

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.¹

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.²

JOHN
CAPTAL
DE
BUCH.

ARMS.

Or, on a cross Sable five escallops Argent.

CREST.

A man's head, in profile, with asses' ears.³

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.⁴

RALPH
FIRST
EARL
OF
STAFFORD.

¹ Anselme.

² Register Arundel at Lambeth, fo. 181.

³ 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.

⁴ Esc. 2 Ed. 2, No. 63.

RALPH
FIRST
EARL
OF
STAFFORD.

In 1324 he had livery of his lands;¹ and, in the year following, was made a knight, with bathing and other ceremonies usual at that period; having robes, and accoutrements as a banneret, allowed to him upon the occasion.² His military career commenced in Scotland in 1328; and, from that date, he appears, by the public records and other memorials, to have been almost constantly employed, through a long life, in the king's service. In 1340 he officiated, as steward of the household, at the splendid festivities described by Froissart³ to have been given in honour of the visit to this country of queen Philippa's relatives, William and John of Hainault. He was, soon afterwards, sent into Brittany in the expedition conducted by Robert d'Artois;⁴ in which he had command of the transports which sailed from Guernsey, and encountered, before their arrival off the French coast, the Spanish-Genoese squadron under Louis d'Espagne and Aithon Doria. The conflict was maintained with great bravery on both sides, but without any decisive result, as the ships were dispersed in a violent storm. The English force disembarked near Vannes, then held by Hervé de Léon and Oliver de Clisson, for Charles of Blois who had been declared duke of Brittany. The town was taken, but recovered by the enemy; when Artois, mortally wounded, escaped, with Stafford and others, through a postern. The king, arriving with a considerable reinforcement, laid siege simultaneously to Nantes and several principal places in the duchy; and, in a skirmish before that city, both Stafford and Clisson were made prisoners, and soon afterwards exchanged. Our gallant knight, having been honoured with the Garter at the institution, attended the earl of Derby, in 1344, into Gascony; was pre-eminently distinguished in various engagements with the enemy, particularly in the assaults of Bergerac and Montpesant;⁵ and, returning into England in the ensuing year, was rewarded with the high office of seneschal of Aquitaine, and again despatched with a supply of troops in aid of Derby's warlike operations in that

¹ Claus. 17 Ed. 2, m. 25.

² Comp. Tho. Ufflete provisor. M. Garderob., examined, amongst the records of the King's Re-

membrancer in the exchequer, in 1832.

³ Tom. iv. (ed. Buchon), p. 125.

⁴ Ibid. p. 126.

⁵ Ibid.

province. Being in Aiguillon, when John duke of Normandy (heir apparent of Philip VI.) besieged that fort, situated at the confluence of the Garonne and the Lot, the siege was rendered remarkable by three several assaults on different days, in which both assailants and besieged displayed equal valour; but particularly Stafford, who, in a vigorous sally from the castle, fell upon and cut off a great part of the enemy's rear; and, having formed a junction with the royal forces, obtained a command in the van of the army under the prince of Wales at Cressy.

RALPH
FIRST
EARL
OF
STAFFORD.

For the latter not improbable fact, as well as for the affair at Aiguillon, we have the authorities of Knyghton and Stowe;¹ but Froissart is incorrectly cited by Ashmole and Dugdale for the assertion that, after the victory at Cressy, the lord Stafford was sent with sir Reginald Cobham to number the slain; the chronicler having related the performance of that duty by Cobham and sir Richard Stafford.²

After the surrender of Calais, lord Stafford was appointed, together with sir Walter Manny and the earl of Warwick, to take possession of the town; and they had many "fair houses" granted to them for the purpose of settling other inhabitants therein.³ He was constituted, 25th September 1347, a commissioner to treat for peace;⁴ and, in 1349, accompanied the king in his romantic encounter with Geoffroi de Charny at Calais.⁵ In 1350-1 he was advanced to the dignity of earl of Stafford, to hold to him *and his heirs*;⁶ and, about the same time, appointed the king's lieutenant-general in Aquitaine, with the high power of nominating the seneschal of that province and the constable of Bordeaux.⁷ Towards the close of the summer of 1355 the earl attended the king to Calais,⁸ and again in 1359:⁹ the latter expedition terminating with the peace of Bretigny.

Two years afterwards he was nominated, with others, to

¹ H. Knyghton, 2589, and Stowe, p. 240.

² Froissart, with his usual inattention to nomenclature, calls him *Stanfort*.—Vol. ii. p. 379.

³ *Ibid.* p. 474.

⁴ Rot. Cales. 21 Ed. 3, m. 4.

⁵ Froissart, vol. ii. p. 489.

⁶ Chart. 5 Mar. 25 Ed. 3, m. 31.

⁷ Rot. Vasc. 25 Ed. 3, 6 Mar. m. 7.

⁸ Rot. Franc. 29 Ed. 3, m. 5.

⁹ *Ibid.* 33 Ed. 3, p. 2, m. 2.

RALPH
FIRST
EARL
OF
STAFFORD.

accompany the king's son, Lionel earl of Ulster, for the purpose of quelling an insurrection in Ireland;¹ after which we find him once more, in 1365, employed in the French war.²

This noble earl married the lady Margaret Audeley, (cousin-german of the brave sir James Audeley, one of the Founders,) sole daughter and heir of Hugh earl of Gloucester by Margaret de Clare, daughter and at length coheir of Gilbert earl of Gloucester and Hertford, by his wife the princess Joan Plantagenet, of Acres, daughter of king Edward I; by whom he had issue two sons and three daughters. His heir-general and representative is George-William Stafford-Jerningham, now baron of Stafford.

His death took place on 31st August 1372; and his remains, as well as those of his countess (who died 7th September 1347), were entombed in the priory of Tonbridge, at the feet of her father and mother.³

ARMS.

Or, a cheveron Gules.

VII.

WILLIAM MONTACUTE, SECOND EARL OF SALISBURY,

One of the Founders.

WILLIAM
SECOND
EARL
OF
SALIS-
BURY.

THIS earl, the eldest son and heir of William lord Montacute, the first earl of Salisbury of that family, by Katherine daughter of William lord Granson, was born on the 25th June 1328.

His father, one of the most eminent warriors of his time, died on the 30th January 1343-4,⁴ in consequence of bruises received at the Windsor jousts; and the young earl, then in his sixteenth year, having doubtless also participated, and

¹ Pat. 35 Ed. 3, p. 2, m. 2.

² Rot. Vasc. 39 Ed. 3, m. 5.

³ Weever, p. 323

⁴ Esc. 7 Mar. 18 Ed. 3, No. 51; Holinshed, p. 366.