

## XL.

## SIR JOHN SULLY.

THE slender information which has descended to us, towards elucidating the personal history of this remarkable individual, is chiefly derived from his own deposition, made, on the 2nd July 1388, at the age of one hundred and five years, in the Scrope and Grosvenor controversy.<sup>1</sup> Until a more minute examination of the proceedings in that interesting suit, his participation in almost all the great battles, which during the reign of Edward III. were fought and won under the English standard, had been unknown. His military services were not remembered by Froissart, his contemporary;<sup>2</sup> although they extended over a space of eighty years, and were of such distinction as to obtain the high reward of the Order of the Garter. It is strange that, whilst the Windsor tables designate "Monsr. Jehan Sully" as successor to the stall vacated, in 1361, by the death of sir Reginald Cobham, Ashmole should have followed the former catalogues in postponing his election until the reign of Henry IV, and have adopted also their misnomer, "Sir John Sulbie," from an obvious error in the inscription on a plate remaining, near that of Cobham, in the stall which those knights had respectively filled.

The deposition of sir John Sully, in behalf of sir Richard Scrope, was, on account of his great age and inability to travel, taken by commission at his house within his manor of Yerdeley [Edeslegh, now Iddesleigh] in Devonshire, which had been in possession of his family from the reign of Richard I, if not at an earlier date.<sup>3</sup> The tenure, however,

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<sup>1</sup> Scrope and Grosvenor roll, p. 74.

<sup>2</sup> Froissart frequently mentions the sire de Sully, who served on the French side, and was occasionally entrusted with negotiations with the English court. This person was Louis, son of Jean sire

de Sully by Margaret of Bourbon, second daughter of Louis duc de Bourbon by Mary of Hainault. Louis de Sully was among the prisoners at the battle of Poitiers.

<sup>3</sup> Raymond de Sully, probably one of the twelve knights who assisted Robert Fitzhamon in the

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not having been immediately of the crown, the means of deducing his pedigree from inquisitions are wanting; and we are at present unable to state whose son he was, and whether he left any descendants.<sup>1</sup>

The public records first introduce him to our notice at the age of about thirty-two; when he was summoned, on 30th June, 8th Edward II. 1315, to serve with horse and arms against the Scots.<sup>2</sup> On 21st March 1332-3 he was ordered<sup>3</sup> to attend the king at Newcastle; and he was, on 19th July following, at the battle of Halidon Hill, and at the consequent surrender of Berwick.<sup>4</sup> In 1338 he was in France, in the retinue of the earl of Salisbury;<sup>5</sup> and present at the battle of Cressy in 1346.<sup>6</sup> In the latter year the Black Prince presented him with a pair of gauntlets, and, as a new year's gift, with a silver cup and ewer of the value of 77s. 10d.<sup>7</sup> In 1350 he shared in the naval triumph over the

conquest of Wales, held Edeslegh 27 Hen. III.—*Sir William de la Pole's collections for Devon*, pp. 83. 380,—where there is also mention of a sir John de Sully who, on his return from the wars in Palestine, weakened by many wounds, found so great an accumulation of revenue from his lands, that he caused his cloak, being of cloth of gold, to be spread on the ground, and the mass of money to be laid thereon; and, after having cast himself upon it, that it might be said he had tumbled in gold and silver, he divided the treasure into three portions, of which he gave one to his wife, another amongst his officers and tenants, and the remainder to the poor. In Iddesleigh church there is the figure of a crusader, probably of the brave knight in question.

<sup>1</sup> A sir William Sulley was slain at the taking of Thomas earl of Lancaster in 1321. Sir Raymond de Sully (who succeeded his father, Walter, in his lands at Toriton com. Devon, and Aleston com. Somerset, in 1285, and his mother, Mabil de Sully, in her lands in Leicestershire and Bucks in 1311,) died in 1316, leaving a daughter,

Elizabeth, his heir, the wife of William de Brewes.—*See the several inquisitions*. Another Raymond de Sully is mentioned as having held lands at Allestone near Huntspill com. Somerset, and to have executed a deed in 1370, sealing with arms "barry of six."—*Collinson's Somersetshire*, vol. ii. p. 394. John Sulley held half of a fee in Eshe Reginæ, Devon, under the duke of Warwick who died in 1445; and Raymond de Sulley held Iddesleigh, and Upcote in the same county, by the like tenure.—*Esc. 43 Hen. VI.* A sir John Sully, the last of this family, is said to have married one of the coheirresses of the baron of Torrington, and to have left an only daughter who married a knight of Somerset, named Vowel, from whom the family of Smith inherited a moiety of the manor of Iddesleigh.—*Polwhele's Hist. of Devon*, p. 415.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Scoc. 8 Ed. 2, p. 1, m. 146.

<sup>3</sup> Rymer, (new edn.) vol. ii. ps. 2, p. 855.

<sup>4</sup> Deposition.

<sup>5</sup> Rymer, vol. ii. p. 1048.

<sup>6</sup> Deposition.

<sup>7</sup> Treasurer's accounts, penes J. Philpot, 20 Ed. 3, fo. 140.

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Spaniards.<sup>1</sup> In 1355 he appears to have been specially retained to serve the prince of Wales during his life for the annual fee of 40*l.* issuing out of the prince's manor of Bradenash in Devonshire.<sup>2</sup> In the same year, and in 1356, we find him in attendance on his royal master in Gascony;<sup>3</sup> and, in the year last mentioned, at the battle of Poitiers.<sup>4</sup> In August 1359, he was still in Gascony.<sup>5</sup> In 1361 he obtained from the king the singular grant that he might, once in every year during his life, in any of the royal forests, parks, or chases, have one shot with his bow, one course with his hounds, and one chase for his dog "Bercelette."<sup>6</sup>

Soon after the death of Reginald lord Cobham, which took place on 25th October 1361, he was admitted into the Order of the Garter. In 1362 he entered, with others, into recognizances on the enlargement of sir Matthew de Gournay and sir John de St. Lo, who had been imprisoned in the Tower of London for certain contempts and rebellions.<sup>7</sup> In 1365 he again accompanied prince Edward into Gascony,<sup>8</sup> and was there in attendance on him in the year following.<sup>9</sup> In 1367, although at the great age of eighty-four, he was engaged in the battle of Najara.<sup>10</sup> In 1369-70 he appears to have been still serving in Aquitaine:<sup>11</sup> but, except where his name occurs in subsequent wardrobe accounts,<sup>12</sup> and, in two instances, on issue rolls of the Exchequer,<sup>13</sup> we find no further mention of him until, in his retirement, attended by Richard Baker<sup>14</sup> his esquire, who seems to have shared in many of his military adventures, he was visited by the

<sup>1</sup> Deposition.

<sup>2</sup> Comp. Ade Cator propositi Bradenash de A° 29° usque 30°.

<sup>3</sup> Rymer, vol. iii. p. 326. The account of household expenses at Bordeaux contains payments and gifts to him on 18th Dec. 1335, and 8th Jan. 23rd April, 25th and 30th June 1356.—*Records of duchy of Cornwall.*

<sup>4</sup> Deposition.

<sup>5</sup> Rymer, vol. iii. p. 443.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Pat. 35 Ed. 3, p. 2, m. 27.

<sup>7</sup> Rymer, vol. iii. p. 648.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. p. 765. <sup>9</sup> Ibid. p. 809.

<sup>10</sup> Deposition.

<sup>11</sup> Rymer, vol. iii. p. 888.

<sup>12</sup> Robes of the Order were delivered to him in 1370-1, 1372, 1373, 1375, 1376, 1378, 1384, and 1388.—*Wardrobe accounts of those dates.*

<sup>13</sup> A summons was despatched to him, 13th April 1377, to attend the feast of St. George. Issue roll, Easter, 51 Ed. 3.—*extracts by F. Devon*, p. 203. A messenger was sent, 3rd April 1385, to notify to him the postponement of the feast. Issue roll, Michas. 9 Ric. 2.—*Ibid.* p. 229.

<sup>14</sup> Deposition.

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commissioners of the court military in the summer of 1381.

Sir John Sully died probably soon afterwards; as he is not mentioned in the extant wardrobe accounts for 1389 and 1390.

ARMS.<sup>1</sup>

Ermine, four bars Gules.

CREST.

Two bulls' horns.

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XLI.

WILLIAM LORD LATIMER.

WILLIAM  
LORD  
LATIMER.

THIS nobleman was, upon the decease of sir William Fitzwarayne in 1361, elected to the thirteenth stall on the Sovereign's side; and robes of the Order were issued to him annually from 1371 to 1373, and from 1375 to 1378.

William lord Latimer was the fourth peer of an ancient family which possessed considerable estates in Yorkshire, and a park at Billinges in that county, so early as the reign of Richard I.<sup>2</sup> The principal manor, Danby, was acquired by his grandfather, William the second baron, who was called "le Riche" after his marriage with Lucy the daughter and heir of Robert de Thweng of Danby.

Our knight, the son and heir of William lord Latimer, by Elizabeth daughter of John lord Botetourt, was only six years old at the death of his father in 1335.<sup>3</sup> He had livery of his lands in 1351;<sup>4</sup> but the act of homage was then post-

<sup>1</sup> Plate (with the inscription "Sir John Sulby") remaining in the ninth stall on prince's side: but the arms, ascribed by Pole to the Sullys of Devon, are "Ermine three chevrons Gules." The field is said to have been also borne *Argent*, and, sometimes, with the

difference of an *annulet*, or *martlet*, on the first chevronel.

<sup>2</sup> The name, sometimes written "*le Latimer*" (*latus mari*), but, more commonly, "*de Latimer*" (*de lato mari*), was doubtless Norman.

<sup>3</sup> Esc. 9 Ed. 3, n. 51.

<sup>4</sup> Claus. 25 Ed. 3, m. 27.