

## XX.

SIR NELE LORYNG,  
One of the Founders.

SIR NIGEL or Nele Loryng was the son and heir of Roger Loryng, of Chalgrave, in the county of Bedford, by Cassandra, daughter of Reginald Perot, and the grandson of sir Peter Loryng, by Jane Morteyn.<sup>1</sup> The latter was probably the same Peter le Loreng who, in the reign of Edward I, held a fifth part of a knight's fee of William de Beauchamp baron of Bedford.<sup>2</sup>

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This heroic person, by his gallant conduct in the naval engagement off Sluys, 24th June 1340, attracted the discerning eye of king Edward, and laid the foundation of his future distinction. Immediately after the victory, the king conferred upon

<sup>1</sup> Philipot, 3. 2. 1. (2nd Kal.) fo. 3, in Coll. Armor.

<sup>2</sup> Testa de Nevill, MS. Coll. Arm. 21. 97. The inference of identity is supported by the close resemblance of the arms borne by sir Nele to those of Beauchamp of Bedford, and the practice in ancient times of the assumption, by

the tenant, of part of the bearings of the lord paramount. The chronicle of Dunstaple also records that, in the twelfth century, Rose Loring appropriated the church of Chalgrave to the priory of Dunstaple with consent of Simon de Beauchamp, the lord of the fee.

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him the honour of knighthood; and by letters patent, dated at Sluys on the 26th of that month, granted an annuity of 20*l.* to him and his heirs male.<sup>1</sup> He was in the expedition into Brittany in 1342;<sup>2</sup> and, a good opinion having been early entertained of his diplomatic talents, he was, in the year following that of his reception into the Order of the Garter, associated with Michael Northburgh, canon of Lichfield and Hereford, in a mission to the court of the pope, in order to obtain a dispensation for a then projected marriage between the prince of Wales and a daughter of the duke of Brabant.<sup>3</sup> At his return, he joined the earl of Derby in Gascony, where he continued during the following year; came from thence into England; and, shortly afterwards, resumed his military duties in that province.<sup>4</sup>

In 1350 he was commissioned, with others, to treat with the king's sister-in-law, the empress Margaret,<sup>5</sup> concerning the government expenses of Zealand, Holland, and Friesland.

In 1355 he attended the Black Prince into Gascony; and we find him noticed in the household book of Bordeaux on the 2nd October in that year;<sup>6</sup> and therein, on other occasions, down to the 30th June 1356. A few days after that date, he marched in the army of the prince to meet the enemy; and is particularly mentioned as present in the affair of Romorantin on the 4th September.<sup>7</sup> At the battle of Poitiers, fought on the 19th of the same month, he was amongst others specially appointed to attend the person of the prince; and performed so well his duty that he received both acknowledgments and rewards from his victorious master.<sup>8</sup> He appears also to have been, about this time, appointed chamberlain to prince Edward.

<sup>1</sup> Commun. de Trin. Term. 15 Ed. 3, m. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Franc. 16 Ed. 3, m. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Rom. 19 Ed. 3, m. 4.

<sup>4</sup> Ashmole, p. 701.

<sup>5</sup> Rym. vol. v. p. 696. 16 Dec. 24 Ed. 3. She was sister to queen Philippa, and the widow of the emperor Lewis Bavarus.

<sup>6</sup> "dño Nigello Loryng pro den. sibi debit. libro mem. per manus

Will'i Roche scutif. sui vijli. vjs. viijd." *Jornale Temp'e J. Henzworth contrarotul.*—in *Off. Duc. Cornub.*

<sup>7</sup> Froiss. tom. iii. p. 163.

<sup>8</sup> "Edouard, &c. sachez, &c. pour les bons et greables services q' n're cher et tresbien aimé chamb'lein mons. Neel Loheryn nous ad fait es p'ties de Gascoigne et nommeement a la bataille de Poitiers aquel

He was, in 1359, in the expedition of king Edward into France;<sup>1</sup> and received on 7th May 1360 the appointment of one of the guardians of the truce concluded at Chartres.<sup>2</sup> He was also one of the witnesses to the treaty of Bretigny,<sup>3</sup> and was empowered with Stafford and Stapleton to attend to and reform all infractions of the peace.

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When the prince of Wales was created prince of Guienne, in 1364, he accompanied him thither; and is noticed as having been present on the occasion of the visit of the king of Cyprus at Angoulême.<sup>4</sup> In 1366 he was one of the prince's ambassadors to Don Pedro, then in Galicia, for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of the aid solicited against Henry of Transtamare.<sup>5</sup> After his return from that service, the Black Prince despatched him, with three other knights, into England, in order to learn the opinion of the king on the propriety of complying with Don Pedro's request.<sup>6</sup> In 1367 he is mentioned as in the suite of the prince on the passage into Spain;<sup>7</sup> and, soon afterwards, distinguished himself at the battle of Najara.<sup>8</sup> He was, in 1369, amongst those who were sent to meet sir Robert Knolles upon his coming out of Brittany; and he assisted, with that knight, at the sieges of Dormelles and Domme, and on other occasions during that expedition. In the same year he bore a part in the exploits of Chandos in Anjou.<sup>9</sup>

After a life of great activity and devotion to the public service, sir Nele Loryng retired to his family estate at Chalgrave, where he had, in 1365, obtained the royal licence to inclose a park.<sup>10</sup> He also founded a chantry in the church there; and, dying on the 18th March 1385-6,<sup>11</sup> he was buried in the priory of Dunstaple, to which he had been a considerable benefactor.<sup>12</sup>

He was also a benefactor towards the building of the cloister in the abbey of St. Alban's, as appears by an ancient

il este assigne detre entendre de  
ñire corps, &c. graunte 403l. 6s. 8d.  
Lond. 1 Juyl xxxj." (1357.)—  
*Treasurer's accounts penes J.  
Philpot, arm. fo. 120.*

<sup>1</sup> Froiss. tom. iv. p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Rym. vol. vi. p. 175.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. pp. 178. 230.

<sup>4</sup> Froiss. tom. iv. p. 176.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 311.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 319. <sup>7</sup> Ibid. p. 362.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. p. 406.

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

<sup>10</sup> Cart. 39 & 40 Ed. 3.

<sup>11</sup> Esc. 9 Ric. 2, No. 32.

<sup>12</sup> Lel. Itin. vol. vi. p. 72.

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record in the Cottonian collection, where, annexed to the entry of his donations,<sup>1</sup> there is also preserved a portrait of the gallant knight in a white robe powdered with blue garters.<sup>2</sup>

By his wife Margaret, the daughter and heir of sir Ralph Beuple, of Cnubeston, in Devonshire, (by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and heir of sir Alan Bloyhon,) he had two daughters, his heirs, viz. Isabel, the wife, first, of William Coggan, secondly, of Robert lord Haryngton; and Margaret, who married Thomas Peyvre, of Todington, in the county of Bedford. The former of these ladies is now represented by the duke of Buckingham and Chandos; and the coheirs general of Margaret Peyvre are, the earl of Sandwich, and the earl of Darlington, son and heir-apparent of the duke of Cleveland.

ARMS.<sup>3</sup>

Quarterly, Argent and Gules, a bend engrailed Sable.

CREST.<sup>4</sup>

The leaves of a plant issuant from a flower-pot.

<sup>1</sup> Nero, DVII. fo. 105<sup>b</sup>. "Dñus Nigellus Loringge contulit ad idem opus [Claustri] x marcas Item alia vice ad idem opus x marcas et contulit conventui doliū vini et in morte p'donavit Abbati C. m'rc."

<sup>2</sup> See the wood-cut below.

<sup>3</sup> Plate remaining in the tenth

stall on the prince's side, being that which this knight occupied.

<sup>4</sup> The helm is turned towards the sinister, it having been an ancient practice to place the arms in churches so that the crest might face the altar.

