

X.

BARTHOLOMEW LORD BURGHERSHE,

One of the Founders.

THIS gallant soldier was the second son and (by the death without issue of his elder brother sir Henry) heir of Bartholomew the second lord Burghershe, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Theobald lord Verdon, and nephew of the distinguished Henry de Burghershe, bishop of Lincoln, lord treasurer and chancellor to Edward III.

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Armed at the age of sixteen, he joined, in 1339, his warlike father in the Flemish expedition, and had probably during several years the advantage of serving near his banner, as we find them both again in attendance on the king in Brittany in 1342. The preference given to the son at the foundation of the Order of the Garter, when the elder Burghershe was at the zenith of his military fame, and in the approved exercise of high employments in the state, has induced some collectors to ascribe the chivalrous distinction to the latter. But the designation of "le filz," in the earliest exemplar of the statutes, and his possession of the stall at Windsor long after the death of his father, must remove all doubt upon the point, and confirm our hypothesis that pre-eminent military merit did not alone influence the primary elections.

In 1346 he attended prince Edward in the expedition into France,¹ and participated, at the side of the lord his father, in the triumph at Cressy.² He was, soon afterwards, at the siege of Calais; and obtained, for his expenses on that service, a grant of the lands of John de Lovein, until the heir of the latter should be of age.

In 1349 he was in the wars of Gascony; and, in the same year, had a charter of free warren to himself and Cicely his wife of divers demesne lands in Norfolk and Suffolk.

He had licence, in 1354, to journey into the Holy Land.³ It

¹ MS. in bibl. C.C.C. Cantab. where he is called "junior."

² Barnes, p. 354.

³ Pat. 28 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 1.

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is not certain, however, that he availed himself of it; as we find him, in 1355, about the time of his father's death, in the company of the Black Prince at Bordeaux, engaged in every important enterprise of that busy period, and amongst the heroic commanders who enjoyed the highest favour and confidence of their illustrious master. Before his departure from Plympton upon that service, the prince presented to him two silver basins enamelled with the royal arms;¹ and the accounts, from which this notice is extracted, contain many other entries which prove how fully his services were appreciated.

In 1356 he is numbered amongst the most renowned knights at Poitiers, in which battle he made the celebrated Baudouin d'Ennequin prisoner.²

He was on the staff of king Edward on his expedition into France in 1359. His capture, on that occasion, of Henry de Vaulx, governor of the fort of Courmicy, by sapping the principal tower, is related by Froissart in his usual simple and graphic manner.³

Our knight was one of the noble commanders who swore at Calais to the observance of the treaty of Bretigny, 24th October 1360.⁴

In 1364, on the return of king John to England, lord Burgershe was, together with sir Alan Buxhull and sir Richard Pembrugge, despatched to receive the French monarch at Dover, and to conduct him and his illustrious suite to the king and queen at Eltham, and thence to the palace of the Savoy.⁵

He made his will at Hendine, 4th April 1369,⁶ and died on the day following,⁷ having directed that his remains should be deposited in the chapel of Walsingham.

His first wife was Cecily, daughter and heir of Richard Weyland, who brought him great possessions in Norfolk and Suffolk; and by whom he had an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who married Edward lord Le Despenser, K. G.

¹ Treasurer's accounts of the Black Prince, fo. 92.

² Froissart, vol. iii. p. 232.

³ Ibid. vol. iv. p. 33.

⁴ Ibid. p. 90.

⁵ Ibid. p. 173.

⁶ Lib. Wittleseye, fo. 98^b. at Lambeth.

⁷ Esc. 43 Ed. 3, p. 1, No. 14; and 2 Ric. 2, No. 6.