

Woods belonging to the Crown, and then reasonable Satisfaction, without Imprisonment, should be accepted.

ALL Writs and Attachments were returnable to them, as well relating to the Pleas of the Crown as other, thro' all their Lands and Fees, and no Sheriff, Bailiff, or Officer, should execute any such there, unless in Default of the Custos and Canons, and they to have and hold Leets, and Lawdays, and Cognizance of all Pleas betwixt their Tenants, as well of Trespasses and Contracts, as others. And lastly, They were to have and hold Wards, Reliefs, Escheats, Forfeitures, and other Profits, Issues, and Emoluments whatsoever, within their own Fees, from all their Tenants, which might appertain to the Crown, as if the Tenants did hold of the Crown or others *in Capite*.

## C A P. V.

WE come now to treat of the most Noble and Illustrious *Order of the Garter*; which, if we consider either its Antiquity, or the Nobleness of the Personages, that have been enroll'd, it excels and outvies all other Institutions of Honour in the whole World. It owes its Original, as is confessed on all Hands, to *Edward III.* King of *England* and *France*; yet as to the Occasion, there are several Opinions which we shall rectifie. The vulgar and more general is, that the *Garter of Joan*, Countess of *Salisbury*, dropping casually off as she danced in a solemn Ball, King *Edward* stooping took it up from the Ground, whereupon some of his Nobles smiling, as at an amorous Action, and he observing their sportive Humour, turned it off with a Reply in *French*, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*; but withal added, in disdain of their Laughter, *That shortly they should see that Garter advanced to so high an Honour and Renown as to account themselves happy to wear it.*

BUT upon Examination of this Tradition, let others judge what Credit it bears to establish its Belief; for *Sir John Froissart*, the only Writer of the Age that treats

of this Institution, assigns no such Original, nor for 200 Years after is there any thing to the Purpose in our other Historians, till *Polydore Virgil* took occasion to say something of it; but had it been Fact, some *French* Historian or other, would not have neglected to register it at a convenient Time with a Scoff and Ridicule, since that Nation was so ready to deride King *Henry V's* Design of invading them with a Return of Tennis Balls.

In the Original Statutes of this Order, there is not the least Conjecture to countenance the Conceit of such a Feminine Institution, no not so much as laying an Obligation on the Knights-Companions to defend the Quarrels of Ladies (as some Orders then in being enjoyned;) nor doth the Author of that Tract entitled *Institutio clarissimi Ordinis Militaris a prænobili subligaculo nuncupati*, prefaced to the Black Book of the Garter, let fall the manifest Passage to ground it on.

As to what *Polydore* says, he is not so confident to ascertain the Person whose Garter it was; but cautiously declining that, says, it was either the Queen's, or the King's Mistress's; and if it were the latter, yet doth he omit her Name and Title, both which (on what Authority we find not) are supplied by modern Historians, who call her *Jean* Countess of *Salisbury*, the same elsewhere celebrated by the Name of the *Fair Maid of Kent*, (whom *Edward* the Black Prince, afterward married) whereas no Historian ever gave the least Inuendo that King *Edward III.* ever courted her as a Mistress. *Selden* points at her when he calls the Lady, from whom the Garter slipp'd, Countess of *Kent* and *Salisbury*: But about the Time when this Order was founded she in truth was dignified with neither Honour; for altho' she was Daughter to *Thomas* of *Woodstock*, Earl of *Kent*, and had been sometime the reputed Wife of *William Mountague*, second Earl of *Salisbury*, yet then she cou'd not properly be accounted Countess of *Salisbury*. She was actually Wife to *Sir Thomas Holland*, (one of the First Founders of the Order.) Nor was she yet (tho' afterwards) Countess of *Kent*, because her Brother *John* Earl of *Kent*, at the Institution of this Order, survived, and died not till 26 *Edw. III.*

THAT there was a Countess of Salisbury with whom King Edward III. became greatly enamour'd, *Froissart* reports after this manner, That this King having relieved a Castle of that Earl's in the North, wherein his Countess had been besieged by the Scots (the Earl himself being at that time Prisoner in France;) upon sight of her extraordinary Beauty he fell in love with her; but she so virtuously demeaned herself, during his Abode there, that he declined further Solicitation. However, some time after, the King out of Desire to see her, proclaim'd solemn Justs in London, whether this Countess and other Ladies being invited, came up. This Castle it seems was *Wark* upon *Tweed* in *Northumberland*, which King *Edward* had formerly bestowed on her Husband, for his good Service past, when he first espoused her, being then but a Knight.

ALTHO' it should be admitted that this Countess of Salisbury was the King's Mistress, yet must it be remark'd, That she was Wife to *William Mountague*, Kt. created Earl of *Salisbury*, Anno 11 *Edw. III.* Mother to *William* the before-mention'd second Earl, that her Christian Name was *Catherine*, not *Alice*, as *Froissart*, not *Joan*, as others call her, Daughter to *William Lord Granston*, and that she expired 28 *Edw. III.* But that the whole may appear, what indeed it is, a meer Fable, we shall insert the Judgment of *Dr. Heylin*, who took great Pains in this Particular. This, says he, *I take to be a vain and idle Romance, derogatory both to the Founder and the Order first published by Pol. Virgil, a Stranger to the Affairs of England, and by him taken upon no better ground than Fama Vulgi, the Tradition of the common People, too trifling a Foundation to so great a Building.*

OF the same Contexture with the former is another Tradition in *Andrew du Chesne*, That the Queen departing from the King to her own Apartments, and he following soon after, chanced to espy a Blue Garter lying on the Ground (supposed to have slipp'd from her Leg) whilst some of his Attendants carelessly passed by it, as disdainingly to stoop at such a Trifle; but he knowing the Owner, commanded it to be given him; at the Receipt of which he said, *You make but small account of this Garter; but within few Months, I'll cause the best of you all to reverence it alike.* Some suppose that the Motto was the Queen's Answer, when the King asked her,

her, *What Men would conjecture of her, upon her losing her Garter in such a manner?*

BOTH Relations are far distant from Fact; nevertheless it has thus far'd with other Orders of Sovereign Foundation, and an amorous, instead of an honourable Account, has been falsely render'd of their Institution; as for Instance, *The Order of the Annunciation*, and that of *The Golden Fleece*.

THERE is a third Opinion grounded on a Relation made of King *Rich. I.* who, whilst his Forces were employ'd against *Cyprus* and *Acon*, and extremely tir'd and harrass'd with the Siege, he, by the Assistance and Mediation of *St. George* (as imagin'd) was inspir'd with fresh Courage, and bethought himself of a new Device, which was to tie about the Legs of a Number of Knights, a Leathern Thong Garter, for such had he then at hand, whereby they being emulated to future Glory, with Assurance of Reward if they prov'd victorious, they might be excited to behave themselves intrepidly and well, much after the Examples of the old *Romans*, among whom were distributed various Crowns for several Causes, to adorn the Soldiers: But if King *Richard I.* did make use of this Device in the *Holy Land*, as a Signal or Mark of Distinction of a Party, upon some warlike Exploit, yet that he took Occasion to create a distinct Order of Knighthood thereupon, there is not sufficient warrant to believe; (for it is only put down in the Preface of the *Black Book*, but not in any Part of the Annals of the Order; nor can it plead higher Antiquity than the Reign of King *Hen. VIII.* when written.) All the Advantage that can be made of it, is, to heighten the Reputation of that Saint among the *English*, by which Means the Garter came to be dedicated to him, and not that it contributed to its Institution.

§ 2. THE true Motive was therefore, neither the Ladies Garter, or King *Richard's* Leathern Thong, that it owes it Original to: But King *Edward*, being a Person of consummate Vertue, gave himself up to military Affairs; and being engag'd in War for recovering his Right to *France*, made use of the best Martialists

tialists of the Age, did thereupon first design (in-  
 duc'd by its ancient Fame) the Restoration of King  
*Arthur's Round Table*, to invite hither the Gallant Spi-  
 rits from abroad, and endear them to himself; and ad-  
 judging no Place more requisite than *Windsor*, upon  
*New-Year's-Day*, A. D. 1344. he issu'd out Letters of  
 Protection for the safe going and return of Foreign  
 Knights, to try their Valour at the Solemn Justs to be  
 held there on *Monday* after the Feast of *St. Hilary* fol-  
 lowing (which happen'd *Jan. 19.*) And these Letters  
 of Safe-Conduct continu'd in force until the *Ostaves* of  
 the Purification of our blessed Virgin ensuing, being  
 the 18th Year of his Reign. At the Time appointed,  
 he provided a great Supper to begin the Solemnity,  
 and then ordain'd this Festival to be annually at *Whit-*  
*sonside*; and immediately after these first Exercises were  
 over, for a future and better Accommodation, he im-  
 press'd Workmen and Carriages for erecting a particu-  
 lar Building in the Castle, and therein plac'd a Table  
 of Two Hundred Foot Diameter, where the Knights  
 should have their Entertainment of Diet, at his Ex-  
 pence of 100 *l. per Week*; to which Building he gave  
 the Name of *The Round Table*. And as at these great  
 Conventions the Days were spent in all Kinds of no-  
 ble Feats of Arms, Justs and Turnaments, so were a  
 great Part of the Nights consum'd in publick Balls  
 and dancing with the Ladies that attended the Queen  
 thither; and perhaps it was hence conjectur'd, that at  
 some of these Balls the Queen's Garter, or the Garter  
 of *Catherine*, Countess of *Salisbury*, might slip off, and  
 the King's taking it up occasion Smiles in the By-  
 standers; and afterwards, when the King had modell'd  
 his intended Order, a Garter offering it self for its  
 chief Ensign, might add to the Conjecture; but that  
 it was the principal Cause, is a groundless Imagination.  
 And tho' King *Edward* advanc'd the Honour of the  
 Garter, as to denominate the Order, yet was it not to  
 enhance Reputation to, or perpetuate an effeminate  
 Occasion, but to adorn Martial Prowess, with Ho-  
 nours, Rewards and Splendor; to increase Vertue and  
 Valour in the Hearts of his Nobility, that so true  
 Worth, after long and hazardous Exploits, should not  
 enviously

enviously be depriv'd of that Glory which it hath intrinsically deserv'd, and that active and hardy Youths might not want a Spur in their Progression in the Paths of Vertue, which is to be esteem'd glorious and eternal.

It is further observable, that the *French King, Philip de Valoys*, in Emulation of this Seminary at *Windsor*, set up a *Round Table* at his Court, and invited Knights and valiant Men of Arms out of *Italy* and *Amaine* thither, lest they should repair to our King *Edward III.* which meeting with Success, prov'd a Countermine to his main Design; who perceiving that his Hospitality towards strange Knights, upon Account of reviving King *Arthur's Round Table* was too general, nor did sufficiently ingratiate them to his Person, but being unconstrain'd and at Liberty, did after their Departure take what Side they pleas'd in the ensuing Wars, he at length resolv'd upon a Projection more particular and select, and such as might oblige those whom he thought fit to make his Associates, in a lasting Bond of Friendship and Honour: And having issu'd forth his own Garter for the Signal of a Battle, that was crown'd with Success, (which is conceiv'd to be the Battle of *Cressy*, fought about Three Years after his erecting the *Round Table*;) upon so remarkable a Victory, he thence took Occasion to institute this Order, and gave the Garter Preheminence among the Ensigns of it, whence that select Number, whom he incorporated into a Fraternity, are styl'd *Equites Aurea Periscelidis*, and vulgarly *Knights of the Garter*. By this Symbol he design'd to bind the Knights and Fellows of it mutually unto one another, and all of them joyntly to himself, as Sovereign of the Order; nor was his Expectation frustrated, for it did not serve only as a vehement Spur and Incentive to Honour and martial Vertue, but also as a golden Bond of Unity and internal Society; and for this Consideration *Cambden* aptly calls it a Badge of Unity and Concord.

By the Symbols of this Garter the Knights are reminded, with all Religiousness, Sincerity, Friendliness, Faithfulness and Dexterity, not to leave the Pursuit of whatsoever they take in hand, nor to enterprize any  
Thing

Thing contrary to the Statutes of the Order; neither to frustrate the Rights of Peace and Friendship, nor vilify the Law of Arms, or proceed in any Thing farther than Faith and Compact, or the Bond of Friendship will admit. Moreover, in the binding of the Leg with this enobled Ensign, there was given this Caveat and Exhortation, that the Knights should not pusillanimously (by running away from Battle) betray the Valour and Renown which is ingrafted in Constancy and Magnanimity. Nay, so exactly did the Founder contrive the whole Habit into the Signification of the Garter, that he ordain'd his and the Knights-Companions Robes and Ornaments to be all alike, both for Materials and Fashion, intimating thereby, That they ought to conserve brotherly Affection among themselves. The great Collar of the Order was made of equal Weight, and like Number of Knots and Links, in Token of the like Bond of Faith, Peace and Amity inviolably to be observ'd and retain'd amongst them: In fine, all Things were so design'd, that every one might plainly perceive how much these Things tended to the Maintenance of Amity and Concord.

IN further reference to the establishing this Order, the aforesaid King calling together the Earls, Barons, and principal Knights of his Kingdom, *Freely*, says *Froissart*, and obligingly declar'd his Mind to them concerning this *Affair*: To which all of them being well inclin'd, entertain'd the Motion with equal Joy and Applause, deeming it would prove a very great Advancement to Piety, Nobility and Vertue, and likewise an excellent Expedient for the uniting not only his Subjects one with another, but all Foreigners conjunctively with them, in the Bonds of Amity and Peace. And 'tis very improbable the prudent Founder should summon his Nobles to consult about the Grandeur of an Order, that had taken its Rise from so slight an Occasion as the dropping of a Garter from a Lady's Leg. Now, to draw the Tye of Friendship more close, the King caus'd those who were (or should be) of the Order, to be call'd *Fellows*, *Associates*, *Colleagues*, *Brethren*, and *Knights-Companions*, and the Order it self a *Society*, *Fellowship*, *College of Knights*, and *Knight-Companionship*; and their Habits to be all alike, to represent how they

ought

ought to be united in all Chances and various Turns of Fortune ; Co-partners both in Peace and War, assistant to one another in all serious and dangerous Exploits ; and thro' the whole Course of their Lives to shew Fidelity and Friendliness one towards another. There are other Reasons assign'd, much to the same Effect, That the Order was instituted to fortifie the Confidence of the King, the Kingdom and Martial Vertue ; that is to say, to strengthen the Faith of the Subjects towards them, and for their greater Security, and because the Garter carries with it a Bond or Tye of Fellowship, and is a Symbol of Amity between Princes, being Companions of the same Order.

In the last Place, if we look upon the Statutes of its Institution, we shall find the Injunctions wholly Military, and so are the Words of Admonition pronounc'd at the putting on the Ensigns of the Order : And the Ground of the Institution ( in the Preamble to King Henry VIII's Exemplar ) is said to be for the Honour of God and Exaltation of the Catholick Faith, joyn'd both with Piety and Charity, in establishing a College of religious Men to pray for the Prosperity of the Sovereign of the Order and the Knights-Companions, and to perform other holy Duties ; as also ordaining a Maintenance for a Company of Alms-Knights, who have not otherwise wherewith to support themselves ; but not one Word relating to the Engagement on behalf of the feminine Sex.

AND whereas King Edw. III. had laid Claim by his Title to the Kingdom of France, and in Right thereof assum'd its Arms, he from the Colour of them, 'tis said, caus'd the Garter to be made Blue, and the Circumscription Gold : And it may, without straining, be infer'd from the Motto, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*, that he retorted Shame and Defiance upon him that should dare to think amiss of so just an Enterprize, as he had undertaken for recovering of his lawful Right to that Crown ; and that the Magnanimity and Bravery of those Knights, whom he had elected into this Order, was such as would impower and enable them to maintain the Quarrel against all who thought ill of it. Consonant to this is the Conjecture of Harpsfield, that this Apophthegm was design'd to put the Knights-Companions



panions in mind, Not to admit any Thing in their Actions, or among their Thoughts, derogatory to themselves and their Honour.

THAT Age did exceedingly abound with Impresses, Motto's and Devices, and particularly King *Edw. III.* was so excessively given up to them, that his Apparel, Plate, Bed, Household-Furniture, Shields, and even the Harness of his Horses, and the like, were not without them, many of which now to descant upon would be a fruitless Attempt, seeing the Occasion of the Invention, and the Circumstances are lost, that should illustrate them; and others, by reason of their Brevity, seem'd insignificant, in regard something was designedly omitted, and left to be understood, which cannot now be rightly supply'd, so as to arrive at the Mind of the Inventor. Of this Number may be this Motto, *It is as it is*, which was embroider'd upon a Doublet of that King; tho' there are others which seem more easy to be decypher'd; as that daring Motto wrought upon his Surcoat and Shield provided to be used at a Tournament,

**Hay, Hay, the Wythe Swan;  
By God's Soul I am the Man.**

§ 3. THE Time when the Order was instituted, Historians differ widely about; *Selden*, *Cowper*, and others, from *Froissart* (who wrote *temp. Rich. II.*) would have it in the 18th of King *Edw. III.* But since *Froissart* errs, in making the Number of Knights-Companions no fewer than Forty, which is a grand Mistake, Why might not he trip in Point of Time, and confound the Year of its Erection, with that wherein the Founder renew'd the Order of *The Round Table*, *Windsor* being the Place for both. For should we admit, that during some Part of the Solemnity held in this King's 18th Year, when the Accident of the Lady's Garter slipping off happen'd, what other Inference can be made, but that he had only an Intention to put in Execution somewhat afterwards? Not that an Order was actually erected at that Time: Besides, the Jollity of the Season, the Greatness of the Concourse, and the

the Splendidness of the Festivity, it was too busy a Time to suffer much Consultation tending thereunto; or at least to mould and model a Design so compleat and substantial, as it appears to have been even at first. If we joyn *Fabian*, he is plain, that tho' the King design'd the Institution at the End of the Festival, (which he places between *Candlemas* and *Lent*, in the 19th, and not 18th Year of that King) Yet was it not then, saith he, but afterwards establish'd by him. Nevertheless, Mr. *Seiden* elsewhere observes, it had its Original in the 24th Year of the said King. And our industrious *Stow* (with whom *Lily*, *Speed*, and *Segar* agree) tells us, That the first Feast of the Order was celebrated A. D. 1350. which exactly agrees to the 24th of *Edward III.* But *Polydore Virgil* places it after the 25th of *Edward III.* We must therefore have recourse to some other Proofs for elucidating this Point, since this Chronological *Aera* of the true Time of its Institution hath wonderfully slipp'd the Pens of all Writers.

ADMITTING then that the erecting this Order was first thought of by King *Edward*, at some of those grand Assemblies of *The Round Table*, held after the *French King* had set up the like; yet was it not mature, or brought to any Perfection, till after his glorious Victories and Triumphs over the *French* and *Scots* in the Battles of *Cressy* and *Nevil's Cross*, (in the last of which the *Scotch King*, *David*, was taken Prisoner) and until King *Edward* had *Calais* surrendred to him, as will appear very conspicuous.

AMONG the Rolls of the Great Wardrobe, is one containing the Account of all the King's Liveries, from *Michaelmas Anno 21*, to the 31st of *Jan. 23 Edw. III.* In the same are divers Things mention'd to be adorn'd with Garters, which were provided against the first grand Feast of *St. George*; and among the rest, the Royal Robes, viz. his Mantle, Surcoat and Hood; likewise a Bed of Blue Taffaty was bedeck'd with Garters, containing the Motto, *Honi soit qui mal y pense.* There were made for the Sovereign Three Harnesses, whereof Two were of White Velvet, wrought over with Garters *de blu & diaspri per totum compedamein cum Woodhouses*; and the Third *de Velveto Ynde cont. Lap-  
pekin*

*pekin quiffieux & caligas*, wrought over likewise with Garters. Had the Roll been divided into Years, or had distinguishing Marks of Time upon it, we might have been guided with more Certainty as to the true Year of the Institution. However, we may thence conclude it was not founded in the 18th of *Edw. III.* because that the Sovereign's Robes were not made until the 22d Year of his Reign at soonest; perhaps not till the Beginning of the 23d. But to put the Matter beyond dispute, the Founder's Statutes fix the Time of Institution to his 23d Year; so do the Statutes of King *Henry V.* and the Preface to the *Black Book, Leland, Mills* and *Dr. Heylin.* To conclude, when he had fix'd upon the Day and Place for celebrating the first grand Feast of this Order, he sent his Heralds into *Germany, France, Scotland, Burgundy, Hainault, Flanders* and *Brabant*, to invite all Knights and Esquires, (with Assurance of Safe-Conduct and Liberty for Fifteen Days, both before and after the grand Solemnity) to shew their military Prowess and other publick Exercises there to be perform'd, proper to the Place and Occasion; agreeable to which Invitation, sundry Knights and Gallant Men came over to signalize their Valour; and what made the Solemnity more glorious, King *Edward's* Queen was there present, attended with Three Hundred of the fairest Ladies, in all imaginable Splendor and Gaity.

§ 4. THE Patrons of the Order were several, under whose Protection (according to the Custom of the Age) King *Edw. III.* put himself and all the Knights-Companions, that the Affairs of the Order might be defended, preserved and govern'd.

THE first and chiefest which he elected, was the *Holy Trinity*, which in a more especial Manner was invocated to the Aid and Assistance of this Order.

Secondly, King *Edward III.* intitled peculiarly the blessed *Virgin Mary*, accounted then the general Mediatrix and Protectress of all Men; unto whom King *Edward IV.* was so strictly devoted, that he thought some additional Ceremonies requisite to her farther Honour, and thereupon ordain'd, that on her Five Solemnities

the Knights Companions should annually (as accustomed on the Feast of *St. George*) wear the Habit of the Order as long as Divine Service was celebrating, (unless they had sufficient Cause of excuse) bearing on the right Shoulders of their Robes a golden Figure of the *Virgin Mary*; and that they should go in the same Manner and Habit upon all *Sundays* throughout the Year; and lastly, that on the same Days for ever they should say Five *Pater Nosters*, with as many *Ave Maria's*.

*Thirdly*, *St. George of Cappadocia*, a most choice Champion of Christ and famous Martyr, was also elected one of the Patrons to this Order by King *Edward III.* not so much as he was a Professor of the Christian Faith, or for that he was an armed Soldier or Knight of Christ, but so much the more because in those Wars, which were waged by the Christians against the Infidels, he by several Appearances manifested his Presence as a most certain Encourager and Assistant to the Christians; the Relations whereof may be seen in *Dr. Heylin's History*, who hath laboriously and judiciously maintain'd the History of this Saint, against those that will not allow him a Place in Heaven, or a Being in the Church. In like manner the learned *Selden* hath avouch'd him to be the special Patron, Protector, Defender, and Advocate of this Realm of *England*; and has made it plainly appear in what Veneration he hath been honour'd abroad, especially among the Eastern Nations. To whose corroborating Testimonies we shall add, That this Title of Patron to our Nation, as given to *St. George* by the Founder of this Order, in a Patent granted to the Dean and Canons of the Chapel of *St. Stephen* at *Westminster*, and *St. George* at *Windſor*, which discharge them from Payment of Tythes; as also by King *Henry VIII.* in the Preamble of his Statutes. And tho' in general he is styl'd the Principal Patron of the Affairs of *Christendom*, and a tutelâr Guardian of military Men, yet among all Christians the *Engliſh* did excel; and in this Nation the Founder of this Order, in making choice of such an approv'd expert Captain and Patron, in particular Respect of whom the Knights had the Title of *Equites Georgiani*, *St. George's Knights*, and the Order it self came to be call'd

call'd the *Ordo Divi Sancti Georgii*, The Order of St. George.

It is remarkable, that *Du Chesne*, a noted French Historian, acknowledges it was by the special Invocation of St. George that King Edward III. gain'd the Battle of *Cressy*, which afterwards bringing to his Remembrance, He founded, says he, a Chapel within the Castle of *Windſor*. But if we may ascend a ſtep higher, and give credit to *Harding*, it's recorded King *Arthur* paid St. George particular Honours, for he advanc'd his Picture in one of his Banners, which was about Two Hundred Years after his Martyrdom, and very early for a Country ſo remote from *Cappadocia*. to have him in Reverence and Eſteem.

Laſtly, The Founder added a fourth Patron, whoſe Name himſelf bore, viz. *St. Edward the Confefſor*, his Predeceſſor, King of *England*; and we find he was wont to be invocated by this Founder, as well as St. George, in any great Difficulties and Streights. *Walſingham* gives an Inſtance at the Skirmiſh of *Calais*, A. D. 1349. when King *Edward*, in great Anger and Grief, drew out his Sword, and moſt paſſionately cry'd out, *Ha St. Edward, Ha St. George*; which his Soldiers hearing, ran preſently to him, and ruſhing violently upon the Enemy, put many of them to the Sword. Theſe Four Patrons we find recorded together in the Preamble of the Foundation of *Windſor College* by King *Edward III.* tho' in the Preamble to his Statutes of the Order, and to King *Henry V's* Statutes, *St. Edward the Confefſor* is omitted; nevertheleſs he is enumerated with the reſt in the Preamble to King *Henry VIII's*.

§ 5. As to the Honour and Reputation of this Noble Order, either in Compariſon with others, or in Reference to it ſelf, it challenges the Precedency of Antiquity, before the eldeſt Rank of Honour of that Kind any where eſtabliſh'd.

Secondly, The Statutes of the Foundation were ſo exquiſitely and judiciously deviſed and compacted, upon ſuch ſolid Foundations of Honour and Nobleneſs, that they afterwards became a Precedent to other Orders; and gave the Plan to thoſe Two of *The Golden Fleece* and

of Monsieur St. Michael, as is manifest by comparing their Statutes.

*Thirdly*, It is no small Honour that accrues to this Order, that the Number of these Knights-Companions were never encreas'd, but as they were Twenty Six with the Sovereign, so they now thus continue, *ut Pretium faciat raritas*; for the infringing this Article hath split several other military Orders into Contempt and Ruin, as nothing more tarnishing, or throwing a sully on the Worth of Glory and Honour, than when render'd so vulgar, and indifferently disposed without Distinction and Merit, as is exemplify'd in *The Order of the Star*, and the now declining *Order of St. Michael*.

*Fourthly*, It has receiv'd more additional Lustre by being honour'd with the Companionship of divers Emperors, Kings and Sovereign Princes, who esteem'd it the Summit of their Glory, and the highest Trophy of additional Honour, to be enroll'd in the Number. In-  
somuch that some of them with Impatience courted the Election. For we find recorded in the Register, *A. D.* 1672. Eight Emperors of *Germany*, Three Kings of *Spain*, Five *French* Kings, Two Kings of *Scotland*, Five Kings of *Denmark*, Five Kings of *Portugal*, Two Kings of *Sweden*, One King of *Potland*, One King of *Arragon*, Two Kings of *Naples*, besides divers Dukes and other free Princes; as One Duke of *Guelderland*, One Duke of *Holland*, Two Dukes of *Burgundy*, Two Dukes of *Brunswick*, One Duke of *Milan*, Two Dukes of *Urbin*, One Duke of *Ferrara*, One Duke of *Savoy*, Two Dukes of *Holfstein*, One Duke of *Saxony*, and One Duke of *Wertemberg*, Seven Count Palatines of the *Rhine*, Four Princes of *Orange*, and One Marquis of *Brandenburg*.

*Fifthly*, It entitles those Knights and Noblemen, whose Vertue hath rais'd them to this Pitch of Greatness, to be Companions and Associates with Emperors and Kings, a Prerogative of an high Nature, and a sufficient Recompence for the greatest Merit. We shall close up all with the high Elogy bestow'd on it by the learned *Selden*, That it exceeds in Majesty, Honour and Fame, all Chivalrous Orders of the World.