atque Willelmi. Cujus donationis testes existunt filii mei, Comes Baldewinus, Willelmus de Vernon, Stephanus de Magnavilla, Willelmus Monachus, Willelmus Avenel, in capitulo Montisburgi, presente abbate Waltero cum omni conventu. Et in insula de With in Caresbroc predictæ elemosinæ testes se esse recognoscunt Brien de Insula, Paganus Trenchart, Galfridus de Insula, Walterus de Clamorgan, Ricardus de Argentonio, et Salamon filius ejus, Robertus Capellanus, Ricardus filius Nigelli, Willelmus Capellanus, Ricardus Duvelay, Herbertus de Oglandris. Et ut hæc donatio rata sit imperpetuum et inconcussa, signo Sanctæ Crucis confirmo et sigilli mei auctoritate communitio. Sciant etiam tam presentes quam futuri quod dominus Walterus ejusdem ecclesiæ abbas, in cujus tempore et pro cujus amore hanc donationem facio, et omnis conventus michi concesserunt quod de eodem manerio, quamdiu vixero, capiam quod necesse habuero per manus monachorum.”¹⁰⁵

Manor of
Wolfeigh
confirmed
to the same.

The following charters complete the chain of evidence relating to the transfer of this manor to the abbey of Montebourg :

“Notum sit omnibus scire volentibus, quod ego comes Baldoinus Exoniæ do et concedo Sanctæ Mariæ Montisburgi, concedentibus filiis meis, Ricardo, Henrico, et Willelmo, et fratribus meis, Willelmo de Vernone, et Roberto de

¹⁰⁵ *Cartul. de Loders, c. 5.*

Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia, pro salute animæ meæ et pro animabus patris et matris meæ, et omnium antecessorum meorum et successorum meorum, quoddam manerium in Berchesire, nomine Ouelai, liberum et quietum cum omnibus rebus eidem pertinentibus. Et ut hæc donatio sit inconcussa, et in perpetuam elemosinam prefatæ ecclesiæ habenda, signo crucis dominicæ hanc cartam confirmo et auctoritatis meæ sigillo communitio, presentium testium testimonio, Comitis Balduini, Ricardi filii sui, Willelmi de Morevill, Jordani de Lestra, Gaufridi de Spineio, Walteri de Clamorgan, cum pluribus aliis.”

A.D. 1107.

CHAP. II.

“Notum sit omnibus tam presentibus et futuris, quod ego Ricardus Comitis Balduini filius, concedo ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ Montisburgi, pro salute animæ meæ et pro animabus patris et matris meæ omniumque antecessorum et successorum meorum, quoddam manerium, quod dicitur Ulvelai, perpetuo jure habendum cum omnibus eidem pertinentibus, et liberum et quietum ab omnibus rebus, sicut Adeliz de Reviers, avia mea, illud dedit et concessit predictæ ecclesiæ, concessu patris mei et avunculorum meorum, Willelmi de Vernon et Roberti de Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia, et fratrum meorum, Henrici atque Willelmi. Et ut hæc donatio imperpetuum sit rata et inconcussa signo dominicæ crucis eam confirmo et sigilli mei impressione communitio, cum testium subscriptorum testimonio. Willelmus de Morevill, Willelmus de Helioum, et multi alii.”

“Notum sit tam presentibus quam futuris quod ego Willelmus Pevrel concedo Abbatîæ Sanctæ Mariæ de Montisburgo manerium Ovelai de patrimonio meo, et soror mea Adeliz dedit eidem abbatîæ in perpetuam elemosinam habendum, pro salute animæ meæ et pro animabus parentum meorum et omnium antecessorum, et pro nobismetipsis concedentibus, comite Balduino, filio suo, et Ricardo filio ejus, qui ejusdem manerii heredes futuri erant.”¹⁰⁶

William
Peverel of
Nottingham,
brother of
Adeliza, widow
of Richard
de Redvers.

The relationship of William Peverel of Nottingham to the family of Redvers is further exhibited in the following deed, extracted from the cartulary of the abbey of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte.

¹⁰⁶ *Cartul. Montisburgi*, p. 198-9.

A.D. 1107. “Omnibus sanctæ matris ecclesiæ filiis tam presentibus quam futuris,
 CHAP. II. notum sit quod ego Guillelmus Pevrel confirmo et concedo donationem
 quam dedit Rogerus de Grestenvilla abbatia de Sancto Salvatore et monachis
 ibidem Deo servientibus ; et omnem terram quam tenebat Gaufridus filius
 Adelais de feodo meo quietam do et concedo abbatia in perhenni elemosina
 ab omnibus consuetudinibus michi pertinentibus. Et in hamello de Tor-
 gistorp in terris, in silvis, et desertis, ubicunque fuerint in feodo meo,
 similiter do et concedo in perhenni elemosina pro salute mea omniumque
 antecessorum meorum. Hiis testibus confirmata est hæc cartula, Willelmo
 de Vernone et Roberto de Sanctæ Mariæ ecclesia, nepotibus meis, et Guillelmo
 filio meo Pevrel, qui mecum hanc donationem fecit et confirmavit, Guillelmo
 Avenello et Ricardo filio ejus, Guillelmo de Gatevilla.”¹⁰⁷

The hamlet of Tourgistorp, named in the above deed, is situate in the parish and commune of Clitourp, *canton de St.-Pierre-église*, in the Cotentin, and the monks of St. Sauveur had here a cell under the invocation of St. Michael, which was usually called the Priory of Clitourp or Clitout. The donation of Roger de Grestenvilla was likewise confirmed by Robert del Tot, son of Agnes, and by Robert his son, vavassors in Grestenvilla, now Grinteville, another hamlet in the vicinity of the Priory ; and at the foot of a deed which recites the donations of Roger de Grestenvilla, of Geoffry son of Adelais and of Robert del Tot in Torgestorp, and to which Geoffry, the provost of Grestenvilla, is a witness, is this clause of confirmation : “ *Ego Ricardus de Hæia has donationes concedo—pro animabus patris matrisque meæ,*” from which it may be inferred that the powerful family of Haye-du-Puits had afterwards the *suzerainté* of the fief of the Peverels in the Cotentin.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁷ Ex Cartul. Sancti Salvatoris Vicecomitis, *penes M. C. de Gerville de Valognes*, p. 54.

¹⁰⁸ Ex eodem cartulario *ubi supra*. Clitourp was the fief of a family descended from

Lastly, her grant of the church of Thorley in the Isle of Wight to the priory of Christchurch is prayed by Adeliza de Redvers to be confirmed by the Bishop of the diocese, in the following letter, addressed to Henry of Winchester, brother of King Stephen, who survived to 6th August, 1171. This gift was made in the lifetime of her grandson, Earl Richard, after he had succeeded to his father's Honour, and therefore between the years 1155 and 1161, during which short period only he held the Earldom.

A.D. 1107.

CHAP. II.

Grant of
Church of
Thorley to
Priory of
Christchurch.

“ Carta Adeliz de Redveriis de Ecclesia de Thornleye.

“ Karissimo domino et honorabili patri suo, H. Dei gracia Wyntoniensi episcopo, Adeliz de Redveriis, cum fideli servicio salutem. Sciat paternitas vestra me, cum vestri benevolencia et gracia, dedisse ecclesiam meam de Thorleia ecclesie Sancte Trinitatis de Twynham, et canonicis regularibus ibidem Deo servientibus atque servituris, in perpetuam elemosinam. Feci autem donacionem meam, concedente Ricardo Comite, herede et nepote meo, pro salute nostra, et pro salute animarum domini mei, Ricardi [Comitis] de Redveriis et filii mei Comitis Balduini, et aliorum antecessorum nostrorum. Precamur itaque dignitatem vestram, quatinus hoc factum nostrum auctori-

Rogo, the mesne tenant of Holcombe Rogus in Devonshire, at the time of the survey in 1086; a Symon, son of Rogo, nephew of William, son of Rogo, gave the church of Clitourp, and the tithes of the victuals consumed in his house, *quamdiu fuerit in Constantino*, to the abbey of St. Sauveur. “ Hæc omnia dedit,” continues the record, “ pro salute anime sue amique sui Ricardi Pevrel qui, si forte in Normannia obierit, hoc concessit, petiit, jussit, ut, Deo volente, in eadem abbacia sepulturam suam habeat. Testibus, Rogero, presbytero de Goé, Philippo de Bellmonte, Thoma fratre ejus, Roberto de Arundello.” This same Symon gave the monks the tithes likewise of his household fare in England, “ decimam sumptus domus sue de Holocumba. Testibus, Radulfo Cosin, Roberto Arundel, Roberto Blundo, Matheo de Nerbert, Johanne nepote Cecilie, Sansone de Windesores.” The confirmation of Richard of Haye-du-Puits, was witnessed by William de St. Jean, William de Orval, William de Briqueville, William de Saint-Germain, Ralph le Gros (*Crassus*), and many others.

A.D. 1107. *tate vestra confirmando roborare et roborando confirmare dignemini.*
 CHAP. II. *Valeat paternitas vestra.*"¹⁰⁹

*Erroneous
 descent of the
 House of
 Redvers in
 Dugdale's
 Baronage.*

Before concluding this chapter, I may observe that the account here given of Richard de Redvers will be found to differ widely from that of Dugdale, in his *Baronage*. Deceived by finding the Courtenays Earls of Devon the representatives both of the House of Redvers and of the Barons of Okehampton, and also, perhaps, by the identity of the patronymics in the two families, that eminent genealogist concluded that Baldwin de Meules, the Sheriff of Devon, lord of Okehampton at the time of the Conqueror's survey, was the common ancestor. The disproof is easy: Richard, the son of Baldwin, exercised his hereditary office of Sheriff in 1129,¹¹⁰ and having founded a Cistercian monastery at Brightley, within his Honour of Okehampton, was there interred, on the 25th of June, 1137, being then advanced in years: whereas Richard de Redvers died in 1107, and was buried at Montebourg.¹¹¹ The only possessions which Baldwin, the son of Richard de Redvers, held in the County of Devon, were the Honours of Plympton and Tiverton, the same as his father had held. The Honour of Okehampton descended in the line of the heirs of Richard son of Baldwin,

¹⁰⁹ Ex *Reg. de Twynham*, fol. 93. The word *Comitis* placed between brackets has been inadvertently introduced by the copyist of this letter in the Register, the person here commemorated being Richard de Redvers, the husband of Adeliz, who was never invested with the Earldom of the county of Devon. Had such been the case, she would have entitled herself *Comitissa*, in this letter, and in her other charters. The cartulary is rather a late transcript, and abounds in clerical errors, but its contents are extremely valuable, and furnish details of conventual economy, which are not to be met with in other registers of this description.

¹¹⁰ *Rot. Mag. Pip.* 31 Hen. I. *Devenescira et Cornualia*, p. 153.

¹¹¹ *Historia Foundationis Abbatia de Forde*, apud *Mon. Ang.* i. p. 785.

viz. to the children of his sister, in frank marriage with whom Baldwin de Meules gave to William, son of Wimond of Avranches, the manor of Dolton, in Devonshire,¹¹² and who eventually remarried Rannulph Avenel. In right of their common descent from this lady, the Honour of Sap or Meules in Normandy, was, in the reign of Henry II, held in equal moieties by the Domina de Sap and Hugh de Paynell. Afterward Matilda de Sap (*Abiete*) dying without issue, her sister Hawyse, Lady of Okehampton, was her heir, from whom the Courtenays descended; but till the marriage of Robert de Courtenay with Maria de Redvers, in the reign of King John, no ties of consanguinity existed between the descendants of Baldwin de Meules, and the illustrious House which derived from the Castellans of Vernon.

¹¹² *Exon. Domesd.* p. 272.







