

HUMPHREY
EARL
OF
HEREFORD. Eleanor who became the wife of Thomas of Woodstock duke of Gloucester, and Mary the first consort of Henry earl of Derby, afterwards king Henry IV.¹

The only wardrobe account, yet discovered, containing mention of the issue of robes to this knight, is of the 12th March 1370-71.² His garter-plate remains in the stall called the ninth on the Sovereign's side, being that which he had filled.

ARMS.

Azure, a bend cottised Argent between six lions rampant Or.

CREST.

On a chapeau d'état Gules, doubled Ermine, a lion guardant crowned Or.³

XLIII.

INGELRAM DE COUCY EARL OF BEDFORD.

INGELRAM
EARL
OF
BEDFORD. INGELRAM, or Enguerran de Coucy, was the only son of Enguerran,⁴ sixth of the name, lord of Coucy, by Catharine of Austria, elder of the two daughters and co-heirs of duke Leopold, the third son of Albert king of the Romans, and grandson of the emperor Rudolph of Hapsburg.

Succeeding his father in 1344, at which time he had not completed his fifth year, he remained under the tutelage of his august mother until her death, in 1349; and he had scarcely attained to manhood when, with many other French nobles of the highest rank, he was included among the hostages

¹ For his representative see the memoir of his father, p. 103.

² Antea, p. 8.

³ Beneath the arms on the garter-plate is this inscription: "le counte de Herford Ofrey."

⁴ The grandfather of this Enguerran was Enguerran de Guines, son of Arnold III, count of Guines. He assumed the surname of Coucy upon succeeding to the inheritance

of his mother, Alix de Coucy, daughter of Enguerran sire de Coucy, and sister of Mary queen of Scotland, the second consort of Alexander II. Enguerran de Guines, afterwards Coucy, having been educated in Scotland at the court of his cousin-german Alexander III, received from that monarch, in marriage, Christian, niece to John Balliol.

recorded in the treaty of Bretigny, which released king John from captivity, and enabled him to return, although for a short period only, to his dominions.¹

INGELRAM
EARL
OF
BEDFORD.

Coucy arrived in England in 1360; and, during a residence of several years at the brilliant court of Edward III, his various excellent qualities were so highly estimated by that monarch, that he gave him his second daughter, Isabel, in marriage, with a grant of estates in Lancashire, and a pension of 4,000*l.* The nuptials were celebrated at Windsor in 1365:² in which year also he was received into the Order of the Garter as successor to the lord Ughtred, in the twelfth stall on the prince's side; and, on 11th May 1366, he was created earl of Bedford, with limitation of that honour to him and his heirs male by the lady Isabel.

Among the hostages was Guy de Blois count of Soissons, whose anxiety to return to France induced him to purchase his freedom by the surrender, under a licence from Charles V, of his territory of Soissons. After the resignation, which was made at London 9th July 1367,³ king Edward bestowed the splendid ransom upon the earl of Bedford, in lieu of the annuity settled upon him at his marriage.

Ingelram soon afterwards proceeded to France, in order to take possession of his new acquisition; and appears to have been present in the French court, in April 1368, at the reception of his brother-in-law Lionel duke of Clarence on his way to Milan.

Upon the renewal of the war in 1369, he felt himself greatly embarrassed by his peculiar relation to the rival sovereigns, each of whom possessed claims to his allegiance, and probably shared equally his affection. Charles generously permitted him to extricate himself from the difficulty by retiring to Lombardy; where he resided a considerable time with that king's brother-in-law, John Galeazzo duke of Milan.

The fame of his achievements in Italy, whilst engaged, at this period, in the military operations for the defence of the

¹ Rymer, vol. vii. p. 178.

² Walsingham, p. 180, No. 40.

³ Du Chesne hist. des maisons de Guines, etc. Paris, 1631, p. 415.

INGELRAM
EARL
OF
BEDFORD.

papal states against Barnabas Visconti, prompted the French monarch to send him the bâton of marshal, and to recall him to France. He returned accordingly; and, after the truce of 1375, raised and led into Germany an army (composed chiefly of the mercenaries of the celebrated partisan Arnaud de Cervole, called "l'Archiprêtre,") to support his claim, in right of his mother, to certain allodial lands of the house of Austria. He was compelled, however, after a severe contest, to renounce his pretensions, and to return to France under a treaty, in 1376, with the dukes of Austria, who, upon that condition, ceded to him the towns of Nidau and Buren, situated within the present canton of Berne.

Upon the death of Edward III, in the following year, Coucy determined thenceforward to devote himself solely to the interests of his native land. On the 26th August 1377, he addressed to king Richard a letter couched in courteous, eloquent, and affecting language, and replete with noble sentiments, surrendering, together with his homage, the decoration of "the Garter, which it had been his honour and pride to wear, and humbly beseeching the Sovereign to elect another knight in his room."¹ He no longer used the title of "Bedford;" and, in order to loosen all his ties with England, he allowed his wife to return thither with their second daughter Philippa, retaining near him his eldest daughter Mary.

Coucy distinguished himself in the following years in the war in Normandy. Upon the death of Du Guesclin in 1380, Charles VI. offered him the high post of constable of France; but, with rare generosity and a modest estimate of his own martial talents, he waived his pretensions in favour of Olivier de Clisson; accepting the government of Picardy, and the office of grand butler.

In May 1396, he marched with an army, under the count of Eu, against the Turks: and when it was decided to give battle to the enemy at Nicopolis, he strongly seconded the

¹ Rymer, vol. vii. p. 172; Rapin ed. 1749, 4^o, vol. iii. p. 556. His lands in England were seized into the king's hands, on account of his
adhesion to France (*Rot. Pat. 1 Ric. 2, p. 3, m. 5*); but they were restored to Isabel on certain conditions.—*Pat. 1 Ric. 2, p. 5, m. 28.*

advice of the king of Hungary to place the Hungarians in the van as more accustomed to the manner of fighting used by the Turks. Unfortunately, the majority of voices was against him in the council; and the issue of the conflict, on the 28th September, was a total overthrow of the Christian army. Coucy remained amongst the prisoners, and was conducted to Bursa, in Natolia, where he died on the 18th February 1396-7. His heart was buried in the church of the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Villeneuve, near Soissons, which he had founded.

INGELRAM
EARL
OF
BEDFORD.

By Isabel Plantagenet, his first wife, he had issue two daughters; Mary, who married Henry de Bar, eldest son of Robert duke of Bar and of Mary of France, second daughter of king John; and Philippa, who married Robert de Vere earl of Oxford and duke of Ireland, and died without issue. The lineal descendant and heir of Mary de Bar was Henry IV. king of France and Navarre.

Isabel countess of Bedford died shortly after her return to England; and Ingelram de Coucy married, secondly, Isabel de Lorraine, daughter of John I. duke of Lorraine by Sophia of Würtemberg. By this lady he had an only daughter, Isabel, who married at Soissons, 23rd April 1409, Philip of Burgundy count of Nevers, youngest son of duke Philip the Hardy.

ARMS.

Barry of six, Vair and Gules.