

## KNIGHTS OF THE ORDER

UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EDWARD III.

## II.

EDWARD PLANTAGENET, PRINCE OF WALES.

**One of the Founders.**EDWARD  
PRINCE  
OF  
WALES.

WE can scarcely recall a period of our early studies when the exalted character of "The Black Prince," his brilliant achievements, his noble frankness, and his chivalrous courtesy in peace and in war, had not already excited our attention and interest. The personal memorials even, which the nation has here and there preserved of her favourite hero, the fragments of the armour in which he is said to have conquered, the splendid tomb that enshrines his remains, have severally contributed to fix and perpetuate the veneration in which his name has been held, amidst successive changes of opinions and manners, during five centuries.

Our narrow limits allow only a hasty glance at the prominent events of this prince's history, which is, in truth, identified with that of his country, from the bright moment of his landing, a youthful warrior, on the shore of Normandy to the mournful close of his renowned career.

Prince Edward was born at Woodstock, on the 15th June 1330.<sup>1</sup> In his third year he was created earl of Chester; four years afterwards duke of Cornwall;<sup>2</sup> and, in 1343, prince of Wales.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Walsyngham, p. 130, No. 47, gives the date 1329.

<sup>2</sup> This creation took place in the parliament held at Westminster A° 11 Edw. III, and was the first of the dignity of DUKE. The charter (No. 55.) erects the castles, manors, and franchises therein mentioned, as well in Cornwall as in other counties, into a *duchy*, and establishes the same upon Edward,

earl of Chester, and *the first-born son and sons of him, and his heirs kings of England.* Coke, lib. 8, *Cas. Principis.*

<sup>3</sup> According to the limitation of this dignity, the same is, after the death of any prince invested with it, preserved in the crown until a new creation. *Chart. 17 Edw. 3. m. 24, n. 27.*

At the institution of the Garter he had not completed his fourteenth year; and, although included amongst the Founders, in accordance with the design of his royal father that the eldest son of the Sovereign should be always a constituent member of the Order, the honour of knighthood was reserved for the moment when he should be armed, and thereby qualified to enter upon his warlike course.

EDWARD  
PRINCE  
OF  
WALES.

This occasion presented itself when, accompanying the king on his memorable expedition against France, he landed at La Hogue on the 12th of July 1346.

At the battle of Cressy, which was fought on the 26th of August following, king Edward, desirous that his noble son should "win his spurs," gave him the command of the van, with the counsel and assistance of the earl of Warwick and sir John Chandos. The tradition near the spot is, that the king had ordered the prince to wear on that day a black cuirass, richly ornamented; and that, from this incident, he retained the surname attributed to him in history.<sup>1</sup> The defeat of the enemy is known to have been complete; and the delighted father, embracing his son on the field of victory, eulogised his valour, and pronounced him worthy of empire.

The magnificent establishment provided for prince Edward in his early infancy, by his investiture with the ample domains of the county palatine of Chester and the duchy of Cornwall, had placed a vast revenue at his disposal so soon as he arrived at an age to administer his own affairs; and we have contemporary testimony of the brilliancy of his court, not only during his residence in England, but especially whilst exercising the supreme authority in Aquitaine.

From a highly interesting volume, unknown to his various biographers, and containing the warrants and accounts of the receivers, treasurers, and other officers of his household from 1346, and, in a regular series, from February 1350-1 to November 1365,<sup>2</sup> we learn that, upon his return from Calais in 1347, his town residence was "Pulteney-House," situated in or near Candlewick-street, in the parish now called "St

<sup>1</sup> Histoire d'Abbeville par Lou-  
andre, p. 131.

<sup>2</sup> Vellum MS. before cited.

EDWARD  
PRINCE  
OF  
WALES.

Lawrence Pountney." This mansion, which had been erected by sir John Pulteney (who frequently filled the civic chair) on the site of Cold-Harbour, and is described<sup>1</sup> as having been built on a scale of great splendour, (though this remarkable occupation of it has hitherto escaped observation,) was, at some time after the death of sir John, which happened in 1340, and during the minority of his son, tenanted by the prince, until 1359, in which year directions were given to surrender it to sir Nicholas Loveyne, who had married the knight's widow.<sup>2</sup> Its front was open to the Thames, where the prince kept swans in considerable number, to which allusion is often made in these accounts.

His country residences appear to have been chiefly Berkhamstead castle, Wallingford castle, Northbourne near Sandwich, Byfleet, and Kennington manor, near London.

The above-mentioned volume abounds with proofs of the generous use which Edward made of his wealth in the distribution of costly presents amongst the members of his august family, his gallant companions in arms, and his numerous retainers, as well as in princely guerdons to strangers of every rank who had the fortune to attract his regard.<sup>3</sup>

At the expiration of the truce with France, on the 24th June 1355, he began to prepare for his departure for Gascony, invested, as the king's lieutenant, with the government of all his French possessions.

By an indenture dated at Westminster 10th July in that

<sup>1</sup> Wilson's History of the Parish of St. Lawrence Pountney; Penant's London, &c. The mansion was also called "the manour of the Rose," and "Pulteney's Inn," and, in 1397, belonged to John Holand, duke of Exeter, and was the scene of a grand entertainment given to his half-brother king Richard II.

<sup>2</sup> "Edouard, &c. a sire cher clerc sire Piers de Lacy gardien de sire grande garderobe saluz Nous vous mandons q. a plus toust q. vos, p'ez facez remuer et mettre en ma garderobe en Londres toutes manieres de houstielments tables tristeux formes et toutes autres

choses q. nous avons deinz loustel gestoit a mons. Johan de Pulteney pres de Candlewykstreet en Londres quele chose faite facez livrer mesme lostil a mons. Nichol Loveyne que espousee la femme de dit mons. Johan," &c. "Donne a Northborne joust Sandwic 23 Oct. l'an xxxiiij." [1359.]

<sup>3</sup> Extracts from this valuable MS. portraying the gallant Edward in intervals of domestic retirement, and tending in no small degree to confirm our conception of his disposition, sentiments, and habits, will be found in the Appendix, No. II.

year, made between the king on the one part and the prince of Wales on the other, it was stipulated that the prince should be attended by 433 men-at-arms and 700 archers, of whom 400 should be mounted, and 300 on foot; which force, as well as the men-at-arms and archers of the earls of Warwick, Suffolk, Oxford, and Salisbury, sir John de Lisle, and sir Reginald de Cobham, should constitute the proper retinue of the prince, and be paid by the king for one half-year in advance, reckoning from the day of their embarkation; and, for carrying into effect the several provisions of this agreement, the duke of Lancaster, and the earls of Northampton, Arundel, March, and Stafford, pledge their loyal aid and counsel.<sup>1</sup>

EDWARD  
PRINCE  
OF  
WALES.

The prince appears to have had his head-quarters at Plympton from the 8th August until the 2nd September, and to have issued from thence several warrants to his treasurer and other officers in London. On the 4th of the latter month we find him at Plymouth. On the 7th there is a warrant for vestments for the priests of his chapels at Wallingford and Berkhamstead; gifts of musical instruments to the minstrels sent to him by the count of Eu; and for the cost of "a round plate, gilt and enamelled with *the arms of the company of the Garter*,<sup>2</sup> which we gave to William de Stafford, herald of arms, and of three garters, the one of gold, the other enamelled with an eagle, and the third a common silver garter, enamelled and gilt, which we have received for our own use."

In the course of that month he arrived at Bordeaux; and from the 20th commences an interesting journal of his expenses, still extant in the office of the duchy of Cornwall,<sup>3</sup> which, so far as we know, has not been referred to by any historian of that period. On Monday, the 5th of October

<sup>1</sup> See a copy of the agreement, as registered in the volume last mentioned, in the Appendix, No. III.

<sup>2</sup> The cross of St. George, *gules*, upon a field *argent*.

<sup>3</sup> "*Jornale de solutis factis in partibus Vasconie de tempore Joh'is Henxeworth contrarotulatoris domini principis Wallie*"—"a die dominica xx Sept. A<sup>o</sup>. xxix. usque ad

ult. Junii sequent. [20 Sept. 1355 to 30 June 1356.] According to a note, at the opening of the account, of the 7th Sept. there was at that date in the hands of sir Henry de Blakeburne, treasurer of the household, 2197*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* A few remarkable extracts from the Journal will be given in the Appendix, No. IV.

EDWARD  
PRINCE  
OF  
WALES.

1355, the prince marched out of that city, with a powerful army,<sup>1</sup> in order to encounter the French forces then stationed in Languedoc; and both Froissart and Stowe enumerate the places through which he passed in his progress. The journal of expenses supplies several dates in authentication of the line of march.<sup>2</sup>

On the 19th September 1356, the battle of Poitiers, gained by the English army, greatly inferior in number to that of France, was chiefly directed by the military genius of Edward; and king John was conducted a prisoner to Bordeaux, and from thence to London, where he made his celebrated entry on 24th May 1357.

After the proofs given by the prince, during his government in Aquitaine, of his talents not only as a military commander but as a statesman, he appears to have borne an important part in the direction of public affairs. By an instrument, dated London, 6th Sept. 1357, and which we have not seen recorded except in the household book alluded to,<sup>3</sup> he appointed Henry lord Percy and Ralph lord Nevil to swear on his behalf to the observance of the treaty to be concluded between the king his father and his council, and the prelates, nobles, and others of the kingdom of Scotland, concerning the liberation of "David de Bruys, a prisoner of our lord the king."

In 1362, the king created his victorious son prince of Guienne and Gascony,<sup>4</sup> and erected those provinces into a principality for the term of his life. Edward proceeded immediately to his new territories, accompanied by his princess; and held his court with great state and magnificence at Poitiers, to which city the barons and knights of Poitou and Saintonge repaired to do him fealty and homage, and where he was also visited by Peter de Lusignan, king of Cyprus. On the latter occasion, the prince gave a royal joust of forty knights and as many esquires in honour of the birth of his son Edward.

During the residence of prince Edward at Bordeaux his aid was personally solicited by Peter "the Cruel," king of Castile,

<sup>1</sup> Barnes, most improbably, makes it amount to 60,000. *Hist. Edw. III* p. 481.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix, No. V.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* No. VI.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Vasc. 36 Ed. 3. m. 16.

towards the recovery of his kingdom, from which he had been driven by his illegitimate brother, Henry of Transtamare; and, king Edward concurring, the prince entered Spain at the head of 30,000 men; and, after a severe contest at Najara, (about fifty miles south of Bilboa,) on the 3rd April 1366, restored the ungrateful monarch to his throne.

EDWARD  
PRINCE  
OF  
WALES.

From this expedition, Edward is said to have returned to Bordeaux with the seeds of a malady which never quitted him; and, his spirits having also suffered great depression from the loss by death of his eldest son Edward, he left the prosecution of the continental war to his brothers the duke of Lancaster and earl of Cambridge; and, embarking with the princess and their only surviving child Richard, arrived at Plymouth in January 1370-1.

Two years afterwards, he surrendered the principality of Guienne into the king's hands; and, from that period, seems to have taken little interest in public business; exhibiting a melancholy example of the instability of all human glory.

He made his will in the king's great chamber at Westminster on the 7th June 1376;<sup>1</sup> and, to the great grief of the nation, expired there on the day following. His body, having been embalmed, was kept until the meeting of parliament at the ensuing Michaelmas, in order that it might be interred

<sup>1</sup> Register "Sudbury," fo. 90, in the archiep. regy at Lambeth. It is also printed in Nichols' Royal Wills, p. 66. It contains, among other bequests, one of a silk bed to SIR ROGER DE CLARENDON. This person was Edward's natural son by, as it is supposed, Edith de Willesford, of whom mention is made in *Rot. Pat.* 8 Ric. 2, p. 2. m. 13. He was, as well as his illustrious father, a brother of the guild of St. Trinity, Coventry. *Dugd. Warw.* 1st ed. p. 123. He was knight of the chamber to Richard II, who granted to him, 1 October 1389, a pension of £100 out of the issues of the royal subsidies in several counties. He married Margaret, daughter and heir of Mariot

the daughter and heir of William de la Roche; but by her, who died within age, he had not any issue. *Dugd. Warw.* p. 648<sup>b</sup>. Sir Roger was accused of treason in the following reign; and, failing to justify himself, was attainted, and, with his esquire and a servant, executed in 1402. *Fines*, 6 Ric. 2, m. 12 & 13; and *Walsyngham*, p. 365, No. 20. The arms assigned to him were "Or, on a bend sable three ostrich feathers, each passing through an escroll, argent." The Black Prince had another natural son, SIR JOHN SOUNDER, of whose martial abilities very honourable mention is made by Froissart, vol. viii. ed. *Buchon*, p. 110, 146, et passim. *Baker's Chron.* p. 143.

EDWARD  
PRINCE  
OF  
WALES.

with the greater solemnity; which was performed at Canterbury, near the shrine of Becket; and a stately monument, still extant, was thereupon erected to his memory.

By his consort, Joan, who in her youth had been named "the fair maid of Kent," the sister and heir of John Plantagenet earl of Kent, and relict of sir Thomas Holand, one of the founders of this Order, and, in her right, earl of Kent, (to which lady the prince was married in the royal chapel at Windsor on Sunday the 10th October 1361,)<sup>1</sup> he had two sons,—Edward, born at Angoulême in February 1365 (according to Holinshed, and in 1364, according to Leland), who died at Bordeaux, in the sixth year of his age; and Richard, afterwards king Richard II.

#### ARMS.

Quarterly, France and England, differenced by a label of three points argent.

#### BADGES.

1. The Sun rising out of Clouds, with the motto HOUMOUT, highmindedness.
2. Three ostrich feathers, encircled by a crown, with an escroll thereon and the motto ICH DIEN, I serve.

<sup>1</sup> Regr "Islip," at Lambeth palace, fo. 180<sup>b</sup>. Simon archbishop of Canterbury certifies to pope Innocent VI. the espousals, in the chapel at Lambeth, on 6 October, in the presence of William bishop of Winchester, Roger lord de la Warre, Edward de Courtenay, James de Audele, and Nicholas de Lovayne, knights, and others, and the subsequent marriage, in the royal chapel at Windsor, on Sun-

day the 10th of the same month, in the presence of the bishops, William of Winchester, John of Lincoln, Robert of Sarum, and John elect of Worcester, and of John (of Gant) earl of Richmond and Edmond of Langley, the king's sons, and Thomas earl of Warwick and Robert earl of Suffolk, also of the queen of Scotland, and Maud duchess of Hainault.