

JOHN  
DUKE  
OF  
LAN-  
CASTER.

## ARMS.

Quarterly, Castile and Leon, impaling quarterly France and England, differenced by a label of three points Ermine.

## CREST.

The lion of England on a chapeau d'etat, differenced as the arms.

## BADGES

1. Three ostrich feathers Ermine, the quills and scrolls Or, placed upon a pellet, as a distinction from the cognizance of the Black Prince.
2. An eagle standing upon and essaying to open a padlock. This badge appears upon a seal, impressions of which are remaining in the office of the duchy of Lancaster.

## XXXVIII.

EDMOND PLANTAGENET (OF LANGLEY)  
DUKE OF YORK.

EDMOND  
DUKE  
OF  
YORK.

EDMOND, called "of Langley" from his birth-place in Hertfordshire, was the fifth son of Edward III, but the fourth who attained the age of maturity. When in his eighteenth year, he accompanied the king, together with his three elder brothers, in the expedition against France which sailed from England on the 28th of October 1359: and, as the army, after traversing the northern provinces, penetrated to the barriers of Paris, the young prince had ample opportunities of becoming familiar with military exercises before the conclusion of the treaty of Bretigny on the 8th of May following; after which the king returned with his sons to England. The negotiations, preparatory to the treaty, which had been carried on from the 8th of July 1360, the day of the arrival of king John at Calais after his release from captivity, until the following October, having been completed, king Edward, attended by his three younger sons, again passed over to

Calais; and prince Edmond was among those who there swore to observe the conditions of peace.

EDMOND  
DUKE  
OF  
YORK.

At the close of the year 1360, or the beginning of 1361, he was elected into the Order of the Garter in the room of the earl of Northampton, and was the third occupant of the seventh stall on the Sovereign's side.

Upon the death of Philip, the last duke of Burgundy of the old race, in November 1361, the king, desirous of securing to his family the splendid patrimony of the widow, Margaret of Flanders, commissioned the bishop of Winchester and others, on the 8th of February following, to make overtures for a marriage between Edmond of Langley and the duchess; but, although the alliance had the approbation of her father count Louis, its accomplishment was frustrated by the king of France, who influenced the pope to withhold the necessary dispensation.<sup>1</sup>

Edmond was created earl of Cambridge on the 13th of November 1362. In 1369 the earls of Cambridge and Pembroke were sent with reinforcements to the army of the Black Prince in Aquitaine; and, having landed at St. Malo, were received at Nantes, with great rejoicings, by their brother-in-law the duke of Brittany, and conducted through his territories into Poitou without the expected molestation from the hostile occupants of a large portion of the duchy. On their arrival at Angoulême, where the prince and princess of Wales then kept their court, they were ordered, with a detachment of three thousand men, to make an incursion into Perigord, in the course of which Bourdeille, one of the strong burghs of that county, situated on the river Drôme, was taken, after a siege of nine weeks, and a most gallant resistance of the garrison. The attention of the two earls was next directed towards Roche-sur-Yon in Poitou, which also fell into their power.

The castle of Belle Perche, in the Bourbonnois, having been seized by the English, and in it Isabel of Valois duchess of Bourbon, half-sister of king Philip VI, siege was laid to the place by Louis duke of Bourbon, her son; and

<sup>1</sup> Froiss. (Buchon), tom. iv. p. two ways, second cousins, once 152. The young parties were, in removed.

EDMOND  
DUKE  
OF  
YORK.

Cambridge and Pembroke hastened to its relief. After having ineffectually challenged the duke to choose a position in which to give them battle, Chandos' herald was commanded to inform him that, on a day within the three following, he might at the hour of noon see his lady-mother issue under convoy from the fort, and that he might rescue her if he should think fit to attempt it. The duke, reproaching the earls with a want of chivalrous respect towards an aged princess, declined the proposed rescue; expressing, at the same time, his firm resolve to obtain possession of the castle at all hazards. On the day and at the hour fixed upon, at the sound of trumpet, John de Montacute, nephew of the earl of Salisbury, was observed marching out of the fort at the head of the garrison, in order of battle, the minstrels playing and banners and pennons flying; and, in the midst, the duchess of Bourbon, mounted on a superbly caparisoned palfrey and surrounded by her ladies and damsels. Having delivered the fair captives into the charge of sir Eustace Dabrichecourt and sir John Devereux, the escort retired in the same order within the English lines, abandoning the castle of Belle Perche to the duke of Bourbon.<sup>1</sup>

Cambridge was with the prince of Wales at the capture and merciless sacking of the town of Limoges: and the Black Prince having soon afterwards, in January 1370-1, lost by death his first-born son Edward, at Bordeaux, departed from thence for England, accompanied by his brothers Lancaster and Cambridge, who were immediately ordered to return into Gascony.<sup>2</sup>

In 1372 Edmond married the princess Isabel of Castile, the youngest of the two daughters of Peter "the Cruel;" and was still, in the same year, engaged in warlike operations in France;<sup>3</sup> but, before the conclusion of it, again in England.

On the 18th November 1374 he embarked at Southampton as commander of the expedition to Brittany; but,

<sup>1</sup> Froiss. tom. v. p. 175.

<sup>2</sup> Otterbourne, p. 146; though Walsyngham states that the prince left them in Aquitaine, p. 181.

Froissart (tom. v. p. 234) believes, but is not positive as to their departure.

<sup>3</sup> Froiss. tom. v. p. 271.

upon the truce concluded at Bruges by the dukes of Burgundy and Lancaster on the 27th June following, Cambridge, as well as the duke and duchess of Brittany, again returned to England.

EDMOND  
DUKE  
OF  
YORK.

The truce expiring in April 1377, the French, soon after the death of Edward III, effected several landings on the English coast; and Cambridge proceeded with a considerable force to Dover castle, of which he had been appointed constable on the 12th July 1376. In 1378 Lancaster and Cambridge passed with an army into Normandy; but without accomplishing any material object, although the king of Navarre had put them in possession of Cherbourg.

In 1381, Cambridge, at the head of an expedition to Portugal, then at war with Castile, was joyfully received at Lisbon by king Ferdinand, who affianced his daughter Beatrice to Edward the son of the earl. On the conclusion of peace between the belligerents in the following year, the English quitted Portugal; and the princess Beatrice was, soon afterwards, given in marriage to the son of the king of Castile.

The earl was in the expedition against Scotland in 1385; and, upon the king's return, was created duke of York on the 6th of August in that year. When Richard II. went to Ireland in 1394, the duke was appointed guardian of the realm during his absence.

Upon the accession of the house of Lancaster, the duke of York absented himself from court, and remained in retirement at his manor of Langley, where he died on the 1st August 1402. By his will, dated 25th November 1400, he directed his interment in the church of the Friary of Langley, near the remains of Isabel, his first consort, who had died in 1394. His tomb of alabaster and black marble, richly sculptured and adorned with shields of arms, was, at the dissolution of the friary, removed into the north-east corner of the chancel of the parish church of Langley, where it is still extant.<sup>1</sup>

By Isabel of Castile the duke of York had two sons and one daughter.—Edward, who succeeded him, and died with-

<sup>1</sup> See an engraving of the tomb in Sandford.

EDMOND  
DUKE  
OF  
YORK.

out issue in 1415; Richard, earl of Cambridge; and Constance, wife of Thomas le Despenser earl of Gloucester.

By Joan Holand, his second wife, daughter of Thomas earl of Kent, he left no issue.

The lines of Clarence and York became united by the marriage of Richard earl of Cambridge with Anne Mortimer, the great-grand-daughter and heir of Lionel of Antwerp; and, after a series of sanguinary conflicts, the crown was peaceably enjoyed by their grandson, Edward IV.

ARMS.<sup>1</sup>

Quarterly, France and England; over all, a label of three points Argent, each charged with as many torteaux.

CREST.

Upon a chapeau Gules, faced Ermine, a lion guardant, and crowned Or, gorged with a label as in the arms.

---

XXXIX.

EDWARD LORD LE DESPENSER.

EDWARD  
LORD  
LE DE-  
SPENSER.

HE was the son and heir of Edward le Despenser, the second son of Hugh earl of Gloucester, who, with his father Hugh earl of Winchester, died, ignominiously and unpitied, at the close of the unhappy reign of Edward II, after having contributed, by their nefarious counsels and acts of violence, to the ruin of their royal master.

Those unfortunate events had occurred several years before

<sup>1</sup> Plate remaining in the seventh stall S. S. The inscription thereon, "le Duc de York Edmōd," and the *three* fleurs-de-lis in the first quarter, prove that the plate is of a date long subsequent to his election into the Order. The French coat, on the tomb at Langley, is *semé* of fleurs-de-lis, as he had always borne it. It is therefore evident that the plate was not put up until after the reduction of

the fleurs-de-lis to *three*, which has been attributed to Henry V: but, although we possess no positive proof that Henry IV. first made this alteration in the royal arms, in imitation of king Charles VI. of France, the fact is highly probable, as Henry V, when prince of Wales and his father's lieutenant in the 6th year of the reign of the latter, bore the *three* fleurs-de-lis on his seal.