

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."¹ 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.² He died in 1428, leaving William Burley, his son and heir;³ 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.⁴

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.

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THE statements of Dugdale and other genealogists⁵ respecting the parentage of this knight being all irreconcilable with his own declaration of his age in 1386,⁶ we can only, in the absence of evidence from our public records, have re-

¹ Rymer, vol. vii. pp. 183^b, 186.

² Pat. 8 Hen. 4, m. 6.

³ Esc. 7 Hen. 6. No. 32.

⁴ Esc. 24 Hen. 6.

⁵ Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 341; Vincent, No. 402, fo. 5^b; 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.

⁶ Scrope and Grosvenor roll, p. 183.

course to the testimony of Froissart, who, when relating that sir Lewis Clifford had the military custody of Carlisle in 1385, during the inroad of the combined troops of Scotland and France on the English border, describes him as "brother to the lord" Clifford.¹ Upon this assumption, he was a younger son of Robert lord Clifford by Isabel Berkeley, and brother to Roger lord Clifford, who was one of the chief officers in the king's grand expedition against Scotland in that year.²

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Lord Clifford and sir Lewis were both witnesses in the Scrope and Grosvenor suit. The former deposed,³ that his birth took place at the time of the battle of Berwick (or Haldon hill, fought on the 19th July 1333, an epoch memorable in his family, his father having been engaged in the action); the latter stated that he was, in 1386, fifty years old and upwards; and, consequently, born in or about 1336. Robert lord Clifford, the presumed parent of both, died in 1344.

The only other fact, bearing upon his personal history, which we obtain from the deposition of sir Lewis, is, that he was first armed "at the battle of St. George;" alluding, doubtless, to a chivalrous *fait d'armes*, achieved on Whit Monday 1352,⁴ near the fort of Ardres in Picardy, between two gallant bands under the respective orders of the sire de Beaujeu and sir John Beauchamp. Beaujeu, after alighting from his horse, and calling to his banner-bearer to go forward "in the name of God and of *Saint George*," endeavoured to leap over a ditch which separated him from his adversaries; but, his foot slipping, he fell into it, and was at the same moment mortally wounded by an English soldier. His followers, however, proved victorious in the encounter, although with the severe loss of their brave commander; and both Beauchamp and Clifford remained among the prisoners.

Our knight was probably exchanged in the course of the same year, together with sir John Beauchamp: but we find

¹ "Messire Louis Clifford frère au seigneur;" Froiss. (ed. Buchon), tom. ix. p. 150.

² Vincent, No. 29, p. 35.

³ Scrope and Grosvenor roll, p. 197.

⁴ Froissart, tom. iii. p. 40.

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no mention of his being employed until the 18th November 1357, when he appears to have had the custody, in conjunction with two other persons, of the fortalice and village of "Cruyk" in Normandy, then recently taken from the enemy, and was ordered to deliver it up to sir Thomas Holand;¹ who, about that time, obtained grants of several castles and forts in the duchy.

Sir Lewis Clifford served, in 1373, under the dukes of Lancaster and Brittany, in an expedition remarkable for little more than an unmolested march through France, from Calais to Bordeaux.² On the 7th June 1376 he was present at Westminster when the Black Prince published his will,³ and probably at Edward's lamented death on the day following. He seems, thenceforward, to have devoted himself to the service of the princess of Wales. In 1377, when the populace, excited by the clergy, threatened destruction to the duke of Lancaster and other favourers of Wycliff, our knight was sent by the princess, with sir Aubrey de Vere and sir Simon Burley, to appease their fury.⁴

Soon after the accession of Richard II. he was honoured with the Garter; succeeding to the vacancy in the twelfth stall⁵ on the Prince's side, occasioned by the surrender of the Order by the earl of Bedford; and robes were provided for him against the feasts in 1378, 1379, 1384, and from 1387 to 1390 inclusively.⁶

Clifford seems to have embraced, in the early part of that reign, if not previously, the religious tenets of the Wycliffites or Lollards; and to have accordingly drawn upon himself the indignant censure of contemporary chroniclers, who, from their monastic cells, regarded with horror the adoption of the growing heresy by persons of rank and condition. The fact, that two other knights, attendant on the king's mother, sir Richard Stury and sir Thomas Latymer, were also among the approvers of the new doctrines,⁷ would justify a suspicion that

¹ Rymer (new edition), vol. iii. p. 383.

² Froissart, tom. vi. p. 57.

³ Nichols' Royal Wills, p. 76.

⁴ Stowe, p. 274.

⁵ Windsor tables.

⁶ Wardrobe accounts in Queen's Remembrancer's office.

⁷ Knyghton, col. 2661.

the princess herself may have been a secret convert to them. On the 12th June 1385, two months before her death, she obtained a patent from her son excusing Clifford and those knights from serving, according to their feudal obligation, in the army then assembling to proceed with the king towards Scotland; and directing them to remain near her person "for her comfort and security in whatever part of the realm she might fix her residence."¹ Sir Lewis was, on the 7th August following, constituted one of the executors of her will;² and, after her decease, which happened on the same day, he hastened to the Scottish frontier, and was, as we have already stated, appointed to defend Carlisle against the invaders.

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The assertion of Froissart, that Clifford accompanied the duke of Lancaster to Spain in the summer of 1386,³ is rendered improbable by the fact that he was in the refectory of Westminster abbey on the 19th October in that year, under examination before sir John Derwentwater, in the Scrope and Grosvenor suit.⁴ In 1389 he was himself a commissioner to hear the appeal in that controversy.⁵ In 1390 he was one of the many eminent persons who, with the king and the dukes of Lancaster and Gloucester, addressed a letter to the pope complaining of the "horrible excesses" of the court of Rome in collating to ecclesiastical benefices of foreigners, subjects often of the deadly foes of England, who either consumed the church revenues whilst absent from their cures, or if resident on them, were ignorant of the language of their flocks.⁶ In 1392-3 he was appointed, by the description of "knight of the king's chamber," with Lancaster, Gloucester, and others, to treat with the dukes of Berry and Burgundy, on behalf of Charles VI, for a peace with France.⁷

The proceedings against the Lollards appear to have induced sir Lewis Clifford to secede from them about the year 1402; and he is said to have disclosed in confession the names of some distinguished adherents of the sect.⁸ In 1404 Henry IV.

¹ Rymer, vol. vii. p. 474.

² Nichols' Royal Wills, p. 80.

³ Froissart, tom. x. p. 353.

⁴ Deposition, ut supra.

⁵ Scrope and Grosvenor roll, p. 354.

⁶ Rymer, vol. vii. p. 672.

⁷ Ibid. p. 739.

⁸ Wals. p. 409.

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revoked the grant of the manor of Ryseburgh, which had been made to him for life by his predecessor.¹

On the 19th September in that year he was induced, apparently as an act of contrition, to make a will,² couched in abject and disgusting language, wholly unworthy of him and of the high station which he had filled. It was probably extorted from him by his priests when sinking under the weight of bodily and mental infirmity. He died before the 5th of December following, the date of the probate, at the age of about eighty.

Sir Lewis Clifford is said to have married Eleanor, the daughter of John lord la Warre;³ and, according to another authority,⁴ Juliana the daughter and heir of John Eggesfield. We have seen no satisfactory evidence on that point, or in proof of the pedigrees by which descendants in the male line are deduced from him.⁵ It is clear that he had a daughter, Elizabeth, who, at the time of his decease, was the wife of sir Philip de la Vache, afterwards a knight of this Order, and who is now represented by Eleanor marchioness of Westminster, daughter and heir of Thomas Egerton earl of Wilton.

ARMS.

Chequé Or and Azure, a fess Gules, within a bordure of the last.

LXVI.

BERMOND ARNAUD DE PREISSAC, SOUDAN
DE LA TRAU.

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THE family of Preissac was of considerable antiquity in Gascony; for the French genealogists place Guillaume Loup de Preissac amongst the nobles of that province so early as 1030.⁶ The fifth in descent from that individual was Arnaud

¹ Rot. Pat. 5 Hen. 4, p. 2, m. 15.

² Reg. Marche qu. 7, in Cur. Prer. Cant. It is copied at length in Dugdale, Bar. vol. i. p. 341, and has been very often printed.

³ Collins, Peer. ed. 1779, vol. vii. p. 157.

⁴ Philipot's "Anglesey," fo. 53, in Coll. Arm.

⁵ Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 335.

⁶ Généalogie de la maison de Preissac, tirée du Nobiliaire historique de la province de Languedoc, par Gastelier de la Tour. Paris,