vested and ornaments. Also, all the bishoprics and abbeys which held baronies and which up to this time had been free from all secular service he ordered to come under military service. He caused to be set down in his rolls according to his pleasure how many knights he wished each bishopric and abbey to produce in time of war for himself and his successors. And placing the records of this servitude of the Church in the Treasury, he exiled from the kingdom many ecclesiastical persons who were reluctant to submit to this most evil decree.

This is a later tradition, and the description is introduced by Matthew Paris to illustrate an ecclesiastical grievance; but the documents printed below indicate that Matthew Paris was correct both as to the method by which knight-service was introduced into England, and as to the period at which this took place. The writ to the bishop of Evesham (No. 218) shows that the system, which was unknown in Anglo-Saxon England, was already in operation before 1077, and, as it seems, in 1072. The records from Canterbury show the early enfeoffments which were made on a great ecclesiastical barony. The narrative from Abingdon describes how the tenurial change was brought about. This testimony, which may be reinforced by that of several of the feudal charters printed below, indicates that military feudalism, which was already known in Normandy, was introduced into England after, and shortly after, the Norman Conquest.

218. Summons to the feudal host (probably in 1072)

This writ which must have been issued before 16 February 1077, and which should most probably be assigned to the year 1072, is of cardinal importance as illustrating the establishment of tenure by knight-service very shortly after the Norman Conquest. It instructs the abbot of Evesham to supervise the feudal levy in the districts over which he is set. It also bids him, as himself a tenant by knight-service, to appear with the five knights which he owes for his barony. The significance of this document is discussed in J. H. Round, Feudal England, where the Latin text is printed (p. 204). It is also printed in the later editions of W. Stubbs, Select Charters.

William, king of the English, to Æthelwig, abbot of Evesham, greeting. I order you to summon all those who are subject to your administration and jurisdiction that they bring before me at Clarendon on the Octave of Pentecost all the knights they owe me duly equipped. You, also, on that day, shall come to me, and bring with you fully equipped those 5 knights which you owe me in respect of your abbacy. Witness Eudo the steward. At Winchester.

219. An early enfeoffment of a knight by Gilbert, abbot of Westminster (in, or shortly after, 1083)

The dating clause given in the first sentence creates some difficulties, and it is very possible that it formed no part of the original charter. Even if the charter be dated a few years after 1087, it remains a very early record of an enfeoffment. Printed: J. Armitage Robinson, Gilbert-Crispin (1911), p. 38.

In the year of the Incarnation of our Lord, one thousand and eighty-three. We Gilbert, the abbot, and the convent of Westminster have given to William Baynard a certain farm in the township of Westminster, by name Totenha, to house him, and to be held by him for the whole of his life by the service of 1 knight. This is to be held by him with all things that pertain to it, as well and freely as ever Wulfric the thegn surnamed 'Bordewaye' held it from the church. Therefore William shall

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1 See other references to the feudal levy in that year, see below, p. 901.
2 The servitium debitem of the abbot of Evesham was in 5 knights (see below, p. 903).
3 villam.
4 servitium.