

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.

with distinction, in those chivalrous exercises, was chosen to be one of the Founders of the Garter in April following.

He was in the expedition into France in 1346;¹ and received knighthood, if not the degree of banneret, upon landing at La Hogue: we find him mentioned as assisting at the siege of Caen;² and it may be presumed that he was also at Cressy. In the two following years he was again on service in France;³ and, about this period, he contracted a marriage with the lady Joan Plantagenet, "the fair maid of Kent;" but, upon the petition of sir Thomas Holand to pope Clement VI, alleging that she had previously been his wife, in virtue of a marriage lawfully solemnised, and that, during his absence in distant parts, the earl had married and then unjustly detained her from him, the case was referred by the holy see to the investigation of cardinal Ademar, who, having examined witnesses on both sides, reported that the marriage between Holand and Joan had been legally celebrated; and the pope thereupon, by his bull dated Avignon 13th November 1349, decreed the contract with Montacute to be null and void, and ordered restitution of the lady to Holand her lawful husband.⁴

In the same year he made proof of his age, and had livery of his lands: and, before the end of the year, succeeded, upon the death of his mother, to the lands which she had held in dower. In 1350 he was in the naval engagement with the Spaniards off Winchelsea; and, on 24th October 1353, did homage to the king at Westminster, in the presence of prince Edward, for his barony of Denbigh.⁵ Being, as well as his younger brother, sir John Montacute, of that prince's retinue, he embarked at Plymouth for Gascony, on 1st January 1355-6;⁶ and had letters to the seneschal for his special protection against any demand upon him during two years on account of the debts of his ancestors.⁷ He was in the foray with the earls of Warwick, Suffolk, and Oxford, in Languedoc; on which occasion they burnt the suburbs

WILLIAM
SECOND
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OF
SALIS-
BURY.

¹ Rot. Franc. 20 Ed. 3, m. 11.

² K. 84, 116^a. in bibl. Bodl.;
Stowe's Annals, p. 241.

³ Rot. Franc. 21 Ed. 3, p. 2,
m. 20; and 22 Ed. 3, m. 2.

⁴ Reg. Islip, in Lambeth palace,
fo. 180.

⁵ Claus. 27 Ed. 3, m. 10.

⁶ Bodl. MS. ut supra.

⁷ Rot. Vasc. 29 Ed. 3, m. 5.

WILLIAM
SECOND
EARL
OF
SALIS-
BURY.

of Narbonne, destroyed Carcasson, and returned, over the district of Armagnac, to Bordeaux.¹

In 1356 the earl commanded the rear of the English army at the battle of Poitiers;² and continued in France during the year following. In 1359 he appears to have been in attendance on the king in his French expedition;³ and was there also in 1360.⁴ He was present, in 1368, at the conclusion of the truce;⁵ and, in 1369, was sent, with the earl of Warwick and others, under the command of the duke of Lancaster, to Calais.⁶ In 1370 he was, at Westminster, one of the witnesses to the celebrated letter for the redress of grievances in Aquitaine.⁷ In 1372 he embarked with the king at Southampton, and sailed towards Rochelle with a view to relieve Thouars; but the fleet was compelled by contrary winds to return to England.⁸ In 1376 he was constituted admiral of the fleet;⁹ and in the same year was found by inquisition to be one of the coheirs of sir Thomas de Granson.

On the accession of Richard II. he was appointed to secure the sea-coasts in the counties of Southampton and Dorset;¹⁰ and, in the following year, governor of Calais.¹¹ In 1384 he was ordered to march against the Scots.¹² In 1385 the Isle of Wight and the castle of Carisbrooke were granted to him for life.¹³

He continued in public employment until his death, which happened on 3rd June 1397,¹⁴ at the age of sixty-nine; he having been the last survivor of the Founders of the Order. He made his will on 20th April 1387, under the titles of earl of Salisbury and lord of the Isles of Man and Wight; and directed his interment in the conventual church of the priory of Bustleham-Montacute in Berks, which had been founded by his father. The will was proved 27th June following.¹⁵

¹ Leland's Coll. vol. i. p. 812; Stowe, p. 256b.

² Stowe, 261b.

³ Rot. Franc. 33 Ed. 3, m. 8.

⁴ Rot. Franc. 34 Ed. 3, m. 4.

⁵ Frois. p. Buchon, vol. v. p. 9.

⁶ Ibid. p. 100. ⁷ Ibid. p. 163.

⁸ Rot. Franc. 46 Ed. 3, m. 14; and Froissart.

⁹ Rot. Franc. 50 Ed. 3, m. 14.

¹⁰ Pat. 2 July, 1 Ric. 2, p. 1, m. 29.

¹¹ Rot. Franc. 2 Ric. 2, m. 9.

¹² Claus. 8 Ric. 2, m. 3 dorso.

¹³ Pat. 19 Aug. 9 Ric. 2, m. 36.

¹⁴ Esc. 24 July, 20 Ric. 2, No. 35.

¹⁵ Reg. Arundel at Lambeth, fo. 160.

The earl had, soon after the decision of the pope in 1349, married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter and coheir of John lord Mohun, one of the Founders of the Order; by whom he had an only child, sir William Montacute, who married, in 1378,¹ Elizabeth Fitzalan, daughter of Richard earl of Arundel, but died without issue, having been unhappily slain in a tilting match at Windsor by the earl his father, on the 6th August 1382.²

WILLIAM
SECOND
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OF
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BURY.

Elizabeth countess of Salisbury took the veil some years after the death of her husband; and was received into the sisterhood of the convent of St. Alban's, 10th October 1408.³ She made her will on the eve of St. Katherine, 1414, and died on 14th January 1414-15, leaving Philippa duchess of York, her younger sister, and Richard lord Strange of Knockyn, son of Maud her other sister, her next heirs.⁴

The earl of Salisbury occupied the fourth stall, on the Sovereign's side, in St. George's chapel. His plate is not remaining; but *two* modern plates, each bearing the arms of Montacute quarterly with those of the Isle of Man, and the crest of Montacute, have been affixed to the stall; the one inscribed, "William de Montagu conte de Salisbury, par la grace de Dieu seigneur de Man, premier fondeur;" the other, "William de Montagu conte de Salisbury, seigneur de Man et de l'Isle de Wight:" and, at the top of each, this inscription, "Tesseram jamdiu deperditam redintegrari jussit Johannes dux de Montagu."⁵

ARMS.

Argent, three lozenges conjoined in fess Gules.

CREST.

Out of a ducal coronet, Gules, a griphon's head between two wings Argent.

¹ Pat. 2 Ric. 2, p. 1, m. 9.

² Esc. 6 Ric. 2, No. 56.

³ Lib. S. Albani in bibl. Cotton. fo. 142.

⁴ Esc. 2 Hen. 5, No. 39.

⁵ These plates were affixed about the year 1740, by order of John duke of Montagu, and under the direction of Anstis, who doubtless took the precaution of obtaining a warrant for that purpose from the Sovereign. In the vain desire of

augmenting the number of Knights of the Order of the name of Montagu, even at the sacrifice of truth, a mere, totally unauthorised, suggestion of Anstis (vol. ii. p. 106) appears to have been eagerly adopted, namely, that the elder Salisbury, who was mortally wounded in the tournament which preceded the foundation, had previously to his death been admitted into the Order.