

THE ROYAL HANOVERIAN GUELPHIC ORDER.

This Order was founded by His present MAJESTY, when Prince Regent, 12 August, 1815. The following Abstract of the Statutes is taken from a Translation recently edited by Nicholas Harris Nicolas, Esq. and privately printed for the use of the Members of the Order.*

STATUTES OF THE GUELPHIC ORDER.

The PREAMBLE recites, that His late Majesty, King George III. had contemplated the instituting an Order for Hanover, but had been prevented by the occupation of it by the French Armies, and that His Royal Highness seizes the moment of their returning under his sway, to carry into effect what his Father had intended.

* 4to. 1828. Pickering, Chancery Lane.

The STATUTES follow, in Number Twenty-eight.

I. The Order to be called "THE ORDER OF THE GUELPHS."

II. The King of Hanover to be Grand Master.

III. Appoints a Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Secretary.

IV. & V. The Order to consist of GRAND CROSSES, COMMANDERS, and KNIGHTS, unlimited as to numbers, and directs that Medals shall be provided for Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates.

VI. Persons who have distinguished themselves in a particular manner alone to be admitted into the Order.

VII. Members of the Order to take precedence of persons of the same rank who are not Members, and if not already Noble, to be invested with the Rank and personal Rights of Nobility.*

VIII. The Grand Cross to be given only to such as have distinguished themselves in some separate command.

IX. No Civilian can have the Grand Cross unless he rank with a Major General.

X. Foreigners may be admitted Extra Members of the Order.

XI. to XV. Describe the Habits and Insignia, and direct the way of wearing them.

* This to be understood, of course, in the German, not the English signification of the words Noble and Nobility.

XV. A Chapter to be held on the Anniversaries of the Foundation, for investigating the Claims of Military Persons to be admitted into the Order.

XXVI. to XXV. Regulate the Forms to be observed in holding such Chapter, and reporting its Proceedings and Recommendations to the Sovereign.

XXVI. The Names and Arms of all the Members of the Order to be affixed in the Church of the Palace of Hanover.

XXVII. The Festival of the Order to be held on the 12th of August, every year, in the City of Hanover.

XXVIII. Directs the strict observance of the foregoing Statutes.

Three supplemental Statutes of the same date, direct that all the Members of the Order shall be of good Descent and Birth, and entitled to coat armour; prescribe the Form in which their Achievements shall be affixed in the Church and Ancient Hall in the Palace at Hanover; and authorise the Knights to surround their Arms with the Motto and Collar of the Order.