

## Notes on the Malet Family.

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BY ARTHUR MALET, ESQ.

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IN the late Rev. R. W. Eyton's *Domesday Studies* (vol. i. p. 60) is the following entry:—"We find no satisfactory statement as to the destiny or succession of Roger de Corcelle. The post-*Domesday* history of some of his manors is suggestive of two theories, but determinative of none. Either those scions of the house of Malet who eventually succeeded to many, if not most, of his estates were his right heirs by blood, or else he or his right heirs suffering absolute forfeiture, the said and other estates were re-granted by the Crown to aliens from the blood of Roger de Corcelle.

"The leading phenomena of the case are as follows. Robert Malet who lived in the time of King Henry I (1100—1135) held no fewer than ten knight's fees under the Abbot of Glastonbury. There can be no doubt that these knight's fees mainly co-ordinated with the vast estates, which Roger de Corcelle had held under the said Abbey at the date of *Domesday*, 1086. One of them—perhaps the chief—was Shepton Mallet; we name it because its name so far is its history. In the same fee (by which we understand the fief originally held under the Abbey by De Corcelle) and in the same reign Hubert de Sancta Susanna held two knight's fees of the same Abbey. In the year 1166, William Malet held under the Abbot of Glastonbury twelve knight's fees—that is, he held not only the ten fees held by Robert Malet, but also the two fees held theretofore by Hubert de Sancta Susanna.

"Another phenomenon as to the succession to Roger de Corcelle connects itself with his tenure *in capite* of the crown—his *Domesday* barony, in short. If we combine his two

moieties (312 hides each) of Curi, we get an estate of seven hides, all of which Roger de Corcelle held in demesne at the date of *Domesday*. In this respect of being held in demesne, and in respect of its size, Curi may well be accounted to have been the caput of De Corcelle's barony. Curi, like Shepton, came to Malet; and being held by Malet in demesne, was reported to be the caput of Malet's Somerset barony; thus too it obtained its still abiding name of Curry Malet.

"It is further apparent that a considerable number of De Corcelle's Somerset manors, constituting some twenty knight's fees, accrued to the house of Malet before the death of King Henry I (A.D. 1135), and were held *in capite per baroniam* by William Malet, in 1166; and the same, or it may be others of De Corcelle's manors, are constantly cropping up in Somerset history as having been held by Malet, or of Malet, or of the honour of Curry Malet. And yet we are far from saying that all De Corcelle's *Domesday* estates devolved on Malet; nor can we affirm that Malet had nothing in Somerset but what had previously belonged to a De Corcelle."

My object in bringing this extract from the late Rev. Mr. Eyton's work to the notice of the Society is this. I am engaged in the task of bringing into some order such of the ancient notices of the family of Malet as I can procure; and the difficulty felt by Mr. Eyton seems to be one that may possibly receive elucidation from some of the antiquaries who are assembled in the very spot of which he treats.

My own belief at present is that Gilbert, the younger son of William Malet, who fought at Hastings, married a daughter, a co-heiress, of Roger de Corcelle, and that his son Robert, with a younger son Hubert (called de Sancta Susanna), succeeded to portions of De Corcelle's estate, which through them devolved on the later barons Malet.

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