

SIR
LEWIS
CLIFFORD.

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,

Bernard de Preissac, great-grandfather of the heroic Knight of the Garter, and the first of his race who bore the title of SOUDAN¹ of the castle of LA TRAU, (situate in the diocese of Bazas, in that part of Guienne which acknowledged the English dominion,) and transmitted the dignity, as annexed to that fief, to his posterity. Arnaud was appointed by king Edward I, in 1288, high-bailiff of Lomagne;² and, dying before 1310, left, by Vitalle de Gouth, his wife, the sister of pope Clement V, and of Arnaud Garsia de Gouth, vicomte de Lomagne, a son, bearing his names and title, who was retained by Edward II. as of his council and household.³ He was also designated seigneur de Didonne; and, by Rose d'Albret, his wife, daughter of Eyquem Guilhem and sister of Senebrun d'Albret, lords de l'Esparre, had issue Arnaud Bertrand de Preissac, Soudan de Preissac and La Trau, whose firm adherence to the cause of England induced king John to deprive him (though, as it would seem, not effectively,) of his castle and lands of Didonne, and to grant them, in 1350, to Fouques de Matha.⁴ Soudan Arnaud Bertrand⁵ married Regine de Pommiers,⁶ dame de Sancats et Sivrac; and their gallant son is the subject of this brief memoir.

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1770, in 4^o. The name occurs in a record temp. Joh. see Rymer, vol. i. p. 116; and again, vol. ii. p. 398.

¹ The title "Le Soudan" (Soldanus, Sultan, *i. e.* governor), was probably introduced into western Europe at the period of the Crusades. (*Bibl. Orient. d'Herbelot*, p. 825.) "Soldanus Curie," being an officer in the papal household, answering to that of governor or marshal of the court (*Ceremoniale Roman.* 1560, p. 17), it is highly probable that Clement V, who built the castle of La Trau (*Chronique Bourdeloise, par Lurbe*, p. 25), gave the title of Soudan to his brother-in-law Preissac, on appointing him captain or governor of it. Froissart and others write the title *Sandic, Souldic*, &c. Ferron, in his work on the customs of Bordeaux, gives to these dignitaries the rank of counts. Buchon, in a note to his edition of Froissart, tom. vii. p. 34, sup-

poses that there were *two* Souldics—de l'Estrade and de la Trau; but wherever those names occur the chronicler alluded more probably to our knight or his father.

² Rot. Vasc. 17 Ed. 1, p. 2, m. 20.

³ Rymer, vol. iii. pp. 530. 572. 586, &c.

⁴ De la Tour, *ut supra*.

⁵ See Appendix, No. XII, for copy of an original deed, dated 1340, of the Soudan de Preissac, the father.

⁶ Anstis, in his pedigree of the Soudan, (vol. i. p. 164,) appears (according to the tenour of the petition of Agnes de Courton, which he cites,) to have omitted the generation supplied by de la Tour. The maternal family of our knight was also highly distinguished. Three knights of the name of Pommiers were amongst the companions in arms of the Soudan.

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The Soudan de la Trau was, together with other eminent Gascon chiefs, on the side of England, at the battle of Poitiers in 1356;¹ and amongst those whom the Black Prince assembled to receive his thanks upon his departure with his royal prisoner.² He attended the prince on that memorable occasion to England; and was one of the conservators of the truce agreed upon in the year following.³

Several of the Gascon captains, who had espoused the English interests at Poitiers, took part, in 1364, with the duke of Normandy against the king of Navarre; and amongst them we find the Soudan,⁴ who was severely wounded at the battle of Cocherel, on the 24th May in that year, when the captal de Buch was made prisoner.⁵ In 1367 the Soudan followed the Black Prince in his Spanish expedition, and shared the honours of victory at Najara.⁶ In 1369 king Edward granted "a notre chier et feal chevalier le Soudan de la Trau," and to his heirs a place called Talement sur Gonde in Xaintonge, to hold until the recovery of his own inheritance, secured on the petty customs of Royan.⁷ In the same year he was gallantly engaged, under sir John Chandos, at Montauban, in the defence of the marches and frontier against the French.⁸ In 1370 the Soudan was on the staff of the prince of Wales at the siege and taking of Limoges; and, in the year following, at the siege of Montpaon and other places, under the duke of Lancaster.⁹ On the 24th February 1371 prince Edward granted "a nostre bien-amé le Soudain de la Trau," the bailiwick of Marampne for life, "in consideration of the painful diligence and travail which his said faithful knight had performed to him in his wars."¹⁰ In 1372 he was one of the captains in Rochelle.¹¹ In 1376 he is named immediately after the seneschal of Aquitaine in the treaty for observing the truce made with the king of Castile;¹² and, in the next year, the king confirms to him the grant of Marampne.¹³ Soon afterwards the Soudan was commanded by Richard II. to

¹ Froissart, tom. iii. p. 197.

² Ibid. p. 264.

³ Rymer, vol. vi. p. 7.

⁴ Froissart, tom. iv. p. 200.

⁵ Ibid. p. 214.

⁶ Ibid. pp. 363. 409.

⁷ Rymer, vol. vi. p. 612.

⁸ Froissart, tom. v. p. 30.

⁹ Froissart, tom. v. pp. 208. 239.

¹⁰ Rymer, vol. vi. p. 683.

¹¹ Froissart, tom. v. pp. 284. 292.

¹² Rymer, vol. vii. p. 107.

¹³ Rot. Vasc. 51 Ed. 3, n. 8.

obey the orders of John lord Nevil, his lieutenant in Aquitaine;¹ and he defended valiantly the citadel of Mortagne sur mer in Xaintonge against the forces of the duke of Anjou, which were sent against that place under Evan of Wales.² The siege was continued during one year and a half; within which period (in 1378) Evan of Wales was assassinated by his own servant Jacques Lambe, who, having entered the citadel, and informed the Soudan of his treacherous act, narrowly escaped suffering the just punishment which the indignant Soudan would have inflicted for so heinous a crime.³ After his relief by lord Nevil, the Soudan received a pecuniary gift from king Edward in reward of his great exertions in the defence of Mortagne;⁴ and, upon the death of sir Thomas Banastre, towards the close of 1379, his brave conduct was further acknowledged by his admission into the Order of the Garter. In 1380 the king confirmed to the "Soudan de Preissac, lord of Didonne," the father, and to the Soudan, his eldest son, the grants, made by the Black Prince, of Montandre and Marampne, for the services of the latter at the siege of Montpaon.⁵

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The Soudan, described as a banneret, served in Portugal and Spain, under the earl of Cambridge, in 1381, with one hundred men-at-arms and the like number of archers.⁶ We are informed that, on his passage to Lisbon, he was separated from his company in a violent storm, and supposed to have been lost; but that, after forty days, he arrived in that city at the moment when his friends were performing an obsequy for him in mourning habits. He was present at the taking of Figueras from the Spaniards, and sent to the king of Castile to desire the appointment of time and place for battle. A truce being, however, established, jousts were held in celebration of it; when Miles de Windsor received the honour of knighthood at the hands of the Soudan, as of the most valiant and experienced knight then on the spot.⁷

¹ Rymer, vol. vii. p. 198.

² Froissart, tom. vii. p. 34.

³ Ibid. p. 108.

⁴ Rymer, vol. vii. p. 328.

⁵ See the instrument at length in Anstis, vol. i. p. 162 *note l.* It is docquetted "*pro Soldano de la*

Traue Chivaler," which establishes the identity with *Preissac*.

⁶ Indent. in off. Pell.; and Froissart, tom. viii. p. 10.

⁷ Anstis, vol. i. p. 160, who cites Froissart (old edition), vol. ii. p. 121, &c.

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He received robes of the Order of the Garter against the feast of St. George in 1384; and, in the same year, he had a grant to hold a weekly fair within his territory of Darbenatz in Aquitaine.¹

We have not met with the date of the death of this hero, which, however, must have happened (unless he had been deprived of the Order, of which there is no evidence) before the 23rd of April 1386, when the marquess of Dublin, whom we presume to have been his immediate successor in the thirteenth stall on the Prince's side, was provided with robes to attend the feast of the Order.² At the same time we can only account for the fact mentioned by Anstis, that a Soudan de la Trau was named as one of the conservators of the several truces made between 1388 and 1394,³ upon a supposition that the office of governor of La Trau may have been temporarily filled by a younger brother or kinsman of our knight, until it devolved (upon the marriage of his daughter in 1408) to the family of Montferrant.

The Soudan married Marguerite, daughter and heir of Jean de Stratton, sire de Landiras and constable of Bordeaux. By her (who survived him and married Pons de Castillon chevalier) he had an only child, Isabel de Preissac, dame de la Trau, who became the wife of Bernard de Montferrant,⁴ and transmitted the family inheritance and the office or dignity of Soudan to her descendants.

ARMS.⁵

Or, a lion rampant Gules.

CREST.

A man's head with asses ears.

¹ Rot. Vasc. 8 Ric. 2, m. 10, July 26th; Rymer, vol. vii. p. 436.

² Wardrobe account, 7 Ric. 2, in Queen's Remembrancer's office, containing issues against the feast of 23rd April 1384, in which account the name of the Soudan appears; and we know, from the Windsor tables, that he occupied the thirteenth stall on the Prince's side. In the issues for the feast, 23rd April 1388, the Soudan's name is wanting; but that of sir Henry Percy first appears; and, as all the

other stalls were then filled, the conclusion is, that upon the removal of the duke of Ireland by attainder, or during the process of his impeachment, which commenced on the 3rd February 1387-8, and terminated on the 12th May 1388, Hotspur succeeded to that stall.

³ Rymer, vol. vii. pp. 598. 786.

⁴ De la Tour; but called *Peter* by Anstis.

⁵ Plate still remaining in the stall which this knight occupied.

The following seal is copied from that appendent to an original instrument, dated 26th December 1368, remaining among the Clairambault collections, vol. 45, fo. 3391, in the royal library at Paris; whereby the Soudan de la Trau attests the receipt of 583 fr. 6s. 8*d.*, the balance of 1166 fr. 13s. 4*d.*, due to him out of the levy for the ransom of the late king John.

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LXVII.

THOMAS PLANTAGENET (OF WOODSTOCK),
EARL OF BUCKINGHAM AND ESSEX, DUKE
OF GLOUCESTER.

THIS prince, the sixth and youngest son of Edward III, was born on the 7th of January 1355-6.¹ There is no evidence that he was armed at the customary age: when he arrived at that period, the English laurels had lost their freshness, and the infirmities of the Sovereign had imparted a languor to that brave chivalry by whose means he had achieved so many victories.

THOMAS
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OF
GLOU-
CESTER.

In 1374 Thomas of Woodstock was affianced to Eleanor Bohun, the elder of the two co-heiresses of Humphrey earl of

¹ Wals. p. 163.