

He was the first Lord Justice of England, and was a warrior as well as a lawyer. He destroyed a fleet of eighty vessels off Calais, and appears to have thoroughly entered into the duties of citizenship in four of the countries of his father's adoption, rather than from the country whence they came. When Pembroke died he was appointed Joint Regent of the Kingdom of England; was virtually the reigning sovereign, and held in his fingers all the reins of government, even when the Pope declared Henry III. competent to fill the office of King. In 1231 the King quarreled with DeBurgh and stripped him of all his titles and estates, but the barons espoused his cause, and, to save his throne, Henry restored the Earl to all his honors.

Speaking of DeBurgh, Dugdale says he was reckoned to be a subject, the greatest of Europe, and after King John was compelled to fly from Winchester, he assumed a higher deportment than any nobleman of the kingdom. DeBurgh was one of the witnesses to the act of "Magna Charta," which is acknowledged upon all sides to be the very foundation stone of modern British liberty. Hubert DeBurgh married the daughter of William, King of Scotland, and died about the middle of the thirteenth century. He assisted King John to quell an insurrection in Ireland. He also sent his brother, William Fitzadelm DeBurgh and the fifth in descent from that Earl of Counyn whose daughter married Fulk, Earl of Anjou, afterward King of Jerusalem, into Ireland to receive the homage of the Irish princes. This William Fitzadelm it was who, in 1175, published the Pope's bull confirming Henry in his title of Lord of Ireland, and in 1177 he succeeded Strongbow as Henry's Lord Deputy and Chief Governor of Ireland.

William Fitzadelm DeBurgh died 1204, and left two sons, Richard A. and William B. Richard appears to have assumed on his father's death in Ireland, the office of Chief Governor, and to have there played the role of another Warwick. Hallam says that he began business with Hugh O'Connor, the King of Connaught, in 1227, putting Felim O'Connor in his place, and whom he deposed, taking himself the title of "Lord of Connaught." Three years afterwards he deposed Felim and set up Hugh O'Connor once more upon the throne of his fathers, he having by this time married Hugh's daughter, Una O'Connor. Richard DeBurgh then ravaged Connaught on his own account, building two Norman Castles, one at Galway and another at Loughren.