

**ENGLAND UNDER
THE NORMAN
OCCUPATION**

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England under the Norman Occupation by James F. Morgan

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NORMAN OCCUPATION.

BY

JAMES F. MORGAN. M. A.

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,

14 HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON;

AND

20 SOUTH FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH.

1858.

FOREWORD

THIS admirable little book having long been out of print and unobtainable, is less well known to those interested in the study of its subject than it deserves to be, if the testimony of the late Professor Freeman is any criterion of its value. In his *Norman Conquest*, Volume V, Appendix SS, he says: "This work is the result of a very careful study of Domesday Book. Had I known the book before my earlier *Domesday Notes* were written I should have often referred to it." The cost of reprinting was prohibitive, but thanks to the new photostatic process its reproduction in its present form became a practical possibility, and I am now able to place copies in the Libraries of various learned Societies, with the hope that it will be found equally helpful to other students who (like myself) are interested in the study of our priceless and unique national record, "*Domesday Book*." In conclusion, I have to express my thanks to the London Library for the

loan of their copy of the book to enable it to be reproduced, to Colonel J. W. Parker, F.S.A., to whom I am indebted for the information that the book could be reproduced by this process, and to Messrs. Percy Lund, Humphreys & Company, Ltd., of London and Bradford, for the admirable way in which they have carried out the work of reproduction. In conclusion, I may add that copies may be obtained at the cost price of ten shillings (postage extra) on application.

HAROLD SANDS.

16 PORTLAND COURT,
GREAT PORTLAND STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

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PREFACE.

This little work is an attempt to give the results of a careful perusal of the record called Domesday, which — as an early description of the very fields we cultivate — ought to be a never-failing source of interest, and subject of enquiry. A complete examination of the structure of that glorious old monument would be too great an undertaking for an individual; and yet, such an examination ought to be made, as an introduction to the study of English Rural Antiquities.

We are assured that, by the help of Fleta and various ancient land-rolle, we might construct a tolerably accurate picture of an English manor, as it existed in the twelfth or thirteenth century*. The system of agricultural manage-

* Si nous n'avions craint de prolonger cette excursion hors de notre province, nous eussions pu, à l'aide de la Fleta et de plusieurs anciens terriers, reconstituer un

ment is described in Fleta's treatise on administration, and materials of the other kind are abundant. Boldon Book is a land-roll of the Bishopric of Durham for the year 1183. About a hundred years afterwards the Bishop of Ely caused some minute surveys to be taken: a portion of them will be found in the Appendix to Clutterbuck's Hertfordshire. There are numerous interesting details of church lands in the Monasticon. Then we have unpublished Extents, or surveys, Deeds and Charters, Inquisitions after death &c. There are vast stores of more recent documents of the same class in private hands, and among the public records. They will complete a series which begins with Domesday, or with an Anglo-Saxon boundary certificate, and ends with the census of '51 — the tithe accounts — and the forthcoming collections of Agricultural Statistics.

tableau assez complet du manoir anglais au XII^e et au XIII^e siècle. Le lecteur eût été surpris de la perfection qu'avait dès lors atteinte en Angleterre l'exploitation des champs. Il y eût admiré la régularité qui présidait à toutes les opérations. . . .

Etudes sur la Condition de la Classe Agricole . . . en Normandie au moyen âge; par M. Léopold Delisle. (256.)

In comparing an existing township with the account of it in Domesday, we must, in the first place, endeavour to ascertain the area of the manorial district which King William's commissioners undertook to survey. It must not be confounded with the limits of the modern parish. The bounds of a manor and of a parish do not always exactly coincide. The manor is more extensive than the parish; or the parish contains more than one manor. If an Anglo-Saxon description of the ancient boundaries should exist, it will be a document of the highest value. We may presume that the portion of our township which is now covert was covert eight hundred years ago. The acres of woodland are often set down in Domesday; or the extent of woodland is given in leagues and furlongs, which can be reduced to acres easily. The quantity of meadow is likewise entered in Domesday; or we are told that there is "Meadow enough for the ploughs", meaning — as explained in our third chapter — that there are about eight acres of meadow for every plough, or one acre for every working ox. (See pp. 52-53). Now and then, there is a separate

account of pasture; but, commonly, all that is neither wood nor meadow is called arable land, divided into yardlands and ploughlands. Allowance should be made for the space occupied by the manor-house and other buildings and homesteads. If the manor-house has been destroyed the site of it will be remembered: and, in a few cases, we might recognize the old line of boundary between the lord's demesne and the tenantry-part of the manor.

As an example, let us take the account, given in Domesday, of Cranwell, which is near Sleaford, in Lincolnshire (G. D. 355). There were at Cranwell, in the time of the Conqueror, twenty one sochemen, or superior tenants, with nine ploughlands. The lord had one plough, that is a team of eight oxen. There were seven bondsmen — two villeins and five bordars — with eight ploughs, or sixty four draught oxen. There were twenty nine acres of meadow. The arable land was twenty two furlongs long and seven and a half broad: the pasture, ten furlongs long and seven and a half broad. As every square furlong contains ten acres, an area 22 furlongs by $7\frac{1}{2}$ must contain 1650