

## KNIGHTS OF THE ORDER

UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF RICHARD II.

## LXIV.

## SIR JOHN BURLEY.

THE family of Burle, or Burley, enjoyed, for a short space, so large a share of the favour of Richard II, or rather of his uncle John of Gant, that three of its members—John, Simon, and Richard—were, at the same period, Knights of the Garter.

SIR  
JOHN  
BURLEY.

The ancestors of these honoured individuals appear to have been settled, soon after the Norman conquest, upon an estate in Herefordshire from which they derived their surname, and to have been also considerable tenants, as well as benefactors, of the monks of Bordesley abbey in Worcestershire.<sup>1</sup>

Sir John Burley, the subject of this notice, is supposed, by Stowe,<sup>2</sup> Glover,<sup>3</sup> and Vincent,<sup>4</sup> who probably drew their information from a common unauthentic source, to have been *the father* of sir Simon Burley, and of a sir John who by Amicia Pembrugge left issue sir Richard Burley: upon a careful review, however, of the scattered evidences, which fail to prove who was the father of John and Simon, we have adopted the conclusion that the person now in question was *the brother*, and not the parent, of sir Simon Burley.

Our earliest trace of sir John Burley is, that in 1370, when he was already a knight, his conduct became an object of inquiry in order to ascertain how far he and sir Thomas de Barre (the husband of his wife's sister) had not prejudiced

<sup>1</sup> Madox Formul. Angl. *passim*.

<sup>2</sup> Historical and Topog. tracts, vol. ix. Harl. MS. 545, p. 128.

<sup>3</sup> Philipot's MS. N<sup>o</sup> 8.76, fo. 137, in Coll. Arm. That John was the heir male of the family, and consequently prior in birth

to Simon, may be inferred from the fact that his eldest son, sir Richard, died seised of the family inheritance of Burley, in 1387, in the lifetime of his uncle sir Simon.

<sup>4</sup> No. 134 in Coll. Arm. p. 135

SIR  
JOHN  
BURLEY.

the king by contracting a marriage between William, the son of Thomas Lucy, and Elizabeth the daughter of Barre.<sup>1</sup>

In the same year there is a record of a pension of 40*l.* which had been granted to him by Edward III. in reward of his services.<sup>2</sup> He was appointed, 30th October 1373, captain of Calais, and, jointly with John Geaux sire de Gomeney, captain and chief commander of all armed men within that town and the places adjacent.<sup>3</sup> More ample powers were granted to Burley in the year following;<sup>4</sup> and, 8th January 1374-5, he was united with John de Harleston, captain of Guisnes, and John de Shepeye, doctor of laws, in a commission to treat with the papal ambassadors for a peace with "our adversary of France"—Charles V. A truce was agreed upon; and the commissioners were appointed conservators thereof.<sup>5</sup>

On the succession of Richard II. to the Sovereignty, the duke of Lancaster was translated to the Prince's stall in St. George's chapel thereby vacant; and sir John Burley, knight of the king's chamber, was elected, in his room, to the seventh stall on the same side.<sup>6</sup> He had also, in 1377, a grant of the office of keeper of Sherwood forest.<sup>7</sup>

For these high rewards he was doubtless indebted to the then all-prevailing influence of Lancaster, whose well known hostility towards Alice Perrers, the late king's mistress, occasioned probably the production of Burley as an evidence against her at her trial.<sup>8</sup>

In 1378 he is mentioned by Froissart as being in Cherbourg with sir John de Harleston, who had the command of that fortress.<sup>9</sup> On 10th March 1378-9 he was sent as ambassador, together with the chancellor Michael de la Pole and the above John de Shepeye, then dean of Lincoln, to negotiate a marriage between the king and Katherine the

<sup>1</sup> Esc. 44 Ed. 3, No. 56. It was proved subsequently (esc. 48 Ed. 3, No. 47) that Burley had been legally authorised by the gift of Humphrey Bohun earl of Hereford, of whom Lucy held his lands.

<sup>2</sup> Issue roll exchequer, 44 Ed. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Franc. 47 Ed. 3, m. 6.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 48 Ed. 3, m. 8.

<sup>5</sup> Rymer, vol. vii. p. 51.

<sup>6</sup> Windsor Tables, in Ashmole's Appendix. This was the first instance of a translation to a higher stall.

<sup>7</sup> Pat. 1 Ric. 2, m. 3.

<sup>8</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 142.

<sup>9</sup> Froiss. (ed. Buchon), tom. vii. p. 188.

daughter of Barnabas lord of Milan;<sup>1</sup> which mission did not accomplish its object. It appears that, whilst on this embassy, or on their return towards England, the ambassadors were made prisoners; for, on 20th January following (1379–80), John Gavison and others were despatched, with instructions to embark at Dover or Sandwich, having under their charge certain monies for the ransom of Michael de la Pole the chancellor, John de Burle, and Gerard de l'Isle.<sup>2</sup>

SIR  
JOHN  
BURLEY.

In 1381 Burley returned from Brittany, where he had served under Thomas of Woodstock;<sup>3</sup> and is mentioned, as present in October 1382, when deputies from Ghent and other towns in Flanders were admitted to an audience of the king at Westminster.<sup>4</sup>

The last act, which we find recorded of sir John Burley, is a receipt into his own hands, on 22nd June 1383, of 200*l.*, the residue of 500 marks, which the king had ordered to be issued to him, in aid of his ransom, when a prisoner in Germany on the occasion beforementioned.<sup>5</sup>

The precise date and the place of the death of this knight have not been ascertained; but that event must have happened between the months of June and October 1383; for, at the latter date, the king's embroiderer had instructions to prepare a garter and robes for the earl of Nottingham, the successor to Burley's stall, to be used at the then ensuing feast of St. George.<sup>6</sup> His remains were interred in the church of the Black Friars at Hereford.<sup>7</sup>

By Amicia, his wife, the elder of the two sisters of sir Richard Pembrugge, knight of the Order, he had three sons and one daughter, viz. 1. Sir Richard Burley, also knight of the Order; 2. William Burley, who was heir to sir Richard, and died without issue in 1388;<sup>8</sup> 3. Roger Burley, who obtained, in 1398, restitution of the lands of his uncle sir Simon, as his heir.<sup>9</sup> The only daughter, Isabella, married sir John Hopton.

<sup>1</sup> Rymer, vol. vii. p. 213.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 232.

<sup>3</sup> Froiss. tom. vii. p. 430.

<sup>4</sup> Rymer, vol. vii. p. 367.

<sup>5</sup> Extracts from the issue rolls of the Exchequer, by F. Devon, 1837, p. 225.

<sup>6</sup> Compot. Al. de Stokes, cust. M. Gard. 7 Ric. 2, m. 15, in Queen's Remembrancer's office.

<sup>7</sup> Leland, Itin. vol. vi. p. 175<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Esc. 11 Ric. 2.

<sup>9</sup> Rot. claus. 22 Ric. 2, pars. 1, m. 18.

SIR  
JOHN  
BURLEY.

Roger Burley, the surviving son, had issue, by Lucy his wife, daughter of William Gilford and relict of sir Almaric Browne, sir John Burley, his son and heir, who attained considerable military distinction, and was, before the death of his grandfather, captain of Calais, by the description of "junior."<sup>1</sup> This person obtained, in 1406, the exemplification of a statute, whereby, as "son and heir of Roger de Burley, the cousin [nephew] and heir of sir Simon de Burley," he was enabled to inherit from any ancestor of sir Simon.<sup>2</sup> He died in 1428, leaving William Burley, his son and heir;<sup>3</sup> upon whose death without issue, in 1445, the manor of Burley and the other lands of the family devolved to Thomas Hopton as his cousin and next heir, viz. son and heir of sir Walter, the son and heir of John, the son and heir of Isabella the wife of sir John Hopton above-mentioned.<sup>4</sup>

The heir-general of sir Thomas Hopton, and consequently of the three Knights of the Garter of the family of Burley, is John Charles Wallop now earl of Portsmouth.

ARMS.

Barry of six Sable and Or, a chief of the last charged with two pallets Sable, on an inescutcheon Gules three bars Ermine.

LXV.

SIR LEWIS CLIFFORD.

SIR  
LEWIS  
CLIFFORD.

THE statements of Dugdale and other genealogists<sup>5</sup> respecting the parentage of this knight being all irreconcilable with his own declaration of his age in 1386,<sup>6</sup> we can only, in the absence of evidence from our public records, have re-

<sup>1</sup> Rymer, vol. vii. pp. 183<sup>b</sup>, 186.

<sup>2</sup> Pat. 8 Hen. 4, m. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Esc. 7 Hen. 6. No. 32.

<sup>4</sup> Esc. 24 Hen. 6.

<sup>5</sup> Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 341; Vincent, No. 402, fo. 5<sup>b</sup>; and Philipot's

"Anglesey," fo. 53, in Coll. Armor. These collectors differ from each other in regard to the filiation of sir Lewis Clifford, and are refuted by the dates cited in the text.

<sup>6</sup> Scrope and Grosvenor roll, p. 183.