

## ANNALS OF THE ORDER

UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EDWARD III.

1344—1348.

The earliest allusion to the Order or its symbol which has hitherto been discovered occurs, as we have observed in the Introduction, in a record of expenses attending the preparations for certain tournaments or jousts which were held, subsequently to the king's return to England in the autumn of 1347, for the purpose of celebrating the success of his arms in the campaign against France, which had closed so brilliantly with the surrender of Calais. The commemorations in question took place at Windsor, and in various parts of the kingdom. Upon all these occasions, GARTERS, with the motto of the Order embroidered thereon, and robes and other habiliments, as well as banners and couches, ornamented with the same ensign, were issued from the great wardrobe at the charge of the Sovereign; and are described, in the account rendered, not as novel objects, but in terms which justify a presumption that similar entries might be found, in documents of the like nature for the two or three antecedent years, should such accounts be hereafter recovered.

By the record which has been cited, we further learn, that a surcoat, with mantle and hood, adorned with GARTERS, was provided for the king, to be worn at a hastilude at Canterbury in the course of the year 1348.

In the last-mentioned year, a hastilude was also held by the Sovereign at Windsor, attended by David II, king of Scotland, then a prisoner, and for whom certain robes were provided for that occasion. The counts of Eu and Tancarville, and prince Charles de Blois, also prisoners, assisted at the solemnity. These were, doubtless, the festivities mentioned by Stowe.<sup>1</sup>

Edward, prince of Wales, presented in the same year twenty-four Garters to the "*Knights of the Society of the Garter.*"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Annals, p. 246.

<sup>2</sup> Account of the treasurer of the Black Prince, in the possession of

J. Philpot, Esq. being a MS. on vellum of nearly 300 folio pages.

1349.

The plague having produced an almost total suspension of the public business from the beginning of August 1348, until the end of September 1349, it can scarcely be imagined that the feast of St. George would have been kept during so great a calamity. It appears, nevertheless, by the testes to several patents, that the king, having been at Langley on the vigil of the feast, was resident at Windsor on St. George's day, and that on the day following he returned to Langley.<sup>1</sup>

1350.

According to Stowe,<sup>2</sup> the feast of the Order was, in this year, celebrated with particular pomp at Windsor. The Knights, apparelled in gowns and mantles of russet, powdered with blue garters, and wearing at their knees garters of the like colour, proceeded, bare-headed, into the chapel, where mass was said by Simon Islip, archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the bishops of Winchester and Exeter: after which they were splendidly entertained at dinner by the Sovereign.

1351.

At Michaelmas, in this 25th year of the king, payment was made to William Retford, late clerk of the great wardrobe, in part of 160*l.*, for the preparation of twenty-four robes, powdered with embroidered garters, and twelve standards of worsted for the chapel at Windsor.<sup>3</sup>

There is also extant,<sup>4</sup> in the Remembrancer's office at Westminster, a fragment of an account of payments, in the same year, to John de Colon, the king's armourer, for several articles connected with the Order, viz. Three garters of blue taffaty, with silver-gilt and enamelled buckles, and thereon worked, in letters formed of Indian pearls, the motto "*Hony soit qe male y pense.*"—robes for the king, consisting of four garments of red velvet, against the feast of St. George,

<sup>1</sup> From minutes obligingly communicated by T. D. Hardy, Esq. after an inspection of the patent roll at the Tower, of 23 Edw. III.

<sup>2</sup> Annals, p. 250.

<sup>3</sup> Exit. Pell. Mich. 25 Ed. 3.—On the 6 Nov. 1351, John, king of France, issued his circular letter to

the Knights of his new Order of THE STAR, or KNIGHTS OF THE NOBLE HOUSE, which he is said to have founded in rivalry of that of the Garter. *Froissart (par Buchon)*, t. iii. p. 54, note.

<sup>4</sup> In Sept. 1832.

namely, two surcoats (*supertunicæ*), one vest (*tunica*) with hood, and one cloak, embroidered over with clouds of silver [one of the royal badges] and eagles of pearl and gold, viz. under every alternate cloud an eagle of pearl, and under each of the other clouds a golden eagle; every eagle having in his beak a garter, with the motto "*Hony,*" &c. embroidered thereon: two streamers of triple-sindon cloth, each being in length three yards or ells, and a quarter and three inches in breadth, and having in the centre a garter of Indian sindon, with a shield, within the same garter, containing the quartered arms of the king,<sup>1</sup> and the field of the streamer powdered all over with golden eagles,—*xl. ls. 1d.* There are charges in the same account for beds and other articles furnished for the king, queen Philippa, the prince, the lord Lionel, and the duke of Lancaster; and for a surplice of cloth "of the Annunciation," for William Mugge, dean<sup>2</sup> of the free chapel of Windsor.

## 1353.

The feast of the Order was solemnly kept in this year. John à Leydis records it in the Belgic chronicle;<sup>3</sup> and there is a memorial of it in the following instrument,—the account of John de Buckyngham, keeper of the wardrobe, containing payments in the 27th year of the king,<sup>4</sup> viz.:

"In Oblations, distributed at the high mass celebrated in presence of the king, on the feast of St. George, and at one mass for the deceased brethren of the Order . . . . vjs. ix*d.*  
 In Oblations of our lord the king at the high altar, in the chapel of St. George, at Windsor, on the vigil of the saint . . . . . vjs. viij*d.*  
 In like Oblations of the king to the relics in the same chapel . . . . . vjs. viij*d.*  
 In Oblations of the king in the mass *de requie* for the deceased brethren of the said Order . . . . . vjs. viij*d.*"

<sup>1</sup> This is the earliest instance on record of surrounding armorial bearings with a garter.

<sup>2</sup> It was supposed by Ashmole (p. 153), that *the custos* of St. George's chapel had not been designated "*dean*" until towards the end of the reign of Henry IV.

<sup>3</sup> Lib. 30, cap. 17, A<sup>o</sup>. 1353—  
 "in festo Sancti Georgii Martyris, Tertius Edwardus rex Anglie celebravit solemnissimam Curiam et fecit grande convivium cunctis principibus et baronibus suis," &c.

<sup>4</sup> Orig. in off. Rememorat. Reg Sept. 1352.

1358.

We have not discovered any further transactions within the Order until this, the 32nd year of the king, in which the following notices occur, viz.:

- “ A payment to queen Philippa of £500, as a gift from the king for the preparation of her apparel against the feast of St. George, to be celebrated at Windsor.”<sup>1</sup>
- “ To divers messengers and runners, sent into various parts of England with letters under the privy seal and signet, directed to several lords and ladies, inviting them to the feast of St. George at Windsor . . . . . 47s. 11d.”
- “ To Walter Norman and his twenty-three fellows for the carrying of oats to Windsor about the time of St. George’s feast . . . . . 13s. 4d.”
- “ To William Volaunt, king of the heralds, in money issued to him, of the king’s gift, for his good services at the said feast . . . . . 66s. 8d.”
- “ To Hankin Fitz Libbin and his twenty-three fellows, the king’s minstrels, for their services at the said feast . . . . . £16.”

The feast for which the above services were rendered is mentioned by foreign as well as domestic historians. Baluzius, in his Lives of the Popes<sup>2</sup> who had kept their court at Avignon, relates that, on the feast of St. George, 1358, the king of England held a most solemn assembly of his nobility. Leland, in his Collectanea,<sup>3</sup> a MS. in the Arundel collection in the College of Arms,<sup>4</sup> and a MS. in the Harleian library,<sup>5</sup> record this royal feast, at which was present king John of France, “ the which king said in scorn, that he saw never so royal a feast, and so costly made, with tallies of tree, without paying of gold and silver.”

Knyghton states that king Edward caused proclamation to be made in all parts of the kingdom, that all strangers coming from any foreign land should have safe conduct, for the space of three weeks, to and from the hastilude; and adds, that the duke of Brabant, the queen of Scotland, and an infinite number of knights and ladies of all nations, were present on the splendid occasion.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Exit. Pell. Pasch. 32 Ed. 3.

<sup>2</sup> P. 352. <sup>3</sup> Vol. i. p. 568.

<sup>4</sup> No. 48. <sup>5</sup> 40 D. 15.

<sup>6</sup> Knyghton, 2617. The object of the visit of the dukes of Bra-

bant and Lunenburgh (the latter being brother to the emperor Charles IV.) was, according to Leland, to solicit the king’s aid against the count of Flanders.

1360.

The account of John Neubury, keeper of the great wardrobe in this the 34th year,<sup>1</sup> notices payments for the preparation of 130 embroidered garters and 808 clasps for the robes of nineteen Knights of the Order therein named, against the feast of St. George; and directions under the privy seal for the issue of six ells of long black cloth, and fur composed of 200 bellies of pure miniver, for robes and hoods for each of these Knights, with scarlet cloth for the lining of the same. Robes were also prepared at the same time for the Sovereign, and certain quantities of cloth of the same colours issued for that purpose.

The Knights enumerated in this account are, the lord the Prince; the earls of Ulster, Richmond, and Salisbury; the lord Edmund of Langley; sirs Richard la Vache, Hugh Wrottesley, Reginald Cobham, and Bartholomew Burghershe; the lord Mohun; sirs Walter Manny, Neel Loryng, Walter Pavley, William Fitzwaryne, and Miles Stapelton; the earls of Stafford, Warwick, and Suffolk; and sir Thomas Ughtred.

Between 1344 and 23 April 1360 there had died of the primary Knights the nine following, viz. Roger Mortimer earl of March, John lord Lisle, sir John Beauchamp, sir Hugh Courtenay, John lord Grey, sir Richard Fitz Simon, sir Thomas Wale, sir Henry Eam, and sir Sanchet Dabrichecourt. The six Knights who were not expected to attend the feast, and for whom consequently no robes were provided, were the duke of Lancaster, who died shortly afterwards, the captal de Buch, not resident in the kingdom, the earl of Kent, who died in December following, sir John Chandos and sir James Audeley, both in France, and sir Otho Holand, who died in September following.

It is uncertain at what period of the year the feast was kept. The king was in France from 28th October 1359 until the 18th May following. There were great rejoicings at Windsor soon after his return, on account of the peace which was concluded at Bretigny on the 8th of that month, and which

<sup>1</sup> Comp. J. Neubury, 34 Ed. 3, m. 1, 7. in off. Rememorat. Reg.

liberated king John, who accompanied Edward to Windsor, and returned to France in the beginning of July.

1361.

In the 35th year, as appears by a protocol of Easter term, in the Pells office, 100*l.* were issued on the 7th of April to William de Farryby, clerk of the household to the king and queen, for the expenses of the then ensuing feast of St. George, to be held at Windsor.

1362.

In the same office there is, in the following year, an issue of 105 shillings to divers messengers and runners, despatched to various parts of England with letters under the great seal, the privy seal, and "*sigillo del Garter.*"<sup>1</sup>

1363-4.

The wardrobe account mentions the supply of materials in cloth of the colour of sanguine in grain and fur of miniver, as also 1,250 garters of tartarin, embroidered with the motto "*hony soit,*" &c. in letters of gold and silk, for robes and hoods for the following sixteen "Knights of the society of the Garter," against St. George's feast; viz. John duke of Lancaster, Lionel duke of Clarence, Edmond of Langley earl of Cambridge, Ralph earl of Stafford, William earl of Salisbury, Robert earl of Suffolk, lord Edward le Despenser, sir Bartholomew Burghershe, John lord Mohun, and sirs Walter Manny, Walter Paveley, Hugh Wrottesley, Thomas Ughtred, and Frank van Halle, the captal de Buch, and Sir Neel Loryng.<sup>2</sup>

A robe was issued at the same time to William de Edyngton, bishop of Winchester, prelate of the Order.

1370.

In the 44th year of the king there is an account extant of John de Ipre, comptroller of the wardrobe, wherein mention

<sup>1</sup> Exit. Pell. Pasch. 36 Ed. 3. to contain the issues beginning 29 June, 37 Ed. 3, and ending 29 June, 38 Ed. 3. The date of the privy seal for these robes is 1 March 38<sup>o</sup>, 1363-4.

<sup>2</sup> Comp. Henrici de Snaith cust. M. Garderob. 37 Ed. 3. The original roll is in the custody of the Queen's remembrancer. It purports

is made of offerings by the king at high mass, in adoring the cross *Neyt*,<sup>1</sup> on the eve of St. George's feast, and on the morrow at the mass of requiem.

1370-1.

According to a fragment of a wardrobe account,<sup>2</sup> containing the record of issues, under a privy seal of 12th March in the 45th year, robes were issued for the seventeen following Knights of the Garter, viz. the Prince; the earls of Hereford, Salisbury, Pembroke, and Stafford; the lords Percy, Latymer, Nevill, Basset, Mohun; sirs Walter de Manny, Richard Pembrugge, Guy de Bryan, Neel Loryng, Walter Paveley, John Sully, and Hugh Wrottesley, against St. George's feast; also a robe for the bishop of Winchester, and 200lbs of wax for the dean and college of the chapel of St. George within the castle of Windsor, to be used at the festival.

1372.

The account of Henry de Wakefield, keeper of the wardrobe, mentions oblations of the value of a noble in gold, made by the king on Friday the 23rd April, being the feast of St. George, in the 46th year, at high mass, in the royal chapel. The sum of 133*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* was issued for the expenses of this feast;<sup>3</sup> and Froissart relates the celebration of it in these words:

“ In 1372 the king kept the feast of St. George at Windsor, as he was accustomed to do every year; and then Messire Guichard d'Angle was admitted a companion with the king, his children, and the barons of England, who call themselves in that fraternity '*Knights of the blue Garter.*' ”<sup>4</sup>

In an account rendered by John de Sleaford, keeper of the wardrobe, concluding 24th November 1372, robes are stated

<sup>1</sup> This relic, supposed to have been part of the true cross, was brought from the Holy Land by one *Neotus*, a native of Wales, and presented, in 1283, to K. Edward I. Vide John Rosse, *Hist. Angl.* p. 202; Textor, *Hist. MS.* 1283, Leland's *Coll.* vol. i. 356<sup>b</sup>; Matt. Paris, and other authorities.

<sup>2</sup> In off. Rememorat. Reg. 12 Sept. 1832.

<sup>3</sup> *Exit. Pell.* 46 Ed. 3.

<sup>4</sup> *Tom.* i. p. 381. The accuracy of Froissart concerning this fact is confirmed by the public records. Guichard d'Angle, afterwards created earl of Huntingdon, succeeded in the stall of sir Walter Manny, who died on Thursday next after St. Hilary, 1371-2, and the stall was to be filled within six weeks after a vacancy.

to have been issued to thirteen knights, viz. Edward prince of Wales, the earls of Cambridge and Salisbury; the lords Latymer, Nevill, and Basset; sir Alan de Buxhull, Guy de Bryan, Richard Penbrugge, Walter Paveley, Neel Loryng, John Sully, and Hugh Wrottesley.

## 1373.

The deliveries of robes in this year, according to the account of the last-mentioned keeper, ending 24th November, in the 47th year, were to Edward prince of Wales; the duke of Lancaster; the earls of Cambridge and Warwick; the lords Latymer, Despenser, Percy, Mohun, and Basset; sir Guy de Bryan, Neel Loryng, John Sully, Walter Paveley, and Alan de Buxhull.<sup>1</sup>

## 1374.

The account of Thomas de Carleton, the king's armourer, for deliveries, by order of the Sovereign, to John de Walyngford, tailor to the lord Thomas of Woodstock, on the 7th Sept. in the 48th year, contains the following issues,<sup>2</sup> viz. 1,808 garters for his robe as a Knight of the Order, to be prepared against the feast, and embroidered with the king's motto "*Hony soit qi mal y pense*," 1,900 garters of blue taffaty, and six of India satin for six mantles for that number of Knights lately made<sup>3</sup> at Windsor, on the feast of St. George in that year.

## 1375.

Also an account for robes issued, under a privy seal 14th April in the 49th year, for the following nineteen Knights of the Order, viz. the Prince, the duke of Lancaster, earls of Pembroke, Warwick, and Salisbury; lords Latymer, Neville, Percy, Mohun, and Basset; sirs Alan de Buxhull, Richard de Penbrugg, Guido de Brian, Thomas Graunson, Guychard d'Angle, Nigell Loryng, John Sully, Hugh de Wrottesle, and Walter Paveley. The cloth was to be scarlet, furred, and lined with blue, and the quantity issued is mentioned. At the

<sup>1</sup> In off. Rememorat. Reg.

<sup>3</sup> Probably then *installed*.

<sup>2</sup> In eod. off. 12 Sept. 1332.



same time a Garter robe was ordered for the bishop of Winchester.

1376.

Also, under a privy seal 4th April in the 50th year, robes of the colour of sanguine in grain, lined with blue cloth, for the following twenty-four Knights, viz. the Prince, the dukes of Lancaster and Brittany; the earls of Cambridge, Bedford, Warwick, Salisbury, Stafford, and Suffolk; the lords Latymer, Nevyll, Percy, Basset; sir Thomas Holand, sir Alan Buxhull; sirs Guy de Brian, Nigell Loryng, John Sully, Hugh Wrottesley, William Beauchamp, Thomas Percy, Thomas Banastre, Guichard d'Angle, and Robert de Namur.<sup>1</sup>

There is extant, in the above-mentioned office, a fragment of the wardrobe account for this year, from which the following notices are collected, viz.

“4 April.—A Garter robe (*de secta militum de Garterio*) for the king, of cloth of the colour of sanguine in grain; and, on the same day, six blue cloth mantles lined with taffaty of divers colours, and six hoods of sanguine in grain, lined with blue, for *six new Knights of the fraternity of St. George*, against the feast, with mantles for two canons and two poor Knights of Windsor.

8 April.—A long gown and a hood of cloth of sanguine in grain for the countess of Bedford [daughter of the Sovereign and wife of Ingelram de Coucy, K.G.] *de secta militum de Garterio*, against the feast.

20 May.—Apparel for the countess of Bedford and for *Alice Perrers* [the king's mistress] in which they were to appear at the hastilude, appointed to be held in Smithfield after Pentecost, but which did not take place.

The prince of Wales dying on 6 June, there is a warrant, dated 11th of that month, for issuing a cloak and long gown, furred, &c. to Richard, son of the prince, and ‘which the king gave him after his said father's death.’”

<sup>1</sup> These, with the Sovereign, and the captal de Buch, then in prison at Paris, constituted the whole fraternity.

1377.

In the wardrobe account of this, the 51st year, also recently discovered amongst the records of the Remembrancer's office, there are recorded the following issues :

"4 April.—Two hoods of white long cloth, lined with blue, for two new Knights of the Garter, in the room of the lord the prince, and the 'capitow del Buch,' deceased."

The Knights chosen to supply the vacancies were prince Richard and Henry earl of Derby (son of the duke of Lancaster, and afterwards king Henry IV.); and there is a provision made, on the said 4th of April, of a long gown, with a hood of white cloth, furred, and lined with blue cloth, of "*the sect or suit of the Garter*," for prince Richard, against the then ensuing feast of St. George.

"6 April.—A letter, under the privy seal, for the issue of robes of white cloth, lined with blue, for the twenty-three following Knights of the Order, viz. Richard prince of Wales, the dukes of Lancaster and Britanny, the earls of Cambridge, Salisbury, Warwick, Suffolk, Stafford, and Derby, the lords Latymer, Nevyll, Percy, and Basset, Thomas de Holand, William de Beauchamp, Alan de Buxhull, Guy de Brian, Thomas Percy, Thomas Banastre, Guichard d'Angle, Nigel Loryng, John Sully, and Hugh de Wrottesle."<sup>1</sup>

It appears, by another account in the same custody, that, at the feast of St. George held at Windsor in this year, the following persons received the order of knighthood, viz. prince Richard, Thomas of Woodstock (the youngest son of the Sovereign, and afterwards earl of Buckingham and duke of Gloucester), Henry, son of John king of Castile and Leon (afterwards Henry IV.), the earl of Oxford, the lords Beaumont and Mowbray, two sons of the earls of Stafford and Salisbury, three sons of lord Percy, and John de Sotherey; and scarlet robes (the materials for which are described) were directed to be issued to them for the occasion, under the privy seal dated the 12th of April.

The Sovereign died on the 21st June in this year.

<sup>1</sup> The Knights here enumerated, together with Sir Robert de Namur and Ingelram de Coucy, earl of Bedford, not in the realm, complete the fraternity.