

C A P. XXII.

*The Ceremonies observed on the last Day
of the Feast.**Of the Proceeding to the Choir.*

§ 1. **T**HE manner of Proceeding to the *Chapter-House* is performed in the same manner as it was on the *Eve* of the *Feast*; and differs only in this Point; that then the *Sovereign* and *Knights* are obliged by the *Statutes* to proceed in full *Robes*; here, by the *Indulgence* of *King Henry VIII's Statutes*, all are dispensed with, except the upper *Robe* or *Mantle*: And as then the *Image* of *St. George* was worn *Pendant* at the *Collar* of the *Order*, now a *blue Ribbond* sufficeth; and instead of a *Cap* and *Feather*, only their ordinary *Hats*.

It was the ancient Custom to Celebrate a *Chapter* in the *Morning* of the last *Day* of the *Feast*, before the *Sovereign* proceeded to the *Chappel*, chiefly to make *Election* of *Knights*, where any *Stall* is void; which has sometimes been held, when the *Sovereign* did not go to the *Chappel*, in the *Privy Chamber*, and then the *Lieutenant*, waving the *Chapter-House*, proceeds straight on to the *Chappel*, and enters at the *South Door*.

Of the elect Knights proceeding into the Choir.

§ 2. Where an *Election* has been made of a *Person* then present at *Court*, he is called into the *Chapter-House* by *Garter*, according to the usual manner; and having been invested with the *George* and *Garter*, he usually passed in the *Proceeding* to the *Chappel*, whether it were from the *Chapter-House*, or *Presence Chamber*; and in this ordinary *Apparel*, always *bare-headed*; the *Place* allowed him in the *Proceeding* being between the *Knights-Companions* and the *Officers* of *Arms*: But if two *Knights*

Knights have been elected, they then proceed together, before the *Knights-Companions*. At his Entrance into the *Choir*, the elect Knight is placed by *Garter*, next before the lowest Stall; or if there be two elected, and both proceed to the *Chappel*, they are placed in the two lowest Stalls; where they are to stand all Service time, unless upon Licence to fit, as they have sometimes obtained.

Of the Ceremonies performed at Divine Service.

§ 3. In this Morning Service, before the Reformation of our Church, the Mass of *Requiem* was solemnly Sung, for the Souls of the *Knights-Companions*, and all faithful Souls departed, which was provided for by the *Statutes*. As likewise, that all the Knights should be present thereat, unless upon License obtained, or special Case to the contrary. At this Celebration, was the deceased Knights Achievements also offered with solemn Ceremony; of which we shall speak presently.

Another Ceremony belonging to the Service of this Morning, is the Offering of Gold and Silver, which (when the first Sentence of the Offertory has been pronounced,) is again performed by the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions*; the Ceremonies being the same, in all particulars, as are observed at the like Offering on the Feast Day.

Divine Service being ended, the Sovereign and *Knights-Companions* frequently proceed to the *Chapter-House*, and there put off their Mantles, and therewith the Ceremonies of this Grand Feast determine.