

XXV.

SIR SANCHET D'ABRICHECOURT,

One of the Founders.

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D'ABRICHE-
COURT.

QUEEN ISABEL, the consort of Edward II, having, on her journey from Paris in the autumn of 1326, with her son prince Edward, passed into the states of the count of Hainault, with the two-fold object of affiancing the young prince to Philippa, one of the daughters of that powerful sovereign, and of arranging those measures which, although perhaps justified by a regard to her personal security, produced, within a short period, the dethronement and murder of her husband, alighted at the castle of Aubricicourt, near Bouchain, in the county of Ostervant. The courtesy and distinction, with which the queen and her son were received and entertained by its noble proprietor and his lady, were, in the sequel, gratefully repaid by the advancement of their children.¹

That the name of this hospitable knight was Nicholas d'Abrihecourt cannot be doubted, since we find his services acknowledged by a royal grant for the support of the degree

¹ Froissart (ed. Buchon), tom. i. pp. 31, 35.

of knighthood which Edward, soon after his accession to the crown, had conferred upon him.¹ It is recited in that instrument that the grantee had not only proved essentially useful to the queen and her son during their abode beyond sea, but had attended them into England; and Froissart mentions the "sire d'Aubrecicourt" amongst the gallant knights who accompanied the renowned John of Hainault, uncle to queen Philippa, on that expedition.²

We concur with Ashmole in considering it probable that sir Sanchet was the son of this Nicholas; and, on reviewing the dates and notices supplied by the public records concerning two other persons, bearing the same surname, who distinguished themselves during that reign, we are inclined to presume that they also were sons of the first settler in this country.

These individuals were sir Eustace d'Abricicourt, (described as the second son of the sire d'Aubricicourt,) whose exploits on various occasions are recorded by Froissart,³ and who married, at Wingham in Kent, on Michaelmas-day 1360, the countess-dowager Elizabeth of Kent, daughter of William V, duke of Juliers, niece to queen Philippa, and relict of John Plantagenet earl of Kent;⁴ and Nicholas d'Abricicourt, esquire of the body to Edward III, constable of Nottingham castle, and keeper of Sherwood forest, who, having married Elizabeth the daughter and heir of Sibilla, the daughter

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¹ Pat. 8 Oct. 5 Edw. 3, 1331, in Rymer (ed. 1821), vol. ii. p. 824. The knighthood by king Edward does not imply that he had not previously received that degree, but that he was thereby attached to the English service. The MS. Froissart, which belonged to the prince of Soubise, and contains the restored text of that author, comprehending the years from 1350 to 1356, gives the Christian name "Nicoles" to the seigneur d'Abricicourt who received queen Isabel and prince Edward.

² Froissart, tom. i. p. 40.

³ Ibid. tom. iii. p. 385, etc.; tom. iv. & v. *passim*.

⁴ "Islip," 166^b, in Lambeth library.—Acta p^o. dñe Elizabetha

comitissa Kantie filia marchionis sive comitis Juliane, vidua quondam nob. viri Joh'is comitis Kantie, nuper castitati vovente, eo quod post mortem mariti se dño Eustacio de Abricicourt militi matrimonialiter fecit copulari, data in ecclesia p^och. de Maghefeld non. Apr. 1361.—Penitentia comitisse Kantie et mariti sui, fo. 167^a.—Leland. Itin. vol. iii. p. 75, mentions a tomb in Bridport church for William, son of this marriage. See also Claus. 1 Hen. 4, p. 1. m. 23, *dorso*.—Selden's Titles of Honour, p. 234.—The countess died 6th June 1411, 12 Hen. 4, and was buried at the Whitefriars, Winchester.

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of Thomas de Say, became seised, in her right, of the manor of Stratfield-say, in the county of Southampton, and was the progenitor of a family of his name, which continued during many generations in possession of the same estate.

Of sir Sanchet d'Abrichecourt (who was probably the eldest son of Nicholas), although one of the Founders, scarcely any memorial has been preserved.¹ His name occurs, so far as we have seen, in one instance only amongst the public records.² He must have died within a few years after the institution of the Order, as sir William Fitzwaryne, his successor in the thirteenth stall on the Sovereign's side, and where the plates of both are extant, died so early as 1361.

ARMS.

Ermine, three bars humettee Gules.

CREST.

Out of a ducal coronet Or, a plume of feathers Argent, debriused by two bars Gules, each charged with three lozenges of the first.

¹ Several original receipts given by Eustace d'Aubrichicourt are preserved in the royal library at Paris. To one, dated Carenten, 3 Dec. 1368, the seal appendent has the arms with *seven escallops, three, three, and one*, on the bars: and as the arms on the plate of sir Sanchet, remaining in St. George's chapel,

are without *brisure*, the inference is clear that our knight was the chief of the family for the time being.

² He had, by pat. 20th Oct. 19 Edw. 3, 1345, p. 2. m. 10. a grant of the chattels of one John Wardedieu, who had fled after having slain Robert Poteman.