

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.

the birth of our knight; and the impression, adverse to the fame of the family, which they had made on the public mind, had since been softened, if not effaced, by the exemplary conduct and eminent services of Hugh le Despenser, the eldest son of Gloucester. This nobleman, having greatly distinguished himself in the wars of Edward III, and been summoned to parliament as lord of Glamorgan, died without issue on the 8th February 1348-9, leaving his nephew, the subject of this notice, his next heir, and then twelve years old.<sup>1</sup>

EDWARD  
LORD  
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The first military essay of sir Edward le Despenser was in the expedition of the Black Prince into Gascony in 1355; and we find him, and his next brother sir Thomas, frequently mentioned amongst the immediate attendants on the prince whilst at Bordeaux.<sup>2</sup> He was with sir Bartholomew Burghershe and sir Nele Loryng in the celebrated skirmish near Romorantin;<sup>3</sup> and, shortly afterwards, took a prominent part in the battle of Poitiers.<sup>4</sup> In 1357 he made proof of his age and had livery of his lands; but his homage was respited, he being still in France, and having performed good services there in the preceding year.<sup>5</sup> In the same year he had summons to parliament as baron Le Despenser. In 1359 he was on the staff of the king on his expedition into France; and, in 1360, amongst those who swore at Calais to the observance of the treaty of Bretigny.<sup>6</sup>

Upon the death of Henry duke of Lancaster, in 1360-1, lord Le Despenser had the honour to be invested with the Garter, and to occupy the stall in the royal chapel next to that of the Sovereign. He was, in 1363, one of the knights appointed to receive the king of Cyprus on his landing at Dover, and to conduct him to the metropolis.<sup>7</sup> In 1368 our knight was in the retinue of Lionel duke of Clarence, and present at the death of that prince in Piedmont.<sup>8</sup> Not long after his return from Lombardy, Despenser attended the king

<sup>1</sup> Esc. 23 Ed. 3, No. 169.

<sup>2</sup> Household book, 1355-6, in the duchy of Cornwall office. See also Froiss. tom. iii. p. 69.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 163, where the chronicler describes him as "le jeune sire Despenser."

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 197.

<sup>5</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 395.

<sup>6</sup> Froiss. tom. iv. pp. 9. 90.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. p. 166.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. p. 465.

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LORD  
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and prince Edward on their voyage towards France, when they were constrained by contrary winds to return to England without accomplishing its object.<sup>1</sup> In 1373 he commanded the rear-guard of the army which, under John of Gant and the duke of Brittany, ravaged Picardy and Artois, but experienced a severe repulse before Ribemont.<sup>2</sup> In 1374, in consequence of the truce concluded between the dukes of Anjou and Lancaster, lord Le Despenser returned, with the other chiefs, from Bordeaux to England.<sup>3</sup> He was, however, in the year following, called again into active service in the expedition of the duke of Brittany; and, after the truce in 1375, was ordered home.

He terminated his career at Cardiff castle, on the 11th November 1375,<sup>4</sup> leaving by Elizabeth his wife (who survived him), the daughter and heir of Bartholomew lord Burghershe, K.G. one son, Thomas le Despenser, afterwards earl of Gloucester, and a Knight of the Order, and four daughters. His remains were deposited in the church of St. Mary at Tewkesbury.

The representatives of this knight are the same as those of his father-in-law the lord Burghershe.<sup>5</sup>

ARMS.

Quarterly, Argent and Gules; in the second and third quarters a fret Or; over all a bend Sable.

CREST.

Out of a ducal coronet, per pale Gules and Argent, between two wings, a griffon's head of the last, beak and ears of the first, gorged with a collar per pale Or and Argent.

<sup>1</sup> Froiss. tom. vi. p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 63.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 76.

<sup>4</sup> Esc. 49 Ed. 3, No. 46.

<sup>5</sup> Antea, p. 47.