

Musicians.
 Yeomen of the Bows and Guns.
 Captain Cook, and the Children of the Chappel.
 Two Carvers.
 Two Sewers.
 Two Pages of the Presence.
 Two Esquires of the Body.
 Two Apothecaries.
 Four Serjeants at Arms.
 Eight Sewers of the Chamber.
 Pages of the back Stairs.
 Captain of the Guards.
 Officers of the Robes.
 Two Grooms of the Privy-Chamber.
 Groom Porter.
 Marshal of the Ceremonies.
 Removing Wardrobe.
 Gentlemen of the Chappel.
 Five Messengers.
 Sixteen Trumpeters.
 Serjeant Trumpeter.
 Drum Major.
 Four Drummers and a Fife.

C A P. XX.

*The Order of the Ceremonies on the Eve
of the Grand Feast.*

Of the beginning of the Grand Feast.

§ 1. **T**HE Celebration of the Grand Feast, with the Ceremonies, devis'd to set forth and illustrate the Glory thereof, hath been worthy the observation of the first Institutor, and all succeeding Sovereigns; well knowing that what is once slightly observ'd will soon fall into disesteem, if not into contempt. Therefore they have been very particular to the Day, the Hour,

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and

and the Place, where the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* are to meet.

As to the first, although *St. George's Day* (or such other Day as the Sovereign shall please to nominate and appoint, by Prorogation in lieu thereof,) be the Principal and Grand Day of the Feast, yet the Eve of that Day does the Feast take Commencement, and determines not till the third Day following; the whole Solemnity taking up three Days inclusively.

And this is clear from several Articles of the *Statutes*, wherein the course of the Ceremonies to be observ'd at the Grand Solemnity are set down; whether observed, on the Eve, the Feast-Day, or the Morrow after: And these three Days together did the Sovereign hold the Grand Feast, whether they personally celebrated the same, or deputed other of the *Knights-Companions* to that Employment, the cause of the Commissions of Deputation limiting their Power either in general, *during the time of the Feast*; or in particular, upon the Day of *St. George*, the Day, and that following, *viz.* the last Day of the Feast. In like manner, when in succeeding Times, Commissions of Prorogation of the Grand Feast were made use of, we find the three Days continuance of the Feast to be particularly mentioned in the Body of those Commissions: Namely, the Day wherein, by such Appointment, the Feast was to begin, the Grand Day it self, and the Day whereon it ended.

The Directions given in the *Statutes*, for the Order and Course of this Solemnity, to begin with the Eve, run thus: Every Year upon *St. George's Eve*, shall be an Assembly, or Meeting of all the *Knights-Companions* of the Order, at *Windsor Castle*, &c. and the same is positively enjoin'd by all the other Bodies of the *Statutes*.

And as the Grand Feast is generally said to Commence in *Vigilia Sancti Georgii*, or as it is otherwise exprest in the *Black-Book*, in *Vigilia in future celebratis*, or *Vigiliis Divi Georgii*, or in *Vigilia Festi*. So has the time of this preceeding Day several other Denominations given it in the same Register, *Vesper ante Diem Sancti Georgii*; in *Vesperis Georgianis*, in *Vesperis Festi*, in *Vesperis Communionem*; and at other times, *pridie Divi Georgii*, *pridie Georgiane Solemnitatis*, *pridie Festi*, *pridie feriarum Divi Georgii*, and sometimes *per vigilia*, and lastly in plain

Englifo,

English, St. George's Eve; all which signify one and the same thing, and are but various Names given to the Evening of the Day foregoing either that of *St. George*, or that whereon the Grand Feast is appointed to be held by Prorogation.

Thus we see that the Founder began his Solemnity upon the Eve of the Feast Day; which doubtless was in conformity to the Custom of the Church, who made the *Vigils* and *Eves* part of the ensuing Festivals, and as Uihers to the Grand Solemnities.

As the Eve was appointed by the Founder for the Commencement of the Anniversary of the Grand Feast, so to make the time more certain, the *Statutes* express the exact Hour of meeting for beginning the Solemnities, to be at the Hour of *Tierce*, which in many other Places is called, *Hora Tertiarum*. But this seemed not sufficient to express clear enough the meaning of a Law, where a Penalty was enjoined, and therefore at a *Chapter* held at *Windsor*, 17 *Edw. IV.* a scruple arising among the *Knights-Companions*, concerning the Words *Hora Tertiarum*, whether they were intended to mean three in the Afternoon, or at the Hour of the Church, generally used after Prime Noon before; and fixed it to the latter.

The *Registrum Chartaceum* Records the same Explanation of the Words; and to let us see that 'twas immediately put in Practice, it is there entered with the Names of those *Knights-Companions* present with the Sovereign, both in the Morning and Evening of the same Day.

Another Instance of which there is, 3 *Hen. VII.* on the Eve of the Grand Feast, held by Prorogation at *Windsor*, where the Sovereign, in regard of the arrival of several Ambassadors, put off the usual *Chapter* till Noon; whence it is evident, that the Custom at this time was likewise to begin the Solemnity in the Morning.

But notwithstanding the said Decree of King *Edw. IV.* we find it *Anno 11 Hen. VIII.* to be meant and intended for three in the Afternoon. And when King *Henry VIII.* came to Model the *Statutes* of the Order, in two several Articles, he declares and expounds the *Hora Tertia*, (which the *English* Version of those *Statutes* renders the Hour of *Tierce*;) to be the *Hora Tertia post Meridiem*, three in the Afternoon; and in another Article of the same *Statutes*, *Hora Tertiarum, id est, Hora Tertiarum post Meridiem*;

ard elsewhere, *Hora Tertia Vespertina vel Pomeridiana*; which Hour, as it was then settled to be the punctual time for the *Knights-Companions* meeting, to enter on the Solemnity of the Feast, so has it ever since continued unaltered, and usually observed.

The Place of Assembly for the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions*, hath usually been in such of the Sovereign's Privy Lodgings, both at *Windsor*, or elsewhere, as he hath appointed; frequently in the Privy, Withdrawing, or Bed Chambers: To this appointed Place the *Knights-Companions* repair, to give their Attendance on the Sovereign, having first invested themselves in full Robes, either in their own Lodgings, or some convenient Room at Court, where *Garret* is to attend them, with notice of the approaching Hour.

The *Knights-Companions* being come to the Sovereign, as likewise the Officers of the Order, habited in their *Mantles*, and bearing in their Hands the *Symbols* of their several Offices, they wait the Sovereign's being vested in his Robes, till he passes into the Presence Chamber, or give beginning to the Feast, by opening the *Chapter* at their meeting, before he goes thither.

About the same time, the Provincial *Kings*, *Heralds*, and *Pursuivants*, wearing their Coats of the Sovereign's Arms; so also the Band of Pensioners, armed with their Pole Axes, Assemble in the Presence Chamber; but the Prebends of the College, vested in their Taffaty Mantles over their Surplices, and *Alms-Knights* in their Mantles and *Surcoats*, come no nearer than the Guard Chamber.

Lastly, The Servants and Attendants of the *Knights-Companions* meet without the Guard Chamber Door, whence spreading themselves down the Stairs, through the Stone Gallery, into the upper Ward of the Castle, or as far as their Number will reach, all wait the Sovereign's coming forth into the Presence.

It will be necessary here to inform the Reader, in regard not only the Feast Day of *St. George*, but the Grand Feast held in Honour of the Order, hath been kept in several other Places besides *Windsor Castle*, more particularly, at *White-Hall*, *St. James's*, *Greenwich*, and *York*; that there are many Ceremonies, and other Particulars hereafter named, which alter not with the Place, but appertain to the Festival, and are therefore to be observed every where

where alike; as for instance, the form of Proceeding, the manner of holding *Chapters*, the Ceremony of Offering Gold and Silver, Swearing of Officers, and such like: But others there are, which are precisely local and particular, as the *Prebends* and *Alms-Knights* going in the Proceeding, the Offering up of Atchievements, &c. to *Windsor* only.

Since the withdrawing the Grand Feast from *Windsor*, some of the Officers of Arms, curious in the Observation of these Solemnities, performed in other Places, have afforded us great Plenty of Memorials, relating to the ceremonious Part thereof, while the same was continued at *Windsor*; and therefore, when the true Place where the Instance lies, shall be also cited, the Reader is not to conclude that the Precedent urged doth not full enough answer the Purpose, unless it had been likewise fetched from *Windsor*. But that in this case, the Ceremony or Example is such, as is peculiar to the Feast, not the Place, and ought to be observed without alteration at any Place, where the Sovereign shall keep the Grand Feast.

Of setting the Proceeding in Order.

§ 2. In Times past, the *Knights-Companions* appeared at the Grand Feast, attended with a numerous Train of Servants and other Dependents; but the Feast having removed from *Windsor* to other Places, much of this ancient Splendor was laid aside; yet upon King *James I.* Accession to the Crown, somewhat of this Glory began to revive; for we find it entered upon the *Register*, in the fourth of his Reign; That the ancient Custom, which for some Years had been intermitted, wherein, at the Solemnity of this Feast, all the *Knights-Companions* were wont to go attended, each with a large Train, was recalled and brought back into use.

But this height of Gallantry and Splendor in the Number of Attendants, and richness of their Apparel, within ten Years grew up to such Excess, or rather Exorbitancy, that it required a restraint; wherefore the Sovereign, by the unanimous Advice of the *Knights-Companions*, Decreed, and Commanded, That every one of the *Knights-Companions* of the Order, should have to attend upon his Person

at the yearly Solemnization of the Feast of the Order, fifty Persons, and no more: The reason whereof we find elsewhere noted to be, for saving of Charge, and avoiding of Emulation. But in the beginning of King Charles I. Reign, of ever Blessed Memory, the gallantry of Attendants began again to Increase and Augment; insomuch that at the Grand Feast held at *White-Hall*, the 22d, 23d, and 24th of *April*, Anno 8 Car. I. we find it observed, that the *Knights-Companions* came forth attended, each with a Train of Servants very richly clad.

But to return and enter upon the Proceeding, to the end the Servants and Attendants of the *Knights-Companions* may be exactly Marshalled, the Usher of the Hall (whose Duty it is to rank them) ought to call for a List from *Garter*, of such *Knights-Companions* as are to be present at the Grand Feast, noted with their several Places in the Proceeding, for his better Directions in assigning the Attendants their due Places, the Order whereof is thus: First, the *Junior* Knights-Attendants proceed one before another, on the left Hand, upon whose right Hand the second eldest Knights-Attendants go in equal Rank with them, for this we observe to have been the general rule; where the *Knights-Companions* Proceed in pairs, their Attendants go together; those belonging to the *Senior* Knights of the two, on the right Hand, and to the *Junior* upon their left; but the Order is otherwise, where any of the *Knights-Companions* proceed single and alone, (which often falls out, as shall be noted in its due Place,) for then the Attendants belonging to that single Knight go two and two, on both sides the Way, opposite one against the other.

But when the Grand Feast is Celebrated at *White-Hall*, there the *Knights-Companions* Attendants are Marshalled by the said Usher, on both sides the Passage, from the outward Door of the Guard Chamber, down into the Hall, taking up all the Room as far as the old Chappel; and because here they do not proceed, in regard of the shortness of the Processional way, but only make a stand, for the Proceeding to pass through them, they are ranked in a way different from that used at *Windſor*; nevertheless relating more especially to the Order observed by their Masters: Which Method, in the Sovereign's Proceeding to the Chappel, at the beforementioned Feast, held

held at *White-Hall*, Anno 8 Car I. we find thus described The eldest *Knight-Companions* Servants were ranked on the right Hand of the Passage, the chiefest of them near unto the old Chappel Door; and the second Knight (being Companion to the eldest) his Attendants stood on the left side, the chiefest of them also next the said old Chappel Door, and in case the eldest Knight's Fellow or Companion be not present in this Proceeding, then the eldest Knight's Servants ought to be placed opposite one against the other, upon each side the said old Chappel Door: The like Order is to be taken in Marshalling the Servants of the other Knights of this most Noble Order, whose Companions are then absent.

Secondly, The Order of Proceeding amongst the *Alms-Knights*, (who, Anno 1 Car. I. had two Waiters of the Sovereign's Hall, in their Livery Coats, bearing white Rods in their Hands, to proceed before them,) is in general two and two together, the *Junior* is placed foremost on the left Hand, and his next *Senior* on his right; and if Sickness, or other lawful Impediment, chance to hinder one or more of them, from going in the Proceeding, his *Junior* is advanc'd into his Place, and consequently all the other *Juniors* do in like manner alter their Places, and advance, to the end the superior Place be still supplied, according to the right rule of Marshalling the Singles, that compose a gross Body; but in this Case, if the Number that attend happen to be odd, the Governor of the *Alms-Knights* goes last of all, and alone.

Thirdly, The Virger of the College hath his Place next after the *Alms-Knights*, and immediately before the *Prebends* of the College; who being habited in a Gown, beareth a Silver Verge, the Ensign of his Office: Nevertheless, heretofore, when the *Prebends* went not in the Proceeding, on the Eve of the Grand Feast, the Virger proceeded first of all, before the *Alms-Knights*, for so it was observed on the Eve of St. George, at *Windsor*, Anno 6 Eliz. and in this manner we see it express, in the Proceeding set forth by *Marcus Gerchard*.

Fourthly, Under the general rule, relating to the *Alms-Knights*, are comprehended the *Prebends* of the College, the *Pursuivants*, *Heralds*, and *Provincial Kings*, insomuch, that where either of the said Kings are absent, the *Senior Herald* is advanced, and goes in breast on the left Hand of

him who is then present ; so also where any of the *Heralds* are wanting, his next *Junior* ascendeth into his Place ; whereby it sometimes falls out, that the *Senior Pursuivant* is joined to the left Hand of the *Junior Herald* : And through their defects and absence, the Number of the Officers of Arms be odd, then (with this difference in the foresaid rule observed among the *Alms-Knights*.) the youngest *Pursuivant* goeth single by himself.

Touching the right of Precedency, between the Officers of Arms, and *Prebends* of the College, in Proceeding before the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions*, we find there hath been heretofore not only some Question started, but the Place contended for ; insomuch, that at the Installation of the Earls of *Shrewsbury* and *Cumberland*, Anno 34 *Eliz.* the *Prebends* took Place, and upon the 24th of *May*, Anno 39 *Eliz.* at the Installation of *Thomas*, Lord *Howard* of *Walden*, and others, the *Prebends* again endeavoured to pass between the Officers of Arms, and Officers of the Order ; but *Charles*, Lord *Howard* of *Effingham*, then Lieutenant to the Sovereign, delivered his Opinion on the behalf of the Officers of Arms against the *Prebends*.

Yet did not this so settle the Order of Precedency, or quiet the *Prebends*, but that the Contention again broke out, Anno 1 *Jac. I.* at the Installation of the Earls of *Pembroke*, *Marr*, *Southampton*, and Duke of *Lenox* ; (which happened on the ninth, not second of *July*, in the foresaid Year,) even to such a height, that the *Prebends*, *Pursuivants*, and *Heralds*, contended in the Proceeding ; but the Controversy was on the next Morning composed, by the Lord Admiral, (then the Sovereign's Lieutenant,) the Lord Treasurer, and the Earl of *Worcester* ; and the Order in Proceeding thus settled : first, That the *Alms-Knights* should go foremost, the *Pursuivants* next, then the *Prebends*, and then the *Heralds* and Kings of Arms ; and this Order in Proceeding was afterwards observed, on the 21 *May*, Anno 4 *Jac. I.* at the Installation of the Earl of *Salisbury*, and Viscount *Bindon* ; as also the 19 *May*, Anno 6. of the same King, at the Installation of the Earls of *Dunbar*, and *Montgomery*.

Howbeit, Anno 9 *Jac. I.* and so afterwards, we do not find the *Pursuivants* mentioned in the Proceeding, by particular Name, nor otherwise, than in this following Order,

der, viz. *Alms-Knights, Prebends, Heralds, &c.* but it may be presumed that the *Pursuivants*, then joined again in Body with the *Heralds*, (though for some Years before divided from them, by the interposition of the *Prebends*,) as well as the Provincial Kings, and all of them under the Title of *Heralds*, and somerimes Officers of Arms.

And though at the Grand Feast held by Prorogation, on Sunday the 14th of *September*, in the said fifteenth Year of King *James*, it is noted, that the Prince (being then the Sovereign's Lieutenant,) proceeded to Morning Service on the Feast Day, with the *Alms-Knights, Heralds, Prebends*, and Officers of the Order before him; from which manner of Expression, it may perchance be supposed, that the *Heralds* went at that time next after the *Alms-Knights*, and before the *Prebends*; nevertheleis, elsewhere we find them, on the Eve of the aforesaid Feast, ranked in this following Order.

The Alms-Knights.

The Prebends.

The Officers of Arms.

The Knights of the Order, &c.

And doubtless, they proceeded in the same Order to the Chappel, on the next Morning, notwithstanding what is before said to the contrary, those Expressions being interwoven with the general Account given of the Ceremonies of the whole Festival, and more subject to mistake, where the relation of the Proceeding is carried on in a continued Discourse, than were ranked (as is before exhibited,) in particular Lines, and in the Order and Form of a Proceeding. Besides, we no where meet with any Order or Decree, nulling the foresaid Determination, made Anno 1 Jac. I. which placeth the *Prebends* before the *Heralds*. Finally, to give an end to the Disputes in this Point, we find, that upon the Eve of this Feast, held at *Windsor*, the 23, 24, and 25 of *November*, Anno 1 Car. I. the *Prebends* proceeded next before the *Pursuivants*, and the *Pursuivants* immediately before the *Heralds* and Provincial Kings; that is to say, all the Officers of Arms (except *Garter*, whose Place is elsewhere,) proceeded in one entire Body together, which Order we find to be the same in all Proceedings after, that we have met with, and was

so observed at the Grand Feast held at *Windsor, Anno 13 Car. II.* and ever since. But to proceed.

All the before mentioned Attendants wait in their several Stations, till the Hour of *Tierce*, when the Sovereign (having the *Knights-Companions* and Officers of the Order before him, and his Train carried up,) passeth towards the Presence Chamber, notice of whose coming being given, the Band of Pensioners make the accustomed Guard and Passage along the Presence Chamber, the Seniors standing towards the Lobby Door, within which Guard, on the other side, the Officers of Arms place themselves: Upon the same warning, the Yeomen of the Guard clear a like Passage from the Presence Chamber Door, along the Guard Chamber, unto its outward Door, for the Proceeding to pass through.

At the Sovereign's approach, one of the Gentlemen Ushers attended with the Sword of State, (the Point resting upon the Ground,) delivereth to such one of the Nobility, (not being a Knight of the Order,) whom the Sovereign, as an honorary Favour, hath before nominated, to bear it from thence, before him in all the Proceedings of the Feast; during which Action, the *Knights-Companions* proceed forwards, and being entred the Presence Chamber, Flank on each side the State, with some small distance between them, and there make a stand: The Sovereign being also entred, passeth to the Step before the State, (the Nobleman who beareth the Sword, and the five Officers of the Order, retiring a little on his right Hand,) and then turning himself towards the *Knights-Companions*, standeth there a while, until they have made their Reverences unto him; which being performed, he resaluteth the *Knights-Companions* by putting off his Cap: This done, the Sovereign putteth his Cap on again; whereupon every of the *Knights-Companions* putteth on theirs, and immediately Rank themselves, according to their due Place, on both sides the State.

For the right understanding whereof, we are in the fifth place to Note, that in the Order and Method wherein the *Knights-Companions* are ranked, (if they be all present,) is two and two together, the *Junior* foremost on the left Hand, for that is his Place in all Proceedings; but where any of them be absent, the rule is different from that appropriate to the before-mentioned Degrees;

for

for though it be recorded, that upon the Eve of the Grand Feast held at *Windsor*, Anno 7 *Hen. V.* the *Knights-Companions* went in Order to the *Chapter-House* and *Choir*; yet this being exprest but in general terms, how it ought to be understood, will more fully appear, from the particular Directions given for the Order of the *Knights-Companions* Proceeding in *King Henry VIII's* Statutes; where the Law directs each *Knight-Companion* to proceed alone, at such time as his Fellow (who possesseth the Stall opposite unto him) is absent, but the Order of such Proceeding will by a Scheme be made more evident.

The Proceeding of the Knights-Companions, present on the Eve of St. George, to the Closet at White-Hall, Anno 3 Eliz.

The Lord <i>Hunston</i> .	Void.
The Lord <i>Robert Dudley</i> .	The Viscount <i>Mountague</i> .
The Lord <i>Loughborow</i> .	The Earl of <i>Shrewsbury</i> .
The Earl of <i>Suffex</i> .	The Lord <i>Howard</i> of <i>Effing</i> .
Void.	The Earl of <i>Westmorland</i> .
The Marquis of <i>North</i> .	Void.
The Lord <i>Clynton</i> .	The Duke of <i>Norfolk</i> .
Void.	The Earl of <i>Pembrook</i> .

Thus four *Knights-Companions* proceeded alone, in regard the Stalls opposite to them were void, the three first being absent, and the last void by the Death of the Earl of *Huntington*; and to avoid all disputes in relation to Precedency, *King Henry VIII.* Decreed, in the sixteenth Year of his Reign; That each *Knight-Companion* should take Place, in Procession, Station, or sitting at the Table, thence forward, as he had his Seat or Stall in the Choir, and not according to the Degree of his Birth or Condition, unless the Sovereign was pleased that any should be made Choice of, according to the Nobility of his Family, to sit at the end of his own Table, or perform any other thing by the by.

The Proceeding among the Officers of the Order differeth from all before spoken of; for, being five in Number, the three inferior Officers (when all present,) March in a breast, and (of later Times,) the *Register* in the middle,
Garter

Garter on his right Hand, and the *Usher* of the *Black-Rod* on his left.

After these three Officers, the two superior proceed together, the *Prelate* on the Right, and the *Chancellor* on the left; and after, the Officers of the *Order* follow the *Sword*, which is carried immediately before the Sovereign. In the beginning of *Queen Elizabeth's* Reign, it was born by some of the Barons, but of later Times it hath been conferr'd on Persons of higher Rank, as *Anno 4 Car. I.* on the Earl of *Dover*; *Anno 9 Car. I.* on the Earl of *Danby*; and *Anno 13 Car. II.* on the Lord Viscount *Mordant*, then *Constable* of the *Castle* of *Windsor*; and at this Time 'tis usually born by none under the Degree of an Earl.

The Sovereign's Place in the Proceeding, & *notandum quod superior Ordinis tempore Processionis in dicta Capella transibit retro totam Sociarum Comitivam*; which though the *Statute* mentions here to be performed at the Grand *Procession*, yet it refers to all those times the Sovereign proceeds to, or from, no less than within the *Chappel*. In ancient Time, the Sovereign (if he were at *Windsor*, to celebrate the Grand *Feast*;) proceeded to the *Chappel* in Person, as well on the *Eve*, as on the *Feast Day*. *Queen Elizabeth* being the first who went not to the *Chappel* on the *Eve* of the *Feast*, unless we except *King Henry VI.* who, by reason of *Sickness*, was necessitated to make a *Deputy* in his stead: The aforesaid Omission of *Queen Elizabeth*, was first occasioned through *Indisposition* of *Health*, though she afterwards, without that necessity, did not comply, as in the 18, 25, 29, and 31 Years of her *Reign*, which gave occasion to *King James* to make *Deputies* at those three Grand *Feasts* he Celebrated at *Windsor*; and the like did *King Charles I.* in the first Year of his *Reign*; but in the fourth Year of his *Reign*, the ancient Custom (for many Years intermitted,) was restored, and the Sovereign (making no *Lieutenant*;) proceeded to the *Chappel*, not only on that *Eve*, but always observed it afterwards, as did *King Charles II.* in all the Grand *Feasts* he held, and is now observed.

It will be necessary to take notice, that the Proceeding begins from the *Presence Chamber*, call'd in the *Statutes* the *Great Chamber*; a Scheme whereof, on the *Eve* of the Grand *Feast*, is here exhibited.

The

The Attendants on the Knights-Companions:

Alms-Knights.

Virger of the Chappel.

Prebends of *Windsor*.

Officers of Arms.

Knights-Companions.

Black-Rod.

Register.

Garter.

Chancellor.

Prelate.

The Sword.

The Sovereign.

Train-bearers.

Captain of the Pensioners.

Pensioners.

To the foregoing Proceeding have been occasionally receiv'd some Persons of Quality, and others Eminent in Place and Degree; (though their Offices do not particularly relate to this most Noble *Order*;) but are admitted by reason of their requisite Attendance on the Sovereign, in his Proceedings on all Occasions.

On *St. George's Eve*, *Anno 3 Eliz.* the old Ambassador of *Sweden*, accompanied by the Earl of *Hertford*, went in the Proceeding to the Closet at *White-Hall*, next after the Train-bearers, and immediately before the Ladies Attendants on the Sovereign; and the next Morning, when the Sovereign proceeded to the Chappel, the new Ambassador of *Sweden* went in the same Place.

As to those admitted on the Account of their Offices, is the Lord Chamberlain, (though not a Knight of the *Garter*;) and is allowed Place somewhat behind, on the right Hand of the Sovereign, and the Vice Chamberlain on the left.

The Dean of the Sovereign's Chappel at *White-Hall* attends when the Proceedings are thither, going a little behind the Sovereign towards his left Hand; next goes the Clerk of the Closet, then the Master of the Robes, as also one of the Masters of Requests, and then the Gentlemen of the Robes.

Of

Of the Proceeding to the Chapter-House.

§ 3. Having under the precedent Head, treated at large of the Rank and Place of all those that pass in the Proceeding, wherein all are Bare-headed, except the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions*: I now come to the Place whither the Proceeding is directed.

The first Solemn Action on the Entrance of the Grand Feast, which the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* are obliged to perform, is to Celebrate a *Chapter*, to which end it hath been most usual for them to proceed from the Presence Chamber, *every one in their due Place and Order*; first to the *Chapter-House*, to consult of things of course; and next into the *Choir*, to hear Divine Service; which has been the constant Custom from the Reign of King Henry V. as many Examples, recorded in the Registers of the *Order*, evidence.

As this Custom of holding a *Chapter* on the Eve of the Grand Feast, was constantly observed when celebrated without Prorogation; so also hath a *Chapter* been in like manner held before *Vespers*, on the Eve, at such time as the Feast Day of St. George only hath been observ'd, when (for any cause) the Anniversary of the Grand Feast receiv'd Prorogation: As for Instance, Anno 1 Mary, a *Chapter* was held at the Mannor of St. James's, on the *Vigil* of St. George, before the first *Vespers*; whereunto is fixt this Note, *ut moris est*; and the Grand Feast for that Year receiv'd Adjournment, until the coming of Philip, then Prince (after King) of Spain.

In like manner, though the Celebration of the Grand Feasts were removed from *Windsor*, and observed at other Places, yet this usual Custom of holding a *Chapter* on the Eve, was always practis'd; after which the proceeding to Evening Prayer succeeded, as is manifest by several Testimonies from the *Registers*.

The publick processional way to the *Chapter-House* at *Windsor*, used Time out of Mind, led from the Presence Chamber through the Cloister, and the great Gate of the King's Lodging, to the upper Ward of the Castle, thence through the middle Ward, and part of the lower, to and through the Passage, between the East End of the Chappel and

and *Tomb-House*; and thence into the *Chapter-House*, Situate on the North East Corner of *St. George's Chappel*.

But the Sovereign hath sometimes thought fit to wave this publick processional way, and pass along the private way, which leads from the King's Privy Chamber, down the Stairs into the Terrace, *viz.* through that stately Walk lying on the North side of the Castle, and entering again at a Door, heretofore made through a part of the Castle Wall into one of the Canons Lodgings, adjoining to *Winchester Tower*, (now made up) went thence through the Cloisters, proceeding in the Order before shewed.

We shall close this Head, with observing, that though the Proceedings to the *Chapter-House* or Chappel, on the Eve of the Feast, have most commonly been on Foot; yet have they been also on Horse-back, on extraordinary Occasions, as *Anno 3 Hen. VII.* at which Time several Ambassadors being arrived here from Foreign Kings and Princes, they and many of the Nobility of this Kingdom, with the King's Council, the two Archbishops, the Bishops of *Lincoln* and *Ely*, and the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, repaired also thither; and on the Eve, the Sovereign, accompanied with the *Knights-Companions*, rode from the upper Quadrangle down to the College. The Queen and the King's Mother rode in a Chair, covered with rich Cloth of Gold, drawn by six Coursers finely Harnas'd, and twenty one Ladies, habited in Crimson Velvet, rode on white Palfries: Sir *Roger Cotton*, Master of the Queen's Horse, led her Horse of State, whereon was a Saddle of Cloth of Gold, and three Crowns of Silver gilt; as soon as they alighted, the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* proceeded to the *Chapter-House*, and thence to Evening Song, which ended, they return'd in the Order they came.

King *Henry VIII.* in the eleventh Year of his Reign, at three a Clock in the Afternoon, with all the *Knights-Companions*, in the Habit of the Order, proceeded from the Presence Chamber in *Windsor-Castle*, till they came to the Quadrangle, where they took their Horses, and rode according to their Stalls, not according to their Estate, next before the King, and thence rode to the middle Door of the Chappel, and there alighted, and proceeded without the *Choir* to the *Chapter-House*; there are other Examples, but these may suffice.

Of

Of the opening of the Chapter.

§ 4. The Proceeding being arriv'd at the Entrance into the Chappel, first the Attendants on the *Knights-Companions* divide themselves as they enter, beginning at the outward Door, and Flank on each side the North Isle of the Chappel, and so toward the West Door of the Choir, making a stand along the Isle for the *Alms-Knights, Virgers, Prebends, and Officers of Arms*, to pass through them, who go on towards the said West Door; and when the *Junior Knights-Companions* are entred into the Chappel, the Proceeding makes a stand, while all the *Knights-Companions* following turn aside on the right Hand into the *Chapter-House*, next the *Officers of the Order*, and lastly the Sovereign; but the Nobleman that carries the Sword, the Train-bearers, Pensioners, &c. stay without the *Chapter-House* Door in the North Isle; none being admitted in but the Sovereign, the *Knights-Companions*, and the *Officers of the Order*; who being all entred, the Door is shut by the Gentleman Usher of the *Black-Rod*, and every Person severally takes his due Place and Station, whereupon the *Chapter* immediately opens.

In what Manner and Order the Sovereign, *Knights-Companions*, and *Officers of the Order*, are ranked, at the holding of a *Chapter*, is describ'd, Anno 11 Hen. VIII. when the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* consulted in the *Chapter-House*, on the Reformation and Explanation of the *Statutes of the Order*.

The Sovereign, on his Entrance, proceeded to the midst of the North-end of the Table; the *Knights-Companions*, whose Stalls in the Choir were on the Sovereign's side, took the right Hand of the Table, and those of the Princes side the left; then the Prelate of the *Order* came and stood on the Sovereign's right Hand, at the corner of the Table; *Register* and *Garret* were at the lower end, and *Black-Rod* kept the *Chapter-House* Door on the inside. The Chancellor of the *Order* is not there mention'd, (as not being present) yet his Place is on the Sovereign's left Hand of the Table.

If the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* arrive at the *Chapter-House* so late, that the Business necessary to be done

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cannot be discuss'd, without putting off the Celebration of *Vespers*, beyond the Canonical Hour; it hath been usual to adjourn the Debates till the next Morning, as was done *Anno 14 Car. I.*

Transactions in the Chapter held before the Vespers.

§ 5. When the *Chapter* held before the *Vespers* is opened, and no Adjournment given thereto, all things are then to be provided for, which concern the Honour and Dignity of this most Noble Order.

The matters of course are; first, Swearing, and admitting Officers; secondly, Debating about the *Knights-Companions* then absent, and either dispensing with, or inflicting Penalties on them; and thirdly, Constituting or appointing an Officer, to carry on the State and Solemnity of the Feast in the Sovereign's absence. But other Particulars that are occasional, cannot so well be brought within Rule, as being wholly accidental.

As to the first, the Officers of the Order, soon after the *Chapter* is open'd, take their respective Oaths, in Order to perform the Duty of their several Places, during the Session of the *Chapter*, and thenceforward, as is evident from several Examples, but one may suffice, from a *Chapter* held at *Windsor*, *Anno 4 Car. I.* whereat Dr. Neal, Bishop of *Winchester*, was Sworn Prelate; Sir Francis Crane, Chancellor; and Dr. Mathew Wren, Bishop of *Ely*, Register.

It hath sometimes happened, that some of the Officers of this Order have been Sworn at other Times, as at *Chapters* next ensuing their Nomination and Choice, wherein the Administration of the Oath is one of the first things done.

Touching the second particular debated in *Chapter*, viz. the dispensing with, or punishing absent Knights; it is to be considered, that the *Statutes* of the Order enjoin all the *Knights-Companions* to be present at the Celebration of the Grand Feast: that is, those that are within the Kingdom, or elsewhere; although the Service of *St. George*, according to the Rites of the Church, be not celebrated, as on the Service of the Day whereon that of *St. George* has fallen, viz. *Good-Friday*: But with this Limitation,

so that they be in a capacity, or may conveniently repair thither.

Therefore the next thing usually entred upon in the *Chapter*, is the *Sovereign's* and *Knights-Companions* taking notice, whether any of the Fellowship make default of coming at the Hour assign'd; and if so, they are considered under one of these Heads. *First*, *Stranger Princes*; *Secondly*, *Late Commissioners* who are arrived, or every Minute expected; and *Thirdly*, Such as have given notice that they cannot be present, during the continuation of the Feast: Of these Excuses of course, verbal Apologies, or Letters of Excuse, are, or may be, offered; and in case they are approved or admitted, then the Penance, which by the *Statutes* ought otherwise to be inflicted, is admitted; all which ought to be recorded.

Stranger Princes are excused in course, on Account of their necessary Residence in their own Territories; and of their Excuses and accustom'd Dispensations, are divers Instances in the Registers of the *Order*.

As to *Knights-Companions*, who are tardy in their Journey, or being come to the Castle, fall short of the Hour, or of attending the *Sovereign* to the *Chapter-House*, either through negligence, or want of timely notice, or other accident; the *Statutes* enjoin for Penance, that they be not permitted for that time to enter into the *Chapter*, but tarry without the Door, and not have Voice in any thing that shall happen to be done there, unless they can alledge a just Excuse, or render such a sufficient cause as the *Sovereign*, or his Deputy, shall approve of; but few defaulters have been noted of this kind.

The third sort of Delinquents, are those *Knights-Companions* absent, not only at the Hour of *Tierce*, but are likely to be so during the whole Feast; the Proceedings relating to them, are either upon what is offered in Excuse of their absence, or determined on their neglect of making Apology for it.

Excuses for absence, are either by Letters or Word of Mouth; if by Letters, they are directed to the Chancellor of the *Order*; or else the *Sovereign* sends to his Lieutenant on their behalf, and both are produc'd by the Chancellor: But if Excuses be made by Word of Mouth, then are they delivered by the *Sovereign* himself; or on me-
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tion made by some of the *Knights-Companions* present in *Chapter*.

The Custom of sending Letters has been very ancient: The Lord *Powis's* Letter, under his Hand and Seal, (certifying his Indisposition of Body,) was produc'd in *Chapter*, Anno 8 Hen. V. And the following Year the Dukes of *York*, *Norfolk*, and *Buckingham*, with the Earls of *Salisbury*, *Shrewsbury*, and *Pembrook*, Viscount *Bourchier*, the Lord *Rivers*, and Sir *John Falstaff*; being all absent from *St. George's Feast*, they declared the reason of their absence by their *Messengers*. There are many Precedents of this kind, and of Letters sent from the Sovereign, directed to his Lieutenant, to accept of *Knights-Companions* Excuses, whose absence he had beforehand dispens'd with; we observe those Dispensations excus'd not the sending their own particular Excuses; for it is evident they were also expected, and that such allowance of absence was not Absolute, the Clause running thus: *That you [the Sovereign's Deputy] allow these Excuses so far as are consonant to reason.* And in all other Letters of the same nature, a Clause to this Effect hath been inserted: *That as the Sovereign thought good to advertise his Deputy, that for certain Causes he had dispens'd with their Attendance for that time; so he will'd him to accept their reasonable Excuses in that behalf accordingly.*

Secondly, The absent *Knights-Companions* have had their Excuses frequently made by Word of Mouth, either of the Sovereign, or some other of the *Knights-Companions*, present in the *Chapter*. This Favour is done either by the Sovereign himself, if present; or by his Order to the Lieutenant, in his absence.

There have been many Examples of what hath been done in this Case, and also when the Sovereign hath not been present in *Chapter*, but hath beforehand verbally given his Deputy or Lieutenant direction to excuse the absence of several *Knights-Companions*.

It will be necessary to observe what Effect the Excuses have usually produc'd; whereinto we find the just and reasonable favourably admitted, some suspended, and divers disallowed. Those easily allow'd were, first, *Sickness*; (for those of the *Knights-Companions* who have been either Sick, far spent with Age, or intent on publick Affairs, have been readily allow'd.) Secondly, The not

recovery of Wounds receiv'd in the publick Service ; as we meet with in the Case of Sir *William Harington*, Anno 7 *Hen. V.* whom we see excus'd for his *Illness*, occasion'd from his Wounds then lately receiv'd at the Siege of *Rohan*, and elsewhere. Thirdly, Impotency and old Age. Fourthly, Employment in the Sovereign's Service, either Abroad or at Home ; those Abroad are necessarily excus'd, those at Home we shall be more particular to. The Earl of *Shrewsbury*, Anno 22 *Eliz.* was taken up in certain Affairs, enjoind him by the Sovereign ; the Earl of *Huntington*, 26 *Eliz.* being President of the Council of the North, his absence was for that, and several Years following, favourably excus'd ; and a like Case was that of the Earl of *Danby*, Anno 13 *Car. I.* who for his necessary Attendance at the Seat of Justice in *Eyre*, was excus'd waiting on the Sovereign at the Grand Feast that Year. Fifthly, When the Grand Feast hath receiv'd Prorogation, and any of the Knights-Companions have not had notice of the Day wherunto it was prorogued. Sixthly, When any of them have been in Captivity ; as was *Thomas*, Earl of *Salisbury*, and the Earl of *Huntington*, both Prisoners in *France*, Anno 2 *Hen. VI.* Seventhly, When any of them have obtain'd the Sovereign's Letters of Dispensation, of which sufficient is spoken before. Lastly, Some other just and lawful Occasion, as well as Accident, having fallen out ; (not relating to those under the former Heads,) the Sovereign, on Information given in Chapter, hath been pleas'd to allow of ; as in the Case of the Lord *Fauconbridge*, Anno 32 *Hen. VI.* was readily admitted, on his pleading the care of his Domestic Affairs, he having been lately in Prison, and had obtained leave to go and see his House and Lands in the Country. The Earl of *Arundel's* absence, Anno 15 *Car. I.* was pardon'd, by reason of the Dutches of *Richmond's* Death, who died on the Eve of the Grand Feast ; that so he (being the chief of her Family,) might be at Hand to advise and assist in all things conducing to the Honour of the deceased Dutches.

And as the Knights-Companions have been often excus'd for not appearing on the Grand Feast, so hath the Sovereign, on sufficient Grounds, been pleas'd to license and dispence with their departure ; from the same of this is an Example, 6 *Eliz.* when the Lord *Haslings* of *Loughborough*, falling Ill a little before the Offering on St.

George's

George's Day, obtain'd Licence from the Sovereign to depart out of the *Choir*; and came no more abroad that Day, nor during the Feast. As also another in the Duke of *Lenox*, Anno 15 *Car. I.* The Deputy Chancellor having, by Command of the Sovereign, and in discharge of the Duty of his Office; who being forc'd to go back to *London*, by reason of the aforesaid Dutchess of *Richmond's* Death, had his Excuse, and the Sovereign's Licence for departure.

We are next to consider Excuses, which, though sent in due time, yet on Debate in *Chapter* were suspended rather than allow'd; to which Head may be refer'd that Case of several of the *Knights-Companions*, who were Members of the Lord's House in the long Parliament. For Anno 18 *Car. I.* the Deputy Chancellor having, by the Command of the Sovereign, and in discharge of the Duty of his Office, sent to each of them a Summons, for their Attendance at the Celebration of the Grand Feast, to be held for the preceeding Year at *York*; and notice thereof being given to the House of Lords, they immediately made the ensuing Order.

Die Martis 22 Maii, 1641.

Whereas the Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's Houshold, and some other Lords of Parliament, Knights of the Garter, have been Summoned to give their Attendance, and repair into the City of York, for the Celebration of St. George's Feast; who acquainting this House with the Summons aforesaid, it is this Day ordered by the Lords in Parliament, that they attend the weighty Affairs of the Kingdom discussed in Parliament, whereunto they are obliged by his Majesty's Writ, and the Law of the Land.

Jo. Browne, Cleric. Parliament.

Whereupon the said *Knights-Companions*, before the Days appointed by Prorogation for holding the Feast, sent their petitionary Letters of Excuse to the Deputy Chancellor, wherein they profess'd their desire and readiness to attend, in Obedience of the said Summons; nevertheless pleaded the foresaid Order for the Ground of their stay in *London*, and therefore desired him to obtain for them the Sovereign's Dispensation: On producing the said Letters in *Chapter*, the Sovereign would not at that time either ad-

mit or disallow of their Excuses, but refer'd the consideration to the next *Chapter*, to be held by Prorogation.

Of Excuses which have not been allow'd, the most remarkable is that of the Duke of *Norfolk*, and the Lord *Scales*, Anno 36 *Hen. VI.* who were adjudg'd to the Penalty of the Statute, in regard the Causes alledged to excuse their absence were not approved; the latter was signed by the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions*, in a Jewel to the value of twenty Marks, to be offered in the College; whereby the rigour of the *Statutes* appears to have been more strictly executed on him, than the Duke, probably because the Lord *Scales* was absent the Year before, and no cause thereof shewed to the *Chapter*.

In relation to the Proceedings on the absent *Knights-Companions* neglect of sending their Excuses, we shall observe, that some of them have with difficulty been remitted, some left in suspence, and others sentenc'd, and refer'd either to the Sovereign's pleasure, or the Punishment assign'd by Law; of the first kind we find that the Earl of *Westmerland*, Anno 10 *Hen. V.* though not very well, yet had much ado to be excus'd, because he signified not the Cause of his absence, as the *Statutes* required. So Anno 12 *Car. I.* the Earls of *Derby* and *Kelly*, having made no Excuse, were for that Omission blameable, but by the Grace of the Sovereign for that time pardon'd.

As to those who, through the indulgence of the Sovereign, (where probable cause hath induc'd it,) have not had Sentence pass'd on them presently, but were deferr'd in expectation of some satisfactory Cause to be shewed; we find in the Case of the Prince, the Duke of *Buckingham*, and five other *Knights-Companions* absent from the Feast, held Anno 18 *Hen. VII.* wherein it is registred, that no cause of Excuse was shewed, but there was an expectation of one to be alledged.

But as for those of the third sort, on whom Sentence hath pass'd; they have been left either to the pleasure of the Sovereign, or to those Penalties which the Law of this Order inflict; of which, as also of those on whom Judgment hath pass'd, are divers Instances.

Besides these Grounds of assigning Penances, there are other Causes set down in the before recited ninth Article, of the *Statutes* of Institution for Penances; as when the *Knights-Companions* are absent at other times, beside the Hour

Hour of *Tierce*, that is, the beginning of the first *Vespers*. Secondly, At the beginning of the Morning Service on the Feast Day. Thirdly, At the beginning of the second *Vespers*. Fourthly, During the whole Feast. And, Fifthly, at the Grand Feast next following.

For the first, admitting any *Knight-Companion* hath failed of meeting and attending on the Sovereign at the Hour of *Tierce*, and thereupon suffered the Punishment of Non-admittance into the *Chapter-House*, and deprivation of Vote; nevertheless if at the rising of the said *Chapter*, he be not ready to proceed with the Sovereign, and other the *Knights-Companions*, into the *Choir*, to the beginning of the first *Vespers*; he ought not only to suffer the former, but this additional Penalty, that he shall not presume to Enter into his Stall at that time, but tarry in that part of the *Choir*, where the *Taper-bearers* are wont to stand; nevertheless before his own Stall, until the holy Offices be ended; and the Law of the *Order* is the same in King *Henry V's*, and King *Henry VIII's Statutes*, only render the Place for the Delinquent Knight to stand in, to be before the Stalls in the *Choiristers Places*; and now how the Penalty hath been inflicted, upon breach of the Law in this particular, we shall see by the following Instances.

At the Grand Feast celebrated at *Windsor*, An. 21 H. VII. when it seems the Lord *Kildare*, Sir *Gilbert Talbot*, and Sir *Richard Goulsford*, came late to the Chappel, we find this Memorandum fixt to their Names; they stood without, (before their Stalls) by the Sovereign's Permission, or rather Command: But yet this is not all the Punishment which hath been inflicted upon the *Knights-Companions* for this Offence; (though it be all that is set down in the foresaid Article,) for Anno 25 Hen. VI, upon the Eve of *St. George*, the Marquis of *Dorset* not coming to the first *Vespers*, and being convicted of his late coming, was prohibited joining in the Nomination then made, for the Election of the King of *Portugal*, into the room of the Duke of *Gloucester*.

Offenders in the second and third Case, being such as neglect to come before the beginning of the high Mass, or the second *Vespers*, called also the *Vespers* on *St. George's Day*, have the like Punishment with the former assigned them, throughout all the Bodies of the *Statutes*; viz.

Exclusion from their Stalls, and Station in the Choiristers Range.

Anno 1 Hen. VI. We observe the Lord *Willoughby* noted to be absent upon the Eve of the Grand Feast, but present on the Day; and consequently he incurred no further Penance than what his absence on the Eve drew on him; the Earl of *Derby*, *Anno 18 Eliz.* coming too late to the first Morning Service on the Feast Day, did for some short time undergo the same Penance, but soon after, upon Dispensation from the Lieutenant, went up to his Stall.

There are several other Instances; and besides the aforesaid Defaults, he is likewise to undergo the same Penalties, when the Grand Feast is prorogued, or celebrated at any other Place than *Windfor*.

But if he offend in all, and have no reasonable or allowable Excuse for his absence, he is then prohibited entering his Stall at the next Feast, and to pay ten Pounds, to be employed towards the Ornaments of the College; and sometimes the former Penance has been inflicted for late coming to Divine Service.

The fourth degree of Offence is yet greater than any, and the variety of Penances are heightened. If a *Knight-Companion* shall neglect coming to the Grand Feast, and have no allowable reason; he shall not at the Feast held the ensuing Year be permitted to enter his own Stall, but stand below it; he shall walk alone by himself before three Crosses, which, in ancient time, were born in the Grand Procession: When the Grand Procession returns to the *Choir*, he shall stand in the Place aforesaid, till the time of the Offertory; he shall Offer last by himself, and then humbly approach the Stall of the Sovereign, or his Deputy, and there desire Absolution. But there is no Instance that these Rigours were put in Execution, though many have offended in this kind.

Lastly, The *Statutes* enjoin; That where a *Knight-Companion* remains within the Kingdom, and shall be Guilty of an Omission two Years together, he ought to be so long interdicted his Stall, till he have offered a Jewel at *St. George's Altar*, to the Value of twenty Marks; and thenceforward every Year in which he shall be guilty of the same Omission, the Penalty to be doubled, till he is pardoned: The most memorable Case in the Prosecution

ention of a Contempt, was against the Earl of *Arundel*, 14 *Edw. IV.* who for being absent two Years together, was Mulct forty Marks; and continuing his Contempt the next Year, was fined the Sum of eighty Marks.

Touching the Necessity, and Power, of the Sovereign's constituting a Deputy; it was provided for at the Institution of the *Order*; the Sovereign being then engaged in the Wars of *France*, thought it reasonable that Provision should be made by the *Statutes*, for to depute some Person in his stead.

When therefore such Occasion happened, a Commission was made out to one of the *Knights-Companions*, some reasonable time before the approach of the Feast; so that none of the ancient Ceremonies might be omitted, or any Impediment happen through his absence; and such Deputy hath usually been one of the chief of the *Order*, in Authority, Eminence, or Birth. The first so made was, *John Duke of Bedford*, 7 *Hen. V.* and the reason thereof given, in the *Registrum Chartaceum*, is, because the Sovereign was then employed in the Wars in *Normandy*.

And though the Title given by the *Statutes* to this Officer, be not particularly mentioned in the *Blue-Book*, where it speaks of the said Duke's holding the Feast of *St. George* that Year, but rather implied in the Words *Regiæ Sublimatis locum impievit*; yet in the *Registrum Chartaceum* it is expressly set down, and the said Duke there styled, *Depute de l'Ordre de Jaritiere*. Sometimes he has been styled, *Deputatis Ordinis, & præses clarissima Ordinis, &c.*

About the beginning of the Reign of King *Henry VIII.* the Title of *Locum Tenens*, or Lieutenant, began to be taken up, and has, for the most part, continued in all succeeding Times; and the other Titles of Deputy, President, and Vicegerent, laid aside. As to the Business of this Officer, sufficient has been said already. As an Essential Honour to his Place, he has from ancient Time had some of the *Knights-Companions* assigned for his Assistants; the first mention of which is in the *Registrum Chartaceum*, 8 *Hen. VIII.* The Number of these Assistants were in those times uncertain; at the time aforesaid they were 4. 21 *Hen. VIII.* 3. and 32 *Hen. VIII.* we find but two; which Number has been a constant Rule ever since, except once, *viz.* the last of *Hen. VIII.* They were always appointed in *Chapter*, and have Letters of notice sent

sent them thereof: But neither the Lieutenant, nor Assistants, can be Chosen two Years together, except the Sovereign should please to be present at the Day or Feast; and after it was Decreed, 23 and 24 Hen. VIII. that this Indulgence should extend to the term of three Years.

Lastly, We observe that this Officer always held the Feast at his peculiar Cost and Charge; and gave liberal Rewards to Garter, and for his Escutcheons, as also to the Officers of Arms, Gentlemen-Ushers, Alms-Knights, and to all the several Waiters and Attendants employed in the Ceremony.

The Ceremonies relating to the first Vespers.

§ 6. The first Chapter held on the Eve of St. George being finished, the Sovereign and Knights-Companions immediately proceed from the Chapter-House to the Choir, to hear Vespers. The Officers of Arms, Prebends, and Alms-Knights, having attended in the North-Isle of the Chappel, do now put themselves in Rank, and continue the Proceeding from the Chapter-House Door, along the said North-Isle, to the West Door of the Choir; in like manner as they did from the Presence Chamber, to the Chapter-House: The Organs then beginning to play, and so continue till Vespers begin.

When the Alms-Knights arrive at the West-Door, they first enter in a whole Body, while the rest of the Proceeding makes a short stand, and pass forward near the middle of the Choir, where they make a joint and low Obeysance; next, all turning about by the left Hand, to the Sovereign's Seat; then still turning from the right, to the left Hand, they ascend the Haut Pas's, even to the Rails set before the Altar; and forthwith divide themselves, flanking on each side, the Juniors nearest the Rails.

This done, the Prebends enter in a Body also, and having made the like Obeysances in the middle of the Choir, divide themselves, and take their Seats; which, by King Henry VIII's Statutes, are appointed in the lower range of Seats, between, but not in, the Stalls of the Knights-Companions. While the Prebends are entering their Seats, the Pursuivants, Heralds, and Provincial Kings of Arms, in a Body, likewise enter the Choir; and

and after due Reverence, pass up to the *Altar*, and join the *Alms-Knights*; though anciently some difference was in this Ceremony.

Afterwards, the two *Junior Knights-Companions* enter, passing on till they come near their own *Stalls*, and there make their Reverences, and then divide, and take their stands directly before their *Stalls*; and so of the rest of the *Knights-Companions*.

Next to the *Knights-Companions*, the *Black-Rod*, *Garter*, and *Register*, enter in a *Breast*, who, proceeding to the middle of the *Choir*, make their Obeyslances, and then pass to their *Form*, placed on the South-side of the *Choir*, before the *Sovereign's Stall*, and stand before it. After them, the *Chancellor* and *Prelate* in the like manner, stand before their *Form*, placed near the *Sovereign's Seat*: And for these *Forms*, whereon the *Officers* of the *Order* sit in the *Chappel*, there is a special Decree for the allowance of them, entered at the end of the *Constitutions* of their *Offices*.

Last of all the *Sovereign* enters, (having the *Sword* born before him, but his *Band* of *Penioners* stay at the *Choir Door*, to keep off the *Crowd*,) who, coming to the *Steps* which ascend the *Royal Seat*, makes a Reverence toward the *Altar*, and then takes *Place* therein, before he makes a second Reverence.

When the *Lieutenant*, in the *Sovereign's* absence, proceeds to the first *Vespers*; as soon as he enters the *Choir*, and comes near the *Sovereign's Stall*, he stands and makes a little pause there; then doing his Reverences, after he has again stood a while, before he ascends his own; where being arrived, he makes the double Reverence a second time, and then sits down.

And now to placing the *Knights-Companions* in their *Stalls*: *Garter*, as soon as the *Sovereign*, or his *Lieutenant*, is placed, makes again the usual Reverence in the middle of the *Choir*; then turns to the *Senior Knights*, and doth his Reverence to each of them; whereupon, at one Instant, they make their double Reverences below, where they stood, and strait ascend at the first, or western *Entrance*, that goes to the side *Stalls*; where being arrived, they make again their double Reverences, and then seat themselves. But when the *Sovereign's Lieutenant* is present, each *Knight* adds a third Reverence to him, both
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when they ascend to, and descend from, their Stalls ; and so likewise do all Persons, who pass in the Proceeding, add to their double Reverences so often as there is occasion to make it, after such time as the Lieutenant is entered his Stall ; and so long as he continues therein, both on the Eve, the Feast Day, and the Morrow after.

The *Knights-Companions* being all seated, the Prelate and Chancellor pass into the middle of the *Choir*, and having made double Reverences, return to their Forms, and sit down. And after them, in the same manner, the *Register*, *Garter*, and *Black-Rod*, proceed.

As to the Sovereign's other Attendants, the Nobleman who carries the Sword retires before the Sovereign's Stall, a little on the right Hand ; and the Lord Chamberlain of the Household, if not a Knight of the *Garter*, and the Vice Chamberlain, on the left, till the Sovereign give them leave to sit down. The Clerk of the Closet stands at the Sovereign's right Hand, but the young Noblemen, that carry up the Sovereign, and the Gentleman of the Robes, sometimes repose themselves on the Steps going to the Sovereign's Stall.

This being done, preparation for *Vespers* begin ; in reference to which, the Prelate ascends the *Altar*, it being the Duty of his Office, which if he omits, he is fined twenty Marks, to the use of the College, unless he give sufficient reason for his absence ; in which Case, or on the vacancy of the See of *Winchester*, the Sovereign hath sometimes appointed another Bishop to *Officiate* for him. The Proceeding to the *Altar*, on this occasion, is as follows.

First, The Serjeant of the Vestry makes a double Reverence, then comes before the Prelate, and makes a single one to him ; who thereon arises from his Seat, and the Serjeant proceeds before him into the middle of the *Choir*, where the Prelate makes a double Reverence ; and passing forward after the Serjeant, and having ascended the uppermost *Haut-pas* before the *Altar*, he makes one single Reverence toward the same, and so goes to the North side of it.

After which, the two *Provincial Kings*, *Heralds*, and *Pursuivants*, leaving their fore-mentioned Stations, join together till they come near the Forms of the *Register*, *Garter*, and *Black-Rod* ; where, making their double Reverences,

verences, they divide again on each side, and there stand.

Lastly, The Alms-Knights come down into the *Choir* in a *Body*, and there make their joint double Reverences, and then take their *Chairs*; all which being finished, Divine Service is begun by the *Prelate*.

The like Solemnity is observed at any other *Place*, as well as at *Windsor*; where, because the Alms-Knights are absent, the Pursuivants at Arms ascend nearer the *High-Altar* than when they are at *Windsor*; but this occasions little Variation.

When the *Vespers* are ended, the *Prelate* goes to the middle of the *Altar*, and with great Reverence makes an Obeysance; and thence, with the *Serjeant* before him, descends to the middle of the *Choir*, where he makes his double Reverences, and so returns to his *Seat*; whereupon all make ready to pass out of the *Choir*, which is performed in much the same manner, and with the same *State*, as they proceeded thither; and the *Servants* and *Attendants* of the *Knights-Companions* are marshalled in the same *Order* as they were at the beginning of the Proceeding, that the whole *Procession* may again pass through them.

The Alms-Knights having entered the *Guard Chamber*, spread themselves on each side thereof; the *Prebends* pass through them, and fall off on either side the *Room* to the *Presence Chamber Door*.

Then the *Pursuivants*, *Heralds*, and *Provincial Kings*, proceeding through the *Lane* made by the Alms-Knights and *Prebends*, enter the *Presence Chamber*, and fall off on either side toward the *Stall*, the *King's* standing uppermost.

Then enter the *Knights-Companions*, and place themselves on each side of the *State*, in such *Order* as they sat in their *Stalls*, the eldest nearest the *State*; but those whose *Companions* are absent, stand alone; after whom follow the *Officers* of the *Order*, disposing themselves conveniently near the *State*.

Lastly, The *Sovereign* passes to the *Step* before the *State*, where, being arrived, he turns toward the *Knights-Companions*, who make their Reverences jointly to him, and he thereon puts off his *Cap*, and re-salutes them; which

which done, the Sovereign and they withdraw into the Privy Chamber till Supper time.

But in Queen Elizabeth's Reign, when the Feast of St. George was held at *White-Hall*, or *Greenwich*, and the Sovereign, as was usual with her, proceeded no farther on the Eve to *Vespers*, than to the great Closet, the ordinary way, and thence sent her Lieutenant into the *Choir*. Then, in such Case, when *Vespers* were ended, the Lieutenant returned from the *Choir*, through the great Hall, and so back to the said Closet, and stood at the Door thereof, attending the Sovereign's coming forth; from whence they all proceeded before her into the Presence-Chamber, and there the Ceremony, for that time, ended.

But in the Reign of King James I. when the Supper on the Eve, as also the following Meals, were prepared in the Banqueting-House, the Sovereign's Lieutenant frequently returned from the Closet, by the Lobby, to the said Banqueting-House, instead of going to the Presence; and passing up the Stair, gave an End to the Ceremony till Supper time: And so we find it observed in the 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16 of that King.

When the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* are retired, they are not to put off any part of their Robes till Supper is over, for that is prohibited by the *Statutes*, not only to those who do not Sup, as well as those who do. And hereon, 19 *Car. II.* the Sovereign having a mind to take the Air, went into *Hide-Park*, after he had taken leave of the *Knights-Companions*, the Dukes of *York* and *Monmouth*, and the Earl of *Oxford* being with him, but all in full Robes, and so returned to Supper.

The Supper on the Eve.

§ 7. When the Sovereign is pleased to Sup publicly, on the Eve of the Feast at *Windfor*, the Supper has been always prepared in *St. George's Hall*. The usual Place at *White-Hall*, was heretofore in the Presence Chamber; of later times, the Banqueting-House; and at *Greenwich*, either the Presence, or the Council Chamber; where the Sovereign, or his Lieutenant, were always present. But when the Feast of St. George was celebrated at *York*, 17 *Car. I.* the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* marched after

after the first *Vespers*, to a House prepared for that purpose, and supped there.

But if the Eve of the Feast fell out on a Fasting Day, as it did 22 *Hen. VIII.* and 11 *Jac. I.* the Supper was always omitted; and the Sovereign, with his Lieutenant, and *Knights-Companions*, were served of the Void only.

Nor does the Sovereign, when he Sups publickly, pass privately to the Place; but as soon as notice is given that the first Mefs is set upon the Table, he presently enters the Presence Chamber, whence the Officers of the Order, and of Arms, the *Knights-Companions* in their full Robes, for so the *Statutes* expressly direct, having put themselves into their usual Order, proceed before him to *St. George's-Hall*: Where being entered, the *Pursuivants*, *Heralds*, and *Provincial Kings*, fall off all upon the right Hand, opposite to the *Knights-Companions* Table, the *Junior Pursuivants* standing toward the lower End of the Hall. Then the *Knights-Companions* passing up beyond them, formerly divided themselves on either side, according to the Decree, 16 *Hen. VIII.* and made a stand, each taking Place, according to the Order of their Stalls. But at the Feast held at *White-Hall*, 19 *Car. II.* the Sovereign directed that they should stand all on the right Hand side, facing the Table.

Next, the five Officers of the Order follow, who ascending beyond the *Senior Knight*, retire on the right Hand: After them the Sovereign, and the Officers of Arms, all doing him Reverence as he passes by: Who passing up to the *Haut-pas*, before his own Table, turns himself to the *Knights-Companions*, and putting off his Cap, they return their Reverences jointly to him.

The Sovereign sitting down to Supper, is first served by Water by some Nobleman; then Grace is said by the Prelate; then is the *Senior Knight* conducted to his Table by two Officers of Arms, and so the rest in Order, to the Tables appointed them. Whereupon the Officers of the Order, and of Arms, retire out of the Hall to Supper.

If a Lieutenant be constituted, he proceeds to Supper in full Robes, and in the same Order as doth the Sovereign, and sits alone at the Sovereign's Table, yet on the left Hand of the Cloth of State, being served in all Points with Water, and by a *Cup-bearer*, *Carver*, and *Sewer*, as the Sovereign himself is.

When

When Supper is ended, and the Banquet taken away, the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* proceed back in the same Order they came to the Presence Chamber, where the Sovereign, or his Lieutenant, standing on the Step before the Clorch of State, Salutes them as before; and then appoints the Hour and Place for the *Knights-Companions* to attend him the next Morning: The like, if the Supper be provided in any other Place besides the Presence Chamber, the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* proceed back thither, because the Ceremony ought to end there, as has always been the Custom. And if the Supper be prepared in the Presence Chamber, they then take their Leave in the same Room, there being no occasion to proceed farther.

If any of the *Knights-Companions* accompany the Sovereign, or his Lieutenant, to his Lodgings, they then go after, not before him, in regard the State of that Night's Service ended in the Presence Chamber; and after they have retired to their Lodging, they have Permission to Unrobe.

When the Sovereign, or his Lieutenant, do not Sup in *St. George's Hall* on the Eve of the Feast, on the following Night, the Officers of Arms have formerly had the Liberty to Eat there; and this Privilege was assigned them by Decree of a Chapter held 16 *Eliz.* appointing them that Table, which was before that time used by the Chancellor, Register, and other Officers of the Order: But how they came to lose this Privilege, is not mentioned; for now, instead of sitting in the great Hall, they are necessitated to Eat in such Rooms of the Castle as they can procure.

C A P.