

## V.

JOHN DE GRAILLY, CAPTAL DE BUCH,

**One of the Founders.**JOHN  
CAPTAL  
DE  
BUCH.

THE Captals of Buch, hereditary proprietors and captains of a fort situated on a small promontory fourteen leagues from Bordeaux, now called "La Tête de Buch," had, from an early period, espoused the interests of England in her contests with the French monarchs. The captalate (to which considerable privileges in the parliament and city of Bordeaux were annexed) was, in 1328,<sup>1</sup> vested in John de Grailly, as heir to Peter de Bordeaux, lord of Puy-Paulin, his maternal uncle; being the son of Peter sire de Grailly, vicomte de Benanges and Castillon, by Assalide, his wife, daughter of Peter, and sister of Peter, both designated of Bordeaux and captals of Buch.<sup>2</sup> The captal John died in or about

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Vasc. 2 Ed. 3, m. 4; grant, upon petition of Peter de Grailly vicomte de Benanges and Castillon, of £1000, alleged to have been due for wages from king Edward 1. to Peter de Bordeaux captal de

Buch, to be paid to John de Grailly captal de Buch, heir and executor of the will of the said Peter de Bordeaux.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Vasc. 5 Ed. 3, m. 7; order for payment of wages due from Ed-

1343,<sup>1</sup> in the lifetime of his father Peter,<sup>2</sup> leaving, by Blanch de Foix,<sup>3</sup> his wife, JOHN DE GRAILLY, his son and heir, who succeeded to the captalate, was a Knight of the Garter, and one of the greatest warriors of his age.

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As there is no evidence that two individuals of this family were honoured with the Garter during the reign of the royal Founder;—as the captal de Buch, who, by that title, received robes of the Order in 1364,<sup>4</sup> was undoubtedly the last-named John de Grailly who had succeeded his father in the captalate shortly before the institution;—and as, according to the Windsor tables, and an extant wardrobe account, Henry earl of Derby, afterwards king Henry IV, was the immediate successor to his stall;—we cannot avoid concluding that the name of “Piers” was, by mistake, inserted for that of “Jean” in one of the ancient exemplars of the statutes,<sup>5</sup> and that the same error was committed in the engraving on the plate still remaining in his stall.<sup>6</sup>

The presence of all the original Knights at the first feast of the Order might be presumed, had it even not been asserted by Froissart that they then sealed, and were sworn

ward I. to Peter de Bordeaux, lord of Puy-Paulin, and Peter Amaneue, sometime captals de Buch, [great] uncles of the said John, and whose heir he is. Rot. id. m. 24, Jan. 25; grant of certain privileges to the mansion of Puy-Paulin, which had belonged to Peter de Bordeaux, uncle of said John, whose heir he is since the death of Assalide, sister of Peter and mother of John.

<sup>1</sup> Anselme, Hist. Gen. vol. iii. states that he made his will in 1343, and that he was buried in the church of the Cordeliers at Bordeaux. He was certainly dead in 1349; for there is an order (Rot. Pip. 36 Ed. 3, reciting the account of John de Stretle, constable of Bordeaux, from 15 to 29 Sept. 23 Ed. 3,) to pay to Blanch de Foix captaless de Buch, and John de Greyly her son, 3,808 livres, in part of 1,300 gold crowns due to John de Greyly captal de Buch, her late husband; and, Rot. Vasc. 17 Ed. 3, m. 9, (1343) Rym. vol. ii.

p<sup>l</sup>. 2, p. 1236, John de Greyly capitan de Buch is mentioned in the same instrument with Peter de Greyly vicomte Benanges, which proves that the captalate was at that date in John.

<sup>2</sup> Peter de Grailly vicomte Benanges made his will in 1356. Anselme, ut supra.

<sup>3</sup> Anselme describes her as daughter to Gaston comte de Foix by Jeanne d'Artois: but Paradine, p. 830, states her to have been daughter to Lupus lord of Avanal, natural brother of Gaston.

<sup>4</sup> Wardrobe account of Henry de Snaith from 29 June, 37 Ed. 3, to 29 June, 38 Ed. 3, now in the custody of the Queen's Remembrancer.

<sup>5</sup> Ashmole's Appendix. This was the copy of the statutes in the Hattonian library. The other early copies do not give the christian name of the captal.

<sup>6</sup> See the engraving.

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to obey, the ordinances devised on that occasion. Peter de Grailly vicomte de Benanges was certainly not at that time in England; the "sire de Grailly" being mentioned amongst the Gascon nobles, whose envoys arrived during the festivities in order to claim succour from Edward against the French party;<sup>1</sup> and his grandson, John de Grailly, who at that period held the captalate by hereditary right, was doubtless the gallant knight who accepted the invitation to the "table ronde" of the English monarch, and who had the honour to be included amongst the first members of this illustrious fraternity.

It may be inferred that he returned with the earl of Derby, or subsequently with the Black Prince, into his native country. His name occurs in the enumeration of the commanders in the army of prince Edward during his sojourn at Bordeaux;<sup>2</sup> and he is mentioned to have been, about the same time, present at the assault of Romorantin.<sup>3</sup> On the eve of the battle of Poitiers, the captal led the reconnoitring party under the orders of the prince;<sup>4</sup> and, in the grand conflict, 19th September 1356, nobly distinguished himself, and reckoned amongst his prisoners James de Bourbon, count de la Marche and Ponthieu.<sup>5</sup> He embarked with Edward for England in April 1357;<sup>6</sup> and participated the modest triumph of that prince on his entry into London with king John and the flower of the French chivalry. He appears to have passed, immediately afterwards, into Prussia with his cousin Gaston Phœbus count de Foix; and returned to France at the period of the celebrated insurrection of the peasants, which broke out on the 21st May 1358,<sup>7</sup> and, from Jacques Bonhomme their leader, was called "La Jacquerie." The captal and his noble kinsman, attended by forty lancers, were joyfully received at Meaux by the dauphiness and the duke

<sup>1</sup> Froissart, vol. ii. p. 181.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Wingfield to Stamford. *Robert of Avesbury*.

<sup>3</sup> Froissart, vol. ii. p. 168.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. 179.

<sup>5</sup> The ransom was fixed at 25,000 florins. *Exit. Pell. Michās.* 36 Ed. 3. Johanni de Greyllie capitan de la Buche, et aliis in pretio xxiii

floren. de scuto veteris pretii xlv gr. in persolutionem xxv M. floren desc. vet. in quibus dom. princeps eidem tenebatur pro Jacobo de Burbon com. Pontyf. nuper prisonar. eorundem apud bellum de Poyters capto iv li. ix s. vii d.

<sup>6</sup> Froissart, vol. iii. p. 264.

<sup>7</sup> *Chroniques de France*, cap. 74.

and duchess of Orleans, who, with 300 ladies, were in great peril from the violence of the insurgents. Their small but hardy band joining the Orleans pennon, the ill-armed rabble, to the number of 7,000, were put to the sword in the streets of the city.

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The captal having ranged himself on the side of Charles le Mauvais, king of Navarre, against the dauphin, took the town of Clermont in Beauvoisis by assault in November 1359.<sup>1</sup> In 1360 he was one of the commanders who swore to the observance of the treaty of peace at Calais.<sup>2</sup> After the death of king John, which happened in London, 8th April 1364, the war was renewed by the king of Navarre, with a view of preventing the inauguration of Charles V, the successor to the French crown; and he conferred the chief command of his forces upon the captal de Buch, who, in the battle of Cocherel, fought on the 6th May following with the French army under Bertrand du Guesclin, and had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by thirty knights who had bound themselves to accomplish solely that important object.<sup>3</sup> He was, to the great satisfaction of the French court, conveyed to Rouen, thence to Paris, and, in the sequel, to Meaux. Whilst in prison, he engaged himself, in September 1364, by Roland Bodin, to whom he had surrendered, to remain in durance in such place and such manner as the king should appoint; consenting that, if he should in aught act to the contrary, or cause any aid to be given to the king of Navarre, he might be deemed a false and disloyal knight, perjured and faithless, have his armorial escutcheon reversed, and be prosecuted in the royal courts.<sup>4</sup> He appears, however, to have been released upon a condition to mediate peace between the two kings; for he obliged himself, by his letter dated in June 1365, to bring the treaty or redeliver himself a prisoner. Froissart states that he did homage on this occasion to the king of France, and received from Charles a grant of the castle of Nemours with a revenue of 3,000 francs; and that being, on his return to his country, harshly received and reproached by prince Edward for his

<sup>1</sup> Chroniques de France, cap. 118.

<sup>2</sup> Froissart, vol. iv. p. 89.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 212.

<sup>4</sup> Tresor des Chartes, cited by Anselme, vol. iii.

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defection, he sent his esquire to surrender the donation, and renounce on his behalf the allegiance into which he had been induced to enter.<sup>1</sup> In 1367 he followed the Black Prince into Spain in the company of James king of Majorca;<sup>2</sup> and was present at the battle of Najara on the 3rd April in that year; witnessing, after the conflict, the celebrated meeting between the prince and don Pedro, at which the former adjured the Spanish monarch to grant a general amnesty to his subjects.<sup>3</sup>

We find our hero engaged in several warlike operations between that date and 1370; in which year king Edward, in recompense of his long services, granted to him the county of Bigorre in Aquitaine.<sup>4</sup> In that year also the captal, in company with sir Thomas Felton, prevented, by great intrepidity, the capture of the town of Linde.<sup>5</sup> In 1371 the duke of Lancaster gave up the lieutenancy of Aquitaine into the charge of the captal as constable, and sir Thomas Felton as seneschal.<sup>6</sup> In 1372 he was appointed one of the governors of Gascony;<sup>7</sup> and, shortly afterwards, was again taken prisoner before Soubise by Pierre d'Anvilliers, a brave esquire of Vermandois, serving under the command of Ivain de Galles;<sup>8</sup> and conveyed to the tower of the Temple at Paris. King Edward and the prince, his son, made several overtures for his ransom, offering in exchange for him the young count of St. Paul and three or four knights; but, so great was the terror inspired by his military talent and personal courage, that king Charles refused to liberate him, whether by ransom or exchange, unless he should oblige himself never to carry arms against the French interests. He declined to accept his freedom upon that condition, and remained in prison until his death, which happened in 1377, after a detention of five years.<sup>9</sup> The French king caused his funeral to be magnificently solemnized in the cathedral of Notre Dame.<sup>10</sup> He

<sup>1</sup> Froissart, vol. iv. p. 281.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 363.      <sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 416.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Vasc. 44 Ed. 3, m. 4.

<sup>5</sup> Froissart, vol. v. p. 192.

<sup>6</sup> The assignment bears date at Bordeaux, 21 July 1371.—Duchy of Lanc. records, f. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Froissart, vol. v. p. 268.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. vol. vi. p. 8.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. p. 112.

<sup>10</sup> Anselme, *ut supra*; et *genealogie de Grailly dans l'histoire du Gatinois*, par Morin.—Paris, 1630.

had made his will in 1367, and constituted his uncle of the half-blood, Archambaud de Grailly, his heir in all his lands in Guienne and in Burgundy and Savoy. His will contains bequests to the amount of 40,000 crowns of gold.

He married, in Nov. 1350, Rose d'Albret, legitimated daughter of Bernard sire d'Albret; but had by her no issue.<sup>1</sup>

The captal left an illegitimate son, sir John de Grailly, who served with distinction in the wars of France. This person made his will 17th June 1400, and directed the interment of his body in the church of the convent of Carmelites at Bordeaux, of which city he was mayor. He appears to have died in England; for his will was proved in the church of Cranbrooke, in Kent, on the 10th July following.<sup>2</sup>

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## ARMS.

Or, on a cross Sable five escallops Argent.

## CREST.

A man's head, in profile, with asses' ears.<sup>3</sup>

## VI.

## RALPH FIRST EARL OF STAFFORD,

**One of the Founders.**

THE third stall on the prince's side was filled by Ralph lord Stafford, one of the most esteemed of Edward's commanders. He was the son and heir of Edmund lord Stafford (by Margaret daughter of Ralph lord Basset of Draiton); at whose death, in 1308, our hero was in his ninth year.<sup>4</sup>

RALPH  
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EARL  
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STAFFORD.

<sup>1</sup> Anselme.

<sup>2</sup> Register Arundel at Lambeth, fo. 181.

<sup>3</sup> These arms are on the plate remaining in the stall of the captal de Buch, being the third on the Sovereign's side. They correspond with the description given of them, in Anselme's *Histoire Genealogique de France*, from seals

to several instruments executed by him and remaining in the *Tresor des Chartes du Roi*. The plate, however, does not seem to be coeval; but, judging from the fashion of those of the reign of Henry V, was probably affixed about that period to the stall which this distinguished knight had occupied.

<sup>4</sup> Esc. 2 Ed. 2, No. 63.