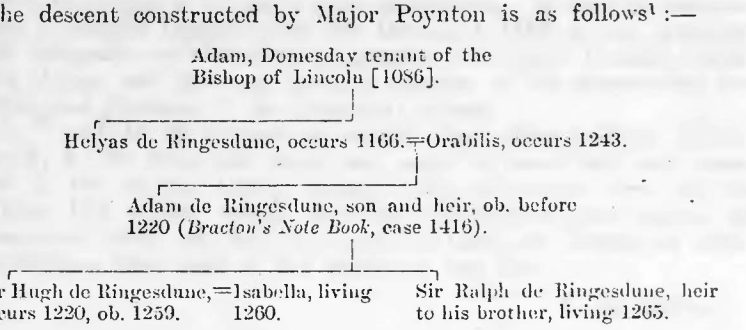

THE PEDIGREE OF RINGESDUNE.

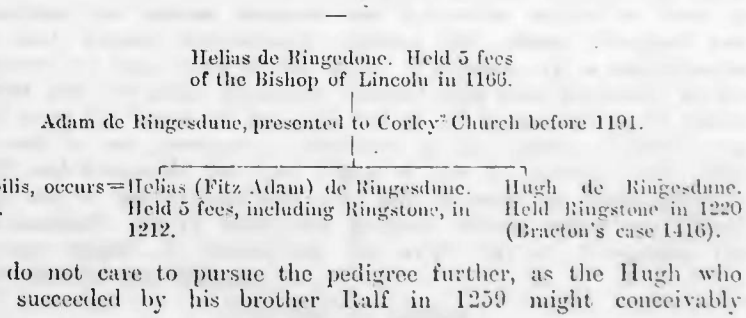
At the close of his valuable series of Sempringham Charters, Major Poynton constructed a pedigree of the Lincolnshire family of "Ringesdune" for four generations downwards from Domesday. It is obviously undesirable that a pedigree, if seriously open to question, should obtain currency and remain unchallenged in the pages of such an organ as *The Genealogist*. And this remark applies specially to a pedigree traced continuously from a Domesday under-tenant, a performance, as Mr. Eyton has reminded us, that can hardly ever be accomplished.

The descent constructed by Major Poynton is as follows[1] :—



In the genealogy of the Norman period the hardest task, as is well known, is that of proving the pedigree between 1086 and 1166. Almost invariably there the links are wanting. In the pedigree above the difficulty is solved by making the lord of Ringesdune in 1166 the actual son of the holder in 1086; and when we are further told that his wife, the daughter-in-law of the Domesday tenant, was living in 1243—nearly 160 years after the Domesday survey—we are tempted at least to rub our eyes! The evidence vouchsafed us for this affiliation is that "entries in the Testa de Neville temp. John (pp. 340-1) mention Elias son of Adam as tenant in Ringesdun." They certainly do, and, more than that, there is in the *Red Book of the Exchequer* this relevant entry: "Elias filius Adæ apud Ringedone feoda v militum" (p. 516). But how could this Elias, the holder in 1212, be the son of the Domesday tenant? Why, instead of proving, his mere mention is sufficient, as will be seen, on referring to Major Poynton's pedigree, to alter it altogether.

With no more evidence before me than that on which he relies I venture to reconstruct the Ringesdune pedigree as follows :—



I do not care to pursue the pedigree further, as the Hugh who was succeeded by his brother Ralf in 1259 might conceivably

[1] See vol. xvii, pp. 238-9 *ante*.

[2] The family held Corley as under tenants of Hastings (Dugdale's Warwickshire).

prove to belong to an even later generation. It will be observed that I transfer Orabilis from the Helias of 1166 to his grandson and namesake on chronological grounds, and that I make Helias Fitz Adam, not the son, but (at nearest, if his descendant) the great-great-grandson of the Domesday tenant.

It would be of interest to identify the other holdings of the family, for in Ringstone itself they seem to have held only some half a fee of the bishop, though they also held there of the Wakes half a fee, which doubtless represented that portion of Ringstone which was held *in capite* by Oger the Breton in 1086. Lessingham they held of the bishop as one fee.

J. H. Round.