Meriet



of
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of
Westercombe

B.W. Greenfield. W. Griggs. fc.

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Meriet of Meriet and of Hestercombe.

BY B. W. GREENFIELD.

IT has been my endeavour to draw up these notes in a genuine spirit of historical research, basing the statements on the evidence of authentic records.

Beyond tracing out the lineage of the De Meriets to their extinction in the male line, the main objects of pursuit have been, firstly, the separating and ascribing to the right person the several histories of four kinsmen of the same name, viz., Sir John de Meriet kt. of Meriet, John de Meriet his eldest son, Sir John de Meriet kt. of Hestercombe, and John de Meriet his eldest son (who all flourished during the interval between the years 1276 and 1337), and clearing away the difficulties that have surrounded the subject and hitherto baffled the efforts of previous writers; and secondly, solving the query, whether the manor of Hestercombe devolved to the Warre family by heirship and natural descent from the De Meriets.

The late Rev. T. Hugo's paper on Hestercombe [*Proceedings* of the Somersetshire Archæological Society, xviii.] has tended to confuse matters in regard to the first point, and, on the second, he merely copies Collinson's account, which was prepared by the Rev. George Harbin and founded on the Visitation of Somerset in 1623. The Warre pedigree as given in that Visitation, contains many inaccuracies besides the erroneous assertion that a John Warre married the daughter and heiress of a John Meriet of Hestercombe. Upon both subjects light is thrown in the accompanying notes.

It is remarkable that, during a period of 500 years, the manor of Hestercombe was not subjected to alienation by sale and purchase, viz., from June, 1375—when Sir John de Meriet of Meriet, by his feoffees, sold his reversion in fee therein to

Sir Henry Percehay, Justice of the Common Pleas,—to April, 1872, when, by the death of the late Miss Warre, it passed to Lord Ashburton, whose grandfather, Alexander Baring (1st Lord Ashburton) had purchased the reversionary estate in fee, contingent on Miss Warre's death without issue. Hitherto, during the progress of my researches, but few data respecting the wives of the De Meriets, beyond their Christian names, have been revealed. The very mystery as to their family origins, stimulates a perhaps hopeless curiosity. Unlike the sacred Dodona of old, neither lovely Hestercombe nor peaceful Merriott has its talking oak that could tell us who they were, or whence they came. The instances herein recorded of the mutability of human events are forcibly illustrated by a simile in the Talmud: *Life is a Shadow*, says the Scripture; upon which the Talmud makes this comment—

'Yes! Life is a Shadow; but a shadow of what? Is it the Shadow of a tree, or a tower, or anything *Stationary?* No! It is the shadow of a bird in its flight, and Bird and Shadow both flee away!!'

NOTES ON THE DE MERIET PEDIGREE, WITH REFERENCES TO PROOFS.

(1). **Eadnoth**, the earliest known ancestor of the family, was an Anglo Thane, called *Dapifer*, *Constable*, and *Stallere* under the Confessor, and *Stallere* under Harold and the Conqueror, according to Domesday. In some passages of that record his name is written as *Ednod*, *Alnod*, and *Elnod*. After the defeat at Senlac in 1066, the sons of Harold, viz., Godwine, Eadmund, and Magnus, retired to the south-western part of the kingdom, and making havoc in Somerset in 1068, were attacked by Eadnod, the Stallere, commanding the men of Somerset. Though a drawn battle ensued, Eadnoth was slain, and his estates in Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Wilts were, by a general grant from the Conqueror, given to Earl Hugh

Pedigree of Meriet of Meriet and Hestercombe, Co. Somerset, and of Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln.

Cadnoth, an Anglo Thane of Somerset, *Dapifer* under the Confessor and *Stallar* under the Conqueror, ob. 1068 (1)

Harding *fil Elnodi*, '*de Meriet*;' 1084—1140. Held six manors in Somerset in capite, Justice Itineraut in 1096 (2)

Nicholas *fil* **Harding**, '*de Meriet*;' paid scutage in 1162 and 1167; ob. circa 1170 (3) = ..., niece of Roger, Bishop of Salisbury (3)

Henry de Meriet, gave land in Meriet to the Templars in 1171; ob. ante 1192 (4)

Nicholas de Meriet, a Justiciary in Dorset and Somerset in 1195; ob. ante 1229 (5) = Agatha (5)

Henry (5)

Thomas (5)

Hugh de Meriet, had livery in 1229; ch. seised of Meriet, Lopen, and Buckland in 1236 (6) = Isabel, living in 1231 (6)

Nicholas de Meriet, did bomage in 1235; ob. seised of Meriet circa 1258 (7) = Elizabeth, living in 1267 (8)

2 h. William de Lorty m. ante 1267 (8)

Matilda, living 1268, 1st w. (8) = **John** de Meriet, nat. 1242; did bomage 15 Nov. 1263; received possession of Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, 1275; ob. 1284-5 (10) = 2d w. Ela, had dower in May, 1285 (10); married 2ly Roger Basset and was living in 1302 (11)

Simon de Meriet, held lands in Brompton Raufe and Hundred of Carhampton, Somerset, in 1276 (31) = Lucy, daughter of William Mallet, living in 1314; ch. ante 1325 (32)

2d h. Thomas de Tymmeworth of Bratton St. Mary, Devon; ob. cir. 1296 (32)

John de Meriet, '*dominus de Meriet*,' and of Castle Carlton, nat. April 1276; had livery on proof of age 1297; ch. 1308 (12) = Margery, living a widow in 1316 and 1329 (13) (15)

1st w. Mary, dau. & coh. of William de Mohun, nat. 8 Dec. 1282; mar. circa 1296; ob. circa 1299-1300, s.p. (33) = Sir **John** de Meriet kt. 'Le Neveu'; of Hestercombe; ob. Feb. 1327 (34) = Elizabeth, widow of Phil. Paynel; m. 2ly ante 1306; ob. 16 Nov. 1344 (35) = Philip Paynel of Combe Kaynes, Dors. nat. 15 Aug. 1269; ob. May 1299 (36)

Walter de Meriet, clerie; Preb. in Cathedral of Wells; ob. 17 May 1345 s.p. (38)

John de Berkeley of Dursley nat. cir. 1292; m. cir. 1313; ob. 10 E. II. 1316, s.p. (32) = Hawisia de Tymmeworth ob. ante 1325 s.p. (32)

John de Meriet, son and heir; nat. 4 Oct. 1297; ob. ante 1322, s.p. (14)

George de Meriet of Meriet and Castle Carlton in 1324; ob. 5 Nov. 1328 (15) = Isabel, marr. circa 1324-5 (15) ob. 1369 (16) = 2d h. Sir John de Kirketon kt. of Tateshale, co. Linc.; ob. 1367, s.p. (17)

John de Meriet of Hestercombe, nat. at Michaelmas 1306; living in 1338; ob. s.p. (37)

Sir **Simon** de Meriet of Hestercombe kt. and of other manors and lands as heir of his uncle Walter in 1345, when he was aged 30 years and more, being son of John de Meryet, brother of Walter de Meryet, living in 1357; dead in 1372 s.p. (39) = Margery, marr. circa 1346; held Hestercombe and other manors for life; living in 1390; ob. ante Michaelmas 1393 (40) = 2d h. Thomas de Welyngton, mar. ante April 1372; ob. 4 Aug. 1382 s.p. (41)

Sir John Tryvet kt. of Chilton and Otterhampton. = Joan, sister of Sir Matthew Gournay.

1st w. Eleanor, dau. of John Lord Beauchamp of Hacche; m. cir. 1345; ob. ante 1361 (18) = Sir **John** de Meriet kt. senior; nat. Oct. 1328; m. 2ly circa 1362; ob. at Calais 2 Oct. 1369 (19) = 2d w. Matilda; ob. 11 March 1393; bur. at South Petherton; s.p. by 2d husband (20) (21) = Sir Thomas de Bokelaud kt. of Radelinch, Wilts; marr. cir. 1371; ob. 1378 (21)

Agnes, or Ellen de Meriet. = Sir William d' Aumarle kt. of Middle Chynnock, Somerset, and Wodebury, Devon; nat. 1324; ob. 15 Nov. 1361.

Sir John Mautravers kt. of Hook; nat. 11 Nov. 1337; m. cir. 1365; ob. 15 June 1386. = Elizabeth d' Aumarle, cousin and coh. of Sir John Meriet jr. æt. 17 in 1362, m. 2ly 1387; ob. 15 Oct. 1413 (23) (28) = 2d h. Sir Hump. Stafford kt. of Suthwyk, Wilts, (23) (28)

Margaret d' Aumarle, cousin and coh. of Sir John Meriet jr. (23) (28), æt. 19 in 1362; ob. 25th May 1399. = Sir Will. Bonville kt. of Shete, Devon (23) (24) (28), ob. 14 Feb. 1407-8.

Alice de Meriet, ch. before her father circa 1366 s.p. (42) = Sir Thomas Tryvet kt. nat. 1350; marr. 1st in or before 1356; ch. 6 October 1388 (43) = 2d w. Elizabeth, dau. and heir of Sir Philip Lymbury of Lymhury, Beds; ob. 30 Nov. 1433 s.p. (43)

Sir William Clinton = Anne Tryvet, aged 7 years in Nov. 1388; ob. ante 1420 s.p. (43)

Joan Tryvet, aged 5 years = John Ward, Esq. ob. ante 1420 s.p. (43)

1st w. Johanna, m. cir. 1368 (22), ob. ante 1373 s.p. (23)

3d w. Matilda, wid. of Sir Ralph Seymour (23) (24), m. 1386 (23); m. 3ly cir. 1397, Sir Hugh Cheyne kt. who ob. cir. 1400 leaving her surviving (26) (28) (29) = Sir **John** de Meriet kt. junr. coh. of the Beauchamps of Hacche; heir in reversion to Hestercombe on extinction of the line of Simon de Meriet, nat. 24 March 1345-6; ob. 26 July 1391 (23) = 2d w. Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Edmund de Arundel kt. m. circa 1373; ob. cir. close of 1385; s.p. by her 2d husband (23)(24) = Sir Leonard Carreu kt. of Stoke-Fleming and Otery-Mohun, Devon; nat. 20 April 1342; m. circa 1368; ob. 27 Oct. 1369 (24)

Alice Tynture; ob. before her husband (29) = George Meriet heir to his mother; will dated and proved 1419, ob. s.p. (29) = Matilda, ob. before her husband; buried at Meriet (29)

Thomas Meriet, exor of his brother George's will; living in 1418 (30) = Eleanore; m. ante June 1402; living in 1418 (30)

Urry Seymour, contracted in marriage before July 1391 (23) (27) = **Elizabeth de Meriet**, sole child and heir; nat. 13 Dec. 1386 (23), ob. infans circa 1395 (28)

Sir Thomas Carreu kt. Lord Carew, Baron of Hydron, of Otery-Mohun and Stoke-Fleming; nat. June 1369; ch. 25 January 1431; will proved at Lambeth (24) = Elizabeth Bonville, 2d daughter; married circa 1376; will dated 8 Feb. 1450-1, proved at Exeter.

(of Chester) [Eyton's Analysis and Digest of the Domesday Survey of Somerset].

(2). **Harding** *filius Elnodi* of the Exchequer Domesday, 1086, called '*Hardincus filius Elnodi*' and '*Hardin de Meriet*' (from his manor of Merriott) in the *Inquisitio Gheldi*, 1084, who flourished from 1084 to 1140, was one of the Anglo Thanes of Somersetshire. Smyth states that Harding was descended from the race of the Danish Kings [*MS.* '*Lives of the Berkeleys*' at Berkeley Castle]. It is remarkable that Harding, the son of Eadnoth, was not allowed succession to any of his ancestral estates. William of Malmesbury, his co-temporary, remarks that he appears to have thriven by forensic rather than martial genius. Harding de Meriet was clearly the greatest of the Somerset Anglo Thanes. He had, in 1086, six Somerset manors, one of which (Capland) had been augmented since the Conquest by a parcel of waste land taken from the Royal manor of Curi (Curry Rivell). In five of his six manors in Somerset Harding succeeded to Tovi, or Tofig, who was sheriff of Somerset at the Conquest, and who was apparently in office in the summer of 1068 when, as Tovig '*minister*,' he attested King William's famous charter to Giso, Bishop of Wells. In Harding's sixth manor (Meriet) his antecessor had been Godwin—possibly that Godwin who preceded Tofig as sheriff of Somerset, and who, if Harding's antecessor at Merriott, was living in 1066.

As Domesday tenant in capite, '*Harding filius Elnodi*' alias '*Hardin de Meriet*,' held the six following manors in Somerset, viz., (1) Digenescova (Discove) in Bruton Hundred: 1 hide, 3 ploughs; value £2. Of this 1 hide, he held 1 virgate and 2 fertines (half a virgate) in demesne, *i.e.*, in Domesday subtenure. (2) Brada, in the Hundred of Abdick cum Bulstone (part of Bradon and probably Goviz-Bradon): 1 hide, 2 ploughs; value 10s.; Celric subtenant. (3) Capilanda in the same hundred (Capland in Broadway and Beer-Crocombe): 1 hide, 2 ploughs; value £1; to which was added after the

Conquest, out of the Royal manor of Curi, 2 virgates that were waste land when Harding received them, worth 6s.; total value, £1 6s. (4) Bochelanda in the Hundred of Abdick (Buckland St. Mary): 1 hide, 4 ploughs, 20 capræ; value 10s.; Godwin, a Saxon Thane, subtenant. (5) Lopen in South Petherton Hundred: of the whole 2 hides therein, of which he was tenant in capite, he held 1 hide and $\frac{11}{16}$ in demesne. There were 2 ploughs, and the annual value was £2. (6) Meriet (Merriott) in the Hundred of Cruche (Crewkerne): 5 hides (being the portion of which Godwin, the præpositus or King's bailiff of the manor of Crewkerne, was the Saxon owner in the time of the Confessor), 6 ploughs, 1 mill yielding 5s.; total value £4. Of these 5 hides, Harding held $2\frac{1}{2}$ in demesne. Seven hides—forming the remaining part of Meriet—(five of which were held by Leuin, and two by Bristuard in the time of the Confessor), were assigned by the Conqueror to his half brother, Robert, Count of Moretain, to hold in capite. Dodeman was the Domesday subtenant of the Count of Moretain's portion, which contained 7 hides, 7 ploughs, and 3 mills yielding 30s.; total value £7. [ibm.] These details are necessary as proofs, and they appertain to what follows.

Harding fitz Elnodi was one of the Justices Itinerant in Devon and Cornwall and Exeter to investigate the Royal Pleas in Lent, 9 Will. II. 1096 [Cartulary of Tavistock Priory, as quoted in *Notes and Queries,* 6th S. ii. 11]. 'It is abundantly clear,' writes the late Rev. R. W. Eyton in *N. and Q.*, 5th S. xii. 362, 'that Harding fitz Ealnoth was succeeded at Merriott and other Somersetshire estates by his eldest son and heir Nicholas fitz Harding.'

(3). **Nicholas de Meriet** [Hearne's *Liber Niger Scaccarii,* i. 76], also called **Nicholas Fitz Harding** [ibm. 95]:—Roger, Bishop of Sarum (1107–1139), while Chancellor—having the custody of the Abbey of Abbotsbury,—gave two hides of the Abbey lands at Atram (in the parish of Whitchurch Canonicorum, Dorset), in marriage with a certain niece of his to

Nicholas de Meriet, without consulting the Convent. Nicholas and his wife and Henry their son held this land a long time—adversely—without rendering any service to the Abbey. This is embodied in the return of the knights' fees held by the Abbey in 1166, wherein the then Abbot certifies that—being unable to recover service from Nicholas de Meriet and his wife and Henry their son—he had granted, by arrangement, the same land to this Henry the son, and his heirs, subject to the service of half a knight's fee [*Lib. Nig.* i. 76]. As will be seen below, his descendent, John de Meriet, held these two carucates, or hides, of land in 49 E. III., 1375 [See note (19)].

Nicholas fitz Harding had an estate in lands in Somerset, little inferior to his brother Robert fitz Harding (ancestor of the Berkeley family), where he paid escuage in 7 and 8 H. II. (1161–2), assessed at two marks for a knights' fee, towards the King's wars in the siege of Tholouse, and he also paid in 13 H. II. (1167) aid towards the marriage of Maud the King's daughter, to the Duke of Saxony [Red Book of the Exchequer: Pipe Roll 14 H. II., as quoted in Smyth's MS. '*Lives of the Berkeleys*'].

According to the return of knights' fees ordered by the King in the second Council of Clarendon, February, 1166, and required to be sent in by the first Monday in Lent following (13 March) [Eyton's *Court, Household, and Itinerary of H. I.*], 'Nicholas fitz Harding' certified that he held a knight's fee of the old feoffment of the Honor of Gloucester, and two knights' fees in capite in Somerset, and he describes in his return the sub-enfeoffments made by his father (Harding) in the reign of H. I. [*Lib. Nig.* i. 95). Nicholas fitz Harding was dead before 1171, as in that year we find his son in possession, as successor, and therefore of full age [*Lib. Nig.* i. 93]. This son,

(4). **Henry de Meriet,** in 1171—according to the Scutage Roll—gave to the Knights Templars a virgate of land in

Meriet, which Walter de Meriet was holding at a rent of 3s. [Dugd. Mon. ii. 530]. He was dead in 1192 [A. S. Ellis in *N. and Q.* 5th S. xii. 362].

(5). **Nicholas de Meriet,** in 6 R. I. (1195), was one of the King's Justiciars in Dorset and Somerset for assessing the tax on lands towards the King's ransom [Madox's *Exchequer*, i. 592]. In 3 Joh. (1201), he paid 20 marks scutage for one knight's fee held in chief, for one knight's fee and a half held of the Honor of Moretain, and for half a knight's fee held of the Honor of Gloucester [ibm. 665]. Nicholas de Meriet and Agatha his wife, in 1203, owed 20 marks for peaceably holding a hide of land in Wily, Wilts, and the fee farm of the said ville of Earl Reginald [Pipe Roll, Wiltescir 5 Joh. Nova Oblata: Dodsworth MSS. in Bodl. Lib. vol. 14, fol. 78^b]. In 14 Joh. (1212), the sheriff of Dorset and Somerset accounts for £12 6s. 6½d., being the issues for two years of the lands of Nicholas de Meriet which John Wac had in farm [Dodsw. MSS.]. Nicholas de Meriet, with the consent of Agatha his wife and Hugh his son and heir, gave, by charter, to the Priory of Bruton his chapel of Lopene. Among the witnesses to this charter are his brothers, Henry and Thomas de Meriet [Bruton Cartulary, penes the Earl of Ilchester, p. 146]. This charter is without date, but there follows a confirmation of it by Jocelyn, Bishop of Bath and Wells; and as Jocelyn was consecrated to the See, 28 May, 1206, the gift must have been made subsequent to that day.

(6). **Hugh de Meriet,** son and heir of Nicholas, on payment of a fine of 25 marks, had livery of the lands of his inheritance on 2 May, 1229 [Fines Roll, 13 H. III. memb. 8]. In 14 H. III., 1230, he owed 13 marks of scutage in aid of the King's passage into Brittany for 1 knight's fee and a half, held of the Honor of Moretain [Pipe Roll, Somerset and Dorset in Madox's Excheq. i. 661]. In a suit between William Russell, demandant, and Hugh de Meriet and Isabel his wife, tenants, concerning six virgates of land in Stratton, Somerset,

the King by his writ, dated at Hereford, 24 July, 1231, directs the sheriff to stay further proceedings in the case, because the said Hugh was then absent in Wales [Close Roll, 15 H. III. m. 7]. In 1234, Hugh de Meriet, with Elyas Breton and John Gubaud, was appointed, as a justice, to make inquisition in forests [Close Roll, 18 H. III. m. 14 in dorso]. By writ, dated 17 July, 1235, Hugh de Meriet, with John de Aure, was appointed a receiver in Somerset of the aid granted throughout the kingdom [Close Roll, 19 H. III. pt. 1, m. 6 in dorso]. This Hugh de Meriet died before 8 April, 1236, seised of one knight's fee and a half in Meriet, Lopene, and Bocland (St. Mary), Somerset, of the annual value of £15, held of the Honor of Moreton, and Nicholas de Meriet was found to be his son and next heir [Inq. p.m., 20 Hen. III. No. 16ª].

(7). **Nicholas de Meriet,** son and heir of Hugh de Meriet, did homage for one knight's fee and a half which he held of the King in chief in Meriet. Accordingly, the King, on 9 May, 1236, issued his precept to the Sheriff of Somerset, that having taken security from the said Nicholas for the payment of his relief, he caused full seisin to be made to him of all the lands in Meriet, of which his father, Hugh de Meriet, was seised in fee [Fines Roll, 20 H. III. m. 10]. At the Dorset Assizes in 1244, Nicholas de Meriet was charged by the bailiffs of the city of Exeter with having demanded tolls of market of citizens of Exeter when attending his markets of Lopene and Meriet, as being contrary to the liberties secured to the citizens by the charters granted to them by the King's predecessors [Placita &c. in Com. Dors. coram R. de Thurkileby et sociis suis anno regni regis Henrici filii R. Johīs 28° (1244) rot. 3 in dorso].

Nicholas de Meriet died about the year 1258, as Elizabeth his widow, in that year, for a fine of one mark, obtained a writ of '*Pone ad bancum*,' with reference to her dower, dated 29 March [Fines Roll, 42 H. III. m. 9].

The inquisition on his death was not taken till after John de Meriet, his son and heir, came of age: from which inquisition, taken at Yvelcestre, on the oaths of Walter de Loveny, Ralph Burnel, Gerard de Coker, Martin de Coker, Ralph Albe, Elias de Coker, Nicholas de Lopeneford, Richard le Mey, John Duket, William le Cu, Robert Malreward, and Philip de Cnolle, we learn that this Nicholas de Meriet held one knight's fee of the King in chief in Meriet, Lopen, and Stratton, Somerset, and one other knight's fee there of the Earl of Glovernya (Gloucester), all of the yearly value of £60, and that John de Meriet was his son and heir, of the age of 21 years on St. Kenelm's day, 47 H. III. (17 July, 1263). [Inq. p. m. 47 H. III. No. 7.]

(8). *Elizabeth, widow of Nicholas de Meriet,* was summoned in Michaelmas term, 1267, in the Court of King's Bench, to answer to the King and to Robert Mellent, to whom the King had granted the said Elizabeth's marriage (her late husband holding his lands of the King in chief), why she—without the King's license, or that of the said Robert Mellent—had married William de l' Ortyay (de Lorty). Thereupon it was agreed that the said William de l' Ortyay should pay to the said Robert Mellent 60 marks, for having married the said Elizabeth. [Placita coram Rege, Michaelmas, 51 H. III., and beginning of 52 H. III., rot. 1 in dorso: see '*Abbrevatio Placitorum,*' &c., printed by the Record Commission.]

(9). *Matilda, wife of John de Meriet:*—In 1268, John de Meriet brought an action against Walter de Vernun and others, for unlawful and forcible seizure of his goods at Meriet to the value of 40 marks, and for the abduction and detention of Matilda, his wife. [Placita coram Rege, 52 H. III., rot. 10, Devon: Dodsw. MSS. 42, fols. 50 and 93.]

(10). **John de Meriet,** son and heir of Nicholas de Meriet, was under age at the time of his father's death, and his guardianship was committed to Prince Edward, the King's eldest son, who granted the same to Anketin de Martivall and Agnes

his wife. The King received this John de Meriet's homage, on learning by the Inq. p. m. of 47 H. III., No. 7, that he had come to full age on St. Kenelm's day in that year (17 July, 1263); and, on 15 November, 1263, ordered the said Anketin and Agnes his wife, to cause full livery of seisin of of all the lands of his inheritance to be made to him accordingly. [Fines Roll, 48 H. III., m. 6.] His birth therefore took place on, or about, 17th July, 1242.

On the death of John le Despenser, in 1275, this John de Meriet came into possession of, and did fealty for, two-third parts of the manor of Castle Carlton, Co. Lincoln [Originalia Roll, 3 E. I., rot. 20: printed Calendar], as cousin and next heir of Joan, daughter of Robert le Lou, or Lupus, and late wife of this John le Despenser.

Robert Lupus—who was constable of the Castle of Knaresborough in 1218 [Fines Roll, 2 H. III. m. 4], died in 1247, possessed of the manor of Karleton, Co. Lincoln, which he held of the King in chief, leaving a daughter and heir under age. Thereon the King granted, on 31 May, 1247, for a fine of 80 marks, the custody of the manor of Karleton to Geoffry le Despenser, to hold during the minority of the heir [Fines Roll, 31 H. III. m. 6]. He died in 1251, leaving a son and heir, John le Despenser, under age, whose wardship was granted, 29 June, 1251, to Emma, his mother, for a fine of 400 marks [Fines Roll, 35 H. III. m. 15].

John le Despenser married Joan, the daughter and heiress of the said Robert le Lou. They left no surviving issue. Joan died first, leaving her husband tenant for life, by the courtesy of England, of her manors of Caveneby, or Cameby, and Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln. He died in 1275, when Hugh, son of Hugh le Despenser, his brother, was found to be his nearest heir in blood; and—as to his late wife's estate of inheritance—Ralph de Grianton, John de Meriet, and Adam de Normanvile, severally, claimed to be heirs to the manor of Cameby; and—as regarded the manor of Castle Carleton—

John, son and heir of Nicholas de Meriet, was pronounced to be the nearest heir of the said Joan. Accordingly, John de Meriet immediately entered upon and took possession of two-thirds of the manor which John le Despenser held for life, the said John de Meriet being of the age of 30 years and more [Inq. p. m. of John le Despenser, 3 E. I. No. 2, and Roberts's Calendarium, 218—9].

John de Meriet, in 1277, proffered—by Walter de Bokenhull—the service of one knight's fee, due on his lands in Meryet, for the expedition against Lewelin, Prince of Wales: to muster at Worcester on Tuesday next after the octave of St. John Baptist, 6 July, 5 E. I. [Parliamentary Writs, printed by the Record Commission, I. 736].

John de Meriet died in the early part of the year 1285; the writ on his death, directed to Henry de Bray, the escheator on this side Trent, being dated 20 March, 13 E. I. (1284-5). By the pursuant inquisition taken at Crukern, on Saturday in the festival of Sts. Tibertius and Valerianus, 13 E. I. (14 April, 1285), on the oaths of Geoffry de Aslonde, Henry de Legh, William Burnel, Robert Maureward, Nicholas de Clopton, Randolph Burnel, Elyas Golde, Hugh de Bath, John de Garden, Gilbert le May, Thomas de la More, and Walter Alwyne, it was found, "quod Johannes de Meryet defunctus tenuit die quo obiit de d'no Rege in capite medietatē man'ii de M'yet in Com. Som's' p' uno feodo militis & aliam medietatē d'ci man'ii de Comit' Gloscestr' p' uno feodo militis. It'm q'd aysiamentū Cur' de M'yet cū gardinis & curtillag' valet p annū lx*s*. Est ibidm̄ unū columbar' debile et valet p annū xii*d*. Sūt ibidm̄ ccciiii^{xx}xi.[1] acre t're arabil' in dominico & valet quelib' acra p annū viii*d*. Sm̄. xiii*li*. xiiii*s*. It'm sūt ibidm̄ xliii acre p^{a}ti & valet quelibet acra p annū ii*s*. Sm̄ iiii*li*. vi*s*. It'm est ibidm̄ quedam pastur' in q°dam clauso

(1). This deceptive quantity of 391 is made up of one long hundred of six score, and two short hundreds of five score each, plus 91; viz., 120+100+100+91=411; which, at 8*d*. per acre,=£13. 14*s*.

ex ꝑte boriali gardini que valet ꝑ annū xxvi*s.* viii*d.* Pastur' in Pr̄co qui vocatr̄ Eggewoude valet ꝑ annū x*s.* Pastur' in la Garstune (&) Slapusweye valet ꝑ annū vi*s.* viii*d.* Pastur' forins' exª cōmuniam cōicant' valet ꝑ annū vi*s.* viii*d.* Est ibidm̄ un' Boscus de quo possūt vendi ꝑ annū iii acre de subbosco et valet quelibet acra ꝑ annū xviii*d.* Sm̄ iiii*s.* vi*d.* Proficuus de Alnetis valet ꝑ annū iiii*s.* It'm q'd Reddit' Ass' liber' tenent' valet ꝑ annū iiii*li.* xiii*s.* ix*d.*; 1 li. pipis p'c' viii*d.* & 1 lib. cumini p'c' i*d.* & ob. It'm q'd Reddit' Ass' Custumar' valet ꝑ annū xvii*li.* iii*s.* vi*d.* It'm q'd auxiliū p'd'cor' Custumar' valet ꝑ annū xxxii*s.* viii*d.* ô. qª It'm q'd lard'[2] eor'd'm valet ꝑ annū ad fm̄ S'ci Martini xiii*s.* i*d.* ô. qª It'm Chyrchet[3] valet ꝑ annū ix*s.* viii*d.* It'm auxiliū lini[4] valet ꝑ annū iii*s.* xi*d.* It'm den' S'ci Pet' valet ꝑ annū iii*s.* xi*d.* It'm Reddit' aucar' valet ꝑ annū ii*s.* viii*d.* It'm Reddit' capon' valet ꝑ annū xii*d.* It'm Fayr' (Fair) d'ci Man'ii valet ꝑ annū vi*s.* viii*d.* It'm placita & pq'sita Cur' cū Finibꝫ t're & H'iet' (heriots) valet ꝑ annū xl*s.* Est ibidm̄ quedam Ec̄ca (ecclesia) de qª donac̄ō sp'tat ad d'cm̄ Man'iū & valet ꝑ annū xx*li.* It'm q'd est apud Boclonde (St. Mary) quedam Ec̄ca un' (unde) donac̄ō sp'tat ad dcm̄ Man'iū de M'yet & valet ꝑ annū c*s.*

Smª valoris d'ci Man'ii ꝑ annū li*lib.* xiii*s.* iii*d.* p't' (præter) advocacōēm Ec̄ce d'ci Man'ii q' valet ꝑ annū xx*lib'* & advocacōēm Ec̄ce de Boclond q' ꝑtinet ad d'cm̄ Man'iū et valet c*s.*"

Respecting the manors of Lopene and Stratton, which he also held at the time of his death, the same jurors found, "quod manerium de Lopene tenetr̄ de Hugone Punz (Poyntz) in S'gentia claudendo qu'dā petiam in Pr̄co suo de Corymalet cōtinent' ii ꝑticat'. It'm q'd aysiamentū Cur' de Lopene cū

(2). *Lardum, Lardarium:* a yearly rent, or tribute, in lieu of a customary service at the lord's larder.

(3). *Chyrchet, Chircheset, Churchesset,*—from the Saxon '*Cyricsceat*':—church dues, signifying a certain measure of wheat, which every man on St. Martin's day gave—as customary oblation—to the ordinary, or lord of the manor.

(4). Customary dues, or rent, to the lord of the manor, on flax, or flax seed.

gardinis & curtillag' valet p annū x*s*. Sūt ibidm̄ cxxix acre t're arabil' in đinico et valet quel' acra p annū viii*d*. Sm^{a} iiii*li*. vi*s*. It'm sūt ibidm̄ viii acre p^{a}ti & valet quelib' acra p annū xvi*d*. Sm^{a} x*s*. viii*d*. It'm pastur' forins' potest sustiner' p annū vi bov' ii affr'[5] et valet p annū iiii*s*. iiii*d*. Est ibidm̄ quoddam molendinū et valet p annū x*s*. It'm placit' & pq'sita Nundinar' d'ci Man'ii cū theolon' & aliis pq'sit' valent p annū xl*s*. Et d'ce Nundine sūt in manu d'ni Reg' p' (post) ultimam Itin'acōm̄ Justic' in Com' Som's'[6] It'm q'd Reddit' Ass' liber' tenent' valet p annū vi*s*. vi*d*.; i li. pipis p'c' viii*d*. It'm Reddit' Ass' custumar' d'ci Man'ii valet p annū iiii*li*. ix*s*. viii*d*. It'm auxil' eordm̄ custumar' valet p annū xiiii*s*. xi*d*. It'm lard' eordm̄ custumar' valet p annū vii*s*. iii*d*. ob. It'm Chyrchet' eord' valet p annū ii*s*. viii*d*. ob. It'm den' S'ci Pet' valet p annū xiiii*d*. It'm opa autūpni eordm̄ valent p annu xii*d*. ô q^{a} It'm Placita & pq'sita Cur' valēt p annū v*s*.

Sm^{a} valoris p'd'ci Man'ii p annū xiiii*li*. ix*s*. xi*d*. ob. q^{a}."

As regards the manor of Stratton the Jurors further said,—"quod p'd'cus Johēs de Meryet defunct' tenuit die quo obiit de d'no Rege in capite p'd'cm̄ Man'iū ptinens ad man'iū de Meryet. It'm q'd e' (est) ibidm̄ q'ddā gardinū et valet p annū xiii*s*. iiii*d*. It'm reddit' Ass' liber' tenent' valet p annū xi*s*. v*d*. It'm Reddit' Ass' custumar' valet p annū cxi*s*. vi*d*. It'm auxil' eordm̄ custumar' valet p annū xxvi*s*. vi*d*. It'm opa autūpni eordm̄ valent p annū xxii*s*. vi*d*.

Sm^{a} valoris p'd'ci Man'ii p annū ix*lib*. v*s*. iii*d*."

The following tabular form shews the details of the annual values more plainly.

MANOR OF MERIET:

	£	*s*	*d*
Easement of the Manor Court, gardens and Curtilage	3	0	0
Small Dove Cote		1	0

(5). *Affri* vel *Affra* :—Bullocks, or beasts, of the plough.

(6). The time and cause of this seizure and retention in the King's hand of the Revenues and Tolls of Lopen Fair are explained in note (15); and the Fair is further treated of in note (23).

	£	*s*	*d*
411 acres of Arable in demesne @ 8*d.* per acre	13	14	0
43 „ meadow @ 2*s.*	4	6	0
A Pasture on north side of the (Court) garden	1	6	8
„ in the park called Eggewoude ...		10	0
„ in the Garstune (&) Slapusweye ...		6	8
„ not included in the Common of the Commoners		6	8
3 acres of Underwood @ 1*s.* 6*d.* per acre ...		4	6
Profit of Alderwood		4	0
Rents of Assize of the Free tenants ...	4	14	9
1 lb of Pepper			8
1 lb of Cummin			1½
Rents of Assize of the Customary Tenants ...	17	4	6
Aid of the Customary Tenants	1	12	8¾
Larder dues of the Customary Tenants ...		14	1¾
Church dues		9	8
Flax dues		3	11
Peter's Pence		3	11
Rent of Geese		2	8
„ Poultry		1	0
The Manor Fair		6	8
Pleas and Perquisites of Court, Fines and Heriots	2	0	0
	£51	14	3

MANOR OF LOPENE.

Easement of the Manor Court, gardens, and curtilage		10	0
129 acres of Arable in demesne @ 8*d.* per acre	4	6	0
8 „ Meadow @ 1*s.* 4*d.* per acre ...		10	8
A Pasture not in demesne		4	4
The Mill		10	0
Pleas and Perquisites of the Manor Fair, with tolls, &c., all which are now remaining in the King's hand	2	0	0

	£	s	d
Rents of Assize of the Free Tenants ...		6	6
1 lb of Pepper			8
Rents of Assize of the Customary Tenants ...	4	9	8
Aid of the Customary Tenants		14	11
Larder dues of the Customary Tenants ...		7	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Church dues		2	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Peter's Pence		1	2
Autumn labour of the Customary Tenants ...		1	$0\frac{3}{4}$
Pleas and Perquisites of Court		5	0
	£14	9	$11\frac{3}{4}$

MANOR OF STRATTON.

The Garden		13	4
Rents of Assize of the Free Tenants ...		11	5
„ „ of the Customary Tenants ...	5	11	6
Aid of the Customary Tenants	1	6	6
Autumn labour of the Customary Tenants ...	1	2	6
	£9	5	3

TOTALS:	£	s	d
Manor of Meriet	51	14	3
„ Lopene	14	9	$11\frac{3}{4}$
„ Stratton	9	5	3
	75	9	$5\frac{3}{4}$
„ Castle Carlton ...	70	13	$7\frac{3}{4}$
	£146	3	$1\frac{1}{2}$

Pursuant to the same Writ, a Valuation of the Manor of Castle Carlton, Co. Lincoln, was taken there, on Saturday next before St. George's day, 13 E. I (21 April, 1285). In this Valuation it is stated that John de Meriet, deceased, held the Manor of John de la Haye by the service of a third part of a knight's fee; that John de Meriet was his son and nearest heir, but of whose age the jury were ignorant as he was not born in those parts; and that the total annual value

of the Manor (of which details are given), after all deductions, amounted to £70. 13s. 7¾d. [Inq. p.m. 13 E. I. no. 20].

To the Close Roll of 13 E. I. m. 8, two separate schedules are stitched: one, containing the several totals of the annual values of the four manors, as given above, makes the amount of all four, by an error in the casting-up, to be £146. 3s. 2½d., which is in excess of the correct amount by one penny. The Record then proceeds, as follows: "unde tercia pars est xlviii*li.* xiiii*s.* iiii*d.* ob. q^{a} *(sic).* Et est summa duarum partium remanentium in manu Regis iiii^{xx}xvii*li.* (97) viii*s.* ix*d.* ob. *(sic)* unde pro predicta tercia parte assignatur Ele que fuit uxor predicti Johannis dos sua prout patet in cedula cui ista consuitur, pro qua dicta Ela reddet per annum domino Regi v*s.* xi*d.* ob. q^{a}, qui excedunt dictam dotem." The other Schedule, made pursuant to a Precept directed to the same Henry de Bray, and dated 1 May, 13 E. I. (1285) [Close Roll, 13 E. I. m. 9], contains the assignment of dower referred to in the first schedule. As this Record contains several points of detail that will interest the Somerset antiquary, I here append a verbatim copy of it:—"Assignacō dotis Ele que fuit ux' Johīs de M'iet defuncti p Magrm̄ H. de Bray escaetorē dn̄i Reg' cit^{a} Trentam fc̄a mense Maii anno regni Regis E. xiii. p p'cept̄ dn̄i Regis de t'ris & ten̄ que f'unt ipīus Joh'is Videl't hamelettū de Lopene in Com. Som's quod extendit^{r} ad xiiii*li* ix*s.* xi*d.* ob. q^{a} Et hamelet̄t de Stratton in eodm̄ Com. quod extendit^{r} ad ix*li.* v*s.* viii*d. (sic).* Et ciiii^{xx} & xi (191) acre t're cū ptin̄ in Man'io de M'iet in eod' Com. que extendūt^{r} ad vi*li.* vii*s.* iiii*d.* videl't iiii^{xx}iiii (84) acr' t're in quadā Cult'a ex pte orientali p'd'ci Man'ii que vocat^{r} Basthehey. Et v acr' in quodā Crofto quod vocat^{r} Flexland. Et xx acr' t're in campo qui vocat^{r} Netherdon jacentes jux^{a} aqm̄ de P'va Lopene p'pinquiores eidem aque. Et v acr' in loco qui vocat^{r} la Shau. Et xx acr' t're in campo qui vocat^{r} Wodforlonge jacentes int' portam de Eggewod et gardinū p'd'ci Man'ii. Et xxx acre t're in campo de Dockedele jux^{a} Ecclīam p'd'ci Man'ii p'pin-

quiores eidem. Et xx & vii acr' t're in campo qui vocat Beredōn jacent' jux^{a} Holdetheye & se extendūt^{r} p Soudweleslak'. Iī xii acr' p^{a}ti in p^{a}to p'd'ci Man'ii quod vocat^{r} Elepoleshm̄ in pte oriental' p'd'ci p^{a}ti v'sus la Isinebom. Iī vi acr' p^{a}ti in quodā p^{a}to quod vocat^{r} Evynhm̄ in pte occidental' ipiūs p^{a}ti. Sm^{a} xviii acre p^{a}ti que extendūt^{r} ad xxxvi*s.* Et totā pastur' in Eggewode que extendit^{r} ad x*s.* Et medietatē bosci de Eggewode in pte occidental' ejusdē bosci que extendit^{r} ad ii*s.* iii*d.* Et reddit' lib'or' tenentiū videl't Galfri de Haselaund, Johīs de M'iet,[7] Nichi' Hossins, Hug' de Bathon, Walt'i de la Beme & Isabell' Lond, qui extendūt^{r} ad vi*s.* viii*d.* p annū. It'm reddit' subscriptor' custumarior' videl't Rici Tantun, Rob'ti Balloc, Thom' Gold, Henr' Palle, Thom' Foliot, Rici Fromond, Rob'ti Lend, Joh'is Schap, Wymerie Porta, Ph'i Atte-bogeh, Hug' Batte, Ricī Hores, Rob'ti Atte-Strele, Rog'i Atte Stone, Walt'i Longe, Andr' Chaumpeneys, Aunce de Esselond, Gunnilde le Charett', Rob'ti le Baker, Gilb'ti Atte Hirne, Rad'i Gundy, Will'i Snelle, Nich'i Gold, Ade Tredgold, Opping Gold, Rob'ti Pomerey, Rob'ti Kinge, Rad'i Fesecok', Rob'ti Avenell, Hug' Paris, Joh'e (Joan) relicte Swele & Rob'ti Wodeward, qui valet p annū xii*li.* It'm auxiliū eordē, lardiū eordē, Cherchettū eordē, et auxiliū lini eordē, que ōia extendūt^{r} p annū ad xlviii*s.* vi*d.* ob. q^{a}. Iī reddit' caponū qui v' (valet) p annū xii*d.* Iī totā pasturā in la Garston & Slapesway que extendit^{r} ad vi*s.* viii*d.* Iī omnia servitia & consuet' p'd'cor Custumar' una cū pl't's & pquis' p'd'cor' lib'or' & villanor' que extendūt^{r} ad xxvi*s.* viii*d.* Sm̄^{a} totius valoris p'd'ce assignacōnis xlix*li.* ix*d.* ob. *(sic).* De quib' d'ca dña Ela debet reddere dño Regi p annū v*s.* xi*d.* ob. q^{a}. Et sic remanēt de claro xlviii*li.* xiiii sol.' iii*d.* ob. q^{a}. ad quam summam attingit dos p'd'ca. It'm assignat^{r} eidē dñe Ele advocacō Eccl'ie de Bokelond que extendit^{r} ad c s. p annū."

There are some errors and discrepancies in the above com-

(7). This was probably Sir John de Meriet of Hestercombe, as in 1333 his eldest son, John de Meriet, had an estate in reversion on the death of John de Bath in a messuage, a mill, and a virgate of land in Meriet [see note (37)].

putations to which the reader's attention is directed, and more especially to the valuation of the manor of Stratton in the Record of Assignment of Dower, viz., £9. 5s. 8d. instead of £9. 5s. 3d., being an error of 5d. in excess, which makes confusion. The Chancery clerk should have written-down the sum to which the Assignment of Dower amounted, as £49. 0s. 4½d. instead of £49. 0s. 9½d. (the result of this error of 5d.) A short explanation seems necessary as regards the sum of 5s. 11¾d. to be paid by the widow, annually, to the King. The eschaetor had assigned a dower to her on her late husband's three Somersetshire manors, amounting (as corrected above) to £49. 0s. 4½d.; but as she was entitled to only £48. 14s. 4¾d., that is one third of the income on the entire estate of her late husband, which on all his four manors, including Castle-Carlton, amounted to no more than £146. 3s. 2½d., she would be receiving an excess of 5s. 11¾d. over the dower to which she was entitled. This excess therefore became due to the King.

(11). **Ela**, second wife and widow of John de Meriet (who died in 1285), was mother of his son and next heir, John de Meriet [The late Rev. T. Hugo's "*Hestercombe*": see *Proceedings* of the Society in 1872, vol. xviii. pp. 142–6]. Shortly after her husband's death an Assignment of Dower was made to her, as shewn above.

Ela having married her second husband Roger Basset, her son John de Meriet, brought an action in the King's court before the Judges of Assize at York, claiming the dower which had been assigned to her out of the lands of his inheritance. Whereupon the King issued Precepts, dated 10 [April?] 30 E. I. (1302) to the Sheriffs of Somerset and Lincoln to impanel juries, in their respective shires, of twelve knights and other freemen, to view and value all the lands and tenements of the inheritance of the said John de Meriet in Great Lopen and Great Stratton, in Somerset, and Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, in which the said Roger Basset and Ela his wife claimed dower in her right.

Only two documents relating to the matter now remain, viz., the Writ to the Sheriff of Somerset, now placed among the Inq. p.m. 30 E. I. no. 147, and the Return from the Sheriff of Lincolnshire, also placed among the Inq. p.m. 30 E. I. no. 144. The latter record, which was not clearly understood by the late Mr. Hugo, is an Extent and valuation made at Castle-Carleton, 19 September, 1302, before John Gobaud, the Sheriff of Co. Lincoln, and William de Mauneby, keeper of the Pleas of the Crown, of all the lands and tenements of John, son and heir of John de Meriet, deceased, which he held in Castle-Carleton, according to their condition and value at the time of his father's death. But it is so damaged that a recital of the particulars that remain would be useless.

(12). **John de Meriet,** called '*dominus de Meriet*,' [Close Roll, 1 E. II. m. 6; Inq. p.m. 1 E. II. no. 62; Inq. 2 E. II. no. 2, and Originalia Roll, 1 E. II. rot 11].

He bore on his shield, Barreé, *or* and *sable* of six pieces. [Roll of Arms of the Bannerets of England, compiled in the early part of the reign of E. II., taken from the original in the Cotton MSS. '*Caligula*' A 18].

He was born at Meriet, 2 April, 4 E. I., 1276, son and heir of John de Meriet by Ela his second wife, and had seisin of his lands and tenements on making proof of his age in Trinity term, 1297, ['*Prob. ætatis Johīs fil' & hæredis Johīs de Meriet*' in the 'Placita coram Rege,' 25 E. I., rot. 3 and 19, no. 152, as extracted by Hugo, 142–6].

He was appointed a Commissioner of Array in Dors'. and Somers'., 16 Sept., 25 E. I., 1297; was returned in Lincolnshire and Somers'. as holding land and rents to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards, and, as such, was summoned to do military service against the Scots, 24 June, 28 E. I., 1300, and was again summoned for the same purpose, 8 July, 34 E. I., 1306 [Palgrave's 'Parliamentary Writs,' I. 736].

He died in the early part of the year 1308, and by the Inquisition on his death, taken at Meriet, 27 March, 1308, it was

found that John de Meriet, his son and heir, was on Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Michael, 1 E. II. (which corresponds with 4 October, 1307), of the age of ten years: consequently, his son and heir was born on 4 October, 1297 [Inq. p.m. of '*Johannes dominus de Meriet*,' 1 E. II. no. 62.]

As the Inquisition is much damaged, the following particulars—as to his lands, &c.—are taken from the abstracts thereof contained in Harl. MSS. 4120, p. 61, and Dods. MSS. 48, f. 8, whence it appears that, at the time of his death, he held the manor of Meriet of the King in chief by the service of one knight's fee; the hamlet of Lopene of Hugh Poyntz, by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee; the hamlet of Stratton of the heir of Elias Daubeney (at that time under age and in the King's guardianship), in socage by the service of 1 lb of cummin per annum, all in Somerset; and lands in Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, of the King in chief, by the service of the third part of one knight's fee.

On a separate piece of parchment attached to the Inquisitions of 1 E. II. no. 62, is the following summary of the valuations of the several manors of which he was seised at the time of his death:—"Extenta terrarum et tenementorum que fuerunt Johannis domini de Meriet defuncti qui de Rege tenuit in capite, facta per Walterum de Gloucester, escaetorem citra Trentam, videlicet;

Somerset:

Manerium de Meriet quod extenditur per annum	xli*li.* vii*s.* iiii*d.*
Hamelettum de Lopene	xiii*li.* iiii*s.* v*d.* ob.
Hamelettum de Stratton	viii*li.* xv*s.* v*d.*

Lincoln:

Quedam terre & quedam tenementa in Castel-Carleton que extenduntur per annum	lxix*li.* xvii*s.* iii*d.*
Summa omnium terrarum & tenementorum predictorum	cxxxiii*li.* iiii*s.* v*d.* ob.

Et est tercia pars xliiii*li.* viii*s.* i*d.* ob. q^{a}, & tercia pars unius quadrantis."

On the 11 April, 1 E. II. (1308) the King by his Writ of Certiorari to Walter de Gloucester, the escheator on this side Trent, ordered a true valuation to be made of all the military fees and ecclesiastical advowsons held by John '*dominus*' de Meriet, and which on his death were seised into the King's hand. The valuation, taken at Meriet, is dated 12 May, 1 E. II. (1308), from which we learn that he held in chief the following fees, viz., the hamlet of Gosbradene, which Roger le Ware (Roger, baron La Warre) held under him by the service of a fifth part of a knight's fee; a virgate of land in Hengstrigge, held by Felicia, widow of Richard de Heydone; a virgate of land in Kyngesdon, held by Brian, son of Brian de Govys; a virgate of land there, held by John de Cary; tenements in Boklond, held by John Walrond; tenements in More by Sweperton (South Pederton), held by John Weylond, and the advowsons of the churches of Meriet and Boklond (St. Mary) all in Somerset. The valuation returned from Co. Lincoln records half a knight's fee in Dalby, held under him by John de Hanington, and the advowson of the Chapel of Carleton [Inquisitions 2 E. II. no. 2].

(13). **Margaret,** wife and widow of John '*dominus*' de Meriet. The King—having assigned to her, out of her said late husband's lands, the hamlets of Lopene and Stratton, and 129 acres out of the demesne lands of the manor of Meriet, in Meriet, Egwode, Garston, and Slapsmore, in Somerset, to hold in dower—issued his Precept to Walter de Gloucester, the escheator on this side Trent, to give her livery of the same accordingly, dated at Windsor, 11 April, 1 E. II. (1308) [Close Roll, 1 E. II. m. 6].

The King likewise—having assigned to her out of the military fees and advowsons of her late husband, John de Meriet, deceased, the fourth part of a knight's fee in Boklond, Somerset, which John Walrond held, and which was of the annual

value of 50s., together with the advowsons of the church of Boklond (St. Mary), Somerset, worth 10 marks per annum, and of the chapel of Carleton, Co. Lincoln, worth 30s. per annum, to hold in dower—issued his further Precept to the same escheator to give her livery thereof accordingly, dated 12 November, 2 E. II. (1308) [Close Roll, 2 E. II. m. 17].

In the Returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military Levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.)—made pursuant to separate Writs tested at Clipston (Co. Northampton), 5 March, 9 E. II. 1315–6, Margery Meriet (widow) is certified as holding part of the township of Great Lopene, Somerset, in dower [Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

Margaret de Meriet—by reason of her dowry—presented Roger de Acton-Burnell to the Church of Bockland St. Mary, on the resignation of Richard Molyns; and he was instituted accordingly on 2 kalends of March (28 February), 1328-9 [Register *Drokensford* at Wells:—Dr. Matthew Hutton's Extracts in Harl. MSS. 6964, p. 138].

(14). **John de Meriet,** son and heir of John 'dominus' de Meriet. By the inquisition taken on his father's death, he was found to have been born on 4 October, 1297 [Inq. p. m. 1 E. II. no. 62].

On 11 kalends of June (22 May) 1314, Philip, son of Andrew Sapiti, a Florentine, was instituted to the church of Meriet, on the presentation of the King as guardian of the lands, and heir—(during minority)—of John de Meryet, deceased. [Register *Drokensford.*]

In the Returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military Levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.), made pursuant to separate Writs tested at Clipston (Co. Northampton), 5 March, 9 E. II., 1315-6, this John de Meriet is certified as *sole* lord of Meriet in the Hundred of Crukerne, and joint lord—with Henry de Urtiaco (del Orty)—of Bradeway (Broadway) and

the hamlet of Apse in the Hundred of Bulston, Somerset [Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

He died s. p. before he attained his legal majority, because in 1322 his brother George proved his age as son and heir of John de Meriet, deceased [Close Roll, 15 E. II. m. 3]. (See (15) of these Notes.)

(15). **George de Meriet of Castle Carlton,** was born about 1300-1; for—having, as son and heir of John de Meriet, deceased, proved his age before John Walwayn, the escheator beyond Trent, and done homage for all the lands and tenements which his father held of the King in chief,—the King, on 3 July, 1322, issued a Mandamus under his Privy Seal, to the same escheator to deliver to the said George de Meriet full seisin thereof [Close Roll, 15 E. II. m. 3]. But, notwithstanding this order, it would appear that he did not receive livery of the whole of the lands and appurtenances of his inheritance, for, as George de Meriet, he presented his Petition to the King in council, praying that—having come to full age—he might have restored to him the manors of Meriet and Lopen, Somerset, which, after the death of John de Meriet, his grandfather, and by reason of the nonage of John, son and heir of the said John de Meriet, were seised into the King's hand, and there retained until the coming of age of the said heir [Petitions to the King in Council, no. 5615]; and further, in 2 E. III. 1328—the year in which he died—the same George de Meriet, by a like Petition, sought to have restored to him the Fairs and Markets, which from before the Conquest and ever since, his ancestors had time out of mind peaceably held within their manors of Meriet and Lopen, down to the time of his grandfather, John de Meriet, when, by Solomon de Roucestre and Richard de Boyland, Justices-Itinerant of King Edward (E. I.), grandfather of our lord the King (E. III.) that now is, the said Fairs and Markets were seised into the King's hand and there remained, in consequence of the said John de Meriet's absence *(death)* and not putting

in his claim when the said Justices made their Iter in the County of Somerset. To which it was responded that, if—upon a Writ of Inquiry—it should appear that the said Fairs and Markets were seised into the King's hand for the cause assigned, the Petitioner should re-have the said Fairs and Markets upon payment to the King of the requisite fine [Petitions in Parliament, 2 E. III. no. 2: from the MSS. of Sir Matthew Hale, Kt., as printed in the '*Rotuli Parliamentorum et Petitiones et Placita in Parliamento*,' II. 13ª].

Pursuant to Writ, tested at Westminster, 9 May, 17 E. II. 1324, George de Meriet was returned by the Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset (Thomas de Marleberge) as a Man-at-Arms *(Esquire)*, and was summoned accordingly to attend the Great Council on the 30th following [Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

In Trinity term 1325,—having previously obtained the King's license—he, with Isabel his wife, conveyed, by Fine, to Margaret de Meriet (his mother), in fee, to hold to the use of himself and the said Isabel, his wife, for their joint lives, and—afterwards—to the use of his heirs, 27 messuages, 3 carucates of land, 40 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 7s. 10d. annual rent in Meriet—held of the King in chief, by the service of one knight's fee. Besides the messuages and lands included in the above conveyance, there remained to the said George de Meriet the manor of Castel Carleton, Co. Lincoln, held of the King in chief, by the service of a third part of a knight's fee [Inq. A.Q.D. 18 E. II. no. 147; Final Concord Som's, 18 E. II. no. 56, and Inq. p.m. 2 E. III. (1 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 48].

On 18 kalends of July (14 June) 1325, Philip Bernardini, clerk, a Florentine, was admitted to the church of Meriet by his proctor, the Reverend Andrew Sapiti, rector of the church of St. Mary of Arches, London, on the presentation of George '*dominus*' de Meriet, Patron thereof [Register '*Drokensford*'].

Pursuant to Writ tested as Gloucester, 12 May, 19 E. II.

1326, George de Meriet was returned by the Sheriff of Dorset and Somerset (John de Erle) as holding—for two whole years last past—one knight's fee in Somerset of the full value of £40 a year, or lands or rent of the value, and as not having taken the degree of knighthood before the feast of Easter last past—in accordance with a former order:—he was therefore summoned to appear in Chancery to answer for his default within 15 days of the Feast of St. John Baptist next following (24 June—8 July, 1326)—[Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

By Letters Patent, tested at Westminster, 18 July, 20 E. II., 1326, he was—by special favour—respited from taking knighthood until the Feast of Michaelmas then next following (29 September, 1326)—[Pat. Roll, 20 E. II. m. 28: see Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

In December, 1326—pursuant to Writ of Certiorari, dated 4 October, 20 E. II. (1326), he—as George de Meriet, son and heir of John de Meriet (deceased)—obtained from the King the restoration of a messuage, ten acres of land, and one acre of meadow in Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, worth 2s. per annum, and held of the King in chief as parcel of that manor, which John de Meriet, his father, had demised to John de Arderne for life, and which, on the death of the said John de Arderne—about six years past or more (in or before 1320)—were taken into the King's hand [Inquisition, 20 E. II. no. 10]. This Item and the Petitions to the King in Council—above cited—are corroborative evidences that John de Meriet, the elder brother of this George, had died whilst under age; and they serve to explain the absence of all notice of the manors of Meriet and Lopene in the Inquisition taken in Somerset on George de Meriet's death. It should also be borne in mind that, at the time of his decease, Margaret, his widowed mother, was surviving, and holding in dower the hamlets of Lopene and Stratton, with part of the demesne lands of the manor of Meriet, and the advowsons of the church of Bokland (St. Mary), Somerset, and of the chapel of Carlton, Co. Lincoln.

In April, 2 E. III. 1328, George de Meriet obtained the King's license on payment of a fine of one mark (13s. 4d.), to give and assign 20 acres of land, 5 acres of meadow and pasture—sufficient for the keep of two heifers, two oxen, and two cows, with the appurtenances in Castle-Carleton, Great Carleton, and Ryston—parcel of his manor of Castle-Carleton, of the annual value of 6s. 10d., to the chaplain of the chapel of St. John Baptist of Castle-Carleton, and his successors, celebrants of the said chapel, in augmentation of his maintenance. Besides the lands thus given, there remained to the said George de Meriet—not including lands and tenements in other counties—the manor of Castel-Carleton, which was held of the King in chief by military service, and worth £40 per annum [Inquisition, 2 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 66].

By Inquisition taken at Crukern, Somerset, 17 December, 2 E. III. (1328)—pursuant to Writs of '*diem clausit*'—dated 6 November in the same year, it was found that George de Meriet, at the time of his decease, was not seised of any lands in Somerset in his demesne as of fee, but that he and Isabel, his wife, were—by Fine duly levied—jointly enfeoffed, for the term of their lives, of 27 messuages, 3 carucates of land, 40 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 7s. 10d. rent in Meriet (as is already recited), all which were worth £14 per annum, and held of the King in chief, by the service of one knight's fee; that John, son of the said George de Meriet, was his next heir, aged—at the date of making the inquisition—seven weeks; and that the advowson of the church of Meriet appertained to the King by reason of the minority of the said heir, and was worth £20 per annum. (According to the above dates, his son and heir was born on or about 28 October, 1328). By another Inquisition—pursuant to a like Writ—taken at Castle Carlton, Co. Lincoln, on Monday, 21 November, 2 E. III. (1328)—it was found that the same George de Meriet held in his demesne, as of fee, the manor of Castel Carleton with its appurtenances, of the King in chief, by the third part

of a knight's fee, together with lands and tenements in Riston and Carleton; that he died on 5 November last past, and that John de Meriet was his son and nearest heir, of the age—at the date of the inquisition—of twenty-eight days. (According to these dates, John de Meriet, the son and heir, was born on or about the 24 October, 1328.) [Inq. p.m. 2 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 48.]

(16). **Isabel,** wife and widow of George de Meriet of Castle-Carleton, and afterwards wife and widow of Sir John de Kirketon, chivaler. In the Mandamus, dated 8 July, 43 E. III. (1369), for issuing writs on her death, she is styled '*Isabella que fuit uxor Georgii de Meriet*' [Fines Roll, 43 E. III. m. 5]; but in the Writ of '*diem clausit*,' directed to Walter de Kelby, the escheator in Co. Lincoln, bearing date 12 October, 43 E. III. (1369), she is styled '*Isabella que fuit uxor Johis de Kirketon, chivaler.*' By the pursuant Inquisition, taken at Horncastle, Co. Lincoln, 20 October following, it was found that the said Isabel, '*que fuit uxor Georgii de Meriet*,' held, at the time of her death, of the King in chief, by military service, for the term of her life, a third part of the manor of Castel-Carleton, with its appurtenances, Co. Lincoln, in dower from the said George de Meriet, of the inheritance of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler (her son); which third part was of the annual value of £8. 17s. 4d. The said Isabel died on 3 July in the same year (1369), and John, son of the aforesaid Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, was her nearest heir of the said third part, because the said Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, of whose inheritance she held the said third part, was son and heir of the said George de Meriet, her former husband. It was also found that the same John, son of George de Meriet, died on Tuesday next after Michaelmas-day, 43 E. III. (2 October, 1369, which would be within three weeks of the date of taking the present Inquisition), and so the aforesaid John, son of the same John son of George, became the nearest heir of the same Isabel, and also of the aforesaid John, son of George, as well to the

third part of the said manor held in dower by the aforesaid Isabel for her life, as to the remaining two-thirds of the said manor which his father the aforesaid John, son of George, held in fee by inheritance after the death of the said George, which said two-thirds were likewise held of the King in chief by military service. And the aforesaid John, the son and heir of the same John, was (at the time of making the Inquisition) of the age of 23 years and upwards [Inq. p.m. 43 E. III. p. 1, (1 nrs) no. 60.

(17). Sir John de Kirketon, chivaler. Pursuant to a Writ of '*diem clausit*,' dated 27 February, 41 E. III. (1366-7), and directed to Walter de Kelby, the escheator in Co. Lincoln, an Inquisition on his death was taken at Horncastle, on Thursday, in the first week in Lent, 41 E. III. (4 March, 1366-7), when it was found that the said John de Kirketon, chivaler, held no lands or tenements in the said county in his demesne as of fee, but that he held of the King by the service of one knight's fee and an annual rent of 40s., the castle and manor of Tateshale (Tattershall), with the appurtenances in Tateshale, Thorp, Parva Stretton, and Merton, for the term of his life, from Ralph de Cromwell and Matilda his wife, who demised the same for that purpose to Thomas de Wyke, clerk, Thomas de Kirkeby, parson of the church of Tateshale, Henry Asty, John de Wyke, and William Stel, with reversion over to the same Ralph de Cromwell and Matilda, and the heirs of the said Matilda. In like manner, he held for his life the manor of Tumby with its appurtenances, in Marum (Mareham le Fen), the manor of Kirby on Baine, and lands in Woodhall, Langton by Thornton, Trusthorp, Sutton by Merkeby, Malteby by Strubby, and Wynthorp, and the manor of Sixell. The jury also found that he held, together with Isabel his wife, in right of her dower from George de Meriet, knight *(sic)*, her former husband, a third part of the manor of Castel-Carleton with the appurtenances: which manor was held of the King in chief by the service of a fifth part of one

knight's fee, and the said third part thereof was of the annual value of £10. It was also found that he held, together with the said Isabel his wife, the manor of Kirketon-in-Holand, Co. Lincoln, for their joint lives by demise from Ralph, parson of the church of Broughton, and Thomas, parson of the church of Tateshale, with reversion over to John de Littelbyrs and his heirs; and the said Sir John de Kirketon, chivaler, and Isabel his said wife, accordingly, attorned to the said John de Lyttelbyrs, acknowledging his right of lordship: which manor of Kirketon was held of Sir William de Huntyngfeld, chivaler, by the service of a third part of a knight's fee, and worth 20 marks per annum. The said Sir John de Kirketon died 20 February in the same year (1366-7), and Sir John de Ludeham, chivaler, John de Lyttelbyrs, John de Tylnaye, and William de Sutton, parson of the church of Whitewell, were his nearest heirs, and all of full age [Inq. p.m. 41 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 38]. He therefore died s.p.

(18). **Eleanor,** first wife of Sir John de Meriet, kt. senior. Their marriage must have taken place in or before 1345, as John de Meriet, her son and heir, was born in the spring of 1346, [see (23) of these notes]. Eleanor was younger daughter of John de Beauchamp, 3d Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, Somerset, and sister and (in her son) coheir of John, 4th and last baron of that stock, whom she pre-deceased, which John died on 7th or 8th October, 1361, in his 31st year, having been born 20 January, 3 E. III. (1329-30) [Prob. ætat. 24 E. III.; Inq. p.m. of John de Beauchamp de Somerset, 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 36; Inq. p.m. of Margaret, widow of John, 3d Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 35; Inq. p.m. of Alice, widow of John, 4th Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, 7 R. II. no. 39; Dugdale's Bar. I. 254; Dodsworth's MSS. 130, fol. 48b; Harl. MSS. 1052, fols. 113b, 114, and Harl. MSS. 4120, fols. 173, 174, 218].

(19). **Sir John de Meriet, Kt. Senior.** He was born between 24 and 29 October, 1328, son and heir of George de

Meriet of Castle-Carlton [see (15) of these notes]. The custody of his lands, if not the guardianship of his person, during his nonage, was committed by the King to Sir Gilbert Talbot, as we learn from a petition (in French) of John de Sencler and Alice his wife to the King in Council, in 8 E. III. (1334), complaining that, whereas an Assize was levied at their instance against John, son of George de Meriet, and others named in their brief, concerning the turning the course of the stream in Meriet, which was to the detriment of their free tenement in Cheselberg, whereby the profit of their water-mill in Cheselberg had been diminished to the average amount of 10 marks (£6. 13s. 4d) every year since the turning of the stream; and because the King had committed the custody of the manor of Meriet, which is held of him in chief, to Sir Gilbert Talbot during the nonage of John, the son of George de Meriet, the justices, on being shewn the King's grant, declined to hold the required assize: they, therefore, pray remedy. Whereupon, a Precept under the Great Seal was issued to the said Justices of Assize to make inquiry, and—if it could be proved to them that the turning of the said water-course was not done after the death of the said George de Meriet by the said John de Meriet, son of George, and others named in the said Brief of John de Sencler and Alice his wife—to proceed therein according to law. [Petitions in Parliament, 8 E. III. no. 57; from the Hale MSS. as printed in the '*Rotuli Parliamentorum*,' &c., II. 86^{b}].

Sir John de Meriet had married Matilda, his second wife, in or before May, 1362, as at that date he, as Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, for a fine of £20, obtained a license [Originalia Rolls, 36 E. III. rot 41] to convey his manors of Lopene and Stratton, Somerset, to Robert Sambourne, parson of the church of Meryet, and John Ford, to hold to the use of himself and Matilda his then wife for their lives, with remainder to his right heirs [Inq. 36 E. III. (2 nrs), no. 56].

On 26 June, 1360, Sir John de Meriet, Kt., presented to

the church of Meryet, John de Risingdon, on an exchange of churches with Robert de Sambourn for that of Ievele (Yeovil); and on 10 July, 1362, Robert de Sambourne was, accordingly, presented to the church of Ievele by Richard, Earl of Arundel [Harl. MSS. 6964, pp. 152 and 150].

On 11 March, 1361, Sir John de Meryet, Kt., presented Richard Beufitz to the church of Gosbradene, by reason of the minority of Henry, son and heir of Richard Bidewell [Harl. MSS. 6964, p. 145]. He is called *John de Meriet, Kt., senior,* in Close Roll, 21 R. II. pt. 2, m. 5; in Inq. p.m. of Matilda, his widow, who re-married Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., 21 R. II. no. 5, and in Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 15d.

Writs of '*diem clausit*' on the death of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, dated 12 October, 43 E. III. (1369), were directed to the escheators of Somerset and Lincolnshire. Accordingly, an Inquisition was taken at Horncastle, Co. Lincoln, before Walter de Kelby, the escheator, 20 October, 43 E. III. (1369, —being the same day and place when and where the Inquisition on his mother's death was taken: see (16) of these notes) —when it was found that Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, deceased, held in his demesne two-thirds of the manor of Castel-Carlton of the King in chief, and the reversion of the remaining third part, which Isabel (his mother), who was wife of George de Meriet, his father, held in dower for the term of her life— of the inheritance of him, the said John de Meriet. The entire manor of Castel-Carleton was worth 40 marks (£26. 13s. 4d.) per annum. And the said Sir John de Meriet died at Calais, on Tuesday next after the Feast of St. Michael in the same year (2 October, 1369), and John, son of the aforesaid John de Meriet, was his nearest heir, of the age of 25 years and more. (This is an example of the inaccuracy which not unfrequently occurs in the Inquisitiones post mortem as to the age of the heir—as is shewn, in this instance, in (23) of these notes)— [Inq. p.m., 43 E. III. pt. 2 (1 nrs) no. 2].

The Somersetshire Inquisition, returned into Chancery, has

been much damaged and the greater portion torn off, and only a few words in each line near the left margin now remain. But, fortunately, a transcript of it exists in the Escheator's Accounts sent into the Exchequer, from which the following abstract is taken:—Pursuant to Writ (as above noted), an Inquisition was taken at Montagu (Montacute), Somerset, 7 November, 43 E. III. (1369), before William Cheyne, the escheator, on the oaths of John Bruyn, John Peytevyn, Richard Pointton, Robert Atte-Yerd, John Peny, Robert Hare, John Beyvyn, Maurice Homere, Robert Coker, John Lopenford, William Wayne and Robert Hayward,—when it was found that the said Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, at the time of his death, held in his demesne, as of fee, the manor of Meryet, with the advowsons of the church of the same manor, and of the church of Boclond St. Mary, of the King in chief, by military service, of the annual value of £30. 4s. 4d. He also held—together with Matilda, his wife who still survived,—for their lives, with remainder to his heirs, the manors of Lopene and Stratton, with the appurtenances, of the King in chief, by military service, worth per annum 20 marks (£13. 6s. 8d.) He held no other lands, &c., in the said county, and he died on 2 October, 43 E. III. (1369), and John de Meryet, his son, was his next heir, of the age of 23 years and more. [Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 42–44 E. III. William Cheyne, escaetor; group VII.]—(marked '*5 T*' in pencil).

On 26 January, 49 E. III. (1374–5), a Writ of '*Certiorari*' was directed to Walter Cyfrewast, the escheator in Somerset, to ascertain the true value of all the military fees held of the King in chief and of the advowsons, of which this Sir John Meriet, chivaler, died possessed. Accordingly, an Inquisition was taken at Crukern, 7 February following, which contains full particulars as to the names of the sub-tenants, the extent and value of their holdings, the military service due thereon, and the locality of the fees. Out of the thirteen

several fees therein recorded, the following are taken as most worthy of notice:—(1) Sir John Chydyok, chivaler, the Abbot of Cerne, Andrew Crull, John Not, Alice Cary, and Roger Hore, held of John Meriet at the time of his death, two carucates of land in Atram (in the parishes of Netherbury and Whitchurch Canonicorum), Dorset, of the annual value of 100s., by the service of half a knight's fee; (2) John Cary held of him one carucate of land in Kingesdon of the annual value of 20s., by the service of a fourth of a knight's fee; (3) Sir John Weyland, chivaler, held of him a carucate of land in Hassokmore by South Pederton of the annual value of 60s., by the service of half a knight's fee; (4) John Hendynge held of him a carucate of land at Clystwelme, Devon, of the annual value of 26s. 8d., by the fifth of a knight's fee; (5) John Glastyngbury held of him a carucate of land in Gosebradene of the annual value of 40s., by the fifth of a knight's fee; (8) Sir William Cogan, chivaler, held of him half a virgate of land in Stratton of the annual value of 6s. 8d., by the sixth of a knight's fee; (10) Sir Guy de Bryan, chivaler, held of him a virgate of land in Kingesdon of the annual value of 13s. 4d., by the fifth of a knight's fee; (12) Stephen Derby, John Lough, and Richard Atte-Welle held of him a carucate, and half a virgate of land with the water-mill in Meriet of the annual value of 10s., by the fourth of a knight's fee. And the jury further said that the advowsons of the churches of Meriet and Bockland St. Mary—of the annual value (respectively) of 20 marks (£13. 6s. 8d.) and 10 marks (£6. 13s. 4d.)—were of the patronage of the said John Meriet.

On the back of the document a memorandum is written to the effect that, in consequence of this Inquisition a Writ was directed to the same escheator to assign to Matilda the widow of Sir John Meriet, chivaler, in the presence of John Dekne, clerk—whom Richard de Ravenser suffered to act as attorney for the said Matilda,—and in the presence of John Meriet, the

son and heir of the same John Meriet, the reasonable dower coming to her out of the fees and advowsons therein mentioned. [Inq. 49 E. III. pt. 2 (1 nrs) no. 15.]

(20). **Matilda**, second wife of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, Senior, and executrix of his will. [De Banco Roll, Michmas, 19 R. II. m. 517.] In May, 1362, Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, settled a life estate upon her in his manors of Lopene and Stratton (as is already noticed). This settlement was confirmed by her step-son, Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, 7 February, 47 E. III. (1372-3), at which time she was wife of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, chivaler. [Inq. 3 R. II. no. 96.]

After the death of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., Senior, her first husband, which happened (as is already shown) on 2 October, 1369, the King by his precept, dated 12 November, 43 E. III. (1369), directed William Cheyne, the escheator in Somerset, to give her immediate possession of the manors of Lopene and Stratton, inasmuch as she held the same conjointly with Sir John de Meriet for the term of their lives with remainder to Sir John's heirs, and had already done fealty for the same since her husband's death. [Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 42–44 E. III. William Cheyne, escheator, (marked '*46 T*' in pencil).]

Two assignments of dower were made to her in her first widowhood—one by Indenture, entered into and dated at Meriet on Monday next after the feast of St. Andrew, Apostle, 43 E. III. (3 December, 1369), between William Cheygny, the escheator in Somerset of the first part; the counsel of Sir John de Meriet the son and heir of Sir John de Meriet, of the second part; and Matilda, the widow of the said Sir John de Meriet, senior, of the third part, whereby the said escheator, pursuant to the King's writ, delivered to the aforesaid Sir John de Meriet the son and heir, possession of two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, together with the advowson of the church of the same manor and the presentation thereto which appertained to the said two-thirds, for his turn, whenever the vacancy

should occur; and to the said Matilda—for her dower, contingent on the death of the aforesaid Sir John, her husband—he delivered possession of the remaining third part of the said manor of Meriet, together with the advowson of the church of the same manor and the presentation thereto which appertained to the said third part, for her turn, whenever the vacancy should occur. [Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 15 dorse.] The other assignment of dower to Matilda, the widow of Sir John Meryot, chivaler, deceased, was made at Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, on Tuesday next after Epiphany, 44 E. III. (7 January, 1370–1), out of the manor and capital mansion of Castel-Carleton. [Close Roll, 42 E. III. m. 1, dorse.] In each of these assignments of dower, minute particulars and descriptions are given.

Matilda married for her second husband, Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., in or before 1371, by whom she had no issue, [see below (21) of these notes].

Shortly after the death of Sir Thomas de Bokeland her second husband, she—in her pure widowhood—on 10 March, 2 R. II. (1378–9), conveyed her life estate in the manors of Lopene and Stratton, and in a third part of the manor of Meriet, which latter she held in dower, to Sir William de Botreaux, chivaler, Walter Clopton, and John Dekne, to hold for the term of her life. From an Inquisition taken at Taunton, on 18 May, 3 R. II. (1380), before William Style, the escheator in Somerset by virtue of his office; and from Pleadings 'coram Rege' in chancery, at Northampton, on the morrow of St. Martin's Day, 4 R. II. (12 November, 1380), it appears that after the death of Sir John de Meriet, her first husband, her step-son, Sir John de Meriet, Junior, being seised of (the reversion in fee of) the manors of Lopene and Stratton, gave the said manors on 16 August, 46 E. III. (1372), to Sir Guy de Briene, chivaler, Sir William de Bonville, chivaler, Henry Molyns, and John Stokes, in fee, and that they, on 7 February following, granted them, with all the appurtenances, to Sir Thomas

de Bokelond, chivaler, and Matilda his wife, to hold during the life of the aforesaid Matilda (thereby confirming her life estate in the same created by her first husband's settlement in 1362), both the above conveyances being made without previously obtaining the King's license of alienation; that the said Matilda, afterwards, in her pure widowhood, on 10 March, 2 R. II. (1378–9), demised her life estate in the said manor, or manors, of Lopene and Stratton, and in a third part of the manor of Meriet—of which latter she was seised in dower after the death of Sir John de Meriet her former husband—to Sir William de Botreaux, chivaler, Walter Clopton, and John Dekne, to hold for the term of her life, as is above recited; and that, at the time of taking the Inquisition, the said manor of Lopene was worth £20 per annum, and the said third part of the manor of Meriet, 20 marks (£13. 6s. 8d.). [Inquisitions 3 R. II. no. 96.]

We further learn from Pleadings 'coram Rege' in Chancery, on the morrow of St. Martin's Day, 5 R. II. (12 November, 1381), that, by Inquisition taken ex officio by William Style the escheator in Somerset, at Yvelchestre, 5 August, 5 R. II. (1381), it was found that Matilda, the widow of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, demised to John Punchard and Alice his wife, for the term of their lives, a water-mill called '*le Newe Mulle*,' with its appurtenances in Great Stratton, worth 26s. 8d. per annum; and to John Spore and Editha his wife, and Andrew Spore their son, for their three lives, a garden with its appurtenances in Great Stratton, worth 16s. 8d. per annum, without obtaining the King's license, the said mill and garden being held of the King in chief. The allegation being disputed on the part of the said Matilda by her attorney, John de Fitelton, a day in the quinzaine of St. Martin following was appointed for hearing the case, *coram Rege*, wherever he might be in England, and doing what should be just therein. [Inquisition 5 R. II. no. 90, and Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 3–5 R. II. William Style, escheator.]

Pursuant to a writ of '*diem clausit*,' dated 16 March, 21 R. II. (1397–8), an Inquisition on her death—as Matilda, widow of Sir Thomas de Boukelond, chivaler—was taken at Crukern, Somerset, before Thomas Bathe the escheator, on 23d of the same month, when it was found that she held in chief by military service, for the term of her life, the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton by the feoffment [see (19) of these notes] of Robert Sambourne, cleric (parson of the church of Meriet), and John Ford, in 1362, to Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, and the aforesaid Matilda, at that time his wife, with remainder to Sir John's heirs in fee; she also held of the King in chief, in dower by dotation from the aforesaid Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, a third part of the manor of Meriet, with reversion to Sir John de Meriet, junior, son and heir of the said John de Meriet, senior.

The Inquisition then recites that the said John de Meriet, the son—being so seised of the reversion of the said manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton and of the third part of the manor of Meriet, and of the fee in possession of the remaining two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, with other lands and tenements, by a fine levied in the King's court at Westminster (see Fin. Conc. Somerset, Micmas 47 and Micmas, 50 E. III. no. 88)—granted the whole to Sir Edmund de Arundell, Kt. (William de Boneville, Robert James), Henry Molyns, John Bevyn (and John Stokes), and the heirs of the said Henry Molyns; that, afterwards, the said Henry Molyns released all his right in the same to the said Edmund de Arundell and John Bevyn; that all the above grantees, excepting John Bevyn, were dead, and that then the aforesaid John Bevyn, the sole surviving feoffee, by a fine levied in the King's court (see Fin. Conc. Somerset, Easter 20 R. II. nos. 82 and 83), granted the reversion of one moiety of the said manors of Great Lopene, Great Stratton, and Meriet to Sir William Boneville, Kt. and Margaret his wife, for life, with remainders in tail-male to his sons Thomas, Hugh and William

Boneville in succession, failing which, with remainder to the heirs of the bodies of the said Sir William and Margaret; and the reversion of the other moiety of the same manors to Sir Humphry Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife, and their issue, failing which, with remainder to the said Elizabeth's right heirs, the King's license of alienation for both moieties having been previously obtained; and that the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton were worth 26 marks (£17. 6s. 8d) per annum, and the third part of the manor of Meriet was worth (illegible) . . . per annum. The jury also found that the said Matilda died on Monday next before the festival of St. Gregory the Pope last past (11 March, 1397–8), and George de Meriet was her son and nearest heir, of the age of 30 years and more. [Inq. p.m. 21 R. II. no. 5, and Close Roll 21 R. II. pt. 2, m. 12.]

She was buried in the parish church of St. Peter of South Pederton, Somerset. [Will of her son, George Meriet, Esq., 1410, Register '*Marche,*' fol. 166–7 in the Prerog. Cŕt. of Canterbury.]

Four weeks before her death, Matilda, as relict of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., by deed dated at Lopene, the Monday next after the feast of St. Scholastica, virgin, 21 R. II. (11 February, 1397–8), remitted and quit-claimed to Thomas de Meriet, her son, the whole of the manors of North-Stanlynch and Langeford, Wilts, with all lands, &c., to hold the same for ever. [Bodleian Charters: Wilts, no. 26.]

(21). Sir Thomas de Bokelond, or Bouclonde, chivaler, of Radelynch, Wilts, and Nether Wallop, and other lands, co. Southampton and Wilts. He married Matilda, widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, in or before 1371, as by deed, bearing date 6th May in that year, he conveyed to Robert de Samborn, parson of the church of Ievele (Yeovil), John de Waltham, parson of the church of Up-Wallop, and John Newe, chaplain, his manors of Monekebury in Up-Wallop, Bouclonde in Nether-Wallop, Berghton (Broughton), and

lands and tenements in Motesfont, co. Southampton, which descended to him by inheritance on the death of his brother, John de Bouclonde; and they by their deed, dated 20 May following, granted to Richard de Ravenser, archdeacon of Lincoln and John Ravenser, cleric, £40 of yearly rent for life, to be taken and received out of the said manors and lands; and by their further deed, dated 31 July following, the said Robert de Samborn, John de Waltham, and John Newe, regranted and confirmed to the same Sir Thomas de Bouclonde, Kt., and Matilda his wife, and the heirs and assigns of Sir Thomas, the manors of Monekebury in Up-Wallop, Bouclonde in Nether-Wallop, and Berghton, with all lands and tenements in Motesfont as is aforesaid, which they had of his gift and enfeoffment, to have and to hold to them, Thomas and Matilda, and the heirs and assigns of the said Thomas for ever, with warranty. Thereto they appended their seals, in the presence of Sir Hugh Camoys, Kt., Sir Hugh Tirel, Kt., Peter de Brugge, William de Houghton, Edward Spercot, John Wallop, John Trenchard, and others. [Close Roll 45 E. III. memb's. 12 and 14 dorse.]

It has been already shewn in note (20) that on 16 August, 1372, 46 E. III., Sir John de Meriet, Kt. (son and heir of Sir John de Meriet, senior, deceased), conveyed the manors of Lopene and Great Stratton to Sir Guy de Briene, Sir William de Boneville, chivalers, Henry Molyns and John Stokes in fee, to hold to the use of Sir Thomas de Bokelond, chivaler, and Matilda his wife, for the term of the said Matilda's life, and the said feoffees confirmed her life estate in the same by their deed, dated 7 February, 47 E. III. 1373. [Inq. 3 R. II. no. 96.]

By a fine levied in Michaelmas term 1377, between Sir Thomas de Bouclonde, chivaler, and Matilda his wife, querents, and George de Meriet (her eldest son), John Edward, cleric, and John Dekne, (cleric), deforciants, the said Sir Thomas de Bouclonde conveyed to the latter his manors of Up-

Wallop and Nether-Wallop, a carucate of land in Burghton (Broughton), co. Southampton, his manor of Radelynche, and 60 acres of land and 6 acres of meadow in Beaupers, Wilts, to hold to the use of him, Sir Thomas, and Matilda his said wife and their joint issue: failing which, with remainder to John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, and their joint issue; failing which, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, Michmas, 1 R. II. case 8, no. 4.]

Sir Richard Colt Hoare, in his History of Modern Wilts, under the *Hundred of Downton*, iii. 44, states that John Wroth of Enfield, Middlesex, who died in 20 R. II., married Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., of Radelynch, by Matilda his wife. This assertion cannot apply to the Matilda treated of above, who survived him: for though Sir Thomas de Bokeland may have been married more than once, it is expressly stated in the inquisition on his death (see below) that he died without issue. But, as this finding of the jury may have been restricted to the question of issue by Matilda his relict, it is possible that Margaret Wroth may have been his daughter by a former wife.

Writs of '*diem clausit*' on his death were issued on 28 January, 2 R. II. (1378-9), to Thomas Illeston, the escheator in the counties of Wilts and Southampton. By the pursuant Inquisition, taken at New Sarum, Wilts, on Thursday next after the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra, 2 R. II. (24 February 1378-9), it was found that Sir Thomas de Bokeland, chivaler, deceased, held no lands, &c., of the King in chief as of fee in the said county, but that he held of the Bishop of Winchester, service unknown, the manor of Wodefolde (Woodfield near Downton), for the term of his life, with remainder to John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, and their joint issue; failing which, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs; and the said manor was worth 100s. per annum. He also held of the Bishop of Winchester by military service, the manor of Radelynche (near Downton), with 60 acres of land and 6 acres

of meadow in Beaupers, to hold to himself and Matilda his wife and their joint issue, which Matilda was surviving; with remainder—failing such issue—to John Wroth and Margaret his wife and their joint issue; and failing such issue with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs; and the said manor of Radelynche and land &c. in Beaupers were worth 100s. per annum. The aforesaid Sir Thomas de Bokeland died '*sine herede de corpore suo procreato*,' on 19 January last past (1378-9), and John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, she being of the age of 40 years and more, were his nearest heirs.

The Inquisition in the county of Southampton, was taken at Winchester, on Monday next before the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra, 2 R. II. (21 February, 1378-9), when it was found that Sir Thomas de Bokeland, chivaler, deceased, held no lands, &c., of the King in chief as of fee, but that some time before his death (in 1377) [Inq. 51 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 17] he gave the manor of Broklè (near Lymyngton), which he held of the King in chief by military service, and worth £6. 13s. 4d. per annum, to Mr. John Gilden (or Gulden), John Edward, cleric, John Colyngburne, and John Dekne (cleric), and their heirs; who, thereupon, regranted to Sir Thomas an estate therein in fee tail, viz., to hold to him and the heirs of his body; failing which with remainder to John Wroth and Margaret his wife and their joint issue; and failing such issue, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. He also had at the time of his death an estate in fee-tail in the manors of Up-Wallop and Nether-Wallop in the aforesaid county, held to himself and Matilda his wife—who still survived—and their joint issue; failing which, with remainder to John Wroth and Margaret his wife and their joint issue; and failing such issue, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. And the said manors were held in chief by fee-farm of the Prior of Noion (in France) and Treasurer of York, and were worth 100s. per annum. He also had an estate in fee-tail, and subject to the same conditions as those

affecting the two manors of Wallop, in a messuage and one carucate of land in Burghton (Broughton), which were held of the master of God's House in Portsmouth, in chief by the service of paying 8s. per annum, and worth 20s. per annum.

It has been already noticed that the conversion of his fee-simple estate in the two manors and land last above-mentioned, and in the manor of Radelynche and land in Beaupers, Wilts, into an estate in fee-tail was effected by the fine that Sir Thomas and Matilda his wife levied in Michaelmas, 1377: which was evidently done to provide a suitable maintenance for his wife in case she should survive him.

It was also found that he had an estate in fee-tail in two messuages and one carucate of land and 16 acres of meadow in Stokebrigge held of the Duke of Lancaster, service unknown, of the value of 10s. per annum, held to himself and Matilda his wife—who still survived—and their joint issue; failing such issue, with remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. He held no other lands, &c., in the aforesaid county, and he died '*sine herede de corpore suo procreato*,' on 19 January last past (1378-9), and John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, she being of the age of 40 years and more, were his nearest heirs. [Inq. p.m. 2 R. II. no. 12.]

(22). **Joan,** first wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior. Her husband—as John, son of John de Meriet and '*consanguineus*' and heir of John de Beauchamp of Somerset—conveyed his manor of Welweton, near Midsomer-Norton, Somerset, to Sir Laurence St. Martin and Robert Louch, in fee, to hold the same to the use of himself, Johanna his wife and their joint issue, with remainders, first to his own issue, then to the issue of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler (his father), and lastly to his own right heirs. This conveyance was made under the sanction of an Inquisition *ad quod dampnum*, taken at Montacute on 6 June, 42 E. III. (1368), by William Cheyne, the escheator of Somerset, by virtue of a writ dated 22 May, 42 E. III. (1368). [Inq. 42 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 40.] Connected

with this matter his father, as Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, and he as John, son of John de Meriet, entered into their several recognizances, dated 23 May, 1368, to pay to Sir Laurence St. Martin, chivaler, sums of £1,000 each, in the quinzaine of Michaelmas next to come. [Close Roll 42 E. III. m. 7 in dorso.] From this we may infer that Joan's marriage took place shortly before this date. She died without surviving issue in or before 1373, as is shewn below in note (23).

(23). **Sir John de Meriet, Kt.,** Junior. The writ for taking proof of his age, wherein he is styled '*Johannes filius Johannis de Meriet, consanguineus et unus heredum Johannis de Beauchamp de Somerset defuncti,*' is dated 20 May, 42 E. III. (1368), and directed to William Cheyne the escheator of Somerset. By the pursuant probate taken at Montague (Montacute), 6 June following, on the oaths of John Leddrede, John Toner, John Knyght, John Cothull, John Fosse, John Gyge, Robert atte Yard, Henry Molyns, Robert Coker, John Burty, Nicholas Dynyngton and Henry Estfeld, it was found that he was born on Friday, in the vigil of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, 22 years before, viz., in the 20th year of the King's reign (24 March, 1345-6), and baptised in the church of Dondene, and Alianore was his mother. [Inq. 42 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 81.]

His mother's brother, John, fourth Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, died 8 October, 1361, s.p., when Cecilia de Seymour, his sister, and this John de Meriet, son of his deceased sister Alianor, or Eleanor, were his nearest heirs. [Inq. p.m. 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 36.] But as John de Meriet was under age at that time, his share of the inheritance of the Beauchamp manors and lands was committed to the guardianship of Philippa, the King's Consort. After having proved his age, as is above shewn, and doing fealty for his purparty of the Beauchamp inheritance, full seisin thereof was granted to him by the King's precept, directed to the several escheators in the counties of Somerset, Devon, Cambridge, Wilts, Berks,

Gloucester, Kent, and Surrey, dated 16 July, 1368, his homage being respited to the feast of St. Michael next following. [Close Roll 42 E. III. m. 11 recto.] Besides other manors and lands thus inherited from the Beauchamps, he came into possession of the manors of Welweton in Midsomer-Norton, and a moiety of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, and Dullyngham, co. Cambridge.

By deed, dated at London on Monday next after St. Martin's day, 42 E. III. (13 Nov. 1368), he granted the manor of Dullynham, with its appurtenances called Beauchamps, co. Cambridge, to Sir Aubrey de Veer, Kt., John de Sudbury, Robert de Naylynghurst, cleric, and Clement Spice, to hold to them and the heirs and assigns of the said Robert de Naylynghurst, with warranty. [Close Roll 42 E. III. m. 7, in dorso.]

On the death of his grandmother, Margaret, widow of John, 3d Lord Beauchamp of Hacche, 21 November, 1361, he succeeded to the inheritance of the manors of (Compton)-Dondene and Brode-Mershton, Somerset. [Inq. 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 35.]

On 22 May, 1368, two days after the writ for taking probate of his age was issued, he, as John, son of John de Meriet and cousin and heir of John de Beauchamp of Somerset, obtained a writ of inquiry whether it would be to the King's damage to grant him leave to convey the manor of Welweton to feoffees to hold to the use of himself and Joan his wife and their joint issue, with remainders over, 1st to the heirs of his body, 2d to the heirs of the body of John de Meryet, chivaler (his father), and 3d to his own right heirs (see (22) of these notes). [Inq. 42 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 40.]

A precept, dated 15 November, 43 E. III. (1369), was issued to William Cheyne, the escheator in Somerset, to deliver to John, the son of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, deceased, full seisin of all the lands and tenements of which his father was seised in his demesne as of fee, after taking security from the said John de Meriet, the son, for the payment of his relief into the exchequer:—reciting that, whereas Sir John de Meriet

(the father), deceased, who held of the King in chief, was in attendance on the King in his military expedition beyond sea and was there tarrying at the time of his death, the King had respited the son's homage and fealty to the octaves of Hilary next future (January, 1369-70). [Exchequer: Escheators' Inquisitions, &c., Somerset and Dorset, 42–44 E. III., William Cheyne, escheator (marked '*51 T*' in pencil).]

The following interesting particulars respecting Lopen fair are derived from a mutilated record in the same series of Accounts and Inquisitions, 42–44 E. III., delivered into the Exchequer by William Cheyne, the escheater in Somerset. Though the year of the King's reign, with other particulars towards the right hand margin of the parchment, is torn off, there is internal evidence to show that this Inquisition could not have been taken earlier than 44 E. III., 1370, consequently it may be assigned to that year. William Cheyne became escheator in Somerset and Dorset, in succession to John de Bekynton, 27 December, 41 E. III., 1367, and resigned the office to Edmund Cheyne, 11 November, 45 E. III., 1371, and the bundle, or file, of his Escheator's Accounts and Inquisitions, delivered to the King's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, comprises the years 42–44 E. III., that is from the commencement of his term of office at the close of the year 1367 to the end of 1370, or 24 January following, which would close the regnal year 44 E. III.

By Inquisition, taken at Montagu (Montacute), Somerset, 6 June [44 E. III. 1370], before William Cheyne the escheator, on the oaths of John Burnel, (2) Robert Goulde, (3) Geoffey (4) (5) John Lopeneford, (6) John Burnel de Chilton, (7) John Denebaud, (8) John Hamelyn, (9) Thomas Dynham, (10) William Maio[r, (11) (12) (Totten)esse], it was found that John de Meriet, the great grandfather (*'proavus'*) of John de Meriet that "now is" [was seised of a fair] appertaining to his manor of Lopene, which manor was held of the King in

chief; that on the death of the said John de Meriet, the great grandfather (in 1308), [see (12) of these notes] the said manor of Lopene, with its [appurtenances was seised] into the hand of the King (E. II.), father of the King that "now is," who granted the aforesaid fair to Gilbert Talbot, to farm, at the annual rent of 50s. [ ], so the said fair remained in the hand of the aforesaid King; and that the said fair of Lopene lasted for [seven days, viz., from the feast] of Pentecost till the morrow of Holy Trinity. They further said that a certain fair had, in the meanwhile, been newly set-up at Seint Wy[te, *White Down* near Chard?], and yearly held from the feast of Pentecost in 35 E. III. (1361) "till now," to the damage of the aforesaid fair of Lopene; and that Richard Cogan and Elizabeth de Clyvedon had annually received and taken the issues and profits of the aforesaid fair of Seint Wyte [from the feast of] Pentecost, in the year aforesaid (1361), to the "present time." In witness whereof, &c. [Exchequer: Escheators' Accounts and Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 42–44 E. III. William Cheyne, escheator, marked "*24 T*" in pencil.] In the absence of the writ designating the purpose for which the above Inquisition was taken, it may reasonably be assumed that John de Meriet, junior, after the death of his father in October, 1369, appealed to the King in council for a restoration to him of the issues and profits of the said fair of Lopen.

It has been already shewn [see note (14)] that in 1314, the King (E. II.) was guardian of the lands and heir of John de Meriet, deceased, who died in 1308; also that in 1328, George de Meriet, his son and heir [see note (15)], petitioned the King in council to have the ancient fairs and markets within his manors of Meriet and Lopen restored to him, which had been taken into the King's (E. I.) hand on the death of his grandfather; and likewise that, on the death of George de Meriet in 1328, the custody of the lands of his son and heir, John de Meriet, during his nonage, was granted [see note (19)]

to Sir Gilbert Talbot, who is evidently identical with the Gilbert Talbot named in the above Inquisition as crown farmer of the issues and profits of Lopen fair.

Regarding the two chartered fairs above mentioned, I am indebted to Dr. Norris of South Petherton for the following information :—

Lopen fair, anciently held for seven days from the feast of Pentecost till the morrow of Trinity Sunday, degenerated at a later period to a sort of festival called '*Lopen Play*,' held on Trinity Tuesday, when such sports as wrestling, single-stick, and cudgel playing took place. According to tradition, it was at '*Lopen Play*' that Cardinal Wolsey, when only a schoolmaster at Limington near Ilchester, in the time of H. VII., got drunk and disorderly, and was in consequence clapped in the stocks by the first Sir Amias Poulett of Hinton St. George. [Godwin's Annals, 28, and Collins's Peerage by Brydges, IV. 3.] About 71 years ago the western stage coaches from Exeter to London adopted the road from Ilminster to Ilchester as part of their route, when a road side public, or horse changing, house was built at White Cross—a short half mile to the north of the village of Lopen—at the junction of four cross-roads. To inaugurate the opening of this house, the Lopen fair sports were, for the first time, held at White Cross. Of late years—in order not to clash with the more important fair of Somerton—the day for holding Lopen Play has been altered to Trinity Wednesday. This annual festival has much dwindled, and now consists, mainly, of a gingerbread stall set-up in the village street.

The fair at St. Wyte, or White Down fair, is held annually on Whit-Monday and Tuesday, on a piece of waste land on the south side of White Down, adjoining Lord Bridport's lodge gate in the parish of Cricket St. Thomas, and distant about five miles from White-Cross in Lopen. At the present time a horse fair takes place on the first day, and one of live-stock on the second, when a good number of gipsy horses,

cattle and sheep are collected there. Within a century there was also a *Carriage-day*, as it was called, when, in fine weather, the gentry for many miles around met and disported themselves, feasting and dancing on the green sward. Wrestling, cudgel-playing, and single-stick prevailed there until a comparatively late date.

St. Whyte, or Wyte, virgin and martyr, registered in the Roman calendar 3 October by the name of S. Candida [Coker 16, 17], was a popular saint in this part of Somerset and in Dorset. According to William de Worcestre, her remains lie buried in a church, dedicated to her on the day of Pentecost, called after her '*Whyte chyrch*,' some miles from Cherde (Chard). [Nasmith, 90, and 163.] White-Down, three miles east of Chard, is supposed to be the site of this church.

But it appears from an article on St. White in a recent number of *Notes and Queries*, contributed by Canon Edmund Venables, that both the name and the Saint—by a process of transformation and impersonation—are derived from the exceptional use, in primitive times, of white stone in the structure of churches in lieu of wattle and daub; as for example, St. Ninian's church in Galloway, according to Bede, was called, '*Ad Candidam Casam*,' because it was built of stone. This is now Whithern, the white place. And so with regard to the various Whit churches scattered over England, the origin of the name is the same. It is one of these (Whitchurch Canonicorum in the vale of Marshwood between Bridport and Lyme) which has given birth to St. White, Sancta Candida, to whom the church was supposed to be dedicated, and whose sacred well was shown in the old topographer Coker's time. [*Notes and Queries*, 6th S. v. 455.]

In the year 1372, which was the third year after his father's death and the fourth after making proof of his age, Sir John de Meriet, junior, began to part with the manors and lands of his inheritance. It has been already shewn [note (20)] that

in August, 1372, he conveyed his estate in reversion in the manors of Lopen and Stratton to Sir Guy de Briene and Sir William Bonville and others in fee.

In the same year, as Sir John de Meriet, Kt., he obtained the King's license, on paying a fine of 60s., to grant to Henry Molyns, to hold for life, the manor of Brixham with its appurtenances in Devon, which manor came to him by inheritance, as co-heir of Sir John de Beauchamp of Somerset. [Originalia Rolls, 46 E. III. rot. 37.]

In the same year, Sir John Pert, chivaler, paid a fine of £40 for license to acquire from Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, the reversion of the manor of Castle-Carlton, co. Lincoln, after the death of Matilda, widow of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, senior, and then wife of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., to hold to Sir John Pert and Elena his wife and his heirs. [Originalia Rolls, 46 E. III. rot. 37.] This alienation was carried into effect 2 October, 47 E. III. (1373). [Inquisition pursuant to a Writ of '*Pluries*,' directed to the escheator in co. Lincoln, taken at Gaundford-brigge, 24 April, 1387, 10 R. II. no. 54.] After the death of Sir John Pert in 1386 [Inq. p.m. 10 R. II. no. 30], Elena, his widow, on 5 December, 1386, sold her life interest therein to Michael de-la-Pole, Earl of Suffolk, and others, for an annual rent of 100 marks (£66 13s. 4d); and three days after, viz., 8 December, 1386, Sir Robert Pert, Kt., son and heir of the said Sir John Pert, deceased, released and quit-claimed all his right in the same manor to the said Earl of Suffolk and others, their heirs and assigns. [Inq. 10 R. II. no. 54.]

On 12 April, 1373, as Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, he obtained a writ of inquiry '*ad quod dampnum*', regarding his granting a lease to John Canoun, or Canon, of Lopene, and Isolda his wife, for their lives, of a messuage, a water mill, and one carucate of land with the appurtenances in Meriet, at a nominal annual rent of a rose, with reversion to himself and his heirs. By the pursuant Inquisition, taken at Croukern on

Saturday next after the Nativity of the blessed Mary, 47 E. III. (10 September, 1373), before Adam atte-More, the escheator in Somerset, on the oaths of Robert Goulde, John Beyvyn, Thomas Dynham, John Lopenford, Nicholas Deyer, Hugh Trokel, Robert le Hare, William Davy, John Serle, William Donham, Roger . . . . . , and . . . . . Tottenesse, it was found that the granting of the said lease was not to the King's damage, and that the premises so granted were parcel of the manor of Meriet, which was held of the King in chief and worth per annum 26s. 8d. It was also found that over and above the said sum, there remained to the said John de Meriet two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, worth 100s. per annum; the manor of Brode Mersshton, held of the Earl of Hereford by military service, worth 66s. 8d. per annum; and the manor of Dondene, held of the Abbey of Glastonbury by military service and worth 100s. per annum. [Escheat 47 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 84.] From what follows it would appear that this estate for lives must have been enlarged into an estate in fee, for the said John Canon, after the death of Isolda his wife, and in contemplation of his marriage with Isabel, daughter of Robert Split, by deed dated 4 November, 1378, enfeoffed John Hayward, chaplain, and John Bulbek, to hold to the use of himself and the said Isabel and their joint issue, with remainder to himself and his right heirs, all his lands and tenements, and particularly the water mill at Le Bowe and Crepe in Meriet; one acre and a half of meadow in Lyvemore; ten acres and a half of meadow in Northdon in the parish of Meriet, and 6s. of rent arising out of a tenement called '*Bevynys-place*,' in Lopene, together with the reversion of a third part of all the aforesaid premises which Matilda, widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., was holding for the term of her life, and which premises were worth £10 per annum. But notwithstanding the above enfeoffment, the said John Canon, on Saturday before the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 3 R. II. (2 July, 1379), gave and

granted all the aforesaid lands and tenements, mill, meadow, rent and reversion to John Rodeston. [Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 3-5 R. II. William Style, escheator.]

By Inquisition, taken at Montacute, Somerset, on 16 August, 1395, it was found that John Rodeston, or Radeston, died on 13 April, 1395, holding in fee of the King in chief, a toft and 40 acres of land, which he bought of Sir John de Meriet in 1374, and 4 acres of meadow, all in Meryet, and worth 25s. per annum; and holding of Elizabeth (Matilda), widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., by military service, a messuage, 20 acres of land and 2 acres of meadow in Meryet, worth 10s. per annum. [Inq. p.m. 19 R. II. no. 39; Escheats 48 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 81, and 10 R. II. no. 60.]

We learn from proceedings taken in consequence of a writ of '*Certiorari*,' dated 20 November, 1387, that after the death of John Canon, Isabel his second wife and relict married, circa 1386, Richard Slade, who, in her right and during her life, held all the lands and tenements, the mill, meadows and pastures which the said John Canon formerly held at Le Bowe, Crepe and Northdon in the parish of Meryet; and that the said Richard Slade and Isabel his wife granted and demised the same to Sir Philip Courtenay, Kt., Walter Reynell, Robert Split, William Pencrich, William Hamond, and John Godfray, to hold during the life of the said Isabel. [Inquisition, 11 R. II. no. 70, and Fines Roll, 12 R. II. m. 28.] In Michaelmas term, 1395, John Hayward, chaplain, Richard Slade and Isabel his wife, as executors of the will of Robert Split her father, brought an action against Matilda, widow of Sir John Meryet, Kt., senior, and executrix of his will, to recover four marks. [De Banco Roll: Michaelmas 19 R. II. m. 517.]

Sir John Beauchamp of Somerset, who died 7 or 8 October, 1361, s.p., was seised in fee of the manors of Hacche-Beauchamp, Stoke-under-Hamedon, Stokelynch, Welweton, a moiety of the

manor of Shepton-Malet, and the advowsons of the churches of Shepton-Beauchamp, Hacche-Beauchamp, and Stokelynch-Maudeleyn, and of other parts of divers manors, lands, &c. in Somerset and elsewhere, leaving Alice, his wife, surviving, to whom an assignment of dower was made in Chancery of the manors of Stoke-under-Hamedon, Stokelynch, and a third part of a moiety of the manor of Shepton-Malet, and of the advowsons of the churches of Shepton-Beauchamp and Stokelynch. Afterwards, the said Alice (probably in contemplation of her marriage with Sir Matthew de Gourney), in her pure widowhood, by her deed, gave and granted all her estate in the said manors and advowsons to her brother Sir William Beauchamp of Warwyk, chivaler, Sir William de Burton, chivaler, Henry d' Ardern, and John Northampton, clerk. Following thereupon, Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, to whom, as one of the heirs of the said John Beauchamp of Somerset, the reversion of a moiety of the said Alice's dower belonged, by his deed, dated 26 May, 47 E. III. (1373), released to the same grantees the whole of his right and claim therein [Inq. p.m. of Alice, wife of Sir Matthew de Gourney, chivaler, 7 R. II. no. 39], together with his estate in fee in possession in the manor and advowson of the church of Sulferton (Silverton), Devon, the manor and advowson of the church of Sheperton and the manor of Lutlyngton (Littleton), Middlesex, all which came to him by inheritance from the Beauchamps of Somerset. [Close Roll, 8 R. II. m. 28 dorse.]

Afterwards, Alice married Sir Matthew de Gourney, chivaler, and she died 27 October, 7 R. II., 1383, s.p., at which time her brother, Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, of the age of 40 years and more, was her next heir; and the Lady Cecilia Turbervyle, of the age of 50 years and more, was found to be the other sister and coheir of the said John Beauchamp of Somerset. [Inq. p.m. 7 R. II. no. 39.]

In relation to her marriage with Sir Matthew de Gourney, and to make provision for her husband and their possible

issue, the same Alice, in or about the year 1374, gave and granted to her brother, Sir William Beauchamp of Warwick, chivaler, Sir Nicholas de Berkeleye, chivaler (of Dursley), Sir William de Burton, chivaler, Sir Walter Bluet, chivaler, Richard Cradock, clerk, Henry d' Ardern, and John Broke, her dower estate in the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon and the advowson of the church of Shepton-Beauchamp; and Sir John de Meriet, also, released to the same grantees all his estate in reversion in a moiety of the said manor and advowson. The same grantees, likewise, acquired in fee from the said Sir John de Meriet his manor of Welweton with its members of Midsomers-Norton and Wydecombe, and the advowson of the church of Hacche-Beauchamp in Somerset; a third part of a moiety of the manor of Sellynge, Kent, and 50s. of rent in Magor, co. Gloucester (Monmouth), all which was part of his inheritance from the Beauchamps of Somerset; and the said grantees entered into the whole without obtaining the King's license. The King, upon their petition, being willing to pardon their transgression in this respect, and further to allow them to give and grant the said manor of Welweton; the moieties of the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon and of the advowson of the church of Shepton-Beauchamp; the advowson of the church of Hacche-Beauchamp; a third part of a moiety of the manor of Sellynge, and 50s. of rent in Magor to Sir Mathew de Gourney, chivaler, and the said Alice, at that time his wife, to have and hold to them and their joint issue, with remainder to Sir Matthew's right heirs, directed his Writs of *Certiorari* to the escheators in Somerset and Kent, dated respectively 4 September and 5 October, 48 E. III. (1374), to make inquiry whether it would be to the King's damage to grant their petition. [Inq. 48 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 7.] Upon the return of the pursuant Inquisitions to the effect that it would not be to the King's damage, and the payment into chancery of a fine of £30, the King issued his pardon accordingly, dated 20 November, 48 E. III. (1374). [Originalia Rolls, 48 E. III. rot. 33.]

Hence we may conclude, considering that in May, 1368 (as is already shewn), Sir John de Meriet, junior, brought his manor of Welweton into settlement upon himself and Joan his wife and their joint issue, that, in 1374, Joan his wife was dead, and that all possibility of issue by her was extinct.

In 1385, Cecilia Turberville, the surviving sister and coheir of Sir John Beauchamp, by deed, bound herself, under certain conditions, to make to Sir Matthew Gourney and his heirs a feoffment of her moiety of the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon and of the chapel of the same. [Indenture in Norman French: Close Rolls, 9 R. II. m. 21.] This she did accordingly, for it is stated in an Inquisition A.Q.D., taken at South Pederton, pursuant to Writ, dated 21 July, 13 R. II. 1389, that she had enfeoffed Sir William Beauchamp of Warwick, Sir John de Clynton, Sir John Devereux, Sir Gilbert Talbot, Sir Ivo Fitz Waryn, Sir Bernard Brocas, Sir Tho. West, and Sir John Seyntclere, Kts., Will. Tarent, clerk, and John Janet, in her moiety of the same manor and chapel, to hold for their lives with remainders, first to Sir Matthew and Philippa, his then wife, and their joint issue, and secondly to Sir Matthew's right heirs. [Inq. 13 R. II. no. 81.] Philippa was daughter and eventually coheir of Sir John Talbot, Kt., of Ricard's Castle, co. Hereford, and widow of Sir Robert Assheton, Kt., of Puteney-Lorty, Somerset (who died 7 R. II. s.p.). She survived Sir Matthew de Gourney, and married thirdly Sir John Tiptoft, Kt. (summoned as a Baron to Parliament, 20 H. VI.), and was his first wife. She died 3 May, 1417, s.p. [Inq. p.m. 5 H. V. no. 40.]

By final agreement in April, 1372, and again in January, 1373-4, between William de Bonville, chivaler, querent, and John Meriet, chivaler, deforciant, Sir John de Meriet, for the sum of 200 marks (£133. 6s. 8d) paid by the former, conveyed to Sir William his *estate in reversion* in the manor and advowson of the church of Bradford by Welyngton, Somerset, and the manor of Sachevyles-culme by Bradenynche, Devon, viz., to

hold the said manor and advowson of Bradeford to Sir William for life, with remainder to Nicholas (Bonville) his son, in tail-male, after the expiration of the several life estates therein, firstly of Margery, at that time wife of Thomas de Welyngton, and, secondly, of Thomas Tryvet if he should survive the said Margery; and as regards the manor of Sachevyles-culme, to hold the same to Sir William and his heirs on the death of the said Thomas Tryvet, who held the same for the term of his life. [Feet of Fines, Divers Counties, 47 E. III. case 7, no. 749.]

By agreement in Michaelmas term, 1372, and again in Michaelmas, 1373, between Guido Briene, chivaler, querent, and William de Bonevill, chivaler, deforciant, the said Sir William Bonville, for the sum of £200 sterling paid by the former, granted for himself and his heirs, to Sir Guy de Briene and his heirs, his reversion of the manor and advowson of the church of Bradford by Welyngton, Somerset, upon the several deaths, of Margery, at that time wife of Thomas de Welyngton, who was holding the same for her life, and, secondly, of Sir Thomas Tryvet, chivaler, who likewise had a life estate in the same in succession to the said Margery in case he survived her. [Feet of Fines, Somerset, 39–51 E. III. viz. 47 E. III. no. 74 old nos.]

By further agreement in May, 1374, between Henry Percehay and Isabel his wife, John Beaumont, chivaler, Thomas de la Pomeray, James de Chuddelegh, Richard de Sydenham, John de Fillegh, Richard Warre and William Warre, his brother, querents, and Guido de Bryene, chivaler, deforciant; and again, between the same parties, in January, 1380–1, after the death of the aforesaid Henry Percehay, Sir Guy de Bryene for the sum of 500 marks silver (£333. 6s. 8d.), paid to him by the first party, granted, for himself and his heirs, his reversion of the manor of Bradford by Welyngton, and the advowson of the church of the same manor to the said Henry Percehay, Isabel his wife and the others, and the heirs of the

said Henry Percehay, subject to the several life estates therein of Margery, wife of Thomas de Welyngton, and Sir Thomas Tryvet, chivaler, as is above recited. [Feet of Fines, Somerset, 1–11 R. II., viz., 4 R. II. no. 26.]

Thus the manor and advowson of the church of Bradford came by purchase to Sir Henry Percehay, Kt., and so passed to his heirs, whereby a moiety of the manor descended to Richard Warre of Hestercombe, as coheir of Percehay.

Sir Henry Percehay rose to eminence as a lawyer in the reign of Edward III. He became a Baron of the Exchequer 5 October, 49 E. III., 1375, and was made a puisne Justice of the Common Pleas, 26 November, 1 R. II., 1377. He died between the end of June and the beginning of October, 1380, possessed, as we learn from the Final Concords, of the manor of Gerberdeston, Somerset, in 1365. In 1367 he acquired the reversion, contingent on the death without issue of his kinsman William Claville (which afterwards occurred), of the manors of Burlescombe and Kitton, Devon, and a moiety of the manor of East Morden, Dorset. These, likewise, came by inheritance to Richard Warre of Hestercombe. In 1374 he acquired (as shewn above) the manor and advowson of Bradford by Welyngton, and in the year following (as shown below) the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-flory.

In 47 E. III. (1373), Sir John de Meriet, Kt., conveyed to Richard Palmer and others in fee his manors of Comton-Dondene and Brode Mershton, Somerset, and they re-conveyed the same to hold to Sir John and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder, on failure of such issue, to Sir Matthew de Gournay, Kt., in fee. [Ilchester muniments.]

By agreement in Michaelmas term, 1373, and again in Michaelmas, 1376, between Sir Edmund de Arondell, Kt., William de Boneville, Robert James, Henry Molyns, John Bevyn, and John Stokes, querents, and Sir John de Meriet, Kt., deforciant, the said Sir John de Meriet, for the consideration of 500 marks (£333. 6s. 8d.) paid to him by the first parties,

granted to them his manors of Dondene and Brode-Mershton, and two-thirds of the manor of Meriet; the reversions of the manors of Great-Lopene and Great-Stratton, and of the remaining third of the manor of Meriet after the death of Matilda then wife of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt.; the reversions of the manors of Hestercombe, Wyke (by Taunton), Combeflory, and Elleworth (Elworthy); a moiety of the manors of Wydecombe (Withycombe by Dunster), and Brompton-Ralf, and messuages and lands in Okecombe, Legh, Plassh, Cerneheye (by Taunton) and Sandland, after the expiration of the several life interests therein, firstly, of Margery, who was then the wife of Thomas Welyngton, and secondly of Thomas Tryvet (if he should survive the said Margery); and the reversion of a tenement and lands in Lymington, after the life estate therein of John Passeware and Robert his brother; entirely to remain to them and the heirs of the said Henry Molyns. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Michmas, 47 E. III. and Michmas, 50 E. III. no. 88.]

This agreement was probably made in consequence of the marriage of Sir John de Meriet with Elizabeth the widow of Sir Leonard Carew, or Carreu, Kt., of Stoke-Flemmyng, Devon, considering that she was the daughter of Sir Edmund de Arundel, one of the parties therein named.

From a deed enrolled in Chancery, it appears that Sir John de Meriet had, between the two dates last-above recited, made a formal grant of his reversion in fee of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton to Sir John Chidiok and his heirs; thereby creating a complication, as regards those manors, which it was necessary to evade by obtaining a surrender of the deed from Sir John Chidiok to the prior grantees; for on 28 May, 49 E. III. (1375), Sir John de Chidiok, Kt., entered into a recognizance to pay to the above-named Sir Edmund de Arundel, Kt., and Henry Molyns the sum of £500 on the feast of Corpus Christi next future (24 June, 1375); and by a deed (in French), dated (the

next day, viz.) 29 May, 49 E. III. (1375), reciting the above-mentioned recognizance, the said Sir Edmund D'arundell, chivaler, and Henry Molyns declare that, in the event of the said Sir John Chidiok, chivaler, handing over to the Abbot of Glastonbury a deed of grant of the reversion of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton made to him (Sir John Chidiok) and his heirs by '*Mons^r^ John de Meriet*,' then the said recognizance for £500 shall be void. [Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 33, dorse.] The deed was so deposited, and the receipt of Walter the abbot dated 17 June, 1375, is still extant. [Ilchester muniments.]

But, probably, this grant was made conditionally by way of indemnity for securing the title of Sir John Chidiok as feoffee of the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-Flory, which were to be conveyed to him and others to the use of Henry Percehay and his heirs, as will be shewn in the next recited concord, for at the same time that Sir John Chidiok became bound to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others in £500, Henry Percehay, on 28 May, 1375, entered into a recognizance to pay to Sir John Chidiok and William de Henton (*Warre* de Henton?) £160 at Corpus Christi next (24 June). [Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 33 dorse.]

Of his estate in reversion in the manors and lands of the Hestercombe branch of the Meriet family, Sir John alienated the whole between the years 1373 and 1381.

Collinson, in his *History of Somersetshire* (iii. 259, under '*Kingston*'), states on the authority of Sir William Pole's MSS. p. 545, that Sir John de Meriet, in 48 E. III. (1374), excepts Hestercombe and Combe-Flory from a deed of feoffment of his estate.

The purpose with which the above alienation of his estates to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others was made is, as regards the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-Flory, manifested by the following proceedings:—by final concord on 1 June, 1375, and again in the quinzaine of Easter, 1381, after the death of

Henry Percehay, between Sir John Chydyok, Kt., John de Beaumont, Kt., Henry Percehay, Richard Sydenham, John Monk, clerk, John Fillegh, and William, son of John Warre, querents; and Sir Edmund de Arundell, Kt., Sir William Boneville, Kt., Robert James, Henry Molyns, and John Beyvyn, deforciants (five of the feoffees named in the preceding agreement), the latter party, for the sum of 400 marks silver (£266. 13s. 4d.) paid to them by the first party, granted for themselves and the heirs of the said Henry Molyns, to Sir John Chydyok, Kt., and the others, the reversion of the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-Flory after the expiration of the several life estates therein, firstly, of Margery, at that time wife of Thomas de Wylyngton, and, secondly, of Sir Thomas Tryvet, Kt., in case he should survive the said Margery, to hold to them and the heirs of the said Henry Percehay of the chief lords of the fee &c. for ever. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 1-11 R. II. viz., Trinity 49 E. III. and Easter 4 R. II. no. 27.]

Thus the transfer, by sale and purchase, of Hestercombe and other manors and lands from the Meriet family into the possession of Sir Henry Percehay, Kt., is traced out.

From the foregoing evidences it is clear that Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior, was heir in ultimate remainder to the manors of Hestercombe and Bradford by Welyngton and other manors and lands on the extinction of the line of Sir Simon de Meriet, Kt.

By a deed, dated 8 February, 51 E. III. (1376-7), Sir John de Meryet, Kt., gave, granted and confirmed to John de Harewell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Thomas Mount and John Waryn, clerics, their heirs and assigns, the advowson of the church of Meryet, together with one acre of land, parcel of the manor of Meriet—witnessed by Sir William de Botreaux, Sir Richard de Acton, Sir John de-la-More, and Sir Hugh Durburgh, Knights, Henry Percehay, John Bays, Robert James, and others. [Close Rolls, 51 E. III. m. 19 dorse.] In subsequent times the rectory and advowson of

the church of Meriet passed to the Abbot and Convent of Muchelney Abbey [Hugo], and they presented John Stacey to the vicarage of Meryet, 9 January, 1520-1. [Harl. MSS. 6967, f. 29.] The patronage is now vested in the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral.

In January, 1378-9, by agreement between Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, querent; and George de Meriet, John Canon of Lopene, and John Dekne (cleric), deforciants, the said Sir John de Meriet, Kt., settled a messuage with 20 acres of land and one acre of meadow in Great Stratton to hold to the said George de Meriet (his brother of the half blood) and the heirs of his body; and, in default of such issue, to Thomas de Meriet, brother of the said George, and the heirs of his body, at a nominal rent of a rose per annum; and, in default of such issue, then to revert to the said Sir John de Meriet and his heirs, peaceably as against all other heirs of the said George and Thomas de Meriet. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 1-11 R. II. viz. Hilary 2 R. II. no. 12.]

Sir John de Meriet, Kt., was elected one of the knights of the shire for Somerset in the Parliament summoned to meet at Westminster on 16 January, 3 R. II., 1379-80. [Return: Members of Parliament, 1878.]

In Michaelmas term, viz., in the octaves of St. Martin, 8 R. II. (11-18 November, 1384), by final concord between Sir William Boneviłł, chivaler, querent; and Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, and Elizabeth his wife, deforciants, Sir John and Elizabeth, for £200 sterling, granted all the life estate which Elizabeth had in a third part of the manors of Stoke-Flemyng, Galmyngton (Galmeton), Otery-Mohun, Monketon, and the borough of Southton-Dertemouth, and of a third part of £9. 15s. of rent in Marnelegh, Devon, to Sir William Boneviłł and his heirs, to have and to hold the same during the whole term of the said Elizabeth's life. [Fin. Con. Devon, Michīas, 8 R. II. no. 62.] This was the completion of an actual sale to Sir William Bonville and his heirs of Eliza-

beth Meriet's dower-estate in the lands of Sir Leonard Carreu, her former husband.

In Michaelmas term, 1385, the year following, by final agreement between Sir William Bonevylle, chivaler, and Margaret his wife, querents; and Sir John Meriet, chivaler, and Elizabeth his wife, deforciants, for the sum of 100 marks silver (£66. 13s. 4d.) Sir John and Elizabeth, for themselves and the heirs of Elizabeth, recognized a messuage, 60 acres of land and 20 acres of meadow in Mertok, Loode and Hulle, Somerset, to be the right of Sir William, and they remitted the same to Sir William and Margaret his wife and the heirs of Sir William for ever. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 1-11 R. II. viz. Michmas, 9 R. II. no. 67.] The first (if not both) of these agreements was probably connected with a contract of marriage between Thomas Carreu, the only child and heir of Sir Leonard Carreu and the aforesaid Elizabeth his wife (afterwards wife of Sir John de Meriet), with Elizabeth, the second daughter of Sir William and Margaret Bonville, at which time Thomas Carreu was about 15 years old.

Soon after the last-mentioned date, Elizabeth, the wife of Sir John de Meriet, must have died without leaving issue by him surviving, for the inquisition on his death in 1391, contains both circumstantial evidence that he had married Matilda, late wife and widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt., in or before March, 1386, and a direct statement that he settled on the same Matilda an estate for life in the manors of Compton-Donden and Brode-Mershton, and in two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, which he could not have done had there been surviving issue by his wife Elizabeth, considering that these manors had been already conveyed to feoffees to specific uses in 1373, as shewn above.

In contemplation of this marriage he enfeoffed William Seymour, John Beyvyn, and Simon Olyver, in two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, to hold to the use of himself and Matilda, the widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt., whom he (Sir John)

intended to marry and afterwards did marry, and his heirs, and after his marriage with the said Matilda, he granted to John Knight of Chuton, Robert Row, chaplain, and Thomas Bowode, the manors of Compton-Dondene and Brode-Mershton, Somerset, to hold to the use of himself and Matilda his wife, for their lives, with remainder to Urry Seymour and Elizabeth his wife, and the heirs of their bodies; failing which, with ultimate remainder to William Seymour and his heirs for ever.

These limitations accorded with the law of succession:—for Sir John being the only child of his mother, in the event of his dying without issue, his ancient inheritance in the manor of Meriet would, in the absence of alienation, pass to the two daughters of his father's sister, viz., Margaret Bonville and Elizabeth Stafford, to the exclusion of his brother of the half-blood, George Meriet; and the manors of Compton-Donden and Brode-Mershton, which came through his mother from the Beauchamps of Hacche, would descend to his first cousin, William Seymour, as eldest son of his maternal aunt, Cecilia de Beauchamp.

Pursuant to a writ of '*diem clausit,*' on the death of Sir John Meriet, chivaler, directed to Thomas Daccombe, the escheator in Somerset, 27 August, 15 R. II. (1391), an inquisition, of which the following is the substance, was taken at Quene-Cammel on Tuesday next before the feast of the Nativity of the blessed Virgin, 15 R. II. (5 September, 1391), when it was found that, at the time of his death, Sir John held no lands or tenements in his demesne as of fee of the King in chief in the said county, but that some time before his death, being seised of two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, he, without obtaining the King's license, conveyed the same in fee to William Seymour, since deceased, John Beyvyn and Simon Olyver, who were then surviving, and their heirs, upon condition that they should re-convey the same in fee to him, Sir John, and to Matilda widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt., which Matilda he intended to marry, and afterwards did marry, and who was then

surviving, to hold to the said Sir John Meriet and Matilda and the heirs of Sir John; the said two-thirds being held of the King in chief by military service and worth 10 marks (£6. 13s. 4d.) per annum. He was also seised in fee of the manors of Compton-Dondene and Brode-Mershton, and—sometime before his death—granted the same to John Knyght of Chuton, Robert Row, chaplain, and Thomas Bowode, and their heirs, upon condition that they should give and grant the same to himself and Matilda his wife, to hold for their lives, and, after their decease, to remain to Urry Seymour and Elizabeth his wife and the joint heirs of their bodies, and, failing such issue, with ultimate remainder to William Seymour and his heirs for ever; the said manor of Compton-Dondene being held by military service of the Abbot of Glastonbury and worth £16 per annum; and the manor of Brode-Mershton being held of the heir of the Earl of Hereford by military service, and worth £12 per annum. The jury further said that the aforesaid John Meriet died in the festival of St. Anna the mother of Mary last past (26 July, 1391), and that Elizabeth, wife of Urry Seymour, was his daughter and nearest heir, and in the festival of St. Lucia the virgin last past (13 December, 1390), was of the age of four years. [Inq. p.m. 15 R. II. pt. 1, no. 48]. Sir John was therefore in his 46th year at the time of his death.

(24). **Elizabeth,** second wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior. Proofs have already been given that she was his wife in 1373, and that she died, without issue by him, between Michaelmas, 1385, and March, 1386; and from the facts already adverted to, viz., (1), the conveyance by Sir John de Meriet, in Michaelmas, 1373, of all his estates in possession and reversion to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others in fee; (2), his wife Elizabeth's holding an estate for life in a third part of certain manors and lands which formed part of the inheritance of Sir Leonard Carreu, deceased; (3), her selling the same life estate, with the consent of Sir John de Meriet, her husband, to Sir William Bonville, and (4), the effecting a

marriage between a daughter of Sir William Bonville and Thomas the only son and heir of Sir Leonard Carreu, there is strong presumptive evidence that, at the time of her marriage with Sir John de Meriet, Elizabeth was the widow of Sir Leonard Careu, Kt., and mother of his only son and heir.

Sir Leonard Carreu, Kt., of Stoke-Fleming, son and heir of Sir John Carreu, Kt., by Margaret de Mohun his first wife, was born and baptized in the church of St. Ermond of Stoke-Flemmyng, by William Chaylowe, parson of the church of Stoke-Flemmyng, 23 April, 1342. He made proof of his age, 15 May, 1364 [Prob. Ætat. 38 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 67], and did fealty for the manors and lands of his inheritance, 13 June following. [Originalia Rolls, 38 E. III. rot. 8.] On 1 February, 1368-9, he conveyed all his lands in Otery-Mohoun, Monketon, Galmyngton (Galmeton), and Stoke-Flemmyng, Devon, to feoffees to hold to uses, and he died 27 October, 1369, in the 28th year of his age, leaving an only son and heir, Thomas Carreu, who, in February, 1369-70, the date of the inquisition on his father's death, was aged half a year and more. As, by a further inquisition taken at Exeter, 14 July, 1371, pursuant to a writ of '*melius sciri*,' the age of the heir was then stated to be two years and more, Thomas Carreu's birth may be assigned to the month of June, 1369. [Inq. p.m., 44 E. III., (1 nrs) no. 12.]

Tierney, in his *History of Arundel*, 192*, states on the authority of Vincent, MS. Ashmole 8467, that Sir Leonard Carreu married Alice, daughter of Sir Edmund (Fitz-Alan) de Arundel, Kt., by his wife, Sibil, daughter of William de Montacute (1st) Earl of Salisbury. If what has been premised above be correct, then Vincent has erred in calling her Alice, and not Elizabeth. Assuming that she married Sir John de Meriet about the time when he conveyed his lands to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others in 1373, she retained and enjoyed her dower estate in the lands of Sir Leonard Carreu for eight years after, until she conveyed it for £200 to Sir

William Bonville by fine in Michaelmas Term 1384. At that time Thomas Carreu, her only son and heir by her first husband, was in his 16th year, and as he became the husband of Elizabeth, the second daughter of Sir William Bonville, it is probable that this surrender of Lady Meriet's dower estate in the Carreu lands was a condition in the agreement of marriage of her son. Her death without leaving surviving issue by Sir John de Meriet is indicated by the events already narrated, and limited to the short interval of time between October, 1385, and the following March.

Of Sir Thomas Carreu, the only son and heir, it may suffice to say that some time after his marriage with Elizabeth Bonville, and after the births of their two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, he—by deed dated at Otery-Mohun, 21 September, 1394,—granted in fee to his father-in-law, Sir William Bonevyll, Kt., John Prestecote, John Streeche, Ralph Sachevyle, John Churchehull, and John Oggheburgh, cleric, his manors of Otery-Mohun, Monketon, Galmyngton, Stoke-Flemmyng, and Mammeheade, Devon, with the advowsons of the churches of the same manors; the manor of Andeport (Amport), co. Southampton; and the manor of Mullysford (Moulsford), and lands at Charleton, Berks, subject to certain conditions, among others, that the said feoffees were to hold the said manors &c. for the term of 21 years to pay his debts; and if he should die in Ireland, whither he was about to proceed, to enfeoff Elizabeth his wife for the term of her life, in the manors of Mammehead, Andeport, and Mullysford, with remainder to his right heirs; also that if Elizabeth his wife, who was then pregnant, should have a son who should live to the end of the said 21 years, the said feoffees should then marry Elizabeth and Margaret, his daughters, with the residue of his lands; but if his wife bore a daughter and not a son, that then his feoffees should dispose of the residue according to his last will, for the health of his soul and those of his ancestors. [Close Roll, 18 R. II. m. 22 dorse.] He died 25 January, 1430-1, and his

will—in which he styles himself Thomas Carew, Kt., Lord Carew—dated at Luppit, Devon, in 1429, was proved and registered at Lambeth. [*Chicheley*, pt. I. 429a.] Elizabeth, his widow, survived, and her will, dated 8 February, 1450-1, was proved at Exeter.

(25). Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt., first husband of Matilda. He was dead before March, 1386, as Elizabeth, the daughter of Matilda by Sir John de Meriet, was born 13 December, 1386. [Inq. p.m. of Sir John de Meriet, 15 R. II., pt. 1, no. 48.] [See also note (23).]

(26). Sir Hugh Cheyne, Kt., third husband of Matilda. They were married before Easter, 1397, as at that time she was called his wife. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Easter, 20 R. II., nos. 82 and 83 (see note (28)); Inq. p.m. of Sir William Bonevyle, Kt., 9 H. IV., no. 42, and Close Rolls, 2 H. VI., m. 12.] He was dead before May, 1406, as Matilda his widow, on 26 May, 1406, with Roger Seymour, paid a fine of one mark for a writ '*de forma donationis.*' [Fines Roll, 7 H. IV. m. 25.] This license of gift probably referred to the manors of Compton Donden and Brode-Mershton, which her second husband, Sir John de Meriet, inherited through his mother from the Beauchamps, and settled on Matilda (after the birth of their daugher Elizabeth) for life, and, failing issue of the said Elizabeth, with ultimate remainder to William Seymour and his heirs, as is already shewn in the Inquisition on Sir John de Meriet [note (23)]. Upon the death of Sir John de Meriet's only child without issue, this Roger Seymour, as son and heir of William, became sole heir-general of John, last Lord Beauchamp of Hacche.

(27). **Urry Seymour,** the betrothed in marriage of Elizabeth the infant daughter and heiress of Sir John de Meriet. Sir Richard Colt Hoare, in his *History of Modern Wilts*, under '*Hundred of Mere*,' and parish of '*Maiden-Bradley*,' names a *Urias* Seymour as 5th son of Sir Roger Seymour by his wife Cecilia de Beauchamp of Hacche, thus placing him as a

younger brother of William Seymour the husband of Margaret Brockbury. Now, this William Seymour, being first cousin of Sir John de Meriet, was one of the feoffees in two-thirds of the manor of Meriet appointed by Sir John in his settlement before marriage with Matilda (the widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt.) about the year 1386; and, as he died 25 August, 1391, leaving Roger Seymour, his son and heir, of the full age of 21 years, it is not probable that Urias, a brother of this William, was identical with the affianced husband of a child who was under five years of age at that time. We may rather assume this Urry Seymour to have been a younger son of Sir William Seymour by his wife Margaret de Brockbury, in which case he would be second cousin to his infant wife.

(28). **Elizabeth**, the infant bride, or betrothed of Urry Seymour, and sole child and heir of Sir John Meriet, Kt. She was born 13 December, 1386, being four years old on 13 December, 1390, and became the affianced wife of Urry Seymour before July, 1391. She did not long survive her father, and did not attain nine years of age, for she must have died before November, 1395 [as is shewn in note (29)]; and in a Deed of Award (in French), preserved among the muniments of the Earl of Ilchester, made 20 December, 19 R. II. (1395), by Thomas Broke and John Wadham, arbiters in a dispute between Sir William de Bonville of the one part and Sir Humphry de Stafford of the other, concerning the right to the manors of Meriet, Great Lopen and Great Stratton, the ancient inheritance of '*Mons^r John de Meriet le filz*,' it is specifically stated that Margaret, wife of the said Sir William, and Elizabeth, wife of the said Sir Humphry, are *cousins and next heirs* of the said '*Mons^r John de Meriet le filz.*'

In furtherance of this Award, an Indenture of Agreement (also in French) was executed in the year following, viz., on 13 November, 20 R. II. (1396), between Humphry Stafford of the one part and William Bonevyle of the other, whereby, after reciting that Maud, who was the wife of John de Meriet

'*le puisné*,' was then holding two-thirds of the manor of Meryet for her life, and Maud, who was the wife of John de Meryet '*l'eigné*,' was then holding the manor of Great Lopene and Great Stratton for her life and one-third of the said manor of Meryet in dower, the reversions whereof descend to Elizabeth wife of the said Humphry and Margaret wife of the said William, as cousins and heirs of the said John Meryet '*le puisne*,' they agree on a partition of the said estates. [Ilchester Muniments.]

Accordingly, on 1 February, 1396-7, Sir William Boneville, Kt., and Margaret his wife, and Sir Humphry de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife pay a fine of 20s. for a writ '*de convencione et dedimus potestatem*,' with respect to the manors of Meriet, Great Lopene and Great Stratton. [Fines Roll, 20 R. II. m. 11.]

This is followed by the levying of two fines in Easter and Trinity Terms, 1397, between Sir William Bonevyll, Kt., and Margaret his wife, Sir Humphry de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife, querents, and John Bevyn, deforciant, whereby the said John Bevyn [the sole surviving feoffee created by the fine of 50 E. III. no. 88, see notes (20) and (23)] grants severally to Sir William and his wife, and to Sir Humphry and his wife, moieties of the reversions of the manors of Meriet, Great Lopene, and Great Stratton: that is to say, of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton and of one-third of the manor of Meriet, all which Matilda, widow of Sir Thomas Bocland, Kt., was then holding for the term of her life, and of two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, which Sir Hugh Cheyne, Kt., and Matilda his wife, were then holding for the term of the said Matilda's life, to hold the reversion of one moiety to Sir William and Margaret for their lives, then to their sons, Thomas, Hugh, and William Bonevyll and the heirs male of their bodies successively; and the reversion of the other moiety to Sir Humphrey and Elizabeth for their lives and the heirs of their bodies, with ultimate remainders to the right heirs of Margaret and Elizabeth respectively. [Fin. Conc. Somerset,

12-20 R. II., viz., Easter and Trinity, 20 R. II. no. 82, and Easter, 20 R. II., no. 83.]

To confirm their title, by an Indenture dated 21 April, 21 R. II., 1398 (which was after the death of Matilda, widow of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt.), George de Meriet, therein described as '*son and heir of John de Meriet, the elder Kt.*' (another proof of the extinction of the issue of Sir John de Meriet, senior, by Eleanor de Beauchamp his first wife), released to the said Sir Humphrey de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife and Sir William Bonevyll, Kt., and Margaret his wife, all his right to the manors of Meryet, Great Lopen and Great Stratton. [Ilchester Muniments.][8] By subsequent arrangement between the parties, Sir William Bonville and Margaret his wife, assigned their reversion in a moiety of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton to Sir Humphrey Stafford and Elizabeth his wife, in purparty, in lieu of their reversion in a moiety of the manor of Meriet; in exchange for which assignment, and for the consideration of ten marks to be paid to them yearly during their joint lives, Sir Humphry and Elizabeth granted and assigned their reversion in a moiety of the manor of Meriet to Sir William Bonville and Margaret his wife, subject to the entail created by the above recited fine of 20 R. II. [Inq. p.m. of Sir W. Bonvyle, Chivaler, 9 H. IV. no. 42, and Close Roll 2 H. VI. m. 12]. Thus the reversion of the entirety of the manor of Meriet devolved to Sir William Bonville and his heirs in strict entail; and by the failure of the issue of his sons, Thomas, Hugh, and William, the manor ultimately vested in his grandson, William, Lord Bonvile of Chuton, K.G., who suffered decapitation, 18 February, 1460-1. Lord Bonvile brought the manor of Meriet, together with the manors of Chuton and Thurlebere, into settlement upon the

(8). I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. John Batten, of Aldon, near Yeovil, for placing in my hands the valuable extracts from Lord Ilchester's muniments contained in these notes. They were taken from the originals by Mr. Thomas Bond, of Tyneham, one of the editors of the last edition of Hutchins's *History of Dorset.*

marriage of his grandson, William Bonville, Lord Haryngton, with Lady Katherine Nevill. [Parliament Roll, 14 E. IV. m. 37].

(29). **George de Meriet,** Esq., son and heir of Matilda, second wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior. He was 30 years of age and more at the time of his mother's death in March, 1397-8 [see note (20).] In January, 1378-9, Sir John de Meriet, his elder brother of the half blood, settled a messuage and lands in Great Stratton upon him and his issue, at a nominal rent, with remainder to Thomas Meriet, this George's younger brother, and his issue, with reversion over to Sir John and his heirs. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Hilary, 2 R. II. no. 12.] [See (23) of these notes.]

On 1 June, 1388, for a fine of 40s., George Meriet received a confirmation of Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Ireland granting to him the guardianship of all the lands, &c., of Edmund Husee, late Baron of Galtrim, deceased, together with the reversion of all the lands which Matilda, widow of the Baron of Galtrim, was holding in dower for her life of the inheritance of Peter, son and heir of the said Baron, to hold till the coming of age of the said Peter, the heir, together with his marriage. [Fines Roll, 11 R. II., m. 2, in Dodsw. MSS. 52, fol. 48.]

In 19 R. II., George Meriet had recourse to trial and action in Common Bank against Matilda the widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt. (junior), to obtain possession of the manors of Compton-Dondene and Brode-Merston, on the plea that the said John de Meriet had made a settlement (circa May, 1368) [see note (22)] of those manors by enfeoffing Lawrence St. Martin, chivaler, and Robert Lough therof, to hold to the use of himself (described as John, son of John de Meriet, Kt.) and Joan his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to himself and the heirs of his body, with further remainder to John de Meriet, Kt. (senior), and the heirs of his body, and with ultimate remainder to his own right heirs, alledging that by virtue of such settlement these manors ought to revert to

him, George, as son and heir of the same John de Meriet, Kt. (senior), because as well the said John and Joan had died without heirs jointly of their bodies as the said John (the son) without issue of his body. Accordingly, the feoffment having been produced in court, a verdict was given in George Meriet's favour, on the morrow of All Souls, 19 R. II. (3 Nov. 1395), [De Banco Roll, Hilary, 19 R. II. memb. 175 in dorso.]

Matilda, the widow, shortly after married Hugh Cheyne, and in 21 R. II. (1397-8), George Meriet granted to the said Hugh and Matilda the manor of Compton-Dondene for her life at the nominal rent of a rose per annum, retaining the manor of Brode-Merston in his own possession. [Ilchester Muniments.] But his peaceful enjoyment thereof was soon disturbed, for early in the reign of Henry IV. he presented his petition to the King in Council complaining that, although he had established his right by trial at law and gained possession of the manor of Brode-Merston, nevertheless Sir Matthew Gurnay, chivaler, and four others of his suite had ousted him therefrom by force, seized his goods and injured the charters and muniments of his inheritance thereto, and praying that restitution may be made to him of the said manor, goods and writings, &c. [Petitions to to the King in Council, 5918.] Thus in opposition to the first entail created in 1368, by Sir John de Meriet, junior, in favour of himself and his issue by Joan his first wife, with further remainder, on failure of his own issue, to his father and the heirs of his body, Sir Matthew Gurnay enforced his claim to the manor of Brode-Merston under the second entail of 1373, whereby the ultimate remainder was to vest in him. Considering that these manors descended to Sir John de Meriet, junior, through his mother from the Beauchamps of Somerset, his creating a remainder thereto in favor of his father's issue by another wife was an act of injustice towards the heirs general of the last Sir John Beauchamp of Hacche, which he vainly endeavoured to rectify by the third settlement, circa 1391.

Regarding Sir Matthew Gourney, Kt., this was probably the last hostile engagement in which the old and famous warrior took part, for he died in 1406, aged 96 years, s.p., and was interred in the Collegiate Chapel of St. Nicholas, attached to the manor house of Stoke Hamedon. At the time of his death he was seised in fee-tail of the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon, with the advowson of the free chapel (college or chantry dedicated to St. Nicholas) therein, and of the manor and advowson of the church of Cory-Malet, all which were held of the King in chief by military service, with reversion over to William Otterhampton, because Sir Matthew died without issue. [Dodsw. MSS. xi. 56 in Bodl. Lib.]

It is a remarkable fact that the inquisition that was taken on the death of Sir Matthew Gourney, Kt., is not to be found among the Public Records, though it was in existence in Dodsworth's time, and he made extracts from it. On the Fines Roll, 7 H. IV. m. 27, is the record of the order for a writ on his death to issue, dated 3 September, 7 H. IV. (1406); thus proving the date of his death on his tomb in the chapel of Stoke-Hamedon Manor House, as copied by Leland (Itin. ii. 54 and iii. 91) viz., 26 September, to have been wrong. The day of his death is entered in the *Martirologium* of the Dominican Friary at Bristol, of which fraternity he was called a *Founder*, as the 28th of August. [Itiner. Will. de Worcestre, edit. Nasmith, p. 234.] This is again repeated by W. de Worcestre in these words: "*Mattheus de Gorney, miles comitatûs Somersetiæ obiit 28 Augusti*" [ibidem, p. 366]. His death was also entered in the *Martirologium* of the Franciscan Friary of Bridgwater, thus—"*Matheus Gornay, chevalier, obiit 21 die Augusti*" [ibid. p. 137]. This latter date is probably a misprint for '28.' In the late Daniel Gurney's elaborate work, *Records of the House of Gournay*, is an engraving of Sir Matthew's seal. He bore on his shield, *Paly* of six *gules* and *or*, and on his crest, a Moor's head crowned.

Collinson states that in his time the noble mansion of the

Beauchamps at Stoke Hamedon was in ruins, being converted into offices for a farm house, and the chapel into a cyder vault. [*Hist. of Somers.* iii. 315.] Sir Matthew Gourney's connection with, and his life estate in, the manor of Stoke-Hamedon, respecting which there is an oft-repeated error, originated in his marriage with Alice, the widow of the last John de Beauchamp, Lord Beauchamp of Hacche. Her marriage with Sir Matthew took place before the year 1374, as in that year her brother, Sir William de Beauchamp of Warwick, and others, to whom she had previously released all her interest in the manor of Stoke Hamedon and elsewhere, assigned the same to her and her husband, Sir Matthew, for their lives, with remainder to their joint issue. [See (23) of these notes.] It has been also shown in the same note that Sir John Meriet (her former husband's nephew) who succeeded to the inheritance by right of heirship, released to the same feoffees all his right and claim in the Manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon. The extract given above from the Inq. p.m. of Sir Matthew Gourney, as taken by Dodsworth, clearly shows that these feoffees must have settled a life estate upon him in the Manor of Stoke-Hamedon and the Advowson of the free chapel, or chantry, therein.

By deed, dated 20 March, 21 R. II. (1397-8), George de Meriet granted to Thomas, Duke of Surrey, John, Earl of Salisbury, Thomas de Meryet, John Dekne and William Urry, and their heirs, the manor of Brode Mershton and the rent of a rose, and the reversion of the manor of Compton Dondene. [Ilchester Muniments.]

It has been already observed in note (28) that by indenture, dated 21 April, 21 R. II. (1398), George de Meriet, therein described as '*son and heir of John de Meriet the elder, Kt.*,' released to Sir Humphry Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife and Sir William Bonevyll, Kt., and Margaret his wife and their heirs, all his right, &c., to the manors of Meriet, Great Lopene, and Great Stratton, according to a fine thereof levied to them (in Easter and Trinity Terms, 20

R. II. 1397). [Ilchester Muniments. See also note (20).]

George Meriet's last will, written in Latin, in which he styles himself '*George Meriet Armiger*,' is dated on Thursday, 28 August, 1410, and was proved in the Prerog. Court of Canterbury, 23 September next after.

The following is an abstract of the will:—I desire that my body may be buried in the church of the Friars Preachers of Fysherton-Ancher (Fisherton Anger near Salisbury), on the south side, immediately behind the tomb of Sir Roger Beauchamp, Kt.

I give to the altar of St. Stephen in the church of St. Thomas in Salisbury, a pair of vestments to pray for my soul and the soul of Alesia '*nuper ux'is mee.*'

Item, to the church of Dounton (Wilts), a pair of vestments to pray for my soul and the soul of *Matill. matris mee.* (N.B. The manor of Downton belonged to Sir Thomas de Bokelond, Kt., his mother's second husband.)

Item, to Thomas Meryet my brother, for prayers to be said for my soul and the souls of my father, my mother, William Teynture, and Alesia my wife. (N.B. This looks likely that Alice his wife was daughter of William Teynture).

Item, to the fabric of the chapel of St. Katherine of Meryet, '*ubi Matill. nup ux*^{r} *mea jacet*,' 40s. (N.B. This must have been a chantry chapel in the church of Meriet, as Mr. W. Long tells us — quoting from Ecton's "Thesaurus" — that the parish church of Meriet was dedicated to All Saints.) [Somerset. Archæ. Society's *Proceedings*, xvii. 116.]

Item, to the fabric of the parish church of St. Peter of Suth petherton '*ad parand. et ornand. vicissim locū ubi Matill. mat' mea est humat*', 40s.

Item, to each of my executors 10 marks, viz., Thomas Meryet (his brother), William Freye, John Kyrkely and William Alysaundre.

He also makes the following pious bequests, viz.: to the church of St. Edmund in Salisbury, 20s.; to the church of

St. Mary in Salisbury, 20s.; to the Friars Preachers of Fyssherton, 20s. [Register *Marche* ff. 166-7.]

(30). **Thomas Meriet,** younger brother of George and son of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, by Matilda his second wife, was next in remainder—after his brother George's death without issue—to a messuage and 20 acres of land and 1 acre of meadow in Great Stratton under the settlement made by fine in January, 1378-9, by Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior, on his brothers of the half blood. [See (23) of these notes.] He was appointed one of the executors of his brother George's will in 1410. [See note (29).]

By deed, dated at Lopene on Monday next after the feast of St. Scholastica, virgin, 21 R. II. (11 February, 1397-8), his mother, as Matilda, relict of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., remitted and quit-claimed to Thomas de Meryet her son, the whole of the manor of North Stanlynch and Langeford, Wilts, with all lands, &c., to hold for ever. [Bodleian Charters, Wilts, no. 26.]

By Indenture, dated at Stallynch, 3 June, 1 H. IV. (1400), Thomas Meriet and Elianora his wife, demised to John Chapman, chaplain, a tenement in Stallynch for 40 years, at an annual rent of 8s. 9d. [Ibm no. 27.]

On 28 December, 8 H. IV. (1406), he was appointed one of the eight Collectors for Wilts, excepting the city of New Sarum, of the Subsidies of a Tenth and a Fifteenth, granted in the last preceding Parliament. [Fines Roll, 8 H. IV. ms. 17 and 18.]

By deed, dated at Stanlynch, 17 June, 6 H. V. (1418), Thomas Meryet and Aleanora his wife granted to John Hugyn, all lands and tenements, &c., which were John Aynel's in Stanlynche, as also all the lands, &c., which they have in North Stanlynche. [Ibm, no. 28.] May not he be identical with Thomas *Mariet* who on 10 April, 8 H. V. (1420)—at Rouen—received, with others, a grant of houses in Caen? [Norman Rolls, 8 H. V. m. 17.]

(31). **Simon de Meriet.** A Simon de Meryet, with Lucy

his wife and Robert fitz Thomas, in 1262, on payment of a fine of one mark, obtained a writ of attaint, the proceedings thereon to be taken in the county of Buckingham before Nicholas de Turri (a puisne Justice of the King's Bench. [Fines Roll, 47 H. III. m. 13.]

In 1273, Christina, widow of John de Hecton, and Christina de Wetheford, took proceedings of Novel-disseisin against Simon de Meriet touching their tenements in Brompton-Ralph, Somerset, of which he had wrongfully disseised them. [Patent Rolls, 1 E. I. m. 11d and 15d.]

Savage, in his *History of the Hundred of Carhampton*, article '*Withycombe*,' p. 282, states that Ralph Fitz-Urse, tempore E. II., held two-thirds of a knight's fee in Brompton-Ralph, under Thomas de Tymmeworth and Lucy his wife, who held the same of Sir John de Mohun, as of his castle of Dunster. N.B. Lucy, wife of Thomas de Tymmeworth, was widow of Simon de Meriet [see note (32).] Also in the same year, 1273, Thomas Talebot took like proceedings against Simon de Meriet, touching a tenement in Heathfield, Somerset. [Patent Rolls, 1 E I. m. 6 dorse.]

In 4 E I. (1276), by an Inquisition relating to encroachments on Crown lands in the Hundred of Carhampton, Somerset, it was found that Simon de Meriet, with others, had taken and retained all cattle found straying. [Rot. Hund. II. 140.]

By charter, without date, Sir Simon de Meriet, Kt., and Lucy, his wife, gave and granted, for the consideration of 200 marks silver, to Salomon de Roucestre, cleric, their tenement of Stanpete and Stapindon in the Isle of Schapeye (Sheppey), Kent, to hold to the said Salomon and his heirs at the nominal rent of a rose per annum, with warranty. Witnesses: Sir Stephen Penecestre, Sir William de Hevere, Sir Ralph Savage, and Sir Ralph de Saunwyz (Sandwich), Kts., Bartholomew de Wayton, Richard de Haulo, Henry de Ledes, John de Godyeneton, John de Ores, —— de Reyham, Adam de la Legh, William de Hoke, and others. At the foot is the im-

pression of his Seal in brown wax, bearing on a heater-shaped shield, Barry of Six —, over all a bend —. Surrounding the whole is the legend: 'S. SIMONIS DE MERIET.' [Cotton Charters XXVII. no. 103.]

(32). **Lucy,** wife and widow of Simon de Meriet, was daughter of William Malet. By charter, dated at Bradeford (Somerset), on Thursday next before the feast of Symon and Jude, apostles, 3° Edward filii regis Edwardi (E. II. 23 October, 1309), Lucia de Meryet, in her pure widowhood, released and quit-claimed all right, &c., in lands, tenements, and rents in Stanpete and Stapyndone, in the Isle of Schapeheye, Kent, which devolved to her by the death of William Malet, her father, to Richard de Roucestre and his heirs, and which had been given and granted by Simon de Meryet, her late husband, to Salomon de Roucestre, brother of the said Richard, at the nominal rent of a rose per annum, and doing the usual services. Witnesses: Matthew de Forneaus, James de Moletone, John de Clyfdone (Clyvedon), Kts., Gregory de Welyngton, Adam le Bret, Walter le . . . . f, William de Reyny, and others. At foot is the impression of her seal in dark brown wax, bearing on a heater-shaped shield, in Gothic (decorated) panel with foliage, some heraldic charge. The greater part of the shield is broken through, but the upper end of a bend is visible at the dexter chief point. Encircling the whole is the Legend: 'SIGILLUM [LU]CIE [D]E MERIET.' [Cotton Charters XXVII. no. 111.] It will be observed that most of the witnesses bear Somerset names.

Lucy de Meriet had married again before 24 E. I. 1296, Thomas de Tynworth, or Tymmeworth, lord of the manors of Bratton St. Mary (between Okehampton and Launceston), Combe and Gondescot, Devon, by whom she had a daughter, Hawisia [Sir Will. Pole's collections for Devon, 4° p. 346-7.] He must have died about 1296, for by writ, tested at Portsmouth, 24 May, 25 E. I. 1297, summoning attendance in London on 27 July following for foreign service, Lucy de Meriet (re-

taining her first husband's name) is returned in Somerset, among religious persons and women, as having £20 a year in lands, or tenements, not held of the king in chief. Again, by general writ, tested at Wetherby (co. York) 14 January, 28 E. I. 1300, summoning attendance at Carlisle on 24 June following, for service against the Scots, Lucy de Meriet is returned in Somerset, among religious persons and women, as holding lands, or tenements, to the value of £40 a year, but not held of the king in chief. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By final accord, entered into at York in the octave of John Baptist 31 E. I. (24 June—1 July, 1303), between Lucy de Meriet and Walter 'filium ejus,' by their substitute Richard de Montsorell, querents; and Humphry de Dunsterre, deforciant, the latter, for the sum of £100 sterling, acknowledged as of his gift a messuage and a carucate of land with the appurtenances in Plesse (Plassh) and Willet (in the parish of Elworthy), to be the right of the said Walter, to hold to the said Lucy and Walter, and the heirs of Walter for ever [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. I. no. 105]; and by another agreement made at York, 25 June, 32 E. I. (1304), between Lucy de Meriet and Walter her son, querents, by their substitute Richard de Montsorell; and Richard de Ford, deforciant, by his substitute Simon Sauvage, the said Richard de Forde, for the sum of £100 sterling, acknowledged a messuage and two carucates of land with the appurtenances in Cerneheye juxta Taunton to be, without reservation, the right of the said Walter to hold to the said Lucy and Walter and the heirs of the said Walter for ever. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 32 E. I. no. 118.] Collinson, III. 259, erroneously places Cerneyheye in Gloucestershire, on the apparent supposition that it was identical with the parish of North or South Cerney. The late Mr. Hugo's monograph on Taunton Priory indicates that it is in the parish of Trull, about two miles south of Taunton. [*Proceedings* of the Somerset Archæological Society IX. pt. 2. 115.]

By agreement made at Westminster on the morrow of the

Ascension 33 E. I. (28 May, 1305), between Lucy de Meryet and Walter de Meryet (her son), querents, and Richard de Pulton, deforciant, by his substitute Simon le Sauvage, the said Richard de Pulton, for the sum of £100 sterling, granted and conveyed for himself and his heirs to the said Lucy and Walter de Meryet and the heirs of Walter, two messuages, three carucates of land, and 60s. of rent in Culm Reygny (Culm Sachville), Strochull (Strawquil), and Yerdone (Yard Down), by Bradenech (Bradninch), Devon, with warranty [Fin. Conc. Devon, 33 E. I. no. 151]; and by further agreement in the octave of the purification of the blessed Mary, 34 E. I. (February, 1305-6), between Lucy and Walter de Meriet, querents, and Simon, the son of Simon le Sauvage, deforciant, the said Lucy and Walter conveyed the same messuages and land, &c., to the said Simon le Sauvage, the son, in fee, to hold to the use of Lucy and Walter, and the heirs of the said Walter de Meriet for ever. [Fin. Conc., Devon, 34 E. I. no. 153.]

In June, 1306, on the occasion of John de Meriet, of Hestercombe, levying a fine for the purpose of settling an estate for life on his wife, Elizabeth, in his manors of Hestercombe and Legh-Flory, with remainder to his heirs, this Lucy de Meriet and Walter de Meriet (her son) record their claim, which is endorsed on the fine. [See note (34).]

By agreement at Westminster in the octave of John Baptist, 35 E. I. (24 June—1 July, 1307), between Walter de Meriet, querent, and Lucy de Meriet (his mother), deforciant, the latter, for the sum of £100 sterling, acknowledged two messuages and two carucates of land with the appurtenances in Wydecumbe and Elleworth (Withecombe, in the Hundred of Carhampton, and Elworthy, in the Hundred of Williton-Freemanors), and the advowson of the church of Wydecumbe to be the right of the said Walter, to have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever; against which entail John de Meriet (of Meriet), and John Meriet '*de Hestercome*' enter their claim,

which is endorsed on the fine. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 35 E. I. no. 200.]

By agreement in the octave of St. Martin, 5 E. II. (November, 1311), between Simon le Sauvage, junior, querent, and Walter de Meryet, deforciant, the latter granted and conveyed to the former for the term of his life the manor of Bratton (Bratton St. Mary's, *i.e.*, Bratton-Clovelly, between Okehampton and Launceston), Devon, the manor of Bradeford by Welyngton, two messuages, two carucates of land, 20 acres of meadow and 30 acres of wood in Hoccombe by Lydyard St. Lawrence, and Bickelegh by Milverton, and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, Somerset, to hold to the following uses, viz.:—(1) to Lucy de Meriet for her life; (2) to Hawisia, the daughter of the said Lucy, and the heirs of her body, at a nominal rent of a rose per annum; and in default of such heirs, with reversion after Hawisia's decease, to the aforesaid Walter de Meriet and his heirs, as against the heirs of the said Simon le Sauvage, Lucy de Meriet, and any other heirs of her said daughter Hawisia. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 5 E. II. no. 53.] This Hawisia was Lucy de Meriet's daughter by her last husband, Thomas de Tynworth.

By agreement on the morrow of St. Martin, 7 E. II (12th November, 1313), between John de Berkelegh (John de Berkeley, of Dursley) and Hawisia his wife, and Lucy de Meriet (her mother), by Simon le Sauvage the substitute of Lucy de Meriet, querents, and Walter de Meriet, deforciant, the said Walter de Meriet granted the above recited manors of Bratton and Bradeford, the advowson of the church of Bradeford, and lands as aforesaid: (1) to the said Lucy de Meriet for her life; (2) to the said John de Berkelegh and Hawisia his wife, and the heirs of the said Hawisia's body for ever; failing which, with reversion, after the several deaths of the said John and Hawisia, to the aforesaid Walter de Meriet and his heirs, as against all other heirs of the said John and Hawisia. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 7 E. II. no. 84.] This fine was evidently

made as a settlement on the marriage of John de Berkeley, of Dursley, with Hawisia de Tynworth, the daughter of Lucy de Meriet.

William de Berkeley, of Dursley, had died in the year 1300, leaving this John de Berkeley his son and heir an infant, whose wardship the king, for a fee of £60, granted to John Buteturte (Botetort), together with the custody of the manor of Dursley and other lands of his inheritance. [Originalia Roll, 29 E. I. rot. 7.

About the period of his marriage with Hawisia, in 1313, he must have attained his full legal age, as on 15 August, 8 E. II. 1314, he did homage for his lands of inheritance. He was living in March 9 E. II., 1315-6, holding the lordship of Dursley, the manor of Doddington, and township of Newington, co. Gloucester, and the manor of Bratton-cum-Borsleigh, in the hundred of Lyfton, Devon. [Parliamentary Writs.] He died in 10 E. II., 1316-7. [Originalia Roll, 10 E. II. rot. 3.]

Both Lucy de Meriet and her daughter Hawisia had died before Michaelmas, 19 E. II., 1325, Hawisia not leaving any surviving issue, whereby Walter de Meriet became seised of the manors of Bratton and Bradeford, and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, and the lands recited in the two last-mentioned fines under the entail created by the fine of November, 1313. [Placita Coram Rege: Easter, 6 E. III. memb. ciiii.]

In the absence of evidence, the acquisition by the De Meriet family of the messuages and lands in Plassh, Willet, Cerneheye by Taunton, Culm-sachville, Withycombe and Elworthy, cannot be explained; but their limitation to Walter de Meriet and his heirs becomes intelligible on the theory that Lucy, his mother, was an heiress in her own right, and thus made provision for her son.

(33). **Mary**, 1st wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., 'of *Hestercombe*,' who is thus styled in Ashmole MSS., 1107, p. 217, pedigree of *Mohun*. She was posthumous daughter and co-heir of

William de Mohun, of Ottery-Mohun and Stoke-Fleming, Devon, who died in August, 1282, by his wife, Beatrice Fitz-Reginald. She was born at Mildenhall, near Marlborough, Wilts, 8 December, 11 E. I., 1282; was of the full age of 14 years on 8 December, 1296, and then wife of John de Meriet. [Esc. 25 E. I. nos. 43 and 122.] Her husband did fealty for her lands in 1297. [Originalia Roll, 25 E. I. rot. 13.] She died soon after giving birth to her only child, Johanna de Meriet, who was born before November, 1300, and died in infancy before her mother. [Inq. p.m. of '*Maria quœ fuit uxor Johannis de Meriet*,' 29 E. I. no. 6.]

Her purparty of the lands of her inheritance, for which her husband did fealty and held for his life in survivorship by the law of England, because of the said issue of the marriage had between them [Inq. p.m. (as above) 29 E. I. no. 6], was the manor of Mildenhall, Wilts; lands and tenements in Luyton, with the Hundred of Flitton, Beds.; one fourth of the manor of Magor (co. Monmouth); the manor of Greywelle by Odiham, co. Southampton; and lands and tenements in Sturminster Marschal, Dorset. [Inq. p.m. of her husband, Sir John de Meriet, 1 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 51, and Fines Rolls, 1 E. III. m. 9.]

(34). **Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Hestercombe,** Somerset. In the Roll of Arms of the Bannerets of England, compiled in the early part of the reign of E. II., he is called Sir John de Meriet '*le Neveu*,' to distinguish him from his cousin, Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Meriet and Castle-Carlton, and bore on his shield, Barry *or* and *sable* of six pieces, over all a bend *ermine*, for difference. [Cotton MSS. '*Caligula* A. 18.]

By agreement in Easter Term, 21 E. I., 1293, between this John de Meriet, querent, and John de Hestercumbe, deforciant, the latter, for the payment of a sparrow-hawk, conveyed to the former and his heirs in fee, with warranty, eight acres of arable and five acres of meadow land with their appurtenances in Hestercumbe, and also one hundred shillings of rent with their appurtenances in the same ville, to be received an-

nually from Gregory de Welyngton and his heirs on all the tenements in the said ville, which he (the said Gregory) had heretofore held of the said John de Hestercumbe. This agreement was effected in the presence of the said Gregory de Welyngton, who was a consenting party thereto, and who thereupon did fealty to the said John de Meriet. [Feet of Fines, Somerset, 21–35 E. I., viz., 21 E. I. no. 1.] This fine is printed at full in the appendix to the late Rev. T. Hugo's paper on *Hestercombe* in the Somerset Archæological Society's *Proceedings* for 1872, vol. xviii., 169.

John de Meriet, by writ tested at Northampton, 12 March, 29 E. I., 1301, was summoned, as from Wilts, to perform military service in person against the Scots; muster at Berwick-on-Tweed, 24 June next after. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By agreement in the octave of John Baptist, 34 E. I. (24 June—1 July, 1306), between John de Meriet and Elizabeth his wife, querents, and Bartholomew Sauvage, deforciant, the said John de Meriet conveyed the manors of Hestercumbe and Legh-Flory to the said Bartholomew Sauvage, who thereupon re-granted them in fee to the said John and Elizabeth to have and to hold to them and the heirs of John for ever. Against this settlement, Lucy de Meriet, John de Flory, Walter de Meriet (son of Lucy), and Richard de Roffe put in their claim, which is recorded on the back of the fine. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 21-35 E. I., viz., 34 E. I. no. 169.] This fine was made for the purpose of a provision for Elizabeth, second wife, who was the widow of Philip Paynel, of Combe Kaynes and Rampisham, Dorset, as is shewn below. She was mother of Sir John de Meriet's surviving children. [Compare Inq. p.m. of John de Meriet, 1 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 50, and Inq. p.m. of Walter de Meriet, 19 E. III. (1 nrs) no 55.]

By writ, tested at Stamford 30 July, 3 E. II., 1309, John de Meriet was summoned (county not named) to perform military service in person against the Scots; muster at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 29 September next following. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By commission tested at Westminster, 18 December, 3 E. II., 1309, John de Meriet was appointed one of the Justices for Somerset to receive complaints of prizes taken contrary to the Statute of Stamford. [Parliamentary Writs.]

In 1311, John de Meriet received a surrender from William de Ashtone, son of John de Ashtone, of all right in lands, services, &c., in Ashton, near Bristol, and the manor and advowson of Est-Capelonde. [Original Deed in the Surrenden Collection, as quoted by Hugo (as above), p. 147.]

By agreement on 12 November, 6 E. II., 1312, between '*John de Meryet of Hestercombe*,' querent, (by his substitute John de Middelton), and William le Veil and Dionisia his wife, deforciants, the latter for 100 shillings silver, remitted and quit-claimed for themselves and the heirs of the said William, to the said John de Meryet and his heirs for ever, a messuage, 10 acres of wood, and half a virgate of arable land with the appurtenances, in Asshton by Bristol, with warranty. [Fin. Conc. Somerset 1–6 E. II., viz., 6 E. II. no. 138.]

On 20 March, 1314, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, in compliance with letters from Berengar, Bishop of Tusculum, the Pope's Penitentiary, absolved Sir John de Meriet, Kt., from a sentence of excommunication that he had incurred by causing the body of his deceased wife to be embowelled; and Sir John was ordered to inter the heart with the body from which it had been removed. [Register '*Drokensford*' at Wells, fol. 67b.]

By writ, tested at Berwick-on-Tweed, 30 June, 7 E. II., 1314, John de Meriet was summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots; to be at Newcastle-on-Tyne 15 August following, in 8 E. II., 1314. [Parliamentary Writs.] By writ, tested at Thunderley (Essex) 25 June, 8 E. II., 1315, addressed to the Collectors of the Scutages of 28, 31, and 34 E. I. (1300, 1303 and 1306) for the king's army in Scotland, '*John de Meriet of Hestercombe and Elizabeth his wife, widow of Philip Paynel*,' were exonerated from the payment of the above scutages in respect of the lands and tenements which

the said Elizabeth was holding in dower (being a third part) of the inheritance of Philip Paynel, her former husband; provided that the said scutages were duly levied on the heirs or tenants of the remaining two-thirds of the said lands. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Among the returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.), made pursuant to separate writs, all tested at Clipston (co. Northampton), 5 March, 9 E. II., 1315-6, this John de Meriet was certified, in Bedfordshire, as joint lord of Luton, with Robert de Kendale, Henry de Lucy, John de Melton, and Johana de Vivonia; also, in Somerset, as joint lord of Ashton, in the Hundred of Bedmynstre, Portbury, and Hareclyve, with Robert de Aston, Thomas de Lyouns, and John de Batecombe; also, in the county of Southampton, as sole lord of Greywelle, in the Hundred of Odyham; also, in Wilts, as sole lord of Mildenhall (near Marlborough), in the Hundred of Selkele; and in Bedfordshire, as having in his (sole) hands the Hundred of Flitton. [Parliamentary Writs.]

On 25 July, 1316, the Bishop of Bath and Wells granted a special license, dated at Wyvelescumbe, to Sir John de Meriet, Kt., to have a chantry within the chapel of his manor of Hestercumbe, because of the distance of the place from the mother church. [Register *Drokensford*, fol. 97.]

By commission, tested at Windsor, 22 November, 11 E. II., 1317, John de Meriet was appointed one of the Justices, assigned in Somerset, for the purpose of suppressing illegal meetings, &c. [Parliamentary Writs.]

On 9 July, 13 E. II., 1319, at York, the King granted to John de Meryet and his heirs a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands of Hestercoumbe, Legh-Flory, Est-Capelond, Coumbe-Flory, and Ashton by Bristol, Somerset. [Charter Roll, 13 E. II. no. 35.]

By commission, dated at '*Pountefreit on Thamis*,' 30 Novem-

ber, 15 E. II., 1321, John de Meriet was appointed one of the commissioners empowered to assemble the forces of the counties of Somerset and Dorset. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Pursuant to separate writs, dated at Westminster, 9 May, 17 E. II., 1324, he, by the style of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., was returned by the Sheriff of Somerset as summoned to attend the Great Council on 30 May next; also, by the Sheriff of Bedfordshire, as holding lands but not resident in the county, and as summoned for the same purpose; also, by the Sheriff of Wilts, as holding lands but not resident in the county, and as summoned for the same purpose. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By writ, tested at Guildford, 6 August, 18 E. II., 1324, John de Meriet was appointed one of the Commissioners of Array in Somerset. The oath of office was to be administered to him by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who was directed to assist him in the execution of his duties. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Two sets of writs of '*diem clausit extremum*' on the death 'John de Meriet' were issued out of Chancery. One set, calendared 1 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 50, and bearing date 27 February and 6 March, 1 E. III., 1327, directs William Trussel, the escheator on this side Trent, to make inquisition touching the lands and heir of John de Meriet, deceased. The other set, calendared 1 E. III (1 nrs) no. 51, bearing date 27 March, 9 June, 11 June, and 11 July, 1 E. III., 1327, requires the same escheator to take into the King's hand the lands and tenements which John de Meriet, deceased, held of the inheritance of Mariota, or Mary, his wife, long since deceased (*'dudum defunctæ.'*) The first writ of the latter set is endorsed, '*Dors., Wilt., Gloucr., Bed., Suht.*' By the inquisitions taken in these several counties, pursuant to the second set of writs, it was found that John de Meriet held at his death, by the courtesy of England, the manor of Mildenhall, Wilts, with the appurtenances, of the inheritance of Mary his wife, deceased, who was one of the daughters and co-heirs of William son of Reginald de Mohun; land and tenements in Luyton with the

Hundred of Flitton, Beds.; a fourth part of the manor of Magor in the marches of Wales (in Monmouthshire); the manor of Greywelle in the Hundred of Odyham, in the county of Southampton; and certain lands and tenements in Sturminstre Marschal, Dorset; and that the heirs of the said Mary were (1) John de Mohun, of Dunster, of full age; (2) Henry Fitz-Roger, (of Chuton), aged eight years; (3) John de Beauchamp, of Somerset, senior, of full age; (4) John de Bohun, of Midhurst, Sussex, of full age; and (5) Hugh de Mortimer, of Cheilmersh (Salop), of full age. [Esc. 1 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 51.]

In the following year (1328), Simon de Bereford, the escheator on this side Trent, was required to take into the king's hand the Hundred of Flitton, Beds., and make partition thereof, in four equal parts, between the heirs of Mary, formerly wife of John de Meriet, deceased. [Originalia Roll, 2 E. III. rot. 5.] The four heirs here referred to were John de Mohun of Dunster, John de Beauchamp of Somerset, senior, John de Bohun of Midhurst, and Hugh de Mortimer of Chelmersh, Salop, who were all of full age.

Adverting to the first set of writs, dated 27 February and 6 March, 1 E. III.:—the following is a translation of the pursuant inquisition taken in Somerset, before William Trussel, the escheator, at Rydeclyve (Redcliffe by Bristol?), 11 June, 1 E. III., 1327, on the oath of John Sprot and others, touching the lands and tenements which were of John de Meriet, in the county of Somerset. He held no lands or tenements of the King in chief in his demesne as of fee, in the county aforesaid, on the day of his death; but he held certain lands and tenements in Assheton-Daundo, in the county aforesaid (being jointly enfeoffed with Elizabeth, his wife, to them and the heirs of the said John for ever), of the heir of Alexander Dando by knight's service, which were worth yearly in all issues 100s. Also, the said John held certain lands and tenements in '*Hesercombe*,' in the said county (being jointly enfeoffed with Elizabeth, his wife, in manner as aforesaid), of the Bishop of Winchester,

as of his manor of Taunton, by knight's service, which were worth yearly in all issues £10. Also, the said John held certain lands and tenements in Capelonde, in the county aforesaid (being jointly enfeoffed with Elizabeth, his wife, in manner as aforesaid), of John de Acton, by knight's service, which were worth yearly in all issues 100s. John de Meriet, son of the said John, was his next heir, and was of the age of twenty years in the feast of St. Michael last past (1326). [Inq. p.m. 1 E. III (1 nrs) no. 50.

(35). **Elizabeth**, second wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Hestercombe, and widow of Philip Paynel, of Combe-Kaynes and Rampisham, Dorset. She must have been married to Sir John de Meriet before 1306, as their son and heir was born in Michaelmas of that year. In June, 1306, Sir John de Meriet, by fine, conveyed his manors of Hestercombe and Leigh-Florey to feoffees to hold to the joint use of himself and Elizabeth, his wife, and to the right heirs of himself. [See (34) of these notes.]

She held in dower, as widow of Philip Paynel, the manor of Rampisham, and a moiety of the manor of Combe-Kaynes (called the manor of Southcombe), Dorset. [Hutchins' *Dorset*, last edit. i. 347, and ii. 692.]

The death of her son, John Paynel, in May, 1325, leaving two daughters his co-heirs [Esc. 18 E. II., no. 60] rendered it necessary to ascertain whether his mother (who was not residing in Dorsetshire) was then alive, with regard to the continuance of her right of dower in the manor of Rampisham, and as to her estate in fee in the manor of Southcombe, in Combe-Keynes; consequently, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to whom application had been made, formally certified, under his hand, at Wyvelescumbe, on Wednesday after Mid-lent Sunday (5 March) 19 E. II., 1325-6, that on that day the *lady Elizabeth Paynel, wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt.*, was with her husband in his *manor of Hestercombe* alive and in good health. [Reg. *Drokensford*, fol. 248b.] The late Mr. Hugo did not apprehend the purpose for which this certificate was required.

From a Plea of Assize in a suit respecting the right of ownership in and possession of the manor of Southcombe, or Paynel's manor in Combe-Kaynes, between John Pouger, or Pougher, of West Rasen, co. Lincoln, plaintiff (who was grandson and heir general of John Paynel), and William Filol and John, his son, defendants, tried at Dorchester, on Thursday next after the festival of St. Matthias the Apostle, 9 R. II. (1 March, 1385-6), before the King's judges of the Com. Pleas, viz., Sir Robert Bealknap, Chief Justice, and William Rykill, [Rolls of Assize, Divers Counties, 8-11 R. II. m. 14, (Press mark) $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \text{N} \\ 2 \\ 30 \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$ 3] and from other evidences, it appears that Elizabeth's son, the aforesaid John Paynel, enlarged his mother's dower estate in the manor of Southcombe, by granting and releasing to her and her heirs all right and claim which he had therein, with warranty for himself and his heirs. Afterwards, by final concord in Michaelmas Term, 9 E. III., 1335, '*Int' Elizabeth. que fuit uxor Phi' Paynel, quer', et Simonem fil' Joh'is Meriet de Hestercombe, deforc*'; Elizabeth, for £20 sterling, granted and released the said manor, under the appellation of the *moiety of the manor of Combe-Kaynes*, to the said Simon Meriet (her son) and his heirs, with warranty for herself and her heirs. [Fin. Conc. Dorset, 9 E. III. no. 91.]

Simon de Meriet, succeeding to his paternal inheritance of Hestercombe and other estates upon the death, in May, 19 E. III., 1345, of his uncle, Walter de Meriet [see note (38)], in Michaelmas Term, 19 E. III., 1345, by agreement between Ralph de Grey and Johanna, his wife, querents, and himself, as *Simon, son of John de Meriet, of Hestercombe*, deforc', for the sum of 20 marks silver (£13 16s. 8d.) granted the said moiety of the manor of Combe-Kaynes, with warranty for himself and his heirs, to the said Ralph and Johanna and the heirs of Ralph for ever. [Fin. Conc. Dorset, 19 E. III. no. 162.] In 35 E. III., 1361, Ralph and Johanna Grey conveyed the manor in fee to Thomas parson of the church of Neubery (Newbury, Berks), John Galdyngton, and William parson

of the church of Chelrey (Childrey, Berks), who demised it in fee to Richard, Earl of Arundel, and Matthew Redeman. Thereon, the Earl of Arundel remitted all his right and claim to Redeman and his heirs, and Redeman in the following year, viz., 36 E. III., 1362, gave and granted the manor to William Filol and Mary his wife, to hold to them and the heirs of Mary, whereby the right of reversion therein vested in John Filol, their son. Judgment was pronounced in favour of the defendants, the Filols. [Compare also Hutchins' *Dorset*, last edition, i. 348; ii. 692; Inq. p.m. of John Paynel, 18 E. II. no. 60, and Inq. p.m. of Elizabeth Paynel, 19 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 19.]

Thus it is clear that Elizabeth, nine years before her death, gave and granted her freehold estate in the manor of Southcombe, which she had of the gift of her son John Paynel, to Simon de Meriet her second son by her second marriage, for his benefit, whilst retaining her life estates in dower in the manor of Rampisham (the inheritance of her first husband), and in the manors of Hestercombe, Assheton-Daundo and Capelond (the inheritance of her second husband). This preference for her second de Meriet son was stimulated, if not produced, by her elder son John de Meriet of Hestercombe, conveying in 7 E. III. 1333, the manor of Hestercombe and other estates of inheritance to his uncle, Walter de Meriet, to the exclusion of his own brother, Simon de Meriet. [See (37) of these notes.]

Elizabeth survived till 1344. A writ of '*diem clausit*' on her death, in which she is styled '*Elizabeth, que fuit uxor Phi.' Paynel,*' was issued on 1 June, 19 E. III., 1345, to Thomas Cary the escheator in Somerset and Dorset; and by the pursuant inquisition, taken at Chevereshut (Evershot), Dorset, on 16 June following it was found that she held the manor of Ramesham in dower of the inheritance of Elizabeth wife of Richard Grastrich and Margery wife of John Poucher, daughters and heirs of John, son and heir of the said Philip Paynel, (which manor was held) of John Giffard de Beefs as of his manor of

Coges, co. Oxford, by the service of 10s. annual rent, and was of the yearly value of 20 marks; that the said Elizabeth died on 16 November last past (1344) holding no other lands in the said escheator's jurisdiction in Dorset, and the aforesaid Elizabeth aged 25 years, and Margery aged 24 years, daughters and heirs of John, son and heir of the said Philip Paynel, were the nearest heirs of the blood of the said Elizabeth, deceased. [Esc. 19 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 19.]

(36). Philip Paynel of Combe-Kaynes and Rampisham, Dorset, first husband of Elizabeth, was second son of John Paynel (who died in 1275) of Combe-Kaynes, by his wife Katherine, daughter and co-heir of Adam de Pyriton of Pyriton (Purton near Swindon), Wilts; and Rampisham, Dorset. He was born at Pyriton, 15 August, 1269, [Prob. œtatis 19 E. I. no. 104] succeeded his elder brother, John Paynel, who died 1287 s.p. [Esc. 15 E. I. no. 27]; and succeeded to the manor of Rampisham and Yard, as heir to his mother at her death, 1296. [Esc. 24 E. I. no. 116.] He received various summonses to perform military service in July, 1297; and May, 1298. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Writs of '*diem clausit*,' on his death were tested at Canterbury, 24 May, 27 E. I., 1299; and by the pursuant inquisitions, taken in Lincolnshire and Dorset on 25 and 26 June following, it was found that he held, with other manors and lands, the manors of West and Middle Rasen, co. Lincoln; and the manors of Rampisham and Combe-Kaynes; and that John Paynel was his son and next heir, aged one year on 24 December last past (1298). [Esc. 27 E. I. no. 51.] He bore on his shield, Gules, a cross patteé argent. [Aubrey's *Wilts* under *Pyrton*.]

John Paynel, the son and heir, who was born 24 December, 1297, succeeded to the inheritance of these manors; and, as shewn in note (35), he granted and released in fee to Elizabeth, his mother, the manor of Southcombe, in which hitherto she held only an estate in dower for her life. By inquisitions on

his death, taken pursuant to writs tested at Froyle, 29 May, 18 E. II (1325), it was found that Elizabeth, wife of Richard, son of John Gastrick, and Margery Paynel were his daughters and next heirs. [Esc. 18 E. II. no. 60.]

(37). **John de Meriet,** son and heir of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Hestercombe, and Elizabeth, his second wife. By the inquisition on his father's death [see note (34)] he was found to be 20 years of age at Michaelmas, 1326. [Esc. 1 E. III. no. 50.] By reason of this minority the guardianship of his lands in Capelond, together with the next presentation to the church of Capelond, devolved to Sir John de Acton, Kt., as chief lord of the fee: consequently, the living becoming vacant, Sir John de Acton, on 12 of the Kalends of July (20 June), 1328, as patron for that turn, presented Geoffry, called 'Barlinch de Cosynton' (Geoffry Barlinch of Cossington, near Bridgwater?) to the church of Capelond. [*Register Drokensford,* fol. 271.]

In April, 7 E. III. (1333), and again in the octave of Hilary 11 E. III. (1337-8), a fine was made between *Walter, son of Lucy de Meriet,* querent, by his substitute, Stephen Percehaye, and '*John de Meryet de Hestercumbe,*' deforciant, whereby John de Meriet, for 100 marks silver (£66 13s. 4d.), conveyed in fee to the said Walter the reversion of the manors of Hestercombe and Legh-Flory, after the death of Elizabeth the widow of John de Meriet, deceased, who was holding the same for her life; the reversion of the manor of Capelond after the death of the said Elizabeth, who was holding the same in dower; the reversion of one messuage, one (water) mill, and one virgate of land in Meryet, after the death of John de Bath ('Bathon'), who was holding the same for his life; the reversion of one messuage and half a virgate of land in the ville of Coumbe-Flory, after the death of John Atte-Brome, who was holding the same for his life; all of which were of the inheritance of the said John de Meryet (party to the fine). Likewise the fee (in possession) of one messuage, two carucates and half a virgate of land,

22 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of wood; with 52s., and 2lbs. of cummin and ½lb. of pepper of rent; one knight's fee and $\frac{1}{16}$, with the appurtenances (all being) in Ashton Daundo, Yaford, and Lydeard St. Lawrence, in Somerset; with the homages and services of John Gyan and Emma his wife, Thomas Cunduyt, William de Asshelond, William de la Pole and Edith his wife, and Thomas de Bykefold, for their several holdings in the said villes; also of one knight's fee, and the homages and services of John de Cormailles and John Madhurst for their several holdings in Eston-Boloygne, in co. Southampton; and 6d. of rent and one knight's fee in Hemelesworth (in the parish of Wichampton), Dorset, to have and to hold (all) to the said Walter de Meriet and his heirs of the chief lords of the several fees by the services which appertained thereto for ever. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no. 221.]

Thus he displaced his younger brother Simon, as his heir, from the succession to his manors and lands, &c., in favour of his uncle, Walter de Meriet. This proceeding bears close relation, as cause, to that of his mother, Elizabeth, in Michaelmas Term, 1335—mentioned above in note (35)—viz., the giving to her younger son, Simon de Meriet, all the estate and interest which she held by the gift of her eldest son, John Paynel, in the manor of Combe-Kaynes, Dorset.

No inquisition appears to have been taken on the death of this John de Meriet, and the presumption is that no writ was issued on the occasion. It is evident that he left no lawful issue, as his brother Simon succeeded to the inheritance of Hestercombe and other manors and lands, &c., on the death of Walter de Meriet, the uncle, in 1345. [See note (38).]

(38). **Walter de Meriet:**—he is frequently styled '*Walter son of Lucy de Meriet.*' [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. I. no. 105; Fin. Conc. Somerset, 32 E. I. no. 118; Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no. 221; Fines Roll, 1 E. III. memb. 29; Originalia Roll, 6 E. III. rot. 16; Placita Coram Rege, Easter

6 E. III. rot. civ.; County Placita Somerset, 7 E. III. no. 72; Petitions to the King in Council, 8 E. III. no. 5574.]

He was in Holy Orders [Petitions to the King in Council no. 5770; Esc. 17 E. III (2 nrs) no. 43; Originalia Roll 17 E. III. rot. 13 & 19; and Fin. Conc. Devon, 18 E. III. no. 177]; and judging by his appointment he was one of the Secular clergy.

Several transfers and settlements of manors and lands, to which Walter de Meriet was a party, have been already particularised in note (32), viz., the purchase in fee by him and Lucy, his mother, of a messuage and land in Plassh and Willet in June, 1303; the purchase in fee by him and Lucy, his mother, of a messuage and land in Cerneheye by Taunton (now called Sawneys, or Zawneys, in the parish of Trull), in June, 1304; the purchase in fee by him and Lucy, his mother, of two messuages, land and rents in Culm-Sachville, Strawquil, and Yard-Down by Bradninch, Devon, in May, 1305; the recording his claim on the back of the fine when John de Meriet, his brother, settled a life estate of the manors of Hestercombe and Legh-Flory on Elizabeth, his second wife, in June, 1306; the purchase in fee by him from Lucy de Meriet, his mother, of two messuages and lands in Withycombe, in June, 1307; his settling, in November, 1311, the manor of Bratton, the manor and advowson of the church of Bradeford-by-Welyngton and lands in Lydyard St. Lawrence and Milverton on Lucy, his mother, for life, with remainder to her daughter Hawisia and her issue, with reversion to himself; and his settling, in Nov., 1313, the same manors, advowson and lands on Lucy, his mother, for life, with remainder to John de Berkeley and the said Hawisia, then his wife, and the issue of Hawisia, with reversion to himself and his heirs.

In the returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.), made pursuant to separate writs, tested at Clipston (co. Northampton) 5 March,

9 E. II., 1315-6, Walter de Meriet is certified as one of the lords of Withycombe in the Hundred of Carhampton; Ralph Fitz Urse being the other. [Parliamentary Writs.]

On 16 Kalends of January, 1320-1 (17 December, 1320), Walter de Meriet, lord of the manor, presented Simon Sauvage, acolyte, to the church of Bradeford, on the resignation of Richard de Forde, Canon of Wells, who had accepted the Treasurership of Wells. [Register *Drokensford* 165.]

On 28 January, 1322-3 Walter de Meriet was collated (on the resignation of Henry Nyweton) to the Chancellorship of the Church of Exeter, and installed 15 March following. He held the office till 1335, if not longer. [Le Neve's *Fasti* by Hardy, I. 418; Oliver's *Exeter Cathedral*, 281.] Oliver also states that in 28 E. III. (1354), the King granted license to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral to appropriate a house in Exeter to maintain the anniversary of William (Walter?) de Meriet "*nuper Cancellarii Ecclesiæ Exoniensis.*"

On 24 April, 1327, Walter de Meriet was made a Prebendary in the Cathedral Church of Wells on the death of Richard de Ford (who was Treasurer of the Diocese). (Le Neve's *Fasti* by Hardy I. 137.) [Harl. MSS. 6964, p. 106.]

On 18 Kalends of May (14 April), 1330, Ralph de Salopia, Bishop of Bath and Wells, in the parish church of Dogmarsfield, in the diocese of Winchester, instituted William Rospyn, presbyter, into the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe), on the presentation of Walter de Meryet. [Harl. MSS. 6965, p. 32.]

A dispute having arisen between Ralph de Camoys and '*Walter son of Lucy de Meryet*' as to the right of ownership in the manor of Bradeford by Taunton, Somerset, the former, by writ dated 10 October, 7 E. II. (1313), brought an action against the latter. The hearing of the case began at Westminster before Sir William de Bereford, chief justice, and his associate judges of the Common Pleas, in Hilary Term, 8 E. II. (1314-5), when Ralph Camoys, by his attorney, William

Tebaud, claimed from Walter, son of Lucy de Meryet, the manor of Bradeford by Taunton, with its appurtenances (excepting 1 garden, 82 acres of arable, 4 acres of meadow, 2 messuages, and the fourth part of one other messuage in the same manor), as his right and inheritance, in which manor the same Walter had no entry except by Lucy de Meryet (his mother), to whom John de Camoys, late husband of Margaret de Camoys, mother of Ralph (whose heir he was), demised it, to which demise Margaret could not object in her life time; and thence Ralph argued that Margaret, his mother, was seised thereof in her demesne as of fee and right in the time of King Edward I., she taking and receiving the whole issues and profits of the same, from which Margaret the right descended to the said Ralph, the claimant, as her son and heir. To this, Walter de Meryet, by his attorney, Simon Sauvage, replied that he could not restore the manor because he was not holding it, nor did he hold it on the day of the obtaining the writ (10 Oct., 7 E. II. 1313). Whereupon issue was joined, and they both required to refer the case to a jury of the neighbourhood. For which purpose the Sheriff (John de Erle) was ordered to summon twelve men in the octave of John Baptist (24 June—1 July, 1315). The matter was then delayed, and not resumed till the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 19 E. II. (1325), when the parties appeared in court at Westminster, and a jury of 12 men was chosen, viz., William de Mulburn, or Mulebourne, Reginald de Frome (of South Cadbury), John de Ievilton, Thomas de Spekynton, John Bisshop, John son of Peter de Dreycote, Robert de Lucy, Roger Torel, Hugh de Cleyhangre, Ralph Welweton, Nicholas Gyan, and John de Doumere, or Dimmere, who upon oath found that the said Walter de Meriet was holding the manor and premises on the day of obtaining the writ (10 October, 1313.) Judgment was accordingly pronounced in favour of Ralph de Camoys, that he should recover his seisin of the manor against Walter de Meriet.

Against this judgment Walter de Meriet appealed, alledging

that the jury on the inquiry swore falsely in stating that he was holding the manor on the day of issuing the original writ (10 October, 1313), because that before that day by final concord made at Westminster before William de Bereford and his associate justices of the Common Pleas in 5 E. II. (1311), as between him, and Simon le Sauvage, [this fine is given at length in (32) of these notes] he granted the manor to the said Simon for life, with remainder to Lucy de Meryet for her life, and with further remainder to Hawisia, daughter of the said Lucy, to hold to her and her issue, and failing such issue, with reversion to himself and his heirs, and the said Simon le Sauvage granted his life estate therein to the said Lucy, &c.; so that it was after the making of that fine, and during the tenancy of Lucy, that Ralph de Camois took out the writ of claim. To which writ he had pleaded, as is above said, and the jury had been respited to the said quinzaine of Michaelmas, 19 E. II. (1325), during which interval of time (Michaelmas, 1313, to Michaelmas, 1325), the said Lucy died, and also the said Hawisia died without heirs of her body, whereby he (Walter) became seised of the manor by right of reversion, and so was holding it at the time when the jury on the inquiry exceeded (their duty), and by whose false oath on that inquiry he lost the manor:—wherefore he demanded a jury, &c. Thereon, a day was assigned for the hearing, and the Sheriff was required to summon a jury of 24 of knights and others.

For the purpose of proceeding against the twelve jurymen of the original inquisition, Walter, son of Lucy de Meriet, on payment of a fee of 10s. into the exchequer, obtained a *Writ of Attaint* against them, dated 4 February, 1326-7. [Fines Roll, 1 E. III. m. 29.] After several delays a day was finally assigned for the hearing, viz., the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 5 E. III. (1331), when the jury of 24, of knights and others, on their oath stated that the twelve jurors on the original inquiry made a false oath in saying that Walter de Meryet held the manor

on 10 October, 7 E. II. (1313). They also found that the manor was worth £80 per annum, and assessed the damages to be paid to Walter at 1000 marks (£816. 13s. 4d). Judgment was accordingly pronounced that Walter de Meriet should re-have the manor, and recover from Ralph de Camoys damages to the amount of 1000 marks; eleven jurors of the first inquiry (John de Ievelton, one of the twelve, having died), were to lose their freedom; their goods and chattels to be forfeited; their lands and tenements taken into the King's hand and extirpated; their wives and children turned out; and the person of Ralph de Camoys seized. Order was accordingly given to the Sheriff of Somerset to carry out the judgment.

Afterwards, by force of a precept to the Sheriff of Somerset, Ralph de Camoys, by his attorney, Henry de Bourne, and Walter de Meryet, by his attorney, Stephen Percehay, in the quinzaine of Trinity (6 E. III., 1332), appeared, &c., when the finding of the last jury was argued and confirmed; and it was ordered that Walter de Meryet should retain the manor and have its issues for the whole six years intervening from the time of the finding of the first jury to the day of the verdict of the twenty-four jurymen, viz., from the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 19 E. II. (1325), to the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 5 E. III. (1331); the value of which issues for the six years, at £80 per annum, amounting to 720 marks, should be paid to him by the said Ralph. And as regarded 280 marks, the residue of the 1000 marks awarded to Walter, as damages, the court not being advised whether he ought to have further damages beyond the aforesaid amount of issues of the manor, a day was given for the further hearing thereof, viz., in the quinzaine of Hilary, 7 E. III. (1332-3), which was again deferred; but in the meanwhile the issues of the manor were adjudicated to Walter to the amount of 720 marks. [County Placita, Somerset, no. 72; Placita Coram Rege, Easter, 6 E. III., rot. ciiii.]

By petition to the King, '*Walter de Meriet, clerk,*' prayed

execution of the damages accorded to him in the above suit. [Petitions to the King in Council, no. 5770.]

The severe sentence pronounced upon the eleven surviving jurors on the first inquiry was carried out, and they were committed to the Flete prison in the parish of St. Brigida (St. Bride's) in the ward of Farendon, in the suburbs of London, to the custody of Edmond de Cheyny, the governor. From whence William de Mulebourne, the first of these jurors, made supplication to the King, that having been kept in prison for a long while, he might, upon payment of a reasonable fine, be liberated, and his goods and chattels and lands, &c., restored to him. The King thereon, compassionating the case, issued his writ accordingly to Geoffry le Scrop, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and his associate judges, dated from York, 20 October, 6 E. III (1332). [Originalia Roll, 6 E. III., rot. 16.]

It has been already observed that John de Ievilton, one of the twelve jurors, had died before the trial for perjury. By an inquisition on the death of Reginald de Frome, one of the remaining eleven jurors, taken on 20 August, 7 E. III. (1333), pursuant to writ dated 16 July preceding, it was found that the said Reginald de Frome died, before release, in the prison of the Flete on 24 June, 7 E. III. (1333); and by another inquisition taken at Somerton on 29 November following, it was found that before his conviction of perjury, he and Margaret his wife, held a third part of the manor of Suthcadburi (South Cadbury) in dower of the said Margaret, by dotation of John du Boys, her former husband, and by the assignment of John Pauncefot, the chief lord, of whom the manor was held; and that she held the other two parts of the manor in allowance of dower from the other lands of her late husband, John du Boys, in Phelippeston, Dorset; Nytherhampton, Wilts; and Bytewode and Dounhevede, Somerset, from 2 E. II. (1308), to the day when the manor of Suthcadburi was seized into the King's hand in consequence of the said Reginald's conviction of perjury (at Michaelmas, 1331); and the said manor was held

by knight's service, and was worth £19 per annum. [Escheat, 7 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 13.]

With regard to the manor of Bradeford:—Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., held the manor at the time of his death, which occurred about April, 46 H. III., 1262. [Compare Fines Roll, 46 H. III., ms. 2, 8 and 13, and Inq. p.m. 53 H. III. no. 19.] Hawisia de Neville, his widow, then held the manor until the King should assign her a reasonable dower out of her said husband's lands. [Fines Roll, 46 H. III. m. 2.] She was daughter and heir of Robert le Sauvage of Brawatre, (Broadwater), Sussex. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 33 H. III. no. 231.] As the manor of Broadwater passed to her step-granddaughter and her issue, we may conclude that Hawisia died s.p., and that by special limitation, Broadwater was settled on her husband, Sir John de Gatesden, and his heirs in the event of her dying without issue. On Hawisia's death the King issued a mandamus, dated 10 April, 53 H. III. (1269), to John le Moyne, the escheator on this side Trent, to take a valuation of all the manors, &c., that Hawisia de Neville, widow, deceased, held as well in dower from John de Gatesden, her late husband, as by his feoffment for her life. To this writ four separate valuations are annexed, containing details, in one of which it is stated that he held lands in Somerset of the heirs of Katherine de Montacute. The King also, by another mandamus, dated two days later, viz., 12 April, 53 H. III. (1269), required the same escheator to take a valuation of, and to deliver to Robert Walerand, all the manors and lands of Sir John de Gatesden, deceased, reciting that, having by his letters patent pledged himself to provide a marriage portion for Robert Walerand, he had already granted to him the marriage of the daughter and heir of John de Gatesden, (junior), deceased, and 200 marks (£133. 6s. 8d.) out of the lands of her inheritance until she should come of age. A valuation was accordingly made, when it was found that the manor of Bradeford was worth £24 per annum. [Inq. 53 H. III. no. 19, and Inq. incerto tempore

H. III. no. 84.] N.B.—The last document here referred to is much damaged, and the date obliterated, but it certainly formed part of the same valuation.

Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., (senior), had by a former wife, Ermigerda de Bidun (who died before 1255), an elder son John de Gatesden, junior. This John de Gatesden was required by the King to go on a special message into Spain, in 1256. [Fines Roll, 40 H. III., mem. 10]; and his death may have happened in consequence of this expedition, for it is recorded that John de Gatesden, junior, died on 25 November, 1258, holding the manors of Gatesden and Stanbrugge, Herts; and Trotton, Demeford, Elvested, and Dedling, Sussex, and leaving an only daughter and heir, Margaret de Gatesden, who was 13 years of age on 22 January, 43 H. III., 1258-9. This child was therefore born 22 January, 1245-6. [Inq. p.m., 43 H. III. no. 40.]

Afterwards, Margery, widow of John de Gatesden, junior, and Richard de Gatesden, his brother, for a fine of 60 marks, obtained from the King, in 1269, a grant of the custody of her late husband's lands. [Fines Roll, 43 H. III. m. 1.]

We also learn that prior to his death this John de Gatesden had granted a moiety of the manor of Graffham (a member of the manor of Wool Lavington, Sussex), in free marriage with his daughter Margaret to John de Camoys. [Placita Coram Rege, Easter, 12 E. II., 1319. Abbrev. Plac, p. 334.]

This marriage afterwards took place, notwithstanding the King's grant, already noticed, of her marriage to Robert Walerand. She became heir to her grandfather, Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., in 1262:—consequently, upon the death of Hawisia, his widow, in 1269, all the Gatesden manors and lands, including this manor of Bradeford, devolved by inheritance to her and her husband, John de Camoys, and their issue.

In the reign of H. III. William de Montacute, uncle and heir of Katherine de Montacute, held in his demesne as of fee of the King in chief (besides other manors) the manors of

Chynnock, Chyselberg, Norton and Bradeford in Somerset; Stockholte in Bucks; Heycton, or Heckton, in Sussex; and Lerky in Cornwall; and under him by subinfeudation, Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., held the manor of Bradeford. At William de Montacute's decease in 1247, these manors descended to his two daughters and coheirs, viz., Margaret, who married William de Echingham and died circa November 1257 s.p.; and Isabell, who married, 1st, Ralph de la Haye, s.p., 2d, Thomas de Aldeham, or Audeham (who died in 1276 leaving issue), and 3d, Richard de Pevenesy (who died 1323 s.p.) On the death of Margaret, the sole inheritance in these lordships devolved to her sister, Isabell, and her heirs. Between November, 1257, and November, 1258, a final agreement respecting these manors was made before the King at Winchester between John de Gatesden (father of Margaret, wife of John de Camoys,) querent, and the said Thomas de Audeham, and Isabel his wife, deforciants, the purpose of which, in the absence of the record, is unknown, but probably was for the defining of ownership and the respective rights of either party. After the marriage of Richard de Pevenesy with Isabel, the widow of Thomas de Aldeham (which took place before September, 1279), John de Camoys and Margaret, his wife, deforced from them the manor of Bradeford and moieties of the manors of Norton and Heckton, contrary to the stipulations and agreements of that concord.

For the purpose, therefore, of settling disputes, a final agreement was passed in the King's court at Guildford, on Sunday next after the feast of St. Nicholas, 8 E. I. (10 December, 1279), between Richard de Pevenesy and Isabel, his wife, querents, and John de Cameys and Margaret, his wife, deforciants, in respect of all these manors, whereby John de Camoys and his wife granted to Richard and Isabel, and her heirs, a certain rent in Fletching, Sussex, and two-thirds of the advowson of the church there, and the manor of Heckton; and remitted and quit-claimed to them all rights in the manors of Brembeltye and

Jevyngton, Sussex, with the advowsons of the churches of Chyselberg and Jevyngton, and of Langeberg (Longborough), co. Gloucester. For which grant and remission Richard de Pevenesy and his wife granted to John and Margaret and her heirs the manors of Norton and Bradeford, Somerset, and the advowsons of those churches; and remitted and quit-claimed to them all right in the manors of Stockholte, Bucks; Bradewater and Bovigeton, Sussex; and Elynge, co. Southampton. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 8 E. I. no. 91, and Placita Coram Rege Michm̃as, 2 and 3 E. I., rot 7 in dorse. Abbre. Plac. 187.] Comparing the record of the trial at law between Ralph de Camoys and Walter de Meriet, of which the details are given above, with other evidence, it is clear that John de Camoys granted the manor of Bradeford, in fee, together with the advowson of the church to Walter de Meriet and his heirs.

On the death of John, Lord Mohun of Dunster, in 1330, it was found that Walter de Meriet held the following fees of the barony of Dunster, viz., Biccombe (in the parish of Timberscombe), Ellesworth (Elworthy), and Willet (in the parish of Elworthy) in Somerset, and Mapperton-Bret, in Dorset, by the service of four knights' fees, and Luxborough-Everard, Oaktrow (in the parish of Cutcombe), and Allercot (in the parish of Carhampton), in Somerset, by the service of a fourth part of a knight's fee. [Inq. p m. of John de Mohun, 4 E. III. no. 35, as quoted in Savage's *History of the Hundred of Carhampton*, p. 478.]

By agreement in the quinzaine of Hilary, 4 E. III. (January, 1330-1), Robert de Chippelegh, deforciant, for 40 marks (£26. 13s. 4d.) granted to Walter de Meriet, querent, and his heirs, the reversion in fee of 1 messuage, 1 garden, 67 acres of arable land, 9½ acres of meadow, and 7 acres of moorland in Bishop's Lydyard and Hethfeld, on the death of Joan de Worcester (de *Wygornia*), who was holding the same for her life. [Fin. Conc., Somerset, 4 E. III., no. 73.]

On 14 of the kalends of April (19 March), 1333, at Bocland,

Ralph de Salopia, Bishop of Bath and Wells, instituted John de Middleton, presbyter, into the church of Bradeford, on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965, p. 70.]

On 7 of the Ides of July (9 July), 1333, Henry Percehay was instituted by Bishop Ralph de Salopia into the church of Widecombe (Withycombe) on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965 p. 72.]

On 8 of the kalends of November (25 October), 1334, Reginald de Buggewelle, acolyte, was instituted on the resignation of Henry Percehaye, by Bishop Ralph de Salopia into the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe), on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965 p. 83]. This Reginald de Bugwell was by papal provision admitted Dean of Exeter 28 June, 1353. [Le Neve's *Fasti* by Hardy, I. 385.]

On 8 of the kalends of November (25 October), 1334, at Cherde (Chard), Bishop Ralph de Salopia instituted John le Mason, presbyter, into the church of Estcapelonde on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965, p. 82.]

By agreement in October, 7 E. III. (1333), and again in June, 11 E. III. (1337), William Freman and Elen his wife, deforciants, for £200 sterling, conveyed to Walter de Meryet, querent, and his heirs, a carucate of land in Yartecumbe, Devon, on the deaths of Margery widow of John Croke, and William le Speek, who were holding the same for their lives of the inheritance of the said Elen; and 1 messuage and 15 acres of land in Bishop's Lydyard on the death of Walter Trot; 1 messuage and 45 acres of land in Bishop's Lydeard on the deaths of Roger atte-Walle and John Cley; 1 messuage, 1 carucate of land, 18 acres of meadow, 5 acres of moorland, a third part of a messuage, and a third part of a mill in Bishop's Lydeard, which Hugh de Gurney and Isabel his wife, were holding in right of her dower; 2 messuages, 1 carucate of land, 12 acres of meadow in Kyngesbury, which Hugh de Gurney, and Isabel his wife, were holding for her life; and the fee in possession of two-thirds of a messuage and two thirds of a mill at Bishop's

Lydyard; and likewise of two messuages, 1 carucate, and 40 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 4 acres of wood, 15 acres of moorland; 36s., and 1 lb. of wax, and 1 lb. of cummin of rent in Bishop's Lydyard, Kyngeston, and Kyngesbury, Somerset; together with the homages and services of Robert de Pavely, and Alice his wife, Robert de Childecote, William de Membury, and William Pour, and their heirs, for their several holdings in the said villes, with warranty from the said William Freman and Elen and her heirs. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no 206.]

By final agreement in October, 11 E. III. (1337), and again in the octave of Hilary, 12 E. III. (1338-9), Elen, widow of William Freman, deforciant, for 40 marks silver (£26. 13s. 4d.) conveyed to Walter de Meryet, querent, and his heirs, with warranty, the reversion of 1 messuage, 50 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 2 acres of moorland, and 3 acres of aldergrove in Yartcombe, Devon, which Ralph Speeke was holding during the life of Margaret wife of Thomas Peverel, of the inheritance of the said Elen. [Fin. Conc. Devon, 11 E. III. no. 120.]

It has been already shown in note (37) that by a final agreement made in 1333 John de Meriet of Hestercombe (his nephew) conveyed to him in fee, by the style of *Walter, son of Lucy de Meriet,* and to his heirs, the reversion of the manors of Hestercombe, Legh-Flory and Capelond on the death of Elizabeth, widow of John de Meriet; and messuages, lands, and rents, &c., in Ashton-Daundo, Combe-Flory, Yaford, Lydiard St. Lawrence and Meryet, Somerset; and 1 knight's fee in Eston-Boloygne, co. Southampton; and 6d. annual rent, and 1 knight's fee in Hemelesworth, Dorset. [Finc. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no. 221.]

By final agreement in October, 12 E. III. (1338), William Percehay and John Hankyn, deforciants, acknowledged the manor of Bradeford by Welyngton to be the right of Walter de Meryet, and they rendered it to the same Walter and John de

Milton, clerk, querents, to hold to them and the heirs of Walter; for which acknowledgment and render, the latter parties granted for themselves and the heirs of Walter that they would give and pay to the same William Percehay for his life 100s. per annum, with power of distraint in case of default. [Final Conc., Somerset, 12 E. III. no. 51.] N.B.—Bradeford by Welyngton is the same place as Bradeford by Taunton.

Pursuant to a writ of inquiry, dated 28 April, 15 E. III. (1341), and directed to John de Caneford of Wellop, escheator in Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, an inquisition was taken at Taunton, on Wednesday in the week of Pentecost, 15 E. III. (30 May, 1341), when it was found not to be to the King's damage to allow Walter de Meryet to grant and assign 9 acres of meadow in Taunton (worth 20s. per annum, and held of the Bishop of Winchester as of his manor of Taunton, by the service of 7s. per annum), to the Friars of the blessed Mary of Mount Carmel, who were about to settle in Taunton and build a church and habitation there under the rules and discipline of their Order, to hold to them and their successors for ever. The jury also found that beyond the said 9 acres there remained to the said Walter de Meryet the manor of Combe-flory, which was within the liberty of the Bishop of Winchester, and held of him by the service of one knight's fee and worth £20 per annum. [Esc. 15 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 58.]

Pursuant to another writ of inquiry, dated 12 May, 17 E. III. (1343), and directed to Edward Stradlyng, the escheator in Somerset and Dorset, an inquisition was taken at Bruggewater on Tuesday after the festival of Peter and Paul, apostles, 17 E. III. (1 July, 1343), when it was found not to be to the King's damage if Walter de Meryet, *clerk*, gave and granted to the King and his heirs 9 acres of meadow called Cokkesmede in Taunton, so that the King might give and assign the same to the Friars of the Order of the blessed Mary of Mount Carmel (for the purpose recited in the preceding Inquisition); and likewise if Walter de Meryet assigned 7s. of annual rent, or land

to that value, to the Bishop of Winchester and his successor, of whom the 9 acres were held, in recompense for the 7s. annual service hitherto paid to the Bishop on the said 9 acres. [Esc. 17 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 43.]

On 5 August, 17 E. III. (1343), the King issued a mandamus from Claryndon to John de Membury and Robert de Somerton to receive seisin of the 9 acres of meadow in Taunton, which Walter de Meriet, *clerk*, had by his deed given and granted to the King. [Originalia Rolls, 17 E. III. rot. 19.]

Afterwards, the King issued a mandamus, dated at Langele 13 November, 17 E. III. (1343), to Edward de Stradelyng, the escheator in Somerset and Dorset, to the following effect:—Whereas by a proceeding in Chancery it has been deemed advisable to recall, cancel, and annul the King's charter of grant to the Friars of the Order of Mary of Mount Carmel of 9 acres of meadow, called Cokkesmede, in Taunton, which Walter de Meriet, *clerk*, had by his deed given to the King for that purpose; therefore the King commands his said escheator to take and seize the said meadow into the King's hand without delay, and be answerable at the King's exchequer for the issues and profits thereof. [Originalia Roll, 17 E. III. rot. 13.]

By agreement in October, 18 E. III. (1344), Walter de Meryet, *clerk*, deforciant, granted to Robert de Somerton and Thomas his son, the manor of Bratton, Devon, to hold to them and their heirs, with warranty for Walter de Meryet and his heirs. [Fin. Conc. Devon, 18 E. III. no. 127.]

Upon the death of Walter de Meriet, writs of '*diem clausit*' were issued on 7 June, 19 E. III. (1345), to the escheators in Devon, Somerset, and Dorset. By the pursuant inquisition taken at Bradenech (Bradninch), Devon, before John de Chevereston, the escheator, on Saturday next before the feast of the Nativity of John Baptist, 19 E. III. (18 June, 1345), it was found that Walter de Meryet held no lands in Devon,

either in his demesne, or in service, in fee of the King in chief; but that he held of Henry de Umfravyll, by the service of half a knight's fee, one messuage and two carucates of land at Colmp-Reigny (Culm-Sachville), in the tithing of Moncke-Colmp (Monkculm), worth 60s. per annum; that the said Walter died on 18 May last (1345), and that Simon, son of John de Meriet, was his nearest of kin and heir, and of the age of 30 years and more.

By the inquisition taken at Taunton before Thomas Cary, the escheator in Somerset and Dorset, on Friday in the feast of St. Botulph, 19 E. III. (17 June, 1345), it was found that Walter de Meryet held no lands or tenements in Somerset, either in his demesne or in service, in fee (of the King in chief); but that he held of the Bishop of Winchester in demesne as of fee, by military service, the Manor of Combe-flory, worth £10 per annum; one carucate (100 acres) of land in Hestercombe, worth 60s. per annum; half a carucate of land in Hokcombe (by Lydeard St. Lawrence), worth 40s. per annum; also of the same Bishop, in free socage, and for an annual rent of 20s., one carucate of land in Cerney (by Taunton), worth 40s. per annum; and likewise, at an annual rent of 7s., nine acres of meadow, in Taunton, called Cokesmede, worth 15s. per annum: also of the Bishop of Bath (and Wells), in demesne as of fee, by military service, one messuage and three carucates of land in Wyke, worth £10 per annum; also of the Earl of Pembroke, Maurice de Berkele and John de Bures, by like tenure and service, as of their manor of Milverton, one carucate of land in Bykeleye, worth 40s. per annum; also of Geoffry de Stawelle, by like tenure and service, one carucate of land in Pillegh, worth 40s. per annum; also of John de Mohun, by like tenure and service, two carucates of land in Wydecombe (Withycombe) and Escote, worth 100s. per annum, one carucate of land in Elleworthy and Plassh, worth 60s. per annum, and half a carucate of land in Brompton-Rauf, worth 20s. per annum; also of Sir John de Acton, Kt., by like tenure and service, one

carucate of land in Capelond, worth 60s. per annum. He also, together with John de Milton, who was then surviving, held the manor of Bradeford by Welyngton of John de St. Clare, as of his manor of Chuselbure (Chiselbergh) by military service, of the gift and grant of William Percehay and John Hankyn, by fine made in court (in October, 1338), with reversion to the said Walter and his heirs, which manor was worth 40 marks (£26. 13s. 4d.) per annum; and he held in his demesne as of fee of Thomas de Berkeley, by the service of finding a horse worth 5s., to carry the said Thomas de Berkeley's armour in Wales during the war there in lieu of all other services, two carucates of land in Asshton-Daundo, worth 100s. per annum. He died on 17 May last (1345) without issue, and Simon, son of John de Meriet his brother, was his kinsman and nearest heir, of the age of 30 years and more. [Inq. p.m., 19 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 55.]

(39). **Simon Meriet,** son of John, succeeded accordingly to his paternal inheritance of Hestercombe, and other manors and lands belonging.

It has been already observed in note (35) that in Michaelmas Term, 1335, his mother, Elizabeth, as widow of Philip Paynel, granted to him, as Simon, son of John de Meriet of Hestercombe, the manor of Combe-Kaynes, Dorset, to hold to him and his heirs; and that her doing so was probably in consequence of John de Meryet, her elder son, settling all his manors and lands on Walter de Meriet, his uncle, in preference to his own brother Simon. It has been also shewn in the same note that in Michaelmas Term, 1345, soon after he had come into possession of his paternal inheritance, he, as Simon, son of John de Meriet of Hestercombe, alienated to Ralph de Grey and Joan his wife, the manor of Combe Kaynes, to hold to them and the heirs of Ralph.

By agreement in February, 1346-7, Thomas de Stonore and William de Kyletru, or Kyletre, for the consideration of 40 marks silver (£26. 13s. 4d.) granted to Simon de Meriet and

Margery his wife, and the heirs of Simon, the reversion of a messuage, 150 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 2 acres of moor, and 3 acres of alder-grove in Yartecombe (Yarcombe), Devon, in the occupation of Thomas Belton and Isabel his wife, on the death of Margaret, widow of Thomas Peverell, who was holding the same for her life of the inheritance of the said William de Kyletre. [Fin. Conc. Devon, Hil., 21 E. III. no. 213.]

And by another agreement in the same month and year, Simon de Meriet conveyed in fee to Thomas de Stonore and William Kyletre, the manors of Wydecombe (Withycombe by Dunster), Assheton, Capelond, Wyke (near Taunton), a messuage, 15 acres of land, and 20s. of rent in Bishop's Lydeard and Kyngeston, Somerset, to hold to the use of himself, Margery his wife, and his own heirs; subject nevertheless, as regarded a third part of the manor of Wyke, to the dower therein of Isabel, wife of Thomas Belton, and as regarded the messuage and 15 acres in Bishop's Lideyard, to the life estate therein of Walter Trot. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Hil., 21 E. III. no. 6.] These two proceedings were probably taken by way of settlement on his marriage with Margery.

In April, 1347, he received confirmation of title to the manor and advowson of the church of Bradeford by Taunton, by a final accord, wherein Sir Thomas de Camoys, for the consideration of 100 marks silver (£66. 13s. 4d.), granted, remitted, and quit-claimed for himself and his heirs, with warranty, the said manor and advowson to Simon de Meriet and John de Middleton (or Milton), cleric, and the heirs of Simon. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 21 E. III. no 1.] This was preceded by a deed of release of all right and claim thereto from Sir Thomas de Camoys, Kt., to Simon de Meriet and John de Middelton, cleric, and the heirs of Simon, dated 18 February, 1346-7, in the presence of Sir John de Pulteneye, Sir Roger Hilary and Sir Ralph de Grey, Kts., Walter Turk, Roger de Depham, William Box, Simon de Turnham of London, John de Bratton,

John de Bradeston of Somerset, John de Dulton, and Henry Percehey and others. [Close Roll, 21 E. III. p. 1., m. 29.] These proceedings arose out of the litigation already detailed, respecting the manor and advowson of Bradeford between Sir Ralph de Camoys, Kt., the father of Sir Thomas, and Walter de Meriet, the uncle of Simon, in which Walter de Meriet was ultimately successful. [See note (38).]

In April, 1347, Simon de Meriet, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Thomas de Stonore and William de Killetre and the heirs of William, his manor of Bradeford (excepting a garden, 82 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 2 messuages, and a fourth of a messuage), and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, to hold to the use of himself, Margery his wife, and the heirs of Simon, subject nevertheless to the life estate therein of John de Middleton, cleric, (a former trustee of Walter de Meriet), who was present and a consenting party at the effecting of the accord, and who did fealty in court to the said Simon and Margery on the occasion. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 21 E. III. no. 5.]

In February, 1355-6, Simon de Meriet and Margery his wife, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Edward de Stonore, John Ruspyn parson of the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe by Dunster), and Geoffry de Weston, chaplain, the manor of Wykeb y Taunton; 5 messuages, 2 mills, 750 acres of land, 70 acres of meadow, 158 acres of wood, and 20s. of rent in Lideyard St. Lawrence, Elleworth and Taunton; a third part of the manors of Wydecombe and Brompton Raufe; the manor of Bradeford (except 1 acre of land), and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, Somerset; and 1 messuage, 1 carucate of land, 8 acres of meadow, and 2s. of rent in Yartecombe, Devon, to hold to the use of Simon and Margery, and the heirs male of their bodies; with remainders, 1st, to the heirs male of the body of Simon; 2nd, to Thomas son of Sir John Tryvet, Kt. and Alice his wife, and the joint heirs of their bodies; 3rd, to the right heirs of the said Simon de Meriet. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 30 E. III. no. 531.]

In the octave of Hilary, 30 E. III. (13-20 January, 1356-7), Simon de Meryet and Margery his wife, conveyed in fee, by final accord, to John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe), the manors of Combe-Flory and Heystercombe (except 2 acres of land in Heystercombe), and the advowson of the chantry of the altar of the blessed Mary in the church of Combe-Flory, to hold to the same uses and with the same remainders as next above. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 30 E. III. no. 11.]

By another final accord, passed at the same time as the one last recited, Simon de Meryet and Margery his wife, conveyed to the same feoffee the manor of Est Lambroke, to hold to the use of him, Simon, for life; with remainders, 1st, to the same Thomas Tryvet and Alice his wife, for their lives; 2nd, to the heirs male of the body of Simon de Meryet; 3rd, to the joint issue of Thomas and Alice Tryvet; and 4th, to the right heirs of Simon de Meryet. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 30 E. III. no. 12.] The peculiarity of the limitations in this entail and the variations from those of the preceding one, clearly indicate that Alice, the wife of Thomas Tryvet, was daughter, and at the time, only child of Simon and Margery de Meriet.

Within the following fortnight, viz., on 3 February, 1356-7, Simon de Meriet and Margery his wife, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Edmund de Stonore, John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe, and Geoffry Weston, chaplain, a messuage, 1 carucate of land, 16 acres of meadow, 12 acres of wood, 10s. and 1lb. of pepper of rent in Capelond, and the advowson of the church of Capelond, to hold to the use of Simon de Meriet for life, with the same remainders as in the entail next above recited. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. III. no. 19.]

At the same time, Sir John Tryvet, chivaler, by a separate final accord, conveyed in fee to the same John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe, 5 messuages, 9 carucates of land, 80 acres of meadow, 10 acres of wood, and 60s. of rent in

Puryton, Bauderyp, Oterhampton, Canyngton and Stoke-Cursy, to hold to the use of him, Sir John, for life; with remainders, 1st, to his son Thomas Tryvet and Alice his wife, and their joint issue male; and 2nd, to the right heirs of Sir John Tryvet. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. III. no. 27.] This accord was evidently passed by way of completing a settlement on the marriage of his son Thomas Tryvet with Alice.

In the octave of the Purification, 31 E. III. (2–8 Feb., 1356–7), Simon de Meriet, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Edmund de Stonore, John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe, and Geoffry de Weston, chaplain, 1 messuage, 2 carucates of land, 12 acres of meadow, 20 acres of more, and 8s. of rent in Sulfurton (Silverton), Devon, to hold to the use of him, Simon, for life; with remainders, 1st, to Thomas, son of Sir John Tryvet, Kt., and Alice his wife, for their lives; 2nd, to the heirs-male of the body of Simon de Meriet; 3rd, to the joint issue of Thomas Tryvet and Alice his wife; and 4th, to the right heirs of him, Simon de Meriet. [Fin. Conc. Devon, 31 E. III. no. 280.]

In Hilary Term, 40 E. III. (1365-6), Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, on payment of the customary fine, obtained from the crown a licence to accord with Sir Simon Meriet, chivaler, and Margery, his wife, respecting the manors of Combe Flory, Wydecombe, Hestercombe, Ellesworth, Plassh, Hoccombe, Pylegh, Cerneheye, Lambrok, &c., with their appurtenances. [Lansd. MS. 306, fol. 150]. As this volume of parchment is considered to be the original book of the entries '*pro Licentia Concordandi*' for passing final agreements, a verbatim copy of this entry is appended. (Hilary 40 E. III.)

> "*D° Johē de Meryet chivaler p' liĉ conc̄ cū Simone Meryet chivaler and Margeria ux̄e ejus de man̄iis de Combe-flory Wydecombe Hestercombe Ellesworth Plassh Hoccombe Pylegh Cerneheye Lambrok &c. cū p'tin.*"

No trace of the consequent final agreement between them respecting these manors has been found among the Public Re-

cords; but if such an accord were passed, then Sir John de Meriet of Meriet claimed the reversion in these manors and lands by a specific conveyance, as well as by natural descent and inheritance, as illustrated in note (23).

By deed, dated at Combe-flory on Thursday next after the Epiphany, 40 E. III. (7 January, 1366-7), Sir Symon Meriet, Kt., executed a general release of actions to Robert Tilli and his heirs, to which is attached his seal in red wax, bearing on a heater-shaped shield, *Barry of Six . . . . . and sable, over all a bend . . . . .* The encircling legend is damaged. [Cotton Charters, xxvii. no. 102.]

In the octave of Hilary, 40 E. III. (13-20 January, 1366-7), Sir Simon Meryet, chivaler, and Margery his wife, by a final accord, for the consideration of 100 marks silver (£66. 13s. 4d.) gave, remitted, and quit-claimed for themselves and the heirs of Sir Simon to Nicholas de Iford, parson of the church of Olveston (co. Gloucester); John de Bradeford, vicar of the church of Ayshton by Bristol; Walter de Wodehouse, John Gannard, John Cudemerton and William Vynour, chaplains, and the heirs of the said William Vynour for ever, the manor of Assheton by Bristol, with its appurtenances. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 40 E. III. no. 16.] This may be considered as an alienation in fee of the manor of Assheton by Bristol, as it is not included either in the *Licentiæ Concordandi* of Hilary, 1365-6; or in the general conveyance, in 1373, by Sir John de Meriet of Meriet, of his estates in possession and reversion to Sir Edmund de Arundel and the other feoffees.

From the foregoing statements, and from the absence of any further notices of Sir Simon, or of his daughter Alice the wife of Sir Thomas Tryvet, we may conclude that Sir Simon de Meriet, the last of the name of the Hestercombe branch, died soon after January, 1366-7, without issue surviving; and that Alice died also without issue some time before that date, leaving her husband, Sir Thomas Tryvet, surviving.

The following Institutions and Admissions of the clergy to

Benefices were made on the presentation of Sir Simon de Meriet as patron :—

1346, vii. Id. December, John de Dichford, priest, to the church of Capelond (Capland).

1347, xi. Kal. December (21 November), at Wyvelescombe, John Dichford, priest, to the church of South Bradene, on the presentation of John, lord of the manor; and at the same time and place, John de Ileford, priest, to the church of Capelond, on the presentation of Symon de Meriet.

1348, viii. Id. February (6 Feb.), John Stille, priest, to the Chantry of the B. V. Mary in the church of Combe Flory.

1348-9, viii. Id. February (Feb. 6), Symon de Barton, chaplain, to the church of Capelond.

1348-9, iv. Kal. March (27 Feb.), John de Stoke, priest, to the church of Capelond.

1349, viii. Kal. December (24 Nov.), John de Horton, clerk, to the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe).

1350-1, ix. Kal. April (24 March), Tholomeus (Bartholomew) de la Ryxyn, priest, to the Chantry of the B. V. Mary in the church of Combe Flory, by exchange with John Hechene, priest, who was instituted to the church of Stokegummer.

1351, iv. Kal. September (29 August), at Banewell, William Assheleigh, chaplain, to the Chantry of the B. V. Mary in the church of Combe Flory, on the resignation of Tholomew de la Ryxyn.

1353, xiii. Kal. June (20 May), at Wyvelescombe, John Bryz, chaplain, to the free chapel of Est Lambrok.

1354-5, March 17, at Wyvelescombe, the Bishop granted license to Symon de Meriet to celebrate masses and other divine offices in his chapel of Hestercombe.

[Register of *Ralph de Salopia*, at Wells, as extracted in Harl. MS. 6965.]

(40). **Margery**, wife of Sir Simon de Meriet, Kt. It has been already shewn that in February, 1346-7, her husband settled a

life estate upon her of several manors and lands; and that she held such an estate in the manors of Hestercombe, Combe Flory, Bradeford with the advowson of its church, Wydecombe, Elleworth, Brompton-Raufe, Wyke by Taunton, Capelond, and Assheton by Bristol; and messuages and lands in Yartecombe, Bishop's Lideyard, Kingeston, Okcombe, Legh, Plassh, Sandlane, Cerneheye by Taunton, and Lymyngton. There is presumptive evidence that she survived Sir Simon, and had married before April, 1372, Thomas de Welyngton. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 47 E. III. no. 749.] See (page 152). She survived her second husband, and was living in Easter Term, 1390, when she was still holding the manors of Hestercombe and Combe Flory. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 13 R. II. no. 14]. This is the latest notice that is found of her. There is proof that she had died before Michaelmas, 1393, as in that Term those manors, with several other manors and lands in Somerset and Devon, were conveyed by final accord to feoffees; as regarded the manor and advowson of the chantry of Combe Flory, to hold to the use of John Hulle and Matilda his wife, for their lives, with remainder to Nicholas Hele and Alice his wife, and the heirs of Alice; and as regarded the manor of Hestercombe, to grant the same to Richard Warre and his heirs. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 17 R. II. no. 77.

(41). *Thomas de Welyngton* married Margery before April, 1372. His elder brother, John de Welyngton, granted to him for life two messuages, and lands in Sandhurst and Ablynton (Ablode), co. Gloucester; and the said Thomas de Welyngton died 4 August, 6 R. II. (1382), and Ralph de Welyngton, son of John his brother, was his nearest heir, and under age. [Inq. p.m., 7 R. II. no. 78.]

(42). **Alice**, daughter of Sir Simon de Meriet. Proofs have already been given in note (39) that Sir Simon de Meriet and Margery his wife, in February, 1355-6, and the following year, settled upon her and Thomas Tryvet her husband, and their

joint issue, the manors therein and above named. From the proceedings in 40 E. III. detailed in that note, there is ground for concluding that Alice was then dead, and that she left no surviving issue.

(43). *Sir Thomas Tryvet, Kt.*, son of Sir John Tryvet, Kt., by Joan sister of Sir Matthew Gournay, was born in 1350. [Nicolas's *Scrope and Grosvenor Roll*, ii. 414]. After the death of his wife Alice de Meriet, he married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Philip de Lymbury of Lymbury, co. Bedford, chivaler, who died at Constantinople, 6 July, 1367. [Inq. p.m. of Sir Philip, 41 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 40, and Inq. p.m. of Joan, wife of Sir John de Clynton, chivaler, mother of Elizabeth, wife of Sir Thomas Tryvet, chivaler, 11 R. II. no. 17]. Sir Thomas Tryvet, while riding in company with the King at Cambridge, was thrown from his horse, and died in consequence, 6 October, 1388. [*Scrope and Grosvenor Roll*, II. 419]. Thus, he did not live to enjoy the life estate entailed upon him in his first wife's inheritance contingent on his surviving her mother Margery. By inquisition, taken before Roger Manyngford, the escheator in Somerset, pursuant to writ dated 3 June, 12 R. II. (1389), it was found that he died on Tuesday next after Michaelmas day last past (6 October, 1388); and that Anne, aged 7 years and more; and Joan, aged 5 years and more, were his daughters and nearest heirs. [Inq. p.m., 12 R. II. no. 52]. Anne married Sir William Clinton, and had an only child who died without issue before 1420; and Joan married John Ward, Esq., and died also without issue before 1420. [*Scrope and Grosvenor Roll*, as above]. Elizabeth (Lymbury), the widow of Sir Thos. Tryvet, survived him and their children many years, and died without issue, 30 November, 1433. [Inq. p.m., 12 H. VI. no. 35.]

Many facts and dates are here brought together: the aim has been to sort them well into a fairly connected narrative, as thereon must depend much of their usefulness. They shew,

as will be seen on referring to the folding pedigree, that the junior branch of the family became entirely extinct on the death of Sir Simon of Hestercombe, who died without surviving issue between the years 1367 and 1372, when all his manors and lands, &c., subject to his widow's life estate therein, vested in Sir John de Meriet of Meriet and his assigns.

It will also be seen that on the death of Elizabeth, the infant daughter of Sir John de Meriet of Meriet, the representation of the senior branch passed by heirs female to the families of Bonville, and Stafford of Hoke, about the year 1395; and that this senior branch most probably became extinct in the male line on the death of Sir John de Meriet's brother of the half blood, Thomas Meriet of Stanlinch, of whom no further trace has been found after the year 1418.

B. W. G.

Errata:

P. 139, line 9 from foot, for *Louch*, read *Lough.*
P. 153, line 11 from foot, for *Comton*, read *Compton.*
P. 208, line 16 from foot, for *Edward*, read *Edmund.*