

LII.

GUICHARD D'ANGLE EARL OF HUNTINGDON.

GUICHARD
EARL
OF
HUNTING-
DON.

THE life of this renowned person, and of those of many of his companions in arms, may justify the remark, that the love of military adventure was, in his age, a passion excited solely by examples of individual daring, and fostered and inflamed by emulation, apart from any consideration of country or allegiance.

The surname of his family has been hitherto incorrectly derived from the town of Angoulême,¹ instead of from Angle, a small town near Charenton in Poitou. Of the ancestry of the hero we have collected a few particulars,² which show that his great-grandfather was Guillaume d'Angle, chevalier, seignoral proprietor of Angle, who jointly with his wife Agnes and Rongro their son, made a donation of their portion of the forest of Gastine to the abbey of L'Etoile in 1220. Rongro, or Rorgo, lord of Angle, was a benefactor to the abbey of Angle in 1242. He had two sons,—1. Helie d'Angle, chevalier, who gave to the bishop of Poitiers two parts of the territory of Angle, by deed in 1280, and died without issue; 2. Guichard d'Angle, chevalier, lord of Boisgarnault, &c. living in 1287, died before Tuesday after the feast of the Ascension 1323, on which day Marguerite, his relict, the sister of Maingon Maubert, chevalier, lord of Bois Maubert, surrendered, on behalf of her son Guichard, then a minor, the territory of Boisgarnault to Marguerite de Turpin, widow of Eschinard de Preully.

Our knight appears to have been the eldest son of Guichard d'Angle and Marguerite Maubert; and is designated in charters and other instruments as lord of Pleumartin, Boisgarnault, and Rochefort-sur-Charente. He first entered into the service of king Philip VI, under whom he held the office of seneschal of Xaintonge,³ and distinguished himself in the

¹ The error originated in the Windsor tables, where he is called Guichard *D'Anguillem*, and has been adopted in all the catalogues.

² From original instruments preserved in the "Cabinet des titres," in the royal library at Paris.

³ In a deed, in the same cabinet, dated Xaintes, 29th May 1350, he is described "*Seigneur de plain Martin* [Pleumartin] *chr. du roy nre sr. et son Sen^{ll} de Xaintonge.*"

conflict with the English before St. Jean d'Angely in 1346.¹ On the accession of king John, in August 1350, he continued to exercise the same office, with the additional title of chief captain for the king in Xaintonge beyond the Charente.² In a skirmish before the same town of St. Jean d'Angely, in 1351, he was taken prisoner, and carried with others from Bordeaux to England.³ Upon his release, (which took place before January 1353,) we find him again in active service on several occasions until the battle of Poitiers in 1356, where he is described as fighting valiantly near the persons of some of the princes of the blood royal, and where he was left, as dead, amongst the slain.⁴

GUICHARD
EARL
OF
HUNTING-
DON.

We have not learnt under what circumstances he was induced to quit the French standard and to join that of its adversary; but it is not improbable, that the conquests of the Black Prince, after the signal defeat of the French at Poitiers, placed sir Guichard and his possessions under a new fealty. It is certain that, in 1363, the prince was so impressed with the excellence of his martial talents as to confer upon him the appointment of marshal of Aquitaine.⁵ He was present at the visit of the king of Cyprus to Edward, in 1364, at Bordeaux;⁶ and, in 1367, distinguished himself at the battle of Najara; witnessing, after that conflict, the celebrated interview between the Black Prince and Don Pedro, whom (with sir Stephen Cosington, who then held the office of marshal jointly with our knight,) he escorted to Burgos.

About 1369 prince Edward had sent sir Guichard to Rome, in order to arrange with the pope certain affairs concerning the principality. He had met with condescension from the pontiff as to the objects of his mission; but learning, on his

¹ Froiss. (Buchon,) tom. ii. p. 271.

² "Sach. tous q. nous Guychart dangle senl. de Xainttonge et Cap. pit. souverain en dit pais po'. le roy ñre Sr. p^r. deza la Charente avons eu et receu de Joh. Chauvel tresor^r des guerres du roy ñre Sr. p^r. la main Robin François son Chr. et lieuten. empst sur les gaiges d'armes et s'gens de sa comp. dess'vis et ads'vir en ces pütes

guerres de Xainttonge souz ñre gouvernement huyt vins (160) neuf livr onze sols et huit den. desquelles viij.^{xx} ixl. xjs. viijd. nous tenös a bñ paie Donne a Xañ. [Xaintes] souz ñre p^rvee seel le penultieme jour de Janv^r. lan mil ccclij."—*Cabinet des titres, Paris.*

³ Froiss. tom. iii. p. 31.

⁴ Ibid. pp. 209. 227.

⁵ Ibid. tom. iv. p. 154.

⁶ Ibid. pp. 176. 415.

GUICHARD
EARL
OF
HUNTING-
DON.

way homeward, that the French had renewed the war on Aquitaine, he found the route towards Bordeaux beset with difficulty, and therefore sought temporary protection from the count of Savoy, to whom he presented himself at Pignerola in Piedmont, that prince being then engaged in warlike operations against the marquis of Saluzzo. The count received him and his suite very graciously; and, having entertained them hospitably during two days, dismissed them with rich presents. Pursuing their journey, they arrived on the frontier of France and Burgundy; where sir Guichard began to despair, from the intelligence which he there received, of reaching Guienne whilst attended by so numerous a retinue. He decided therefore to place his escort under the orders of his son-in-law, Jean Isore,¹ a brave knight from the marches of Brittany, who put himself in communication with the lord of Beaujeu, by whom he and his men were conducted to the duke of Berri in Auvergne, who allowed them, upon assurance of their loyalty, to pass into Brittany. In the mean while, sir Guichard, under the disguise of a poor chaplain, badly mounted and in tattered habiliments, wandered through the marches of Burgundy and Auvergne; and, amidst great perils, re-entered the principality, and was received by the Black Prince at Angoulême "with great satisfaction and joy."²

Shortly afterwards he is mentioned as amongst those who accompanied the earl of Pembroke on his expedition from Angoulême into Anjou; and he was with Chandos on his fatal sally from Poitiers, although not at the moment of his death. In 1370 he was present at the siege and capture of Limoges, the scene of the deeply regretted cruelty which stained indelibly the laurels of prince Edward.³ In 1371, after the retirement of the Black Prince into England, he cooperated with the duke of Lancaster in the taking of Montpaon; and, being with the duke at Bordeaux in the year following, he suggested to him the policy of a marriage with Constance the eldest daughter of Don Pedro; and, having been intrusted with, and succeeded in the negotiation, the nuptials were solemnised at Rochefort, a village near Bor-

¹ Johnes, by mistake, calls this knight "sir John Shore."

² Froiss. tom. v. pp. 33-35.

³ Ibid. p. 217.

deaux.¹ Sir Guichard thereupon attended the duke of Lancaster and his bride into England; and was graciously received by the king, who, at the feast of St. George celebrated at Windsor in 1372, admitted our heroic knight into the Order of the Garter, as successor to the eighth stall on the Sovereign's side, then vacant by the death of sir Walter Manny in January preceding.

GUICHARD
EARL
OF
HUNTING-
DON.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the king returned to Westminster; and, at the special request of sir Guichard and the Poitevins, nominated his son-in-law the earl of Pembroke to the chief command of the forces in Poitou. Froissart reports, on this occasion, with his wonted naïveté, a conversation between the king and sir Guichard. "Sire," said the knight, "let our captain and leader, the earl of Pembroke, but reach Poitou, and we shall carry on the war bravely; for we shall find around us four or five thousand lances at your service, provided always we have their pay ready for them." To which replied the king:—"Messire Guichard, messire Guichard, trouble not thyself for any want of gold and silver wherewith to carry on thy brave warfare; for I have enough, and shall cheerfully expend it in the like merchandise, because I need it for myself and my kingdom."²

Fortune now began to forsake the English arms, so long familiarised with victory; and the preparations made amidst so much festivity were closely followed by a serious disaster. The fleet of Pembroke, attempting to land the troops at Rochelle, was encountered in the harbour by a superior force of Spaniards, on the 22nd June 1372, and defeated after a desperate resistance; Pembroke and D'Angle, with his nephew sir William d'Angle and many other knights, and the treasure which was to purchase the Poitevin lances, remaining in the hands of the enemy.³

In 1373, after the unfortunate battle of Chisey in Poitou between Du Guesclin and the English, the constable ap-

¹ The duke of Lancaster, by a warrant dated Savoy, 3rd May 1371, ordered Thomas de Percy, governor and steward of Poitou, to pay to Guischart Dangle, marshal of Aquitaine, 600 franks of gold "out of the Frank or Guynes

Ardy" being the customs received for every ton of wine of the year's growth in the isle of Oleron.—*Receiver's Acco^t. duchy of Lanc. off.* fo. 151.

² Froiss. tom. v. p. 272.

³ Ibid. p. 282.

GUICHARD
EARL
OF
HUNTING-
DON.

peared before the castle of Achart, and summoned the dame de Pleumartin, the wife of sir Guichard, to surrender it. The courageous lady demanded a safe conduct for herself to the duke de Berri then at Poitiers, which was granted, and Du Guesclin ordered one of his knights to attend her thither. Arrived in the duke's presence, she essayed to kneel before him; but he raised her up courteously, and inquired her pleasure. "Sir," said she, "I am a lone woman without power of defence, the widow of a living husband, if it so please God; for sir Guichard lies a prisoner in the dungeons of the king of Spain. I would therefore beseech you, in all humility, that, during the captivity of my lord, my castle, land, person, goods, and followers, may remain in peace. We will not make war, and let none be made on us." The duke acceded to her request, and granted her letters of protection, with which she returned to Achart.¹

Sir Guichard owed his release, in 1374, to the following transaction:—The constable Du Guesclin and his nephew Olivier de Mauni held lands in Spain of the gift of king Henry, in reward for their services. The former surrendered his estate of Soria in Castile for the earl of Pembroke: and Mauni his estate of Agreda for sir Guichard d'Angle, his nephew sir William d'Angle, sir Otho Granson, and other Englishmen taken at Rochelle. It happened that a rich French knight, the sire de Roye, a prisoner in England, had an only daughter whom Olivier de Mauni desired to espouse. Overtures being made to king Edward, De Roye was exchanged for sir Guichard and his nephew.²

In 1377, after the death of the Black Prince, our knight was employed in a negotiation with the French king to effect a marriage between the daughter of that monarch and Richard now prince of Wales, to whom sir Guichard had the honour of being appointed tutor. The death of king Edward frustrated this design; but, at the coronation of the young king, the services of D'Angle were rewarded with the earldom of Huntingdon,³ and a pension of 1000 marks per annum for the support of the dignity.

¹ Froiss. Variantes, tom. vi. p. 189.

² Ibid. tom. vi. p. 78.

³ The grant was *for life only*, and dated 16th July 1377.

The earl did not long enjoy these honours. He made his will at "Madenhede" on Easter-day (25th March) 1380, whereby he directed that, if he should die beyond sea, his remains should be interred in the chapel of Our Lady in the church of the Holy Cross at Angle, where he had prepared his tomb; but, if in England, then in the church of the Grey Friars at Reading; and, in the latter case, that his heart should be embalmed in spices and deposited in the tomb at Angle. He appointed William d'Angle, his nephew, heir to the lands he had acquired or might acquire in France, and of all lands in England. He bequeathed to the church of Angle an image of the price of twenty-five marks sterling, to be made of silver and represent his person armed in his arms, to remain in that church for ever.¹

GUICHARD
EARL
OF
HUNTING-
DON.

He died in the city of London shortly after the execution of his will, which was proved on the 4th April following. The request as to his burial was not complied with: for the interment took place in the church of the Augustine Friars in Bread-street,² the bishop of London chaunting the mass;³ and the king, the princess his mother, and her two other sons, with a great number of prelates, barons, and ladies, attended the obsequies⁴. The earl of Huntingdon married Jeanne Pean de Montpipeau, by whom (who survived him) he had one son, Guichard d'Angle, who is designated seigneur de Maran or Maray, but died, in his father's lifetime, without issue by his wife Jeanne de Precigny. The two daughters of the earl both bore the name of Jeanne: the former was, in 1351, the wife of Jean Isore, chevalier, seigneur de la Varenne; the latter married—1st. Renaut Chenin, chevalier, seigneur de Mauzé; 2ndly. Aimery de Rochechouart, seigneur de Mortemar.⁵

ARMS.

Or, billey, a lion rampant Azure.

¹ Reg. Sudbury, at Lambeth, fo. 104^b.

² Stowe, fo. 187.

³ Froiss. tom. vii. p. 313.

⁴ The duke of Lancaster, by warrant dated Kenilworth castle, 15th Apr. 3 Ric. 2, (1380), ordered payment to Walter Disse, his con-

fessor, of 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for one thousand masses sung for the souls of mons^r. Guychard Dangle and mons^r. Tho. Banastre dec^d. "Companions of the Garter."—*Recr. Genl. Accot. off. duc. Lanc. fo.* 30^b.

⁵ Cabinet des titres.