

was empowered, with others, to negotiate a peace with Scotland.¹ We have already alluded to his evidence in the Scrope and Grosvenor controversy; and shall only add that he was a commissioner for the examination of witnesses in that suit,² and present at Westminster when sentence was pronounced thereon in May 1390.³

Sir Bryan Stapleton died, full of years and honour, at his estate of Wighill, (which he had inherited from his maternal grandfather,) on the 25th July 1394;⁴ and his remains were interred in Helagh priory in Yorkshire.⁵ He had married Alice, daughter and co-heir of sir John St. Philibert, by whom he left issue two sons, sir Bryan and sir Miles, both eminent commanders. From the eldest descended, in a direct line, sir Miles Stapleton, of Carlton, bart., whose sister and eventually sole heiress, Anne, married Mark Errington, esq. Their son, Nicholas Errington, upon succeeding to the estates of his maternal uncle, assumed the surname and arms of Stapleton: and his great-grandson, Thomas Stapleton, esq. now of Carlton hall in Yorkshire, is the present representative of sir Bryan Stapleton.

SIR
BRYAN
STAPLETON.

ARMS.

Argent, a lion rampant Sable.

CREST.

A Saracen's head in profile, Sable, wreathed about the temples.

LXXII.

SIR RICHARD BURLEY.

SIR RICHARD BURLEY was the eldest son and heir of sir John Burley, knight of the Order, by Amicia, the elder of the two sisters of sir Richard Pembrugge, also knight of the

SIR
RICHARD
BURLEY.

¹ Rot. Scoc. 11 Ric. 2, m. 2. March 26.

² Scrope and Grosvenor roll, p. 40.

³ Ibid. p. 351.

⁴ Esc. 18 Ric. 2, No. 36.

⁵ Leland's Itin. ed. 1770, vol. i. p. 46.

SIR
RICHARD
BURLEY.

Order; at whose death, and that of his only son Henry Pembrugge in 1375, he inherited a moiety of his maternal uncle's lands. It was found by the inquisition of that date, that he was twenty-six years of age; but it must be inferred that he was then some years older, from the circumstance if truly stated, that, at the battle of Auray in Brittany, on Michaelmas day 1364,¹ Chandos intrusted the command of the van to him, in conjunction with sir Robert Knolles and sir Walter Hewett.² Our knight is stated to have distinguished himself on other occasions during the same campaign; and particularly in the memorable battle in which the constable Du Guesclin was made prisoner, and Charles de Blois slain.³ The next mention which we find of him occurs in 1379, when he received letters of protection to pass into Brittany.⁴ Early in 1382 he was elected into the Order of the Garter, and placed in the fourth stall on the Prince's side, vacant by the death of the earl of Suffolk, 15th December 1381.⁵ In 1386 he had letters of protection to proceed into Gascony in the company of John of Gant, then styled king of Castile and Leon;⁶ and Froissart, after describing him as one of the most renowned commanders of the host, next to the constable sir Thomas Moriaux, (whom he frequently relieved in the discharge of his important functions,) affirms, although without adverting to the dates, that, whilst engaged in the operations of the army in Galicia, the mournful intelligence reached him of the violent death of his uncle, sir Simon Burley.⁷ The fact, however, is, that, about a year before that event, sir Richard Burley, exhausted by the disease which had almost destroyed the English army in Spain on that disastrous expedition, retired, under a convention with the enemy, together with other officers, for the recovery of his health, into the town of Vilhalpando,⁸ in the province of Leon, where, after lingering some time, he expired on the 23rd of May 1387.⁹

¹ Chron. de France, tom. iii. chap. 2.

² Froissart, tom. iv. p. 249.

³ Ibid. pp. 259. 266.

⁴ Rot. Vasc. 3 Ric. 2, m. 22.

⁵ It appears by the account of Al. de Stokes, 7 Ric. 2, in Queen's Remembrancer's office, that robes

of the Order were prepared for him against St. George's feast in 1384.

⁶ Rot. Vasc. 9 Ric. 2, m. 2.

⁷ Froissart, tom. xi. p. 26.

⁸ Called "Ville Arpent" by Froissart.

⁹ Froissart, tom. xi. p. 101; and Esc. 11 Ric. 2, No. 5.

By Beatrice, his wife, daughter of Ralph earl of Stafford, (one of the Founders of the Order,) and relict, first, of Maurice, son of Maurice Fitz Thomas earl of Desmond, and, secondly, of Thomas lord Roos of Hamlake,¹ he had no issue; and his estates devolved on his brother and heir, William Burley, who also dying without issue, they passed to the next and youngest brother, Roger Burley.²

SIR
RICHARD
BURLEY.

In the north aisle of St. Paul's cathedral there was extant, before the fire of 1666, a splendid tomb,³ which was supposed to contain the remains of sir Simon Burley; as the inscription on a tablet affixed to the wall, above the monument, purported to record that fact. It must, however, notwithstanding such authority, be assumed that the tomb in question had been erected in honour of sir Richard Burley, either by the direction of his widow Beatrice, or to their memory after her death in 1414.⁴

It appears also that, in 1408, Beatrice had obtained a royal licence to found a chantry in the cathedral for the repose of the souls of Richard de Burley, knight, of his father and mother, of Richard de Pembrugge, knight, of sir Thomas de Roos of Hamlake, and the parents of the said Thomas; for which she assigned an annual rent of twelve marks issuing out of certain messuages in London.⁵ The tablet was probably affixed at a much later period, as the author of the inscription seems to have been wholly uninformed respecting the history of the family, and to have concluded, from a mistaken view of the armorial bearings, that the knight commemorated had intermarried with ladies of the families of Stafford and Roos.

The cumbent effigy of sir Richard Burley on the tomb is decorated with a collar of SS. being the livery of Henry IV,⁶

¹ Dugdale's baronage, vol. i. p. 161.

² For the descendants of Roger Burley see p. 260.

³ Engraving of the tomb and copy of the inscription in Dugdale's St. Paul's, p. 105.

⁴ The tomb was decorated with four escocheons: one of the plain

arms of Burley; two of those of Burley, impaling Stafford; and the fourth Stafford, impaling, on the dexter, Roos, and, on the sinister, Burley.

⁵ Dugdale's St. Paul's, p. 42.

⁶ Notices relating to the Collar of SS. in the Retrospective Review, new series, vol. ii. p. 500.

SIR
RICHARD
BURLEY.

to whose house the Burleys had been, in a great measure, indebted for the high distinction which they enjoyed.

ARMS
as before.¹

LXXIII.

THOMAS MOWBRAY EARL OF NOTTINGHAM,
EARL MARSHAL, DUKE OF NORFOLK.

THOMAS
DUKE
OF
NORFOLK.

THIS knight was the second son of John lord Mowbray of Axholme, by Elizabeth daughter of John lord Segrave, by Margaret Plantagenet,² the sole issue of Thomas of Brotherton, earl of Norfolk and marshal of England, the second son of Edward I.

His elder brother, John lord Mowbray, who had been created earl of Nottingham, dying a minor, and without issue, on the 11th of February 1382-3,³ he succeeded, at the age of seventeen, to the large estates of the family; and was, on the day following,⁴ also created earl of Nottingham. Of equal age with the young king, and his cousin in the third degree, he seems to have been early a favourite of that Sovereign; for in the same year, upon the death of sir John Burley, he was admitted into the Order of the Garter.⁵

According to the customary disposal, at that period, of wards of the crown, Mowbray was, during his boyhood, married or affianced to Elizabeth le Strange, the daughter and heir of the deceased John lord Strange of Blackmere; but she died, in her ninth year, on the 23rd of August 1383.⁶ In 1384 he entered the army, and was in the retinue of the earl

¹ Page 289.

² Margaret, countess of Norfolk in her own right, was created duchess of Norfolk, for life, 29th Sept. 1397. She had married, secondly, sir Walter Manny, K.G., and died in 1399.

³ Esc. 6 Ric. 2, No. 58.

⁴ Cart. 6 Ric. 2, Feb. 12, No. 6.

⁵ The earl of Nottingham had robes of the Order in 1384.—See p. 247.

⁶ Esc. 49 Ed. 3, No. 8. p. m. Joh. le Strange; and 7 Ric. 2, No. 60, after her death.