

## LXIII.

HENRY PLANTAGENET EARL OF DERBY,  
DUKE OF LANCASTER,

AFTERWARDS

## KING HENRY IV.

THIS prince, the only son of John of Gant by Blanch of Lancaster, was born at Bolingbroke castle in Lincolnshire, in 1367.<sup>1</sup> His mother dying within two years after his birth, he was consigned to the care of his maternal great-aunt Blanch, the widow of Thomas lord Wake, under whose roof he passed the years of infancy.<sup>2</sup> We learn this fact from the household accounts; as also that his preceptor, in 1376, was William Montendre;<sup>3</sup> his chaplain, Hugh Herle;<sup>4</sup> and his chamberlain, sir Hugh Waterton.<sup>5</sup> In that year he seems to have been attached to the military service<sup>6</sup> of Richard his cousin,

HENRY  
EARL  
OF  
DERBY.

<sup>1</sup> Our authority for the date is an account of alms and oblations, from Michaelmas 1381 to the same feast in 1382, by which it appears that on Maunday Thursday, 3rd April in the latter year, the young prince washed the feet of fifteen poor persons at Hertford castle. Thirteen of these were provided and relieved at his father's charge; and Henry caused two more to be brought in order to assimilate the number to that of the years of his life. To these two he gave in alms 12*d.* each. The napkin with which he dried their feet is charged at 12*d.* An ell of cloth for an apron for the prince cost 13*d.*; and 10*d.* was paid for an ell of Brabant cloth for his esquire. The cloths are stated to have been given to the poor who were the objects of the ceremony.—*Comp. Hugonis de Waterton receptoris etc. dn'i Henrici comitis Derby in off. ducatus Lanc.*

<sup>2</sup> This fact is furnished by an account of the receiver for the Ho-

nour of Bolingbroke, from Michaelmas 1368 to the same feast in 1369, wherein there occurs a payment to the lady Wake of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for a year's allowance for the support of the young prince Henry and his servants, then under her charge and in her house, as authorized by a warrant from the duke of Lancaster, dated Savoy 31st Oct. 1368.—*Comp. Joh'is de Stafford, in off. duc. Lanc.*

<sup>3</sup> “*dn̄o Will<sup>mo</sup> Montendre magistro fil. dn̄i pro tot denar sibi assignat. p<sup>r</sup> viam prestiti—xxvii. xiii*s.* iiij*d.*.”—*Comp. Will de Burghbrigge generalis receptoris Joh'is regis Castel & Leg. a f<sup>o</sup>. S. Mich. 50 Ed. 3, ad. idem. fm. 1 Ric. 2.**

<sup>4</sup> “*dn̄o Hugoni Herle capell<sup>o</sup>. pro uno missale p<sup>r</sup> ipsum empt. ad opus dn̄i Henrici, vi*li*.”—*Comp. ut supra.**

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> “*Hugoni Waterton scutifero dn̄i ducis p<sup>r</sup> man. Willi. Oke sup. exp. Garderob. dn̄i Henrici de Lanc. existent. in comitiva dn̄i*

HENRY  
EARL  
OF  
DERBY.

then prince of Wales, with whom he received the honour of knighthood at Windsor, during the feast of St. George in 1377, and, at the same time, admission into the Order of the Garter.<sup>1</sup> In 1380 the duke of Lancaster obtained, by a grant from the crown,<sup>2</sup> the disposal in marriage of the king's ward, Mary de Bohun, the younger of the two daughters of Humphrey earl of Hereford; and, in due time, bestowed that richly-endowed heiress on his son.

On the departure of his father and of Constance of Castile for Spain, in 1386, the king and queen accompanied them to the coast;<sup>3</sup> and, on that occasion, the earl of Derby, who also proceeded to Plymouth to witness the embarkation, made on the 16th of June, his deposition in the Scrope and Grosvenor suit, on behalf of the plaintiff; in which he adverts to his youth, and mentions that he had been only a short time armed.<sup>4</sup> His character for prudence was, however, already so well established, as to induce his father, according to the testimony of Froissart, to intrust to him the control of his affairs during his absence.<sup>5</sup> In the same year he had summons to parliament by the title of earl of Derby,<sup>6</sup> which (under the limitations of the patent of 1337 to *the heirs* of the body of his maternal grandfather) had devolved to him on the death of Blanch his mother. The summons was repeated in 1387; but he does not appear to have taken his seat until the 3rd February 1387-8,<sup>7</sup> when he probably had completed his twenty-first year. He immediately joined the party of his uncle, the duke of Gloucester, against the king's favourites, and was one of the five lords appellants<sup>8</sup> through whose in-

Principis, p<sup>r</sup>l'ras dñi dat. ap. Savoye, x<sup>o</sup> Maij a<sup>o</sup> li<sup>mo</sup>. [Edw. III.]—xx<sup>li</sup>." — *Comp. W. de Burghbrige, ut supra*.

<sup>1</sup> See page 11. On this occasion the title of "Derby" seems to have been first ascribed to him; he having been until then called "Henry of Lancaster."

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Pat. 3 Ric. 2, p. 3, m. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Rapin. ed. 1749, tom. iii. p. 306.

<sup>4</sup> Scrope and Grosvenor roll, p. 49.

<sup>5</sup> Froiss. tom. x. p. 123.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Claus. *in dorso*, m. 45.

<sup>7</sup> Rot. Parl. 11 Ric. 2, vol. iii. p. 228.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* p. 229. He presented a robe to each of his colleagues on that occasion.—"Et lib<sup>r</sup>at. de dono dñi 4 baldekyns aur. de Cypr. camp. blod. duci Glouc. comitibus Arondell Warr. et Marescal. erga parliamentū Lond."—*Comp. Joh<sup>i</sup>s Dyndon cissor. robarum dñi Com. de Derby. 30 Sept. 11 Ric. 2, ad 30 Sept. 12 Ric. 2, in off. ducat Lanc.*

fluence judgments of treason were obtained against the archbishop of York, the duke of Ireland, the earl of Suffolk, and their adherents.<sup>1</sup> The king, however, after his release from the power of Gloucester in the year 1389, when he formed a new council, was induced to pardon the earl of Derby, whom he appears to have restored to his confidence.<sup>2</sup>

HENRY  
EARL  
OF  
DERBY.

The long duration of peace with France, partly from the unwarlike disposition of Richard as well as the exhaustion of his treasury by his excessive profusion, and partly from the embarrassed state of the French government during the malady of Charles VI, suggested a crusade against the pagans of Lithuania, as a vent for chivalrous enterprise; and, amongst other young adventurers, Derby determined on a voyage to "the land of barbarism" in pursuit of the same object. We find, by the accounts of his treasurer, that he embarked for that purpose at Hull on the 6th of May 1390, with a large retinue, and landed at or near Dantzic; from whence he marched into the interior of Prussia; and, with the aid of the grand-masters of Prussia and Livonia, and of a certain king Wytot, defeated the army of Skirgal, king of Lithuania, and captured or slew several of his chiefs and a multitude of his subjects.<sup>3</sup> Having committed vast ravages in this iniquitous warfare, little extenuated by the boasted conversion of eight pagans to Christianity, the earl returned to Hull on the 30th April 1391; having expended 4383*l.* on his useless expedition.<sup>4</sup>

In the parliament, which met on the 3rd November, Derby was appointed a trier of petitions.<sup>5</sup> But his appetite for foreign adventure having been stimulated by his recent excursion, he undertook, in the summer following, a journey to the Holy Sepulchre. He was attended on this occasion by sir Thomas Erpyngham (in the sequel a knight of this Order), by his chamberlain Waterton, by Lancaster and Mowbray

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 237.

<sup>2</sup> Lingard, vol. iv. p. 303.

<sup>3</sup> Wals. p. 377; Knyghton col. 2737.

<sup>4</sup> Comp. Ric'i Kingeston, Cl. Thesaur. dñi Henr. Comit. Derbie pro viagio suo ordinat. usque p'tes Barbar. et pro viagio suo eunt.

versus p'tes Pruc. eundo morando ib'm. et redeundo a vi Maii aº 13 Ric. 2, usq. ult. Apr. prox. sequen. aº 14º. per cclx dies. utroq. die comp. 4383*l.* 8s. 3½*d.*—*In off. ducat. Lanc.*

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 284.

HENRY  
EARL  
OF  
DERBY.

heralds, and a host of retainers, whose names and offices are recorded in the journal of his expenses. Embarking on the 16th July 1392, he landed once more near Dantzie, and proceeded through Prussia, and, by Francfort on the Oder, into Bohemia; thence to Vienna, and by Friuli to Venice, where he took shipping for Rhodes, from whence he sailed to Rama; and, after visiting Jerusalem, returned to Venice; and, by Piedmont, Savoy, and Burgundy, to Calais; having consumed an entire year, and spent 4915*l.* on this pilgrimage.<sup>1</sup>

On the 29th September 1397, the earl of Derby was created duke of Hereford.<sup>2</sup> Three days previously, the king had, in open parliament, acquitted him of any malicious participation in the proceedings of 1388, which it was now determined to annul.<sup>3</sup> The acts of that memorable year, and the several judgments of treason, were accordingly reversed by the parliament held at Shrewsbury on the 27th January following.<sup>4</sup> During this session Hereford reported, in presence of the king, a disclosure which he stated had been made to him by the duke of Norfolk, when riding together between Brentford and London, of Richard's intention to destroy them both, as well as the duke of Lancaster and other noblemen, notwithstanding the public assurances of safety which he had given to them.<sup>5</sup> Norfolk denied that any conversation to that effect had passed between them; and a committee, at the head of which was Lancaster himself, having investigated the relative circumstances, recommended that the matter in dispute should be decided by wager of battle. The duel, after several postponements, was fixed to take place at Coventry on the 16th of September 1398; and on that day the two noblemen entered the lists with all the splendid appurtenances of their high rank, demanded by the chivalrous customs of the age.<sup>6</sup> But, at the moment when the parties were advancing to the combat, the king threw down his warder; forbade

<sup>1</sup> Comp. Ric. Kyngeston Cl. Thes. guerre Henr. de Lanc. com. Derb. pro viaggio suo versus p'tes Proc. & Sci. Sep. a xvi Julii a<sup>o</sup> 16 Ric. 2, usq. 16 Julii, 17 Ric. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Cart. 21 Ric. 2, No. 23.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 353.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 357.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 360.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 383. Hall's Chron. p. 4, as cited by Sh. Turner, hist. of England, vol. ii. p. 297 note.

the battle; and concluded the singular proceeding by arbitrarily pronouncing upon both the litigants a sentence of exile from the kingdom.<sup>1</sup>

HENRY  
EARL  
OF  
DERBY

Norfolk was banished for life; a milder judgment passed upon his adversary; who, besides the advantage arising from his near relationship to the king, enjoyed the benefit of whatever influence still remained with his once powerful parent. Henry's exile was limited to the term of ten years, to commence from the 20th October, the day fixed for his departure from England: but four years of that period appear to have been remitted, previously to the commencement of his journey;<sup>2</sup> and he received the further indulgence of a grant of letters patent, securing to him the succession to any inheritance which might devolve to him during his absence, by authorising him to sue by his attorneys for the livery of his lands and allowing the postponement of his personal homage and fealty.<sup>3</sup> This concession, so evidently demanded by the peculiar circumstances of his case, was not even denied to his adversary; and its revocation formed, as is well known, the ostensible ground for the aggression which, soon afterwards, precipitated Richard from his throne.

Henry repaired to Paris, where, residing at the hôtel de Clisson, near the Temple,<sup>4</sup> amidst hospitable attentions from the French court, he must be supposed to have watched, with intense anxiety, the progress of events in England; the interest of which was in his mind greatly increased by his knowledge of the declining health of his aged parent.

The feeble restraint which the presence of John of Gant had imposed upon the king and his ministers, was soon removed by the death of that prince, which happened on the 3rd of February 1398-9; and they resolved to seize into the king's hands the rich possessions of the house of Lancaster. Accordingly, the grant to the duke of Hereford was formally revoked, and the inrolment cancelled,<sup>5</sup> upon a false representation of its invalidity made in parliament by the chancellor on the 18th of the following month; and the iniquity of this

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Parl. *ut supra*.

<sup>4</sup> Froiss. tom. xiv. p. 142.

<sup>2</sup> Froissart, tom. xiv. p. 119.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 384.

<sup>3</sup> Pat. dat. 8th October 1398, Rymer, vol. viii. p. 49.

HENRY  
EARL  
OF  
DERBY.

act of spoliation was aggravated by a vindictive prosecution of the agent<sup>1</sup> employed by the injured heir to sue out the patent.

Against these violent proceedings the now duke of Lancaster, doubtless, remonstrated; for it appears, by a record,<sup>2</sup> that he despatched, during the month of April, a special messenger from Paris to king Richard at Windsor.

In May the king departed on his expedition to Ireland; taking with him, apparently as a hostage, the young prince Henry, the first-born son of Lancaster.<sup>3</sup> In the mean time, a conspiracy was formed in England in favour of the exile; and, probably, with the intention, at least on the part of a few of its leading members, of effecting the important revolution in the government to which it eventually led. A communication with him was accordingly opened through the medium of Arundel, archbishop of Canterbury: and, having secretly repaired to Brittany, Henry embarked, in the beginning of July 1399, with that prelate and about eighty followers, among whom were not more than eighteen lances; and landed at Ravenspur, for the assertion of rights which, in his critical position, he could only have expected to maintain by a usurpation of the crown.

The issue of Henry of Lancaster by Mary Bohun, who died in 1394, wholly failed on the demise of his grandson, king Henry VI.

ARMS.<sup>4</sup>

France and England quarterly, over all a label of five points Azure, each point charged with three fleurs-de-lis.

BADGE.

Two ostrich feathers Argent.

<sup>1</sup> Henry Bowet, a priest, Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 385.

<sup>2</sup> —“Edmundo Bugge, armigero dñi, pro expensis suis venienti in nuncio Domini a civitate Parisii usque London, deinde usque Wyndesore ad Ricardum nuper regem Anglie, et redeundo usque predicam civitatem Parisii, per literam dñi de warranto dat. London, 28<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis A<sup>o</sup> 22<sup>o</sup> regis Ricardi, reman. int. warr. hujus compoti,

£3. 6s. 8d.”—*Treasurer's account in duchy of Lancaster office.*

<sup>3</sup> —“Henrico filio et heredi Henrici ducis Hereford in denar. sibi liberat. p<sup>r</sup> manus Petri Melbourne scutiferi C<sup>ii</sup>. pro viagio versus Hibern. in presenciam domini Regis.”—*Exit. Pell. Pasch. 22 Ric. 2.*

<sup>4</sup> Impression of his seal, as earl of Derby, amongst the records of the duchy of Lancaster office.