

## XLVII.

## JOHN LORD NEVIL OF RABY.

JOHN  
LORD  
NEVIL.

THE successor to the stall of Bartholomew lord Burghershe in the royal chapel, was John lord Nevil, son to Ralph lord Nevil, of Raby and Middleham, by Alice, the daughter of sir Hugh Audeley, of Stretton Audeley, and aunt of the gallant Audeley. If his age, at the inquisition in 1368, be not underrated,<sup>1</sup> he was scarcely five years old when carried by his father to witness the battle of Durham or Nevil's Cross, which was fought on the 17th October 1346, near his paternal domains, and at which lord Nevil bore an eminent command in the van of the English army.<sup>2</sup> In 1360 he received from king Edward the honour of knighthood, being selected, with other young warriors, to attend sir Walter Manny on his daring exploit near the barriers of Paris.<sup>3</sup> Upon succeeding to his family estates in 1368, he was summoned to parliament, and appointed one of the commissioners of the east marches towards Northumberland.<sup>4</sup> In 1369 he was invested with the Garter; and, after having been engaged, in 1370, to serve, with a powerful retinue, in the French war, he was, in that year, constituted admiral of the fleet from the Thames northward.<sup>5</sup> He was also retained, by indenture,<sup>6</sup> in the service of John duke of Lancaster. In 1373 the king constituted lord Nevil commander of a force of four hundred men-at-arms, and as many archers,<sup>7</sup> which he sent into Brittany,<sup>8</sup> to the aid of Montfort. We find him, however, in the following year, as steward of the household,<sup>9</sup> in attendance on the king in his

<sup>1</sup> Viz. 26.—Esc. 41 Ed. 3, No. 47.

<sup>2</sup> Reg. Dunelm. in Bibl. Bodl. 139<sup>b</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Froissart, (Buchon,) tom. iv. p. 47.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Scoc. 42 Ed. 3, m. 4.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Franc. 44 Ed. 3, m. 19, May 20.

<sup>6</sup> Pat. 45 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 32, per inspex<sup>t</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Froissart, tom. vi. p. 28.

<sup>8</sup> Rot. Franc. 46 Ed. 3, m. 30, July 24.

<sup>9</sup> Rot. Pat. 47 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 9.

expedition to Scotland;<sup>1</sup> and, soon afterwards, again in the wars against France.<sup>2</sup>

JOHN  
LORD  
NEVIL.

In 1376 lord Nevil was impeached in parliament upon three charges: 1. That, being an officer of the king, and of his privy council, he had bought up divers royal bonds; and, receiving payment thereof at the exchequer, gained considerably thereby, to the great deception of the king, scandal of his court, and damage to individuals: 2. That he had carried with him into Brittany a less number of men-at-arms and archers than he had agreed to furnish, and this insufficient force composed of boys and useless persons; by which misconduct divers fortresses had been lost: and, 3. That, whilst at Southampton, preparatory to his passage, his men had ravaged the surrounding country, committing numerous excesses, as if they had been the king's enemies.<sup>3</sup> His defence against these charges is fully stated on the roll of parliament;<sup>4</sup> and, although the commons prayed judgment that he should be deprived of his office near the king, and make satisfaction to the alleged injured parties in the pecuniary transactions, his character does not appear to have suffered by these accusations.

At the commencement of the new reign, the former consequence of lord Nevil seems to have been undiminished, he being immediately appointed governor of Bamborough castle for life, and warden of the marches.<sup>5</sup> On 13th July 1378 he was invested with the high office of lieutenant of Aquitaine;<sup>6</sup> but, before departure for his government, upon intelligence that the Scots had surprised Berwick, he was sent thither; and, in concurrence with the earl of Northumberland, laid siege to and retook the place.<sup>7</sup> After this achievement, lord Nevil sailed from Plymouth, with a fleet of 120 vessels and 40 barges, conveying 1000 men-at-arms, and 2000 archers, and arrived at Bordeaux, on the 8th September 1378,<sup>8</sup> where he established his residence in the abbey of St. Andrew. His warlike proceedings in Gascony, during the following seven

<sup>1</sup> Leland's Coll. vol. i. p. 798.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Alem. 47 Ed. 3, m. 20.—  
Rot. Franc. 48 Ed. 3, m. 18.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. ii. 328<sup>b</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 329.

<sup>5</sup> Pat. 1 R. 2, p. 2, m. 7.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Vasc. 2 R. 2, m. 10.

<sup>7</sup> Froissart, tom. vii. p. 48.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. p. 120.

JOHN  
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NEVIL.

years, are amply detailed by Froissart; whilst the public records notice the eminent prisoners which he made, and the negotiations for their respective ransoms.<sup>1</sup>

Lord Nevil died at Newcastle on the 17th October 1388, and was buried in the south side of the nave of Durham cathedral, to which he had contributed a splendid basement of alabaster for the support of the shrine of St. Cuthbert. His will is dated 31st August 1386.<sup>2</sup> By Maud, his first wife, daughter of Henry lord Percy, he left Ralph, the successor to his title, and afterwards earl of Westmorland, and a knight of the Order. By Elizabeth, his second wife, daughter and heir of William lord Latimer, he was father of John Nevil lord Latimer.

The heir male of the body of this distinguished knight in 1570 was Charles, the sixth earl of Westmorland, who was attainted in that year, and died, in 1584, without issue male, but leaving three daughters, viz. Katherine, who married Thomas Grey of Chillingham; Margaret, the wife of Nicholas Pudsey; and Anne, who married David Ingleby. Katherine Grey died without issue. We have not ascertained whether Margaret Pudsey left issue; but Anne Ingleby left three daughters, her coheirs, 1. Mary, who married sir Peter Middleton of Stockeld, whose representative is the present sir Thomas Haggerston, bart.; Frances, who married sir Robert Hodshon, and whose issue is extinct; and Ursula, the wife of Robert Widdrington, esq.

ARMS.

Gules, a saltire Argent.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Vasc. 4 R. 2, m. 5. Rot. Franc. 5 R. 2, m. 28; 8 R. 2, m. 26; 9 R. 2, m. 32.

<sup>2</sup> Rowland's house of Nevil, Lond. fol. 1830, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> His Garter plate was remaining in his stall in 1569; but has since disappeared. Ashmole's Collect. in Mus. Ashmol.