

SUMMARY VIEW
OF THE
HISTORY OF THE ORDER.

THE elements of Chivalry may be clearly discerned among the customs of the ancient nations of the North. From the Roman historian, who has left us an interesting and graphic description of the manners and comparative civilization of the Teutonic people, we learn that their chiefs were attended by a train of martial youths, selected from their own or the neighbouring tribes, as an ornament of their state in peace, and their defence and security in war; and that the qualification for this coveted distinction was not solely noble birth or ancestral merit, but a solemn and public delivery of arms to the young warrior at his entrance upon the duties of active life.

Rise of
Chivalry.

This usage rendered, after the adoption of Christianity, more impressive by a religious ceremony, with the substitution of the sword and the belt, or military girdle, for the javelin and shield, prevailed in France under the monarchs of the second, if not of the first, race, and was doubtless introduced at an equally early period into Britain. As the delivery of the javelin appears to have been originally committed to the father or nearest kinsman; so the candidate, in after-times, was presented, at the age of fourteen, by his parents or guardians, to a Christian priest, and by him girded with the sword taken, with certain benedictions, from the altar.

The
institution
sanctioned
by a religious
ceremony.

There is no ground to suppose that the act of arming, as practised by the Germans, was not a complete reception into the military profession; or that it partook of the nature of a novitiate, which, at its expiration, would require a higher investiture. But the development of the feudal system necessa-

Knighthood
consequent
on the feudal
system,

rily produced a greater subdivision of society into classes, distinguished by the degrees of tenure; and the custom alluded to formed then one only, although a principal, step to the equestrian rank, which was conferred after much preparation, and with a more impressive solemnity.

known in
the East in
the seventh
century,

Those who have denied the asserted antiquity of knighthood, seem to have confounded the earlier institution with that of the Military Orders. The Arabic tale of *ANTAR* has, within a few years only, been known in Europe; and, if the evidence in favour of its composition by *Asmaï*, the philologist and poet of the court of *Haroun Al Raschid*, the contemporary of *Charlemagne*, were less satisfactory, we might be disposed to regard it as a modern invention, so perfect is the resemblance of its hero and his compeers to the *Rolandos* and *Tancreds* of romance. The ground-work of the traditions, collected by its author concerning *Antar*, is not supposed to be fabulous; but to relate to a real personage who flourished at the close of the sixth, and in the early part of the seventh century. He stands, indeed, before us with the entire appendages of chivalrous equipment. His horse, *Abjir*, is swift as the wind, and endowed with all the intelligence of *Bajardo*; his sword, *Dhami*, performs wonders like *Curtana* or *Durindana*: there are tilts and jousts, with blunted spears, in presence of kings and chiefs; the merits of the victor are proclaimed; the awarded prizes distributed by queens and damsels.

and in the
West

Whilst knighthood was thus anciently known and practised in the East, we need not, in order to prove its co-existence in the West, have recourse to the fictitious history of *Charlemagne* and his paladins, or of our own *Arthur*. The former, attributed to archbishop *Turpin*, was with greater probability not composed until towards the end of the eleventh century for the purpose of animating the first crusaders in their perilous enterprise: the invention of the latter was scarcely of an earlier date. But the monk of *St. Gall*¹ had, about seventy years after the death of *Charlemagne*, written a life of that monarch, abounding with romantic feats precisely of the same character as those of *Antar*; and *Ernold Nigel*,² in his con-

¹ Pertz, *Monumenta Histor. Germ.* tom. ii. p. 726.

² *Ibid.* p. 464.

temporary poem on Louis le Debonnaire, had described the siege of Barcelona, and the spoils of the victors, in the chivalrous language of long subsequent ages.

There seems, therefore, to be no reason to doubt the existence of personal or individual Chivalry, in all its splendour, in the eighth and ninth centuries, if not much earlier; and we shall now proceed to look for the first vestiges of the institution in a collective form.

in the eighth
and ninth
centuries.

As, under the feudal system, the priesthood and the army presented the only channels of provision to those younger sons of the tenants, by military service, who happened not to be retainers of the nobility, the constantly increasing number of candidates for martial employment rendered expatriation necessary; and Europe was over-run by errant adventurers, eager for any enterprise, however hazardous, which held out a prospect of wealth or fame.

Rise of
knight-
errantry.

The advantage of a combination of prowess, in arduous and perilous undertakings, produced the COMPANIONSHIPS or FRATERNITIES OF ARMS, so highly celebrated by the early poets and romancers, and which were, without doubt, archetypes of the Military Orders.

Fraternities
of Arms.

Similarity of fortune, as well as of sentiment, upon points which called the chivalrous virtues into action, became naturally a bond of common interest between persons who had met in the same expedition; and they accordingly swore to each other to share equally the disgrace or the glory which might result from their separate or united efforts. These engagements were sometimes cemented by methods revolting to modern feeling, but not the less expressive of the sincerity which inspired them. Three knights, having each caused a vein to be opened, mingled their blood in token of indissoluble friendship.¹ Others obtested the purity of their reciprocal obligation by the most sacred religious acts. As if members of one family, they wore similar apparel and armour, desirous that, in the heat of the battle, the enemy might mistake one for the other, and that each might thus participate the dangers by which the other was menaced. By brotherhoods of this character the sovereigns, under whose banners they

Their duties
and object.

¹ Roman de Lancelot du Lac.

enlisted, were enabled to achieve the most daring warlike operations; always, however, with the consent and authority of the liege lord to whom alone loyalty and obedience, in their strictest sense, were, under all circumstances, unavoidably reserved.

Orders of
knighthood,

An influence, so powerful as that which was produced by the armed fraternities, suggested the establishment of fellowships upon a more extended scale, which, in imitation of the monastic societies, were denominated **ORDERS**.

religious
and
military,

These associations, engrafted upon the institution of chivalry and fully imbued with its spirit, were of two classes. The first consisted of knights who, renouncing the rewards and honours of their profession, had submitted themselves, under vows of celibacy, obedience, and poverty, to ecclesiastical rules of life, whilst they at the same time strenuously directed their exertions to the defence and propagation of the Christian faith; the second was formed also of knights who, united under a sovereign or grand-master, by engagements distinct from those of feudal allegiance, maintained the interests of their chief in aggressive or defensive warfare, were recognised by appropriate symbols, and sworn, amidst solemn rites, to the observance of particular ordinances or statutes.

religious

The rise of the former class was coeval with the Crusades. That singular epoch in the history of the European communities, when chivalry, under the impulse of religious zeal, realised the wildest conceptions of enthusiasm and romance, gave birth to the celebrated Orders of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, Teutonic Knights, and to other foundations similarly constituted, which, in the course of the two succeeding centuries, were dispersed over Christendom.

military

To the strictly military Orders, comprehended in the latter class, a much higher origin has been given than can be warranted by historical evidence. In deference to the popular veneration for the remote, obscure, or marvellous, some writers on the subject imagined that they had discovered the foundation of those institutions in such traditionary fellowships as **THE TABLE RONDE** of king Arthur, **THE OAK** of Navarre, and **THE GENET** of France, which they supposed to

have been Orders created before the reign of Charlemagne.¹ If, however, we try the antiquity of the military Orders, known in Europe at the opening of the fourteenth century, by the tests which we are now accustomed to apply to the asserted origin of several of the early dynasties, we find that the proofs diminish as we advance; and our inquiry terminates in a conviction that the existence of those societies cannot be traced with certainty to a period anterior to the crusades.

not more
ancient
than the
crusades.

The sovereign of Britain might seem, from his peculiarly advantageous position, to have required less than any of the surrounding potentates the aid of an association such as a distinct Order of knighthood, for purposes either of defence or aggrandisement. The germ, however, of the splendid fraternity, the history of which we propose briefly to review, may perhaps be traced to the TABLE RONDE, by whomsoever invented, which, according to the testimony of our ancient authors,² corroborated by the public records,³ was, soon after the conquest, and, occasionally, until the reign of our first Edward, erected in England for the entertainment of knights assembled to exercise themselves in feats of strength and courage; qualities which then constituted almost the only recommendation to distinction.

The
TABLE
RONDE.

The revival of these chivalrous conventions, in a more brilliant form, was reserved for king EDWARD THE THIRD. His sagacity in council and promptitude in action have, by the common consent of historians, assigned to him a pre-eminent rank amongst the monarchs, his contemporaries. Engaged in bitter hostilities with France, whose sovereign alone rivalled him in fame and power, he anticipated substantial benefits from a device to gather around his standard, and attach to his person and policy, the flower of the European knighthood. His taste for jousts, hastiludes, and tourneys, concurring with that of the age, presented the means of accomplishing his object; and it can scarcely be doubted that, at the particular

revived by
Edward III,
and the
basis of THE
ORDER of
THE GAR-
TER.

¹ Segar, Hon. mil. & civ. l. 2 c. 5; Marquez, Tesoro de Cavall. fo. 52; Boisseau, Promptuaire Armorial, where the badges, laws, ceremonies, and even the names of the knights are given.

² Matth. Paris, p. 846. Walsingham sub a^o 1280. Leland Coll. vol. ii. p. 420

³ Lib. Rub. in Scacc. fo. 122^b. Rot. Pat. 16 Hen. 3, m. 3. Rot. Claus. de eodem, m. 5, dorso.

festivities, to which allusion will presently be made, his plan of founding a military society, of strangers as well as subjects of exalted valour, was conceived and matured.

Date of the foundation.

The precise date of the foundation of THE ORDER OF THE GARTER, and the circumstances immediately connected with that memorable event, are not recorded in our national monuments. The annals of the Order, previous to the fourth year of Henry V, are lost; and the conjectures of the writers who, at a period remote from that era, have pretended to solve this historical problem, and who are chiefly of the age of Henry VIII, are entitled to slender credit. It is proposed, therefore, to concentrate the evidence which has descended to us upon the point, and to offer an impartial summary of such portions of it as may be considered to be authentic.

Different theories concerning the date.

In the absence of any public record of the fact, the date of the foundation has been placed at different periods between the 18th and 25th years of Edward's reign, or from 1344 to 1351.¹ The prevailing hypothesis, that the Order was instituted in the 23rd year, 1349, rests principally, upon the preamble to the two most ancient exemplars of the statutes, which are printed in the appendix to Ashmole's treatise. It is evident that these copies of the statutes could not have been contemporary with the foundation. In the first place, in enumerating the primary companions, they mention the *duke* of Lancaster and the *earl* of Stafford by titles to which those personages were not advanced until the 25th year of the king; and, secondly, they contain a reference to a mulct enacted by a *prior* decree,² and to the customary observance of *former* regulations³ within the Order. The exem-

¹ Selden, after inclining, in the 1st edition of his "Titles of Honour," 4^o. 1614, p. 362; and, in his notes on "Poly-Albion," p. 68, to a belief that the foundation took place after the surrender of Calais, in August 1347, agrees, in the last edition of the former work, with Froissart, in the date of 1344. Fabian, in his Chronicle, p. 219, fixes it after Lent in 1345. Aldrydge, in his preface to "Liber Niger;" Leland, "Ad Cygn. Cant." verbo "Windlesora;" Milles, in his

"Catalogue of Honour," fo. 88; Heylin, "History of St. George;" and Ashmole; assert the erection of the Order in the 23rd year, 1349; Stow, Lilly, Speed, Segar, and Barnes, place the first feast in 1350; and Polydor Vergil, after March 1351.

² Art. x. of the second exemplar, "pœnam subibunt—super quo extat decretum."

³ Art. xii. of the first exemplar, on the fine to be incurred for not wearing the Garter, "sicut alii

plars in question were, therefore, probably not more ancient than the reign of Henry V, seventy years after the institution.

In support of the date of 1349 a wardrobe account has been cited, commencing at Michaelmas in the 21st year, 1347, and ending 31st January in the 23rd year, 1348-9;¹ and an inference drawn from thence that certain habits, adorned with garters, and having the motto of the Order embroidered thereon, were intended to be used at the supposed first feast of the Order next following the conclusion of the account, viz. on St. George's day 1349. But it will be found, on examination, that the account rendered was not for articles then directed to be prepared for future use, but, retrospectively, for those already issued. The roll, containing the account, comprehended twenty-three membranes; and the issues in question are registered on the eighth, and consequently soon after the commencement of the account.

The argument for the date of 1349 considered;

The afflicting calamity, with which this country and other parts of Europe were visited in 1348 and 1349, precludes the supposition that so great a festival should have been celebrated in the latter of those years. About the 1st of August 1348 the plague manifested itself in several towns on the western coast, reached London in November, and finally spread itself over all England; scattering everywhere such ruin and desolation, that one person in ten scarcely survived the infliction.² This dreadful scourge continued with remarkable violence until Michaelmas 1349; so that not only the parliament was of necessity twice prorogued, but little public business of importance could be transacted in the mournful interval.³

This event would, it is assumed, suffice to refer the issues, refuted by

ante solverunt qui in eadem culpa fuere constituti;" which, in the same article of the second exemplar, is thus given, "modo quo consimiliter defectivi *solvere consueverunt.*"

¹ Appendix, N° I.

² Barnes, *Life of Edward III.* p. 435 & seq. where the authorities are fully cited.

³ The parliament had been ap-

pointed to meet on Monday next after St. Hilary 1348-9, and was prorogued, on account of the pestilence to the quindena of Easter; and, on the 10th March, it was again prorogued, "per quod accessus magnatum et aliorum nostrorum fidelium ad dictum locum nimis periculosus foret verisimiliter hiis diebus."

refuted by

proofs of the
anterior use
of the sym-
bol of the
Order.

recorded on the wardrobe account-roll above cited, to the earliest possible date; and it in truth appears that vestments, embroidered with the Garter and motto, had been delivered for the use of the king and of certain noble persons upon various occasions not connected with the Order, viz. at the Christmas games at Guildford, in the 21st year, 1347, and at tournaments held at Bury, Windsor, Lichfield, and Eltham, in the course of the same year. On the occasion last-mentioned, twelve "blue garters," with the motto "hony soit qui mal y pense" worked thereon,¹ had been provided; and, unless it could be demonstrated that vestments and garters, so ornamented, had been in use antecedently to the foundation, it must be admitted that the Order had existed in or before 1347, and consequently, two years before the date assigned in the preamble to the statutes.

This view of the point is strongly corroborated by an interesting manuscript recently inspected, being the accounts rendered by certain ministers of Edward prince of Wales between 1351-2 and 1365, but containing inventories of divers purchases and gifts, by the prince, of preceding dates.² It appears thereby that payment had been made, on the 18th November in the 22nd year of the king, 1348, for *twenty-four* garters which prince Edward had ordered to be prepared; and that he had presented the same to the *Knights of the Society of the Garter*. The entry is preceded by another of the same date, and followed by two others of the 20th of that month, which remove all doubt of the existence of the Order in 1348.³

If, then, we cannot but admit as a fact that the symbol of the Order was used at certain festivities towards the close of the year 1347, and which were probably in commemoration of the recently achieved victories in France, we at once reject the hypothesis of Ashmole, and are led to inquire whether,

¹ See extracts from the Wardrobe account in Appendix, No. I.

² In the possession of John Philpot, esq.

³ — 1 plat' deaur. & emell de societate Garter cū hachiamen fact p^o uno heraldo de Arm' empt' eodem die" [xviii Nov. a^o xxii^o.]—" xxiii

garters fact p^o dño empt eod. die dat' p^o dnūm milit^s de societate Garter" — "vij nouch^s op'at' cū aquil' empt' xx^o die dat' p^o dnūm div^s. milit de soc' sua" — "lx bokeles & lx mordaunts & vj barr' empt' eod. die dat' milit' de soc' sua p^o hastilud' de Wyndesor."

retrospectively, between Christmas 1347 and St. George's day 1344, there was any time more convenient for the institution than the last-mentioned date, asserted by Froissart.

The surrender of Calais took place in August 1347; and it is upon record that the king had been absent from England, and personally so occupied, during the preceding portion of the year, by the memorable siege, as to preclude all belief that he could have founded the Order within that year.

The years 1345 and 1346 are equally unfavourable for the purpose, not only on account of the state of public affairs, but, principally, of the absence from England, during those years, of several of the primary knights,¹ whose presence at the institution must be presumed, since they are recorded to have personally engaged themselves, under their seals, to the observance of the ordinances enjoined by the royal Founder.

It appears, by a public record,² that the king, by his writ dated at Ditton, on the 1st of January in the 17th year of his reign, 1343-4, appointed the solemnization of jousts within Windsor castle, on Monday next following the then approaching feast of St. Hilary, or the 19th of the same month; and invited to those festivities knights of all nations, with their esquires and attendants; granting to them protection and safe-conduct until the octaves of the Purification, or the 9th of February ensuing.³ The 18th year of the reign of Edward commenced on the 25th of January, pending the festivities; and it is certain, from other authorities,⁴ that he was resident at Windsor on the day so ordained for the opening of the jousts.

This record confirms the testimony of Froissart, who, with a simplicity and circumstantiality compelling our belief in the truth of his narrative, asserts that the first feast of the Order

Evidence in
favour of
the date of
1344.

as asserted
by Frois-
sart.

¹ Derby, Mohun, Lisle, and Grey, employed in the expedition into Gascony.

² Rymer, new ed. vol. ii. pars. 2, p. 1242.

³ The writ does not corroborate Froissart's assignment of *fifteen days* for the duration of the safe-conduct; but it was declared to remain in force until the *octaves of the Purification*. So that, allowing

about a week, the customary time, for the duration of the jousts, there would be a space of fifteen days from their termination until the octaves in question, or the 9th of February.

⁴ Pat. 17 Edw. 3, p. 2, m. 3; T. Windsor, 15 & 20 Jan. Rot. Vas. 17 Edw. 3, m. 1, 2, 3; T. ibid. 18 & 20 Jan.

was solemnised ON ST. GEORGE'S DAY, 1344, in the 18th year of the reign of the illustrious Founder.

His credi-
bility inferred
from his
superior
means of
information

In acknowledging our obligation to an alien pen for all the details which we possess, and which probably exist, of so remarkable an event, every feeling of national jealousy must be suppressed by the reflection that, of the few historical writers of that chivalrous and romantic age, Froissart alone was qualified to do justice to such a theme. For, who amongst us has perused without interest and delight the lively narratives which enrich the pages of this ingenuous and minute observer of knightly adventures and feats of arms? or has risen from such perusal unconvinced by the internal evidence which they afford of their general accuracy and truth?

A distinction must, nevertheless, be taken between facts which had been submitted to the eye of the chronicler and those which he recorded from the testimony of others; and, for this purpose, we will briefly review such parts of his autobiography as may seem to bear upon our immediate point.

collected
from pas-
sages in his
life.

We collect, from passages interspersed in his narrative and poems, but chiefly from the latter, that Froissart was born at Valenciennes, about 1337;¹ and that, being destined for the secular priesthood, he cultivated, from his infancy, those accomplishments which, at that period, rendered the services of persons of his order acceptable, and indeed indispensable to the great. We find him, accordingly, at the age of twenty, in the household of sir Robert Namur (who had married the sister of queen Philippa, and was, in 1369, elected a knight of the Garter), and engaged, at his instance, in composing a history of the wars of those times, particularly of the events which followed the battle of Poitiers in 1356. Four years afterwards, about 1361, he passed into England; and, under the auspices of his patron, presented the first part of his Chronicle to Philippa, who appointed him her clerk or secretary.

His work commences with the accession of Edward III. in

¹ A passage in a pastoral (amongst his MS. poems, N^o 7214. p. 284, in the royal library at Paris) warrants the conjecture that he was the son of a painter of armories; a

circumstance to which his early taste for chivalry, and his familiarity with the art of blason, apparent throughout his works, may not improbably be traced.

1326-7; but he avows himself indebted for the particulars of the first thirty years to Jean Le Bel, canon of St. Lambert at Liege; who, he says, had applied himself with the greatest diligence and fidelity to the subject; sparing no pains or cost in collecting authentic materials; and possessing, from his friendly and confidential intercourse with John of Hainault, the queen's uncle, the best opportunities of witnessing many great events, and of obtaining the most ample information for his history. Whether the canon attended that illustrious commander on his expedition into England, which led to the deposition of Edward II, or was in the train of Philippa herself on her arrival in this country in 1327, preparatorily to her nuptials, is unknown, the collections of Jean Le Bel not having been preserved. The reproach of the French writers, that Froissart was an English partisan, and the title "Chronicles of England," which is prefixed to the introductory part of several of the manuscripts, may therefore be referable to the outline left to him by the original compiler, whose attachment to the court of Hainault may naturally have induced him to dwell minutely on transactions so intimately connected with its history.

Soon after the arrival of Froissart in England, he was present when the Black Prince and the princess, his consort, took leave, in 1361, of the king and queen on departing for Aquitaine; and, in 1363, he was on the road between Eltham and Westminster when John, the French king, returned from France to the seat of his captivity. It appears also that, during his residence in this country, he made journies into Scotland and North Wales; and that he revisited France in the spring of 1366; and was at Bordeaux at All Saints' in that year when Richard, afterwards king Richard II, was born. The prince of Wales proceeded, a few days after that event, upon his expedition into Spain, attended by Froissart as far as Auch in Gascony; from whence the latter was despatched into England in order to resume his duties near the queen. In 1368 he was in Italy, probably in the suite of Lionel duke of Clarence, at whose nuptials with the princess of Milan he was present; and, after the duke's death, which happened in October of the same year, he visited Rome. Whilst abroad, he sustained, in

1369, a severe loss by the death of his royal mistress; and did not return to England until 1394, after an absence of twenty-seven years. On arrival at Canterbury, he witnessed the devotion of Richard II. at the shrine of Becket for the success of his campaign in Ireland, and followed that monarch to Leeds castle, where he had an audience for the purpose of delivering letters from the counts of Hainault and Ostrevant. The king received him very graciously; and, after reading the despatches, observed that, since he had been of the household of his royal grandfather and grandmother, he must still consider himself as attached to the English court. At Eltham he had a second audience, at which he presented to Richard a copy, splendidly bound, of the romance of Meliador; and, after a sojourn of three months in England, Froissart obtained a present from the king of a hundred nobles in a silver-gilt goblet, and departed for his native country, where he died in or soon after the year 1400.

We have entered into the foregoing digression, in order to show the extreme improbability that a writer, who must have been so deeply conversant with the transactions of the English court, and whose means of information were of the most authentic description, could have been deceived upon a point so material as the date of the foundation of an Order, the first feast of which the queen his mistress had graced with her presence; a fact, recorded in that portion of his Chronicle which, he states, he had had the honour of submitting to her inspection.

The interesting narrative is contained in the 213th chapter, entitled "How the King of England founded a Chapel of St. George, and ordained the Feast of the blue Garter, to be annually therein celebrated."¹

At this time Edward king of England resolved to rebuild the great castle of Windsor, formerly built and founded by king Arthur, and where was first set up and established the noble Round Table,

¹ Translated from the collection of National French Chronicles, edited by M. Buchon, Paris, 1824, tome ii. p. 171, after collating the chapter with several of the earliest

MS. copies of Froissart, particularly Nos 8318 and 8319 in the royal library at Paris, and with the celebrated copy in the Elisabethan library at Breslau.

from whence so many valiant men and knights had issued forth to perform feats of arms and prowess throughout the world. And the said king created an Order of knights, to consist of himself, his children, and the bravest of his land. They were to be in number *forty*, and to be called knights of the blue Garter; their feast to be kept and solemnised at Windsor annually on St. George's day. And, in order to institute this festival, the king of England assembled earls, barons, and knights from his whole realm, and signified to them his purpose and great desire to found the same. In this they joyfully concurred; for it appeared to them to be an honourable undertaking, and calculated to nourish affection amongst them. Then were elected *forty* knights known and celebrated as the bravest of all the rest; and they bound themselves to the king, under their seals, by oath and fealty, to keep the feast, and obey the ordinances which should be agreed upon and devised. And the king caused a chapel of St. George to be built and founded within the castle of Windsor; established canons therein for the service of God; and provided and endowed them with a good and liberal revenue. And, in order that the said feast might be promulgated in all countries, the king of England sent his heralds to publish and proclaim the same in France, Scotland, Burgundy, Hainault, Flanders, Brabant, and the German empire; granting to all knights and esquires, who should be willing to come, safe-conduct until fifteen days after the feast. And there was to be held at this feast a jousting by *forty* knights, within the lists, against all comers, and also by *forty* esquires. And this feast was to be celebrated on ST. GEORGE'S DAY next coming, which would be in the year of grace ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR, at Windsor castle. And the queen of England, accompanied by three hundred ladies and damsels, all noble and gentlewomen, and uniformly appalled, were to be present."

Froissart's narrative of the foundation of the Order,

23 April
1344.

Towards the conclusion of the antecedent chapter,¹ Froissart had related the imprisonment of Olivier de Clisson, and the rumour of the execution, by order of the French king, of four gentlemen of Normandy in the English interests.² The chronicles of France³ and Flanders⁴ place these executions (with the exception of that of Malestroit⁵) on the 29th of

Corroborated by coeval historical facts.

¹ Froissart, par Buchon, tom. ii. p. 170.

² Sire Guillaume Bacon, sire Henri de Malestroit, the sire de Rochetesson, and sire Richard de Perci.

³ Chron. de France, chap. 32.

⁴ Chron. de Flandres, pp. 173, 174.

⁵ It appears, by Hist. de Bretagne, Morice, p. 269, that others suffered on the same occasion; but that Malestroit was claimed as a priest by the bishop of Paris; de-

November 1343, and thus far confirm our date. In the chapter following that which contains the narrative of the foundation of the Order, Froissart proceeds to state that, during the preparations at Windsor for the solemnization of the first feast on St. George's day 1344, news was brought to king Edward of the decapitation of the sire de Clisson and others; and that, in his anger, he had determined to retaliate upon sire Hervé de Léon, a powerful Breton knight, his prisoner; but, being moved to clemency by the earl of Derby, he sent for Léon and generously notified to him his release for a moderate ransom, upon condition that he would be the bearer of a message of defiance to the French monarch.

Froissart then continues:—

“ St. George's day drew near, when this grand feast was to be celebrated in Windsor castle. The king made there great preparations; and there were present the earls, barons, knights, ladies, and damsels of the kingdom of England. The festivities were on a grand and noble scale, with much feasting and tourneying for fifteen days. Many knights from Flanders, Hainault, and Brabant, crossed the sea, in order to be present on the occasion; but from France there came none.”¹

The MS. “*Scala Chronica*” (which, concluding about the year 1362, was doubtless written in the reign of Edward III, and, being confirmed in many points by the public records, is justly considered to be of great authority) contains the following passage, as translated by Leland, and printed in his *Collections*, ed. 1770, vol. ii. p. 560:—

“ King Edward made a great fest at Wyndesore at Christemes, wher he renewid the Round Table and the name of Arture, and ordenid the Order of the Garter, making Sainet George the patrone thereof.”

The date is not given; but the event is placed after the surrender of Algesiras (which happened about All Saints', or

graded, and afterwards stoned to death by the Paris populace, in August or September 1344. See also a French chronicle (which be-

longed to Bishop Laud) in the Bodleian library.

¹ Froiss. tom. ii. p. 174.

1st November 1343), and before the despatch into Gascony of the earl of Derby, who landed at Bayonne, on the 6th June 1344.

It has been remarked by Anstis,¹ that the assertion of Froissart respecting the date of the institution seems to be strengthened by an opinion current at a period not far remote from it; for that Pierre d'Ailli, bishop of Cambrai, who was born in 1350, and is mentioned by the chronicler,² concurs in that date.³

Arguing from the error in the manuscripts of Froissart respecting the number of the primary companions of the Order (which was certainly not, as therein stated, *forty*, but *twenty-six*, including the Sovereign), it has been inferred, by Ashmole and the opponents in general of the earlier date, that his chronology cannot be relied on; and that he has unwarily identified the year of the first feast with that of the entertainment of the knights assembled on occasion of the jousts; Windsor being, in both cases, the place of celebration. A possible mistake,⁴ however, of the transcribers of the original manuscript (which may have arisen from the incident that *forty* knights were said to have been appointed to tilt within the lists), in regard to a point which has never been subject to doubt, ought not to invalidate his testimony⁵ concerning the date of the first feast, more especially when other facts are produced in confirmation of his narrative. These are—the

The objections to Froissart's testimony stated.

¹ Pref. to his Regr. vol. ii. p. 17.

² Froiss. tom. xiv. p. 126.

³ Dialogues in Tracts, printed under the title of "Sibylla Francica." It is, however, not improbable that the bishop may have derived his information concerning the first feast from Froissart himself, or may have seen the introductory portion of the chronicle, or some MS. of the canon of Liege.

⁴ It is remarkable that Spelman, in his Glossary, voce *Garter*, fell also into an error on the same point. "Vox jam inde in usu a quo Edwardus III, multis victoriis insignis, equestrem ordinem sub Garterii symbolo instituit, ascriptis

e militari orbe xxiv fortissimis heroibus sui ipsius præfectura illustratis."—And Aldrydge, the compiler of the "Liber Niger," temp. Hen. VIII, states, in his preamble, "Mox ordinem instituire decrevit, in quo *Supremum Angliæ regem et viginti sex auratos equites subrutilantes exhiberet, cui et Cærulei Subligaris nomen indidit.*"

⁵ See also an argument, in extenuation of the chronicler concerning this error, in "Acta Sanctorum Aprilis, collecta per Henschenium et Papebrochium," Antw. 1675—the passage is cited at length by Anstis, vol. ii. Pref. p. xvi.

repairs to Windsor castle in the early part of the 18th year,¹ from which extraordinary preparations are to be inferred,—the completion of St. George's chapel *before* August in the 22nd year,²—and the establishment, in the same year, by the patent founding the chapel,³ of an additional number of canons to those on the more ancient foundation, and of twenty-four poor or alms' knights.⁴ It may also be observed that as, by the 4th and 6th articles of the statutes of the Order, the presentation of the first canons and poor knights was reserved to the Founders, the knights of the Order must have existed as a fraternity before those whom they were thus to nominate.⁵

An argument against the date suggested by the knighthood of prince Edward in 1346.

An argument, of more apparent force than any other, might be raised against the foundation in 1344 from the knighthood of the Black Prince on his landing at La Hogue, on the 12th July 1346, and the conferring of the same honour immediately afterwards by himself upon the earl of Salisbury and sir Roger Mortimer, his young companions in arms, and who were also Founders of the Order of the Garter. If knighthood was, according to the 2nd statute,⁶ a necessary qualifica-

¹ Rot. Pip. 18 Ed. 3, "Computus Alani de Kellum clerici assignati ad quasdam operationes infra castrum de Windsor inter 16 diem Februarii a^o. 18^{mo} [1343-4] *quo die* operationes incipiebantur," &c. — Wals. MS. Arun. N^o VII. (in Coll. Armor.) fo. 161. — "Año grē m^o.ccc44^o. qui est añus E. octavus decimus rex Edwardus fecit convocari plures artifices ad castrū de Wyndesore et cepit edificare domū que *rotunda tabula* vocaretur. Habuit autem eius area a centro ad circūferenciā p' semidiametrā 100 pedes et sic diametri ducentor' pedū erat rotunda tabula in Francia.

² See Ashmole's Appendix, N^o 1. "Capellam, &c. nostris regiis sump-tibus *fecimus consummari*." Teste 6 Aug. a^o. 22^o [1348].

³ Pat. 22 Edw. 3 pars 2, m. 6.

⁴ The patent of foundation, after reciting that *eight* canons had been appointed by the king's progenitors, adds a *warden* and *fifteen* other canons, and also appoints *twenty-four* poor knights. The

pope's bulls, empowering the archbishop of Canterbury and the bishop of Winchester to institute the college, and exempting it from episcopal and other ecclesiastical jurisdiction, refer only to a *certain* number of canons and poor knights, and it appears by the earliest exemplars of the statutes that the number of canons was fixed at *twenty-six*, viz. *thirteen* secular canons who were to be priests at entrance, or within one year afterwards, and *thirteen* vicars, also priests, or to become priests at the next ordination. The number of the poor knights was likewise fixed at *twenty-six*, the precise number of the companions of the Order, including the Sovereign.

⁵ Anstis' letter to the earl of Pembroke, prefixed to his "Register of the Order of the Garter," vol. i. p. 99.

⁶ It will be remembered that this statute forms part of the body of statutes collected apparently in the reign of Henry V. The sta-

tion for admission into it, then the Prince and his two companions, receiving knighthood in 1346, were, at the time of such reception, not already knights of the Order; and the Order had, therefore, not been founded at that date. But it is clear, from the public records,¹ that the object of the knighthood of the Prince upon that occasion was, to enable his royal father to claim from his subjects the accustomed aid due upon the knighthood of the king's eldest son; an aid which, by the statute of Westminster,² could not be levied until the heir-apparent had completed his fifteenth year. The ceremony in question, at La Hogue, does not, therefore, preclude the supposition that the young heroes had previously been honoured with the degree of knight-bachelor; and that they were, on so memorable an occasion, and as a stimulus to their exertions at their entrance upon the theatre of war, advanced to the rank of banneret. As it was a maxim in chivalry that none but a knight could confer the dignity of knighthood, and as it is stated, that prince Edward, upon being created duke of Cornwall in 1337 (in the seventh year of his age), made twenty new knights,³ we must presume that he had himself been knighted in his early infancy; a custom prevalent not only at that period, but in our own times, in the families of sovereign princes.⁴

Of the principle, which governed the nomination of the first knights-companions, we know as little as of the form in which the election was conducted. The fame of sir Reginald Cob-

Distinction
gained at
the jousts
supposed
to have

tutes of the Foundation may not have contained the condition of previous knighthood.

¹ Rymer, vol. v. p. 527; Rot. Parl. 20 Edw. 3, No 45.

² Westm. I. c. 36.

³ Stowe, p. 233; Holinshed, p. 900; Barnes, Life of Edward III, p. 113.

⁴ Philip duke of Burgundy created his son knight of the Fleece at his baptism.—*Chifflet insign. Eq. aur Vell. n. xxxiv.* Philip Le Bel also knighted his son Charles at the font.—*Vredii sig. com. Fland.*

p. 142. *Chifflet, n. cxiv.* Alexander king of Scotland was knighted by Henry III, when but nine years old.—*Scotichronicon p. 762.* Richard II. was about ten years of age at his knighthood and reception into this Order; Henry, son of Henry IV, about twelve; Edward V. was under five years when elected into the Order; and Richard, his younger brother, was chosen at the same time; Arthur prince of Wales was installed when under five years; and there are many similar more modern instances.

governed
the primary
nominations.

ham, sir Walter Manny, the earls of Northampton, Hereford, and Suffolk, had been established by their exploits, long before the institution of the Order; and would have amply justified their admission amongst the Founders, if military merit had been the sole qualification. Those distinguished captains of the age were elected subsequently upon vacancies created by the deaths of persons of less apparent pretensions. Is it, therefore, an improbable conjecture (more especially considering the youth of several of the primary knights, and the small celebrity of others), that the distinction was, in the first instance, bestowed upon those who had excelled at the jousts which shortly preceded the foundation?

Theories for
the adoption
of a
GARTER as
the symbol
of the
Order.

Whether, at some ball, pending the festivities with which the evenings after those chivalrous exercises were concluded, the incident related by Polydor Vergil,¹ and which is said to have given occasion for the adoption of THE GARTER as the name and the symbol of the Order, actually occurred, is at this day not capable of proof. That author was, as far as we have discovered, the first who asserted (possibly upon a vague hint of Belvaleti,² that the foundation had been in honour of the female sex), that the garter of the queen, or of some lady of the court, falling off casually whilst she danced, the monarch had taken it from the ground, and, observing the smiles of the courtiers at what might have been considered an act of gallantry, had exclaimed "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE;" adding that the garter should soon be held in such high estimation, that they would account themselves happy if permitted to wear it.

Supposed
amour
of king
Edward and

The object of the king's attention on this occasion has been imagined by Speed,³ Baker,⁴ and Camden,⁵ (upon the sole authority, as it would seem, of Polydor Vergil,) to have been

¹ Polyd. Verg. Angl. Hist. Basil. 1570, p. 379.

² Mondonus Belvaleti, a Cluniac friar in the reign of Edward IV, composed a treatise entitled "Tractatus ordinis serenissimi domini regis Anglie vulgariter dicti la Gerretiere," dated 1463, in which is this passage, p. 7, "Et sunt plerique nonnulli autumantes hunc ordinem exordium sumpsisse a sexu

muliebri." There is a copy of this MS. with illuminations, in the British Museum, Harl. MS. 5415, and another in the library at St. Omer, N^o 793. It was printed at Cologne in 1631.

³ Speed's Chron. p. 588.

⁴ Baker's Chron. ed. 1665, p. 139.

⁵ Camd. Britan. in Atrebat. p. 208.

a countess of Salisbury; and the learned Selden, following in the same dubious track, conjectured that the lady was Joan Plantagenet, the fair maid of Kent, whom he designates "countess of Kent and Salisbury,"¹ without adverting to the facts that she did not succeed to the former of those earldoms until after the death of her brother, John earl of Kent, in 1351, and that she never had any legal interest in the latter. The supposed connexion of a countess of Salisbury with the institution of the Order, had undoubtedly its foundation in Froissart's romantic episode of the passion conceived by king Edward for the wife of William Montacute earl of Salisbury. The lively chronicler, who deemed the fame of a knight without amours to be far from complete, appears to have credited with avidity any rumour, which may have been in circulation, of the attachment of the monarch for the lady in question. Its probability has been denied chiefly upon the ground of her advanced age at the time when Edward is stated to have declared himself her admirer.² A consideration, however, of the dates may go far to remove such an impression; and, although Froissart has as usual mistaken names and localities, he is borne out by evidence in regard to parts of his narrative.

He relates³ that David king of Scotland having, in his foray on the English border in 1342, passed the Tyne [the Tweed], lay one night with his host before a castle which he calls "Salisbury," because it belonged to the earl of that name, who having been taken prisoner, together with the earl of Suffolk, before Lille, was, at the time, under confinement in the châtelet at Paris; that this castle, which Edward had granted to the earl on his marriage, was then the residence of the countess, whom he calls "Alix," one of the most noble and beautiful ladies of the land; and that the garrison was under the orders of a sir William Montacute, the earl's nephew. He proceeds to recount that, on the morrow, the Scottish king commenced a vigorous assault, with every expectation of success, notwithstanding the gallantry with which the defence was conducted; but that the governor hav-

the countess
of Salisbury,
and its
connection
with the
institution
of the
Order.

¹ Selden's Tit. of Honour, p. 793.

² Ashmole, p. 180.

³ Froissart, tom. ii. cap. 162-168.

ing contrived to issue secretly from the castle, and to apprise king Edward, then in Berwick, of its perilous condition, David, on the consequent approach of the English army, retreated with his forces towards Jedburgh forest; and Edward, after expressing his anger at the escape of the enemy, determined to pay a visit to the countess of Salisbury, whom he had not seen since the day of her nuptials. Froissart then expatiates with his wonted delight on the brilliant reception of the illustrious guest; the passion inspired by the grace and loveliness of his fair hostess; the avowal made by the monarch of his chains; and her courteous but firm and virtuous evasion of his addresses.

In continuation of his narrative, he mentions that a truce having, shortly after that event, been concluded between the two kings, with the concurrence of the king of France, the ally of Bruce, the French monarch released the earl of Salisbury upon condition that Edward's prisoner, the earl of Moray, should also be set at liberty. It is then related that the king, being returned to London, appointed grand festivities in honour of Salisbury's liberation, and issued a proclamation for the holding of solemn jousts in the middle of August in the same year,¹ inviting thereto, in particular, the earl and his beauteous countess, who, he says, appeared on the occasion attired with the utmost simplicity in order to avoid attracting the sovereign's regard and to discountenance his improper affection. Then follow details of the feast, and an enumeration of the noble personages present, consisting, besides the two princes of Hainault, of twelve earls, eight hundred knights, and five hundred ladies; but that the general joy suffered some abatement in consequence of the death of John, son of Henry lord Beaumont, a young nobleman of great promise, who was accidentally slain at the tournament.

Now it is upon record that king Edward, in order to reward Salisbury for the courageous part which, in the 4th year of his reign, that earl had taken in the overthrow of Mortimer, had, before the end of that year, settled upon him and Katherine his wife, daughter of William lord Granson, consider-

¹ Froissart, tom. ii. cap. 191-192.

able estates, escheated to the crown by Mortimer's attainder, and, amongst others, the manor of *Werk upon Tweed*,¹ and, three years afterwards, the *castle of Werk*, (which latter he was to repair and render defensible against the Scots,) to descend to John, his second son.² The date of the earl's marriage does not appear; but, as he was born in or about 1301,³ and William, his first son, in 1328, the marriage may have taken place about 1326, the period of the king's accession.⁴ That England was infested, in 1342, by frequent incursions of the Scots, is historically true;⁵ and, although lord Hailes considers the adventure, narrated by Froissart, to be fabulous from the silence of the English historians, and the absence, at the time mentioned, of Edward upon an expedition into Brittany,⁶ his inference, upon those grounds, may be deemed to be feeble; for it is certain that an army was sent into Scotland towards the close of 1341,⁷ and Edward, who did not pass into Brittany until the autumn of 1342,⁸ may have been personally present at some of its operations in the early part of the last-mentioned year. The truce with the Scots was concluded in Brittany before the 20th May 1343.⁹ Bruce may, therefore, have assaulted Werk; and sir Edward (not sir William) Montacute, a kinsman of the earl and one of his retinue,¹⁰ may not improbably have been entrusted by the earl with the custody of that important border fortress during his own unfortunate detention at Paris, where (as Froissart correctly states) he and Robert Ufford earl of Suffolk had been imprisoned in 1340. Their release in the course of the year 1342, and in exchange for Moray, is also recorded.¹¹ For the tournament, said to have been held in honour of Salisbury's return, and to attract his countess to the court of Edward, Froissart is the only authority; but, if held in the month of August 1342, then John lord Beaumont, son of Henry lord

¹ Pat. 4 Edw. 3, p. 1, m. 21.

² Pat. 7 Edw. 3, p. 2, m. 24.

³ He was eighteen in 1319; esch. 13 Edw. 2, N^o 31.

⁴ Supposing the countess Katherine to have been eighteen at the birth of her eldest son, she would have been thirty-two in 1342, two years older than king Edward.

⁵ Dalrymple's Annals, p. 210, citing Fordun and Scala Chronica.

⁶ Annals, p. 211, notes.

⁷ Rymer, vol. v. p. 290.

⁸ Lingard, vol. iv. pp. 54, 55.

⁹ Rymer, vol. v. p. 367.

¹⁰ Dugdale's Baron. vol. i. p. 653.

¹¹ Leland's Coll. vol. i. pp. 803. 805.

Beaumont earl of Buchan, could not have been slain on that occasion, although he certainly died in the early part of the same year, and at the age of about twenty-four.¹

The earl of Salisbury died in consequence of bruises received at the jousts in January 1343-4 (preceding the foundation of the Order); which renders the story connecting the garter of the widow with the symbol adopted at the institution of the Order highly improbable; and, had such a tradition obtained currency at the period when Froissart compiled his history, he would doubtless have alluded to it.

A device
of king
Richard
the First
imagined
to have
suggested
the symbol.

In the preface to "Liber Niger," compiled in the reign of Henry VIII, the following event is presumed to have been in the recollection of the royal Founder when he selected a garter for the symbol of his Order:—It is there alleged (but upon what ancient authority, if any, the researches of Selden had not discovered) that king Richard I, whilst his forces were employed against Cyprus and Acre, had, through the mediation, as he imagined, of St. George, been inspired with fresh courage and the means of animating his fatigued soldiery, by the device to tie about the legs of a chosen number of knights a *leathern thong* or *garter*; in order that, being thereby reminded of the honour of their enterprise, they might be encouraged to new efforts for victory.² To this supposed occurrence the adoption of the Garter, as the ensign of the Order, was ascribed by John Taylor, master of the rolls, in his address to Francis I. king of France, at his investiture with the ensigns in 1527; which affords additional proof, if any were wanting, of the uncertainty prevalent at that period on the subject.

Another
equally
groundless
theory on
the point.

Edward is, by other authors,³ presumed to have adopted this idea of his predecessor, by giving his own garter for the signal of a battle in which he proved victorious; and to have fixed on a garter as the symbol of the Order in memory of

¹ The inquisitions taken after the death of John lord Beaumont do not state the day upon which he died. The writs, ordering the inquisitions, are, however, dated 26 *June*, 16 Edw. 3 [1342]. He was twenty-two at the death of his

father Henry, in 14 Edw. 3.—*Esc. No* 24.

² Anstis, vol. ii. p. 23.

³ Camden in *Attrebat.* p. 207. *Nouveau theatre du monde*, tom. ii. p. 1407, ed. Paris, 1661.

that victory. Du Chesne¹ supposes the battle in question to have been that of Cressy; but without any authority for the conjecture.

Amidst such various speculations, and in the absence of positive evidence upon the point, we shall adopt an opinion which has been formed by other writers, that the Garter may have been intended as an emblem of the *tie* or *union* of warlike qualities to be employed in the assertion of the Founder's claim to the French crown; and the motto as a retort of shame and defiance upon him who should think ill of the enterprise, or of those whom the king had chosen to be the instruments of its accomplishment. The taste of that age for allegorical conceits, impresses, and devices, may reasonably warrant such a conclusion.

The Garter presumed to have been an emblem of the union of warlike qualities.

Windsor castle being the place of the Founder's nativity, he resolved to render it more illustrious, by exhibiting within its walls the solemnities of the noble Order which he had instituted.

Windsor castle the scene of the solemnities.

The public records attest the unremitting zeal and perseverance with which the works for enlarging and beautifying the castle were carried on, from the 18th until the 43rd year of king Edward's reign. The chapel within the castle had been erected by Henry I. in honour of Edward the Confessor, with a foundation of eight canons maintained by an annual pension out of the exchequer.² Edward II. had added a chantry;³ but it was reserved for his royal son to complete the foundation by letters patent dated 6th August, in the 22nd year of his reign, 1348.⁴ The chapel having been rebuilt, Edward augmented the college; and appointed that it should consist of a custos, twelve secular canons, and thirteen priests or vicars, corresponding with the number of the knights-companions of his new Order. The presentation to these benefices was originally committed to the Founders; but subsequently, vested in the Sovereign. He provided also, within the foundation, for twenty-six poor or alms' knights, to be presented in like manner as the custos, canons, and priests;

¹ Hist. general d'Angleterre, &c. p. 670.

² Ashmole, p. 152.

³ Rot. Claus. 6 Edw. 2, m. 2, dorso.

⁴ App^x to Ashmole, N^o 1.

and, the design being completed, with the addition of four clerks, six choristers, and other officers, the college was incorporated by statutes of institution issued by the bishop of Winchester, and authorised by a bull from pope Clement VI, under the title of "the custos¹ and college of the free chapel of St. George within the castle of Windsor." The donations by the royal Founder towards the endowment of the college, as well as the privileges and exemptions, were very considerable, and are particularly enumerated by Ashmole.

St. George
Patron of
the Order.

The mixture of religious rites with the ceremonies of chivalrous institutions had placed the Military Orders under the protection of invisible PATRONS, who might be invoked in the hour of peril, and receive the praises of their votaries in that of victory. It would be foreign to our design to enter into the field of controversy touching the earthly existence of SAINT GEORGE, or the authenticity of the pious and valiant achievements which obtained for him the honours of canonisation. Our immediate purpose requires only the remark, that king Edward found the soldier-saint in possession of the veneration of Christendom, and particularly of Englishmen from the times of the heptarchy;² and conceived, therefore, no one in the calendar more worthy of the patronage of his Order.

The original body of the STATUTES of the Order, which had been appointed to be preserved in the treasury of the college of Windsor, was no longer extant in the reign of Charles II; and there is reason to conclude that we have not any transcript of it earlier than of the time of Henry V.

Precis of
the earliest
known
statutes.

These Ordinances, of which four exemplars (three in Latin and one in French) are printed in Ashmole's appendix, were, with some slight deviation observed until the reign of Henry VIII. After reciting the foundation by Edward III, and the

¹ Ashmole, p. 153, states that the title of "Dean" was not given to the "Custos" until the last year of Henry IV; but it appears, from several entries in the minister's accounts of the Black Prince, already cited, that William Mugge, the 2nd custos, appointed in 1349, was, in 1352, commonly called "Dean of Windsor," fo. 63^b.—*"A sire William Mugge, dean de*

Wyndesore un tonel de vin, 18 Dec. a^o 26^o [1352]. et passim.

² According to a Saxon Martyrology in the library of St. Bene't's college, Cambridge, vol. 36, the *twenty-third day of April* was exclusively dedicated to *St. George*; although, in the Greek and Latin calendars, other saints shared with him the dedication of that day.

names of the twenty-five original knights, the principal enactments are of the following tenor. The Sovereignty of the Order is declared to be vested in the king of England for the time being; the members shall be gentlemen by descent, and knights without reproach; they shall wear the Garter and the mantle when in the chapel of St. George, at chapters, in processions, and at feasts of the Order. There shall be twenty-six priests and as many poor knights; the former to wear purple, the latter red mantles, with roundles or escocheons of the arms of St. George thereon; the annual meeting of the knights shall be at Windsor castle, with certain penalties in case of absence or neglect, and when present, to wear the ensign. If the Sovereign cannot be present, he shall appoint a deputy to preside at the feast; certain masses shall be then said for deceased companions; vacancies in the Order shall be filled by the suffrages of at least six companions, under the presidency of the Sovereign or his deputy, each knight nominating nine persons duly qualified, subjects or strangers, and the Sovereign admitting the knight who shall have the majority of voices, and whom he may consider the most worthy of the honour; the knight shall, as soon as may be after election, receive the Garter, and, at his installation, the Mantle; and if, being within the realm, he appear not, within one year after election, to be installed, or offer a reasonable excuse for the delay, his election shall be void. Foreigners, elected into the Order, shall be certified of their election by the Sovereign; and the Garter and Mantle, together with a transcript of the statutes under the common seal, shall be, with all convenient speed, transmitted to them at the charge of the Sovereign; the notification to be made within four months after election; and the knight sending, within eight months after the notification of his reception of the Garter, a sufficient proctor to be installed in his room. Every knight, of whatever rank, shall fill the stall which had been occupied by him in whose room he may be elected; excepting always the prince of Wales, who shall be placed in the stall opposite to that of the Sovereign. Certain donations, proportionate to the rank of the knight, shall be made by him to the canons and poor knights at his entrance: metal escocheons, or plates,

of the arms of the knights shall, together with their helms or crests, be affixed to their stalls; every knight, at his installation, personally or by proxy, shall swear to observe the statutes; the common seal of the Order shall be in the custody of a person to be nominated by the Sovereign, and constantly kept near the Sovereign when in England, or, when absent, near his deputy. A copy of the statutes, duly sealed, shall be issued to every companion, and returned on his decease to the custos of Windsor college by his representative or executor; no knight subject shall quit the realm without the Sovereign's licence; no companion shall bear arms against another companion, unless in the war of his liege lord, or in his own just quarrel; and, in all military expeditions, the Sovereign promises to prefer the knights of the Order to all other persons.

The ensign
and habit.

The ensign and habit of the Order, worn by the Sovereign Founder and the knights-companions during his reign, consisted of the GARTER, the MANTLE, the SURCOAT, and the HOOD.

The
Garter.

The materials of which the first Garters were made and the mode of ornamenting them are specified in the wardrobe accounts. They were of blue cloth or silk, embroidered with gold, having the motto **Hony soït qui mal y pense** thereon, in letters of gold; and the buckles, bars and pendants of silver gilt. In some accounts the garters are described to be of blue satin, tartarin, or taffata, lined with buckram and card of like colour, and embroidered with Cyprus and Soldat gold and with silk of various colours.

The
Mantle.

The MANTLE (chlamys) is the only robe of the Sovereign and knights to which allusion is made in the ancient statutes. It resembled, in fashion, the *pallium*, or *toga*, of the Romans; a vestment, without sleeves, covering the whole body and reaching down to the ankles. In lieu of the *fibula*, or clasp, by which the toga had been fastened on the right shoulder, the mantle was drawn together at the collar by a pair of long strings, called cordons, robe-strings, or laces, woven of blue silk, and terminating in tassels of silk and gold thread. The mantle of the Sovereign was distinguished from those of

the companions by the greater length of its train. It was of woollen cloth, the staple manufacture of England; but the proctors of knights-strangers were permitted to bring with them mantles of silk or velvet, to be worn at their installation on behalf of their principals. The colour of the mantle was blue; by which, as by the ground-work of the garter, an allusion was probably preserved to the tincture of the field in the arms of France, which Edward had then recently assumed in the first and principal quarter of his armorial achievement. The lining of the mantles of the knights was, in the time of the Founder, of scarlet cloth; that of the Sovereign's mantle, of ermine.

It is asserted by Ashmole¹ that the left side of the mantle, covering the shoulder, has, from the institution of the Order, been adorned with one large Garter, containing the motto and encircling the cross of St. George. But we have not met with any authority for so early a use of the decoration in the manner stated. On the contrary, it appears, by the wardrobe account of 1347 to 1348-9, already cited, that the mantle, as well as the surcoat and hood, prepared for the Sovereign, was garnished, or powdered all over² with small garters, embroidered with silk and gold, having thereon the motto, and the buckles and pendants being of silver gilt. Of these embroidered garters there were laid upon the whole habit of the Sovereign no less than one hundred and sixty-eight. The number for the habits of the knights was, in the sequel, fixed according to their respective degrees of civil rank.

The SURCOAT (*supertunica*), although not mentioned in the statutes, formed part of the habit at the institution. This garment, in imitation of the *tunica* of the Romans, was worn next under the mantle, and over the vest. It was narrower and shorter than the mantle, and fastened to the body by a girdle. Like the mantle, it was made, for some time subsequent to the foundation, of woollen cloth, and annually delivered out of the great wardrobe to the companions, at the charge of the Sovereign, for their decoration at St. George's

The
Surcoat.

¹ Page 211.

² Appendix, N^o I.

feast. The colour of this vesture was changed every year; the deliveries being sometimes in blue; at others, in scarlet, sanguine in grain, white, or black. They were occasionally worn with the arms of the knight embroidered thereon. The surcoats of the companions were lined with fur of miniver; and that of the Sovereign purpled with ermine.

The Hood.

The HOOD (capucium), was, according to the wardrobe account of the 21st Edward III, in use at that date. It originally served as a defence for the head; and was made of the same materials as the surcoat. The CAP, afterwards introduced, did not supersede the hood, which was retained and worn hanging down the back in the manner of a pilgrim's hat.

The officers of the Order.

The OFFICERS of the Order, in the reign of the Founder, were the PRELATE (the bishop of Winchester for the time being); the REGISTER, the dean or the principal canon of St. George's college of Windsor; and the GENTLEMAN-USHER of the black rod.

Transactions of the Order temp. EDWARD III. and RICHARD II.

Of the transactions of the Sovereign and Knights, as a fraternity, from the period of the Foundation until the close of the fourteenth century, so far as they have been ascertained from contemporary authorities, a brief analysis will be found in subsequent pages.¹

HENRY IV.

The public records of the reign of Henry IV. communicate few memorials connected with the Order. The splendour, which had surrounded it during the first two sovereignties, seems to have been veiled for a season; the peculiar position of the monarch, whose attention was incessantly engrossed by the means of consolidating his newly acquired power, inclining him, less than his predecessors, to ceremonious observances. It was remarked, however, that in his procession from the Tower of London to Westminster, on the eve of his

¹ Pages 2 to 11 and 243 to 256.

coronation, he wore around his neck, over a tunic of cloth of gold, the collar¹ of the French king's livery, and, on his left leg, the Garter. HENRY IV.

The frequency of challenges to passages and single feats of arms, during this reign, may probably be ascribed to the unwelcome leisure which was afforded to the chivalry of England and France by Henry's pacific policy. Monstrelet records two defiances to the king himself; the one from Louis duke of Orleans,² brother of Charles VI; the other from Waleran count of St. Paul,³ the brother-in-law of Richard II. The former was courteously declined by Henry, partly upon the ground of a subsisting treaty of friendship made, before his accession, with Orleans, but, principally, on that of present inequality of rank. The defiance of the count of St. Paul was treated with contempt. The most prominent among the other challengers of the time were John de Werchin, the renowned seneschal of Hainault, and his equally brave antagonist, sir John Cornwall, knight of the Order, and afterwards known as lord Fanhope. The feats of Werchin have been carefully recorded in an interesting volume among the manuscripts of the royal library of Paris;⁴ and, as the seneschal's remarkable epistolary correspondence with Henry IV. contains an allusion to the Order of the Garter, and its institution, made at a period when only sixty-three years had elapsed since that event, it may not be irrelevant to our subject to advert to it.

Feats of arms during this reign.

The gallant knight, in his address to the king, acquaints him that he had read the history of king Arthur and the knights of his Order of the Round Table, and also heard that a certain king of England had revived that association by founding an

Challenge of John de Werchin to the Knights of the Garter.

¹ Froissart (ed. Buchon) tom. xiv. p. 226. The collar, worn by Henry IV. on this occasion, is said to have been presented to him at Paris, during his exile. *Ibid.* note 2. If the decoration in question was not his own collar of SS. it may have been that of the *cosse de genêt* (broom-cod), which was, according to the custom of that period, distributed by king Charles VI. amongst the visitors of his court. Modius, in his *Pandectæ*

Triumph. p. 150, describes it to have been composed of *escallop-shells*—"gestans conchyliatum torquem ordinis Gallicani;" but that author had probably in his view the collar of the Order of St. Michael, founded in 1469.

² Monstrelet, chap. IX.

³ *Ibid.* chap. X.

⁴ N^o 8417, being an illuminated contemporary MS. entitled "Lettres du Seneschal de Hainault."

HENRY IV. Order called the Garter, then still flourishing; and the writer, presuming that the noble knights of that fraternity were desirous of imitating their prototypes of the Round Table in the encouragement of young knights in chivalric exercises, he, being yet unpractised in the noble profession, desired to invite them severally to a personal encounter with him, in the presence of the king or of his eldest son, under certain conditions, on a day to be fixed, at some place within about forty miles from London; and, should the king be pleased to grant his request, he prayed a safe-conduct by the bearer, his herald. King Henry, in a gracious reply, condescended to remind the seneschal that it was no where asserted, in the ancient histories of the Round Table, that the members of that society had gone forth to encounter a single stranger-knight; but that, on the contrary, it appeared that frequently one of them had encountered from ten to forty knights from foreign countries, and honourably acquitted himself, with God only and the noble prowess of his own heart to protect and aid him in the perilous enterprise. The king, therefore, did not think fit to assent to the seneschal's proposal; but offered to permit one of the knights of the Garter to accept his challenge on an appointed day, within the walls of London.¹

The seneschal came to London with a splendid retinue, and the jousts were held at Smithfield, in 1408. The knight of the Order, who proved victorious in his combat with the noble visitor, was John Beaufort earl of Somerset.²

The Order
first conferred upon a
foreign king.

It was under this Sovereignty that the ensign of the Order was first accepted by a foreign potentate of royal rank. Ashmole has placed the elections of John I. king of Portugal and Eric IX. king of Denmark, in the reign of Henry V; but a wardrobe account, recently discovered,³ shows that robes of the Garter were issued to those princes in 1408. The former, who had married the king's sister, succeeded to the stall of sir

¹ The letters not having hitherto been printed, and referring to the Order of the Garter, whilst they tend to illustrate the manners of the times, we shall give them a place in the Appendix, N° XV.

² Rymer, vol. viii. p. 570. Leland's Collect. vol. ii. p. 486.

³ Comp. W. Loveney, cust. M. gard. 8-9 Henry IV, in Queen's Rem. Off.

William Arundel, who died in August 1400; and the Danish monarch, the son-in-law of Henry IV, is presumed¹ to have been chosen in the room of Albert duke of Holland, who died in December 1404.

HENRY IV.

The Prince's stall, which became vacant on the accession of Henry V. to the sovereignty, 20th March 1412-13, was filled by the election of sir John Dabrichcourt, for whom, and the then complete fraternity, with the exception of the kings of Portugal and Denmark, robes of the Order were provided against the ensuing feast of St. George.²

HENRY V.

Among the remarkable occurrences which, during this reign, affected the honour of the Order, was the commission of the crime of high treason by one of the most distinguished of its members. Towards the end of July 1415, pending the preparations for the Sovereign's expedition to France, it was discovered that Henry lord Scrope of Masham, treasurer of England, the confidential minister and intimate friend of the monarch, was engaged in a conspiracy against the life of his master. The king was sensibly moved by so atrocious an act of perfidy and ingratitude; and, the safety of the state, at that particular crisis, requiring a prompt infliction of punishment, Scrope and his confederates were brought to instant trial, and suffered as traitors at Southampton, where the troops had been assembled for embarkation.

Treason of
Henry lord
Scrope.

It appears to have been thought necessary to absolve the Order from any disgrace that might attach to it in consequence of the offence of one of the companions. The record of Scrope's attainder in parliament, therefore, recited that, "whereas he was a knight of the renowned and excellent military Order of the Garter, which had been laudably instituted in support of the faith, the king, the realm, and the law, no person shall presume to vilify or reflect upon

The Order
absolved
from conse-
quent dis-
grace by a
declaration
in
parliament.

¹ See Preface, p. xiii.

² See Anstis, vol. i. p. 14, where the names also of thirteen ladies are mentioned to whom robes of the Order were issued for that solemnity, viz. the Queen [dowager],

duchess of Clarence, duchesses of York, sen^r and jun^r, countesses of Huntingdon, Westmorland, Dorset, Arundel, and Salisbury, sen^r and jun^r, the ladies Beauchamp, Roos, and Waterton.

HENRY V. those who are worthy members of that venerable body, because the said Henry Scrope has dishonoured himself by the crime which he has committed."¹

Soon after the decisive victory of Agincourt, on the 25th October 1415, four vacancies, which had happened during that year, were supplied by new elections;² and, the Order being thereupon complete, directions were issued for preparing the robes to be worn by the companions at the ensuing feast.³ These directions must have been given early in November; for, in the course of that month, lord Zouche, one of the newly-elected knights, and who is named in the wardrobe account, died; and his place was destined to be filled by an august visitor to the English court.

Visit of the
emperor
Sigismund
to
Henry V.

Easter, in the year 1416, falling on the 19th of April, the feast of the Order was, in obedience to the statutes, necessarily prorogued until the 3rd of May; and the celebration of it appears to have been still further delayed on account of the expected presence of the emperor Sigismund, (brother to queen Anne, the first consort of Richard II,) who arrived in London on the 7th of that month. Great preparations had been made by the king for the reception of his illustrious guest. On the 7th of April he issued his writs to the sheriffs of the different counties throughout England, commanding them to proclaim the intended visit, and to procure the attendance in London of the knights and esquires within their districts on the 16th of that month. All vessels in the several harbours on the eastern coast were placed under requisition, to convey the emperor and his suite from Calais. Sigismund landed at Dover⁴ on the 1st of May, and proceeded, on the

¹ Rot. Parl. vol. iv. p. 66 By his will, dated 23 June 1415, Scrope bequeathed a noble vestment of white Cyprus silk to the college of Windsor; Rymer, vol. ix. p. 274.

² Sir William Haryngton, William lord Zouche, sir John Holand, (afterwards 2nd duke of Exeter,) and Richard de Vere, earl of Oxford, were chosen as successors to lord Scrope, sir John Dabrichcourt, the earl of Arundel, and the duke of York.

³ Liberacões forins. pañor' &c.

t'p'e Joh'is Spenser nuper cust. M. Gard. inter 1^{mo} d. Oct. a^o 3 Hen. 5, & eundem diem a^o revoluto [1 Oct. 4 Hen. 5].—*Orig. in domo cap. Westm.* See also *Anstis, I p. 15, n k. & Rymer, vol. ix. p. 335.* The robes are for twenty-five knights (comprising the whole fraternity), the "duke of Holland," "duke of Bavaria," being one person.

⁴ Historians assert that, being on the point of landing, he was met by the duke of Gloucester and certain lords, who, stepping into

following day, with a splendid train, escorted by eight hundred men of the imperial cavalry, to Canterbury. The progress from the latter place to the metropolis consumed four days. On the 7th the municipal authorities of London received him at Blackheath; and the meeting between the two sovereigns took place at St. Thomas Watering's, from whence the king, attended by the whole of his court, conducted his imperial guest through London to Westminster.

At St. George's feast, which was celebrated soon after the emperor's arrival with considerable pomp at Windsor, that monarch was elected a knight of the Order to the vacancy created by the death of lord Zouche; invested by king Henry with the Garter and robes, and the collar of his livery;¹ and installed, with the accustomed ceremonies, in the Prince's stall, being that to which lord Zouche would have been entitled, as successor to sir John Dabrichcourt, had he lived to receive the honours of installation.²

Sigismund took his departure from England in the middle

the water with their swords drawn, arrested the boat. Surprised at this reception, the emperor demanded the reason of it; and was answered by the duke, that if he came to challenge any authority in England in virtue of his exalted rank, they had orders to forbid his landing; but, if he came only as a mediator of peace, he should be welcomed with all the respect due to the imperial dignity. This, adds Rapin, by whom the anecdote is recorded, was to warn him to refrain from the exercise of that jurisdiction which he had claimed during his sojourn in France. The fact here stated is rendered probable by an incident related by the President Henault (*Abrégé de l'Hist. de France*, p. 241). Sigismund had been received by the king of France with all possible honour; upon which, however, he presumed somewhat freely; for, when conducted to the palace of justice, he was courteously seated in the royal chair; and, a cause being then under adjudication, in which one of the parties was reproached for not

being a knight, the emperor, of his own authority, forthwith knighted him. This was not a solitary instance of his improper interference. Whilst at Lyons, he declared his intention of erecting the county of Savoy into a duchy; but the royal authorities represented to him "that such would be an act of sovereignty; and that the king neither would, nor ought to, recognise any superior but God." Whereupon the emperor hastily quitted the city; and, passing soon afterwards through the town of Montluel, carried there his purpose into effect.

¹ Wals. p. 441, and Ypod. Neustr. p. 192. In a letter from Forester to Henry V. (*Rymer*, vol. ix. p. 434) he relates that Sigismund, at his public entry into Constance on 27th Jan. 1416-17, wore the king's collar [doubtless that of SS.] about his neck; and, at high mass on Sunday the 31st of that month, the mantle of the Garter and the said collar.

² Sigismund brought with him into England *the heart of St. George*,

HENRY V.

and his
reception
into the
Order.

HENRY V. of August following; his mediation between Henry and the French king having produced only an agreement for a truce of three years, during which period Harfleur was to be placed under the custody of the emperor and the duke of Holland, in trust for certain securities promised by the French prisoners then in England. The emperor having signed the treaty at Canterbury on the 15th of that month, passed over to Calais, and awaited there the arrival of Henry, who embarked at Sandwich on the 4th of September, and, with a fleet of forty sail, reached the French coast on the day following. The ostensible purpose of the king's voyage was an interview with the duke of Burgundy. He returned to England in October; and began his preparations for a renewal of the war.

The office of Garter king of Arms instituted between 22nd May and 27th July 1417.

There can be no doubt, although the register of the Order does not contain any record of the fact, that a full chapter of the Order was held at Windsor during the feast of St. George, 1417; that Robert lord Willoughby of Eresby and sir John Blount were then elected to succeed Thomas lord Morley and Richard earl of Oxford; and that it was upon the same occasion that another officer was added to the Order with the title of "Garter king of Arms of Englishmen."¹

On the 27th of July king Henry again embarked for France, and landed at Touque in Normandy; and the surrender of Caen, on the 23rd of September, was succeeded by a series of victories.

King Henry having, in 1418, kept Lent and Easter at

which he deposited, with appropriate solemnity, within the royal chapel. The relic was still preserved at Windsor, with great veneration, in the reign of Henry VIII. The reader of the Gospel, after the censuring of the reader of the Epistle, reverently tendered the heart to the Sovereign and knights to be by them kissed. It appears that the observance of this ceremony was enjoined whenever the Sovereign should assume his stall, or return from victory. See the Appendix to Lib. Nig. fo. 308.

¹ William Bruges, the individual first appointed to the office of Garter, still bore the title of "Guëenne king of Arms," on the 22nd of May 1417, when he had letters of protection to attend the king into France. In a petition to the Sovereign (*Anstis, vol. I. p. 329, note a.*) he recites his nomination to the office in chapter at Windsor; and certain fees are assigned to him, in consequence, by a decree in which he is recognised as Garter, dated at the siege of Caen, on the 3rd of September following.—*Ibid. p. 322, note k.*

Baëux, returned to the castle of Caen, where he solemnised the feast of St. George, and conferred the knighthood of the Bath on fifteen officers of his household.¹ It is highly probable that sir John Robessart, Hugh Stafford lord Bourchier, sir William Phillip, and sir John Grey, were, on that occasion, elected to fill the vacancies which had occurred in the Order.

HENRY V.

Elections
at Caen.

The feast appears to have been, at the same period, kept at Windsor by the Sovereign's lieutenant, John duke of Bedford; and an ordinance was then made, that the knights-companions, upon entering into and going out of the choir of St. George's chapel, and descending the steps of the altar, should always make their reverence to the Sovereign, if present, and, if absent, towards his stall.

In 1419, the king being still in France, the duke of Bedford celebrated the annual feast at Windsor with the earl of Westmorland, the lord Camoys, sir Thomas Erpyngham, and sir Simon Felbrigge; the greater part of the companions being engaged in the war then carrying on in Normandy. The statute, which had provided that knights-strangers only should be installed by proxy, appears to have remained in force until this date, when the companions then present agreed upon a letter to the Sovereign,² in which they humbly represented to him that sir William Phillip, a knight elect of the Order having, by his procuration³ under his seal of arms, and sir John Grey and sir John Robessart, also knights elect, by their letters missive,⁴ appointed proctors to be installed for them in their absence in the service of the Sovereign, the chapter had complied with their desires; and the lord Bourchier having likewise being elected, and the countess of Stafford (his mother) having, in his absence, signified in writing

The privilege of installation by proxy extended to knights-subjects.

¹ Leland's Collect. pag. autogr. 702.—MS. inter Cod. Norf. in Coll. Armor. N° 48.

² Ashmole, App^x XLIV & XLV.

³ Dated at the siege of Rouen, 11 Nov. 1418, and nominating sir Andrew Bouttellier, or sir John Heveringham, to be his proctor.—*Ashm. App.* XLIX. and his copy of Reg. Chart. in Ashm. Mus.

⁴ The letter missive from sir John Grey to sir John Lisle (one of the poor knights of Windsor) signifying that he had chosen him to be his attorney to take his stall in his name is dated also before Rouen, 11 Nov. 1418.—(*Ashm. App.* XLVI.) Sir John Robessart was installed by his proctor sir Thomas Barr.

HENRY V. her request that a similar indulgence might be granted to him, the chapter had promised to comply therewith. They intreated the Sovereign's excuse for this departure from the injunctions of the statutes; and that he would be pleased to remove all uncertainty upon the point in question for the future, by ordaining that knights-subjects, when employed without the realm in the wars of the Sovereign, might receive the privilege of complete admission to their stalls by their deputies or proctors.

The feast of St. George in 1420 was held at Windsor under the presidency of Humphrey duke of Gloucester.

The helm,
&c. of the
king of
Denmark
ordered to
be affixed to
his stall.

Peace having been concluded in France, and cemented by the marriage of king Henry with the princess Katherine, the Sovereign returned to England in February 1420-1, and kept the festival of the Order at Windsor on the 3rd of May following, when sir Walter Hungerford was installed, and five knights elected to fill the vacancies.¹ At this chapter the king signified to the companions that the king of Denmark having at length bound himself by oath to the observance of the statutes, the lord Fitzhugh, one of the fraternity and proctor for that monarch, should see that his helm, sword, and other achievements be affixed to his stall.²

The Sovereign, observing the reverences made to him during the service in the choir, in pursuance of the ordinance of 1418, decreed that reverences should be, in the first place, made to the altar, and directed the dean to notify his pleasure to that effect to the knights who sat in the stalls on the Sovereign's side, and the register to make the like signification to those on the Prince's side.

At this feast the Sovereign himself offered the helm of his brother Thomas duke of Clarence, slain in the conflict at Baugy bridge on the 22nd of March preceding.

The following additions to the statutes were, upon this occasion, decreed in chapter, viz.

New
ordinances
added to the
statutes.

1. The Sovereign, if abroad, and having with him a sufficient number of companions, might fill up vacancies in the

¹ See the list under this date.

² It is strange that Eric IX, who had been elected early in the preceding reign, should have so long

delayed his installation, which, notwithstanding this order, appears not to have been perfected until the next reign.

Order; and notify the same to his deputy; and, if vacancies happen in England, the deputy was to give notice thereof to the Sovereign, who, if there be not in his presence a sufficient number of knights, would acquaint the deputy with the names and merits of such warlike and honourable persons as he might judge proper for admission into the Order; whereupon the election should be made by the deputy. 2. The feasts of St. George were not to be prorogued to days of certain particular festivals of the church, lest the same should interfere with the performance of Divine service appointed on the days in question. 3. The companions were not to appear publicly without the Garter, except when riding on horseback, in which case they might wear on their hose a blue silk thread in signification of the Garter; provided they enter not into chapter without the Garter itself. 4. At the offering of the helms, crests, and swords of deceased knights, the swords were first to be offered by two companions, and then the helms and crests by two others. 5. Knights-subjects, detained abroad on the king's service, were to enjoy the same privilege as strangers, of being installed by proxy. 6. A signet to be provided for the use of the Sovereign, when abroad, in sealing acts of the Order. 7. The college of Windsor to be relieved from the duty of praying for particular knights, in return for annual gifts for that purpose, unless with the consent of the Sovereign and the companions.

The Sovereign, whilst in France, 25th April 1422, elected Philip duke of Burgundy into the Order; and died at Bois de Vincennes near Paris on the 31st of August following.

The infant king being only eight months old when he succeeded his illustrious father, the functions of the sovereignty were exercised in his name by his uncle Humphrey duke of Gloucester, who held the first chapter in this reign at Windsor on St. George's eve 1423. Robes were provided against this festival for the young Sovereign and twenty-two knights who, with the kings of Portugal and Denmark, and the duke of Burgundy knight-elect, completed the fraternity.¹

HENRY V.

HENRY VI.

The duke of
Gloucester
acting for
the
Sovereign.

¹ Anstis, I. p. 34, note *s*, and II. p. 84, note *a*.

HENRY VI. According to the wardrobe account, the DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER appears to have been the only lady for whom robes of the Order were prepared on that occasion. This princess was the celebrated Jacqueline of Hainault,¹ with whose remarkable history the events which ultimately produced the liberation of France from the English yoke, were mainly connected. Amongst the minor results of the contention for her splendid patrimony, as well as of her own eccentric conduct, may be placed the rare instance of a refusal of the Order by a knight-elect. Shortly before the termination of the former reign, the Garter had been destined by the Sovereign as a reward for the political attachment of Philip II, called "the Good," duke of Burgundy; and that prince had accordingly been elected at a chapter held in France, for the purpose of supplying the vacancy which happened by the death of John lord Clifford at the siege of Meaux. A glance at the posture of affairs on the Continent immediately after the contemporaneous deaths of the English and French monarchs, would suggest several motives for the resolution cautiously formed by Philip to decline the honour which had been thus designed for him. An ostensible one was found in the spirit of the institution itself, which required a strict union of the companions, and forbade the bearing of arms against each other. His hopes of adding to his own already powerful dominions the rich territories of Hainault and their dependencies, on the failure of issue from Jacqueline by his cousin-german John duke of Brabant, had been frustrated by her abandonment of her husband, and her marriage with the duke of Gloucester, who, in her right, assumed, in his public acts, the titles of her illustrious house. Philip having, therefore, resolved to carry his object by the sword, it became necessary to relinquish his alliance with England; and, after a delay of two years from the date of his election, and a peremptory requisition from the chapter assembled at Windsor, he excused himself from accepting the Order, "lest he should be thereby reduced to the dishonourable alternative of either violating its revered statutes, or infringing the sacred rights of kindred."

Causes of
the refusal
of the Order
by Philip
duke of
Burgundy.

¹ See a brief memoir of this lady at p. 341, note 2.

At this chapter it was decreed,—1. that the livery of the Order should be transmitted to knights-strangers according to the statutes; 2. that letters should be written to the companions within the realm, who had absented themselves from the feast, directing them to show the causes of their hindrance; 3. that the copies of the statutes, in possession of the knights, should be collated with the originals in the college; 4. that the helmet, sword, and mantle of the Sovereign should be left at Windsor as required by the statutes; 5. that the usual fees, as well for the assumption of the Sovereign's stall, as for the admission of the king of Denmark, be paid at the charge of the king; 6. that masses should be celebrated for the soul of the late Sovereign; 7. that sir John Robessart, one of the companions, should be the keeper of the seal of the Order; and, 8. that a commission be drawn declaratory of the authority of the deputy during the Sovereign's tender age.

At the next chapter, held on the 6th of May 1424,¹ it was notified that the king of Denmark had then first caused his banner and other achievements to be suspended over his stall.² Upon the announcement of the duke of Burgundy's refusal to accept the Order, his election was declared void; and John lord Talbot and Furnival³ was chosen to fill the stall which had remained vacant since the death of lord Clifford.

On the 22nd April 1425 the Sovereign, who had not completed the fourth year of his age was, for the first time, present at a chapter of the Order held on that day at Windsor.

For the purpose of adjusting the differences which had arisen between the duke of Gloucester and his uncle the bishop of Winchester (afterwards cardinal Beaufort), the duke of Bedford returned to England on the 20th December following, and took upon himself the title of Protector. On St. George's day, 1426, the feast was kept at Windsor, at which Bedford supplied the place of the Sovereign.

The suffrages were collected for filling the vacancy created by the death of the earl of Westmorland; when there ap-

HENRY VI.

New ordinances decreed.

Sir John Robessart keeper of the seal of the Order.

The king of Denmark's banner, &c. placed over his stall.

John lord Talbot obtains the Garter intended for the duke of Burgundy.

The duke of Bedford deputy to the Sovereign.

Sir John Fastolf elected.

¹ Reg. Chart.² *Ibid.* By the copy of the register in the Ashm. Mus. it appears that Aldrydge applied, by mistake,

the notification to the king of Portugal.

³ Reg. Chart.

HENRY VI. peared an equal number of voices for sir John Fastolf and sir John Radcliffe; and the duke of Bedford, as the Sovereign's deputy, decided in favour of the former heroic person.¹

¹ The stain which, from his asserted flight at the battle of Patay in 1429, attached to the otherwise unblemished military reputation of sir John Fastolf, was deep in proportion to the height of his previous renown. It has never been doubted that Shakspeare had in his recollection the exaggerated reports, both written and traditionary, of this incident, when, with a slight variation of the name of the gallant knight, he attributed cowardice as a prominent vice to one of the most ably-drawn and consistent characters of his drama. A contemporary historian has, however, placed the conduct of our knight of the Garter, on the occasion in question, in a point of view less unfavourable to his memory: Jean Waurin seign' de Forester, who, having been directed by the regent duke of Bedford to join the retinue of Fastolf, and who served near his person in the battle, may be considered as an unexceptionable witness of the demeanour of his illustrious principal on that memorable day. In his circumstantial history of the eventful period, he relates, that the English being besieged in Beaugency, Talbot found means to enter the town with 40 lances and 200 archers; and, having alighted at his hotel, sir John Fastolf, with sir Thomas Rempston and others, went to welcome him. After dinner, they held a council of war, at which Fastolf, whom he describes as a most valiant and wise knight, expressed his opinion that, considering the present strength of the enemy, and the depressed state of the English from the losses sustained before Orleans, Gergeaux, and other places, they should allow the inhabitants of Beaugency to make the best terms they could with the French, and that the troops of the regent should await the reinforce-

ment which he had promised to send, before they courted another conflict. This advice was not agreeable to his auditors, and especially to Talbot, who declared that, should even his numbers be limited to his own personal retinue, he was determined to make a sally from the gates, and rely upon the succour of God and St. George for the result. Fastolf again reminded the council that, if fortune should prove adverse, all the French conquests, achieved with so much labour by the late king, would infallibly be placed in extreme jeopardy; but, finding his remonstrances unheeded, he prepared for the conflict, and ordered the army to march out of the town, and to take the direct road to the neighbouring town of Meun. The French, composed of about 6000 men, under the command of the Maid of Orleans, the duke of Alençon, the bastard of Orleans, the marshal de la Fayette, La Hire, Pothon, and other captains, observing the approach of the English, formed, in order of battle, upon a small eminence. The English having also disposed themselves in battle array, sent two heralds to challenge the enemy to descend from their position; but were answered that, it being late, they might take their rest until the morrow. Whereupon the English proceeded to Meun for the night, and the French entered Beaugency. In the morning battle was joined on the field of Patay; the English were overpowered by numbers, and fled; and Fastolf, in the hearing of Waurin, the relator, was urged to save himself, as the day was entirely lost. He, however, desired at all hazards to renew the conflict, declaring his resolution to abide the issue in whatever manner it might please God to order

Although several acts had been performed in the name of the king, as Sovereign of the Order, and the fee of forty marks had been paid to the dean and canons of Windsor, in the third year of his reign, upon assuming his stall, it was deemed necessary that he should receive knighthood. Accordingly, during the session of the parliament at Leicester, letters dated the 4th May 1426, were issued, summoning divers of the nobility and others to attend at the king's knighthood on the feast of Pentecost, and to receive the same distinction themselves. The accolade was given to the young king by his uncle the protector Bedford, and he immediately afterwards knighted Richard duke of York, then in his 15th year, and more than thirty other noblemen.¹

HENRY VI.

The Sovereign knighted by the duke of Bedford.

The duke of Bedford, soon after this ceremony, returned to France, and Gloucester resumed the protectorate in his absence; the young sovereign, however, himself presiding at the chapters of the Order held in 1427 and the two following years.

It appears, by a public record,² that Henry Beaufort, bishop of Winchester, having been honoured with the Cardinal's hat, a doubt arose whether, by such promotion, which exempted him from the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Canterbury, he had not vacated his episcopal see. The question seems to have been mooted at the instance of the duke of Gloucester; and, in order to bring it to an issue, the cardinal petitioned

Cardinal Beaufort not allowed to attend the feast of the Order as bishop of Winchester.

it, saying, that he preferred death or capture to a disgraceful flight and the abandonment of his remaining retinue. But, having ascertained that Talbot was a prisoner and all his people slain, and that 2000 of the English had fallen and 200 been made prisoners, he took the road towards Estampes, and Waurin adds, "*et moy je le suivis.*"

On the day following the battle, continues the historian, news reached the duke of Bedford at Paris of the defeat of his army, the capture of Talbot, and the flight of Fastolf, who was arrived at Corbeil. From thence, in a few days, he repaired to the regent at Paris, by whom he was sharply reprimanded and deprived of the Order of the

Garter which he wore. The duke having, however, afterwards received a report of the remonstrances made by our knight to his companions in the council, and other reasonable and approved excuses, the Garter, was "*par sentence de proces,*" restored to him; upon which account much dispute arose between him and the lord Talbot after the release of the latter from prison.—*Chron. d'Angleterre, par Waurin, MS. No. 6748, in the royal library at Paris, vol. v. chap. XII—XIV.*

¹ See the names of the minors, and others, knighted upon that occasion in company with the king, in Rymer, vol. x. p. 356.

² Rymer, vol. x. 414.

HENRY VI. the Sovereign for leave to discharge his duties at the ensuing feast of the Order, in right of his bishopric of Winchester. After a debate on the point, held before the king at Westminster on the 17th April 1429, the peers, prelates, and abbots present determined that the cardinal should, for that time, refrain from attending at the feast.¹

For further details respecting the chapters held during this long reign, we refer the reader to the "Liber Niger," or Register of the Order, which has been printed, with copious notes, by Anstis, from the compilation made by Aldrydge; our design being fulfilled by adverting to the most memorable transactions of the fraternity under the several sovereignties.

Foreign potentates elected by Henry VI.

The foreign potentates admitted into the Order by Henry VI. were, 1. Edward king of Portugal, in the room of his father John I; 2. Albert archduke of Austria, (afterwards emperor, as Albert II,) in the place of the emperor Sigismund; 3. Alphonsus V. king of Portugal; 4. Alphonsus V. king of Arragon and Sicily; 5. Casimir IV. king of Poland; and, 6. Frederick III. emperor of Germany.

His last act as Sovereign of the Order.

The last act of Henry VI, as Sovereign of the Order, was on the 8th of February 1460-1, a few days before the battle on Barnet heath. At a chapter, held on that day at the bishop of London's palace, near St. Paul's cathedral, the earl of Warwick, the lord Bonville, sir Thomas Kiriell, and sir John Wenlock were elected.

On the 4th of the following month the reins of government were seized by Edward IV.

EDWARD IV.

This prince, the eldest son of Richard Plantagenet duke of York, by Cecily Nevil, daughter of Ralph first earl of Westmoreland, had not completed his nineteenth year when, after the triumph of his party over the house of Lancaster, he took possession of the throne. Whilst Earl of March, no opportunity had occurred, during the transient ascendancy of his father in the councils of the state, for conferring the Garter

4 March 1460-1.

¹ The cardinal was in the sequel admitted to execute his office of prelate of the Order, it appearing that he received on several occasions robes in that character.

upon him. He entered, therefore, the Order as SOVEREIGN : and if, on the splendid seat to which fortune had so suddenly raised him, the mind of the young monarch reflected for a moment that loyalty and union were the fundamental principles of that illustrious fraternity, what an appalling contrast would have presented itself ! Within the brief space of a few months, seven¹ members of the society, with his own distinguished father at their head, had fallen victims to the fury of intestine warfare ; others were still contending under opposite banners ; and the sword, the scaffold, and proscription, occasioned shortly four² more vacancies in the stalls of St. George's chapel.

A week had scarcely elapsed after Edward's proclamation, when he proceeded with his army into the north, where his power was consolidated by the victory at Towton.

During his absence from the capital, which was protracted until the 26th of June, the viscount Bouchier, appointed by a commission to be the Sovereign's lieutenant, held the feast of the Order at Windsor, on the 17th of May, at which, however, owing to the fatal diminution of the knights, and other causes, the lieutenant and the lord Berners were the only companions present. Letters were read, addressed by the Sovereign to the knights, requiring them to direct the achievements of the late king to be removed from the choir, and those of the reigning sovereign to be affixed to his stall. This duty was thereupon performed by garter king of arms, who, by the authority of the same letters, removed also the achievements of the late lord Welles, and the earl of Wiltshire. During mass, on the day following, the achievements of the late dukes of York and Buckingham, the earls of Salisbury and Shrewsbury, the viscount Beaumont, and the lord Scales, were offered by the lieutenant and his colleagues with the usual ceremonies.³

¹ York, Salisbury, Buckingham, Shrewsbury, Beaumont, Bonville, and Kiriell.

² Pembroke and Kendal were deprived of the Order, Welles fell at Towton, and the earl of Wiltshire was beheaded.

³ At another chapter, which must be presumed to have been held in this first year, and of which no record has been preserved, the election of the duke of Clarence and sir William Chamberlayne (the former in the place of Jasper earl of

EDWARD
IV.

29 March
1461.

Chapter,
17 May
1461.

Banners, &c.
of deceased
knights re-
moved and
offered.

EDWARD
IV.

The Sovereign was, in the early part of his reign, so incessantly occupied by measures for the preservation of his crown, that, during the first eight years, he appears to have been present at two feasts only of the Order, viz. on St. George's day 1463, and at the same festival in 1467, at which no remarkable occurrence took place. The transactions within the Order between 1467 and 1472 are not upon record, which must be attributed to the revolutions during that period in the affairs of the kingdom. The misfortunes of the late Sovereign seemed to have reached their summit on the disastrous issue of the battle of Hexham, and his subsequent imprisonment in the tower of London: but the earl of Warwick having landed with a considerable force at Dartmouth, on the 13th September 1470, Edward, unable to face so powerful an adversary, fled with a small retinue to Lynn in Norfolk, and there embarked for Holland.

15th May
1470.

Flight of
the Sove-
reign in Sep-
tember fol-
lowing,

and restora-
tion of
HENRY VI.
6th Oct.
1470.

Return of
EDWARD
IV.
25th March
1471,

and death of
Henry, 22nd
May
following.

HENRY VI. was, on the 6th of October, restored to the throne: but his re-established power was of short duration; Edward, with a small fleet, equipped by his brother-in-law, Charles duke of Burgundy, (whom he had invested with the Garter at Bruges on the 4th of February,) returned to England on the 25th March, and resumed the royal functions; when Henry was again consigned to the prison in which, a few weeks afterwards, he terminated his unprosperous life.¹

Amidst such violent conflicts between the parties which, during the above eventful period, contended for superiority, some changes may have happened within the Order of which no account is preserved. It must, however, be observed that the Sovereignty of Henry ceased before the feast of St. George which followed his restoration.

Chapter,
23rd April,
1472.

At a Chapter held at Windsor on St. George's day 1472 by the Sovereign and five companions, the election of

Pembroke, degraded, the latter in that of lord Welles) took place. It appears also that the earl of Worcester, the lords Hastings, Montagu, and Herbert, and sir John Astley, were installed in virtue of a commission dated 21st March, in the commencement of the 2nd year, and directed to Hen-

ry earl of Essex, (to which dignity the viscount Bourchier had then recently been advanced,) John lord Berners, and John lord Wenlock.

¹ 22nd May 1471. Scala Mundi, MS. inter Cod. Norf. in coll. Armor.

knights to supply the vacant stalls could not proceed for want of a sufficient number of electors; the statutes having ordained that there shall be for such a purpose at least six companions present, besides the sovereign or his deputy. Sir John Astley having, by letters which he sent by Garter, excused himself from attending, it appears that Calais pursuivant was despatched to London to require his presence,¹ and that he arrived towards the conclusion of the feast; whereupon several knights were elected.²

About the 15th year, the Sovereign directed his attention to the reparation of the chapel of St. George, for the splendour of which he manifested his anxiety at several periods of his reign. Having commanded a survey of the foundation and walls to be made, and it appearing that the same were in

EDWARD
IV.

Rebuilding
of St.
George's
Chapel com-
menced
about 1475.

¹ MS. in Coll. Armor. M. 15. fo. 12^b, and Bibl. Cotton. Julius, C vi. 253^b.

² The "Liber Niger," p. 132, records the sending for Sir John Astley in order to complete the number necessary for the election; but adds that there is no vestige of any election on that occasion. This defect is, however, supplied by the MS. above mentioned, containing the narrative of Bluemantle pursuivant, whose duty it was to attend the feast, stating that the following seven knights were then elected, viz. "*My lord the Prynce, the K. of P., the duke of Norfolke, therle of Wylshere, the l. Feres [Ferreers], the lord Montjoye, and the lord Haywarde [Howard].*" The genuineness of the narrative has been impugned by Ashmole, p. 266, upon two grounds, 1^o. because it is said to allege that the transaction in question took place at St. George's feast in 1471; and, 2^o. because the prince of Wales was not elected until the 15th year, 1475, and the king of Portugal until the 22nd year, 1482. In regard to the first objection, it will be found, on reference to the MS. that the narrative of the transactions at St. George's feast follows that of the manner in which Christmas had

been kept by the king in 1471; which indicates the date of the feast in question to have been 1472, in the beginning of the 12th year. And to the points of the second objection it may be replied that the Prince's stall (which had been vacant since the death of the emperor Sigismund, although it had been successively designed for the emperor Albert II. and for prince Edward, the son of Henry VI.) was merely reserved on this occasion for the prince of Wales, then in the 2nd year of his age, and that "K. of P." may have been intended to designate Casimir IV. king of Poland, who, although elected 28 Hen. VI. and invested with the ensigns, appears to have neglected to send his proctor; as, according to Lib. Nig. p. 131 a^o 6 Ed. IV. he had then not taken possession of his stall. A new election of him may therefore have been deemed necessary. He appears, however, to have died without installation; and his name is therefore omitted in the Windsor Tables. Anstis, vol. ii. 187, note f. cites a copy of this narrative written by Thynne, Lancaster herald, which adds the name of the duke of Suffolk as elected upon this occasion.

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IV.

a state of great decay, he resolved to rebuild the chapel upon a more stately and extensive plan. Richard Beauchamp bishop of Salisbury was constituted master and surveyor of the works; and, as a reward for his diligence in the discharge of the relative duties, he was appointed Chancellor of the Order.¹ It being found that several official houses, and other irregular buildings and ancient walls, particularly those on the east side of the chapel, extending to the north walls of the castle, and those south of the chapel extending to the belfry, were impediments to the accomplishment of the Sovereign's purpose of enlarging the structure, he authorized the bishop to cause their removal, and to employ the materials in furtherance of his instructions. The present beautiful structure arose from the new foundations at the west end of the chapel built by Edward III; and the residences for the dean and canons, on the north side, and those for the minor canons at the west end of the chapel, in form of a fetterlock, one of the Sovereign's badges, were added upon the same occasion.

Solemn feast
of the Order,
1476.

The "Liber Niger" refers to a solemn observance of the feast of St. George at Windsor on the 22nd April, in the 16th year, 1476, without mentioning any of the circumstances which attended it. Stow, in his Annals, p. 429, alludes evidently to this feast, and places it in the same year of the king's reign. But a MS. by Francis Thynne, Lancaster herald, amongst the collections of Anstis,² will supply the required details, although there is a discrepancy between the date assigned in the register of the Order, and that which is given in the narrative. The MS. states, that on Thursday, 27th February 1476-7, in 16 Edw. 4, at the hour of tierce before noon, there appeared in the chapter-house the marquis of Dorset, the earls of Arundel and Essex, and the lords Maltravers and Dudley; and that the chapter was continued until afternoon, to save all other knights coming to the feast from the penalties for non-attendance: And that, at the time of vespers, the Sovereign proceeded on horseback, with the following knights to the chapter-house, all habited in their blue mantles, viz. Richard duke of York, George duke of Clarence,

¹ Pat. 15 Ed. 4, p. 3. m. 18.

² Anstis, vol. ii. p. 297.

Thomas marquess of Dorset, William earl of Arundel, Henry earl of Essex, Thomas lord Maltravers, the earl of Douglas, John lord Dudley, Walter lord Ferrers of Chartley, John lord Howard, and sir John Astley, attended by the following officers, viz. the bishop of Winchester prelate, Richard Beauchamp bishop of Sarum, chancellor, the dean, and the register. Having heard vespers, they returned to the castle, and had there "a void of espices."¹ On the Sunday following, being the day of the feast of St. George, the Sovereign and knights rode to matins; and, after breakfasting with the dean, proceeded to the choir to high mass, during which all were seated in their stalls. To this mass came the Queen, on horseback, "in a murrey gowne of garters;" the lady Elizabeth, the king's eldest daughter, and the king's sister, the duchess of Suffolk, in gowns of the same livery; the lady marquess Montacute in a gown of silk; the lady marquess Dorset, sans livery; and dame Anne Hastings, wife of sir Richard Hastings—all on horseback; and took their places in the rood-loft. After the second evensong, the king dined in the great chamber, having, on his right, the bishop of Salisbury, chancellor; and, on his left, the dukes of Clarence and Suffolk. At a side-table in the same chamber sat the other knights, all on one side; and, on the opposite side of the chamber, at another table, sat Mr. Dudley, dean of the chapel, and the canons, in their murrey mantles with a roundlet of St. George. On the Monday following, the Sovereign and knights proceeded again to the chapter-house, from whence, after a short conference, they went into the choir; and, every knight standing below his stall, the Sovereign offered a rich suit of vestments and copes; which, being received by the dean, the king, and the knights ascended to their stalls; and remained until the offertory; when the marquess of Dorset and the duke of Suffolk offered the sword of John late duke of Norfolk, and the lords Maltravers and Howard his helm. The Sovereign and knights, including the young duke of York, then made their offerings at the altar; and, after *de profundis* had been said, returned into the chapter-house. The MS. adds, that the king of Sicily, king of Portugal, duke of Burgundy, duke of Urbino, earl Rivers,

EDWARD
IV.¹ See p. lxxvi. note 4.

EDWARD IV. lord Scrope, and lord Duras, were absent *ultra mare*; and the Prince, the dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham, lord Hastings, and sir William Parr, were absent *infra patriam*.¹

Chapter 4th Nov. 1476, resignation of lord Duras. On the 4th of November following, sir Thomas Montgomery was, in a chapter held at Westminster, elected in the room of the lord Duras who, having returned to the allegiance of the king of France, had resigned the Order.

Chapter 10th May 1477. At a chapter, 10th May, 17th year, it was decreed that the hour of tierce, appointed by the statutes for assembling the knights on the vigil of the feast of St. George, should thenceforth be taken to be the hour immediately after *prime*, or nine o'clock in the forenoon.²

Decrees explaining the hour of tierce,

and for certifying the decease of knights-subjects and strangers.

It was also decreed that, upon the decease of any knight of the order within the realm, garter king of arms shall go to the heirs or executors of such deceased knight, and require of them the return of the book of statutes of the order; and thereupon, as soon as may be, acquaint the Sovereign with such decease, and deliver the said statutes to the dean of the college of St. George or the register of the Order. And, if any knight-stranger die without the realm, of which decease no certification shall have been made to the Sovereign for the space of six months after the common rumour thereof, that then the said king of arms or his deputy shall, at the cost and expense of the Sovereign, go to the heirs or executors of such knight and obtain a certificate of his decease, together with the book of

¹ The authority of the MS. from which the above narrative is abstracted, is supported by the facts, that the duke of Norfolk, whose banner and helm were offered, died on Tuesday after twelfth day, 15 Edw. 4; and that lord Duras abdicated on the 4th Nov. 16 Edw. 4. It is also remarkable that, according to the state of the stalls in the 16th year (which is collected from the Windsor tables and other evidences), the offerings at the altar, in the manner and according to the order stated in the MS. were made agreeably to strict rules, that is, not only according to the superiority and series of the stalls, be-

ginning with those nearest to the Sovereign; but also that every knight offered by himself singly when his companion in the opposite stall was absent. The duke of Burgundy, it is true, was then dead (having been slain at the battle of Nancy, 5th Jan. 16 Edw. 4); but the account of that event may either not then have reached England, or the insertion of his name may have been continued, in pursuance of an ancient rule, his heirs having neglected to certify his death, in due form, to the Sovereign.

² Lib. Nig. p. 142.

statutes of the Order, if it may be had; and thereof acquaint the Sovereign, in order that he may proceed to a new election.¹

By the Sovereign's letters patent, dated at Windsor, 6th Dec. 19th year of his reign, the custos or the dean and canons and their successors were incorporated by the name of the dean and canons of the free chapel of St. George within the castle of Windsor, with a perpetual succession and certain privileges therein mentioned.²

At a chapter, held in the king's bedchamber within the wardrobe in London, on 10th Feb. in the 19th year, it was decreed that, in addition to the ancient oath of a knight elect, viz. "that he will well and faithfully observe to the utmost of his power all the statutes of the Order," the following should be taken by all the knights-companions, then in being, and those to be thereafter admitted, and before taking possession of their stalls, viz. "that they will aid, support, and defend with all their power the royal college of St. George within the castle of Windsor, as well in its possessions as in all other things whatsoever."³

From the wardrobe accounts, 23rd April, 20 Edw. 4, until Michaelmas following, it appears that liveries of the Order were directed to be provided for the Sovereign, the Queen, the Prince, the duke of York, and the ladies Elizabeth, Cecily and Mary, as also for the lords, ladies, and knights, of the fraternity, the bishop of Winchester "chaplain to the same fraternity," the bishop of Salisbury, chancellor, and Thomas Danet, register:—

"vij yerds blue velvet, vj yerds white damask, 1 Garter of *ruddeur* blue silk, with batons of golde lace."⁴

On St. George's day, 1482, the Sovereign, when proceeding to his stall, received, before the high altar, a letter from pope Sixtus IV, accompanied by a sword and a cap of maintenance. The archbishop of York, chancellor of England, read the letter; and then girded the king with the sword, and placed the cap upon his head. The cap was,

EDWARD
IV.

1479,
letters
patent,
incorporat-
ing the dean
and canons
of Windsor.

Chapter,
10th Feb.
1479-80.
Oath to sup-
port the
college of
St. George.

Liveries of
the Order
for the
royal family
and knights
ordered
17th Aug.
1480.

St. George's
feast 22nd
to 29th April
1482.

Sword
and cap of
main-
tenance.

¹ MS. of Thynne, Lancaster, cited by Austis, vol. ii. p. 201, note a.

² Pat. 19 Edw. 4, m. 5.

³ Lib. Nig. p. 146.

⁴ Austis, vol. ii. pref. viii. and similar warrant under priv. sig. 6th June, 21 Edw. 4.

EDWARD
IV.

thereupon, taken off again, and borne, on the point of the same sword, by the lord Stanley, in the presence of the cardinal archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops of Durham, Norwich, Lincoln, Winchester, Ely, Rochester, and Llandaff; the bishop of London singing the mass. And, on Sunday following, the 29th of the same month, the feast of the Order was solemnly kept at Windsor; the lord Maltravers being the Sovereign's lieutenant on the occasion.¹

Death of the
Sovereign,
9th April
1483.

The Sovereign died on the 9th of April, in the 41st year of his age, and the 23rd of his reign; and his remains were interred in St. George's chapel Windsor, on the north side of the altar, under a large stone of tuch raised within an arch. Over this arch hung the king's coat of mail gilt, covered with crimson velvet, the royal arms being richly embroidered thereon with pearl and gold intermixed with rubies. A banner of taffaty, with the royal arms painted thereon, was also suspended over the place of sepulture.²

EDWARD V.

Accession
9th April
1483.

Edward prince of Wales was resident at Ludlow, with earl Rivers and others of his maternal kinsmen, when he received intelligence of the demise of his royal father, and, at the same time, the homage of his surrounding little court upon his own elevation to the throne.

The feast of
the Order
solemnised
by the king
at Ludlow,

The festival of St. George occurring a fortnight after that event, the young king, as we are informed by a contemporary writer,³ caused it to be observed with due solemnity; and, soon afterwards, proceeded with a splendid retinue towards London, where he arrived on the 4th of May, under the escort of his uncle the duke of Gloucester, who had met him near Stoney Stratford, and possessed himself of his person.

and simultane-
ously by

In the mean while, the feast of the Order had also been celebrated on the 24th of April⁴ at Windsor, under the autho-

¹ Lib. Nig. p. 148, for holding the feast, and MS. of Thynne, Lancaster, for the ceremonial of presenting the sword and cap.—Cerem. (in Coll. Armor.) v. iii. pp. 215, 216.

² These funeral trophies remained until the 23rd Oct. 1642, when they were removed by the parlia-

mentary soldiers under the orders of captain Fogg. Vide ceremonial of the interment of Edward IV. inter cod. duc Norf. in Coll. Armor. printed in the Archæologia, vol. i.

³ Rossi Hist. reg. Angl. p. 212.

⁴ Copy of regist. Chartac.

rity of a royal commission, by the lord Dudley, and sir John Astley; the remaining knights having been either secured by the Protector, or otherwise impeded from assisting at the solemnity.

We find no further allusion to the Order within this ephemeral reign. The precise date of the Sovereign's murder is not known. Hadrian Junius places it on the 24th of May;¹ Weever, in July;² and the register of the Order states that it was after the lapse of two months and eleven days³ from the death of his predecessor, or about the 20th of June 1483.

The transactions relating to the Order, during the brief exercise of the sovereignty by Richard III, were either unimportant, or the memorials of them have been suppressed by the zealous partisans of the dynasty which rose upon the ruin of the Plantagenets. There is extant a warrant, dated 24th April 1484,⁴ for providing robes for the knights against the then ensuing feast. The copy of the Registrum Chartaceum, omitting the preamble by Aldrydge,⁵ mentions that, in the first year, the suffrages for filling the vacant stalls were collected at a chapter held in the palace at Westminster; but that no election followed. Fifteen knights are said to have voted on the occasion; as, however, three of these, viz. the earl of Surrey, viscount Lovell, and sir Richard Radcliffe, were certainly elected during this reign, there must have been a previous chapter of which no record has been preserved.

A commission under the privy seal, 22nd April 1485, empowered lord Maltravers to keep the feast in the Sovereign's absence.⁶ A prorogation of it may have been found necessary by the political position of the government, which soon passed into other hands, in consequence of the defeat and death of Richard at Bosworth field, on the 22nd of August following.

EDWARD V.
two of the
knights at
Windsor.

Alleged
dates of the
Sovereign's
murder.

RICHARD
III.

reputed
accession
22nd June
1483;

his death,
22nd Aug.
1485.

¹ Liber Fastorum apud Græv. Antiq. Rom.

² Funeral Monuments, p. 521.

³ Anstis, vol. ii. p. 216.

⁴ Harl. MS. 39, B. 18, p. 171.

⁵ Anstis, vol. ii. p. 217.

⁶ Harl. MS. 36 B. 18, p. 213.

HENRY VII. The Lancastrian connection to which Henry Tudor owed all his importance, had excluded him from the Order whilst earl of Richmond. He entered into it, therefore, at once as Sovereign when he ascended the throne by the right of military election or conquest. He appears to have assumed his stall at Windsor with considerable pomp; habited on the occasion in a robe of black velvet, lined with cloth of gold, and powdered with *red roses*, a venial allusion to the triumph of his maternal house.¹

enters into the Order as Sovereign.

The feast celebrated at York, 22nd April 1486.

The first feast in this reign was celebrated at York; and the singularity of the ceremonial may excuse a slight description of it in this place. On St. George's eve, 1486, the Sovereign heard vespers in the Minster, wearing the mantle of the Order over his surcoat, and the cap of maintenance on his head. On the morning of the festival he appeared crowned and habited in the robes of the Order over those of estate; John earl of Oxford, a knight of the Garter, supporting his train. The banquet was held in the archbishop's great hall. Oxford, in the habit of the Order over his robe as earl, carried the crown; sir Anthony Browne was sewer; and John lord Scrope of Bolton, wearing the robes of the Garter together with those of a baron, served the Sovereign with water. Two tables were laid in the middle of the hall, and two in each aisle; the lord Scrope, sir Thomas Burgh, and sir John Cheyney sitting, as knights of the Order, at the first table in the right aisle. The lord chancellor,² the lord privy seal,³ the abbots of St. Mary and Fountains, the earls of Lincoln, Shrewsbury, Rivers, and Wilts, with others, occupied the remaining tables. The officers of arms were stationed near the bottom of the king's table. After dinner, hippocras was served;⁴ and then the Sovereign and the knights, who were

¹ MS. J. Vincent, cited by Ashmole, p. 460. The first allusion to an oath taken by a Sovereign to observe the statutes occurs in this reign. The French ambassadors had applied to Henry for a loan in aid of warlike operations against the king of Naples, a knight of the Order. The English Sovereign excused himself by a reference to his oath, "et si le roy autrement faisoit,

ce seroit contrevenir au serment qu'il a fait par les statuts du dit Ordre." Bibl. Cotton. Calig. D. vi.

² John Morton bishop of Ely, soon afterwards archbishop of Canterbury and cardinal.

³ Richard Fox, soon afterwards bishop of Exeter, then of Bath and Wells, ultimately of Winchester.

⁴ This service of medicated wine, composed of hippocras, warmed

peers, put off their robes, retaining those of the Garter, in which they rode to vespers; and, in the morning, after the mass of requiem, they proceeded into the chapter-house, where a chapter of the Order was held.¹

HENRY VII.

The records are silent respecting the elections in several years subsequent to the accession of this Sovereign. An investiture must have been held at some time previous to the solemnity at York; for the earl of Oxford and sir John Cheyney, there present, had succeeded to the stalls of the duke of Norfolk and lord Ferrers, who were slain at Bosworth. Sir Richard Radcliffe had also fallen in the battle; the viscount Lovel had fled; and the earl of Surrey had been taken prisoner. There is extant a signet² for the delivery of five Garters before Christmas in the first year; and these may probably have been used at the elections of as many knights to supply the places of the five above-mentioned who were attainted in the parliament which assembled in November preceding the date of the signet.

Elections.

The feast of St. George, in 1487, was kept by the Sovereign at Coventry (being then on his march to oppose the adherents of Simnel, who were subdued at Stoke on the 6th of June following); and a warrant, dated Kenilworth the 14th of May,³ directs the lord Dynham, lord treasurer, and about that time elected into the Order, to issue the requisite monies for holding the feast at Windsor under the presidency of the duke of Suffolk, as the Sovereign's deputy for that occasion.⁴

1487,
the feast
kept at
Coventry.

At a chapter held at Windsor during the feast in 1488 (which was celebrated with great splendour⁵), an ordinance was made that the annals of every Sovereign should thenceforth be regularly kept; that the elections and deaths of the knights should be duly registered; and that the original book of the statutes should be fairly transcribed and deposited in the college at Windsor.

1488,
Ordinances
made in
chapter at
Windsor.

The foreign princes admitted into the Order during this reign, were Maximilian I. king of the Romans, afterwards

Foreign
princes
elected

with rich spices, was called "the void," the distribution being made to the guests on their quitting, *voiding*, the chamber of presence.

² Anstis, vol. ii. p. 224 note.³ Ibid. p. 225, note *f*.⁴ Cotton. MS. *ut supra*, p. 23^b.⁵ Ibid. p. 46.¹ Cotton. Jul. B. xii. 6^b.

HENRY VII. emperor; Alphonsus duke of Calabria, afterwards king of Naples by the style of Alphonsus II; John king of Denmark; Philip archduke of Austria, afterwards Philip I. king of Spain; Guido Ubaldi duke of Urbino; and the archduke Charles of Austria, afterwards emperor as Charles V.

The collar of the Order instituted.

Among the remarkable acts of Henry VII, whilst Sovereign, must be noticed his institution of THE COLLAR of the Order. The material, fashion, and weight of this superb additional decoration to the Garter which had previously been the only ensign, were fixed by statute in the reign of his successor; but, whatever may have been the original form of the collar, the image of St. George was pendent therefrom; for it appears, by the instructions for the investiture of the duke of Urbino in 1503, that the king's ambassador was specially directed to put that ornament around the neck of the new knight.¹ The collar is expressly stated to have been worn by the knights at the solemn reception of the pope's legate, the cardinal of Rouen, at Greenwich, on the 27th March 1504, when he presented the relic of *the right leg* of the patron saint, for safe deposit in the chapel of the Order at Windsor.² It will be presently stated that the king of Spain was invested with the collar in 1506; and the book of the statutes prepared for the archduke Charles of Austria, and certified by the register of the Order 5th January 1508-9,³ contains an ordinance for wearing the collar which is described to be "a gold collar coupled together by several links in fashion of garters with a vermilion rose, and the image of St. George hung thereat."⁴

17th Jan.
1505-6.

Philip I.
king of
Castile

The winter of 1505-6 was rendered remarkable in the annals of the Order by an extraordinary occurrence. Upon the death of Isabel, consort of Ferdinand of Arragon, and in her own right queen of Castile, the crown of that kingdom

¹ Anstis, vol. ii. App^x p. 2.

² On St. George's eve following, the king, attended by several knights of the Order, habited in their mantles and wearing their collars, proceeded to St. Paul's church, and from thence to Baynard's castle, where a chapter was held and three knights elected. On the following day, the relic,

cased in silver, with a gilt spur, was formally exhibited in the cathedral.—*Ashmole*, p. 562.

³ In the possession of the author.

⁴ In the will of John earl of Oxford, dated 10th April, 24 Hen. 7, 1509, he bequeaths to his cousin John Vere "his coler of Garters and rede roses of gold."

had by the laws of the state devolved upon their eldest daughter, Joan, married to Philip archduke of Austria, son of the emperor Maximilian. The deceased queen had, by a direction in her last will, entrusted the government of the kingdom to her husband king Ferdinand, on behalf and in the name of the archduchess; an appointment which occasioned a dispute between Ferdinand and Philip respecting the duration of the trust; the former contending that he was to retain the administration of affairs during his life. Pending the negotiation arising out of these circumstances, Philip and Joan caused themselves to be proclaimed at Brussels king and queen of Castile; and, having secretly equipped a fleet, embarked on the 10th January 1505-6 for Spain, in order to assert rights to which it was supposed the states of Castile entertained a favourable disposition. A violent tempest overtook them in the Channel, and at length compelled them to seek shelter, most unwillingly, in an English port. Philip, with his consort and their numerous suite, landed at Melcombe-Regis on the 17th of the month, and were received with hospitality at Lytchett-Maltravers by sir John Trenchard, a gentleman of considerable influence in Dorsetshire, who immediately despatched a messenger to apprise his Sovereign of this important event. Henry, whose political relations with Ferdinand rendered him adverse to the views of his illustrious involuntary guest, and who, from a similarity of circumstances, had, in the opinion of many, a common interest with the former in the determination of the question pending between him and his son-in-law, rejoiced in the opportunity thus accidentally afforded to him of protracting its decision; and resolving, under cover of a magnificent reception, to detain the expedition as long as possible on his coasts, sent the earl of Arundel to compliment the king and queen on their arrival in England, and to express his intention of paying them a personal visit. Philip, anxious to prevent the delay to which the king's purpose would lead, yet finding it impracticable to avoid the interview, hastened to Windsor, where he arrived on the 31st, and, as well as queen Joan, who followed by easy stages, was received with great apparent cordiality and friendship by the king, who, on the 9th of the

HENRY VII.

arrives in
England,
and is in-
stalled at
Windsor on
9th Feb.

HENRY VII. following month, invested him with the Garter, Collar, and Habit of the Order (into which he had been elected some years previously), and placed him with great ceremony in his stall.¹

23rd April
1506, feast
of the Order
kept at
Cambridge.

On the 16th of April 1506, soon after the departure of his royal guests, the Sovereign made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham; and, on his way thither, celebrated the festival of St. George in the chapel of king's college, Cambridge, attended by several knights of the Order in their full habits.

Election of
the arch-
duke Charles
of Austria,
20th Dec.
1508.

The king of Castile, dying on the 25th of September following,² his son the archduke Charles (afterwards emperor by the style of Charles V.) was, two years afterwards, 20th Dec. 1508, being then in the tenth year of his age, elected into the Order in his father's room, and at the particular request of his imperial grandfather.³

Death of the
Sovereign.

Henry VII. died on the 21st April 1509, having by his will bequeathed to the college of Windsor an image of St. George, of gold, weighing 260 ounces, garnished with rubies and other precious stones, which he directed to be placed on solemn festivals upon the high altar.

During the reign of this Sovereign the architectural improvements in the royal chapel, begun by Edward IV, were completed with great splendour.

HENRY
VIII.

Accession
21st April
1509.

The innovations in the laws and ceremonies of the Order, which are conspicuous in its history under the sovereignty of Henry VIII. may be partly traced to the personal character of the monarch. Henry entered upon the exercise of his high functions under circumstances favourable to the accomplishment of any plan he might form for remodelling the constitution of the illustrious fraternity. His indisputable title,

¹ See the curious ceremonial in great detail in Bibl. Cotton. Vespasian C. xii. and Anstis, vol. ii. p. 254, note *g*.

² Art de verifier les dates, tom. i. p. 764.

³ Anstis, vol. i. p. 87, note *t*, and vol. ii. p. 265, note *m*. The treaty

for the projected marriage of the archduke with the princess Mary, second daughter of Henry VII, was concluded 21st Dec. 1507; and the copy of the Garter statutes, prepared for him in the year following, is embellished with his arms, impaling those of England.

a state of peace with foreign powers, and the utter extinction of those domestic feuds which, before the establishment of his dynasty, had almost desolated the kingdom, left him at liberty to indulge his natural bent for pleasure, and his love of pomp; whilst the means of gratifying such inclinations were, for a time, amply furnished from the treasure accumulated, through various channels, by his frugal predecessor. But the source of the changes in question may with greater certainty be found in the political and moral condition of the people. That generous emulation, that self-devotion in the pursuit of honour and renown, which, during the wars between England and France, had animated and ennobled the combatants of both nations, had been nearly annihilated by the revengeful and treacherous passions displayed in the succeeding civil contests. The policy of Henry VII. impelled him to take advantage of the depression of the ancient nobility, in order to foster a new class of subjects, which, enriched by the arts of commerce, was rapidly advancing into consequence and power: and it is evident, on contemplating the state of the court at the accession of his son, that, although the semblance of a more brilliant epoch was preserved in matters of outward form, and tilts and tourneys retained their station amongst the favourite diversions, an important alteration had taken place in the spirit by which they were conducted. The simplicity and elegance which characterised the institutions of chivalry at the opening of the preceding century, had degenerated into a taste for heavy and fastuous pageantry.

Amongst the first acts of the new reign was the promulgation of an extensive sumptuary law,¹ of which one of the provisions contained a prohibition to all persons, below the rank of a peer or a knight of the Garter, to wear woollen cloth of foreign manufacture; and it was further enacted that no one under the rank of a knight of the Order should wear on any part of his apparel any velvet of crimson or blue colour (the surcoats of the companions being of the former, and their mantles of the latter material), upon pain of forfeiting the same, and a pecuniary fine.

¹ Stat. 1 Hen. 8, c. 14, "against using costly apparel."

HENRY
VIII.

1509.
Sumptuary
law, and ex-
emption in
favour of
knights of
the Order.

HENRY
VIII.
Reform of
the statutes
contem-
plated in
1517.

The Sovereign, purposing to explain and amend the statutes, directed, at a chapter held at Greenwich on St. George's day 1517, that the companions should attend him at Windsor, at the feast in the year following, in order to consult and conclude upon the abrogation of any existing ordinances detrimental to the interests of the Order, and to make such new regulations therein as might conduce to its greater honour.

The accomplishment of this design appears to have been deferred until 1519, when the feast of the Order was observed with more than usual ceremony.

In the morning of the 27th of May the Sovereign proceeded in great state from Richmond towards Windsor. The nobles, who were to attend him on this progress, were appointed to be in waiting between Richmond and Hounslow; and, in order to avoid the inconvenience of too large an assemblage of retainers, those of a duke were limited to sixty, of a marquess to fifty, an earl to forty, a baron to thirty, a knight of the Order under those degrees to twenty, and other knights and gentlemen to sixteen horses. The Sovereign, thus attended, proceeded to Colnbrook; and having there, at the sign of the Catherine-wheel, mounted his courser, continued his journey. The queen and the ladies of the court stood, in a field near Slough, to see the procession pass; and then, crossing the ferry, repaired to the castle. In the mean time, the king and his train entered Windsor through Eton (the collegiates being drawn out to receive him); and, at the castle gate, the dean and canons, in rich copes, joined the procession into the chapel, the Sovereign and knights putting on their mantles at the door. Upon entering the choir, the companions stood before their stalls until the Sovereign had offered and returned to his stall, when they severally made their offerings and took their respective seats. The Sovereign and the nineteen knights¹ present, attended by the prelate, register, garter, and black-rod, then rode from the chapel to the square before the

¹ The dukes of Buckingham, Norfolk, and Suffolk; the marquess of Dorset; the earls of Surrey, Northumberland, Shrewsbury, Essex, Kent, Wilts, and Worcester; the lords Bergavenny, La Warre, Dudley, and Darcy; sir Thomas Lovell; sir Edward Poyning; sir Henry Marney; and sir William Sandys. They were joined, on the following morning, by the earl of Arundel.

palace; and the king entering his apartments, the companions departed to their several lodgings for the night.

On the day following, after dinner, the knights and officers assembled in the chamber of state; and the king joining them from his private apartments, they descended to the square and proceeded on horseback, according to the order of their stalls, and wearing their mantles, hoods, and collars, to the chapel, and, alighting at the south door, passed into the chapter-house. The companions having there arranged themselves on either side of the Sovereign, the prelate standing on his right hand, the register and garter at the bottom of the table, and black-rod near the door, the Sovereign opened the chapter by signifying his determination shortly to make, with the advice of the knights, a general reformation of the statutes, by removing all ambiguities and doubts touching certain of the ancient statutes, and adding divers new ordinances. Whereupon the knights-companions, giving their full assent, entreated on their knees the Sovereign's pardon if they had in any wise offended against the statutes. The king, having graciously acceded to their request, the chapter broke up, and the Sovereign and knights proceeded into the choir and took their respective stalls. Before the royal stall there was placed an altar, and between it and the stall stood the nobleman who bore the sword of state, and garter and black-rod. Fox bishop of Winchester sat, as prelate, near the high altar, assisted by the abbot of Tower-hill. After vespers they returned to the palace, and supped in the Sovereign's chamber of state, the three dukes and the marquess of Dorset sitting at the bottom of the king's table, and all the other companions on one side of two other tables in the same apartment.

On the morrow, Sunday 29th of May, the Sovereign and knights proceeded on horseback to the chapel; and, having heard matins, and breakfasted at the dean's lodgings, repaired to the chapter-house; and there the Sovereign ratified the pardon before granted. They all thereupon repaired to their stalls until the procession should be ready to move. The same was marshalled, according to the ancient form, in the manner following, viz. The poor knights: the officers of arms: the knights-companions: the officers of the Order: the pre-

HENRY
VIII.

The Sovereign signifies, on 28th May 1519, his resolution to reform the statutes.

HENRY
VIII.

late bearing St. George's heart, under a canopy, at each corner of which a taper was carried by a nobleman: the Sovereign. On their return to the palace, dinner was served in the hall.¹

The alterations in and additions to the statutes perfected on 23rd April 1522.

The statutes explained, altered, and augmented at this feast, appear to have been afterwards, viz. on 23rd April 1522, more correctly set forth.² They are printed, in Latin and English, in Ashmole's appendix; and it is here proposed to indicate merely the substance of the explanations, alterations, and additions to the so-called "Founder's statutes," which they contain.

The Sovereign to determine doubts arising on the statutes.

Qualifications for election, and points of reproach.

To Art. I, which had appointed the sovereignty of the order to be in the kings of England, was added a declaration that it appertained to the Sovereign, his heirs and successors, to interpret and determine all doubts and ambiguities touching the statutes.

To Art. II, whereby the qualifications for election had been declared, the definition of "a gentleman of blood" was now added, viz. that he shall have three descents of noblesse, of name and of arms, on his father's and mother's side: and the points of reproach, incapacitating a knight for election, were declared to be, 1°. conviction of heresy, or error against the catholic Christian faith, or the having suffered any pain or public punishment for such offence; 2°. arraignment, conviction, or attainder for high treason; 3°. departure or flight from battle, or encounter, being with the Sovereign, his lieutenant, or deputy, or other captain having the king's power royal and authority, or where banners, standards, or pennons have been displayed, and proceedings had for the fight: the knight, so departing or flying, shall be adjudged to have reproach, and be incompetent for election; and, if already elected, he shall be degraded from the Order.³

¹ MS. WW. in Coll. Armor. where the ceremonial is more fully detailed.

² Fourteen articles were probably agreed upon at the chapter in 1519 (See a MS. in the custody of the chamberlain of the exchequer, and printed by Anstis in his Appendix, N° 2); but the arrangement of the whole appears not to have been completed until 1522.

³ Ashmole mentions (p. 289) a fourth point of reproach, as contained in a MS copy of the statutes which had belonged to Henry Grey duke of Suffolk, knight of the

Order, viz. Prodigality, or wilful waste and alienation of patrimony or estate by any companion of the fraternity, so as to be deprived of the means of honourably supporting his rank; in which case, the offence having been proved, on examination before the Sovereign or his commissioners and the knights of the Order, the Sovereign might, with the advice of the society, deprive and degrade the offender from the Order. The substance of this ground for exclusion had been decreed in the chapter of 25th May 1516.

To Art. III. which ordains the wearing of the mantle and garter at the feast of St. George, is added, that, although no service should be performed on the vigil and the day of the feast, the companions, wherever they may be, shall wear the whole habit of the order, viz. the robe (or surcoat), the mantle, the hood,¹ and the collar.²

Art. IV. provides that, in the event of a prorogation of the feast of the Order, the knights who may happen to be within the realm of England, shall, nevertheless, attend the Sovereign on the vigil and day of St. George, and observe such Divine service as may be appointed for the occasion; wearing, at such times, the whole habit of the Order, in the same manner as if they had been within Windsor castle; and directs certain penalties for failure of such attendance without licence.

Art. V. directs that, if it chance that any of the knights should, by leave, or licence, or otherwise, be on the vigil and day of St. George in his own house, or in any other place, he shall, in the church or chapel where he may attend Divine service, prepare a capital stall, with the arms of St. George within the Garter thereon, and another stall adorned with his own arms within the Garter, and placed at as great a distance from the capital stall as is his own stall at Windsor from that of the Sovereign; and that, being in such stall, and wearing his whole habit, he shall hear Divine service, observing the same reverence towards the altar and the Sovereign's stall as he is accustomed to pay when present on the like occasion in St. George's chapel.

Art. VI. declares that, if the annual festival shall not be prorogued, but celebrated at Windsor on the eve and day of St. George, and if the Sovereign cannot conveniently be present, he may summon such of the knights as he may select, to attend on that day on his person in any part of the realm, and observe the accustomed ceremonies: in which case they shall be held excused for their absence from the feast.

Art. VII. ordains that the Sovereign may, if absent from the feast, appoint a deputy, by his letters for that purpose, to hold the chapter on the eve, at the hour of *terce*, which is here explained to mean three o'clock in the afternoon: and that the remainder of the solemnity, on the day following, shall be performed at the expense of the Sovereign. The deputy is, however, not to make any new ordinances; though he may correct offences, and perform, with the advice of the chapter, whatever else may be necessary to be done.

Art. VIII. contains the same provisions as Art. IX. of the Founder's statutes, for the annual convention of the knights at Windsor on St. George's eve, and the regulation of the time for holding the

HENRY
VIII.

The ensigns
and habit
when to be
worn.

St. George's
day and the
vigil to be
kept, al-
though the
feast be pro-
rogued,

wherever
the knights
may happen
to be resi-
dent.

The absence
of knights
from the
feast to be
excused, if
they be else-
where in at-
tendance on
the Sove-
reign.

Powers of
the Sove-
reign's de-
puty.

Further re-
gulations
touching the
feast,

¹ This is the first mention of the hood in any of the statutes.

² See Art. xxxviii.

- HENRY VIII.
- feast in case the day of the saint should fall within fifteen days of Easter. By the amended statute, the knights are to appear, not only in their mantles as before directed, but in the whole habit of the Order, every knight having his banner,¹ sword, helm, and crest above his stall, which achievements are to remain there during his life. Other festivals, besides Easter, are specified as days to which prorogations of the feast are not to be made.
- and penalties for absence,
- Art. IX. declares the penalties for non-attendance at the feast, with certain relative amendments of Art. X. of the Founder's statutes.
- and neglect to wear the Garter.
- Art. X. ordains, as in Art. XII. of the Founder's statutes, a penalty to be incurred by any knight on appearing publicly without the Garter (which is hereby fixed at one mark), on being challenged by any of the five officers of the Order, except when he be booted for riding, when it shall suffice if he wear a ribband of blue silk under his boot, to signify the garter.
- Ordinance relative to precedence.
- Art. XI. directs that the knights, when they proceed before the Sovereign wearing their mantles, shall walk each with his companion, if present, or alone, if the companion be not present; that, at the offering, the Sovereign or his deputy shall go before the companions; and that, at dinner or supper, the companions shall sit all along on one side of the table according to their seniority in their stalls, and not according to their several ranks; except the children and brethren of kings, and princes and foreign dukes, who shall sit according to their ranks, and preserve the same order in going from the table.²
- Mass of requiem, and offering of achievements of deceased knights.
- Art. XII. appoints the attendance to be given on the day after the festival, at the mass of requiem, and the ceremonies to be observed at the offering of the achievements of deceased knights.
- Election, investiture, and installation of a foreign knight.
- Art. XIII. regulates the mode of certifying to a foreign knight his election into the Order, and fixes the term of four months after such election, in order that the knight elected may, on consulting the statutes, determine whether he will accept the nomination: if he accept, then the whole habit shall be sent by an ambassador from the Sovereign; and within seven months afterwards the said knight shall send his proctor, being a knight without reproach, to be installed for him: and further regulates the manner of the installation, and the duties of the proctor, with little deviation from the tenor of Art. XX. of the Founder's statutes.
- Constitution of Windsor college.
- Art. XIV. ordains that Windsor college shall consist of a dean or warden, twelve canons secular, eight petty canons, and thirteen vicars; also thirteen clerks and thirteen choristers, the presenta-

¹ A banner is, by this ordinance, mentioned for the first time amongst the achievements to be placed over the stall.

² See a decree in the year 1524, on the subject of precedence, *postea*, *p. xc.*

tions being in the Sovereign; and directs that the said canons, when any knight of the Order is within the choir of the chapel, shall sit in the lowermost seats, where they are wont to sit at the feasts of St. George; and, in the absence of the knights, the canons may sit in the high seats next to the stalls of the knights.

Art. XV. ordains five officers of the Order, viz. Prelate, Chancellor Register, king of arms, named Garter, and an usher at arms, named Black-Rod: these to be received and sworn to be of the council of the Order, and their charges and privileges declared in the book of the ordinances for the officers.

Art. XVI. alters the number of poor knights appointed by Art. VI. of the Founder's statutes, and fixes the same at *thirteen*: ordains also their mantle, as in Art. VII. of the said statutes.

Art. XVII. directs the deposit of the mantle at Windsor for any sudden emergency, as Art. XV. of the Founder's Statutes, and declares, as Art. XVIII. of the said statutes, that the Sovereign and six companions shall constitute a chapter.

Art. XVIII. enjoins, as Art. XVI. of the Founder's statutes, all knights of the Order travelling near Windsor to give their attendance at Divine service in the chapel; fixing a penalty for non-attendance under such circumstances.

Art. XIX. ordains that, upon the decease of a knight-subject, the Sovereign and the remaining companions shall pay certain sums (here specified), according to their several degrees, unto the dean, to be employed in alms-deeds, with certain penalties for non-payment.¹

Art. XX. appoints the holding of a chapter within six weeks after the certification of the decease of any knight-companion, for the purpose of electing another in his room; prescribes the mode of writing the suffrages, in the same manner as Art. XVIII. of the Founder's statutes; but fixes the penalty for non-attendance at twenty shillings, and appoints that at the next chapter the offending knight shall kneel on the ground until reconciled to the Sovereign and the society.

Art. XXI. appoints the manner of installation (as in Art. XIX. of the Founder's statutes²) with the time and manner of investiture with the robe or surcoat, hood, mantle, and collar; and declares the election void, if not succeeded, within the appointed time, by installation.

HENRY
VIII.

Officers of
the Order.

Poor
knights.

The mantles
to be depo-
sited at
Windsor.

Number of
knights to
form a
chapter.

Knights tra-
velling near
Windsor to
attend Di-
vine service
there.

Alms-deeds
on decease
of a knight-
subject.

New elec-
tion within
six weeks
after certi-
fication of a
knight's de-
cease.

Installation.

¹ This article was added at a chapter held in the palace of Westminster on St. George's day in 1540; and the mullets were in lieu of the masses which had been appointed, by the ordinance of the year 1522, to be celebrated on the

decease of a knight-companion, proportionate in number to his rank.

² *The hood* is here directed to be delivered, with the robe, or surcoat, in the chapter-house before the installation.

HENRY
VIII.
Succession
in the stalls.

Art. XXII. ordains, with some additions to the same article of the Founder's statutes, that in the event of the decease of any knight of the Order, being a duke, marquess, earl, viscount, baron, banneret, or bachelor, his successor in the Order, of whatever degree, shall occupy the same stall; and not change it without especial licence or warrant of the Sovereign; all emperors, kings, and princes excepted, who shall keep their stalls according to their estate, and nearest to the Sovereign.

The
Sovereign
may trans-
late a knight
to a higher
stall.

Art. XXIII. provides that, when any stall shall be void, the Sovereign may at his pleasure advance and translate any knight-companion to it; such stall being higher than the one he had previously filled; also that the Sovereign may, once in his life, make a general translation of all the stalls, excepting those of emperors, kings, princes, and dukes, who shall always preserve their places, unless removed to higher stalls; the translation to be made upon consideration of the merits of the knight and his long standing in the Order; and the knights shall at all times, when they walk or sit together and wear their mantles, keep their places according to the order of their stalls, and not according to their general rank.

Contribu-
tion by
knights-sub-
jects to
Windsor
college.

Art. XXIV. ordains, with some additions to Art. XXII. of the Founder's statutes, that every companion shall, at his entrance, contribute according to his rank towards the maintenance of the canons and poor knights as follows:—the Sovereign 40 marks, a stranger king 20*l.*, the Prince 20 marks, a duke 10*l.*, a marquess 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, an earl 10 marks, a viscount 11*s.* and 8*d.*, a baron and banneret 100*s.*, a bachelor 5 marks; and that their banners, helmets, crests, and swords, shall not be set over their stalls until such sums be paid; the Sovereign defraying the charges of every stranger upon his installation, whether in person or by his proctor.

Plates to be
affixed to
the stalls.

Art. XXV. amending Art. XXIII. of the Founder's statutes, directs that every knight, within the year of his installation, shall cause an escocheon of his arms to be made in a plate of such metal as he shall think proper, and affixed to the back of his stall; and his successor shall have his escocheon and achievements in like manner; but not so large as those of the first Founders; although strangers may have their plates of such metal or size as they may think fit.

Installation
by proxy.

Art. XXVI. ordains, that no knight-elect, except he be a stranger, shall be installed by proxy, unless he be employed without the realm in the affairs of the Sovereign, or have the Sovereign's command or licence for that purpose.

Oath

Art. XXVII. enlarging the provisions of Art. XXIV. of the Founder's statutes, directs that every knight, upon entrance, shall promise and swear faithfully to observe and keep the points and articles following, viz. :—

“That, during his life and continuance in the Order, he will to the best of his power keep, defend, and sustain the honour, quarrels, rights, and lordships of the Sovereign.

HENRY
VIII.

That he will, with all his power, honourably maintain and augment the Order, and withstand and oppose to his utmost anything that he may know to be imagined against it.

That he will well and truly fulfil and maintain all the statutes and ordinances of the Order, and make a general oath before the Sovereign or his deputy, upon the holy Gospels, so to do, without fraud or delusion:” and thereupon he shall touch the book and kiss the cross.

And, this done, the knight so chosen shall receive the Garter, which the Sovereign or his deputy shall put about his left leg, saying these words, “Sir, the loving company of the Order of the Garter hath received you their brother, lover, and fellow, and in token and knowledge of this they give you and present you this present Garter; the which God will that you receive and wear from henceforth to his praise and pleasure, and to the exaltation of the said noble Order and yourself.”

before
investiture.

Art. XXVIII. provides, as in Art. XXV. of the Founder’s statutes, for the fulfilment of the functions of the Sovereign, at an installation, by deputy, if he cannot be personally present; but empowers him to appoint by his commission two or more of the companions for that purpose.

Sovereign
may appoint
two or more
companions
to instal a
new knight.

Art. XXIX. extends the ordinances of Art. XXVI. and part of Art. XXX, by directing that a common seal and a signet of the arms of the Order shall be prepared; the same to remain in the custody of the chancellor or of such knight of the Order as the Sovereign may be pleased to appoint for that purpose; and if the keeper of the seals should go 20 miles from the Sovereign, he shall deliver the seals to the Sovereign, or to such knight or other person whom the Sovereign shall appoint to keep them, to the intent that the seals may be always present with the Sovereign when within his realm; and, if he be abroad, the signet shall be sufficient for the sealing of any acts or writings touching the Order.

Seal of the
Order and
its keeper.

Art. XXX. adding to Art. XXVII. of the Founder’s statutes, ordains that every knight shall have the statutes of the Order collected and revised by the register, and sealed with the said common seal; and that if the knight should wish to have any arms or cognizance inserted in the book containing the same, the book shall be delivered to the king of arms for that purpose; the original statutes to be likewise signed and sealed and remain in the treasury of the college for ever.

Copies of
the statutes
to be provided
for the
knights;

Art. XXXI. directs the return of the book of the statutes, after the death of a knight, into the said college.

to be returned
after
death.

Art. XXXII. contains the same directions as in Art. XXVIII. of the Founder’s statutes, respecting the necessity of a licence from

Licence necessary
on leaving the
realm.

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Hostility
between
companions.

Documents
of the Order
to be sealed.

Residence
of the knights
at Windsor,

and of other
knights at
the pleasure
of the

Sovereign
and Society.

Orisons.

Collar of the
Order de-
scribed, and
ordinance
for the wear-
ing it, &c.

The sitting
at table with
the
Sovereign.

the Sovereign to depart out of the realm, and a promise of preference of the knights of the Order in military expeditions.

Art. XXXIII. contains provisions, in substance, the same as Art. XXIX. of the Founder's statutes, respecting the bearing of arms by one companion against another.

Art. XXXIV. ordains that all licences to depart, and other writings touching the Order, shall be sealed with one of the seals.

Art. XXXV. provides, as Art. XXXI. of the Founder's statutes, that a knight may at his own charges take up his residence constantly within the castle.

Art. XXXVI. directs that if any other knight, not of the Order, being moved by devotion, desire to reside there, a dwelling shall be provided for him at the will and pleasure of the Sovereign and with the consent of the company.

Art. XXXVII. ordains that, if any knight or person will give any lands, heritage, or rents, to be participant in the good orisons and prayers to be said in the said chapel, his name shall be registered, and the canons and poor knights shall pray perpetually to God for him; but the dean, warden, and canons of the said college shall not from henceforth take any manner of charge (or burthen) upon the said college, without the advice and consent of the Sovereign or his deputy and the fellowship of the Order, by them agreed to in chapter.

Art. XXXVIII. ordains, for the better distinction of the knights of the Order, that each of them shall wear apertly a collar of gold about his neck, weighing thirty ounces of troy weight and not above that weight; which collar shall be composed of pieces of the fashion of garters, in the midst of which garters shall be a double rose, the one rose of red and the other within white, and so alternately, and at the end of the said collar shall be put and fastened the image of Saint George. The which collar the Sovereign, his successors, and the company of the said Order shall be bound to wear, and especially on principal and solemn feasts of the year; and, on other days of the year, they shall be obliged to wear a small chain of gold with the image of Saint George pendent therefrom, except in time of war, sickness, and long voyage, when it shall suffice if he only wear a lace of silk with the said image of Saint George: And if the said collar have any need of reparation, it may be put into the hands of the goldsmith or workman until it shall have been repaired; but it may not be made richer with stones or other things, except in regard to the image, which may be garnished and enriched at the pleasure of the knight; and the said collar may not be sold, pledged, alienated, or given away, for any need, cause, or necessity whatsoever.

In 1524 the Sovereign decreed, in further explanation of Art. XI. of the reformed statutes (whereby it had been ordained that the knights should walk in processions, and stand,

and sit at table, according to the order of their stalls, and not according to their birth or titles), that he reserved to himself to select such of the nobility whom he might think fit to sit with him at the end of his table, or to perform occasionally any other service to him which he might direct.¹

At the feast of St. George 1525, held at Greenwich, Thomas lord Roos was elected; but the Sovereign having afterwards, during the celebration of the requiem, understood that lord Roos had never been knighted; and such election being, therefore, contrary to the statutes, the king, immediately after the service, summoned the knights again into the chapter-room, where he declared the election void, and ordered the ensigns with which he had been invested, to be taken from him. The Sovereign then knighted lord Roos; and the companions proceeded to a new election. The suffrages were presented to the king who declared him unanimously elected; and the ensigns were thereupon restored to him by the hands of the dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Cardinal Wolsey, as lord chancellor, was in a chapter held at Greenwich 24th April 1526, appointed to determine certain matters at issue between the dean and canons and the poor knights.²

At a chapter held at Greenwich 23rd April 1527, it was ordained that the usher of the black rod should carry the said rod before the Sovereign, or his deputy, on St. George's day and at the festival of the saint at Windsor; and that the usher do attend at every chapter of the Order.

On the 5th of September 1527, Henry VIII. was chosen a knight of the French Order of St. Michael; but the investiture was deferred until Francis I. had accepted the Garter; and the two Sovereigns were then decorated with the ensigns, thus reciprocally conferred, on the same day.³

By act of parliament 21 Hen. 8, c. 13, a knight of the Garter is allowed to have three chaplains, each of whom shall

HENRY
VIII.

1525.
an election
void for
want of pre-
vious knight-
hood.

The lord
chancellor
determines
a dispute
between the
canons and
poor knights.
Duties of
the Usher
of the Black
Rod.

The
Sovereign
accepts the
Order of
St. Michael.

A knight to
have three
chaplains.

¹ Anstis, vol. ii. p. 318.

² Ashmole, p. 159.

³ W N. in Coll. Armor. p. 242; Rymer, vol. xiv. p. 227. The ceremony observed at the investiture of king Henry with the Golden Fleece is detailed in a contempo-

rary MS. in the Cottonian Collection, Vespas. C. XII. He accepted also the Danish Order of the Elephant, of which the ensigns were probably transmitted to him in or before 1502. — *Bircherod de ordine Elephant.* pp. 32. 95.

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VIII.

Exceptions
as to the
colour of the
mantle in a
sumptuary
law.

Chapter
at Calais,
27th Oct.
1532, at
which
Francis I.
assisted,

and the
counts de
Montmo-
rency and
Neublancbe
were elected.

Ordinance
relative to
knights
degraded.

Appropri-
ation of sums
paid for
masses.

have licence or dispensation to receive and keep two parsonages or benefices, with cure of souls.

By an act 24 Hen. 8, c. 13, "for reformation of excessive apparel," provision is made against the use of silk of the colour of purpure, with certain exceptions, and provided that the word "purpure" extend not to any mantle of the Order of the Garter.

The year 1532 was rendered memorable in the annals by the holding of a chapter at Calais on the 27th of October, at which the French king assisted in the habit and ensigns of the Garter. The Sovereign was attended on this splendid occasion by the dukes of Richmond, Norfolk, and Suffolk, the marquess of Exeter, the earls of Arundel, Rutland, and Oxford, the viscount Lisle, lord Sandys, and sir William Fitzwilliams, knights-companions. The suffrages were collected in the usual form; and Anne de Montmorency count de Beaumont (afterwards duke de Montmorency), grand master, and Philip de Chabot count de Neublancbe, admiral of France, were elected companions, and invested with the Garter and collar. This honour was conferred upon those illustrious subjects of Francis I. in return for the investiture of the dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk with the Order of St. Michael at Boulogne three days antecedently. The interchange of Orders would seem not to have been previously contemplated; as no provision had been made of collars for the new foreign knights, those of the two English dukes having been borrowed for the occasion, and others afterwards issued to them from the Jewel-office.¹

During the feast kept at Windsor 9th May 1540, it was ordered that the name of a knight, degraded from the Order in consequence of attainder for high treason, should not be erased in the register; but that the word "Traitor!" should be written in the margin opposite to such name.

It was also decreed that the sums, theretofore paid for masses for deceased companions, should be applied to the repairing of highways and the relief of the poor.²

¹ Anstis, vol. ii. p. 391.

² See this decree in the XIX Art. of the statutes; and it is there said

to have been made in the chapter held at Westminster on the 23rd April preceding.

The occurrences within the Order, during the remainder of the reign, were confined to the election and installation of knights-subjects.

The foreign princes, on whom the Order was conferred by this Sovereign, were Emanuel king of Portugal; Julian de Medicis duke of Nemours, brother of pope Leo X; Ferdinand archduke of Austria, afterwards emperor; Francis I. king of France; and James V. king of Scotland.

The Sovereign closed his earthly career in the night between the 28th and 29th January 1546-7.

Although Henry VIII. had admitted into the Order his natural son, Henry Fitzroy, duke of Richmond and Somerset, when six years old, he appears to have withheld not only that honour, but even the dignity of prince of Wales,¹ from prince Edward, his heir apparent, who, at his succession to the crown, had already entered his tenth year.

His election, when two years and a half old, had been evidently contemplated, at a chapter held on St. George's day 1540; for, recollecting the deference exacted by Henry to the slightest expression of his wishes, we cannot consider as purely accidental the circumstance that the name of the royal infant, by the style of "prince of England," was placed, together with those of lord Walden and Sir Anthony Browne,

¹ Edward, in his journal, mentions that "*his tenth year not yet ended* [he was nine years complete on the 12th Oct. 1546], *it was appointed he should be created prince of Wales, duke of Cornwall* [of which latter dignity he had been seised from his birth], *and count palatine of Chester: at which time, being the year of our lord 1547, the said King died.*" [28 January 1546-7.] He then proceeds, "*After the death of King Henry the 8th, his son Edward prince of Wales was come-to at Hatfield.*" &c. "*for whom before was made great preparation that he might be created prince of Wales.*" How far the great preparation for this creation had proceeded when interrupted by the King's death, does not appear. An allusion to the in-

tended establishment of the prince is made in a letter written by his preceptor, Dr. Richard Coxe, dean of Christchurch, to secretary Paget, from Hatfield, 12 Oct. 1546:—" *I understande ye have begon for the honorable state and establishment of the princes graces Howse, who this day begyneth to learne frenche wt. a great facilitie even at the first entre.*"—" *feliciter valet princeps et te salutat.*" Orig. vol. 9. "domestic" in State Paper Office. Among the warrants, to which the King's stamp was affixed in the month of January 1546-7, is one to the Great Wardrobe, "*to paie for certen stufte and workmanshipp delivered for my lord princes apparel, submitted by Mr. Cicell.*"—Ibid.

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VIII.

Foreign
princes
elected in
this reign.

The
Sovereign's
death.

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Accession
28th Jan.
1546-7.

Not pre-
viously a
knight of
the Order.

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at the head of all the suffrages. From whatever motive in the breast of the Sovereign, the two last-mentioned knights only were declared elected. The register is silent respecting the prince: nevertheless, the third stall on the Prince's side (being that which the young duke of Richmond, who died in 1536, had occupied,) was kept vacant for him¹ during the remainder of the reign. Edward, therefore, did not become a member of the Order until his accession to the sovereignty.

Knighthood by the protector, Feb. 6, and presides at a chapter on 17th of the same month.

In conformity to the precedent of Henry VI, the new Sovereign received, on the 6th of February, knighthood from the hands of his uncle the protector Somerset, who had been authorised by letters patent to confer that degree on his royal pupil: and, the obsequies of the late king having been solemnised at Windsor on the 16th of the same month, the knights of the Garter assembled on the day following in the king's chamber within the Tower of London, where Edward, arrayed in his robes as Sovereign, presided at a chapter at which the marquess of Dorset, the earl of Derby, lord Seymour of Sudeley, and sir William Paget were elected.

It is probable that the degradation of Thomas duke of Norfolk, attainted at the close of the preceding reign, was decreed on that occasion.²

1547.
Offering of the late king's banner omitted.

The feast was celebrated at Windsor on the 22nd of May in the accustomed form, the earl of Warwick officiating as deputy. The banner, &c. of the French king³ were offered; and the knights, who had been elected on the 17th of February, received installation. Upon a question whether the banner of the late Sovereign should be taken down and offered at the mass of requiem (a like offering having been already made at the interment), it was decided that it should remain suspended over the royal stall of his successor.⁴

¹ The higher stalls were filled by the emperor Charles V. the French king, the king of the Romans, and the king of Scotland.

² The removal of this duke from the Order by Edward VI. is stated in the preamble to queen Mary's decree for his restoration. The instructions, contained in that decree, to cancel all records or me-

morials referring to that transaction, fully accounts for the absence of any relative entry in the register.

³ Francis I. died on the 31st March preceding.

⁴ Ashmole, p. 629, where the assertion, that this decision was founded upon precedent, is refuted.

The reformation in the rites of the church, which commenced with this reign, led to several changes in the ceremonial observances within the Order. An ordinance of the Sovereign, dated 20th April 1548, enjoined, 1st, that no procession of the knights should be thenceforth made about the church or churchyard; 2ndly, that reverences should be made in the chapel to the Sovereign only;¹ 3rdly, that the offerings be deposited in the box for the poor, without any reverences on the occasion, kissing the paten, &c.; 4thly, that the mass of requiem be abolished; but that, on St. George's day, and the day following, a mass be sung with great reverence, in which, immediately after the words of consecration, the priest shall say the pater-noster, and thereupon turn round and administer the sacrament to the knights and others according to the form prescribed in the king's book of communion, and without any other rite or ceremony after the office; but that a psalm or hymn should only be sung in English, and conclude the service.²

These injunctions were regarded as a virtual abrogation of the grand festival of the Order, which had been annually celebrated at Windsor from the period of the foundation: that solemnity was not observed during the remainder of Edward's reign, although, towards the close of it, an effort seems to have been made to revive a custom so well adapted for the display of the splendour and magnificence of the institution.³

At a chapter held at Greenwich on 23rd April 1549, it was ordered that from thenceforth every stall should exhibit, on St. George's eve, an escocheon of the arms of the absent knights, as well as of those present, at their own cost and charge:⁴—That knights, thenceforth elected, might be in-

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The reforms
in the
church lead
to changes
in the cere-
monies of
the Order,

and the
virtual ab-
rogation of
the annual
grand feast.

Ordinances,
23rd April,
1549.

¹ The relative ordinance of Henry V. was hereby revoked.

² Ashmole, p. 473.

³ By the acts of 5 and 6 Edw. VI. cap. 3, "for keeping holy certain days" therein mentioned, it was provided that the knights of the Garter might keep and solemnly celebrate the feast of their Order, called St. George's feast, yearly on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th days of April, and at such other times as

the king, his heirs and successors, and the knights, should deem convenient.

⁴ Lib. Nig. p. 302. These escocheons were on large paper, with the arms and quarterings of the knight, surrounded by the Garter, and with the crown, cap, or coronet appropriate to each dignity, and the styles and titles printed underneath; and they were affixed to the backs of the stalls or seats of

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stalled by commission, without the solemnity of the feast:— That the lord St. John, the earl of Arundel, and Sir William Paget, should peruse the statutes, with a view to their reformation, under the advice of the lord protector and the other companions of the Order:— That the kings, heralds, and pursuivants of arms should, according to their first institution and privileges, be free from the payment of all taxes and subsidies.¹

23rd April,
1550. The
Sovereign
delivers a
plan for re-
form of the
statutes.

On St. George's day 1550 it was proposed, in chapter at Greenwich, to review the statutes, in order that such changes might be made therein as the state of religion required; and the Sovereign delivered for that purpose a book on the subject for the consideration of the knights, against the next meeting.²

Election of
Henry II.
king of
France,
23rd April,
1551.

Henry II, king of France, was elected on St. George's day 1551; and the marquess of Northampton and Sir Gilbert Dethick, Garter, were sent to invest him. Many noblemen and gentlemen, to the number of thirty, were appointed to attend this splendid embassy.

A committee of knights, consisting of the duke of Somerset, the marquess of Northampton, and the earls of Wiltshire and Warwick, was appointed to review the statutes.

Degradation
of William
lord Paget.

King Edward, in his journal, 22nd April 1552, made this note:—"The lord Paget was degraded from the Order of the Garter for divers his offences, and chiefly because he was no gentleman of blood, neither of father's side or mother's side."

Extracts
from King
Edward's
journal
touching the
Order.

On the 24th of the same month the journal contains this remark:—"The Order of the Garter was wholly altered, as appeareth by the new statutes. There were elected Sir Andrew Dudley, and the Earl of Westmorland."³

the Sovereign and companions in such church or chapel where the Sovereign might happen to keep the feast; but not in the choir of St. George's chapel, where the proper places of the knights were indicated by their banners and plates.

¹ This exemption passed the great seal on the 4th July, and is printed in Rymer, vol. xv, p. 187.

² King Edward, in his journal, mentions that, on this occasion,

M. Tremouille, the Vidame de Chartres, and M. Henaudy came to the court, and saw the Sovereign and the knights receive the communion.

³ Burnet, Oxf. ed. 1816, vol. iv. 72. Dethick Garter was sent to convey the Garter to the earl of Westmorland, and sir Philip Hobby, black-rod, to deliver it to sir Andrew Dudley, then captain of Guines. W. N. in Coll. Armor. pp. 2^b. 3.

The alterations then designed, and of which a draught¹ had probably been submitted to the Sovereign, were, however, not completed. In the State-Paper Office there is a draught on vellum,² in the hand-writing of Sir William Cecil, concluding with the following note, and the writer's signature:—"Rudimenta sunt hæc ordinis quæ potius colliguntur quam componuntur, Gulielmus Cæcilius Ord. Gart. Cancellar^s. 29 decēb. 1552 sexto re. Edw. sexti."

The substance of these statutes, the arrangement of which appears not to have been perfected until the 17th March 1552-3, A^o. 7^o. is as follows:—

c. I. That the Order should from thenceforth be called the Order of the Garter, and not of St. George, lest the honour due to God might seem to be given to a creature; and that it should consist of twenty-five knights, besides the Sovereign, all gentlemen born and without reproach.

c. II. That the King of England, his heirs and successors, shall be Sovereigns of the Order, as ever theretofore; and that to him the declaration, interpretation, and correction of the Statutes should belong, having the consent of at least six of the Order thereto: provides the supplying of vacancies by election by at least six companions; and invests the Sovereign with power to dispense with all ceremonies.

c. III. That none shall be admitted, except a gentleman of blood, of the father's side, of three descents, and bearing arms, and a knight before election, without reproach. That, when a vacancy shall happen, the knights of the Order, or at least six of them, besides the Sovereign, shall assemble in their robes, and each of them write the names of nine persons, viz. three of emperors, kings, archdukes, dukes, marquesses, or earls; three of viscounts, barons, or lords; and three of bannerets, or knights-bachelors; which being presented to the Sovereign, he shall choose him whom he may deem most worthy.

That the knight elect shall thereupon be introduced by two knights, when the Sovereign shall put about his neck a collar, or little chain or lace, having pendent therefrom a massive golden image³ of an armed knight sitting on horseback, encompassed with

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Draught for
altering the
statutes in
hand-writ-
ing of Sir
W. Cecil.

Substance
of the sta-
tutes as
they were
intended to
be re-mo-
delled by
the Sove-
reign.

¹ This draught was probably the one which is printed in Burnet's collection of King Edward's Remains, No. 3, from the original MS. now in the Cotton library, Nero, C 10.

² In 4^{to}, 29 pages.

³ By the draught in Latin of the statutes, inserted amongst king Edward's remains, the Jewel was to have, on one side, the representation of a knight carrying upon the point of his sword a book, with the word "Protectio" on the

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a garter of gold, and thereon this sentence, "Hony soit qui mal y pense," being the cognizance of the Order: that two other companions shall then fasten the Garter about his left leg; and the chancellor or his deputy shall deliver to him a book of the Statutes, signed by the Sovereign, which, after the death of the knight, shall be restored to Garter king of arms.

The manner of his installation at Windsor, within a month after election, is then prescribed, as well as that of taking down the achievements of the deceased knight, in substitution of the offering and mass of requiem as theretofore practised.

The achievements of the new knight to be set up by Garter, and a plate of his arms affixed to his stall within six months.

That Garter shall prepare escocheons of the arms of the knights to be set up in the proper seats yearly on Whitsun-eve, wherever the Sovereign may choose to keep the feast.

That a knight, succeeding to a deceased companion, shall have the stall of his predecessor, and shall not remove from the same without the Sovereign's special appointment, unless such knight be an emperor or king, or prince of some realm, or of the blood royal, who shall always occupy, according to their degrees, the stalls nearest to that of the Sovereign.

Every knight to have a mantle always remaining at Windsor in readiness for any emergency.

No knight to depart from the Sovereign's dominions without leave.

A knight coming into chapter, or going abroad without his Garter, except he be booted, to pay a noble to the church of Windsor.

The fees to be paid by the knights, according to their degrees, upon election, are then fixed, and appointed to be applied to the relief of the poor, and for the reparation of highways. The King to pay for knights strangers.

The oath of a knight is then prescribed.

c. IV. That when any foreign prince shall be elected, the Sovereign shall send one of the knights of the Order, and Garter king of Arms with the statutes under the Sovereign's sign-manual; and that, after prayers as used in the country of the knight-elect, they shall invest him with the mantle, kirtle, and hood, put about his neck a collar of gold, wrought with roses, and the ensign of the Garter hanging thereto, and also tie about his leg the Garter.

That no foreign prince, so elected, shall be bound to make any oath; or to perform any ceremonies of the Order incumbent upon knights-subjects; or to wear the image of St. George during the

sword, and "Verbum Dei" on the book: and, on the reverse, a shield with the word "Fides" inscribed

thereon. But this device was, upon more mature consideration, not adopted.

remainder of his life, unless it shall please him so to do. The form of an oath is, however, inserted for a knight-stranger, in case he should think fit to take it.

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c. V. decrees the manner of degrading a knight from the Order.

c. VI. appoints also the annual celebration of the feast on Whitsun-eve, Whitsunday, and Whitmonday, viz.

That the knights shall assemble at Whitsuntide at the place where the Sovereign may be resident (unless they have his licence to be absent), and there wear their robes of the Order, and give their attendance, as theretofore, during the feast, being present with the Sovereign at morning and evening prayers, and receiving the holy communion with him:

That afterwards they shall, if cause require, go into chapter to consult on affairs of the Order:

That they shall sit at dinner and supper in their robes, all on one side of the table, taking their places according to their seniority in the stalls at Windsor:

That the absent knights shall celebrate the feast at the same time in their own houses, wearing their robes during the feast, except in case of sickness.

c. VII. That the apparel of the Order shall consist of a side-kirtle of crimson, a mantle of blue purple, a hood, a collar or chain of gold, and a Garter to be tied about the left leg.

The collar shall weigh thirty ounces troy, or thereabouts, and be composed of pieces or links of gold, coupled together in the fashion of Garters, with red roses, as of late accustomed. At the end of the collar or chain, (or small lace of black silk, to be sometimes used instead of the chain,) shall hang the cognizance of the Order, viz. a massive golden image of an armed knight, sitting on horseback, with a drawn sword in his right hand, all encompassed with the Garter. The latter to have the motto, "Hony soit qui mal y pense."

The apparel of the Order to be in the ancient fashion.

The arms of the Order to continue to be "a cross Gules on a field Argent."

The achievements, as theretofore, to consist of a Banner, a Helmet, a Crest, with the ornaments of the helmet called "the Mantling," and a Sword.

c. VIII. to XII. appoint the duties of the officers, and the oath to be administered to them.

In conclusion, it is declared that the foregoing statutes shall be taken to be the laws of the Order, and that all others contrary to the same are repealed and abolished.

The statutes, thus reformed, were issued under the seal of the Order; but they were not carried into effect, the Sovereign dying on the 6th of July following.

MARY. The sovereignty of the Order, inseparable from the possession of the regal dignity, having devolved upon queen Mary, this princess had no sooner been firmly established on the throne, by the defeat of a weak attempt to raise the lady Jane Grey to that eminence, than she assembled the knights-companions at her manor of St. James on the 27th September 1553, and, with their concurrence, restored the duke of Norfolk and the lord Paget (who had been degraded during the last reign) to their places in the society. Two of the knights present were commanded to re-invest them with the Garter and Collar.

Accession,
6th July,
1553.

Restores the
duke of
Norfolk and
lord Paget.

The statutes
ordained by
Edward VI.
abrogated.

It was at the same time decreed that the statutes ordained by her predecessor should be abrogated, as "in no sort convenient, but impertinent, and tending to novelty;" and Sir William Petre, who had been on that day admitted as chancellor in the room of Cecil, was directed to see them expunged from the book of statutes; the laws and ordinances, which had been promulgated by Henry VIII. and his royal predecessors, to be only retained.

The treaty of marriage between the queen and Philip prince of Spain, eldest son of the emperor Charles V, having been ratified by her in March following, that prince was elected into the Order at a chapter held at St. James's on the vigil of St. George.

The annual feast was prorogued until the arrival of the new Sovereign. Philip landed at Southampton on the 21st July 1554, and was there received by many of the nobility, and, amongst others, by the earl of Arundel, the bearer of the Garter, with which he invested the illustrious stranger on board the ship which had conveyed him to the English shore.

Arrival of
Philip prince
of Spain,
and his
marriage
with the
queen, 27th
July 1554.

PHILIP
and
MARY
Joint
Sovereigns.

The Queen having met her consort at Winchester, the nuptials were there solemnised on the 27th of the same month; and the royal pair immediately proclaimed king and queen of England.

Installation
of
king Philip.

On the 3rd August 1554, the king and queen repaired to Windsor; and, before they entered the chapel, the earls of Arundel and Pembroke invested Philip with the Mantle and Collar; when the joint Sovereigns proceeded hand in hand

into the choir, where the queen placed the king in the Sovereign's stall, and took her seat by his side within the same stall.

PHILIP
and
MARY.

On the day following the king entered upon the exercise of the sovereignty by signing two commissions, the one dispensing with the attendance of certain knights, and the other for the installation of the earl of Sussex.

The relative
duties dis-
charged by
the king.

At another chapter, held on the 5th of the same month, it was concluded that all acts and decrees, wheresoever dispersed in the great book of the Order, which were at variance with the statutes, should be annulled; and a committee was appointed for carrying this ordinance into effect.

All existing
decrees at
variance
with the
statutes
annulled.

It was also settled that the same admonitions, which had usually been addressed to foreign princes on their installation, should be administered to knights-subjects; and that there should be no difference in the ceremonies of investiture.

Admoni-
tions at the
investiture
of foreign
princes.

On the 6th of August the king declared the election of the duke of Savoy; and the lord Clinton and garter king of arms were commissioned to deliver to him the ensigns of the Order.

Duke of
Savoy
elected.

It appears that Philip alone presided at chapters and ceremonies of the Order; and that the duties of the Sovereign were only discharged by the queen during his absence on a visit to his hereditary states.

The queen
presides as
Sovereign in
the absence
of her
consort.

The concluding act of this sovereignty was a decree in chapter at St. James's, 1st June 1558, that the three officers of the Order, viz. the Register, Garter, and Black Rod, should wear at the feast of St. George, and at chapters, a silk mantle of crimson satin, lined with white taffata, with the ensign of St. George, not surrounded by the Garter, embroidered on the left shoulder, and with cordons and tassels similar to those of the mantles of the Prelate and Chancellor.

Mantles of
the Register,
Garter, and
Black Rod.

It was on the same day ordered that the poor knights should have possession of their houses, if possible, by Midsummer following; and that the marquess of Winchester should assign lands for their maintenance.

Ordinance
in favour of
the poor
knights.

This sovereignty terminated on the 17th November 1558, by the demise of the queen.

The queen's
death.

ELIZABETH. Upon the accession of queen Elizabeth, it became necessary to make provision for the future place of the king of Spain within the royal chapel, where, as king-consort, he had occupied, jointly with Mary, the Sovereign's stall. This was accomplished by removing the banner of the emperor Ferdinand, the knight of the highest rank, to the Prince's stall (vacant since the demise of Charles V), and affixing the banner and other achievements of Philip to the stall nearest to that of the Sovereign.

Accession
Nov. 17th,
1558.

King
Philip's
banner, &c.
removed
from the
Sovereign's
stall.

The Order
not affected
by the
changes in
religious
rites.

1559,
June 3rd.

The changes in the rites and ceremonies of religion, which engrossed the attention of the queen's council immediately after her accession, do not appear to have materially affected the Order; within which the statutes, consolidated and declared by Henry VIII. and confirmed by Mary, continued to be observed. At the first installation, however, in the new reign, a debate arose touching the form of the oath to be taken by the knights on their introduction to their stalls; whereupon the earl of Pembroke, the Sovereign's lieutenant, dispensed with the administration of any for that occasion; the knights promising to obey such relative ordinance as should be appointed at the next chapter.

1560,
April 22nd.

A revisal of
the statutes
ordained.

The queen, in chapter, empowered four of the companions to revise the statutes, and report to her and the society whether any of them were repugnant to the religion, laws, and statutes of the realm. With the exception of a slight modification of the oath, no material alteration was deemed to be necessary. Elizabeth, although friendly to the reformation, had not approved, or, from deference perhaps towards a still powerful party amongst her nobility in favour of the ancient religion, affected to disapprove of several of the changes introduced by her brother in the forms of worship; and regarded the removal of the decorations from the churches and of the sacerdotal vestments, as well as the abridgement of many of the outward ceremonies, as inexpedient, and, in the yet unenlightened condition of the public mind, hurtful to the interests of religion itself. A similar feeling seems to have influenced her, at least in the early part of her reign, in the exercise of the sovereignty of the Order. But, upon a more firm settlement of her authority, several of the ancient cus-

toms were allowed to fall into disuse; and, in her ninth year, an important innovation was effected in the discontinuance of St. George's feast at Windsor,¹ where it had been annually kept, with little interruption, since the period of the foundation; but where, however, it was probably found difficult, under a more simple ritual, to consume, as theretofore, three entire days in ceremonies of which religious observances had necessarily constituted the most prominent part.

The decrees and ordinances made within the Order during this reign were as follow:—

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <p>1558-9,
Jan. 12.</p> | <p>1. That if any person, being of a gentle or noble family, have been convicted of treason, and pardoned, and restored in blood, he shall be eligible to the Order without reproach.²</p> | <p>ELIZABETH.
1567,
April 23rd.</p> <p>The annual feast of St. George not to be thenceforth celebrated at Windsor.</p> |
| <p>1562,
May 10.</p> | <p>2. That the collar of the Order might be worn not only upon the occasions enjoined by the statutes, but also on all the usual days of solemn festivals.</p> | <p>Anattainted knight restored in blood may be re-elected.
Collar when to be worn.</p> |
| <p>1563,
April 22.</p> | <p>3. That the suffrages at chapters be entered in the annals, although no election should have been made thereupon.</p> | <p>Suffrages to be registered.</p> |
| <p>1564,
April 22.</p> | <p>4. That every knight, who for the future should be admitted into the Order, be installed in the lowest stall according to the course and seniority of his election, excepting only stranger kings and princes.</p> | <p>Precedency in the royal chapel.</p> |
| <p>1566,
April 24.</p> | <p>5. That garter king of arms and his successors should wear, hanging down upon the breast, the royal arms encompassed with the Garter and ensigned with an imperial crown; and that the usher of the Order and his successors should wear, in like manner, one of the knots which tie the roses together in the collar, also within the Garter.</p> | <p>Badges of Garter and Black Rod.</p> |
| <p>June 16.</p> | <p>6. That, forasmuch as the officers of arms had theretofore no certain place assigned to them wherein they might "eat their meat" on the night next preceding St. George's day, and also on the evening of the feast day, they should from thenceforth have, within the hall at Windsor, that table which was before that time appointed for the Chancellor, Register, and the other officers of the Order.</p> | <p>Table of the officers of arms.</p> |
| <p>1567,
April 23.</p> | <p>7. That, if on the vigil and day of St. George the feast was not held at Windsor according to the usual custom, it should nevertheless be sufficient if the observation thereof were</p> | <p>Regulations touching the feast of the Order.</p> |

¹ See decree 7.

case of the marquess of Northampton. See a relative note in the list of Knights, temp. Eliz.

² This decree was to meet the

ELIZABETH.

Ensigns and habit to be returned on decease of a knight.

Precedency of the knights in the house of commons.

Foreign princes elected temp. Eliz.

Death of the Sovereign. A lieutenant appointed by the knights for a special purpose.

JAMES I.

Accession 4th March 1602-3.

kept in the same place where the Sovereign should then happen to be ; where also all the rest of the knights-companions were obliged to be present, no less than if the feast had been to be celebrated at Windsor ; and *that no other solemnity, under the notion of St. George's feast, should thenceforth be celebrated at Windsor, except upon occasion of the installation of some illustrious personage, and then also not without the leave and appointment of the Sovereign.*

8. That the knights should be bound by their oath to provide by their last wills that all the ornaments of the Order, which they had received, be restored ; the mantle to the college, and the jewels to the Sovereign.

9. That the knights of the Order should have seat and place in the lower house of parliament before all other knights, except the treasurer and comptroller of the royal household.

Many foreign sovereigns and other strangers of distinction were elected into the Order in the course of the reign of Elizabeth, viz. Maximilian II. and Rodolphus II. emperors of Germany ; Charles IX, Henry III, and Henry IV, kings of France ; James VI. king of Scotland ; Frederick king of Denmark ; Adolphus duke of Holstein ; John-Casimir duke of Bavaria and count palatine, and Francis duke de Montmorency, of whom the two last-mentioned had received the ensigns in person during their visits to the English court.

On the 24th March 1602-3 the Sovereign died. Her successor being in Scotland, the earl of Nottingham, admiral of England, was, by the rest of the society, appointed lieutenant to prorogue the feast to the 3rd of July following. Accordingly, on the vigil of the feast, and in the presence of six knights, the commission was read, and the adjournment made.

The presumptive heir to the throne, king James VI. of Scotland, had been elected into the Order on the 24th of April 1590, at the same time with Henry IV. of France. To the latter the ensigns were not transmitted until 1596 ;¹ but we find that the earl of Worcester was despatched to Edinburgh

¹ Stowe, p. 777. He took the oath 20th Oct. 1597 ; the patent of acceptance bears date on the day following.—“ *Leagues*” in the office of the Exch. tit. “ *Francia*.”

soon after the election, for the purpose of notifying that event to the king, as well as of congratulating him on his marriage.¹ It does not appear that the delivery of the Garter took place at the time of this notification, or that there was for the purpose any subsequent embassy from Elizabeth to the Scottish court.

King James arrived in London, after his slow journey from the North, on the 7th of May 1603, and held the first chapter of the Order under his sovereignty on the 14th of June, when Henry duke of Rothsay, "prince of Britain," then in his tenth year, and Christiern IV. king of Denmark, the queen's brother, were elected;² the former in the room of his royal father, then Sovereign; the latter in the place of the emperor Rodolphus II, whose election had been for some time void on account of his non-acceptance of its conditions, or neglect of installation.

On the 9th of July, prince Henry, together with the duke of Lennox, and the earls of Southampton, Marr, and Pembroke, was installed at Windsor; where, on the two following days, the feast of St. George was kept with great splendour, and the banner, with other achievements of the late queen, offered with the usual ceremonies.³

Henry Brooke lord Cobham, having been convicted and

JAMES I.

Arrives in London 7th May, and holds his first chapter 14th June 1603.

Lord Cobham degraded.

¹ The king of Scots was, at the date of his election, at sea on his passage from Denmark with his royal bride. They landed at Leith 1st May 1590; the queen was crowned in the chapel of Holyroodhouse on the 17th, and made her public entry into Edinburgh on the 19th of that month. The earl of Worcester reached the Scottish capital on the 13th June, had his audience on the day following, and, on the 15th, wrote to lord Burghley,—“Upon Sunday I had audience, and after some fewe wordes of her majesty's joy for his safe return, I delivered her letter; that being read, I delivered the other, with some wordes shewing her majesty's further affection in chusing him to bee of the honorable Order

of the Garter, together with the Frenche king. His awnswer was he was glad to bee joynd with so honorable a companion.”—*Orig. letters, with others relating to this embassy, dated in May, and on the 20th and 22nd June, in the State Paper office.*

² Blue Book, p. 150. The earl of Rutland and sir William Segar, garter, were, on the 23rd of the same month, commissioned to carry the ensigns to the king of Denmark.—*Ashm. App. No. 70.*

³ The banner by the earl of Nottingham lord admiral, and lord Buckhurst high treasurer; the sword by the earls of Shrewsbury and Cumberland; the helm and crest by the earls of Northumberland and Worcester.

JAMES I. condemned for treason, was degraded from the Order; and, on 12th February 1603-4, his achievements were taken down and cast out of the chapel.¹

The duke of Holstein installed in person 16th May 1605.

Dispensation with the knighthood of the king of Denmark's proctor.

Ulric duke of Holstein, brother of the queen, being on a visit in England, was elected on 24th April 1605, and installed in person on the 16th of the following month.²

On the 7th of September Henry Ramelius, councillor of state to the king of Denmark, appeared at Windsor to be installed as proctor for that monarch. This person not being a knight, a message was sent to him, from the chapter assembled on the following day, acquainting him with the injunction of the statutes, that every proctor for a knight of the Order should himself have previously received knighthood, and offering to him that honour; to which he replied, "that he came not to be installed in his own name, but in that of his master; and, the honour of knighthood not being known in his country, he prayed to be held excused."³ Whereupon the king dispensed with the statute in his behalf; and he was, on the same day, installed, carrying the mantle of his principal on his left shoulder, and taking the oath appointed for the occasion."⁴

Trains of the knights at installations.

In 1606, the obsolete custom of a procession of a number of attendants before the new knights was revived; and, accordingly, those who were to be installed arrived at Windsor "with an almost innumerable train."

King of Denmark's visit.

On the 7th of August, the king of Denmark, being on a visit to the Sovereign, attended Divine service in St. George's chapel, made the usual offering, and was afterwards magnificently entertained at the castle.

A knight challenged to a duel.

At the feast of St. George in 1609, as the earl of Sussex was on his way to Windsor, one William Palmes challenged him to a duel; and the Sovereign and knights having been

¹ "The king of arms threw them down, and kicked them out of the outer-door, but no further; the Sovereign, from regard to his nobility, forbidding them to be cast into the common ditch, as the custom is."—*Blue Book*, p. 153.

² Plate still remaining in the 3rd stall, Sovereign's side.

³ *Blue Book*, p. 179. The words in the text are cited from the register; but the Dane could scarcely have made such an assertion: his refusal arose probably from a fear of acting contrary to his allegiance.

⁴ *Ashm. App. N° 154.*

informed of the fact, the offender was taken into custody, and not released until he had made his submission upon his knees in the chapel before all the fraternity.

On the 19th May 1622, amongst several ordinances confirmatory of former regulations, it was decreed that, "whereas the colour of the ribband had not been particularly expressed in any article of the statutes, and the blue or sky-colour had been used for some years past, the ribband shall in future be always of a blue colour and no other; nor, in time of mourning for any of the knights-companions, of what degree soever, shall the colour be changed."

On the 2nd February 1622-3, James second marquess of Hamilton and earl of Cambridge, was elected "viva voce."¹ His installation, on the 22nd April following, was remarkable for the further distinction paid to him by his reception, at the entrance of the chapter-room, by the earl of Worcester, the Sovereign's deputy, and *all* the companions present.

The foreign princes elected during this sovereignty, in addition to those already mentioned, were Frederick elector palatine (afterwards king of Bohemia), Maurice prince of Orange, and Christian duke of Brunswick-Lunenburg a general in the service of Holland.²

The Sovereign died on the 27th of March 1625.

His son and successor, king Charles the First, manifested, soon after he ascended the throne, an earnest desire to revive the splendour as well as several of the ancient observances of the Order which, from various causes, had suffered diminution or neglect under his predecessors.

The vacancy created by his own accession, and three others, occasioned by the recent deaths of the earl of Nottingham, the

¹ Red Book, p. 4. The expression implies that the usual form of collecting the suffrages was not observed; and that, from particular respect towards the marquess, the election passed, as it were, by acclamation. The same mode of election is recorded to have been observed in 1603, in the cases of

prince Henry and the king of Denmark.

² The elector palatine and the prince of Brunswick (Christian, younger son of Henry-Julius duke of Brunswick-Lunenburg, by Elizabeth of Denmark, and nephew to Anne queen consort of James I.) were invested during their temporary residence in England.

JAMES I.

1622,
decree relative to the colour of the ribband.

Particular honours to the marquess of Hamilton.

CHARLES I.

Accession
27th March
1625.

Vacancies in the Order supplied at his first chapter, 15th May.

CHARLES I. marquess of Hamilton, and the prince of Orange, were supplied by the election, on the 15th May, of the earls of Dorset and Holland, and the viscount Andover, and that of the duke de Chevreuse, on the 4th July 1625; the last-named nobleman, who had been the king's proxy at his marriage with queen Henrietta-Maria, being then in England upon affairs connected with that event.¹

The escocheon, as embroidered on the mantle, appointed to be worn on coats and other garments, 27th April 1626, and converted into a Star in 1629.

An important addition to the decorations of the knights was made in a chapter held at Westminster on the 27th April 1626. The mantle, adorned with an escocheon of the cross of St. George within the Garter, having been only used at the feasts, chapters, and installations, it was thought fit that the companions should, on ordinary occasions, wear on the left side of their cloaks, coats, and [riding] cassocks, a like escocheon, (but not enriched with precious stones,) "in order that the wearing thereof may be a testimony to the world of the honour they derive from the said most noble Order, instituted and ordained for persons of the highest honour and greatest worth."² This badge was, shortly afterwards, converted into a STAR by the addition of a glory, or radii, issuant from and surrounding the cross.³

Parade of the attendants on the knights at Windsor.

On the 24th April 1629, thanks were given to the earl of Northampton "for the honourable appearance he had made at his installation, having been attended by nearly one hundred persons;" and it was decreed that thereafter the knights-elect might have the like number of attendants.⁴

¹ Rymer, vol. xviii. p. 116.

² Red Book, p. 32. Ashmole has inserted, p. 216, from the collections of W. Le Neve, a document which purports to be a copy of the ordinance in question. In this, the prelate and the chancellor are included: but they are not mentioned in the registered decree; and it does not appear that those officers ever wore the escocheon otherwise than on their mantles.

³ The addition of "the glory" was in imitation of the ensign of the French Order of Saint Esprit,

in which the figure of a dove was irradiated in like manner. The radii are believed to have been added in 1629; for there is a medal, bearing that date, and apparently struck to commemorate the new decoration. It has, on one side, the crowned bust of Charles I, with the collar of the Order, over an ermine robe, around the neck; and, on the reverse, the irradiated star (as worn by the knights at the present day), with this legend: "Prisci Decus Ordinis Auctum." See an engraving of the medal in Ashmole, p. 216.

⁴ Red Book, p. 50.

At a special chapter at Windsor, 5th September, the Sovereign appointed the knights to attend on the next day for the purpose of witnessing his ratification of a treaty with the French king. The day following, being Sunday, the king, after prayers in the private chapel, came at noon from the castle, accompanied by the ambassador, the marquis de Châteaufort, to St. George's chapel (which was divided by a partition or railing through the middle of the choir, the ambassador passing on the left side); and, after a hymn, proceeded to the table before the altar, where stood the viscount Dorchester, secretary of state, and the dean of Windsor. The king and the ambassador then swore to the ratification, which the king signed; and there was afterwards a grand banquet in St. George's hall.¹

CHARLES I.

The knights witness the solemn ratification of a treaty with France, 6th Sept. 1629.

In 1631 a committee of knights was appointed to revise the statutes.²

At a chapter, 23rd April 1634, a debate arose touching the colour of the mantle; and it was agreed that it ought to be *blue*, not *purple*, as then used.³

Colour of the mantle.

The knights were enjoined to take care that, for the future, their arms, encompassed by the Garter, should not be worn on any part of the dress of their servants, but only used in that manner upon "household goods" [plate and furniture] and instruments or writings of all kinds.⁴

Injunction touching the surrounding the arms with the Garter.

On the 18th April 1635, there was a solemn reception at Whitehall, in the presence of the knights-companions, of an ambassador from Christina queen of Sweden, to return to the Sovereign, in conformity to the direction of the statutes, the ensign and habit of the Order worn by her deceased illustrious father, king Gustavus-Adolphus.⁵

The late king of Sweden's ensigns returned by a solemn embassy.

A chapter was held on the 22nd of the same month, at which, upon administering the oath to Dr. Christopher Wren, dean of Windsor, then recently appointed Register, it was determined that the office of Register should be always vested in the dean of Windsor for the time being; and this decision

The dean of Windsor, for the time being, to be Register.

¹ Red Book, pp. 53, 54.

² Ibid. p. 68.

³ Ibid. p. 97.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Red Book, p. 105. The ceremony on this occasion is minutely described by Ashmole, pp. 637-640.

CHARLES I. was ordered to be entered in the annals, in order "that it might pass to future times, from example into rule."¹

Installation
of the earl of
Northum-
berland with
particular
pomp.

On the day following Algernon Percy tenth earl of Northumberland was elected into the Order; and, on the 13th May, after having entertained the king and queen at Dorsethouse, that earl departed for Windsor, with a great retinue,² and was there installed.

Sundry
ordinances
within the
Order.

On the 19th April 1636, several regulations appear to have been made upon the report of a committee of the knights, viz.:—

1. A general order, empowering three of the knights, with the chancellor, to consult upon matters relating to the reform of the statutes, &c.
2. Injunction to attend more regularly the annual feast.
3. No dispensation for absence to be granted but on condition that the feast be solemnised in private chapels or halls, except in cases of sickness.
4. Knighthood before election not to be required from foreign princes.
5. All commissions, &c. to pass under the great seal of the Order, all letters missive under the signet.
6. Both seals to be newly engraved and carried before the Sovereign, when wearing the habit of the Order, in a purse of blue velvet embroidered with the royal arms.
7. Garter, and others joined with him in commissions to carry the ensigns to a foreign prince, not to deliver them until they have received the acceptance of such prince under his seal.
8. The great seal to be affixed to the statutes delivered to an elect knight.
9. The ensigns and book of statutes to be returned at the decease of a knight.
10. The number of the poor knights to be augmented to twenty-six according to the Founder's intention.
11. Concerning the disposal of the annual grant of 1200*l.* for the use of the Order, payable out of the customs.³
12. The bishop of Salisbury's petition claiming the office of chancellor as annexed to his See by Edward IV, not complied with, "as the great seal of England did not work within or upon the statutes and rules of the Order."
13. The knights-commissioners to consider of the robes to be worn by the prelate and chancellor, and to certify their ancient colour and form.⁴

Election,
investiture,
and

In chapter, on 9th October 1637, the Sovereign declared that he would receive none into the Order until his son prince

¹ Red Book, p. 107.

² Ashm. p. 341; Red Book, p. 111, where the retinue is said to have consisted of "30 chariots, with horsemen, and footmen an innumerable company."

³ We do not find when this grant

was discontinued. An annual sum of 500*l.* is now paid out of the civil list, for the use of the officers (the prelate excepted) and of the "Military Knights of Windsor," formerly called "Poor Knights."

⁴ Red Book, p. 118.

Charles had been elected. This was effected on the 21st May 1638. The prince being then in St. George's hall, garter was sent to him with his majesty's letter, signifying his election;¹ and he was brought into the chapter-room between the two senior knights (Pembroke and Arundel), and invested with the Garter, ribband, and George. He then withdrew and was again introduced and knighted, four of the chief nobility present receiving at the same time that honour.² On the same day the prince was installed.

CHARLES I.
installation
of prince
Charles.

At a chapter on the day following, an attempt was made to revive the ancient custom of issuing the ensigns and robes of the Order to LADIES. Sir James Palmer, acting as deputy for sir Thomas Rowe, chancellor, moved the Sovereign, "That the ladies of the knights-companions might have the privilege to wear a Garter of the Order about their arms; and an upper robe, at festival times, according to ancient usage." Upon which motion the Sovereign gave orders "that the queen should be made acquainted therewith and her pleasure known, and the affair left to the particular suit of the ladies." On the 10th of October in the year following, the deputy-chancellor reported to the Sovereign in chapter the answer which the queen was pleased to give: "whereupon it was left to a chapter, to be called by the knights-companions, to consider of every circumstance, and how it were fittest to be done for the honour of the Order." A chapter was appointed to be held for the purpose; but owing, as it is supposed to the civil war, nothing was done therein.³

Proposed
revival of
the ancient
custom of
decorating
ladies with
the ensigns
and robes.

22 May
1638.

For the subsequent elections during this reign, which terminated so unhappily on the 30th January 1648-9, we refer to the list of Knights.

After the deed of violence which had, according to all appearance, sealed the doom of the monarchy, the Order of the

INTER-
REGNUM.

¹ Red Book, pp. 143, 144. The only instance in which a written notice of election was sent to a knight-elect then present at the court.

² Red Book, pp. 142, 143. The noblemen, knighted on this occa-

sion, were, Robert earl of Essex, Ulick earl of St. Albans, Thomas earl of Elgin, and William viscount Grandison. MS. Coll. Armor. p. 102, autogr. W. Dugdale, who gives the date as *twentieth* of May.

³ Ashmole, p. 218.

INTER-
REGNUM.

Garter, one of the most revered of its institutions, was shorn for a long season of its wonted lustre. Amidst constant endeavours, in several antecedent years, to preserve the vessel of the state from an inevitable wreck, the affairs of the society, its festive conventions, and hallowed rites, were of necessity intermitted; and the venerable castle and chapel, once the scene of splendid ceremonies and pious observances, were profaned by the occupation of a rude soldiery.

The acts of
the Order
between
1638 and
1660 col-
lected by sir
Edward
Walker.

Since the installation of prince Charles in 1638, and until the Restoration, the registration of the annals had been suspended; and the Order is solely indebted to the care and zeal of sir Edward Walker, garter king of arms, the loyal attendant and secretary of the ill-fated monarch during the war, as well as of his son pending the whole term of his exile, for the record of the exertions which were made, chiefly by the instrumentality of that faithful officer, and amidst difficulties of every kind, to save the institution from absolute decay.

CHARLES
II.

State of the
Order at the
death of king
Charles the
First.

At the death of the late Sovereign, the Order consisted of only sixteen members: of these, besides the prince of Wales and the duke of York, five were foreigners, viz. the king of Denmark, the Elector-Palatine, his brother prince Rupert, and the French dukes de Chevreuse and d'Espernon; three noblemen of Scotland, viz. the dukes of Lennox and Hamilton, and the earl of Marr; and six English earls, Pembroke, Salisbury, Dorset, Holland, Berkshire, and Northumberland. Within the short space of two months three further vacancies occurred by the demise of Christiern IV, and the beheading of the duke of Hamilton and the earl of Holland by sentence of the parliament.

The Order
conferred by
his successor
during his
exile.

In the mean time, the survivors of the fraternity acknowledged the rightful heir to the crown as their Sovereign; and, not only the nobles who shared his adverse fortune, but also several illustrious strangers, considered themselves honoured by his nomination to a distinction of which he was often too poor to bestow the ensign.

Of those nominations, without the ceremony of election and the practicability of installation, an account will be found in our List.

The first acts of sovereignty, at the Restoration, were the election and investiture (in a chapter, held at Canterbury on the 26th of May 1660, at which the only knights present were the dukes of York and Gloucester, and the duke of Buckingham), of general sir George Monck, soon afterwards created duke of Albemarle, and the election of admiral sir Edward Montagu, who, in the year following, was advanced to the earldom of Sandwich. The latter was invested with the Garter and George by sir Edward Walker, on the 27th May, on board of his ship then lying in the Downs.

At a chapter 14th January 1660-1, it was, amongst other matters, decreed that the subjects of foreign princes might be installed by proxy as well as the princes themselves.

On the 1st April 1661 the Sovereign and knights, assembled in chapter, thinking it fit that there should be a uniform under-habit of the Order, appointed for that purpose a doublet or vest of cloth of silver, and trunk-hose, to be thenceforward constantly worn together with the outer-habit.

On the 15th of the same month the feast of St. George was celebrated with great solemnity at Windsor.¹

Christiern, prince and afterwards king of Denmark by the style of Christiern V, was elected on the 6th of November 1662, and invested at Whitehall on the 8th of the same month.²

¹ At this feast twenty knights were installed, either in person, by proxy, or by the act of placing their banners, &c. in the royal chapel under a particular dispensation. The duke of York and prince Rupert having, in 1645, had dispensations for their installation, the duke was now privately seated in his stall by two companions, being preceded into the chapel by the Register, Garter, and Black Rod. Twelve knights-subjects were, thereupon, installed. They were all called together into the chapter-house; and, after the dukes of Ormond and Buckingham, and the earl of Southampton, had been severally conducted to the chapel and installed, the rest were brought

in and placed upon seats in front of their stalls, their servants attending at the chapel-door with the habits and ensigns on cushions, which garter received and delivered at the respective installations. It was noticed that the achievements of only three of the companions were left, all the rest having been taken away during the civil war.

² Prince Edward (brother of prince Rupert) was present in the chapter and wore the mantle, although never installed; but it was provided, by a special clause in the relative dispensation, that this irregularity should not form a precedent.

CHARLES II.

RESTORATION.

The king holds his first chapter at Canterbury 26th May 1660, at which general Monck and admiral Montagu were elected.

14th Jan. 1660-1, sub-

jects of foreign

princes may be installed

by proxy.

A uniform under-

habit appointed.

CHARLES II. The statute of queen Elizabeth, ordaining that the knights should be installed according to priority of election was, at a chapter on the 10th of January 1662-3, confirmed; and the regulation was extended to foreign knights, except to princes, who were to have precedence of knights-subjects.¹

Precedency of stalls. At a chapter, 19th November 1669, the office of chancellor of the Order was definitively annexed to the see of Salisbury.²

The office of chancellor annexed to the bishopric of Salisbury, 19th Nov. 1669.

On the same day the manner of placing knights-strangers was taken into consideration. It was observed, that, from the foundation until the sovereignty of Henry VII, the new knight had succeeded to the stall of him in whose room he had been chosen; but that, since that period, all knights-elect (except sovereign princes and the king's sons, who were placed nearest to the Sovereign), had entered at first into the lower stalls. And, it having been ordained, in 1662, that all princes whatsoever should have precedence among themselves according to their elections and installations; and the ensigns having then recently been sent to the king of Sweden and the elector of Saxony, the Sovereign's decision was prayed to which stall the king should be appointed; since, according to that ordinance, he would be placed in the fourth stall from that of the Sovereign, and have six princes above him. Whereupon the following decree was issued:—

The place of knights-strangers in the royal chapel

determined by a new statute, 19th Nov. 1669.

1. That the prince of Wales, and emperors and kings, should be placed in the stalls nearest to the Sovereign, according to their elections and installations.
2. That all other sovereign princes, and the princes of the blood, should be placed next unto kings, according to the priority of their elections.
3. That all companions, subjects or strangers, not of the dignities above-mentioned, should be installed in the lowest stalls, and be translated to the higher stalls, according to seniority in the Order and the *ancient* practice.
4. And, because the Prince's stall had been a long time vacant, it

¹ Caroline Book, fo. 43.

of this decision, and the previous history of the claim, fully stated

² Ibid. fo. 69; and see the grounds

by Ashmole, pp. 237-243.

was ordained that the king of Sweden should, by his proxy, take his place in that stall, and his achievements be hung over the same.

CHARLES
II.

On the 7th February 1669-70, the chancellor and garter, by direction of Christopher 2nd duke of Albemarle, then lately elected, prayed the Sovereign's dispensation that the said duke might wear the star upon his upper garment previously to installation, a licence which had been formerly granted to others; but his majesty considering that the precedents produced were of times of civil commotion, when the affairs of the Order could not be duly transacted; and seeing that the day of installation was then only two months distant; he refused to grant the indulgence which had been sought.

Refusal to
allow the
Star to be
worn before
installation.

Charles XI. king of Sweden and John-George elector of Saxony were installed by proxy at Windsor during a grand feast of the Order held on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of May 1671.¹

At a chapter held at Whitehall, on the 19th November 1682, the following alteration in the mode of wearing the ribband, with the lesser George appendent, was decreed:—

That whereas king Charles the First had ordained that every knight-companion, not wearing the mantle, should nevertheless wear, upon the left side of his under-habit or cassock, the cross of St. George encompassed with the Garter; and whereas, it had also been customary to wear the George in a *blue ribband*,² over the habit, it was now agreed by the

Ordinance
to wear the
Ribbon
belt or
scarf-wise
over the left
shoulder,
19th Nov.
1682.

¹ A print of this feast, etched by Hollar, is in Ashmole, p. 333. The Sovereign ordered a ceremonial to be previously drawn up for his approval; and it was thereupon printed. Upon garter's representation that his majesty, as king of England only, was Sovereign of the Order, it was directed that the style should be proclaimed "*Angliæ, Scotiæ*," &c. and not "*Magnæ Britanniæ*," &c.—Walker MS. of Installations, &c. pp. 28. 33^b.

² It has been observed that the medal or jewel (usually called the *Lesser George*, to distinguish it

from the other *George* pendent from *the Collar*), was in 1521 first directed to be worn loosely before the breast, attached to a gold chain or ribband. The colour of the ribband was optional, commonly *black*, until the reign of Elizabeth, when the earl of Essex, having noticed, whilst in France, that the jewel of the Order of St. Michael was worn pendent from a *blue* ribband, adopted that colour. In 1623 it was decreed that the knights of the Garter should use a *blue* ribband and no other. But the colour of it was *light* or *cerulean*

CHARLES
II.

Sovereign and companions in chapter, that the ribband, with the George, should be worn over the upper-habit, *belt-ways*, over the left shoulder and under the right arm,¹ in such a manner as that it might be best seen.

Admonitions at investiture and installation.

It was also decreed that whereas the usual admonitions to the knight-elect, at his investiture with the ribband and George, the mantle and the collar, had been of late omitted, and the ceremonies of investiture thereby in an essential part diminished, the said admonitions should in future be pronounced by the chancellor, or in his absence, by the chief of the other three officers present.²

Election of prince George of Denmark, 1st Jan. 1683-4.

On the 1st of January 1683-4 prince George, brother of Christiern V. king of Denmark, knight of the Order, and consort³ of the princess Anne, niece of the Sovereign, was knighted, elected, and invested at Whitehall.⁴

Duke of Northumberland, knight-elect, allowed to wear the ensigns without investiture.

Charles duke of Somerset, and George Fitzroy duke of Northumberland, the Sovereign's natural son, were elected on the 10th of the same month. The latter, then eighteen years of age and in France, was, although not invested, allowed to wear the ensigns during his residence in that kingdom.⁵ Prince George of Denmark, and the dukes of Somerset and

blue, as the field of the royal arms of France; and the precise time at which the change to the present deeper colour (called *mazarine*, or *Garter-blue*, or *royal purple*) took place is not known. It has been said that Charles II. adopted the colour, now used, in compliment to the duchess of Mazarine, who had preferred it for her dress; and the change has also been ascribed to a desire of distinguishing the knights of the Order from those upon whom James II. conferred it in France after he had ceased to be Sovereign.

¹ The ordinance to wear the ribband belt-wise or scarf-wise over the left shoulder, and the lesser George appendent under the right arm, has been attributed to a conceit of the duchess of Portsmouth, who it is said presented her son, the duke of Richmond, elected into

the Order in 1681, to the king, wearing the ribband in that fashion, and that the Sovereign, being pleased with the mode, commanded the knights to conform to it. It was more probably adopted in imitation of some foreign mode of wearing the ribband which the king had observed during his exile.

² Caroline Book, fo. 149.

³ The nuptials had taken place on 28th July preceding.

⁴ At this investiture, the sword of state not being at hand, the king commanded that it should be sought for, refusing to use any other sword for the knighthood.—*Caroline Book*, fo. 151.

⁵ Caroline Book, fo. 152. This was not without precedent, the earl of Arlington having obtained a like dispensation whilst ambassador at the French court.

Northumberland were installed at Windsor, on the 8th April 1684, in the presence of the Sovereign.

CHARLES II.

The reign of Charles II. closed on the 6th of February following.

Death of the Sovereign.

King James the Second, the brother and successor of the deceased Sovereign, held his first chapter of the Order on the 6th of May 1685, when Henry duke of Norfolk, earl marshal of England and constable of Windsor castle, was elected and invested.

JAMES II.

Accession,
6th Feb.
1684-5.

The Sovereign acquainted the knights, assembled in chapter on the 18th of the following month, that James late duke of Monmouth, knight of the Order, having invaded the kingdom in a hostile manner, was then in open rebellion, levying war against the king, contrary to his oath, duty, and allegiance; and having been, therefore, attainted of high treason, his majesty did not think fit that his banner and other achievements should remain in St. George's chapel; and desired the advice of the companions thereon. It was unanimously agreed that the said achievements should be pulled down and ejected from the chapel; and garter king of arms was empowered so to do by a warrant under the royal sign manual and seal of the Order. The officers of arms performed this duty on the day following; and the duke's achievements were cast into the castle-ditch.

The duke of Monmouth degraded 18th June 1685.

At the last-mentioned chapter it was ordained that the prelate should wear, as his badge of office, a representation of St. George on horseback slaying the dragon, enamelled on gold, encompassed with the garter, and surmounted by an episcopal mitre; and that the badge of the register should be two silver pens, in saltire, enamelled on gold, and surrounded with the Garter.

Badges of the Prelate and Register.

On the 30th July 1685, the Sovereign directed that the officer of the Life-guard, having the command on a chapter-day, should attend at the palace; and, at the introduction by Garter and Black-Rod, of the knight to be elected, for preparatory knighthood, follow them into the chapter-room, draw the sword called the sword of state, and deliver it into the

30th July 1685. The officer of the Life-guard, in command, to deliver the sword of state at chapters.

JAMES II. king's hand; and, after the accolade, return it into the scabbard.¹

The
Sovereign's
last chapter,
28th Sept.
1688;

The concluding chapter during this Sovereignty was held at Whitehall on the 28th September 1688, for the purpose of supplying the vacancies created by the deaths of the elector of Brandenburg and the duke of Ormond. There were eight knights² present with the Sovereign. James Fitz-James duke of Berwick, the king's natural son, and James Butler 2nd duke of Ormond, were severally knighted, elected, and invested.

he embarks
for France
23rd Dec.
following.

In November following the prince of Orange landed with an army at Torbay; and, on the 23rd of December, king James embarked for France.³

WILLIAM
and
MARY.

Proclaimed
13th Feb.
1688-9.

William and Mary, prince and princess of Orange, having, in consequence of the Revolution, been declared king and queen of England, and proclaimed on the 13th of February 1688-9, the Sovereignty of the Order devolved upon them jointly; but its functions were exercised by the king.

On the 28th of March he issued directions for the installation of the duke of Ormond, who had been elected at the last chapter held by king James.

Black-Rod
to deliver
the sword of
state at
chapters,
and not the
officers of
the Life-
guard.

At a chapter, on the 3rd of April, the officers humbly prayed that, according to ancient custom, none but a sworn officer of the Order might assist at conferring the knighthood: and it was thereupon decreed that the late practice, of allowing the officer of the Life-guard to deliver the sword of state, be abolished, and that Black-Rod do, as formerly, perform that duty.

¹ Caroline Book, fo. 166. This order was, soon afterwards, abrogated.

² Prince George of Denmark, the dukes of Hamilton and Northumberland, and the earls of Sunderland, Feversham, Rochester, Mulgrave, and Oxford.

³ King James, after his retirement to St. Germain en Laye (where he died on the 9th of September 1701, and in the church of which town king George IV. caused

a monument to be erected to his memory), nominally conferred the Garter upon Anthony Nompars de Caumont duke de Lauzun (who died 19th Nov. 1723, aged 90); Rich^d Talbot duke of Tyrconnel (who died at Limerick, 14th Aug. 1691); James "prince of Wales;" William Herbert duke of Powis, who died 2nd June 1696; and James Drummond, duke of Melfort, earl of Perth, who died 11th May 1716.—*Moreri*, voce *Jarretiere*.

A question was proposed whether the election of the duke of Berwick was not void, seeing that he could not be installed if he should even desire that honour: and a committee having been delegated to examine the statutes on the point, reported, on the 9th of that month, in substance that, if a knight-elect, dwelling within the kingdom, come not to be installed within one year, his election is void; but that it did not appear to the committee that the duke's election should be made void before the expiration of that term, considering also that he was then out of the realm.¹ At a subsequent chapter, 1st January 1689-90, the report was read; and, it being well known that the duke of Berwick was then in Ireland, "and not without the limits of the kingdom, seeing that the name of the kingdom, in common acceptation, is wherever the authority of the crown of England extends, in which Ireland is comprehended;" the Sovereign thereupon, with the unanimous consent of all the knights present, pronounced the election of the said duke to be null and void.²

Frederick III. elector of Brandenburg, afterwards king of Prussia by the style of Frederick I, was invested at Berlin with the Garter and George on the 2nd, and with the collar and habit on the 6th, June 1690, by the Sovereign's commissioners, James Johnston, esq. and Gregory King, esq. Lancaster herald and deputy to garter king of arms.

George-William duke of Brunswick-Lunenburg, commonly called duke of Zell, was invested by the Sovereign at the Hague 9th April 1691.

John-George IV. elector of Saxony having been elected on 2nd February 1691-2, was invested at Dresden on the 26th January in the year following,³ by the commissioners, sir William Dutton Colt, the king's minister at the court of Brunswick, and Lancaster herald as Garter's deputy.⁴

¹ He had attended the king, his father, to France.

² Reg. of the Garter, vol. v. fo. 9.

³ The investiture had been postponed on account of the war with France.

⁴ The elector of Saxony died without installation; but, having some time previously appointed a

proctor for that ceremony, and his banner, &c. having already been prepared at the Sovereign's charge, letters of dispensation were issued, in pursuance of which he was accounted a Founder; his name inserted in the catalogue of knights; and his achievements affixed to the stall which had been designed for him.

WILLIAM
and
MARY.

The duke of
Berwick's
election
declared
void.

Frederick
elector of
Branden-
burgh, after-
wards king
of Prussia,
invested at
Berlin in
June 1690.

George-
William
duke of
Zell invest-
ed at the
Hague 9th
April 1691.

The elector
of Saxony
invested at
Dresden
26th Jan.
1692-3.

WILLIAM and MARY. During the king's absence from England from May to November 1694, the queen granted a commission for installation, and performed other acts, as Sovereign of the Order.

Death of the queen 28th Dec. 1694. Her majesty died, on the 28th of December, soon after the return of her royal consort.

WILLIAM III. At the first chapter which king William held as sole Sovereign, at Kensington, 6th January 1695-6, prince William (commonly called "duke of Gloucester,"¹) only son of the princess Anne by prince George of Denmark, was knighted and elected. His father and the earl of Oxford, as the two senior knights, buckled on the Garter; and the Sovereign invested the young prince with the ribband and George. At his installation, 24th July following, he was placed in the stall next that which is called the Prince's, and over which the banner of Charles XI. king of Sweden was then suspended.

The ensigns of Charles XI. of Sweden returned after his decease. That king dying on the 15th April 1697, the ensigns and habit, worn by him as a knight of the Order, were returned by his son and successor, Charles XII, with the solemnity which had been observed on the return of the insignia of king Gustavus-Adolphus.²

The elector of Hanover (afterwards king George I.) elected 18th June 1701, On the 18th June 1701 George-Lewis, duke of Brunswick-Lunenburgh, elector of Hanover, eldest son of the princess Sophia, was elected. The banner, &c. of the king of Prussia were transferred to the second stall on the Sovereign's side; those of prince George (the prince's stall vacant since the king of Sweden's death) to the second stall on the Prince's side; and the third stall on the same side was reserved for the elector of Hanover, who was invested in that city, on the 23rd and 24th August following, by Charles earl of Macclesfield, and Gregory King, esq. Lancaster herald (Garter's deputy), the Sovereign's commissioners for that service.

Death of the Sovereign. The Sovereign died at Kensington on the 8th March 1701-2.

¹ He was nominated duke of Gloucester; but the patent for his creation to that dignity was not passed; and he died on the 30th of July 1700, in the twelfth year of his age.

² Register of the Garter, vol. v. fo. 33-45.

Queen Anne, upon her accession, commanded the chancellor of the Order to summon a select number of the knights for the purpose of obtaining their opinion touching the manner in which she should wear the ensigns as Sovereign. The companions, to whom the consideration of the point was committed, were the marquess of Normanby, the duke of Somerset, the earls of Rochester and Feversham, the duke of Devonshire, and the earls of Portland and Pembroke. They expressed their opinion that the George might be worn pendent from a ribband about the queen's neck; the Garter on her left arm; and the star upon her breast; which was accordingly, by the direction of the knights, reported to her majesty by the chancellor.¹

The Sovereign presided at her first chapter on the 14th March 1701-2, when Wriothlesley Russell duke of Bedford, and John Churchill earl of Marlborough were knighted, elected, and invested. The earl (shortly afterwards duke) of Marlborough being in command of the army then in Flanders, his installation was necessarily postponed until the conclusion of the campaign; her majesty, in the mean time, permitting him to wear the star.

The duke of Bedford prayed to be installed alone; but the queen, not thinking fit to comply with his request, granted to him a similar dispensation.

The elector of Hanover (by his proxy lord Mohun), the duke of Bedford in person, and the duke of Marlborough (by his proxy sir Benjamin Bathurst) were installed on the 13th March 1702-3; the elector's stall being the third on the Prince's side, and those of the two dukes the two lowest in the royal chapel.

Shortly before the installation, the queen came from Bath to Windsor; assumed her stall, wearing the mantle and collar of the Order; and, with prince George, and the marquess of Normanby, the dukes of Somerset and Northumberland, earl of Feversham, and the duke of Queensberry, made her offering at the altar. Previously to which, Divine service was performed, with a sermon and anthem, her majesty sitting in

ANNE.

Accession
8th March
1701-2;

desires the
opinion of
the knights
touching the
manner in
which she
should wear
the ensigns
of the
Order.

Permission
to wear the
Star before
installation.

The elector
of Hanover,
and dukes
of Bedford
and Marl-
borough,
installed
13th March
1702-3.

The
Sovereign
assumes her
stall at
Windsor.

¹ Register of the Garter, vol. v. fo. 62.

ANNE. her stall, the sword of State borne before her by the duke of Grafton, and the knights occupying their respective stalls; the Register, deputy Garter, and Black-Rod attending.

A question having arisen at a chapter held on the 6th July 1704, respecting the ceremonies to be observed at elections, a committee of knights was appointed to consider and report thereon. A formulary was agreed upon on the 20th December, and received the royal sanction. It was, in substance, as follows:—

Formulary
of the cere-
monies to be
observed at
elections,
established
20th Dec.
1704.

The chancellor having summoned the companions to attend the Sovereign on a certain day and hour, they are to assemble, habited in their mantles, together with the officers of the Order, wherever the Sovereign, also wearing the mantle, may then be. Then Garter, by the Sovereign's command, shall call over the names of the knights, beginning with the junior; and, in that order, they are to proceed to the chapter-room; those knights, whose companions are not present, going singly; and the officers walking immediately before the Sovereign. On entering the chapter-room, Garter is to direct the knights to their several chairs, according to the situation of their stalls in St. George's chapel; and the Sovereign, being seated at the upper end of the table, the companions may take their seats at both sides thereof.

The chancellor, by the royal command, shall then signify the Sovereign's pleasure that the vacant stall, or stalls, or so many of them as the Sovereign may think proper, be filled.

And, no person being eligible who is not a knight, Garter, by the Sovereign's command, is to bring in the person to be elected (unless he should have been before knighted); and, being introduced between Garter and Black-Rod, and kneeling upon one knee, he is to be knighted by the Sovereign with the sword of state, and then to withdraw.

The knights thereupon proceed to the election; each nominating in writing nine persons qualified to be elected, viz. three earls (or persons of a higher degree), three viscounts or barons, and three knights; and having severally subscribed their suffrages, the chancellor is to collect them, beginning with the junior knight, and, upon his knee to present them to the Sovereign, who, having considered the same, he who has the greatest number of suffrages may be chosen, and by the Sovereign's command, the chancellor is to declare him to be elected.

Then Garter, accompanied by Black-Rod, is to summon the new-elected knight; who is to be received at the door of the chapter-room by the two junior knights present; and, having conducted

him to the Sovereign, preceded by Garter (carrying the Garter and the ribband with the George appendent) and Black-Rod, the knights return to their seats.

Garter, upon his knee, presents the Garter to the Sovereign, who delivers it to the two senior knights; and they are to buckle it about the left leg of the knight-elect; the chancellor, in the mean time, reading the proper admonition.

The George, in the blue ribband, is then to be presented by Garter, on his knee, to the Sovereign; and the knight-elect, still kneeling, his or her majesty will put the ribband over his head, assisted by the said two senior knights, by whom it will be placed over the left shoulder and under the right arm of the knight-elect; the chancellor, as before, reading the proper admonition.

Then the knight-elect, having kissed the Sovereign's hand, and offered his thanks for the great honour conferred upon him, will rise, make his obeisances to the Sovereign; and, having bowed to the companions severally, and received their congratulations, he will withdraw.

If more than one knight be to be elected, the same forms in regard to the collection of the suffrages, the election, and the investiture, are to be observed.

The chapter ended, the names of the companions will be again called over by Garter, and a procession made back to the Sovereign's apartment in the same order as before.¹

On the 4th of April 1706, George-Augustus, prince electoral of Brunswick-Lunenburgh (afterwards king George II.), was chosen in the room of the duke of Zell deceased, and invested at Hanover with the Garter and George by lord Halifax and sir John Vanbrugh, Clarenceux, acting for Garter, on the 11th and 13th of June following.

The other elections during this Sovereignty will be found in our list: but it may be proper here to mention that James 4th duke of Hamilton and 1st of Brandon, having been elected and invested at a chapter held at Windsor on the 25th of October 1712, and being unhappily killed in a duel with lord

ANNE.

Election of the prince electoral of Brunswick (afterward king George II.) 4th April 1706.

The installation of James 4th duke of Hamilton dispensed with sub-

¹ This formulary for elections was strictly observed until the election of the duke of Dorset in 1826; on which occasion, and at the chapters held since that date, the Sovereign, being previously seated in the chapter-room, the knights-companions proceeded with obeisances

into the royal presence, the seniors first, their names being called over at their entrance by Garter; and, the chapter ended, they retired with like obeisances from the presence, but the juniors first, their names being again called over by Garter.

ANNE. Mohun, on the 15th of the next month, the Sovereign, following the precedent afforded by the case of the elector of Saxony in 1694, was pleased to manifest her regard for his memory, by granting letters of dispensation, dated 4th August 1713, whereby it was declared that the name of the duke should be, nevertheless, numbered among those of the knights who had received the full honours of installation.¹

Dispensation for the full number of knights at a chapter 3rd August 1713. The last chapter at which the queen presided was held at Kensington on the 3rd August 1713, when four knights only being present,² (six constituting a chapter,) her majesty signed a warrant dispensing with the full number; and the earl of Peterborough was elected. An installation was held by commission on the day following.

Death of the Sovereign. The Sovereign died on the 1st of August 1714.

GEORGE I. In pursuance of the act of settlement, the crown, and, as annexed thereto, the Sovereignty of the Order, devolved upon the illustrious chief of the House of Brunswick, who ascended the throne as king George the First; and, on the 16th of October 1714, four days before his coronation, held his first chapter of the Garter at St. James's palace.

The constitution of the Order was subjected to no change under this Sovereign; and the annals contain, in addition to

¹ The register of the Order contains no record of this dispensation: the original warrant probably remained in the custody of sir Henry St. George, Garter, or sir John Vanbrugh, Clarenceux, who acted for that officer during his infirmity, and whose official papers did not pass to his successor. The authority, however, for the fact and the relative date is derived from a stall-plate prepared for the occasion, and of which impressions have been preserved in the college of arms and in the evidence-room at Hamilton palace. His majesty William IV. was pleased, soon after the reception of the present duke of Hamilton into the Order in 1836, to comply with his grace's request, by commanding that a fac-simile of the said plate

should be affixed to the stall which had been designed for his ancestor in the royal chapel. It may be here remarked that, although it is stated in Boyer's *Life of queen Anne*, p. 605, that James duke of Hamilton, desiring to retain the ensigns of the Order of the Thistle, of which he was a knight, together with those of the Garter, had been answered that the same was unprecedented, and that the duke of Argyll had surrendered the former upon his admission into the higher Order, yet the style of knight of the Thistle is among the titles of the duke of Hamilton upon the plate in question.

² The dukes of Argyll, Buckinghamshire, Northumberland, and Ormond.

the record of elections and installations, nothing memorable except the degradation of James Butler duke of Ormond, who had been attainted for high treason.

The ceremony was, in virtue of the Sovereign's warrant to Garter king of arms, performed at Windsor on the 12th July 1716, after morning prayers, in the presence of the dean, prebendaries, choir, and poor knights, and of a great number of spectators, in the following manner:—

Clarenceux king of arms, exercising the office of Garter, read the Sovereign's warrant at the brazen desk. The achievements of the degraded knight were then severally thrown down by the heralds, and spurned out of the choir and the west door of the chapel, where the soldiers of the garrison were under arms. Clarenceux concluded the ceremony by pulling the plate of the arms from the stall.

The Sovereign died at Osnaburgh, on his way to Hanover, on the 11th of June 1727.

The first memorable act of his son and successor, king George the Second, as Sovereign of the Order, was the assumption of his royal stall in St. George's chapel, which was performed, with considerable pomp, and in strict conformity to precedent, on Michaelmas day 1728. The ceremonies observed on similar occasions not having been described by Ashmole, it will not be irrelevant to notice them in this place.

The poor knights, prebendaries, and the officers of arms, in their proper habits, and the knights-companions in their mantles, collars, and wearing their caps, attended his majesty's coming from the castle, who, alighting from his chair at the east entrance of the chapel, repaired to the chapter-house where he put on the mantle, collar, and cap.

A procession was then formed from thence into the choir in the following order:—First, the poor knights, then the prebendaries, then the officers of arms, who, all entering the choir, placed themselves as at an installation. Then the knights, viz. sir Robert Walpole, viscount Townshend, the dukes of Bolton, Grafton, Newcastle, and Dorset (all singly, their companions not being present), the duke of Kent, and

GEORGE I.

Degradation
of the duke
of Ormond,
12th July
1716.

Death of the
Sovereign.

GEORGE II.

Assumes his
royal stall
29th Sept.
1728.

The
ceremonial
described.

GEORGE II. the duke of Argyll; who, entering the chapel, went and stood under their respective banners: then Black-Rod, with Garter on the right hand: then the sword of state, carried by the duke of St. Alban's, who bore it erect during the whole ceremony in front of the Sovereign's stall. Next after the sword, the SOVEREIGN, who, entering the choir, made his reverence to the altar only; and, having ascended into his stall, bowed a second time, and sat down. His majesty's train had been carried by two eldest sons of dukes and the master of the robes, who placed themselves near the steps of the royal stall.

The achievements of the late Sovereign were then offered: first, the banner; then the sword; and lastly, the helm and crest:¹ which done, the knights ascended into their stalls, and the officers of the Order retired to their seats.

Divine service was then performed; and, at the offertory sentence—"Let your light so shine," &c. the officers of the wardrobe spread a carpet upon the steps of the altar, upon which Black-Rod laid a rich carpet of cloth of gold and a cushion for the Sovereign to kneel upon. Then Garter, with his sceptre, summoned the knights to descend from and stand below their stalls. The Sovereign then, bowing towards the altar, descended from his stall, and preceded by the officers of arms and the sword of state, and his train borne as before, proceeded to the altar; the duke of Argyll, the senior knight, appointed to deliver the offering, going a little behind his majesty on the right, and the duke of Grafton, lord chamberlain, a little behind on the left side.

The Sovereign, ascending the steps to the altar, bowed, took off his cap, and knelt down; Black-Rod, upon his knees, gave the offering to the duke of Argyll, who, upon his knee, delivered it to the Sovereign, who deposited it in the basin held by two prebendaries within the rails. His majesty then rising, put on his cap, made another reverence towards the altar, and was attended back to his stall in the same manner, and, having ascended, and again bowed, resumed his seat.

¹ Each by two knights, according to seniority in the Order, attended by the officers.

During the Sovereign's return, the carpets and cushions were removed; and then the knights, being conducted by two officers of arms, singly or with their companions, severally made their offering, and returned to their stalls. GEORGE II.

The service then proceeded; and, after the sermon and benediction, Garter again summoned the knights under their banners; and a procession was made back to the chapter-house, in the order as before.

The queen, with their royal highnesses the duke, the princess royal, and the princesses Caroline, Mary, and Louisa, were present to witness the solemnity; her majesty sitting under a canopy erected over a seat on the south side of the steps of the altar.

By the Sovereign's warrant, 30th June 1749, directed to the dean of Windsor, register of the Order, it was ordained that, in the oath to be administered to the knights at their installation, immediately after the words, "*Wittingly and willingly you shall not break any statute of the said Order, or any article in them contained,*"¹ the words following should be added, viz. "*Except in such, for which you shall have received a dispensation from the Sovereign.*"

Addition
made to the
Oath
30th June
1749.

The foreign princes elected into the Order under this Sovereign were—

1. William prince of Orange, the Sovereign's son-in-law, who was invested at the Hague 22nd and 25th July 1733, by the hon. William Finch, envoy to the States-general, and John Anstis, esq. Garter.
2. Frederick, hereditary prince, afterwards landgrave of Hesse Cassel, the Sovereign's son-in-law, who was invested at Hanover 29th June 1741, by his majesty in person.
3. Frederick III. duke of Saxe-Gotha, who was invested at Gotha, 24th July 1741, by the hon. Thomas Villiers, envoy to the king of Poland, and John Anstis, esq. Garter.

Foreign
princes
elected dur-
ing this
sovereignty
and the
dates and
places of
their inves-
titures, with
the names
of the
respective
commis-
sioners.

¹ See the oath, as settled in the reign of Elizabeth, in Ashmole's App^x N^o XLIII.

- GEORGE II. 4. John-Adolphus duke of Saxe-Weissenfels, who was invested at Weissenfels, 18th February 1745-6, by the commissioners last-mentioned.
5. Charles William Frederick, margrave of Brandenburgh-Anspach, who was invested at Anspach, 26th August 1749, by sir Charles Hanbury Williams, K. B. and John Anstis, esq. Garter.
6. William V. prince of Orange, grandson of the Sovereign, who was invested at the Hague, 5th June 1752,¹ by Joseph Yorke, esq. envoy to the States-general, and John Anstis, esq. Garter.
7. Ferdinand prince of Brunswick-Bevern, who was invested in the camp at Kroffdorff, near Giessen, 16th October 1759, by John marquess of Granby, and Stephen Martin Leake, esq. Garter.²

Death of the Sovereign. The Sovereign died at Kensington palace, 25th October 1760.

GEORGE III. The new Sovereign found, at his accession, the Order full; with the exception of the vacancy occasioned by his own elevation; and upon the occurrence of another by the death of the duke of Portland, in 1762, his majesty's brother, prince William-Henry (afterwards duke of Gloucester), and the earl of Bute, were elected and installed.

State of the Order upon the king's accession.

Long disuse of installations.

Between 1762 and 1771 there was no installation: and, during a long series of years after the last-mentioned date, the knights from time to time elected were precluded, by the

¹ The prince, being only four years old, was invested only with the Garter and George; and the habit and collar were presented with the usual admonitions.

² The investiture took place within two tents, the larger having been prepared for the occasion on the summit of a hill in view of the French camp, and the lesser one erected at a little distance below for performing therein the first part of the ceremony. To this lesser tent the prince came about noon, escorted by a large detachment of the Horse Guards Blue, who afterwards drew up on each

side upon the slope of the eminence before the tents. "The dinner was given by the marquess of Granby after the old English fashion. The prince soon after dinner withdrew, and returned to his quarters; but the marquess with the rest of the company remained until near ten o'clock. It was thought very extraordinary, upon this occasion, in a camp, that not a gun was fired; *but this was partly supplied by the enemy, who during the dinner gave the prince a salute of 21 guns.*"—Garter's register, vol. ii. p. 60.

neglect of that ceremony, from assisting at chapters and wearing the star and the collar, the chief privileges of an installed companion.

GEORGE
III.

An important alteration was effected, in 1786, in the very frame of the Order, the consideration of which suggests an inquiry into the nature of the changes which had happened in its constitution previously to that date.

Inquiry into
the changes
in the con-
stitution of
the Order
before the
year 1786.

We have seen that it was the first care of the royal Founder to limit his chivalrous society to the number of twenty-six knights, including the Sovereign; and to ordain, in concurrence with those distinguished persons whom he had thought fit to associate with himself in the foundation,¹ certain rules for perpetuating the Order in that original form, which, when king George the Third ascended the throne, had thus been established by an uninterrupted usage of four centuries, and preserved inviolate by twenty successive Sovereigns.

The only deviations, within a period of nearly two centuries after the foundation, from the statutes and ordinances prescribed by the Founders, consisted of removals, in a few instances, to higher stalls; and the occasional, often unavoidable, prolongation of the respective terms appointed by the 18th, 19th, and 20th statutes for new elections upon vacancies by death or otherwise, and for the installation of knights-elect.² These deviations, which did not in any vital degree affect the constitution of the Order, were probably, in most instances, directed by the Sovereign himself, whose influence must necessarily have been, at all times, paramount; but there is no reason to doubt that the general affairs of the society were, from the beginning, administered with the com-

Deviations
from the
tenor of the
statutes and
ordinances.

Co-ordinate
power of
the knights,

¹ According to the form of institution, king Edward, by a preliminary declaration, appointed himself (se ipsum statuit) Sovereign, and that he, with twenty-five knights, whom he named, should constitute the Society; and thereupon the thirty-four statutes are decreed by the whole body; the words "concordatum est," or others of like import, introducing the several articles.

² The decree of Henry V, whereby a knight-subject, *actually in the Sovereign's wars, or otherwise employed abroad upon the Sovereign's affairs*, might, as well as knights-strangers, be installed by proxy, notwithstanding the tenor of the 20th statute, may, considering the condition annexed, scarcely be included among deviations from the original statutes.

GEORGE III. mon consent of the Sovereign and the knights, representing, when assembled in chapter, the original constituent body. Even Henry VIII, who, in all respects, exercised his high authority under less restraint than his predecessors, deigned to preface his new ordinances by a definition of his powers, and an acknowledgement of his resort to "the advice, counsel, and assent," of the companions; and the constant practice of his successors to dispense, by virtue of formal instruments, with existing statutes and ordinances whenever circumstances required their temporary suspension, proves that the power of deviating from rules, once laid down and acted upon, was avowedly restricted within certain bounds by the spirit of the institution itself.

respected by Henry VIII.
and upheld by his successors

The co-ordinate power, thus vested in the Sovereign and the knights, and, in conceding which to the latter, Edward III. had descended to a fraternal level with a select class of his subjects, appears to have been upheld until the reign of Charles II; when, upon a comparatively insignificant point¹ not contemplated by any statute or ordinance, occasion was taken to obtain from the chapter, on the 31st August 1680, a resolution, "*That the will of the Sovereign, whatever he should command to be done, was the law of the Order.*"²

until the reign of Charles II.

Limits of antecedent new regulations.

Antecedently to that reign, there had been no departure from the principle which preserved intact those particular statutes of the Founders that were deemed to be integral parts of the institution. The Sovereign for the time being, whether acting *ex mero motu*, or conjunctively with the knights, had used his authority only for the purpose of adding to the statutes and regulations or by-laws; of removing ambiguities arising out of their construction; and of altering, improving, or not observing such articles as experience had shown to be inexpedient, defective, or opposed to the policy of the state, the rites of the church, or the customs and manners of the

¹ The question mooted was, whether a chapter could be held in the absence of the chief officers, including the Register. The Sovereign, fortified by the resolution quoted in the text, decided for the

affirmative, and ordered Black-Rod (the only officer in attendance) to collect the suffrages.— *Caroline Book*, p. 138.

² *Ibid.*

age. But, not many years after the Restoration, the annual solemn convention of the knights at the festival of the patron-saint (a custom, perhaps, more than any other, conducive to the perpetuity of the establishment, and which, except during the short reign of Edward VI, had been constantly observed),¹ was suffered to fall into desuetude; the records of the Order making no mention of the celebration of the feast subsequently to the year 1667.

At the period, therefore, of the entrance of George the Third into the sovereignty, the following had been the principal changes in the constitution of the fraternity:—1. the discontinuance of the annual Feast; and, 2. the cessation of the exercise of a legislative power which had, from the date of the foundation, resided in the knights, co-ordinately with the Sovereign; and which the resolution of 1680, made ostensibly for the support of an object in itself unimportant, can scarcely be taken to have abolished.

The characteristics of the original institution, remaining in force in 1760, were—1. the number of the knights, as originally declared by the Sovereign-Founder; 2. election, according to the ancient mode and the form of suffrage; and, 3. installation, whereby the admission of an elect knight to all the privileges of a knight-companion was fully perfected.²

The enlargement of the Order, in 1786, originated in a desire to accelerate the reception into it of four princes, younger sons of the Sovereign; and, at the same time, to honour three

GEORGE
III.

The annual
feast of St.
George
wholly dis-
continued
after 1667.

Changes in
the constitu-
tion of the
Order pre-
viously to
1760.

The
constituent
parts of its
original
form which
remained at
that date.

Enlarge-
ment of the
Order in
1786, by

¹ We scarcely consider the ordinance of 1567, whereby the injunction of the Founders to keep the feast at *Windsor* was repealed, as a departure from the principle of the original regulation; inasmuch as the feast was by queen Elizabeth ordered to be kept, on the day of the saint, wherever the Sovereign might then chance to be resident.

² Until the succession, ordained by the 21st of the original statutes, had been disturbed by translations to higher stalls, and afterwards completely set aside by the practice of installing a knight-subject

in the lowest, and removing the preceding occupant to a higher stall, every knight-companion was considered as the representative, within the Order, of the primeval knight, or Founder, to whose stall he happened to have been elected; and he, accordingly obtained, in that sense, the designation of "Founder." The death of a knight-elect, whose admission into the fraternity had not been completed by installation, was frequently recorded, in the register, with the note, that he was "*not accounted a Founder.*"

GEORGE
III.

the excep-
tion of the
sons of the
Sovereign
from the
number of
knights
ordained by
the statutes.

noblemen of merit with the ensigns. There was, at that period, one Garter only at the disposal of the Sovereign, in consequence of the death of the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel in the year preceding; and it had been decided to transmit it to his son, the reigning landgrave. The seven Garters required for the purpose of carrying into effect the immediate object, were supplied by a device to except all the sons of the Sovereign from the original number of knights constituting the Order; and a new statute, declaring that it should in future consist of the Sovereign and twenty-five knights or companions, together with such of the sons of the reigning Sovereign as had already been elected, and such sons of himself and his successors as should be thereafter elected into the same, was accordingly promulgated in a chapter held at St. James's on the 2nd of June.¹ Their royal highnesses the princes Edward afterwards duke of Kent, Ernest-Augustus now duke of Cumberland and king of Hanover, Augustus-Frederick now duke of Sussex, and Adolphus-Frederick now duke of Cambridge, the Sovereign's fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh sons, were, together with the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, thereupon elected; and the three elder sons of his majesty, namely, the prince of Wales and the duke of York, knights-companions, and prince William-Henry, knight-elect, being no longer included among the twenty-five constituent members, the three consequent vacancies were filled by the elections of the duke of Beaufort, the marquess of Buckingham, and the earl (afterwards marquess) Cornwallis, then governor-general of India, and who, in contemplation of the honour to be conferred upon him, had been knighted previously to his departure on that service. The ensigns were immediately afterwards transmitted to prince Edward, then at Hanover; the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel was invested at Cassel by viscount Dalrymple (envoy extraordinary to the court of Berlin), and sir Isaac Heard, Garter, on the 5th and 7th of August following; and earl Cornwallis received the Garter and George at Calcutta on the 4th of March 1787.

¹ Garter's register, vol. ii. p. 109.

On the 15th December 1790 Ernest-Lewis the reigning duke of Saxe-Gotha, cousin-german of the Sovereign, was elected; and the investiture of his serene highness took place at Gotha on the 16th and 18th of April following; Morton Eden, esq. envoy extraordinary to the elector of Saxony (afterwards sir Morton Eden, K.B. lord Henley), and sir Isaac Heard, Garter, being the commissioners for that purpose.

GEORGE
III.

After a lapse of thirty years since the last installation, and when, of thirty-two knights constituting, together with the Sovereign, the Order, the number of installed knights subjects was reduced to six,¹ his majesty, desirous of imparting to the existing knights-elect the rights of knights companions, and at the same time of avoiding the fatigue of so lengthened a ceremonial as would have been required for the accomplishment of that object with the accustomed formalities, was pleased to direct the issue of letters patent, dispensing with the installation of twenty-one knights-subjects (including six princes of the blood-royal),² and of the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel and duke of Saxe-Gotha, and granting to them severally all the privileges which they would have derived from a full performance of the relative ceremonies. The patents of dispensation to the sons of the Sovereign bore date on the 28th, and those to the other knights on the 29th May 1801.

Dispensation with the ceremonies of installation in favour of 24 knights-elect, 28th and 29th May 1801.

And, as the vacancy, occasioned by the death of admiral earl Howe, knight-elect, on the 5th of August 1799, had not been supplied, the Sovereign signed, on the said 29th of May, a warrant, under the signet of the Order, dispensing with the holding of a chapter for the election of a knight in the room of that nobleman. On the 3rd of June, his majesty nominated John duke of Roxburghe, knight of the Thistle³ and groom of the stole, to be a knight of the Order; and, on that day, at the queen's palace, was pleased to invest his

¹ The prince of Wales, the dukes of Gloucester and York, the dukes of Marlborough and Grafton, and the marquess of Stafford.

² See the names in the list of Knights.

³ The duke of Roxburghe was, by a special favour, permitted to retain the ensigns of the Order of the Thistle together with those of the Garter.

GEORGE III. grace with the Garter and the ribband and George, with the assistance of their royal highnesses the prince of Wales and the duke of York; the chancellor pronouncing the admonitions, and no other officer of the Order being present. On the same occasion the Sovereign thought fit to dispense, by letters patent, with his grace's installation.

and consequent arrangement of the stalls in St. George's chapel. On the augmentation of the number of the Society in 1786, no provision had been made for placing in St. George's chapel the seven additional knights, and for the arrangement of their banners and other achievements, in the event of their installation. The choir of the royal chapel having been, originally by the Founder, and upon its re-construction by Edward IV, expressly adapted for the reception of twenty-six knights in equi-distant stalls, including those of the Sovereign and of the Prince, the symmetrical arrangement would unavoidably be disturbed by any increase of the constituent members. When, therefore, in pursuance of the dispensations of 1801, the usual warrant was issued for suspending the banners over the stalls and affixing the other achievements and the plates, it became necessary to use, for the especial occasion, the intermediate spaces between the ancient stalls as seats for the supernumerary knights, without being able to obtain thereby a present equi-formity, or to insure permanency to any relative arrangement, as the number of the constituent parts of the Order had been rendered indefinite.¹

Four vacancies² occurred during the three years which succeeded the issue of the dispensations. Of these, two were filled by the elections of the duke of Rutland and the earl of Hard-

¹ Eight additional stalls were prepared, four on each side of the choir; but the number of knights, including the Sovereign, happening to be uneven in consequence of the extension of the ancient limits, the new arrangement exhibited the anomaly of leaving the junior knight (the duke of Roxburghe) without a companion. In order to render less conspicuous the want of uniformity in this respect, his majesty, after a personal inspection

of the location of the supernumerary stalls, directed that the space opposite to that which had been assigned to the duke of Beaufort (the centre stall on the prince's side) should be left vacant, whereby the marquess Camden became the companion of the duke of Roxburghe.

² By the deaths of the duke of Beaufort, the marquess of Stafford, the duke of Roxburghe, and the duke of Saxe-Gotha.

wicke; and the Sovereign, intending to celebrate St. George's day 1805 by an installation, and conceiving that the splendour of the ceremony would be increased by adding to the number of the knights to be installed, resolved to follow the precedent of 1786 by ordaining a further enlargement of the Order.

Accordingly, at a chapter held at St. James's on the 17th January 1805, his majesty caused a new statute (signed on 10th of that month) to be promulgated, whereby "he commanded and enjoined that the Order should from thenceforth consist of the Sovereign and twenty-five knights-companions, together with such lineal descendants of the late Sovereign, king George the Second, as had been elected and might thereafter be elected into the same: always excepting the prince of Wales, who is a constituent part of the original institution."¹

The effect of this statute was to separate the duke of Gloucester, his son prince William-Frederick, the prince of Orange, and the landgrave (then elector) of Hesse-Cassel, all descendants of king George the Second, from the constituent number of twenty-five knights; and to restore the prince of Wales to his former position within that number, in lieu of one of the knights so separated from it; and the expedient having placed three Garters at the disposal of the Sovereign, in addition to the two which remained to be bestowed, five knights, viz. the duke of Beaufort, the marquess of Abercorn, and the earls of Pembroke, Winchilsea, and Chesterfield, were elected and invested; and, together with the duke of Rutland

GEORGE
III.

Second
enlargement
of the Order,
Jan. 10th,
1805, by
excepting,
from the
original
number of
the knights,
the lineal
descendants
of king
George II.

Restoration
of the prince
of Wales to
his former
position as
"a consti-
tuent part
of the ori-
ginal insti-
tution."

¹ The concluding sentence of this statute must be taken in the qualified sense that the prince of Wales, for the time being, represents, within the Order, the prince of Wales who, as one of the Founders, was a constituent part of the original institution; and, therefore, that the statute of 1786 ought not to have been construed to include him among the other sons of the Sovereign, thereby excepted from the number of twenty-five knights who, together with the Sovereign, constituted the So-

ciety. But the fallacy of this reasoning will be apparent when we consider that it would have applied equally to the duke of Gloucester, excepted by the statute of 1805, or to any other installed knight who, whilst the original form of the Order remained, also represented the Founder of his particular stall, and who, as well as the then or any former prince of Wales after the Black Prince, had been admitted into the fraternity by election, and to the full privileges of a companion by installation.

GEORGE
III.

and the proctor of the earl of Hardwicke (then filling the high office of lord lieutenant of Ireland), installed at Windsor on the 23rd of April.

The Order then consisted of thirty-six members, including the Sovereign. The duke of Gloucester, brother of the Sovereign, died on the 25th of August, and the marquess Cornwallis¹ on the 5th of October in the same year. The year following, 1806, was also remarkable for the deaths of three distinguished knights of the Order,—the duke of Richmond, the prince of Orange, first cousin, and the duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel,² brother-in-law of the Sovereign.

In consequence of the afflicting state of his majesty's health, the government devolved, by an act of the legislature, passed on the 5th of February 1811, on his royal highness the prince of Wales, with the style of Prince Regent of the United Kingdom.

THE
REGENCY.
5th Feb.
1811.

The glorious era of THE REGENCY, which was remarkable for the full developement of the political and moral energies of the nations of Europe, and in particular, for the manifestation of the power and resources of the British empire, will also be ever memorable in the annals of the Order for the reception into its illustrious circle of several august monarchs, as well as of warriors and statesmen of transcendent merit and talents.

First
chapter
on 26th
March
1812.

The first exercise of the functions of Sovereign of the Order by the Prince Regent was on the 26th March 1812, when his royal highness presided in a chapter at which the duke of

¹ Charles marquess Cornwallis, governor-general of Bengal, died at Gazypour in the province of Benares. The loss of this patriotic nobleman, who, at an advanced period of life, accepted, for the second time, the administration of the affairs of India at a very important crisis, was generally and deeply deplored.—*Garter's register*.

² His serene highness was born 9th Oct. 1735, and married, on 16th January 1764, the princess Augusta, sister to his majesty, who survived her unfortunate consort.

The duke commanded, as field-marshal of the Prussian army, at the battle of Auerstadt on the 14th Oct. 1806. He received a wound early in the engagement, and was carried off the field to his own palace at Brunswick, from whence he was soon forced to fly, and to take refuge in the Danish territories from the violence of the enemy, who had over-run his hereditary dominions; and he died at Altona on the 10th of November following.

Richmond,¹ lord lieutenant of Ireland, and the duke of Montrose, were severally elected to fill the vacancies occasioned by the deaths of the earl of Dartmouth and the duke of Grafton; and, on the 31st of the same month, letters patent of dispensation with the ceremonies of installation were issued to all the knights who had been elected since the installation of 1805, excepting the earl of Dartmouth who was elected on the 27th May in that year, and died on the 1st November 1810.

On the 31st of the same month, his royal highness granted patents dispensing with the ceremonies of installation in favour of the marquesses of Stafford and Hertford, the earl of Lonsdale, the marquess Wellesley, and the dukes of Richmond and Montrose; and was pleased to commemorate St. George's day following by a grand dinner to the knights and officers of the Order at Carlton-house.

After the admission into the Order of the earl of Moira, on the 12th of June 1812, and of the duke of Newcastle, on the 19th of the same month, in the room of the deceased dukes of Devonshire and Buccleuch; the Garter of the marquess of Buckingham, who died on the 11th February 1813, was, in the ancient and true spirit of the institution, conferred as a reward of military merit unsurpassed, perhaps unequalled, at any period of our history.

On the 4th of the following month, the suffrages of the knights assembled in chapter were given in favour of the hero of the age, Arthur Wellesley, marquess (soon afterwards duke) of Wellington, commander of the forces in Spain and Portugal; and the ensigns were delivered to his excellency, at Freneda in Portugal, on the 6th of May, by the hands of lieutenant-general sir Thomas Graham, K.B. now lord Lynedoch.²

¹ The ensigns were delivered to his grace, in the presence-chamber at Dublin castle, by the hands of lieutenant-general the hon. sir John Hope, K.B. commander of the forces in Ireland, on the 7th April 1812.

² A warrant had been prepared, on 5th March, for transmitting the

ensigns to the marquess by major-general the hon. sir Charles Wm. Stewart, K.B. (now marquess of Londonderry); but sir Charles having, afterwards, received a different destination, sir Thomas Graham was charged with that gratifying duty.

GEORGE
III.

The mar-
quess, now
duke of
Wellington,
elected
4th March
1813.

GEORGE
III.

Alexander
emperor of
all the
Russias
elected
by virtue of
a special
statute
27th July
1813,

The Order was now full: but the Prince Regent, animated by a desire to gratify a wish which, it was understood, had been expressed by the emperor of Russia to be received into it;¹ and, at the same time, to evince the sense which his royal highness entertained of the magnanimous and heroic personal efforts made by that monarch for the deliverance and welfare of the continent of Europe, felt himself justified, at so unparalleled an epoch, in extending the limits assigned by the existing statutes. At a chapter, therefore, held at Carlton-house on the 27th of July 1813 (his royal highness and the dukes of York, Clarence, and Cambridge, the earls of Chatham, Westmorland, Pembroke, and Winchilsea, the marquesses of Hertford and Wellesley, being present), the knights proceeded, under the authority of a special statute, to an election; and, the suffrages having been collected as usual by the chancellor, and presented to the Prince Regent, Alexander, emperor and autocrat of all the Russias, was declared to be duly elected² a knight of the Order.

and
invested
at Töplitz,
27th Sept-
following.

A commission was issued on the same day, empowering William viscount (now earl) Cathcart, K.T. ambassador to his imperial majesty, sir Isaac Heard, Garter king of arms, or his deputy, and sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, Black-Rod, to invest the emperor with the ensigns and habit. The ceremony was performed at the head-quarters of the allied sovereigns of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, at Töplitz, on the 27th of September following (being the anniversary of the emperor Alexander's coronation), Francis Townsend, esq. Windsor herald, officiating as Garter's deputy.³

¹ The emperor Alexander was the first of his august race who received the Order of the Garter. It is well known that St. George, as one of the principal saints in the Greek calendar, has been, from ancient time, highly venerated by the Russian nation; that the czars of Muscovy bore, at a very early period, the figure of this patron in their armorial escoccheon; and that the empress Catherine II. instituted the Russian military Order of St. George.

² This reception of a supernumerary knight formed a precedent to justify similar nominations by special statute; but, in the subsequent instances, the form of suffrage has not been observed.

³ Garter's deputy and Black-Rod, with their respective suites, embarked at Yarmouth in the Cydnus frigate on the 10th of August; landed at Gottenburgh; and having proceeded from thence, over land, to Ystad, crossed the Baltic to Stralsund; and arrived at Ber-

On the 19th April 1814 patents were issued, dispensing with the installation of the emperor of Russia and the mar-
quess of Wellington.

The triumphs, which followed in rapid succession the signal defeat of the enemy near Leipzig, having led to the restoration of the royal family of France, the Prince Regent resolved, before the departure of king Louis the Eighteenth from England (where he had long found a peaceful asylum), in order to take possession of his throne, to invest his majesty with the ensigns of the Garter, which had adorned his royal ancestor king Henry the Fourth and several of that monarch's predecessors. Accordingly, upon the arrival of the king in London from Hartwell, in Buckinghamshire, a chapter was held for that purpose at Carlton-house on the 21st of April. His majesty was conducted into the chapter-room between the dukes of York and Kent, preceded by Garter; received at his entrance by the Prince Regent and the knights-companions, standing; and placed by his royal highness in a chair of state on his right hand. The chancellor then read a special statute, declaring the election of his most Christian majesty Louis XVIII. king of France and Navarre; and the king was thereupon invested with the usual ceremonies, his majesty (on account of infirmity) continuing in his seat.¹

GEORGE
III.

Restoration
of the royal
family of
France, and
investiture
of Louis
XVIII.
with the
ensigns of
the Garter
at Carlton-
house,
21st April
1814.

lin on the 29th, a few days after the victory obtained over the French at Gross-Beeren. As soon as the communications with the head-quarters of the Allies had been rendered less circuitous by the subsequent defeat of the enemy on the plains of Jüterbock, and the advantages obtained on the Silesian frontiers of Bohemia, the two commissioners passed through Silesia to Prague, and thence to Töplitz. The investiture took place, on the evening of their arrival, in the presence of the grand-duke Constantine, the ministers and great officers of his imperial majesty, and several English noblemen and gentlemen. On the following day,

the emperor appeared in the ensigns of the Order at a grand dinner given to the commissioners, the English ministers resident at the head-quarters of the allied powers, the members of their respective embassies, the gentlemen attached to the Garter-mission, and several Russian and English persons of distinction.

¹ The ceremony was witnessed by the prince of Condé, the duke of Bourbon, the archbishop duke of Rheims, and several dukes and other noblemen of France. On the day previously, the French monarch had invested the prince Regent with the ensigns of the Order of Saint Esprit; after the chapter,

GEORGE
III.

Arrival in
England of
the emperor
of Russia
and the
king of
Prussia,
6th June
1814.

Soon after this memorable investiture, the Prince Regent had the gratification of receiving at his court the emperor of Russia and the king of Prussia, accompanied by several princes of the royal house of Prussia, the hereditary princes of Orange and Mecklenburgh, prince de Metternich, marshal prince Blücher, prince Platoff, marshal count Barclay de Tolly, and other eminent persons, who landed at Dover on the 6th of June; and his royal highness having resolved to admit into the Order their majesties the emperor of Austria and the king of Prussia; and, on the same occasion, the earl of Liverpool and the viscount Castlereagh, directed a chapter to be summoned for the 9th of that month. Previously to the chapter, his royal highness, in answer to questions submitted by the chancellor touching the ceremonial, decided—

1. that the emperor of Russia should walk, in the procession from the private apartments into the chapter-room, on his right hand; and that the name of his imperial majesty should not be called over by Garter among those of the other knights-companions:
2. that the part of the new statute, authorising the proceedings, which concerned the king of Prussia, should be read in the first instance and before the introduction of his majesty:
3. that the two knights-subjects, who were to be admitted as supernumeraries, should be declared elected; and, upon the occurrence of vacancies, become part of the original number of twenty-five knights.

The
emperor
assists at a
chapter of
the Order,
9th June
1814.
The king of
Prussia is
declared
elected and
invested.

At the chapter, his majesty the emperor sat in a chair of state on the right hand of the Prince Regent; and, after that part of the special statute which related to the election of the king of Prussia had been read, his majesty was conducted into the chapter-room between the dukes of York and Kent, preceded by Garter and Black-Rod; and, having been received by the Prince Regent and the knights-companions, standing, was placed by his royal highness in a chair of state on his left

his majesty conferred that Order upon his royal highness the duke of York; and, before the king landed at Calais from the royal yacht, he also invested with its en-

signs his royal highness the duke of Clarence who, as admiral of the fleet, had commanded the squadron which escorted him to his dominions.

hand. The king was then declared elected, and invested with the usual ceremony.

His imperial and royal apostolic majesty Francis the First emperor of Austria, king of Hungary and Bohemia, was thereupon declared to be elected.

Robert-Banks Jenkinson earl of Liverpool, first lord of the treasury, and Robert Stewart, commonly called viscount Castlereagh, secretary of state for foreign affairs, were then severally knighted, declared elected, and invested; the statute for that purpose ordaining that no further election of a knight-subject (not being of the blood royal) should take place until a vacancy should have occurred subsequent to the reduction of the number of knights-subjects to the original number of twenty-five.¹

On the 10th of August, Ferdinand the Seventh king of Spain² was declared elected, and William Frederick prince of Orange and Nassau, prince sovereign (afterwards king) of the Netherlands, was elected in chapter, the latter as a lineal descendant of king George the Second. His royal highness was invested at Brussels on the 22nd of the same month, by viscount Castlereagh, knight of the Order, and sir Isaac Heard, Garter.³

The emperor of Austria was, on the 21st of September fol-

GEORGE
III.

The Order conferred on the emperor of Austria; the earl of Liverpool; viscount Castlereagh, and the king of Spain, by special statutes.

The prince Sovereign of the Netherlands elected 10th Aug. 1814.

¹ Dispensations with installation were issued in favour of the august and noble knights thus admitted into the Order, in conformity to the recent practice. The patent conferring the full privileges of an installed knight-companion upon the emperor of Russia was delivered by Garter to his imperial majesty at his hotel in London on the 19th June 1814.

² A commission was issued on the 27th March 1815, empowering the right hon. sir Henry Wellesley, G.C.B. (now lord Cowley) ambassador extraordinary to his catholic majesty, sir Isaac Heard, Garter, and sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, Black-Rod, to invest the king of Spain with the ensigns and habit; but, in regard that

Garter and Black-Rod were prevented by other duties from discharging their respective functions under the commission, their personal attendance was dispensed with; and James Pulman, esq. appointed, by a royal warrant under the signet of the Order, secretary to the commission, was directed to carry the ensigns and habit to Madrid, where the investiture was performed, in the royal palace, by sir Henry Wellesley, on the 17th May following.

³ His royal highness the hereditary prince of Orange was, after the investiture of the prince Sovereign, invested by viscount Castlereagh with the ensigns of a knight grand-cross of the Order of the Bath.

GEORGE III. lowing, invested, in the imperial palace of the Hof-Burg at Vienna, by the same commissioners.

Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg declared elected by a special statute, 23rd May 1816. On the 23rd May 1816 his serene highness prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld,¹ consort of her royal highness the princess Charlotte-Augusta, only child and heir-presumptive of the Prince Regent,² was, by a special statute, declared elected and invested.

A vacancy having occurred, in consequence of the death of the earl of Chesterfield, 29th August 1815, the earl of Liverpool became a constituent part of the original number, in pursuance of the provision made at his lordship's admission; and viscount Castlereagh attained the like honour on the decease of the duke of Marlborough on the 30th January 1817. The next election, after the completion of the full number, was that of the earl Bathurst, secretary of state, on 24th July 1817, upon the death of the duke of Northumberland on the 10th of that month.

Death of the Sovereign, 29th Jan. 1820. Two further elections³ took place before the demise of the venerable Sovereign, which happened on the 29th of January 1820.

GEORGE IV. 1st chapter after his accession to the Sovereignty, held on 7th June 1820. The vacancy, occasioned by the accession of king George the Fourth to the Sovereign's stall, was filled, in a chapter held on the 7th June 1820, by the election of the marquess of Buckingham, afterwards duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

On the 13th February 1822 Frederick the Sixth king of Denmark,⁴ and John the Sixth king of Portugal, were declared elected. The former monarch was invested at Copenhagen, on the 11th of June following, by the right hon. Augustus-John Foster, envoy extraordinary to that court, and sir George Nayler, Garter; and his most faithful majesty was invested at the palace of Ajuda near Lisbon, on the 23rd September 1823, by the right hon. sir Edward Thornton, G.C.B. envoy extraordinary to that court, and sir George Nayler, Garter.⁵

¹ Now king of the Belgians.

² The royal nuptials had been solemnised on the 2nd of the same month.

³ General Henry-William Paget marquess of Anglesey, and Hugh Percy 3rd duke of Northumber-

land, in the room of the marquess of Abercorn and the duke of Richmond, deceased.

⁴ His Danish majesty was, by his mother and grandmother, lineally descended from king George II.

⁵ The statutes, declaring the

The death of the king of France having taken place on the 16th September 1824, the Sovereign was pleased to dispense, by a statute dated the 9th of March 1825, with the holding of a chapter, and with all the statutes in as far as might be required for the especial purpose of declaring Charles the Tenth, king of France and Navarre, a knight of the Order; and that monarch was invested with the ensigns at the palace of the Tuileries, at Paris, on the 7th June following, by the duke of Northumberland, knight of the Order, ambassador extraordinary to his most Christian majesty on the occasion of his coronation, viscount (now earl) Granville, G.C.B. ambassador to the court of France, and sir George Nayler, Garter.

The emperor, Nicholas the First, having succeeded to the throne of Russia upon the decease of his brother the late emperor Alexander, the Sovereign thought fit to send the ensigns to his imperial majesty; and, accordingly, by a special statute, dated the 16th March 1827, (dispensing, as on former occasions, with the holding of a chapter,) was pleased to declare that monarch a knight of the Order. The investiture was performed at the palace of Alexandrowsky at Czarsko-zelo, on the 9th of July following, by the marquess of Hertford, K.G. and sir George Nayler, Garter.

The last chapter, at which the Sovereign presided, was held at Windsor castle on the 22nd June 1829, for the election of the earl of Ashburnham.

His majesty died on the 26th June 1830.

Soon after the accession of king William the Fourth, his majesty was pleased, at his first chapter held at St. James's palace on the 26th July 1830, to command the prelate (in the absence of the chancellor) to read a special statute, dated on the 17th of that month, whereby the holding of a chapter had been dispensed with, and his serene highness Bernard reigning duke of Saxe-Meiningen, brother of the queen-consort, declared a knight of the Order.¹

several elections of the kings of Denmark and Portugal, were not promulgated in chapter until the 22nd of July, when the former of

these monarchs had already received investiture.

¹ For investiture of the duke of Saxe-Meiningen see postea, p. cxlv.

GEORGE IV.

Charles X.
king of
France
declared a
knight,
9th March
1825,
and invested
at Paris,
7th June
following.

Nicholas I.
emperor of
Russia
declared
a knight,
16th March
1827,
and
invested at
Czarsko-zelo,
9th July
following.

Death of the
Sovereign,
26th June
1830.

WILLIAM
IV.

1st chapter
26th July
1830.

The duke of
Saxe-
Meiningen
declared a
knight.

WILLIAM
IV.
The king of
Württem-
berg elected
and
invested.

The knights-companions thereupon proceeded to an election; and, the suffrages having been collected, his majesty William the First, king of Württemberg, a lineal descendant¹ of king George the Second, was declared duly elected. That Sovereign, being then on a visit to the English court, was immediately invested in the presence of the queen, their royal highnesses the duchess of Kent, the princess Victoria, the duchess of Cumberland, prince George of Cumberland, prince Frederick of Prussia, the foreign ministers, and the great officers of state and other persons of distinction.

On St. George's day, 1831, the Sovereign was pleased to revive, in some degree, the ancient feast of the Order by entertaining the knights-companions and the officers at a grand dinner at St. James's palace.

Charles
earl Grey
declared
elected as a
supernume-
rary knight
27th May
1831.

His majesty, being desirous of conferring the ensigns upon Charles earl Grey, first lord of the treasury, and the Order being full, commanded a chapter to be summoned on the 27th May following, when his lordship having been introduced and knighted, a statute, dispensing with the statute by which the number of the knights-companions is limited, and declaring him to be elected, was read by the Register in the chancellor's absence, together with another statute, containing a provision of the same tenor as that under which the earl of Liverpool and the viscount Castlereagh had been admitted into the Order in 1814.

The duke of
Brunswick
elected and
invested,
20th June
1831.

At a chapter held at St. James's on the 20th June, his serene highness Augustus-William-Maximilian-Frederick-Lewis reigning duke of Brunswick, a lineal descendant² of king George the Second, was duly elected and invested with the usual ceremonies.

The lineal
descendants
of king
George I.
excepted
from the

By a new statute dated the 28th of the same month, the Sovereign thought fit to extend still further the limits of the Order, by issuing a statute of that date, declaring, that it should thenceforth consist of the Sovereign and twenty-five knights-companions, together with such lineal descendants of

¹ His majesty is grandson of the princess Augusta, eldest daughter of Frederick-Lewis prince of Wales, consort of Charles-William Ferdi-

nand duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel. ² His serene highness is grandson of the princess Augusta above-mentioned.

the late Sovereign king George the First as had been, or might be thereafter, elected into the same.¹ This statute was promulgated at a chapter held at Windsor castle on the 20th of August following, when the duke of Saxe-Meiningen (who had been declared elected on the 17th July in the year preceding), being on a visit to their majesties, was invested with the ensigns, and was afterwards present at a dinner of state given in St. George's hall.

On the death of the duke of Sutherland, 19th July 1833, earl Grey became a constituent part of the original number of knights.

The Sovereign was pleased by a statute dated the 17th of September in that year, reciting that, by the 16th article of the statutes, it had been ordained that there should be thirteen Poor Knights attached to the service of the Order; that queen Elizabeth had, in the first year of her reign, established certain statutes for their government; and that king Charles the First had added five knights to the said number, (of whom two were of the foundation of sir Peter la Maire, and three of the foundation of sir Francis Crane, some time chancellor of the Order); his majesty, considering that the several persons, now on this royal foundation, have respectively served as officers in the army, bearing royal commissions, thought fit to alter the designation of them to that of "MILITARY KNIGHTS OF WINDSOR," and to ordain that they should wear a certain uniform, to be prescribed and assigned to them by the Sovereign.

His grace Bernard Edward duke of Norfolk, earl marshal and hereditary marshal of England, was elected and invested at a chapter held on the 13th August 1834, in the room of the earl Bathurst who had died on the 26th of the preceding month.

On the 10th of September an ordinance was issued to enforce the ancient custom of depositing the mantles of deceased knights-companions with the dean and chapter of Windsor.

¹ There appears to have been no other immediate object for this statute than to extend to the royal house of Prussia the privilege of

election to the Order, which had been granted, by the statute of 10th Jan. 1805, to the descendants of king George II.

WILLIAM
IV.

original
number of
25 knights.

The
designation
of the Poor
Knights
altered to
that of
"Military
Knights of
Windsor,"
by statute,
17th Sept.
1833.

10th Sept.
1834, ordi-
nance to
enforce the
neglected
custom of
sending the
mantles of
deceased
knights to
the college
of Windsor.

WILLIAM
IV.

At a chapter held at Windsor castle on the 15th August 1835 prince George, son and heir-apparent of his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, and prince George, son and heir-apparent of his royal highness the duke of Cambridge, were elected as lineal descendants of king George the First. The former of these princes was abroad; but prince George of Cambridge, having been knighted before election, was introduced and invested.

The earl of Chatham dying on the 24th of September and the duke of Beaufort on the 23rd of November in that year, a chapter was held at St. James's on the 5th of February 1836, at which the duke of Hamilton and Brandon,¹ and the marquess of Lansdowne, lord president of the council, were severally knighted, elected, and invested.

The office of
chancellor
annexed to
the
bishopric of
Oxford,
25th Feb.
1837.

Upon the death of Dr. Thomas Burgess, bishop of Salisbury and chancellor of the Order, the office of chancellor which, since the year 1669, had been executed by the bishops of Salisbury, was, by statute dated 25th February 1837, transferred to Dr. Richard Bagot, bishop of Oxford, and his successors in that see, in consequence of a recommendation and proposal, made by the ecclesiastical commissioners of England (appointed and incorporated by act of parliament), and approved and ratified by his majesty in council on the 5th of October 1836, that the whole county of Berks, forming part of the diocese of Salisbury (within which diocese the royal chapel of St. George, in the castle of Windsor, was founded and established), should be detached and dis severed from that diocese, and permanently annexed and united to the diocese of Oxford.

Death of the
Sovereign,
20th June
1837.

The Sovereign died on the 20th of June 1837.

VICTORIA.
1st chapter
14th July
1837.

The first act of Queen VICTORIA, as Sovereign of the Order, was to confer the ensigns upon her majesty's half-brother, his serene highness Charles-William-Frederick-Emicon prince of Leiningen, who was declared a knight of the Order, and knighted and invested at a chapter held at St. James's palace on the 14th July 1837.

The prince
of Leiningen
declared a
knight of
the Order,
and
invested.

On the 16th July 1838 his serene highness Ernest-Anthony-Charles-Lewis, reigning duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, her

¹ See p. cxxiv. note 1.

majesty's uncle, was declared a knight of the Order and invested at Buckingham palace.

Patents of dispensation, with the ceremonies of installation, were respectively issued in favour of their serene highnesses the prince of Leiningen and the duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

On the 28th of March 1839 her majesty was pleased, by a warrant under the signet of the Order, to dispense with the holding of a chapter to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of the duke of Leeds, and to reserve to herself the right of nominating and appointing another knight in his room without having recourse to the forms of an election in chapter; and, by another warrant, dated on the 2nd of April, reciting that her majesty had thought fit to elect and choose Edward earl of Derby (who had been knighted by letters patent under the great seal bearing that date) to be a knight of the Order, Sir William Woods, Garter, was commanded to deliver the ensigns to his lordship. That officer, accordingly, proceeded to Knowsley-park in Lancashire (where his lordship was resident and suffering from indisposition), and fulfilled the Sovereign's command on the 4th of the same month.

At a chapter held at St. James's palace on the 17th of that month the duke of Cleveland was knighted, elected, and invested (in the room of the duke of Buckingham and Chandos deceased); and his grace's installation was immediately dispensed with by the usual patent.

On the 16th December 1839 the Sovereign was pleased to dispense with the holding of a chapter, and to declare prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (now Her Majesty's illustrious Consort) a knight of the Order. The ensigns were delivered to the prince on the 24th January following, at the palace of Gotha, by the reigning duke his august father; and, his installation having been dispensed with by letters patent, the banner and other achievements of his royal highness were, by the Queen's especial command, on the 31st August 1840, directed to be placed on the Sovereign's side in the stall nearest to that of Her Majesty; the prince of Wales's stall being left void.

VICTORIA.

The duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha declared a knight, and invested 16th July 1838.

28th March 1839, the Sovereign dispenses with holding a chapter, and, on 2nd April, nominates the earl of Derby, and commands delivery of ensigns to his lordship by garter king of arms.

The duke of Cleveland elected and invested 17th April 1839.

Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg declared a knight of the Order 16 Dec. 1839;

and his banner, &c. placed in the stall nearest to that of the Sovereign.

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