uenerabilem cenobitam quem michi Deus de Florentia ciuitate Italie transmiserat in loco eis subrogauerit. 

Henricus regali potentia fretus, et militari audacia ferudius, hostiumque meorum derogationibus admodum stimulatus, sepe nisis est me ululat incernem conculcare, multisque modis protreere, et indebita michi iura imponere. Sepius cum ingenti armatorum manu terram meam ingressus est sed nunc quam de praeda spoliisque meis hominumque captura meorum gaudus est. Cum grandi pompa minisque terribilibus plurimum fines meos intravit sed nuncam sequus nec sine dedecore ad sua repexit. Plures secum profitaute valentes huc adduxit quos quia mea meorumque gladio prob dolor perierant non reduxit.

Quondam nimir contra me inflamatus, ingentem exercitum Gallie in duas partes diueit rex Henricus ut nostros opprimeret fundos geminis irruptionibus. Ipse unam phalangem in Ebroicen sem diocesim ut usque ad Sequanam omnia deaustaret introduxit, aliamque Odoni fratru suus ac Rainaldo de Claromonte duobus consulibus Rudulfo de Monte Dieseri atque Widoni de Pontuiu commendavit ut per uada Eptae Neustriae cito introirent, Braium et Talogium atque Calcegium totumque Rotomagensis pagum inauaderent, ferro et flamma necne rapinis usque ad mare penitus deaustarent. Hae itaque competens ego e contra non segnis processi contra regis mappalia per litus Sequane cum meis me semper opposui et ubi eximium conaretur espiem meum depopulari, armis et bello calumniar paraui, Robertum uero Ascensium comitem et Rogerium de Mortuo mari abeque milites probatisimos misa contra Odonem eiusmod legiones. Qui dum penes castra quod Mortuum mare dictur occurrrippat Franci utiusque partis agrinimus paratis, terribile prelium commissum est et ex utraque parte multum sanguinis effusion est. Vtrobique enim bellatores crant strenuui utque ad mortem cedere nesci. Hinc sequunt Galli pro cupidine adquirendi illinc feriunt Normanni seneferentes uaduendi, et se suosque lares defendendi. Tandem inuante Deo uicere Normannii et fugere

1 See above, iii. 86-90.
2 For the family of Reginald of Clermont see P. Fouchbres, 'La principauté d'Amiens-Valois au xiie siècle', in Le Moyen Age, lx (1954), p. 26 n. 89.
3 Orderic is the only historian to describe Ralph of Creys, count of Amiens, Valois, and the Vexin, as 'of Montdidier' (ibid., pp. 6, 12).

archbishopric and appointed in his place the worthy monk Maurilius, whom God had sent to me from the city of Florence in Italy.

Henry, trusting in his royal power and boldness in war and much encouraged by the slights of my enemies, often tried to attack me without provocation, harass me in many ways, and impose unjust customs on me. Often he invaded my land with a huge army, but never succeeded in carrying off booty or plunder or capturing my men. On several occasions he crossed my frontier in great force, uttering terrible threats; but he never returned to his lands with any profit or without shame. Many of the valiant men he brought with him failed to return because, I grieve to tell, they perished by my sword and the swords of my men.

On one occasion when he was particularly aggressive towards me he divided a great French army into two parts and planned to overwhelm my lands by invading at two different points. He himself led one division into the diocese of Évreux, intending to ravage the country as far as the Seine, and he entrusted the other to his brother Odo and Reginald of Clermont and the two counts Ralph of Montdidier and Guy of Ponthieu, who were to cross the Epte into Normandy and overrun Bray and Le Talou and the Pays de Caux and the whole province of Rouen, laying it waste with fire and sword and rapine as far as the sea. Getting wind of this plot I lost no time in advancing against him, stationed myself with my men opposite to the king's encampments along the banks of the Seine, and prepared to meet him in battle wherever he might attempt to devastate my country. I sent Robert count of Eu and Roger of Mortemer and other tried knights against Odo and his forces. When they fell in with the French near to the castle of Mortemer both armies drew up their battle lines and a terrible conflict took place; many were slain on both sides, for each army contained valiant warriors, who would fight to the death without a thought of yielding. The French on one side fought avidly to conquer; the Normans on the other, determined to avert the threat, passionately defended their lives and their own homes. Finally by God's aid the Normans won the victory, and

4 For Roger of Mortemer see GEC ix. 266; EYC vii. 3 n. 1.
5 The details given by Orderic suggest the existence of a castle at Mortemer in 1054 (cf. J. Yver in BSAN iii (1955-6), 56).
Franci. Hoc itaque bellum transequanam in hieme ante quadragesimam fecer, octauo anno post Valesiunense. 1


'Peracto certamine mox ut certos rumores comperi, per Radulfum de Toienia que trans Sequanam contingant regis Francorum mandau. 6 Quibus auditus ille protinus noctu surrexit et cum exercitu suo velociter a fugit, nec unquam postea securos in terra mea pernoctavit. Sic a puericia mea innumeris pressuris uniguis impeditus sum et per gratiam Dei nonnullis honorifice eretus sum. Inuidiosus igitur omnibus uicinis meis factus sum sed auxiliante Deo in quo semper sperm meam posui a nullo superatus sum. Hoc sepe sensurus Britones, et Andegauenses, hoc astipulantur Franci atque Flandres, hoc grauiter experti sunt Angli et Cornouales.

'Geofredus Martellus comes Andegauorum, et Conanus princeps Britonum, atque Robertus Fresio satrapa Morinorum michi

1 In Februarii 1054 (Halphen, Anjou, p. 77).
2 This must not be taken to mean that they were unhorsed; William of Poitiers, whom Orderic echoes here, wrote 'equorum velocitatem' (Foreville, p. 72).
3 Cf. the use of the term 'princeps militiae' in William of Poitiers (Foreville, p. 74).
4 The exact relationship between Roger of Mortimer and William of Warenne has not been established (Frye viii. 3 n. 1; GEC ix, Appendix A).
5 Orderic's figure cannot be checked and may be wrong; but as the Bayeux Inquest of 1133 proves the prevalence of a five- and ten-knight unit it may contain some truth. See Haskins, Norman Institutions, p. 18.

6 In his interpolations in William of Jumièges Orderic gives a dramatic account of the announcement of the defeat by Ralph of Tosny (Marx, pp. 179-80). William of Poitiers describes the announcement of the news without naming the messenger (Foreville, pp. 72-4).