Pendomer, Co. Somerset.

BY T. BOND, ESQ.

THE parish of Pendomer, in the hundred of Coker, anciently written Penne Domer, derives its original name from the peculiarly shaped hill, in British called Pen, on the summit of which stands the church and old manor house in close proximity to each other. Its distinctive appellation was acquired from the family of Dummer or Dommer, who for many generations were lords of the manor. The church, which is a conspicuous object from the line of the Salisbury and Exeter railway, is situated about four miles from the town of Yeovil. It is of small dimensions and simple character, and has no architectural features of more than ordinary interest. Its style is "Perpendicular," but it contains a very interesting monument of much earlier date, which no doubt occupied the same spot in some older building.

In an arched recess in the north wall, immediately opposite the original door way, surmounted by a kind of canopy, lies a recumbent effigy of a knight clad in a complete suit of ring mail. The figure rests on a slab of stone six feet one inch long, and four inches thick, raised by common masonry about nine inches above the present pavement. It does not lie entirely on its back, but is turned a little

on the right side, by which means its characteristic features are more fully exhibited.

The hands are joined in an attitude of prayer, the legs are crossed, and the feet rest on a lion couchant. A flowing surcoat, confined at the waist by a strap or cord, reaches five inches below the knees, and a slit or opening at the bottom in front permits the corners to fall back, exhibiting the *hauberk* or shirt of mail. Below this again is seen about an inch of the *haqueton* or quilted under garment. A *coif de mailles* takes the form of the head, the face alone being exposed to view through an opening of oval form. This portion of the armour extends to the points of the shoulders, and falls over the upper edge of the surcoat. The hands are protected by gauntlets of peculiar character, reaching two inches and a half above the wrists. The outsides are protected by gads or lames, being small oblong plates of steel, of which each finger has a separate series. The fronts of the knees have *genouillières* or knee plates, but there is no corresponding protection at the elbows. The head reposes on a helmet which is secured to the neck of the figure by a cord fastened at each end to a small staple or loop. The helmet, like the coif de mailles, takes the shape of the head and has a projecting rib running up the middle of the face and passing over the crown, but slightly pointed above the forehead. On either side of this rib are horizontal slits for the eyes and five cruciform openings for respiration.

The feet are armed with what seem to be the remains of long pointed spurs. The shield, 20 inches long, is not suspended from the shoulder by a *guige* but is secured to the left arm above the elbow by a strap or *enarme*. A long sword suspended from a waist belt hangs on the left side and reaches below the bottom of the surcoat.



Monument to Sir John de Dummer in Pendomer Church.

Both the surcoat and the shield exhibit the armorial bearings of the knight, viz. a crescent between six billets 3, 2, and 1, though on the surcoat the three lower billets are supposed to be concealed by the folds of the garment.

The mouldings at the verge of the recess are projected so as to form a cinquefoil headed arch. The cusps are pierced and the two lower ones terminate in figures of half angels, both of which have lost their heads. That on the right bears in its hands a small human figure intended to represent the soul of the deceased, which is thus being borne towards heaven.

On either side of the recess, four feet six inches above the floor, a plain corbel seventeen inches wide and projecting about eight inches from the wall supports a slender panneled pier or buttress terminating in a crocketed pinnacle. The pier and pinnacle together measure five feet. An embattled cornice, eight inches deep and ornamented with rosettes in the principal hollow moulding runs across above the point of the arch and joins the piers at their junction with the pinnacles. The battlements of the cornice are surmounted by small spikes or prickets of iron probably intended to support wax lights on the anniversary of the obit of the deceased.

Immediately within each pier or buttress, and on the same corbel, stands a small male human figure about two feet five inches high, habited in a loose garment (probably the "bliaus" or blouse—the smock frock of the present day) confined at the waist by a cord and reaching to a little below the knees, close fitting hose and boots, the latter being laced or buttoned in front and drawn up about an inch and a half above the ancle. The hair is long and wavy, and a cap covers the head. Both hands of the left figure, and the right hand of that on the right are elevated to support the cornice, whilst the left figure has

the left hand resting on the thigh as if to increase the power of sustaining so heavy a weight. The left foot of each figure rests on a little mound. The faces of the men have a coarse and vulgar expression, almost grotesque, which was perhaps intended by the artist as a conventional mode of showing that he intended to represent peasants.

The canopy above described is very remarkable, and is perhaps unique in monumental art of the period at which it was erected. The monument is of stone from the neighbouring quarries of Ham Hill. It was till lately disfigured by accumulated whitewash and dirt, but it has recently been carefully cleaned under the direction of the Rev H. Helyar, the Rector, who has judiciously abstained from all attempts at "restoration."

Sir Walter Scott considered heraldry to be one of the eyes of history, and by the help of this eye we have no difficulty in appropriating the monument to a member of the Dummer family, whilst the character of the armour in which the knight is clad warrants the assumption that the effigy represents Sir John de Dummer of Penne Dommer, who flourished in the reign of Edward I, and part of that of Edward II.

Collinson (History of Somerset) confused the family of Domer with that of Toomer of Toomer, in the parish of Henstridge, considering they were one and the same, notwithstanding the names were thus variously written. It is clear however he was mistaken. The Toomers, by that name, were in possession of lands in Henstridge as early as 32 Edward I, when Richard de Tomere was querent in a fine respecting them,* and it appears by a monument in Henstridge Church that their arms were totally unlike those of Dummer. The Dummers were never called Toomer.

* Final Concord, Somerset, 32 Edward I, No. III.

The village of Dummer, anciently called Dumere, Dunmere, and Domer, which is situated near the town of Basingstoke, in Hampshire, was the berçeau from which the Somersetshire Dummers originally sprung.

At the Domesday survey "Penne" was held by Alured of the Earl of Moreton, and was taxed for five hides, so it was a considerable lordship. It afterwards was the property of a family which assumed its name. Agnes de la Penne, the heiress of this family, brought it to Radulphus de Domer, her husband, who in the 12th of Henry II held two knights' fees in Somersetshire of Richard Fitz Wm.*

Radulphus de Domer seems to have been a son or grandson of Henry de Dommere who possessed rents issuing out of three houses in Winchester between 7 and 28 Henry I, 1107—1128.† It it not improbable that Henry was a son of Hungar, who held Dummer of Odo de Winchester at the Domesday survey, when it was found that three "hagæ" or houses with curtilages in Winchester paid two shillings rent to the lord of Dummer. Radulphus de Dumera had a rent of 5s 7d issuing out of lands in Tanner street in Winchester, 1148, 13 Steph.§ By deed, without date, he gave a garden at Dummer to Godsfield Priory, Co. Hants.

Agnes his wife survived him, retaining her maiden name in her widowhood, as was not unfrequently the case with territorial heiresses at that early period. In 3 John as Agnes de Penne, she paid six marks to the king's Exchequer "ne transfretet"—being a commutation for non-performance of military service in person in the king's expedition beyond the sea—for two knights' fees which she held of John de Montacute of the honor of Moreton,¶ and in the 7th year of King John, by the name of Agnes de la

* Liber Niger. † Liber Winton. § Ibid p. 554.
¶ Rot. de oblatis 3 John.

Penne, she accounted at the exchequer for five marks for the same two knights' fees then held as before, paying 50s 8d, and owing 28s 2d.* John de Montacute was the heir of Richard Fitz William, chief lord of this manor in 12 Henry II as mentioned above.†

Radulphus de Dommer seems to have divided his lordship of Dummer between two of his sons Henry and Robert, the descendants of each of whom continued to hold a separate manor, or a moiety of the same manor in that vill for many generations.

Henry, eldest son of Radulphus, died in his mother's lifetime leaving William de Dumer his only son and heir.

In 10 Richard I, 1198, Robert de Dumer (the second son of Radulphus) granted half a hide of land in Dumere to Geoffry his brother parson of Dumere, to be held in francalmoigne by the parsons of the church there,§ and he likewise was a benefactor to Godsfield Priory. In Trinity term, 15 John, he claimed a knight's fee in Penn, Co. Somerset, against William de Dummer his nephew. William responds that the said knight's fee was the inheritance of Agnes, wife of Radulphus de Dummer, by whom she had two sons, Henry, father of the said William the respondent, and the said Robert the plaintiff, but that Henry was the eldest. After the death of Radulphus de Dummer, Agnes his widow permitted Henry her son to take a wife whom he took to his mother's house by her permission. By this marriage he had issue the said William and two daughters, but he died in the lifetime of his mother, who thereupon took charge of his infant children, and out of her own inheritance gave a dower to

* Rot. Cancel. 7 John. † Rot. Pipæ Somerset and Dorset 13 John
§ Fin. conc. Southton.

his widow. Agnes afterwards lived to a great age and wishing to secure the said land to the heir of Henry she so importuned John de Montacute, chief lord thereof, that he accepted the homage of the said William as son and heir of Henry in respect of the said lands, and thereupon Agnes demised the whole of the fee to the said William and remained in his charge up to the time of her death. Robert on the other hand denied that Agnes ever made such a demise, and pleaded that she was seized of the premises at her death. Judgment was given in favor of William but the case is curious as seeming to indicate that the law of primogeniture was not generally known as fully established at this early period.*

The posterity of Robert de Dumer in the male line continued to own a moiety of the manor of Dummer, Co. Hants, for three generations till Robert de Dummer died without male issue between 4th and 15th Edward III, leaving Alice his daughter and heir married to John de Astwick or Estwick of Estwick, Co. Beds. Their grandchild and heir, Alice de Astwick, with her husband John de Drayton conveyed all their right in the manor of Dummer to John de Popham, 43 Edward III. This branch of the family also possessed property in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

In the reign of King John, *anno incerto*, William de Dummer above mentioned son and heir of Henry was summoned to do homage to Henry Hosato for two knights' fees in Dummer, Co. Hants,† and having joined the rebellious barons against the king he obtained pardon and a restoration of his lands in Somerset, 1 Henry III, 1217.§

* Plac. corom Rege. Anº. 15 John, rot. i, in dorso.
† Placita de Banco Mich. temp. Reg. Joh.
§ Rot. Claus. 1, Henry III, m. 21.

As "William de Dummer Knight" he witnessed a charter of William de St. John relating to Andwell Priory, Co. Hants, after 1212, and he was also a witness to a deed *sans date* relating to Melbury Osmond, Co. Dorset,* and to another of Walter Abbot of Hyde near Winchester, to Herbert de Calna, relating to Drayton, Co. Hants.† In 1219 he was one of the knights attesting the liberties of the church of Yeovil. In 27 Henry III, 1243, he was in a fine relating to Bishopston (in Montacute), Co. Somerset.§

By Sibilla his wife, sister of Herbert de Calna, or Caune, lord of the manor of Drayton,¶ he had issue, John de Dumer his son and heir who in 3 Edward I was accused of having, seven years previously, viz. 53 Henry III, 1269 committed a perpresture or trespass on the king's Highway leading from Montacute to Ilchester.‡ He appears to have had a dispute with his cousin John de Dummer, who at one time is styled of Eston, Co. Leicester, and at another of Watford, Co. of Northampton, and who owned the other moiety of the manor of Dummer, respecting the advowson of the church there. It was ultimately agreed An°. 3, Edward I, 1275, between John, son of William de Dummer, and John, son of Richard de Dummer, that they and their heirs respectively should present alternately to the said Rectory,‖ and this arrangement continued to be carried out between the two branches of the family and their representatives for many generations.

At a court of Regard held for the forests of Pembre and Everle, Co. Hants, 8 Ed. I, John, son of William de Dunmere, was amerced half a mark for having committed waste in

* Orig. penes. Com. Ilchester.

† Cartulary of Hyde Abbey, MS Cott. Domitian xiv, f. 96 b.

§ Fin. conc. No. 59. ¶ Plac. coram Rege. pasch. 20 Edward III, m. 71.

‡ Rot. Hund. vol. ii, p. 131. ‖ Fin. conc. Southton, 3 Edward I, No. 19.

his wood of Dunmere. And at the same court John, son of Richard de Dunmere, having been taken into custody for committing waste, *de novo*, in his wood of Rowell, appeared and claimed to be quit of waste and regard, and of the lawing of his dogs at Dunmere, because he held that place of the Earl of Cornwall, as of the honor of St. Waleric. A day is given him to produce the charter of the said Earl under which he claims the said franchise.* In 23 Edward I, 1295, John, son of William de Dunmere was defendant in a suit with the Abbot of Waverly concerning common of pasture in Dunmere.†

In 25 Edward I, 1297, John de Dommere held lands in Somerset of the value of £20 per annum, and was summoned to perform military service in person with horse and arms beyond the seas, and in the same year he was summoned as a knight to appear with horse and arms at a military council at Rochester before Edward the King's son Lieutenant in England.§ In 28 Edward I it was found by inquisition that it would not be prejudicial to the king if license was granted to Thomas, Bishop of Exeter, to give to the Prior and Convent of Bruton one acre of land in Chilterne and the advowson of the church of the same vill which he had by the gift of John de Dommere.¶ This gift however seems never to have been completed and the Bishop of Exeter was probably only a trustee, for the patronage of

* Placita Forestæ, Southton, Bag 1, No. 5, m. 17. The court of Regard was held every third year for the lawing or expeditation of mastiffs, which was done by cutting off the ball of the fore feet, to prevent them running after deer in the king's forests. It was supposed that mastiffs were necessary for the defence of a man's house, but no other dog was permitted to be kept within the precincts of the forest.

† Abbrev. Rot. orig. § Parl. writs.

¶ Inquis. 28, Edward I, No 115.

the church of Chilthorne Domer continued in the Dummer family after this period.

On the assessment of the aid for marrying the King's daughter, 31 Edward I, 1303, John de Dommere was assessed for one fee in Penne,* and in the same reign, and probably in the same year, he held one-fourth of a knight's fee in Chilterne Dummer, co. Somerset, and one fee in Dummer, co. Hants.†

In 1306, 34 Edward I, he was returned to Parliament as a Knight of the Shire for Somerset, and on 30th May in that year he obtained his writ "de expensis" for attendance at the same Parliament.§

As John de Dommer Knt. he presented to the Rectory of Penne Domer, 4 Edward II, 1311.¶ In 7 Edward II, 1313, John de Dommere, Miles, was again returned to Parliament as Knight of the Shire for the County of Somerset, and on the 18th May in that year he obtained his writ "de expensis" for attendance at the same.‡ On 28th of the same month he was appointed one of the assessors and collectors of the County of Dorset, of the "twentieth" and "fifteenth" granted in the same Parliament.‖ By a charter dated at Penne, on Wednesday next before the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, 8 Edward II, John de Dommere "Miles" granted six acres of arable land and half an acre of meadow together with 4s rent in Chilterne Dommere, to Walter Isaac of Hull, for his life. A seal is appended but it is somewhat injured and is rather indistinct. It has a plain heater-shaped shield bearing a crescent between 6 billets 3, 2 and 1 the upper three indistinct. Legend ✠ S. IOHANNIS DE DVMER.** A roll of arms of the time of Edward I

* Aid roll public records. † Ibid. § Parl. writs.
¶ Harl. 6964, f. 13. ‡ Parl. writs. ‖ Ibid.
** Original in possession of the trustees of the Almshouse at Ilchester.



Seal of Sir John de Dummer, Knt., 1314.—See page 100.



Seal of Sir Edmund de Dummer, Knt., 1363.—See page 108.



Seal of Edmund Dummer, Esq., 1407.—See page 109.

gives the arms of "Joan de Domare" Azure, billité and a crescent Or.* On 1st September 9 Edward II, by the name of John de Dunmere, he was one of the supervisors of the assize of arms and array in the County of Somerset. On 5th March following, as John de Dommare he was certified as being lord of Chilterne Dommare. On 26th of the same month, as John de Dommer, he was appointed one of the commissioners to raise foot soldiers in the County of Somerset pursuant to a grant made in the Parliament of Lincoln. On the 27th of May following he was commanded to proceed with such levy the day of the muster first appointed having been prorogued. On the 26th June further instructions were addressed to him concerning the levy in the County of Somerset and on the 5 Aug. following, 10 Edward I, he was directed to surcease from raising foot soldiers in Somersetshire, and instructed concerning the armour provided for them, &c.†

By a fine levied in the octaves of St. Hilary 11 Edward II in which John de Dunmere senior was querent, and Stephen de Dunmere and John de Dunmere junior were deforcients, the manor and advowson of Penne were settled on the said John de Dunmere senior for his life, to be held of the said John de Dunmere junior and his heirs by the rent of a rose at Midsummer, remainder to Richard de Dunmere for his life to be held of the said John de Dunmere junior and his heirs, reversion to the said John de Dunmere junior and his heirs.§ It will be seen hereafter that John de Dunmere junior and Richard de Dunmere were sons of John de Dunmere senior. In 12 Edward II, John de Dommere, Knight, and John de Dommere, Esq. (who

* Archæologia vol. 39, p. 389. † Parl. writs.
§ Fin. conc. Somerset 11, Edward II, No. 106.

was no doubt his son), were witnesses to a charter made at Romseye by Walter de Romseye, Knight, giving lands in Hylle, near Chilthorne Domer, to Matilda Isaac and others.*

In Easter term 11 Edward II, John de Roche claimed a moiety of the manor of Doumere, Co. Hants, against Johanna, relict of Thomas de Doummere who is proved as will be seen hereafter to have been another son of Sir John de Dommer. Johanna thereupon called to warranty John de Doumere. The latter did not put in an appearance, whereupon the court ordered that lands belonging to him should be taken equivalent in value to the said moiety of the said manor, and in order to ascertain how much the said moiety is worth, the Sheriff of Hants was ordered to extend the same which he did by a jury who valued it at £65 5s. The cause coming on again for hearing in Trinity term 12 Edward II, the Sheriff of Hants returns that he has done nothing in the matter for that the said John had dispossessed himself of all the lands which he had in his bailiwick. Evidence however is produced in court to show that John in the quinzine of Easter, 11 Edward II, when the said Johanna first called him to warranty, had lands at Penne in Somersetshire sufficient to answer the claim. The Sheriff of Somerset therefore is commanded to seize into the King's hands lands of the said John to the value abovementioned which he had in the last named county on the aforesaid day and year, into whosesoever hands such lands had come. In Michaelmas term 13 Edward II, the cause was again brought on when the Sheriff of Somerset returned that he had received the precept too late, whereupon it is again adjourned till the Easter term following, but no further proceedings have been met with on the rolls of the court.†

* Ilchester Almshouse deeds.

† Placita de Banco, 11 Edward II, m. 214.—12 Edward II, m. 15, in dorso—Trin. 12 Edward II, m. 13.—Mich. 13 Edward II, m. 136.

Sir John de Dummer seems to have been still living in Michaelmas term 14 Edward II, when by the name of John de Dommere senior he was involved in litigation with the executors of William Lord Paynel who claimed from him £60 which they alleged he unjustly detained,* and on the other hand he called on Peter de Worleham, one of the said executors, to render an account as his receiver.†

It is probable that he died soon after this time for we do not meet with him again subsequently to the latter date.

There is every reason to suppose that all the foregoing notices of John de Dommer relate to the same person, and there can be no doubt he was the Knight whose monument is above described.§

Sir John de Dommer seems to have married a sister of Sir William Paynel, Knight, who was summoned to Parliament as Baron Paynel from 32 Edward I to 8 Edward II.¶ This William Lord Paynel having no issue, settled the manor of Kynnore in the parish of Sidlesham,

* Plac. de Banco, Mich. 14 Edward II, m. 332.

† Ibid m.m. 182, 277.

§ But there was a John de Donmere or Dommere, contemporary with the above who probably sprung from a younger branch, perhaps from one of the younger sons of William, son of Henry of Penne. He died before 19th Jan. 18 Edward II, on which day an extent was made of his lands when it was found that he held at his death in fee simple of the heir of Elias De Albiniaco then under age and in the King's wardship, the hamlet of Dumet (in Buckland St. Mary, adjoining the Forest of Neroche, Co. Somerset), as of the manor of South Petherton, by service of one-fourth part of a Knight's fee. Johanna, aged 30 and more, wife of Benedict Arundel, and Margery, aged 28 and more, wife of William de Condenham were his sisters and co-heirs (Esch. 18 Edward II, No. 74).

Thomas de Dummer acquired a messuage and five acres of land in Montacute, Co. Somerset, from Richard de Cinnoc, by fine 11 Henry III, 1227. William de Dommere was a witness to a charter of Richard de Mandevill relating to the Priory of Montacute, 1262, 1280, and Stephen de Dummer witnessed a charter of lands in Chilthorne Dommer, circa 1280. He was living in 1318. These three may have been younger sons of William de Dommer, son of Henry of Penne.

¶ Dugdale's Baronage.

Co. Sussex, in manner hereinafter mentioned, and died in 10 Edward II. In Michaelmas term 11 Edward II, Edward de St. John and Eva his wife, relict of William Lord Paynel claimed as the dower of the said Eva one-third of the manor of Kynnore, and 60 acres of land in Bridham and Colkham, Co. Sussex, against Richard de Dommer ("de Dunmere") who thereupon called to warranty John Paynel brother and heir of the said William.* In Easter term 13 Edward II, the cause coming on again for hearing, Richard de Dunmere made default, but Thomas de Dunmere appeared and pleaded that the said Richard had nothing more than an estate for his life in the said manor in Kynnore by gift of Sir William Paynel, Knight, who gave the same to the said Richard for his life, with remainder to John Paynel and the heirs male of his body, remainder to Thomas de Dunmere his nephew ("nepoti predicti Willielmi)," and his heirs; moreover that the said John Paynel had died without issue male, whereupon the reversion of the said premises fell to the said Thomas the claimant, son of the said Thomas de Dunmere, and he prays that the default of the said Richard may not prejudice him, and that he may be admitted to defend his right; this he is now allowed to do, and thereupon he calls to warranty Nicholas de Eye, of Upton, and Matilda his wife, daughter of the said John Paynel, and cousin and heir of Sir William Paynel.†

Thomas de Dummer the plaintiff appears to have been at this time under age, for Geoffrey de Shureburn was admitted as his "custos" to prosecute his suit.§

Thomas de Dummer the elder must have obtained the

* Plac. de Banco. Mich. 11 Edward II, m. 268, dors —Pasch. 11 Edward II, m. 123, dors.

† Ibid Pasch. 13 Edward II, m. 4. § Ibid 13 Edward II, m. 23.

manor of Dummer by gift of Sir John de Dummer his father (probably on his marriage) before 1315 as in that year he presented to the Rectory, but it was not long before, for it belonged to John de Dummer in 1303, 31 Edward I, as already mentioned.

Thomas, son of Sir John de Dommer had besides Thomas before mentioned a younger son named John, who by the description of John, son of Thomas de Dummer, released to Henry Wysshe all his right to the manors of Keynore, Co. Sussex, and Dachet, and Fulmere, Co. Berks. 11 Edward III, 1337.*

In Easter term, 20 Edward III, Thomas de Dummer, the son, claimed the manors of Drayton, Co. Hants, Bromley, Co. Dorset, and Ashe Herbert, Co. Somerset, under a settlement made by a fine levied between Baldwin de Kaune and Herbert de Kaune in 56 Hen III, whereby the said manors were limited in reversion, in case of the death of the said Herbert without issue, to the said Baldwin and his heirs. Thomas de Dummer alleged that the said Baldwin died without issue and afterwards the said Herbert likewise died without issue whereupon the said Thomas became the next heir of the said Herbert being the son of Thomas de Dummer, son of John de Dummer, son of Sibilla sister of Herbert, father of the said Baldwin de Caune;† but it was pleaded on the other side that John de Roches was descended from Eufemia, a sister of the said Baldwin and Herbert, and as the Roches and their descendants afterwards possessed Bromley, it may be presumed the claim of Thomas de Dummer to the property was groundless. The claim, however, shews us that he assumed to be the eldest son and heir of his father.

* Rot. Claus. 11, Edward III, m. 3 in dorso.

† Placita coram Rege 20 Edward III, m. 71.

According to a pedigree by Vincent in the College of Arms, the last-mentioned Thomas de Dummer was the last heir male of this branch of the family, and Ellen his sole daughter and heir having married Sir Nicholas Atte More (who was assessed in Dummer 1 Edward III), their posterity assumed the name and arms of Dummer, and continued to own their moiety of the manor till on the death of William Dummer in 1593, this branch also became extinct.

Sir John de Dummer was succeeded at Penne Domer and Chilthorne Domer by Richard de Dommer, by virtue of the settlement already mentioned. This Richard was one of the executors of William Lord Paynel, and in 14 Edward II, 1320, he was involved in litigation with his co-executors. In the record of those proceedings he is styled Richard son of John de Dummere* and Richard de Dummere de Kynnore.† He was one of the men-at-arms returned by the Sheriff of Somerset, pursuant to a writ dated at Westminster 9 May, 17 Edward II, as summoned by general proclamation to attend the great council at Westminster on the 30th May following.§ On collection of the "twentieth," granted to King Edward III in the first year of his reign, he and Stephen de Dummer were assessed in Penne, and the former was also assessed in Chylterne Dummer; and they were both assessed again in Penne for the "fifteenth" and "tenth," granted to the King in the 7th year of his reign.¶ Richard de Dummer presented to the Rectory of Penne Domer as lord of the manor there 19 Edward II, and 14 and 16 Edward III.‖ He must have died before 20 Edward III, for in that year John

* Plac de Banco Mich. 14 Edward II, m. m. 48. 194 dors.—Hil. m. 71 dors. m. 171. † Ibid Mich. m. 194.

§ Parl writs. ¶ Aid roll pub. rec.

‖ Institution books of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. MS Harl. 6964 f. 95.

de Dommer is found in possession of Penne and Chilthorne, the former, no doubt, under the entail above mentioned. That he was a son of Sir John de Dommere we have direct evidence in a charter relating to the same lands in Chilthorne which were granted as above mentioned by Sir John de Dommer 8 Edward II. By this charter, which was dated at Chilthorne Dommer on Monday next after the feast of St. Augustin the apostle of the English, 20 Edward III, John de Dommere, "son of Sir John de Dommere," released to Walter Isaac, of Hull, archdeacon of Bath, all his right to the lands in Chilterne Dommer, which the said Walter, and Isabella daughter of William Isaac of Hull, held of him *(di me tenent)* for the term of their lives.* In the same year he was assessed for the aid granted for knighting the Black Prince, in respect of the same knight's fee in Penne, and the fourth of a fee in Chilterne, which were formerly (i.e. in 31 Edward I) held by John de Dommer.† He was probably the same John de Dommer who was witness to charters relating to lands in Chilthorne Domer in 1323, 1328, and 1341. It is probable he died before 23 Edward III, because in that year Sir William Fitzwaryn presented to the church of Pendomer by reason of the guardianship of the lands of John de Dummer.§

The name of John de Dommere was returned by the Sheriff of Somerset amongst the men-at-arms (in a separate list from the "nomina militum") summoned by general proclamation to attend the great council at Westminster on Wednesday after Ascension-day, 30 May, 17 Edward II, 1324.¶ Whether this was John son of Sir

* Original deed in possession of the trustees of Ilchester almshouse.

† Aid roll. pub. rec.

§ Institution books of Bath and Wells. MS Harl., 6964, p. 243.

¶ Parl. writs.

John, as is most probable, or the John who died 18 Edward II, mentioned in note page 103, is not quite clear.

John de Dommer was succeeded by Edmond de Dommer or Dummer, who in the 28 Edward III, settled the manor of Penne Dommer, with eight messuages, one carucate of land, fifteen acres of meadow, six acres of pasture, and 100 s. rent in Chilterne Dommer, together with the advowson of the church of the said manor, upon himself and Agnes his wife in jointure.* He is styled Sir Edmond Dommer, Knight, in 37 Edward III, when by a deed dated at Chilterne Dommer, on Tuesday next before the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, he released to Walter Isaac and his brother Stephen Isaac, all the right which he had in the lands in Chilterne Dommer, which Walter Isaac and Isabella Isaac, daughter of William Isaac of Hull, at one time held of John de Dommere, his father, for the term of their lives. Seal, on a shield, suspended from a tree, a crescent between six billets, 3, 2, and 1. Legend Sigillū : Edmundi : Dummere.† Sir Edmond was dead on Sunday next after the feast of St. Michael, 47 Ed. III, for by a deed then dated at Chilterne Dummere, James Dummere recites that the late Edmond Dommere, Knight, his kinsman, had been seized in fee of the manors of Penne Dummere and Chylterne Dummere with the advowson of the church of Penne Dummere, which in default of heirs of the body of the said Edmond ought to descend to him the said James, and he thereby grants the reversion of the said premises to Thomas Mareschal, Knt. in fee.§ Agnes, relict of Sir Edmund de Dummer was living in 10 Richard II, when Felicia, who was the wife of Roger Warmwell, held

* Fin. Conc. No. 74.

† Original in possession of the trustees of the Almshouse at Ilchester.

§ Original deed in possession of W. H. Helyar, Esq.

at her death lands in Chilterne Dummer of Agnes de Dummer as of the manor of Chilthorne Dummer.*

It is probable that Sir Edmund Dommer gave Chilthorne Domer to a younger son named John, for we find that in 6 Henry VI a John de Dummer was assessed for the one-fourth of a knight's fee in Chilterne Dommer, which John de Dommere formerly held.†

Sir Edmond Dommer was succeeded at Penne Dommer by his son, who bore the same name, and on Tuesday next after the feast of St. Matthew 4 Henry IV, 1403, Edmond Dommere, son and heir of Edmond Dommere, Knt. granted to John Derby and Agnes his wife for their lives, a close of land within his demesne of Penne Dommere.§

Edmund Dummer, son and heir of Sir Edmund, having four daughters and no son surviving, sold the manor and advowson of Penne Dommer, together with all his lands, &c., there and in Hardington and Coker to John Stourton, Esq., of Preston Plucknett near Yeovil, uncle of the first Lord Stourton, and conveyed them to him and his trustees by charter dated 18th November, 9 Henry IV, 1407. This deed is sealed with the same arms as those on the deeds of his father and greatgrandfather before described. Legend **Sigillū Edmundi Dummer.**¶

Upon this sale a fraudulent attempt appears to have been made on the part of his daughters to impeach the purchaser's title; but on an assize of novel disseisin tried at Taunton on Thursday next after the feast of St. James, in the same year, it was defeated and Stourton had a verdict.

According to the record the daughters who were the

* Inq. p. m. Harl. 4120.

† Aid roll. pub. rec. § Original in possession of W. H. Helyar, Esq.

¶ Original in possession of W. H. Helyar, Esq.

plaintiffs, set up a settlement, by which, as they alleged, their father entailed the estate in default of issue male of himself and Isabel his wife, on Elizabeth or Isabel their daughter in tail male, with remainder to the other daughters in like manner,—whereas Stourton, the defendant, denied the existence of such limitations to the daughters, and asserted that, failing the male issue of Edmond Dummer, by Isabel his wife the estate was limited to his right heirs. If the plaintiff's case was correct, the vendor, whose wife was then dead, would have no right to sell. If defendant's account was true he would, in the event, which happened, have full power to do so.

The record does not set forth the evidence given at the trial, but we may assume we have the most material fact preserved in a deed poll without date, under the hands and seals of the feoffees in trust of the settlement and verified on their oaths. They say that Edmund Dommer, Esq. enfeoffed them of the manor of Penne Dommere upon trust to enfeoff the same to him and Isabel his wife, and the heirs male of their bodies, and in default of such issue to the right heirs of the said Edmond, which feoffment they afterwards made and delivered to Robert Boton the father of Isabel.

Four years afterwards Boton came to them and stated that the feoffment had been accidentally torn by dogs, and he begged them to execute another which he fraudulently put before them, and which they sealed without reading it, on the faith that it was to the same effect as the previous one, whereas there had been introduced limitations in favour of *Isabel*, the daughter of said Edmond and Isabel, in tail male, with remainder to the other daughters of said Edmond in like manner. The daughters were four in number—Elizabeth also called Isabel, Joan senior and

Joan junior, and Roberta. Elizabeth was married to John Duk, who 25 Oc. 10 Henry IV, 1409, released all his right in the property to John Stourton, the purchaser and his trustees. Edmund Dummer was one of the witnesses. His daughters were under age.

The arms of John Stourton, in stained glass, still remain in one of the windows of Pendomer church. He died before 1455, having settled Penne Domer on his daughter Alice, wife of William Daubeny, son and heir apparent of Sir Giles Daubeny, Knight, and her issue by him, with remainders over in favour of his two other daughters, Johanna, wife of John Sydenham of Brympton, and Cecily, wife of Sir Thomas Kyryell, and their issue, with successive remainders in tail to the heirs of the body of Edith late wife of Robert Shottesbroke, Knt. to John Lynde, nephew of the said John Stourton, ("nepoti predicti Johannis Stourton,") and to William Carent of Tomer.* Alice Daubeney was succeeded by her son Giles Lord Daubeney, and he by his son Henry, created Earl of Bridgwater. The latter barred the entail 26 Henry VIII, and in 32 Henry VIII, having no issue, conveyed the manor and advowson of Penne Domer upon favourable terms, to John Bevyn, of Lufton, in the County of Somerset, Esq., in consideration of his marriage with Elizabeth his wife, "nigh kinswoman of the said Earl," in fact, his first cousin, being the daughter of his father's brother, James Daubeny.

John Bevyn, by settlement 5 Edward VI, entailed the estate on his daughter Mary Kymer, wife of Ellis Kymer of West Chelborough, in the county of Dorset, Esq., whose grandson William Kymer, sold it in 1630 to John Lord Poulett. It continued in that family down to the year 1803, when John the 4th Earl sold it to William

* Original deed in possession of W. H. Helyar, Esq.

Helyar, Esq., of Coker Court, the grandfather of the present owner, William Hawker Helyar, Esq., of Coker.

The old manor house at Pendomer, now used as a farm-house, is favorably situated close to the church. It probably dates from the sixteenth century, but has no architectural features of great interest.

The church has been recently restored. After the sale of this manor to John Stourton in 1407, we meet with little further notice in Somersetshire of the family of its previous lords which probably soon either became extinct or dwindled into insignificance. But the Dummers long continued to hold a place amongst the gentry of Hampshire, and a family of this name, whose pedigree has been traced from the early part of the 16th century, when they held property in Overton, a few miles from Dummer, and who were, in all probability, an offset from the parent stock there, still held considerable estates in that county down to the latter part of the last century. Thomas Dummer, of Cranbury Park, Esq., died without issue in 1784, leaving his estates to his wife, a daughter of Sir Cecil Bisshopp, Bart., and sister of Lord de la Zouch, for her life, with remainder to Mr. Chamberlain, his steward, thus disinheriting all his own relations. His great uncle Edmund Dummer, of Swathling, Esq., left two daughters, who, in 1748, became the co-heirs of John Dummer, Esq., their brother. Mary, the eldest of these, married John Bond, of Grange, in the county of Dorset, Esq., grandfather of the present Mr. Bond, of Grange, who has inherited from his grandmother considerable estates in Hampshire; and Elizabeth, the youngest, married Valentine Knightley, of Fawsley Park, county of Northampton, Esq., great grandmother of the present Sir Rainald Knightley, Bart., of Fawsley.

Edmund Dummer, of Swatheling, Esq., in a petition to the Earl Marshal for a confirmation of his arms in 1711, claimed descent from the Dummers of Dummer, but the connecting link has not been discovered.