

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY OF ABERNON,
OF ALBURY AND STOKE D'ABERNON.BY CHARLES SPENCER PERCEVAL, Esq., LL.D., Dir. S.A.

THE knightly family whose history I have undertaken to trace were settled for several generations in the counties of Surrey and Devon. Although their surname appears to have completely died out, so much so that no trace of it even in a corrupted form can be found in the pages of Mr. Lower's most comprehensive Dictionary of English Patronymics, yet it has remained as a local designation, serving in Surrey to distinguish the old manor on the banks of the Mole from the other Stoke by Guildford; and in Devonshire, Bradford near Holsworthy is sometimes styled Bradford Dabernon.

An antiquarian tourist, on first approaching the little village of Stoke D'Abernon, will naturally feel some curiosity as to the race who owned the French-sounding portion of the name of the place; nor will this curiosity be diminished when, on entering the church, he observes, that though the old name has departed, its memorial has not perished with it.

For he will be at once attracted by the two famous Abernon "brasses," one of them being as early an example of this beautiful form of sepulchral monument as can be met with in all the land; and surely, then, he will turn and ask, who were the knights who repose under these costly slabs?

The answer is not a long one. They never rose above the rank of country gentlemen. No member of the family was ever summoned to Parliament. They were sheriffs, knights of the shire, magistrates, and commissioners of taxes within their native county, liable by the tenure of

their lands for military service, sometimes rendering it personally, sometimes paying their escuage instead, useful in their generation, but never rising beyond their original position when first they accompanied their lord to England.

The founder of the family in England was one Roger de Abernun, whom we find mentioned in Domesday Book as one of the tenants of that great Lord Richard, son of Gilbert Count of Brionne, in Normandy, called also Richard de Benefacta, or de Bienfaite, from the town of that name not far from Lisieux, and from his chief seat in England, Richard de Tonbridge, the ancestor of the family of de Clare, earls of Pembroke, Gloucester, and Hertford.

There is a village in Normandy called at the present day Aberon, (or Abenon, according to the French Government map), situated in the department of Calvados, in the arrondissement of Lisieux, and the canton of Orbec, on the little stream called Orbec, or Orbiquet, which runs into the Touque at Lisieux, very near Bienfaite (St. Martin de Bienfait). It is highly probable that Roger de Abernon took his name from this place,¹ and held it under Richard fitz Gilbert, to whom Bienfaite and Orbec both belonged, at the time of the Conquest.² His descendant, and namesake, still held lands called Abernui, in Normandy, in 1200, when, by license of King John, he exchanged them with William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, for a manor in Dukkesworthe, now called Duxford, in Cambridgeshire.³ And, from the fact of the modern Aberon lying so close to Bienfaite, we may pretty certainly identify the ancient Abernui therewith.

At the time of the Survey, Roger de Abernon held a manor at Molesham, identified by Manning with West Moulsey, in the hundred of Elmbridge,⁴ and Eldeberie or Albury, in the hundred of Blackheath,⁵ now the seat of the Duke of Northumberland, and lately of the lamented Vice-President of the SURREY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Mr. Henry Drummond.

Stoke was held, at the time of the Domesday Survey, by Richard de Tonbridge himself in demesne,⁶ but

was granted to one of the Abernon family at some time prior to the reign of Henry III., by which time we shall find them holding both this and the neighbouring manor of Fetcham as of the honour of Clare.

The estate of Stoke comprised, at the time of the Survey, sufficient arable land for six teams, of which two were worked by ten villani. There was wood enough to support forty hogs, which fattened on the acorns and beechmast. A church already existed, but I am not aware that any vestiges of so early a date have been observed as forming part of the present structure. The Earl Richard had land in the manor, besides what has been enumerated, affording employment for two more teams. Six oxen were kept here by two villani. We find two mills established in the manor,—the profits of one being worth seven, of the other six, shillings a year. The entire annual value of the property, without the mills, was five pounds.

Fetcham, or rather one of the manors there, had been given by William the Conqueror to his half-brother Odo, bishop of Bayeux, and in Domesday one Richard is stated to hold under the bishop.⁷ Whether by this Richard we are to understand Richard de Tonbridge is doubtful; but even if not, it is highly probable that after Odo's rebellion and disgrace in 1088 the superiority of the Fetcham manor was granted to Richard or his son.⁸

We have no particulars of the life of Roger, the founder of the family; nor do we even know when he died. The next steps, moreover, in the pedigree are by no means free from uncertainty; but I think it more than probable that the son and heir of Roger I. was that Ingelram de Abernone, who in 13 Henry I. (1112) occurs as a witness to a charter of that monarch confirming a grant of lands to a religious house in the diocese of Avranches,⁹ and who is most likely identical with an Ingelrannus de Abern who in the thirty-first year of the same king held lands (not named) in Surrey, and had a pardon or discharge from paying the tax called Danegelt, in respect of which his assessment was fifty-six shillings, a large sum in those times.¹⁰ Two persons of

the same name holding lands in Essex and Suffolk had a similar pardon there. Whether these three entries refer to one and the same individual may be doubted; however, I find no subsequent traces of lands in Essex or Suffolk held by the Surrey family. There is no record of the date of the death of this Ingelram I., nor can I say whether he married and left issue.

The next of the family with whom I meet is Roger d'Abernun (whom for distinction sake I will call Roger II.), and who probably was son and heir of Ingelram. At all events he succeeded to the estates, for by a charter without date, but which from the handwriting and other circumstances may be referred to the reign of Henry II., this Roger confirms a certain grant of lands at Oxshot, within the manor of Stoke, to the monastery of Waverley, in our county.¹¹

His seal, appended to this charter, is in good preservation. It is here figured. The narrow-pointed and curved



shield, of which the right half alone is shown, bears a lion rampant, an early instance of an armorial bearing. With it may be compared the first great seal of King Richard I., which also exhibits on the shield a lion rampant, but to the sinister, a circumstance which has led to the conjecture that there was a second lion (rampant combatant) on the sinister side of the shield, not shown in the seal. The lion rampant was not

transmitted as an hereditary bearing to the descendants either of King John or of Roger d'Abernun.* King

* A lion rampant, however, occurs once on the seal of a John d'Abernun, possibly son of this Roger.—Add. Ch. 5530.

Richard's second seal, as is well known, bears the three lions passant guardant, which ever since have been the arms of England.

Missing very possibly one step in the pedigree, I come to the year 1194, 9 Ric. I., when an entry occurs on the Rolls of the *Curia Regis*,¹² recording a final concord between one Walter de Abernun and Elias, son of Walter, concerning lands in Lessham (Lasham, near Odiham, in Hampshire). Eleven years later, namely in 1205 (7 John), a lawsuit was instituted in respect of the same lands.¹³ From this and other records cited among my authorities at the end of this paper, it appears that there were four brothers,—Ingelram II., Walter (identical or not with the Walter just mentioned), William, and Richard d'Abernun, interested in the Hampshire property, who from similarity of surnames and identity of dates, may well have belonged to the Surrey family; for the names both of William and Walter occur in Surrey in the 6th of King John, when William de Aubernun paid his fine, or fee as we should say, of half a mark to have an assize of *mort d'ancestor* against Walter de Albernun in respect of a rent of one mark in Muleš (Moulsey?);¹⁴ and it is to be observed that Lasham or Lessham was in the possession of Sir John Dabernon II. in 1316.

Of these four brothers, Richard was dead without issue in 1206, for in that year Walter, his brother, was declared by the verdict of a jury to be his heir; and Ingelram II. was dead in 1210, leaving another Roger, certainly his heir, and most likely his son. Walter was clearly the elder son, otherwise Ingelram or Roger would have been the heir of Richard. In 17 John that king gave away (as forfeitures) lands in Hampshire which had belonged to a Roger d'Abernun, and lands also which had belonged to a Walter d'Abernun, apparently at the same place in Hampshire, and in Surrey and elsewhere; and Walter is named as one of those who had been in arms against the king.¹⁵ Restitution was probably made at the beginning of Henry III.'s reign.

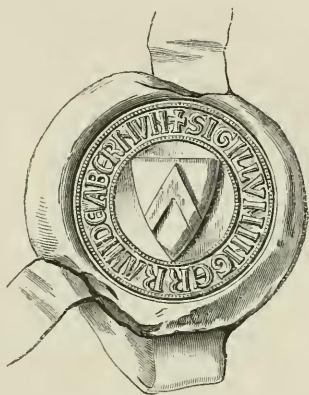
This Roger, heir of Ingelram, I take to be the Roger d'Abernun with whom the tabular pedigree in Manning and Bray's Surrey¹⁶ begins, and who, according to that authority, married Atheline, daughter and heir of Sir William Peverell, a great family in these parts. Glover, in a short pedigree in the Harleian Collection,¹⁷ calls her father Thomas, and, with more verisimilitude, does not make her his heir, for indeed there is no trace of any Peverell estate falling in consequence of this match to the d'Abernon family. Whether he was also the man who, as before mentioned, made the exchange of Abernun for Duxford in 1202, and ought also to be identified with a Roger de Abernun, who in the same year or the next, is mentioned in the county of Southampton as owing 20s. of the second and third scutage of King Richard I.,¹⁸ is not certain. There is nothing in the dates to render this impossible. Assuming, as on the whole matter seems likely, that Ingelram of Hampshire, the head of that family, was also the head of the Surrey family, that is, that both families were identical—all we know is that Ingelram II. was dead by 1210, and that Roger had *then* succeeded him. Ingelram's death might have occurred prior to 1202, when the exchange was made by Roger, who must (almost certainly) have been the head of the house, as being seized of the original Norman estate.

At the same time, if it should turn out that the father of the four Hampshire brothers was called Roger, he, and not Ingelram II. of Hampshire's son, might equally well be the exchanger.

Sir Roger II., according to Manning, had three sons. The county historian cites no authority, but he is probably correct. The eldest son appears to have been Walter, who (I presume by his wife Matilda, who, as widow of Walter d'Abernon, is recorded in legal proceedings in 52 Henry III., 1268)¹⁹ left a son and heir, Ingelram d'Abernon III., who died in 19 Henry III., 1235, leaving no issue by his wife Joan, who afterwards had from Gilbert d'Abernon, whom we shall presently mention, the manor of Albury, the service of half a

knight's fee in Epse, and land at Teington assigned as her dower.²⁰

The woodcuts represent the seal and counterseal of this Ingelram III., taken from a charter of his in the British Museum (Add. Ch. 5540). On these seals the chevron, as borne by his successors, makes its first



appearance. The deed to which they are appended is without date. It contains a gift by Ingelram to Peter, the parson of Fetcham, of a virgate of land in the vill of Stoke, which Richard, son of Everard, held of Sir Walter de Abernun, his father.

At this time Richard Earl of Gloucester, the superior lord of the four knights' fees which Ingeram held in Surrey, was under age, and consequently in ward to the king, who by writ dated December 17, in the nineteenth year of his reign, directed his officers to seize the land into the king's hands, till it should be ascertained who was the heir.²¹ This proved to be one Jordan de Abernun,²² "his cousin and heir," who appears to have been the son of William de Abernon, who must himself have been the second son of Sir Roger.

The third son of Roger was Gilbert, between whom and his nephew Jordan an arrangement took place, under which Jordan released to Gilbert his lands in Surrey, taking instead the estate at Duxford previously

noticed;²³ and accordingly Gilbert was admitted, about the 30th January, 19 Henry III., to do his fealty for the Surrey lands, consisting of four knights' fees, held of the honour of Clare, and formerly belonging to his nephew, he paying for his relief 40 marks;²⁴ of which sum 20 marks were still due at his death, which occurred in the following year, 20 Henry III. He had made a will, and on security being given for the discharge of this and any other crown debts he might owe, his executors were to have the free administration of his goods and chattels for the execution of his will.²⁵

He left John de Abernun his son and heir, who being a minor, fell into wardship to the king, Richard Earl of Gloucester being still under age. The wardship was granted (June 14th, 20 Henry III.) to John de Gatesden, who made fine of six score marks for the same, to be paid at the rate of £20 per annum; whereupon Richard de la Lade (probably a bailiff of the king) was to give him seizin of all the lands held of the honour of Gloucester, of which Gilbert had died seized.²⁶

John d'Abernon I. was of age in 37 Henry III., 1253, when he had the possession of his lands at Stoke and Hedley, in Surrey, and elsewhere. In this year he obtained from the king a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands at Stoke, Fetcham, Albury, and Hedley, in Surrey; and in Pabenham, in Bedfordshire; and at Teynton, in Devonshire.²⁷ He was Sheriff of Surrey in 49 Henry III.;²⁸ and from a curious record²⁹ which well illustrates the state of the country at this time, we learn that his shrievalty was not unattended with trouble and loss, brought upon him, however, primarily by the timidity of one of his subordinates.

Mr. Boutell, in the first volume of these Transactions (p. 234), has already told the story how Sir John and his clerk Nicholas were frightened into giving up to an armed party ten barrels of woad, imported into Portsmouth by a Norman merchant, and placed for safe custody in Guildford Castle, and how Sir John had to pay six score marks (£80) damages.

The woad must have been a most costly commodity

if it was worth £8 a cask. The average price of wheat in the year 1259 (ten years after this) was 5s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and of barley 3s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per quarter.³⁰ Taking wheat and barley respectively at 70s. and 40s., which are rather low prices for the present day, we get from the former the ratio of nearly 12 : 1, from the latter the ratio of about 11·6 : 1, as the measure of the purchasing power of the money of the same denomination in the thirteenth and the nineteenth centuries : so that £8 of the former period would represent a present value of about £90, and John d'Abernon's damages (what his costs amounted to we do not know) would be equivalent to a round sum of £900, a most unpleasant item in a sheriff's expenses.

He survived this *contretemps*, however, for some years. There are extant two charters of his, dated respectively in 1272 and 1273.³¹ He must have died about 1277, as in 1278 his heir was summoned to pay his relief on succeeding to the estates. It is to his memory that the fine monumental brass in Stoke church (figured in our Transactions, i. 234) was erected. His eldest son and heir was John d'Abernon II.

King Edward I., in the seventh year of his reign (1279), found it necessary to inquire strictly as to the title of the various claimants of franchises, which in his father's disturbed reign had been partly granted with too great liberality, and partly usurped by the great landowners. Many of these inquiries are extant, and have been printed under the title of "*Placita de quo Warranto.*" We learn from these records³² that John d'Abernon was impleaded in respect of his claims to have the view of frankpledge and the amends of assize of bread and beer broken in his manors in Surrey, and to have freewarren in Coppedethorn hundred (that is in his lands at Fetcham). He successfully defended his right to freewarren by producing the charter (noticed already) which King Henry III. had given to John, his father.

It was not until the year before this that John d'Abernon (II.) was knighted. Mr. Francis M. Nichols, in his interesting paper on feudal and obligatory knighthood, has well observed that "the civil duties of the landowner were

considerably increased upon his being elevated to this dignity. The office of coroner and juryman upon the Great Assize, and several other functions in the administration of justice, as well as the duty of representing the shire in Parliament, were in general imposed upon the knights of the county, as long as knights could be found for the purpose. Those of the poorer military tenants, whose inclination did not lead them to the pursuit of arms, preferred evading an honour which was unsuited to their peaceful occupations, and which brought with it duties which they would gladly evade, and expenses which they were little able to meet.

“King Edward I. appears to have struggled against the growing sluggishness of the age; and the proceedings taken in his reign for the enforcement of knighthood are remarkable for the earnestness with which they appear to be directed to the original object of the institution,—the defence of the kingdom.”³³

In accordance with this policy, a general writ (dated June 26, 6 Edward I., 1277) issued to all the sheriffs, commanding them to distrain all persons having £20 of land, or an entire knight's fee of the value of £20 per annum, and who held of the king *in capite*, and who ought to be knights and were not, to take the arms of knighthood of the king, on or before the next Christmas-day, and also to distrain those who had the same amount of land held of other lords, to take the same arms, on or before the same feast, and to take good and sufficient security from them for their obedience.³⁴

In obedience to this writ, the sheriff of Surrey and Sussex returned, among other names of persons liable to knighthood, that of “John de Dabernun,” who found the required securities.³⁵ A caution had been given by the writ just cited, that investigation would be made into their conduct in making up their returns; and accordingly, early in the next year (March 12, 1279), commissioners were appointed in each county to carry out this investigation, and to amerce those who had neglected to take up their knighthood by the Christmas just past, and to distrain them afresh.

Of these defaulters John d'Abernon was not one, for he was joined in the Commission for Surrey, with Ralf de Bernen and Hugh Oyldeboef.³⁶

We have seen how Jordan d'Abernun, son of William, had taken the Cambridgeshire estate, leaving those in Surrey to his uncle Gilbert. His line did not continue long, for in 9 Edward II. (1281) Duxford had reverted (whether under a settlement or by inheritance) to Sir John d'Abernon, whom we then find returned as lord of a fee there, and holding at the same time lands at Albury and Pabenham, in Bedfordshire.³⁷

It must have been about this time that Sir John got into trouble with his neighbours at Albury. There was there a heath of sixty acres, over which Thomas de Weston, as owner of three acres of land in the vill of Albury, claimed to have the right of common for all his beasts, at all times of the year. Sir John, on being sued in an assize of novel disseisin brought against him by Thomas de Weston, for turning him off the common, pleaded first, that the common was not in Albury, but in Gumshelf; and, secondly, that his father, John, had died seized of the land as his separate property. The recognitors found against Sir John on both pleas, and accordingly he was amerced. He was not disposed, however, to let the matter rest here, for in the same roll of pleas which contains the former trial there is an entry stating that a jury of twenty-four knights was summoned to try whether the recognitors of the assize of novel disseisin had perjured themselves by their verdict; the perjury complained of by Sir John being their declaration that he had dispossessed Thomas de Weston of his common rights. The jury acquitted the recognitors, saying that their oath was good and loyal; so they and Thomas de Weston were discharged, while Sir John was committed to gaol.³⁸

How long he staid there does not appear, and indeed the date of the record of his committal, from a copy of which I am quoting, is uncertain: at all events, he was at large in 1294, when he was appointed assessor and collector of the subsidy of one-tenth, granted to the

king by the Parliament on the morrow of St. Martin, 22 Edw. I.³⁹

In 1297, when King Edward I. was contemplating his expedition to invade France through Flanders, John d'Abernon II. was summoned as holding lands by knight's service in Surrey, of the value of £20 per annum and upwards, to perform military service beyond the seas.⁴⁰ In the same year he was assessor in the county of Hants, of a fresh subsidy of an eighth and a fifth, just granted to the king in return for his confirmation of the charters.⁴¹

In the autumn of the same year he was first elected by the Surrey freeholders to be knight of the shire; and such was their apparent preference for Sir John that, notwithstanding he was excused from serving, as being absent on the king's business, the freeholders declined to proceed to another election. We find this able man of business employed in the public service for several subsequent years.⁴² In 1308 he was a conservator of the peace for the county, and in the following year was once again elected knight of the shire. In 1324 he is returned as being extremely ill and infirm, and after this we hear no more of him until his death—three years afterwards. By the inquisition taken upon his death, in 1327, it appears that he died seized of the manors of Albury and Stoke, held of Eleanor, widow of Hugh le Despenser, junior (daughter and co-heir of Gilbert de Clare, last Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, who was slain at Bannockburn in 1313), by the service of two knight's fees and a half, of half a knight's fee at Fetcham and other lands.⁴³ He was buried at Stoke Dabernon, where is still to be seen the monumental brass erected to his memory.⁴⁴

His son and heir, John III., was of full age at his father's death. He followed in his father's footsteps, both as a soldier and in the discharge of civil employments. His name appears among the tilters at a tournament held at Dunstable, in the second year of Edw. II., 1307, where, and also at the battle of Boroughbridge, in 1322, he is recorded as bearing his father's arms, azure, a chevron or, differenced by a white label.⁴⁵

In the 1st Edw. III. he was associated with Thomas Tregoz, John de Stonore (the Chief Justice), and John de Ifield in a commission for making a perambulation of the forests in Surrey,⁴³ and in the same year was appointed to collect a subsidy of one-twentieth of movable goods granted by Parliament for the defence of the realm against the king's enemies, the Scots, who had invaded England.⁴⁷ In the third year of the same king he and Thomas Tregoz were made keepers of the peace in Sussex.⁴⁸ According to Manning and Bray, he was sheriff of that county and of Surrey in 4th and 7th Edw. III.; and in the 8th year of that reign he had a commission for the custody of both counties, on condition that he should maintain the castles there.⁴⁹

His liberties at Pabenham were attacked, as had been the case in his father's time, by proceedings under a *quo warranto*.⁵⁰ On this occasion he pleaded the charter granted by Henry III. to his grandfather John, whose lands he held by descent.

The exact date of his death does not appear; but it occurred before the 23rd Edw. III., 1350, when, on the death of Hugh le Dispenser, then superior lord of the Surrey estates, William, his son and heir, was returned as the tenant thereof.⁵¹ Manning and Bray state that his wife was Maud, daughter and heir of William Giffard.

William d'Abernon, son and heir of John III., was, in 26 Edw. III., 1353, one of those who were appointed to array sixty archers in the county of Surrey.⁵² He is stated to have married Elizabeth, daughter of Uvedale, of Titsey, according to Manning, who cites no authority. Mr. Leveson Gower has noticed the marriage; but was unable to connect this lady positively with the Titsey family. He conjectures, by dates, that she was daughter of Sir John d'Uvedale, who died March 7, 1321-2.⁵³ William died in 32 Edw. III., 1359, leaving Elizabeth and Margaret, his daughters and co-heirs. The latter, aged six months at the date of the inquisition⁵⁴ taken on her father's death, appears to have died in

her infancy. The elder sister, aged eighteen at her father's death, was married to Sir William Croyser.

The male line of the d'Abernon family in Surrey became thus extinct, having subsisted there about three hundred years.

With their successors I am not concerned. I will only mention that in the 32nd Edward III. Sir William Croysier and Elizabeth his wife, on giving security for their relief of her property of her father's inheritance, namely, a moiety of the manors of Stoke d'Abernon and Teyngton Drewe, a moiety of eight shillings' worth of rent in Hadley, and of a moiety of six shillings' rent out of the manor of Apse, had livery of their lands.⁵⁵ Sir William died in 1386, in which year he made his will, directing that he should be buried in the church of St. Mary, Stoke Dabernon, and leaving a legacy to Pabenhams church; the executors of his will being his wife and his younger son, Sir John.⁵⁶ Sir William, his eldest son and heir, left a daughter and coheir, married to Sir Henry Norbury, by descent from whom the estates in three generations passed to Jane, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Haleighwell, wife of Sir Edmund Bray, Lord Bray. Upon the death, without issue, of his only son, John, Lord Bray, in 1557, the estates were partitioned among his sisters and coheirs, of whom Frances, wife of Thomas Lifield, had Stoke and the manor of Leatherhead, or an interest therein.⁵⁷ Her daughter and heir married Vincent, in which family the property remained for several descents.

I have been unable satisfactorily to ascertain the relationship of the various branches of the d'Abernon family settled in Devonshire, or whence they obtained their lands; but the following memoranda may be useful to a future inquirer.

First, as to Teyngton, which clearly belonged to the Surrey family. This is Teignton Drew, in the hundred of Wonford and deanery of Dunsford, eight miles from Crediton. Lysons ("Devonshire," p. 493) says that "Drogo or Drewe possessed the manor in the reign of Henry II. and Richard I., and called himself Drewe de

Teignton, and that from this Drewe the manor passed to the Dabernons. In the 27th Henry III. Eugenius (? Ingeramus) Dabernon was lord thereof; in 24 Edward I. John Daubernon held the same, and William Dabernon in 19 Edward III. Stephen Dernford, in 6 Henry VI." This estate was three-parts of half a knight's fee, and held of the honour of Oakhampton. So it is returned in the "Testa de Nevill," p. 180, and as held by "the heirs" of Ingeram d'Aubernun, John Courtenay being then the lord of Oakhampton. This was from 1242 to 1272; so that John, the infant heir of Gilbert (who died 1235-6), must be meant. This estate descended thenceforward with Albury and Stoke in the Surrey family.

A second Devonshire property was Bradford Dabernon, in Black Torrington hundred, near Holsworthy. According to Sir W. Pole (p. 362, of "Devon Collections"), Ilgeram de Aubernon held this land *temp.* Henry II., and "in the beginning of Henry III. Ilgeram Dabernon gave Bradford unto William, his younger son." The heir of William d'Abernun is named in "Testa de Nevill," p. 179, as holding also under John de Courtenay (after 1242), the eighth part of one knight's fee in Bradford. John Dennys, by Joane his wife, held Bradford 24 Edward I., and had issue, &c.⁵⁸

Again the heir of William d'Abernun is returned as holding half a knight's fee in Stockeley.⁵⁹

William d'Abernun, probably the same person, occurs again in Devon under the following circumstances:—

In Easter term 1198 (9 Rich. I.) William Briwere claimed lands, amounting to one knight's fee, in G . . . (the record is injured) in Devonshire, against Jordan d'Abernun, Baldwin Giffard, and Margaret de Bellalanda. The defendants made no appearance. The sheriff seized the lands into the king's hands, and on their failing for fifteen days to replevy, judgment was given that William de Briwere should have his seisin thereof.⁶⁰ In the next year (1 John, 1199), and probably as part of the same dispute, Baldwin Giffard (as it would seem, for the record is interlined and somewhat

ambiguous), in right of his mother Mary, and Jordan d'Abernun sued out a writ of *mort d'ancestor* against William Briwere for the half vill of Lintoñ and the vill of Forston, both in Devon, and they offered forty marks of silver by way of fine, with the understanding that the trial (or recognition of assize as it was called) should be had at Westminster in Easter term, and they were not to be distrained for the payment till the trial had been had (April, 1200).⁶¹

Margaret de Bellalanda, one of the original claimants (perhaps a dowager), has now dropped out; but the title of Baldwin and Jordan appears from the Pipe Roll of the third year of King John, where, among other debtors to the Crown in Devonshire, Baldwin Giffard and Jordan de Abernun, heirs of Henry de Secchevill, are noticed, as still owing their forty marks.⁶²

It would appear that Baldwin and Jordan were successful in their suit, for there are several writs relating to the partition of the lands of William de Briwere, son of the last-named William (16 Hen. III., 1232), printed among the records called, generally, "Testa de Nevill." From these it appears that in the 19th Hen. III. (1235) Roger Giffard, William Dabernun, and the Prioress of Kauntinton, held of Hugh Wake (one of the coheirs of William Briwere) one knight's fee in Godesleg, no doubt the lands of that value above noticed, of which the initial G. alone remains in the original record.

The conclusions to be drawn from all this evidence seem to be, that we have an Ingelram holding Bradford *temp.* Hen. II., and another *temp.* Hen. III., who are most likely identical with our Ingelram I. and II. William d'Abernun was a coheir of Richard de Seccheville; his mother was probably of that name. Pole says he was a younger son of Ingelram II. This may be; but I think it more likely that he was his brother, and is to be identified with the William mentioned in 1205, in connection with Lasham. These Devonshire lands clearly did not descend with the Surrey estates.

NOTES.

(1.) THIS view is held by M. Lechaudé d'Anisy in his "*Recherches sur le Domesday*," Caen, 1842, p. 45.

(2.) See Stapleton's *Rolls of the Norman Exchequer*, ii. cxxxvi.

(3.) Rot. Chart. 2 John, p. 65 of the printed edition. Confirmation of an exchange between William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, and Roger de Abernyn, who gave the lands of Abernyn for Dukesworth and 20*s.* of rent in Cestreforde, to be held by the service of half a knight's fee for all service. Dat. ap. Rupem Aurivalli,¹ xxv^o Maii.

As to Duxford, note the following records :—

Test. de Nevill, 356. Cant.—Baronia Marescalli.—Jordanus de Abernyn tenet in Dukesworth feodum dimidii militis.

Rot. Hund. 7 Ed. I., vol. ii. p. 570. Cambridge, Whittlesford Hundred :—

Dominus Johannes de Abernyn clamat habere libertates per Comitem Marescallum in Dokesworth.

Ib. Comes Marescallus clamat habere furcas in Dokesworthe et tumberellum, assisam panis et cervisiæ, visum franci plegii, & extractas curiæ de tenemento Johannis de Abernyn, nesciunt quo warranto.

Ib. p. 574. At this time Sir John de Aubernon also held in the manor of Wytlysford (Whittlesford, close to Duxford) seven acres of meadow, freely by the service of 2*s.* a year, of Ralph de Dokesworthe, who held of John le Gopil, who held of Sir John d'Akyni. Sir John held of Sir Hugh fitz Otho, as of the Barony of Kirtling. The land was all socage ; but John did to Hugh the service of one-twentieth knight's fee when the king went to the army. Sir Hugh held of Ralph de Tony, with whom he had to march out when the king, as before, went to the army : and Ralph held of the king.

Bib. Top. Brit. Appendix to account of Barnwell Abbey, 60 (A Record de temp. Ed. I.) :—

Jordanus de Aubernyn tenet dim. feodum militis de Comite Marescall' in Dokesworthe. Et non debet sectam neque auxilium vicecomitis, 11*s.*

And note, there were (and are, I believe) three manors in Duxford, as appears by this record and elsewhere.

1. That of Sir Henry de Lacy, who held also the advowson of St. John's church of Sir Simon de Forneus, he of the Earl of Britany, he of the king.

2. That of the Templars, held of Roger de Colville, who held of

¹ La Roche d'Orival, upon the left bank of the Seine, a league N.W. of Elbœuf, and about four leagues S.W. of Rouen.—Stapleton, ii. xiv.

the Earl of Albemarle, he of the king in chief. (Sir John d'Abernun held nine acres under this manor.)

3. Sir John de Auburn held his manor of the Earl Marshall by the service of one knight's fee to the king's scutage and service; the earl of the king.

And in the 9th Edw. II. (2 Parl. Writs, div. 3, 323), Thomas de Brotherton, Earl Marshal; Robert Lacey; John d'Abroun, and John le Goys, were returned as lords of this vill.

(4.) *Terra Ricardi Filii Comitis Gisleberti in Amelebrige Hund.*

Rogerus de Abernon tenet de Ricardo *Molesham*. Toco tenuit de Rege Edwardo. Tunc se defendebat pro sex hidis et dimidia modo pro sex virgatis. Terra est trium carucarum.¹ In dominio est una caruca et quatuor villani et quatuor cotarii cum duabus carucis et dimidiâ. Ibi sex servi et sedecim acræ prati et silva sex porcorum. T. R. E. valebat tres libras et post quadraginta solidos. Modo septuaginta solidos.—Doomsd., i. 35. See Manning and Bray, ii. 721.

(5.) *Blacheatfeld Hund.* Rogerus tenet de Ricardo *Eldeberie*. Azor tenuit de rege Edwardo. Tunc se defendebat pro quatuor hidis, modo pro duobus hidis et dimidiâ. Terra est sex carucarum. In dominio est una, et undecim villani; et quinque bordarii cum sex carucis. Ibi æcclesia et quatuor servi, et molinus de quinque solidis. Silva de triginta porcis. De his hidis tenet unus miles unam hidam, et ibi in dominio unam carucam et dimidiam et unum villanum et unum servum et una acra (*sic*) prati. Totam T. R. E. valebat decem libras et post centum solidos. Modo novem libras.—Doomsd., i. 35b.

Manning and Bray, for some unexplained reason, say that this Roger means Roger de Montgomery. The present entry occurs soon after that relating to Molesham, where Roger's surname (as above) is given. His descendants had Albury, and there can be no reasonable doubt that both entries refer to the same tenant.

(6.) *Amelebrige Hund.*

Ipsæ Ricardus tenet *Stoche*. ^{cild} Brici tenuit de rege Edwardo. Tunc se defendebat pro quindecim hidis, modo pro duabus hidis et quinque acris. Terra est sex carucarum. In dominio sunt duo carucæ, et decem villani, et novem cotarii, cum duabus carucis. Ibi æcclesia et septem servi, et unus molinus de septem solidis, et quatuor acræ prati. Silva de quadraginta porcis. T. R. E. et modo val. quatuor libras. Cum recepit tres libras.

In eodem manerio habet isdem Ricardus quinque hidas. Otho tenuit de Rege Edwardo. Modo pro dimidiâ hidâ se defendit. Ibi sunt duo villani cum sex bobus et unus molinus de sex solidis. Terra est duarum carucarum. Valet et valuit viginti solidos.—Doomsd., i. 35.

¹ For the reasons given by the late Rev. L. Larking, "Domesday of Kent," p. 168, I extend the contraction Car^s as *Caruca*, and not *carucata*, throughout these entries.

(7.) *Terra Episcopi Baiocensis.* In *Copededorne Hund.*

Ricardus tenet de episcopo Feceham. Biga tenuit de Rege Edwardo. Tunc se defendebat pro octo hidis et dimidia. Modo pro quatuor hidis. Terra est quinque carucarum. In dominio est una, et octo villani et tres bordarii cum una caruca, &c. &c.—Doomsd., i. 30b.

(8.) Besides the Surrey property Roger de Abernun held a manor at Freston, co. Suffolk, also under Earl Richard.—Doomsd., 395.

(9.) *Gallia Christiana*, vol. 11. *Instrumenta Ecclesiæ Abrincensis*, p. 111. Charter of King Henry I., dated 1112, anno regni 13°. Witnessed by William, Earl of Warren; Richard, Earl of Chester; Ingelrannus de Aberrone, &c.

(10.) *Mag. Rot. Scacc.* 31 Henry I. (ed. Hunter), page 51.

(11.) *Add. Charters*, 5529. "Oxshot, or Oxshete, is a district in Stoke, and within the manor, where Waverley Abbey had what was called the manor of Ogshete, and a place of land there in the soil of John Dabernon, which King Edward II. seized into his hands on some occasion, but restored to them." (M. and B., ii. 724.)

I am unable to place in the pedigree the John Gilbert and Walter to whom the following memoranda relate.

Add. Charters, 5530 (de temp. Hen. II.). *Johannes* de Abernun concessit ecclesie de Waverle duas purpresturas terræ in Oggeshete.

Add. Charters, 5531 (de temp. Hen. II.). *Gilbertus* de Abernun concedit Monachis de Waverleia terram in villis de Stoke et Oggesete—*Walterus* de A. testis hujus cartæ.

Add. Charters, 5537 (de temp. Henry II.?). *Walterus* de Abernun testis cartæ Ricardi de Romere, qua concedit Ecclesiæ de Waverle terras in Oggesahte (quære, an idem W. qui testis cartæ 5531).

In the Surrey account of Danegeld (*Rot. Pip.* 22 H. II. p. 12), *Walter de Abern* has pardon of 17*d.* thereof.

(12.) *Rot. Cur. Reg.*, i. 53.

(13.) *Rot. de Oblat. et Fin.*, pp. 334, 336. In the seventh year of King John, 1205-6, *William de Albernu*^s sued out a *præcipe quod reddat* for the third part of a knight's fee in Lessham (co. Hants), against Ralf de Clere, who had no entry therein save by Hubert, late Archbishop of Canterbury (el. 1193, died July 13, 1205), who had disseised William whilst Ralf was in ward to the archbishop. Later on the Roll of the same year *Walter d'Abernun* sued out a writ of *mort d'ancestor* against Ralf de Clere for the same land, the writ being returnable in Hilary Term, 1206. In Easter Term of that year a trial took place, when the jury returned a verdict that *Walter* de Abernun was brother and heir of *Richard* de Abernun of the third part of one knight's fee in Lessham which Ralf de Clere held; whereupon Walter recovered his seisin. (*Placit. Abbrev.*, p. 51.)

Again, in Easter Term, 11 John, 1210, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Stephen Langton), as guardian of Ralf de Clere (apparently a second Ralf, for the first must have been out of his minority when Walter d'Abernun recovered Lessham against him), complained that Walter d'Abernun and William and Richard, his brothers, held lands in Lessham, which, upon the death of Hawisia de Gurney, who held them

in dower,¹ ought, by right of inheritance, to descend to Ralf. The archbishop alleged that the title of the brothers was from their brother Ingelram, to whom Hawisia had granted the lands for the term of her life. William and Walter plead that they hold in fee, as of the gift of Ingelram, their brother. (Placitor. Abbrev., p. 66.)

(14.) Rot. de Oblat. et Fin., p. 198.

(15.) Claus. 17 Joh., m. 7, 8, &c. (pp. 235, 236*b*, 251*b*, 270*b*, of printed copy), where are entries to the following effect :—

1215. Three shillings' worth of land in Hallinges, co. Southampton, which were of Roger de Abernun, were given by the king to Roger de Merlay.

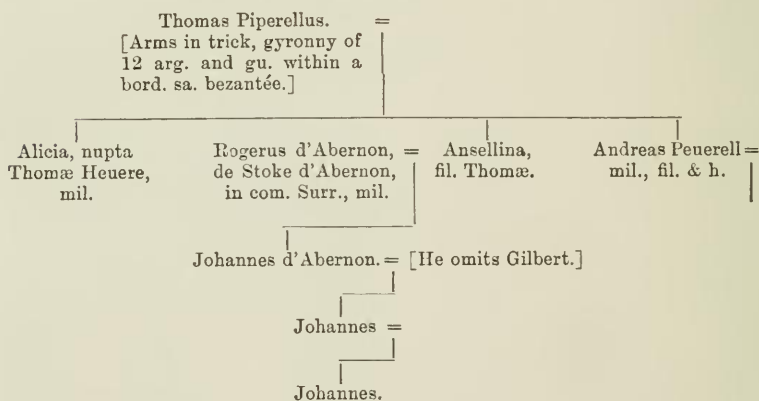
1216. March 6.—Colin de Molis was to have seisin of lands of Walter de Abernun in Helingée, co. Hauts, Colin having a grant of all Walter's lands : and there is a similar precept as to lands in the respective bailiwicks of John Fitzhugh, Matthew fitz Herbert, and the constable of Guildford.

Walter is named at the end of the roll as one of those who had been in arms against the king.

(16.) History of Surrey, ii. 721. Fetcham.

(17.) A scanty pedigree in Robert Glover's handwriting (Harl. 6157), as follows :—

Peuerell.



¹ Hawisia de Gournay, daughter of Robert de Gournay, of Somersetshire, was three times married :—first to Roger de Baalun, secondly to Roger de Clere, and thirdly to Robert Fitzharding. From her second husband she had dower in Lesham, but had by him no issue ; for Ralf de Clere was his heir, but not hers. (See Records of the House of Gournay, i. 601.)

(18.) Rot. Cancellar. 3 Joh. 1203, p. 245, printed edition.

(19.) Exc. à Rot. Fin., ii. 465. Matilda, widow of Walter Dabernon, in 52 Henry III., gave half a mark for an assize of novel disseisin.

(20.) Add. Charters Mus. Brit., No. 5562. Undated Charter of the time of Henry III., whereby Gilbert de Abernon grants to Johanna de Abernon, on account of the dower to which she might be entitled on behalf of Ingeram de Abernon, late her husband, the manor of Aldebury, the service of half a knight's fee in Epse, and land at Teintune. Witnesses, Ralf de Cameis, Hugh de Windesore, Walter de Vitewrde, William Hansard, John de Chivesbure, Robert de Wateville, and Walter de Abernun.

(21.) Exc. à Rot. Fin., i. 270.

(22.) Ib., 272. Manning and Bray make this Jordan the son, not the grandson, of Sir Roger. But I think that the charter cited in the next note is conclusive.

(23.) Add. Charters, 5541, Brit. Mus. Jordanus de Abernun filius et heres Williame (*sic*) de Abernun, concedit Gilberto avunculo suo, totum jus et clameum quod habere potuit in hereditate Engelrami filii Walteri de Abernun in perpetuum. Ita quod nec ipse nec aliquis heres patris ejus, &c. Pro qua concessione prædictus Gilbert dedit prædicto Jordano terram suam de Dukesworthe, per servicium feodi dimidii militis. Testibus Will. de Haunsarde, Rob. de Wodevilla et aliis.

(24.) Exc. à Rot. Fin., i. 272. (25.) Ib., p. 305.

(26.) Ib. See Abbrev. Rot. Orig., i. 2, 20 Hen. III.

(27.) Rot. Chartarum 37 Henry III. m. 13^a (Calendar, p. 79). "Stokes de Abernoun, Fecchenham, Aldebir, Hetlegh, Pabenharn et Teynton, libera warrena."

(28.) M. & B. List of Sheriffs. And see Madox, Exchequer, c. 24, § 4, where a record of the 52 Henry III. is cited, which mentions John d'Abernoun as "nuper vicecomes Surr^o et Sussex."

(29.) Abbreviatio Placitorum, p. 157. Placita coram Domino Rege in crast. nat. B. M., 49 Henry III., rot. 11.

(30.) See Rogers' "History of Agriculture and Prices in England," i. 226, &c. It must be borne in mind that the comparison instituted in the text is concerned only with the purchasing power of money of the same name in 1259 and 1869. Thirteen shillings and fourpence made a mark, and twenty shillings were equal to one pound, then as now; but twelve pence of Henry III.'s coining contained $(20 \cdot 625 \times 12) = 247 \cdot 5$ grains troy of pure silver, whereas a Victoria shilling contains $80 \cdot 727$ grains.

(31.) Add. Charters, 5546, 5547. They relate to a dispute between Sir John and the Abbot of Chertsey as to right of common of pasture in the Manor of Cobham. In these he is styled Johannes de Abernun, Miles. This addition proves that we are right in assigning these charters to John I.; for, as will be seen in the sequel, John II. was not knighted until 1278.

(32.) Placita apud Gildeforde de quo warranto, 7 Edward I. (p. 737 of the printed copy. And see a transcript of the pleadings in Symmes' Surrey Collections, Add. MSS. Mus. Brit., 6167).

- (33.) Archæologia, xxxix. 214, *seqq.*
- (34.) Parl. Writs, i. 214.
- (35.) *Ib.*, pp. 216, 218.
- (36.) *Ib.*, pp. 26, 219.
- (37.) *Ib.*, vol. ii. div. 3, p. 422. Again, in 1316, John Dabernon was returned as lord, or joint lord, of Pabenham, Birnham, and Lasham, co. Hants, of Duxworth and Albury.
- (38.) See the Proceedings in Symmes' Collections, Add. MSS. 6167, under Albury. The precise year of the plea roll, temp. Edward I., from which he extracts, is not given.
- (39.) Parl. Writs, i. 27.
- (40, 41, 42.) *Ib.*, pp. 293, 54, 61.
- (43.) Esch. 1 Edward III., num. 53.
- (44.) Engraved in Surrey Transactions, i. 235.
- (45.) Dunstable Roll. Collectanea Top. et Gen. Parl. Writs (Borough-bridge Roll).
- (46, 47.) Rot. Parl., ii. 25.
- (48.) Rymer, new edition, ii. part 2, p. 755.
- (49.) Abbrev. Rot. Orig., ii. 83.
- (50.) Plac. de Quo Warr., 4 Edward III., p. 64.
- (51.) Esch. 23 Edw. III., num. 169, second numbers.
- (52.) Parl. Writs, vol. i.
- (53.) Surrey Trans., iii. 76.
- (54.) Esch. 32 Edward III., n. 23.
- (55.) 2 Abb. Rot. Orig., 247.
- (56.) Harl. MSS., 6148, fo. 123, old pagination, and M. and B., ii. 721, note.
- (57.) M. and B., ii. 669.
- (58.) Pole, Devon Coll., p. 362.
- (59.) "Testa de Nevill," p. 180.
- (60.) Rot. Cur. Reg., i. 146. Abbrev. Placit., 22.
- (61.) Rot. de Fin. et Obl. 1 Joh., p. 50.
- (62.) Antigr. Mag. Rot. Scacc. 3 Joh., p. 19.