Fitzurse.

BY SIR HENRY C. MAXWELL LYTE, K.C.B., F.S.A., F.B.A.

THE progenitor of this family was a certain Urse, who, very soon after the Norman Conquest, held half a hide in the Hundred of Corby, in Northamptonshire, presumably at Bulwick.[1] This estate is not mentioned in Domesday Book, which, however, represents him as holding lands at Grittleton and Langley in Wiltshire, under the abbey of Glastonbury. It is not at present certain whether he should be identified with the man of his name who held other lands in Wiltshire and Dorset under Ernulf de Hesding and Waleran the Hunter. In the Gheld Inquest and in the Exchequer Domesday alike, his name is given as 'Urso,' and the form 'filius Ursonis' occurs occasionally at a later period. The surname Fitzurse is, however, generally rendered as 'filius Ursi' in Latin, and as 'le Fizours' in French. There are of course several variants and corruptions therefrom.

In 1130, Richard Fitzurse had interests in different parts of England, in the counties of Northampton, Huntingdon, Essex, Surrey, Buckingham, Oxford and Wilts.[2] He figures as a witness to several charters of King Stephen, and he was fighting valiantly on his side when taken prisoner at the battle of Lincoln in 1141.[3] He married Maud daughter of Baldwin de Boullers by Sibyl de Falaise his wife, and through her

1. Ellis, *Introduction to Domesday*, I, 187.
2. *Pipe Roll*, 31 *Hen. I*, 3, 22, 23, 48, 51, 57, 60, 82, 102.
3. Henry of Huntingdon, 274.

acquired part of the Falaise estate in Somerset, as at Worspring and Williton.[1] It is not so clear how he obtained Worle in this county and Upminster in Essex.[2] By Maud de Boullers, Richard Fitzurse had a son, Reynold, and two daughters, Margaret and Mabel. Margaret, born about the year 1135, married firstly —— Engaine and secondly Geoffrey Bret.[3] Mabel married —— Gernet.

Reynold Fitzurse was, in 1158, pardoned his quota of Danegeld in the counties of Northampton, Somerset and Essex.[4] Eight years later, he made a return stating that three knights' fees and a sixth part of a fee were held of him by the persons specified. This return was entered in the books of the Exchequer under Northamptonshire, his principal residence being at Bulwick in that county. The holding of one of his military tenants, William de Reigny, may, however, be located with certainty at Doniford near Watchet, and that of another, Walter of Chalfield, at the place of that name in Wiltshire. Reynold himself held under the Abbot of Glastonbury a fee and a half which had belonged to his father Richard, evidently the estate in Wiltshire held by Urse at the time of the Domesday Survey. He also held a fee somewhere under Robert Marmion, and five carucates at Holt and Barleston in Leicestershire under Geoffrey Ridel.[5]

Reynold Fitzurse is memorable as one of the four knights who, in 1170, murdered the archbishop of Canterbury in his own cathedral church. There is no need here to repeat a story which has been often told. The traditions with regard to the death of Reynold Fitzurse and the place of his burial are contradictory and untrustworthy.[6] The scutage which he owed to the Abbot of Glastonbury, and a fine in respect of a murder in the Hundred of Winterstoke were alike re-

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXV, 3–6.
2. *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.*, N.S., XI, 98, 99.
3. *Rotulus de Dominabus* (Pipe Roll Society), 22, 23, 27.
4. *Pipe Roll*, 4 *Hen. II*, 122, 133, 142.
5. *Red Book of the Exchequer*, 223, 327, 331, 334.
6. *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, XIX, 218 ; Stanley's *Memorials of Canterbury*, 104–110

mitted by royal writs in his favour in 1172.[1] Three years later, the Pipe Roll for Northamptonshire represents him as accounting at the Exchequer for two debts to the Crown, but the royal writs remitting them were directed to his son-in-law and successor, Robert de Courtenay.[2]

In Reynold Fitzurse the main line of the family came to an end. By Beatrice his wife, daughter of Geoffrey de Limesi, he had an only daughter Maud, who married Robert de Courtenay. Between the years 1209 and 1213, their son and heir, William de Courtenay, founded a monastery on his maternal estate at Worspring, in honour of St. Thomas the Martyr, in expiation, apparently, of the great crime of his grandfather.[3] He died without issue in 1214, leaving a widow, Ada, who afterwards married Theobald de Lasceles.[4] We are not here concerned with the litigation which ensued, Viel Engaine putting in a claim as grandson of Margaret Fitzurse, and Roger Gernet putting in a claim as son of her sister Mabel.[5]

Reverting now to Reynold Fitzurse the murderer, it should be observed that a grant made by him to the Knights Templars of the service of half a knight at Sandouville in the diocese of Rouen is known to us only by a subsequent confirmation.[6] His original grant of a moiety of Williton to the same military order is also missing. Two of his charters are, however, still extant.

By one of these, Reynold Fitzurse confirmed to the church of St. Andrew at Stoke Curci, called therein 'Sutinstocke,' and the monks living there, the grant by William de Falaise of two-thirds of the sheaves of Williton. One of the witnesses

1. *Pipe Roll*, 18 *Hen. II*, 74, 75.

2. *Pipe Roll*, 21 *Hen. II*, 41, 42.

3. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report X*, App. VI, 73; Dugdale's *Monasticon*, VI, 414–416; *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LI, ii, 10–30.

4. *Rot. Litt. Claus.*, I, 196; Curia Regis Roll, no. 72, m. 9.

5. Curia Regis Rolls, no. 77, m. 1*d*; no. 88, m. 3*d*; no. 92, m. 1*d*; no. 122, m. 12; *Bracton's Note Book*, II, 76–78, 85, 86; Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, XI, 121, 128, 145–147; Batten's *South Somerset*, 2. In a return of the year 1248, Viel Engaine is represented as holding half a fee of Reynold Fitzurse, whereas he held it of the inheritance of Reynold Fitzurse. (Inquitions post mortem, file 9, no. 3).

6. Delisle, *Receuil des Actes de Henri II*, Introduction, p. 420.

to it is simply styled Robert the lord's brother (*fratre domini*).[1] The seal shows a bear.

By the second charter, Reynold Fitzurse granted to his brother, Robert Fitzurse, a moiety of Williton and of the house wherein he used to dwell, the other moiety having been granted by him to the Knights Templars, in alms for his soul. It is interesting to note that among the witnesses to it were two of the knights associated with him in the sacrilegious murder at Canterbury, Hugh of Morville, and Richard Bret. This charter and a confirmation of it under the great seal of Henry II are the earliest documents preserved at Dunster Castle. With them there is also a confirmation by Robert de Courtenay to Robert Fitzurse of the moiety of Williton and some land at Swallowcliffe, close to Worspring.[2]

Although, as seen above, Robert Fitzurse is, in two documents, described as the brother of Reynold, it is clear that he was not a brother of the whole blood. We are specifically told that Richard Fitzurse and Maud de Boullers had issue only one son and two daughters. It would, moreover, have been futile for Engaine or Gernet to claim the inheritance of Fitzurse or of Boullers if Robert had been a brother of Reynold by the same father and mother. The second wife of Robert Fitzurse the elder appears to have been the relict of Richard Engaine.[3] From Robert Fitzurse the younger to the present owner of Dunster Castle the line of descent is unquestionable.

Robert Fitzurse is mentioned, in 1176, in connexion with Wiltshire.[4] At some unspecified date, he granted to the church of St. Decuman various lands in the neighbourhood, together with the patronage of a chapel at Williton, and he provided a house for the officiating chaplain.[5] Between 1192 and 1202,

1. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report IX*, App. I, p. 353. A roll of arms, compiled long after the time of Reynold Fitzurse, credits him with a shield :—*Or*, a bear passant, *sable*, muzzled *argent*. (Foster, *Some Feudal Coats*, 101).
2. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report X*, App. VI, 72, 73.
3. *Red Book of the Exchequer*, 333.
4. *Pipe Roll*, 22 *Hen. II*, 174.
5. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Calendar of MSS. of the Dean and Chapter of Wells*, 45.

Savary, Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury, sanctioned an arrangement whereby a chaplain should reside at Williton and celebrate divine service there, provided that the men of Robert Fitzurse and of the Knights Templars should do no prejudice to their mother church of St. Decuman, and should resort thither on the greater festivals of the ecclesiastical year.[1]

At another time, Robert Fitzurse, by consent of John his heir, confirmed to the monks of St. Andrew's, at Stoke Curci, the grants by his predecessors (*antecessores*), William de Falaise, and his successors, of two-thirds of the tithe of Williton. Among the witnesses to a deed to this effect were William de Mateville, preceptor of the Knights Templars and Richard Fitzurse and Reynold Fitzurse, whose relationship to Robert has not been ascertained.[2]

Robert Fitzurse and John his son were witnesses to a deed whereby R. the prior and the convent of Bath granted the advowson of the church of Withycombe to Ralph fitzWilliam.[3] They were also witnesses to a deed of Robert son of Hugh de Wode in favour of Cleeve Abbey.[4]

Nothing is known with regard to the wife of Robert Fitzurse. In the reign of Henry VIII, James Hadley of Withycombe set up a claim to the patronage of the Cistercian Abbey of Cleeve, on the ground that he was the lineal representative of Joan sister and eventual heiress of William de Roumare, the founder, she having married his ancestor, Robert Fitzurse. The monks, however, warmly disputed his claim, and the pedigree by which he sought to support it is unquestionably incorrect.[5]

Robert Fitzurse was succeeded by his son John, mentioned above, who appears to have married Ilaria daughter and coheiress of Ralph fitz William of Withycombe and Brompton Ralph, afterwards the wife of Richard of Combe.[6]

1. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report X*, App. VI, 72.
2. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report IX*, App. I, 353.
3. *Bath Chartulary*, L, 34.
4. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, VI, ii, 54.
5. MS. collections of R. St. George, in the possession of the Earl of Egmont, ff. 289, 290. Gerard mentions the claim. *Description of Somerset*, 24, 26.
6. *Somersetshire Pleas*, 111, 117, 195, 207; *The Honour of Dunster*, 35.

Savary, Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury, sanctioned an arrangement whereby a chaplain should reside at Williton and celebrate divine service there, provided that the men of Robert Fitzurse and of the Knights Templars should do no prejudice to their mother church of St. Decuman, and should resort thither on the greater festivals of the ecclesiastical year.[1]

At another time, Robert Fitzurse, by consent of John his heir, confirmed to the monks of St. Andrew's, at Stoke Curci, the grants by his predecessors (*antecessores*), William de Falaise, and his successors, of two-thirds of the tithe of Williton. Among the witnesses to a deed to this effect were William de Mateville, preceptor of the Knights Templars and Richard Fitzurse and Reynold Fitzurse, whose relationship to Robert has not been ascertained.[2]

Robert Fitzurse and John his son were witnesses to a deed whereby R. the prior and the convent of Bath granted the advowson of the church of Withycombe to Ralph fitzWilliam.[3] They were also witnesses to a deed of Robert son of Hugh de Wode in favour of Cleeve Abbey.[4]

Nothing is known with regard to the wife of Robert Fitzurse. In the reign of Henry VIII, James Hadley of Withycombe set up a claim to the patronage of the Cistercian Abbey of Cleeve, on the ground that he was the lineal representative of Joan sister and eventual heiress of William de Roumare, the founder, she having married his ancestor, Robert Fitzurse. The monks, however, warmly disputed his claim, and the pedigree by which he sought to support it is unquestionably incorrect.[5]

Robert Fitzurse was succeeded by his son John, mentioned above, who appears to have married Ilaria daughter and coheiress of Ralph fitz William of Withycombe and Brompton Ralph, afterwards the wife of Richard of Combe.[6]

1. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report X*, App. VI, 72.
2. *Hist. MSS. Comm., Report IX*, App. I, 353.
3. *Bath Chartulary*, L, 34.
4. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, VI, ii, 54.
5. MS. collections of R. St. George, in the possession of the Earl of Egmont, ff. 289, 290. Gerard mentions the claim. *Description of Somerset*, 24, 26.
6. *Somersetshire Pleas*, 111, 117, 195, 207; *The Honour of Dunster*, 35.

Ralph Fitzurse, who figures as a juror in 1243, is specifically described as one of the three coheirs of Ralph fitz William.[1] He married Isabel relict of James de Montsorel, who, in 1244, had dower at Whitelackington of the inheritance of her brother-in-law, Ralph de Montsorel.[2] Ralph Fitzurse died in or before 1269, and, at some unknown date, his relict married a third husband, William de Raleigh, whom she also survived. In 1280, she claimed free warren, gallows, assize of bread and ale, and other rights at Brompton Ralph, a place which took part of its name from Ralph fitz William, the grandfather of her second husband.[3] In 1285, she held a third of a fee at Withycombe in Somerset, and a fee at Arlington in Devon, the latter belonging to the inheritance of Thomas de Raleigh.[4]

John Fitzurse, son of Ralph and Isabel, was in 1274 found to hold half a fee at Williton of George de Cantelow, the successor in title of Reynold Fitzurse, the murderer.[5] In the same year, 1274, he sued Master Richard de Clifford, Robert of Badington, Margery late the wife of Alexander Luttrell, and Annora her daughter for disseisin of three carucates of land, ten acres of meadow, and a moiety of a watermill, at Williton.[6] By an undated deed, he granted to Annora daughter of Alexander Luttrell ten librates of land in his manor of Williton, with the services of villeins, etc., at the nominal rent of 1*d.*[7] In 1279, this lady, while still under age, brought a suit against him for disseisin of freehold land at Williton.[8] All these proceedings, real or fictitious, seem to have been connected with an arrangement for a marriage between his young son, Ralph, and Annora Luttrell.

John Fitzurse died in 1279 or 1280, and, in the latter year, his relict, Cecily, sued Annora Luttrell and Ralph Fitzurse for

1. *Somersetshire Pleas*, 210 ; *The Honour of Dunster*, 33.
2. Feet of Fines, Somerset, 28 Hen. III.
3. Assize Roll, no. 759, mm. 3*d*, 4 ; no. 1205, m. 3*d*.
4. *Feudal Aids*, I, 336 ; IV, 296.
5. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, II, 18.
6. Assize Roll, no 1224, m. 12.
7. Dunster Castle Muniments, XXXIII.
8. Assize Roll, no. 1242, m. 3*d*.

a third part of nineteen messuages, of nine ferlings and twelve acres of land, of ten acres of meadow, and of a moiety of a watermill at Williton, which she claimed as dower. Annora replied that Ralph Fitzurse had no interest in the premises, all of which belonged to her, but, by permission, she surrendered a third of them, as claimed.[1] The proceedings were probably collusive. Cecily Fitzurse was also concerned in a suit against Thomas Panel for a third of a messuage at Watchet, and in another against John Pykard, the guardian of the heir of John Fitzurse, for land at Doniford, close by.[2]

Ralph Fitzurse was at this time under age and nominally a ward of the Queen. Various claims were, however, put forward on his behalf at the eyre of 1280.[3] Five years later, Adam of Bawdrip and Ralph Fitzurse were found to hold two-thirds of a fee at Brompton Ralph of Thomas of Timworth and Lucy his wife, who in turn held of the heir of John de Mohun of Dunster.[4] In 1300, Ralph Fitzurse was returned as holding lands in Somerset and Dorset of the yearly value of 40*l.* and as consequently liable for knighthood.[5] He and Annora his wife are mentioned in connexion with Withycombe at various dates between 1293 and 1309.[6] He demised some land there and at Gildencote to his daughter, Elizabeth, in 1310.[7] Two years later, he granted a tenement and land in his manor of Withycombe to Geoffrey of Haselbeare and Lucy his wife, and Ellen their daughter, and the heirs of the body of the said Ellen, upon conditions which deserve notice, the grantees being required to pay a yearly rent of 4*s.*, to find a man or a woman for autumn work for one day and for carrying hay for half a day, to do suit twice a year at the grantor's court at Withycombe, to pay a farthing and a half at the sheriff's tourn, and to pay a shilling in the event of a scutage,

1. Assize Roll, no. 758, m. 21.
2. Assize Roll, no. 762, m. 8; no. 763, m. 5.
3. Assize Rolls.
4. *The Honour of Dunster*, 59.
5. *Parliamentary Writs*, I, 336.
6. D.C.M., XXXII, 1, 2; Assize Roll, no. 1345, m. 9.
7. D.C.M., XXXII, 1.

or in that of an aid for knighting the king's eldest son, or marrying the king's eldest daughter.[1] Lastly, in 1316, Ralph Fitzurse presented one of his sons, named John, to the church of Brompton Ralph.[2] He died in or before 1321.

In that year, Ralph Fitzurse, described as son and heir of Ralph Fitzurse, made an elaborate assignment of dower to his mother Annora, at Williton, Watchet, Brompton Ralph, and Withycombe.[3] In a suit of the year 1329, concerning land at Batheaston, he set out his descent, as son of Ralph, son of John, son of Ralph and Isabel, the original grantees.[4]

Ralph Fitzurse was returned, in 1324, as a man-at-arms of the county of Somerset.[5] He was afterwards knighted. In 1332, he paid 7*s*. to the subsidy in respect of his goods at Williton.[6] Six years before this, the manor and the advowson of Brompton Ralph were settled on him and Maud his wife and the heirs of their bodies.[7] Through his brother, John, the parson of Brompton Ralph, he acquired a second third of the original manor of Withycombe, subject to the life interests of Edmund Martin and Isabel his wife.[8]

In 1335, some land at Williton was settled on Sir Ralph Fitzurse, 'lord of Williton,' Sir Robert Fitzurse his brother, Annora daughter of Sir John of Membury, John of Polden, chaplain, Ralph Darderne, John Isle Brewer (Ylebrower), and Hawis daughter of the said Sir Ralph, with remainder over to his heirs.[9] A guess may be hazarded that there was then

1. D.C.M., XXXII, 1.
2. *Drokensford's Register*, 117, 169.
3. D.C.M., XXXII, 100.
4. Placita de Banco, no. 279, mm. 102, 209.
5. *Parliamentary Writs*, II, 653.
6. Subsidies, 169/6.
7. Feet of Fines, Somerset, 20 Edw. II.
8. D.C.M., XXXII, 1.
9. D.C.M., XXXIII. Although Sir Robert Fitzurse is in two documents styled the 'brother' of Sir Ralph, he must apparently be identified with a bastard of that name, who required a dispensation before receiving the tonsure in 1328. He was presented to the rectory of Bawdrip in 1333. (*Drokensford's Register*, 291; *Register of Bishop Ralph*, 141).

a project of a marriage between a son of Sir Ralph and Annora Membury. This lady eventually married —— Raleigh.[1]

Upon the marriage of Hawis, the elder daughter of Sir Ralph Fitzurse to Hugh Durborough, in 1344, he and Maud his wife settled on them and the heirs of their bodies various lands and rights in Withycombe and Carhampton, with rents and services due from Edmund Martin, tenant for life of lands in Withycombe, Watchet, Luxborough Everard and Cutcombe.[2] About five years later, Sir Ralph Fitzurse, 'lord of Williton,' conveyed to Sir John Durborough, Hugh his son, and Hawis wife of the said Hugh, James their son, and William Dygon, some land in his borough of Watchet, which had fallen to him as an escheat by the death of Richard atte Brigge without heirs of his body.[3]

At an inquisition taken in July 1350, it was found that Sir Ralph Fitzurse had died in February of that year, seised with Maud his wife, of the manor of Williton, the borough of Watchet, and the manor of Brompton Ralph. Hawis, his elder daughter, married to Hugh Durborough, was found to be over twenty years of age, and Joan, his younger daughter, to be over sixteen.[4]

Dame Maud Fitzurse mentioned above was a daughter of Baldwin Malet.[5] Surviving her husband, she continued in possession of most of his estate for more than thirty-eight years.[6] So, in 1355, she presented a parson to the church of Brompton Ralph.[7] At an inquisition taken in May 1389, it was found that she had died in the previous October, seised of the manor of Williton, a moiety of the manor of Brompton Ralph, and a yearly rent from tenants of the manor of Watchet, which was stated to have been part of the ancient demesne of the Crown. The Fitzurse estate in Somerset was thereupon

1. Placita de Banco, no. 481, m. 268*d*.
2. D.C.M., XXXII, 1.
3. D.C.M., XXXII, 2.
4. *Calendar of Inquisitions*, IX, 390
5. *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, I, 247.
6. *Calendar of Fine Rolls*, VI, 212, 257.
7. *Register of Bishop Ralph*, 743.

divided between the coheirs of Sir Ralph. One moiety went to his grandson, James Durborough, son of his daughter Hawis, aged over thirty. The other moiety fell to his two great-grandchildren, Willelma, aged six, and Joan, aged five, daughters of a certain John, son of his younger daughter, Joan.[1] Inasmuch as the overlord of Williton was himself under age, the wardship of these two girls passed to the king, who granted it to Robert Hill the younger of the county of Devon, and Mabel his wife.[2] They are stated to have been the daughters of John Langdon.[3] Willelma eventually married Henry Fulford of Fulford, co. Devon.

In token of their descent from Fitzurse, the Durboroughs took for arms a bend charged with three boars' heads, and the Fulfords took a boar's head erased as their crest.

Through the Durboroughs and the Hadleys, part of the Fitzurse inheritance has descended to the present owner of Dunster Castle.

A younger branch of the Fitzurse family had property in West Somerset.

In 1265, Philip Fitzurse and John Fitzurse were returned as having been in rebellion against Henry III. The former held land at Luxborough and Allerford as part of his wife's dower from a former husband.[4] Ten years later, Philip Fitzurse and Joan his wife settled half a virgate of land at Doniford near Watchet on John Fitzurse, presumably their son, at the nominal rent of 1*d.* payable to them and to her heirs.[5]

Contemporary with them was a William Fitzurse, who appears to have married an heiress, possibly the daughter of Adam and Christina of Treborough, who are mentioned below. In 1274, William Fitzurse, by consent of Lucy his wife, granted

1. Inq. post mortem, *C.* 12 Ric. II, no. 19.
2. Escheators' Enrolled Accounts, 10, m. 26.
3. Pole's *Description of Devon*, 247.
4. *Calendar of Inquisitions, Miscellaneous*, I, 264.
5. Feet of Fines, Somerset, 4 Edw. I.

some land in Theburue by Watchet to Thomas in Theburue and Agatha his wife.[1] In 1322, William Fitzurse, in right of his wife, presented a parson to the church of Treborough.[2] In 1336, Ralph Fitzurse (le Fizours), described as son and heir of William Fitzurse of Watchet, conveyed some land there to Sir John Fitzurse, rector of Brompton Ralph, and another feoffee.[3] He presented parsons to the church of Treborough in 1340 and 1348. His relict, Millicent, had the advowson in 1351.[4]

In 1369, John Fitzurse (Fizours) effected a settlement of nine and a half acres of land at Wolrichislonde on himself and Joan his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder, as to four acres, to his heirs. In default of issue, the remaining five and a half acres were to go to the commonalty of the borough of Watchet, in aid of the maintenance of a chaplain celebrating in the chapel of the Holy Cross there for the souls of William Fitzurse and Lucy his wife, John Fitzurse and Joan his wife and Annora and Joan their daughters, John of Treborough (Trebourghe), Adam of Treborough and Christina his wife, Ralph Fitzurse and William his son, and all the faithful departed, as also for the souls of Richard Fygere (*sic*) and Joan his wife.[5] Lastly, in 1394, John Luttrell granted to John Fitzurse (Fysours) of Watchet and Joan his wife a yearly corrody of six quarters and four bushels of wheat out of his manor of East Quantockshead, and an annuity of 20*s*. out of his land in Treborough.[6]

In 1305, Richard le fiz Urs, Coroner for Somerset, was declared to be too feeble to act.[7]

Thomas Fizours was a juror on an inquisition taken at Somerton in 1334.[8]

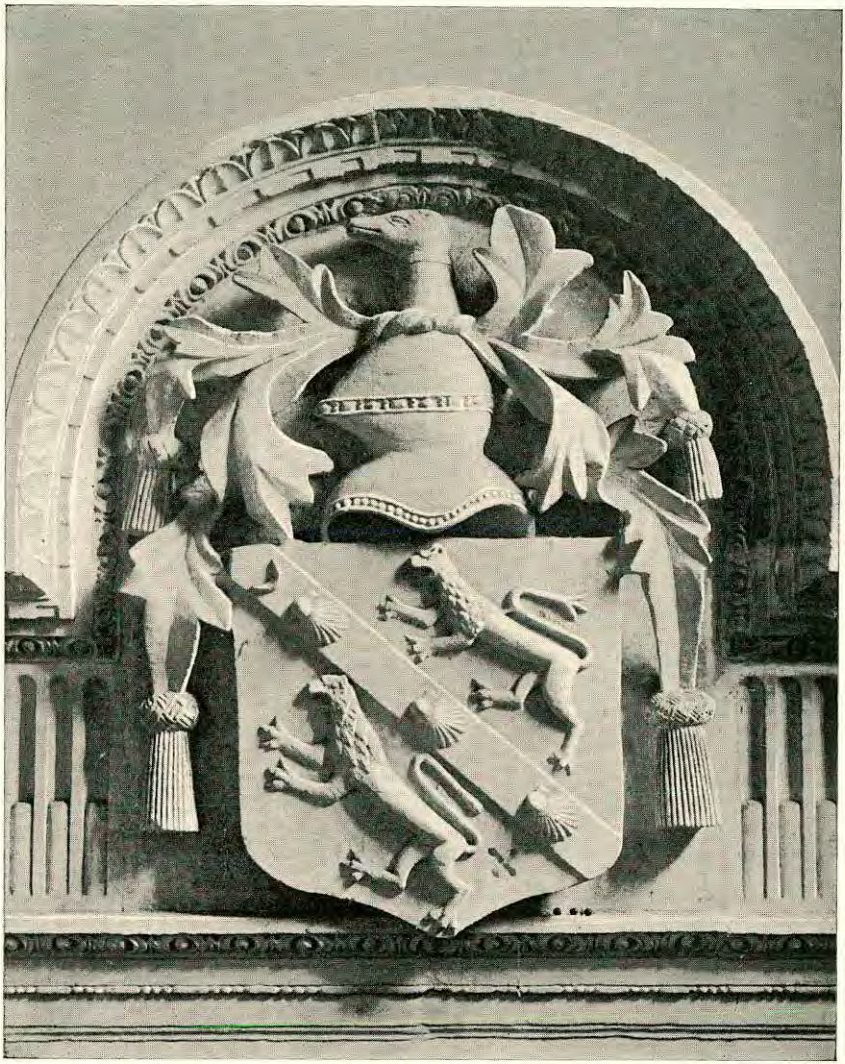
1. D.C.M., XXXII, 2.
2. *Drokensford's Register*, 206 (fol. 190).
3. Orchard Wyndham Muniments.
4. *Register of Bishop Ralph*, 369, 581, 665.
5. D.C.M., XXXII.
6. Orchard Wyndham Muniments.
7. *Calendar of Close Rolls, 1302–1307*, 269.
8. *Buckland Cartulary*, 111.

A certain Richard Fitzurse, called also simply Richard Urse, was one of the fermors of Colchester in the later part of the reign of Henry II.[1] A person of the former name was defendant in a suit concerning land in the counties of Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridge in 1200 and 1201.[2] Ralph Fitzurse and Alice his wife occur in Essex at various dates between 1225 and 1248.[3]

Robert Fitzurse (*filius Ursonis*), a clerk, was a witness to a charter of Jocelyn, Bishop of Salisbury, in the later part of the reign of Henry II.[4]

Jordan Fitzurse acted as the attorney of Robert de Courtenay and Alice his wife concerning land in Cumberland in 1200.[5] A person of the same name had interests in land at Grittleton and Langley in Wiltshire, in 1225 and 1255, the very places where Urse had held land at the time of the Domesday. The entries about him suggest, however, that he had inherited them from Thomas de Verdun.[6]

1. *Pipe Rolls*, 26–30 *Hen. II.*
2. *Curia Regis Rolls*, I, 276, 354, 406.
3. *Essex Fines*, 69, 108, 115, 173, 177.
4. *Sarum Charters*, 44.
5. *Curia Regis Rolls*, I, 265.
6. Curia Regis Roll, no. 88, m. 21; *Feodary of Glastonbury*, 14, 15, 17, 18, 98. Aubrey's *Wiltshire*, 140, 141, 146, 426-428



ACHIEVEMENT ON A TOMB OF THE NORTONS,
ABBOT'S LEIGH CHURCH.

From a Photograph by Mr. F. Bromhead, Clifton.