

Sword, (for there is no mention of the Banner till afterwards,) and place it over his Stall.

C A P. XIV.

The Signification of Election to Strangers.

Within what time, and in what manner, Certificate is made of their Election.

§ 1. **I**N regard that Strangers elect, are for the most part Sovereign Princes, whose Affairs obliged them to abide in their own Dominions, and very rarely permitted them to receive Personal Installation, it was thought fit to allow them several Privileges, by the Founder of this most Noble Order, and principally, that of giving previous and timely Notice of their Elections, and convenient time of consideration for Acceptance; affording Investiture in their own Countries, and permitting their Installations to be performed at *Windsor* by their Proxies or Deputies.

It was therefore by the *Statutes* ordained: That when any such should be chosen into the *Order*, they should be certified of their Elections by the Sovereign; and besides, that, at his Charge, the *Garter* should be sent over to them, with the *Mantle* and *Statutes* of the *Order*, Sealed with the common Seal; so that they might have notice, at least within four Months from the time of Election, to the end they might advise and determine with themselves, from the Tenor of the *Statutes*, whether they would receive the Honour of this most Noble Order.

In Pursuance of these Directions, it became customary for the Sovereign, when he sent his Letters, to send also, and that by way of solemn Embassy, the Habit and Ensigns of the *Order*, with a Book of the *Statutes*; and in case the Election were accepted, Investiture might be received before the return of the Persons, by whom the

Habit

Habit was sent. As upon the Elections of *Edward*, King of *Portugal*, at the Feast of *St. George*, 13 *Hen. VI.* the Duke of *Urbin*, 14 *Edw. IV.* and several others.

The right of bearing these Letters signifying Election, and returning the Strangers Answer, belongs to *Garter*, by the Constitutions of his Office. And though Certificate of Election was to be made within four Months from the time of Election, yet King *Henry VIII.* added this necessary Clause: *That when the Sovereign had any great or high Impediment, he might defer certifying the Election till a more convenient Time.* As may be seen in the case of *Frederick III.* Emperor of *Germany*, in the time of *Henry VI.* who having been elected 35 of that King, had not Letters sent him to signify it till the next Year. It likewise appears, that Letters to the same Effect were then likewise dispatched to the King of *Arragon*, the Duke of *Brunswick*, and King of *Poland*, who had been elected eight Years before.

And yet we find it recorded, that the *Habit* and *Ensigns* of the Order were sent by special Ambassadors to all three, 34 *Hen. VI.* two Years before: But perhaps this ought to be understood of their being but then design'd, and ordered to be sent, and on second Thoughts might be stopped, or if sent, by some accident might have miscarried; otherwise it seems needless to have sent other Letters to give notice of their Election two Years after: But to clear this matter, we after find a second mention of sending the *Habit* and *Ensigns* to the King of *Poland*, 37 *Hen. VI.* by which it is demonstrable, that the first Embassy took no Effect.

It does not appear that King *Hen. VIII.* or any of his Successors, ever made use of that Liberty granted by the aforesaid Article of his *Statutes*, for deferring the significant Letters of Election beyond the time appointed by the *Statutes* of Institution, as we find by the many Instances of that kind. *Francis* the first King of *France* was elected *October 21.* 19 *Hen. VIII.* and was installed the 25 *January* following; so that 'tis plain, the Letters of Notice must needs have been dispatched within the limited Time. *James V.* of *Scotland*, who was elected 20 *Jan.* 26 *Hen. VIII.* had notice of Election immediately sent him; and *Hen. II.* of *France*, having been elected 24 *April,*

April, 5 Edw. VI. had Letters of Signification sent him in *May* following; and so in all Examples since. And when King *Charles II.* elected any Stranger whilst he was Abroad, Letters of Signification were sent them immediately after.

Of notice given of an Election, before sending the Habit.

§ 2. Here it is to be observed, with how much caution, more than the former, the Statutes of King *Henry VIII.* Ordain, to send Letters that signify Election, and the Book of Statutes only at first; but not the Garter and Mantle, till the elect Stranger, having had time to consult the Statutes, certifies his acceptance of the Order; and then, and not before, it is Decreed to send a solemn Embassy with the whole Habit, George, and Collar: And consonant to this, the Practice hath sometimes been. As in the case of *Henry II.* King of France, 5 *Edw. VI.* *Emanuel*, Duke of Savoy, 1 and 2 *Phil.* and *Mar.* and in that of *Frederick*, Duke of *Wirtemberg*, to whom Queen *Elizabeth* sent Letters soon after his Election, and he returned Thanks, and Acceptation, by his two Ambassadors, who received Promise of sending the whole Habit soon after; however, the same were not sent during her Life.

Notice of Election sent with the Habit.

§ 3. When the Sovereign hath been well assured of the elect Stranger's acceptance, the same Embassy (as anciently before adding this Clause,) dispatched both Ceremonies. The Sovereign's Letter signifying Election, being first presented, together with the Book of Statutes, and an acceptance declared, then within few Days, the whole Habit of the Order was solemnly delivered.

And thus it was directed soon after the Election of *James V.* King of Scots, to the Lord *William Howard*, sent on that Embassy; and in like manner, at the Election of *Christian IV.* King of Denmark, 1 *Jac. I.* to the Earl of *Rutland*

Rutland sent on that Embassy. As also to *Gustavus Adolphus*, King of Sweden, and *Henry*, Prince of Orange, within two Months, their Elections following on April 24. 3 Car. I. and the date of the Commission for delivering the Order being on June 24. following.

The manner and order of the delivery of these Letters, signifying Election, when the Habit is sent, is thus.

“ First, The Ambassador and Officer of Arms having notice given them of the first Audience, present themselves to the *Stranger Prince*, in the accustomed manner of Ambassadors; and delivering the Sovereign’s Letters *Missive*, with all due Reverence, the Ambassador, after some short general Compliment from the Sovereign, signifying that his Master, and the Honourable Society of the *Garter*, in respect of his renowned Prowess, Valour, Virtues, &c. and to establish and encrease the Amity that is between them, hath elected him into the most Noble Order of *St. George*; and that Sovereigns do never elect any Stranger, but such as they highly Honour; and therefore earnestly desires it may be accepted as a true Testimony thereof: To which end the Sovereign hath sent him over, and his Herald there present, to perform the due Ceremonies.

But this Commission of Legation hath sometimes been obstructed by the multitude of Affairs lying on the Sovereign’s Hands, particularly in the Time of *Car. I.* when engaged in that unnatural Civil War; so that when they sent their Letters of Signification, it was thought fit to Commissionate their Agent, or Resident at the Prince’s Court, and *Garter Principal King of Arms*, to deliver part; but the two chief and most peculiar *Ensigns* of the Order, *viz.* the *Garter* and *George*, deferring the solemn Embassy till a more convenient Season. The first Precedent of which kind, was 10 Jac. I. when Sir *Ralph Winwood*, and *William Seagar*, Esq; *Garter*, were Commissioned to deliver only, for the present, the *Garter* and *George*, to *Maurice*, Prince of Orange, five Days after his Election; and so to *Charles*, Prince Palatine of the Rhine.

Rhine, 9 *Car. I.* and to *William*, Prince of *Orange*, and the Duke de *Espernon*, the same Reign. And so likewise during the unhappy Exile of King *Charles II.* it was usual, for want of more conveniency, to present the elect Knight, in confirmation of his Election, whether he were *Stranger*, or *Subject*, with the *Garter*, *George*, *Ribband*; and sometimes a *St. George's Cross*, radicated within a *Garter*, to be fixed on the left Shoulder of their Cloaks, or upper Garments. But these things after returned into their proper Channel, as we may see in several cases since, of which we need not instance more, than that of the present Sovereign, and his Royal Highness the Prince. The former at a Chapter of the most Noble Order, held at *Kensington*, 18 *June*, 1701. 13 *Will. III.* was elected, and on the 21 *June*, the Sovereign, by Commission under the Great Seal of the Order, constituted the Earl of *Macclesfield*, and *Gregory King*, Esq; *Lancaster Herald*, (then Deputy *Garter King of Arms*,) to carry the *Habit* and *Ensigns*, and to invest his then Electoral Highness therewith. The next Day after their arrival, at a private Audience, his Electoral Highness received the *Garter* and *George*, with the usual Formalities; and two Days after, viz. 24 *August*, was solemnly invested with the whole *Habit* of the Order. On 13 *March* following, 1702-3. he was installed at *Wind-sor* by his Proxy *Charles*, Lord *Mobun*, with the accustomed Ceremonies. The same Order was observed at the Election of his Royal Highness the Prince, 4 *April*, 5 *Queen Anne*; when the Lord *Halifax*, and *John Vanbruge*, Esq; *Clarenceux King of Arms*, (in the room of *Sir Henry St. John*, Knight *Garter*,) were Commission'd to carry the *Habit* and *Ensigns*. They had their first Audience, on this occasion, of the Prince, the 31 *May*, who afterwards received the *Garter* and lesser *George*, and on 2 *June* following, was invested with the whole *Habit* and *Ensigns* of the Order.

Certificates of Acceptation.

§ 4. After delivering the Sovereign's Letter, signifying Election by the Ambassador, and the elect *Stranger* doth readily

readily accept the Order, he is obliged, by the Statutes, to return the Sovereign a Certificate of such his Acceptance, and desire of Ratification. And 'tis observable, before the additional Clause made by King Henry VIII. this ceremonious Course had been the Practice of ancient Times; and both expected from, and observed by the King of Denmark, who having been elected, 6 Hen. V. was the eighth of the same King taken notice of for not returning, before that Time, an Answer, whether he accepted the Honour or no: And it appears, before the next Feast of St. George, he sent over his ready Acceptance, both of the Honour of Election, and of the Ensigns of the Order; and thereupon Directions were given for his Installation by the Lord Fitz Hugh, his Proxy.

But for an instance, after the said additional Clause, there is one remarkable enough, in the Preamble of the Sovereign's *Credential Letters* to the Duke of Savoy, 1 and 2 Phil. and Mar. sent with the Habit and Ensigns of the Order; in which it appears: *That the Sovereign having given notice of his Election into this most Noble Order, he had returned back his cheerful and ready Acceptance of, and singular Satisfaction in the said Choice; and therefore cordially wished it might attain its due Effect.*

In succeeding Times it was thought necessary, where the whole *Habit* was sent to a *Stranger*, together with the Sovereign's Letters of notice, to make a provisional Decree, (which passed, 13 Car. I.) *That Garter, and all others, whom he pleased to join in Commission with him, should be most punctually careful, that they delivered not the Ensigns of the Order to any elect Stranger, till they were satisfied, by his Letters Patent, of his kind and grateful Acceptance thereof; or in case of refusal, to forbear their Presentation.*

And the same care was also taken, where only the *Garter* and *George* were sent; as appears by the Instructions sent, 19 Car. I. to Sir *William Boswel*, then appointed by the Sovereign to present those two principal Ensigns to *William, Prince of Orange*; where, among other things, he is expressly commanded, *To take a Testimonial from the said Prince, of his kind Acceptation thereof, before he should deliver those Ensigns of Honour to him:* So likewise in the Institutions of the same Date, for delivery

livery of the Garter and George to the Duke de Espernon.

Of an Election not accepted.

§ 5. That sometimes this Honour hath not been accepted, appears in the single case of *Philip II.* Duke of *Burgundy*, who having been elected by King *Henry V.* then in *France*, had not, *Anno 1 Henry VI.* sent his Answer. It was therefore concluded on at the Feast of *St. George*, held at *Windsor* the said Year, by *Humphry*, Duke of *Gloucester*, then Deputy to the Sovereign, and by, and with the unanimous consent of the *Knights-Companions* present, to send Letters to the said elect Duke, by which he was desired to know, whether he gave his Acceptance or no? The Duke of *Burgundy*, it seems, made no Answer to this Letter: It was therefore again debated at the next Year's Feast, and then thought fit, to send Persons over to him with the Nomination, who should press him for his final Answer. And then it appears, that the said Duke weighing the Statutes, and reflecting on the Quarrels between the Duke of *Gloucester*, and the Duke of *Brabant* his Uncle, made a plausible Excuse, refusing the Election, lest he should be forced either dishonourably to violate the pious Constitutions of the *Order*, or the obligations of Alliance; and upon this they proceeded to a new Election.

But this is the only instance of this kind; and it hath been the constant way of all elect Strangers, not only to accept, but to receive with the highest Marks of Satisfaction, the notice of their Election, and the Investiture of the *Order*.