

in the Sovereign's Presence ; but on the Eve of the Feast, 10 *Car. I.* it was ordered in *Chapter*, That they should be at their Choice, to keep the Feast privately by themselves, or sit uncovered where the Sovereign dined. Whereupon, from that time, they forbore sitting in the Hall, or where else the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* sat. It likewise appears, that the Officers of Arms did anciently sit in *St. George's Hall*, at a Table joined to that, at which the Officers of the *Order* sat.

Before the Entrance of the Sovereign's second Course, he stands up and drinks to the *Knights-Companions*, (and so it is remembred to be done by *Phil.* and *Mar.*) they standing all the while uncovered, till they have all pledged him : Which done, the Officers of Arms make themselves ready, at the lower end of the Hall, to proceed up in the following *Order*.

Garter.

Clarenceux and Norroy.

Heralds two and two.

Pursuivants two and two.

And so altogether make their Reverence to the Sovereign, and proceed near the side of the *Knights Table*, till they come to the middle of the Hall, where, after another Reverence made, they go still forward ; and when *Garter* has passed about two Yards beyond the *Knights Table*, and come near the *Haut Pas* ascending the Sovereign's State, they make the like Reverence again jointly. Then *Garter* with a loud and audible Voice cries *Largess* thrice, though anciently but twice.

Upon *Garter's* beginning to cry *Largess*, all the *Knights-Companions*, unless Kings and great Princes, if any be present, stand up uncovered, till he has made an end ; (which Custom, it seems, 7 *Car. I.* had been discontinued for some time.) Then *Garter* proceeds, and Proclaims the Sovereign's Stiles and Titles of Honour, first in *Latin*, after in *French*, and lastly in *English* ; he and the Officers of Arms making a Reverence between ; and at the end join altogether in crying *Largess* thrice, and then all make Reverence together.

Hereupon, sometimes the Treasurer of the Household plus the Sovereign's *Largess*, which is ten Pounds in Gold,



into *Garter's Hat*; and this is afterwards divided among the Officers of Arms, according to Custom. But *Anno 23 Car. II.* the *Black-Rod* put the *Largess* into *Garter's Hat*. This being finished, all the Officers of Arms retire about three Yards backward, keeping their Faces towards the Sovereign, and there make a Reverence, and so a second, and thence retire out of the Hall to Dinner.

This Ceremony ended, the Sovereign's second Course is brought up; first the Serjeants at Arms, next the Treasurer and Comptroller of the Household, next the Sewer, then the Gentlemen-Pensioners, bearing the Messes; then the Cofferer and Master of the Household, the two Clerks of the Green-Cloth, the two Clerks Comptrollers, and lastly the two Clerks of the Kitchen, habited in their Gowns, and their Caps in their Hands. And after the Sovereign's Table is compleatly furnished, the second Course is served up to the Knights Table by the Yeomen of the Guard, in such Order as was the first.

But where any *Knight-Companion* happens to be installed at this Grand Feast, and is present at Dinner, then *Garter*, and the Officers of Arms, proceed in Order, (after they have proclaimed the Sovereign's Stile,) from the lower end of the Hall, till they come before the new installed Knight's Mess, and there *Garter* cries *Largess* once, and Proclaims his Stile in *English* only; and then retires to Dinner.

In the last Place comes in the Banquet, brought to the Sovereign's Table by the Pensioners, in the same Order as the Messes; (only in Place of the Clerk of the Kitchen, the Chief Clerk of the Spicery waits,) and the Banquet for the *Knights-Companions*, by the Yeomen of the Guard.

Dinner being ended, the *Knights-Companions* rise first, and having washed, place themselves a little below the Stare, in their usual Order, and make their Reverences to the Sovereign. After which, the Sovereign hears Grace said by the Prelate, then Water is brought in the usual way, and the Sovereign washes: Which done, the Knights making again due Reverence to the Sovereign, he puts off his Cap, and salutes them, and then proceeds as usually to the Presence Chamber, with the Knights and Officers of the Order before him, &c.



In like manner does the Sovereign's Lieutenant proceed from the Presence to the Hall, or such other Room where the Dinner is prepared, only his Place at the Table is a little on the left Hand the Cloth of State, or at the end of the Table: And after Dinner, he returns to the Presence in the same Order as the Sovereign does.

*The Ceremonies belonging to the second Vespers.*

§ 8. The usual time for Proceeding to the *Chapter-House*, hath usually been about four a Clock in the Afternoon, but sometimes not before five, by reason of the length of the Dinner. The Proceeding is as at other times; and when the Sovereign and Knights have made a Cavalcade of it on the Eve, or on the Feast Day, the same has been observed at the Proceeding to the second *Vespers*.

It has been customary to hold a *Chapter* before the second *Vespers*, for the regulation of the Affairs of the Order. When the second *Vespers* are ended, the Proceeding passes out of the *Choir* in the very same Order as at the first *Vespers*; but *Anno 15 Car. I.* it happening to be late ere the second *Vespers* ended, the Sovereign did not go to the Presence Chamber, but proceeded directly to the great Hall to Supper by Torch Light.

*Of the Supper on the Evening of the Feast Day.*

§ 9. It has not been frequently known, that the Sovereign hath supped publicly in *St. George's Hall* on the Feast Day; but when it happens, as *14 Car. I.* the Proceeding thither, and return, are in all respects performed as at the Supper on the Eve. And if the Sovereign's Lieutenant hath on this Night supped publicly, then it was in the Presence Chamber, where he sat alone at the Sovereign's Table, as at other times.