

## XXIV.

SIR HENRY EAM,

**One of the Founders.**SIR  
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EAM.

OF the lineage of this knight, and the time and occasion of his entrance into the English service, nothing authentic is known. Barnes, in his list of the original Knights of the Order,<sup>1</sup> has presumed his identity with the eminent person commonly called by historians "sir Henry of Flanders;" and, in order to perpetuate his supposed discovery, that author ascribes, without the least authority, the surname of EAM to the latter,<sup>2</sup> as often as he is mentioned in his history of Edward III. In refutation of so erroneous an assumption, it might only be necessary to state that, whilst we have indubitable evidence of the existence of sir Henry de Flanders so late as 1364,<sup>3</sup> sir

<sup>1</sup> History of Edward III, p. 298.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 340, *et passim*.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Henry de Flanders (count de Lodi, lord of Rotselaer and of Nienhove, in Flanders, in right of his wife Margaret,) was the son of Henry count de Lodi, in the duchy of Milan, the third son of Guy Dampierre count of Flanders, by Isabel de Luxemburgh, his second consort. After the death of his father, in 1337, he entered into the homage of Edward III, indenting himself under the description of "Henry de Flandres," by a deed dated at Antwerp, 16th Feb. 1338, to serve that king in the maintenance of his rights against Philip of Valois, with fifty men-at-arms; saving always his allegiance to the counts of Flanders and dukes of Brabant: and it appearing that, in consequence of this act, sir Henry had forfeited lands in France, the king agreed, by another instrument dated on the 26th of that month, to indemnify him for his loss, settling upon him with that view a pension of 1,000 florins. He was knighted by king

Edward in the following year, whilst in Flanders. He was in the array at Vironfosse; in the naval engagement off Sluys; and in the king's personal expedition to France in 1359; and, as appears by several public records printed by Rymer, was distinguished on divers occasions (and never by any other surname than "of Flanders") by being entrusted with important diplomatic as well as military employments. In 1362 we find his pension of 1,000 florins issued to him (*Exit. Pell. Mich. T. 36 Edw. 3*); and, in 1364, he was a party, with Louis de Namur, to the treaty for a projected marriage between Edmond of Langley earl of Cambridge and Margaret duchess of Burgundy, daughter of the count of Flanders (*Rym. Fœd. vol. v. p. 449*). He died at Bruges, without legitimate issue, in or about 1366 (*Hist. Gen. de France, par Anselme, tom. ii. p. 733*), and was buried at the Cordeliers in that town. According to L'Espinoy (*Recherche des Antiq. de Flandres, p. 46*), he had a natural

Henry de Eam was certainly dead in 1360, in which year robes of the Garter were issued to sir Thomas Ughtred, the successor to his stall in St. George's chapel.

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As no trace of this honoured individual has been discovered, in public or private muniments, antecedent to the institution of the Order, it may be reasonably conjectured that he came into England in January 1343-4, amongst the numerous candidates for chivalrous fame who accepted the invitation of king Edward; that he formed one of the happy guests at the *table ronde* at Windsor on that occasion; and that, by some skilful exhibition of his prowess during the splendid jousts, he acquired the high distinction of being numbered among the Founders of the Garter.

The only notice which Ashmole could find concerning him is contained in letters patent tested at Westminster on the 28th June 1349, being an inspeximus and ratification of a patent granted by Edward prince of Wales, and dated the 18th January 1347-8; whereby, after reciting that sir Henry Eam had, at the time when he received knighthood at the prince's hands, voluntarily engaged to serve him during the term of his life, and so long as sufficient provision should be made for his support; to go whithersoever he should be commanded, in peace as well as in war; and to be armed, at the prince's pleasure, against all persons excepting the dukes of Brabant, his liege lords, in the defence of their territories; prince Edward granted to him an annual rent of one hundred marks, chargeable on his manor of Bradenash, in Devonshire.<sup>1</sup>

But the following further particulars respecting our knight have been recently recovered. It appears, by a safe-conduct, dated London, the 8th May 1351, and directed to all people of the county of Flanders, that prince Edward, upon information of the discord then subsisting between the people of Flanders and those of Germany, and of the determination of the former

son; but Anstis says (*Introd. p. 48*) "it is to be doubted whether he [the latter] was of age sufficient to be admitted into the Order upon its first institution; for Froissart

represents the father as a young esquire in 1338, though he was married before that time." (*Froiss. ed. Buchon, tom. i. p. 241.*)

<sup>1</sup> Ashmole, p. 707.

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to arrest every German who should attempt to pass through Flanders, charged "his trusty and well-beloved bachelor" sir Henry Eam, from the great confidence which he reposed in him, to journey on his (the prince's) affairs into Brabant, and to return with as much haste as should be compatible with the fulfilment of his commission. The document certifies that sir Henry Eam had, for a considerable period, been retained near his person; that he was of his household, and maintained at his cost; and that, having then pressing occasion to send him into those parts, he required that all persons should suffer him, with his attendants, baggage and horses, to go and return freely, safely, and without molestation.<sup>1</sup>

It also appears, by a warrant of the prince, dated 10th November in the same year, directed to sir Piers de Lacy, his receiver-general, that the pension of one hundred marks, granted to sir Henry Eam, being then one year in arrear, the same should thenceforth be paid half-yearly by him the said sir Piers, and allowed in his accompt.<sup>2</sup>

By a warrant of prince Edward, issued at Plympton in August 1355, when on the point of embarking for Gascony, allowance was, amongst other things, directed to be made for a round [silver] basin with a ring thereto, the whole of the weight of 4*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, which the prince had given to sir Henry Eam.<sup>3</sup> He is, lastly, mentioned in an accompt, audited in London 15th May 1358, of certain gifts to divers individuals issued out of the great wardrobe of the Black Prince;<sup>4</sup> and he must have died soon afterwards, as the vacancy which that

<sup>1</sup> Appendix, No. X.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> "d'une bacyn ronde ove un anel q' estait del pois de iiij*li.* xii*s.* & viij*d.* queles no<sup>s</sup> donasmes a Mons. Henri Eam."—*Warrant to the auditors of accompt of the treasurer of Edward prince of Wales, dated August, 29 Ed. 3, in MS. of J. Philpot, esq.*—It appears from Mr. Henry James's *Essays on Money, Exchanges, &c.* (quoted in *Supplem<sup>t</sup> to Encycl. Brit.*) that between the 23rd and 30th Edw.

III, the pound sterling contained 4,800 grains of silver of the standard of 11 *oz.* 2 *dwt.* fine. The weight of 4*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* current in the 29th of that king would, therefore, have been 22,480 grains = 3*lb.* 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  *oz.* *Troy.*

<sup>4</sup> "It'm Mons<sup>r</sup> Henr. Em deliv<sup>re</sup> a un buhome [bouche-homme, an attendant] j. haub'geon, j. bacinet."—"It'm a Mons. Henr. Em j. bacinet, j. aventail.—*Minister's accompt in MS. above cited.*

event created in the Order was filled up before the 23rd April 1360.<sup>1</sup>

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The plate of this knight was, in the time of Ashmole, no longer extant in the royal chapel; but that author has, in his engraved collection of the arms of the knights, ascribed to him the following, viz. *Party per fess, Or and Argent; issuant out of the centre of a fess Sable a demi-lion rampant Gules*, upon no other apparent authority than a shield containing those arms, on a brass plate, taken out of the church of the monastery of Abergavenny, in memory of sir John Atte Hene, of Esme in Surrey, knight, who died in 1432.<sup>2</sup>

No inquisition having been taken, will proved, or administration granted of the effects of sir Henry Eam after his death, it may be presumed that he left no property in England. Diligent enquiries have been made by the author with a view to ascertain whether the public archives of Brussels, Mons, or Lille, might afford any trace of so distinguished a subject of Brabant; but hitherto without effect.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Comp. Joh. Neubury, 34-35 Ed. 3, in off. rem. reg.

<sup>2</sup> Inscription on a brass plate, said to have been some time in the possession of sir Henry Hene, of Wingfield, in Berks. Dethick Garter confirmed these arms to William Hene, alias Esme, of Dorking, 7th May, 39 Eliz.; the grant reciting that he had been assured by deed "that the ancestors of that person did spring from a younger house of the same family, de Esme, of which was sir Henry Esme, who was chosen a companion of the Order of the Garter, by king Edw. III."

<sup>3</sup> In the chance that the name, which has with us been written

*Eam, Esme, Em, and Eme*, may have been *Ham*, the following, from the archives of Lille, may be worthy of some notice. "1364. Acte, en parchemin, scellé du sceau d'Arnold Boseaulx de Moisain chev<sup>r</sup> bailli du comte de Namur et de ceux de 9 hommes du fief de ce comté, par lequel il declare que la mouvance de la seigneurie de Mons-le-Sombreffe que Jean sire de Sombreffe tenoit en fief de HENRI DE HAM, sur Leiche, chevalier, est bien et duement reunie au comté de Namur au défaut d'heritiers du dit Henri de Ham, et d'hommage rendu pour cette mouvance le 10 Juin 1364."