

WILLIAM
SECOND
EARL
OF
SUFFOLK. his remains were interred in the abbey church of Campsey in Suffolk, pursuant to the directions of his will.¹

By his first wife, Joan,² daughter of sir Edward Montacute, by the lady Alice Plantagenet daughter and coheir of Thomas of Brotherton earl of Norfolk, he had four sons, Robert, Thomas, William, and Edward, who all died without issue in his lifetime, the eldest having married Eleanor the daughter of Richard Fitzalan son of Richard earl of Arundel. By his second consort, Isabel, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick (who survived him and married, secondly, John lord Strange of Blackmere) he had no issue. His estates devolved to his three nephews, Robert lord Willoughby d'Eresby, son of his sister Cecilia; Robert lord Scales and Nuelles, son of his sister Catherine; and Henry lord Ferrers of Groby, son of his sister Margaret. The first of these co-heirs is at present represented by Peter-Robert Drummond-Burrell lord Willoughby d'Eresby, and George-Horatio marquess of Cholmondeley; the second, by the heirs general of Margaret the wife of sir Robert Howard and Elizabeth the wife of sir Roger de Felbrige; and the third, by Richard - Plantagenet - Brydges - Chandos - Temple - Grenville duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

ARMS.

Sable, a cross engrailed Or.

LVIII.

HUGH SECOND EARL OF STAFFORD.

HUGH
SECOND
EARL
OF
STAFFORD. IN conformity to the custom of the age, which made an early devotion to military pursuits a necessary and indispensable duty, this nobleman was sent, at the age of about fifteen, by his heroic father Ralph earl of Stafford, one of the Founders

¹ Regr. Courtney at Lambeth-palace, fo. 194.

² Joan, countess of Suffolk, made her will, with consent of her hus-

band, 17th August 1375, which was proved at Norwich on the 12th November following.

of the Order, to join the victorious army of the Black Prince in Aquitaine.¹ He continued on that service during several years; and attended his illustrious chief on the expedition into Spain in 1367. Sir Hugh Stafford is mentioned by Froissart² among the brave knights who accompanied sir Thomas Felton on his celebrated reconnoissance, preparatory to the battle of Najara, in the course of which that eminent commander was taken prisoner, and his brother, sir William Felton, slain. Of the adventures of sir Hugh Stafford in that unfortunate enterprise we are not informed.

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In 1372, soon after the death of his father, our earl attended the king on his unpropitious voyage for the relief of Thouars;³ and, in the year following, accompanied the dukes of Lancaster and Brittany into French Flanders.⁴ His engagement on that occasion was to serve during one year with one hundred men-at-arms and as many archers, all mounted and arrayed; of which number there were to be himself and eight knights and ninety-one esquires.⁵ In 1375 he was sent, with the earls of Cambridge, March, and Warwick, into Brittany, with considerable forces, in aid of John of Montfort.⁶

Towards the close of that year, the earl of Stafford received investiture with the Garter; succeeding to the second stall on the Sovereign's side, vacant by the death of the lord Le Despenser.⁷

Upon the accession of Richard II. we find him present in parliament, on the 27th November 1377, at the trial of the sire de Gomeney and William de Weston, for having surrendered certain French fortresses to the enemy; and, on the day following, the earl was one of the peers who passed sentence of death upon them; the execution being respited during the king's pleasure.⁸ In the same year he was retained by indenture to serve in the royal fleet.⁹

¹ Rot. Vasc. 33 Ed. 3, m. 11, *et ann. sequen.*

² Froissart, tom. iv. p. 369.

³ Rot. Vasc. 46 Ed. 3, m. 14; and Froissart, tom. vi. p. 21.

⁴ Rot. Aleman, 47 Ed. 3, m. 9; and Froissart, tom. vi. p. 56.

⁵ Exit. Pell.

⁶ Walsyng. p. 184; Holinshed, p. 409.

⁷ The earl of Stafford had robes of the Order in 1376, 1377 (in which year two of his sons were knighted.—See p. 11), 1378, 1384, and 1386.—*Wardrobe accounts for those years.*

⁸ Rolls of parliament, vol. iii. pp. 11, 12.

⁹ Exit. Pell.; and Froissart, tom. vii. p. 98.

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From that date until the grand expedition into Scotland, the earl of Stafford appears to have been resident near the court, and actively engaged in his legislative duties; his name occurring frequently, within that period, in the records of parliament, on committees and as a trier of petitions.¹

The short remainder of his life was embittered by an unfortunate transaction in 1385, which overwhelmed him with affliction, and created a great sensation in the army then on its march towards the North.² It is thus related by chroniclers of the period:—The king, accompanied by his uncles Cambridge and Buckingham, and his half-brothers the earl of Kent and sir John Holand, had reached York, or the neighbourhood of that city; and our earl and Ralph lord Stafford his eldest son, a youth of amiable manners and of the queen's household, had joined the royal expedition with a large retinue. An archer of lord Stafford's witnessing casually a dispute about lodgings between a Bohemian knight,³ and one

¹ Stafford is asserted to have accompanied the earl of Buckingham (Thomas of Woodstock), on his expedition into Brittany, which occupied about nine months, viz. from July 1380 to April 1381.—*Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 162.* But he was, in fact, during that period, in England; and Froissart, upon whose sole authority the assertion rests, evidently meant the young earl of Oxford; for he describes the companion of Buckingham, as "married to that earl's niece, the daughter to the lord de Coucy."—*Froissart (ed. Buchon), vol. vii. p. 315.*

² Rapin places the occurrence during the king's return from Scotland; but, if it happened in the manner related, it must have been on his progress thither; for the English army invaded the Scottish border on the 1st of August 1385; and the princess of Wales (whose death is said to have been accelerated by her anxiety, and the failure of her intercession, for Holand) made her will on Monday the 7th of that month, and died on the same day at Walling-

ford castle. The time of the king's departure appears to be ascertained by his ordering on the 26th of June the abbots of Waverley and Tame to provide horses to carry him and his staff towards Scotland.—*Issue roll of the Exchequer, edited by F. Devon, p. 226.* A record, however, which will be presently cited, would seem to fix the death of Stafford so early as May 1385.

³ Froissart calls this knight "*Messire Nicole, fresque et joli chevalier étoit à l'usage d'Allemagne.*" He was probably the individual employed some years afterwards to carry a message to the duke of Bavaria, and to whom a payment of 10*l.* was made for that service on the 18th June 1398. "*Her Nicole Ryvenyz militi de Bohem. in denar sibi lib'at. p. man^s. ppr^s. in p. solucōem xli quas dñs Rex sibi lib'are mandavit de regardo causa et racione cujusdam viagii p. ipūm Her Nicole nup^r fei et arrepti in nuncio Regis ad ptes trūsmarinas ad ducem Bavarr. p^o c'tis secretis negocijs dñi nri R.—p. breve de priv. sig. xli.*"—*Exit. Pell. Pasch. 21 Rich. 2.*

of sir John Holand's esquires, is said to have reproached the latter for his want of courtesy towards a stranger and the queen's visiter, in language which was deeply resented. The esquire, having drawn his sword upon the archer, was mortally wounded by an arrow from his bow. The young nobleman, when informed of the fatal accident, reproved his follower for his rashness; commanded him to absent himself; and undertook to seek on the morrow the means of appeasing sir John Holand for the outrage. In the mean time Holand, upon a report that his favourite attendant had been slain by a retainer of Stafford, and that the Bohemian had not been blameless in the affair, mounted his horse, and, with some servants, sallied forth in quest of the stranger who was lodged in the rear-guard, with the earl of Devon and the Staffords. On his way thither he chanced to meet the young lord; and, it being already dark, demanded who passed? "Stafford," was the answer.—"I am Holand," replied the incensed knight; "and I have sought *you* too; for your man has killed my favourite esquire!" and, so saying, he plunged his sword into the body of the youth. The attendants exclaimed—"You have slain the earl of Stafford's son!" and were answered, "It is well that he was of such high rank: I have then the better avenged my esquire." Holand thereupon fled, and took refuge in the sanctuary of St. John of Beverley.

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Froissart, from whose narrative these details are extracted,¹ adds that the bereaved father, in an agony of grief, threw himself at the feet of Richard, and imploring justice against the assassin, was assured by the monarch that if even the barons of the realm should hesitate to condemn his brother, he would refuse to pardon his atrocious crime. If, however, the king's kind disposition really prompted, at that moment, so just an expression of his feelings, the ensuing death of the princess of Wales, and perhaps some compunction for having repelled the intercession of her latest breath in favour of her guilty son, induced him to soften his rigour, and to yield to the mediation of several noblemen for his clemency and the

¹ Froiss. (ed. Buchon), tom. ix. pp. 135-141.

HUGH
SECOND
EARL
OF
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pacification of Stafford. It was accordingly at length agreed¹ that hostilities between the two families should cease, upon condition that Holand should maintain three priests to celebrate divine service periodically; two on the spot where the murder had been committed, and one at the grave of the victim. This condition was subsequently further modified by a direction² that the masses should all be sung at Langley, the place of the interment.³

Before this last arrangement the unhappy parent, bent by sorrow, had also sunk into the grave. Soon after the return of the army from Scotland, the earl of Stafford having obtained a licence to travel,⁴ undertook a pilgrimage to Jerusalem; embarking for that purpose at Yarmouth, where he made his will on the 15th April 1386.⁵ To this he annexed a codicil on his way homewards, at Rhodes, on the 21st September following; but he died in that island, according to one account, on the 26th of that month; and according to another, on the 2nd of October.⁶ His remains were brought to England by John Hinkley, his esquire, and interred with those of his ancestors before the high altar at Stone, in Staffordshire.⁷

By Philippa, his countess, second daughter of Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick, one of the Founders, by Katherine Mortimer, the earl had five sons:—1. Ralph, slain as above-mentioned; 2. Thomas third earl of Stafford, who died in 1392, without issue; 3. William fourth earl of Staf-

¹ Pat. 9 Ric. 2, p. 2, m. 29.

² Ibid. 11 Ric. 2, p. 1, m. 9, 1387-8.

³ Froissart states that the remains of Ralph Stafford were deposited at a village near the scene of the homicide; and Dugdale describes "Langley" as in Yorkshire, in which county there is no parish so called; but the following entry in a wardrobe account—9-11 Ric. 2 (in the office of the Queen's Remembrancer), proves that the obsequies were celebrated in the church of the Friars' Preachers at Langley (in Hertfordshire, where the king occasionally resided), and that the anniversary day was in May.—"Eidem [Walt^{ro} Rauf scis-

sori Regis] ad i gown curt. & ij capuc. dupl. de panno nigro long. fac. & furrur. cū m'n. [miniver] pur. & p^ofil. cū erm. p^o rege cont^o. diem anniv^{er} dñi Radulphi filii Comit. Staff. in ecclia fratrum p^odicat. apud Langelee mens. Maij anno ix^o [1386] iij uln. pann. nigr.—pann. nigr. long.—goun de ccccx ventr. m'n. pur. purfil. xix best. erm."

⁴ Rot. Franc. 9 Ric. 2, m. 14.

⁵ The will and codicil were proved at Lambeth on the 15th Feb. 1386-7.—*Reg^r. Courteney*, fo. 221.

⁶ Esc. 10 Ric. 2, No. 38.

⁷ Mon. Angl. vol. ii. p. 127^b.

ford, who died in 1395, also without issue; 4. Edmund fifth earl of Stafford, K. G., father to Humphrey the first duke of Buckingham; and, 5. Hugh lord Bouchier, count of Eu, K. G.

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This noble knight is now represented by George-William Stafford-Jerningham, baron of Stafford.

ARMS.

Or, a cheveron Gules.

LIX.

SIR THOMAS HOLAND SECOND EARL OF KENT.

KING EDWARD conferred the Garter, vacant by the death of lord Mohun in 1375, upon sir Thomas Holand,¹ the eldest son of the princess of Wales by her former husband, Thomas Holand (in her right) earl of Kent, and one of the Founders.

THOMAS
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EARL
OF
KENT.

This nobleman, who was ten years old at the demise of his distinguished father in 1360, married, in his sixteenth year, the lady Alice Fitzalan, daughter of Richard earl of Arundel,² and immediately afterwards joined the army of the Black Prince in Aquitaine.³ Being in 1367 in the expedition into Spain, he received knighthood at the hands of his illustrious stepfather, under the walls of Vittoria, after the trumpets had sounded for the marshalling of the host;⁴ and he is named among the gallant chiefs who in the memorable battle of Najara fought near the person of the prince.⁵

Sir Thomas Holand accompanied the earl of Cambridge and the duke of Brittany in the expedition which landed

¹ Robes of the Order were issued to him as "sir Thomas de Holand," in 50 and 51 Ed. 3 [1376, 1377]; and 1 Ric. 2, 1378.—*Wardrobe accounts for those years now in the Queen's Remembrancer's office.*

² Pat. 38 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 31.

³ Rot. Vasc. 38 Ed. 3, m. 2; and 40 Ed. 3, m. 14, May 8, when ships were ordered to be provided for the passage of himself and his retinue.

⁴ Froiss. (ed. Buchon), tom. iv. p. 376.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 406.