

IX.

JOHN LORD LISLE,

One of the Founders.JOHN
LORD
LISLE.

This distinguished knight (the son of Robert lord Lisle of Rougemont, a descendant of Robert de Insula, or L'Isle, of Rougemont, who bore an eminent part in the contests of John and Henry III. with their turbulent barons,) obtained, at the early age of seventeen, in order to be the better enabled to serve the king in his wars, a grant for life of the manor of Harwood, in Yorkshire,¹ which had been claimed by his father as heir to Isabel de Fortibus, countess of Albemarle.²

He was in the array at Vironfosse in 1339; on service in Aquitaine in 1341; and attended the king into Brittany in 1342, being one of the commanders left to conduct the siege of Nantes, whilst the monarch ravaged in person the duchy and laid siege to Dinant.

¹ Pat. 10 Ed. 3, p. 2, m. 9.² Plac. Trin. T. 3 Ed. 2.

In that year he succeeded his father Robert, who had terminated, in a monastic habit,¹ a life, the greatest portion of which had been spent in warlike activity.

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At the conclusion of the Windsor festivities, in 1344, during which he had the honour of being chosen to be one of the Founders of the Order, he was appointed to accompany the earl of Derby on his expedition into Gascony.

In 1346 we find him on the staff of king Edward in Normandy; and he, doubtless, shared the glories at Cressy; since, on the 26th August in that year, he had a grant from the king of a pension of 200*l.* for his good services, and to support the degree of banneret.

At the tournament of Eltham, in 1347, he had, of the king's gift, a dress embroidered with dancing figures, similar to those bestowed on the same occasion upon the earl of Lancaster, sir Hugh Courtenay, and sir John Grey.

In 1350 he had summons to parliament as "John de Insula de Rubeomont;" and, in the same year, was in the expedition which, soon after the accession of king John to the French throne, disembarked at Bordeaux.²

He had a command under the Black Prince upon his departure for Gascony in 1355; and is particularly mentioned, with the earls of Warwick, Suffolk, Oxford, and Salisbury, and sir Reginald Cobham, in the indenture between the king and the prince, for the payment of the forces, dated the 10th July in that year.³

In the year following, however, whilst on the celebrated foray into the enemy's districts, he had the misfortune to be wounded by a quarrel, shot from a cross-bow, and died on the 14th October 1356;⁴ leaving, by Maud his wife, three sons, Robert lord Lisle, John Lisle, and sir William Lisle, of Cameldon and Shefford, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married William lord Aldeburgh.

It is remarkable that, although the inquisition, taken soon after his death,⁵ found Robert his son and heir to be then twenty-two years of age, the officers of the prince of Wales,

¹ Esc. 16 Ed. 3, No. 40.

² Frois. (Buchon), iii. 27.

³ Appendix, No. III.

⁴ Wingfield's letter.—Robert of Avesbury.

⁵ Esc. 30 Ed. 3, No. 40.

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of whom the deceased had held the manor of Heyford Waryn in chief, considered the heir to be still a minor.¹

Concerning Robert lord Lisle we find that he had summons to parliament in the 31st and 34th of Edward III, and not afterwards; that he settled Harwood, the most ancient of his tenures, upon his sister Elizabeth and her husband William de Aldeburgh in 1364;² and granted all his fees to the king in 1368.³ He is said to have died in 1399.⁴

The inference, raised by the transactions of 1364 and 1368, is, that Robert lord Lisle had not legitimate issue. According, however, to a pedigree copied in the Visitation book of Somersetshire, Anno 1623, he had a son, sir William Lisle, seated at Waterpery, Com. Oxon. from whom a lineal descent is given down to George Lisle, of Compton Darvill, in the former county. Should the filiation of sir William to the last peer not be susceptible of proof, the representation of the brave knight of the Order would be vested in the heirs of the body of Elizabeth Aldeburgh; for the brothers, John and sir William Lisle of Cameldon, are asserted to have left no issue.

ARMS.

Or, a fess between two chevronels Sable.

CREST.

A mill-stone Argent, pecked Sable, with the inner circle and rim of the same, the fer Or.⁵

¹ "Edouard, &c. a nre ch. vadlet Gilb. de Crosseby gardien de nos feodz des hon^{rs}. de Walyngford Berkhamsted et Seint Walery salut. Nous vous mandons q. de la demaunde q. vous faites en nre nom vers nre ch. et foial mons. Rob. de Lisle filz et heir mons. John de Lisle p^r. son relief du manoir de Heyford Waryn q. de nous est tenu en chef surseiz tanque le dit mons. Robert q. *maintenant est deinz age soit de plein age et ne lui destreignez p^r cause de ses homages et foialtes a nous faire p^r le dit manoir tanq. nre revenue en Engleterre. Done sous nre p^rve seal a Londres le xii. jour de Nov. l'an, &c. d'Engl. xxx.*"—

Treasurer's accounts of the Black Prince, penes J. Philpot, arm. fo. 111.

² Esc. 38 Ed. 3, p. 2, No. 19.

³ Esc. 42 Ed. 3, p. 2, No. 53; *sed nunc deest*. The information, however, which the return contained, so far as relates to the disposal of the lands, is supplied by the enrolment of a charter made by Robert de Insula, son and heir of John de Insula, knt. dated 24th Nov. 1368, by which he gave to the king eighty-six knight's fees in divers counties of England.—*Claus. 42 Ed. 3, m. 6, in dorso*.

⁴ Her. Vis. Som. C 22, 263^b.

⁵ Plate remaining in the fifth stall on the Sovereign's side.