

XXI.

SIR JOHN CHANDOS,

One of the Founders.

Two persons of this surname, and both of considerable distinction, flourished in the reign of Henry III,—Roger de Chandos, who held the manors of Snodhull, Welyngton, and Fawhope, in Herefordshire, *per baroniam*, and—sir John de Chandos, lord of the manors of Radburne and Mogginton, in Derbyshire. The relationship of these individuals to each other has not been ascertained; but, as the same arms were borne by their respective branches, differing only in the tincture of the field, their consanguinity must be presumed; and it is not doubted that their common ancestor was Robert de Chandos, a Norman of rank, who, soon after the Conquest, possessed himself of lands on the Welch border, which were enjoyed, with large additions, by his descendants.

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Roger de Chandos, grandson of the above-mentioned Roger, having, as a banneret, risen to eminence in the wars of Edward III, was summoned to parliament among the barons from 1333 to 1353. Neither his son, sir Thomas, nor his

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grandson, sir John,¹ had summons; and the latter dying without issue, 16th December 1428, the estates in Herefordshire devolved to the surviving daughter of his sister Elizabeth, (who had married Thomas Berkeley, of Coberley, in Gloucestershire,) viz. Margery, the wife of Nicholas Mattesdon, and to his great-nephew Giles Brugge or Bruges, son of Thomas Bruges, by Alice Berkeley, another daughter of the said Elizabeth. The issue of Margery Mattesdon failing on the death of her son Robert in 1457-8, Bruges became the sole heir; and his great-grandson, sir John Bruges or Bridges, apparently heir-general of the body of Roger lord Chandos, was created baron Chandos of Sudeley in 1554.²

Sir John de Chandos, the head of the other line, was, by Margaret, daughter and coheir of Robert Fitz Walkelin, father of sir Henry; whose son, sir John Chandos, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of sir Henry Braylesford, and had issue sir Edward Chandos, (to whom Edward III. granted, in 1327, an annuity of 40*l.* in reward of his military services,) who, having married Isabel, daughter and (by the failure of issue from her brothers sir Edward and Robert) coheir of sir Robert Twyford, had two sons, John and Robert, and three daughters, Eleanor, Elizabeth, and Margaret.

JOHN CHANDOS, the eldest son of sir Edward, following the example of his father, engaged in the wars of his sovereign; and, by his wisdom as well as valour, gained not only the admiration and applause of his contemporaries, but, what is far more rare, secured the unqualified approbation of posterity.

His gallant bearing appears to have first attracted the notice of king Edward at the siege of Cambray, and on other occasions in the campaign of 1339;³ in the course of which he was

¹ This sir John Chandos, the representative of the Herefordshire branch, and who lived till the reign of Henry VI, has been assumed, from an error of Vincent, evident upon a comparison of dates, to have been the knight who was honoured with the Garter.—*Archæologia*, vol. xx. p. 490.

² The dignity, created by patent in 1554, became extinct in 1789, on the failure of heirs male of the

body of the grantee. The ancient barony in fee is vested in the duke of Bedford as heir-general.

³ A detachment, under the orders of the count of Hainault, having commenced an assault upon the town, near the gate leading to St. Quentin, Chandos, then a young esquire, threw himself between the barrier and the gate, and, at the distance of a spear's length from the latter, encountered and fought

rewarded with knighthood, and the means of supporting that dignity.¹

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The imperishable renown of Chandos is too well established throughout Europe, to need our allusion to the almost innumerable feats of arms which engaged his active life, and many of which are detailed with so much beauty and force in the pages of Froissart. We may, therefore, content ourselves by referring, generally, in this brief memoir, to his gallant achievements in almost every martial expedition during a period of thirty years; and, in particular, to the distinguished part which he took in the signal battles of Cressy, Poitiers, and Najara. The personal friendship with which the Black Prince uninterruptedly honoured him, his inseparable union and companionship in arms with the intrepid Audeley, his good fortune in making the famous Du Guesclin twice his prisoner,² his courteous conduct towards the king of Cyprus, his generous interposition to save the life of the Châtelain d'Amposte in the battle of Poitiers,³ are among the numerous features of his history which are wont to fix our attention.

In addition to the frequent marks, which recent researches have developed,⁴ of his prince's affection and favour, his invaluable services were acknowledged by grants of the high offices of seneschal of Poitou⁵ and marshal of Aquitaine, of the manors of Kirkton in Lindsey, Drakelow in Cheshire, and other estates; the baronies of St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte, Domvers, and Dongeville, and divers other lands in Normandy, including the possessions of Godfrey de Harcourt, which had been ceded to king Edward.

The splendid career of our hero closed on the morning of

gallantly with Jean de St. Dizier, a Vermandois esquire, of the house of Dampierre.—*Froissart, ed. Buchon, tom. i. p. 237.*

¹ Pat. 15 Nov. 13 Edw. 3, m. 10.

² Du Guesclin, the celebrated constable, was taken prisoner at the battle of Auray, in 1364, where Charles de Blois was slain; and afterwards at Najara, when he declared his satisfaction at having fallen into the hands of the most

generous prince and the most illustrious knight in the world.

³ Froissart (Buchon), tom. iii. p. 207.

⁴ Household book of the Black Prince, from which extracts will be given in the Appendix, No. IV.

⁵ This appointment was in 1369, after the death of sir James Audeley, and at the solicitation (says Froissart) of all the barons and knights of Poitou.

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the 31st December 1369.¹ He had unsuccessfully attempted to recover, by a coup-de-main, the town and abbey of Saint Savin, in Poitou, which had been betrayed by a monk to the French; and, on his return towards Poitiers, rested for the night, in a dispirited mood, at the village of Chauvigny, from whence he dismissed, apparently for the want of accommodation, the chief part of the knights and men-at-arms who had accompanied him on his expedition; retaining only a guard of forty lances. Having, about daybreak, learnt that Carlouet-le-Breton and Louis de St. Julien, French commanders, had made a sortie from Saint Savin, he determined to pursue them; and found, by the track of their horses, that they had followed the course of the river Vienne, in the direction of Lussac. Chandos ordered his men to hasten their march; and they came up with the enemy at the bridge near that place. The uneven state of the road had made it necessary to dismount. The gallant knight proceeded sword in hand, his banner borne before him; but, being encumbered by a long robe which he unfortunately wore over his armour, and the ground being slippery from the dew, he trod accidentally upon this garment, stumbled in consequence, and, when in the act of falling, was struck by Jacques de Saint-Martin, a French esquire, in the face with the point of a sword, which penetrated into the brain. The vizor of his helmet was, according to his custom, unclosed; but Chandos having, some years previously, lost an eye whilst hunting near Bordeaux, had not perceived the approach of his enemy. He fell senseless; and the French, having recognized him by the arms embroidered on his robe, were strenuous to possess themselves of so important a prize; but his uncle, sir Edward Twyford,² stood across and bravely defended the body, until others of the English party hastened to the spot, defeated, and made their adversaries prisoners.³

¹ Doubts have been suggested concerning the precise date of this event. According to Froissart, the attack upon Saint Savin was made in the night before New-year's eve,—“*la nuit devant la nuit de l'an, au chef du mois de Janvier*,”—the night, therefore, between the 30th and 31st December

1369. The skirmish near Lussac bridge, in which Chandos fell, happened on the following morning, and he died on 1st January 1369-70.

² Whom Froissart, by mistake, calls “Clifford.”

³ Jacques de Saint-Martin was severely wounded in the conflict,

The deeply-lamented chief was gently disarmed, placed on shields and targets, and carried to the nearest fortress of Mortemer; where he lingered speechless until the following day, and then expired.

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A discussion concerning the burial-place of Chandos has lately attracted the attention of French antiquaries, and particularly of the erudite contributors to the "Revue Anglo-Française," publishing at Poitiers.¹ Bouchet, in his "Annales d'Aquitaine,"² had, after describing the skirmish in which the hero perished, stated that his remains were interred at Mortemer. For the circumstances of the disastrous death he had solely the authority of Froissart; but the chronicler does not, as it is asserted in the communication to our Society of Antiquaries,³ mention where the interment took place. A recent French writer⁴ supposes, without adducing any evidence in support of his conjecture, that it was in the Carmelite monastery at Poitiers, which the illustrious knight had founded. It may, however, be presumed that the church at Mortemer was the real depository, not only from the tenor of the epitaph cited by Bouchet, but also from the testimony of Briquet,⁵ that he had seen and read the inscription on the stone which covered the grave, and formed part of the pavement in that church; and had frequently contemplated the representation in bas-relief, on the adjoining wall, of the dying Chandos in the arms of Guichard d'Angle. It appeared, upon an application from that author to a notary at Mortemer in 1827, that the inscription was then no longer extant, the memorials in question having been removed either on the repair of the church, or the erection of a new altar on the site they had occupied. With regard to the monument and cross,⁶ now

and died a few days afterwards at Poitiers. The family from which this esquire sprung, is of Poitvine origin, and supposed to be the same now known as Saint-Martin de Bagnac. It has given two grand seneschals to the Basse Marche, viz. Peter de Saint-Martin, lord of Bagnac about 1549, and Gabriel de Saint-Martin, also lord of Bagnac, who held that office in 1563, under Charles IX.—*Jouilleton, tom. ii. p. 254.*

¹ Under the able direction of M. de la Fontenelle de Vaudoré.

² Ed. in 4to. 1644, p. 216.

³ *Archæol.* vol. xx. pp. 485, 486.

⁴ "Critique de l'histoire de Poitou," par M. Allard de la Resniere.

⁵ "Histoire de Niort," tom. ii. pp. 68, 69.

⁶ See the engravings of these objects in the *Archæol.* vol. xx. and, more accurately, in "Revue Anglo-Française," tom. iii.

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remaining near the ruins of the bridge of Lussac, and which, according to the tradition of the country, commemorate the death of an Englishman of rank, it may not be necessary to conclude, with M. Siauve,¹ that the remains of Chandos lie actually deposited under the tomb; or to doubt that it may be a cenotaph placed to his memory. The shield and lance, sculptured on the side of the monument which faces the river, and the defaced ornaments at the head, which may once have contained armorial emblems, are evidently in honour of a knight; and the cross erected near them indicate that he was there slain. As no other person of distinction is historically known to have perished on this spot, it is not unreasonable to presume that, wherever the body of the seneschal may have been interred, these memorials are silent records of his remarkable death.

Sir John Chandos died unmarried. His only brother, Robert Chandos,² who was, as shield-bearer, in the retinue of the Black Prince at his embarkation for Gascony in September 1355, perished probably in that expedition, without issue. The family inheritance devolved,³ after the death of our hero, to his two sisters, Eleanor and Elizabeth, and his niece Isabel, wife of sir John Annesley, the daughter of another sister, Margaret.⁴ Eleanor Chandos was unmarried in 1371, when she enfeoffed John Curzon and others of all her manors and lands in Radburne, Mogginton, and Egginton, which had descended to her upon the death of her brother. She married, first, sir John Lawton,⁵ who had been the "dear friend and companion in arms" of sir John Chandos; and, secondly, Roger Collyng, of Herefordshire, whose wife she was in 1391.⁶ By Lawton she had a daughter, Elizabeth, who, in or before 1386, was

¹ Report of M. Siauve, member of the Society of Emulation of Poitiers, of the result of his researches relative to the tombs of Civeaux, published in 1804.

² Add. MSS. in Brit. Mus. 6671, p. 128. — See also extracts from the household book in Appendix, N^o. IV.

³ Esc. 49 Ed. 3, p. 1, n. 36, after the death of sir Richard Damory, supposed to have been a son of Margaret.

⁴ Margaret had, by her husband, Richard Damory, a son, sir Richard Damory, who held lands for life by a grant from sir John Chandos.—Rot. Fin. 50 Ed. 3, m. 21.

⁵ He had letters of procuration from sir John Chandos, dated Vannes, 8th March 1364, empowering him to take seisin of the castle and fort of Hambuye, 9 D. 14, p. 175, in Coll. Amor.

⁶ Glover's Vis: 1575, fo. 25^b.

affianced to Peter de la Pole, of Newborough in com. Stafford, and, in her right, of Radburne. From this marriage descended Sacheverell Pole, of Radbourne, esq. who, in 1807, obtained the royal licence to prefix the surname of Chandos to his own. Elizabeth,¹ the second sister, died unmarried in or before 1398, at which date Isabel Annesley was also dead without issue. So that the entire representation became vested in the family of Pole.

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Sir John Chandos occupied, in St. George's chapel, the eleventh stall on the Sovereign's side, where his plate still remains.

ARMS.

Argent,² a pile Gules.

CREST.

A man's head proper, wreathed about the temples Argent.

XXII.

SIR JAMES AUDELEY,

One of the Founders.

THE evidence which has been collected concerning this individual will, it is presumed, justify the conclusion that both Ashmole and Dugdale have erroneously attributed the hard-earned fame of his brilliant exploits to his kinsman James lord Audeley, of Helegh, whom they suppose to have been the hero of Poitiers celebrated by Froissart, and the person who was honoured with the Garter at the foundation of the Order.

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¹ Claus. 47 Ed. 3, m. 9, *dorso*, 1373, when she surrendered into the hands of the king her right in the barony of St. Sauveur, &c. in Normandy. She had, in 1370, appointed sir Robert Twyford her attorney, to receive seisin of all lands which had descended to her from her brother sir John Chandos; and, in 1386, she settled her portion of

Radburne, &c. upon her niece, Elizabeth de la Pole, and the heirs of her body.

² Ashmole gives the field, by mistake, "*Or*," which was the tincture of the field in the arms of the Herefordshire branch, whence that herald, upon the erroneous authority of Vincent, probably conceived the knight to have sprung.