

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.

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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.

of Northumberland when he invaded Scotland.¹ He attended the king, in the next year, on the grand expedition against that kingdom.² About this time³ he married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Fitzalan earl of Arundel, admiral of England, and relict of William de Montacute; and, in the spring of 1386-7, accompanied his father-in-law to sea, in order to oppose the combined fleets of France, Spain, and Flanders; which powers, encouraged by the absence of Lancaster in Spain with the flower of the English army, meditated an invasion of our shores.⁴ In an engagement on the 24th of March, Arundel defeated the enemy; and nearly one hundred great and small vessels, many of them laden with wines and other merchandize, are said to have been captured and brought into Orwell.⁵ The fleet then proceeded to the Breton coast; and, after taking possession of Brest,⁶ Arundel and Nottingham returned to England.

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They found Gloucester contending for supremacy in the cabinet with the chancellor Pole earl of Suffolk, and Vere duke of Ireland: and, at a secret meeting at Haringhey [Hornsey] park, with the duke and the earls of Derby and Warwick, a plan was concerted for driving the king's minions from his councils. Having, by unjust and sanguinary means, accomplished that object, the five confederates acquired for a time a paramount influence in the state; and carried their contempt of public opinion so far as to appropriate to themselves, by a vote of the subservient parliament, twenty thousand pounds out of the supplies.⁷

Mowbray had been, shortly before these events, appointed to the high office of marshal for the term of his life;⁸ and ambition led him to abandon a falling party, as soon as the king, after the return of Lancaster from Spain, in 1389, had recovered, or rather first assumed, his authority. His defection was rewarded with the government of Berwick and a military command against the Scots who had made a foray

¹ Froissart, tom. ix. p. 20.

² Ibid. p. 136.

³ Their eldest son, Thomas, was born in or about 1386.—*Esc. 6 Hen. 4, No. 44.*

⁴ Wals. p. 355.

⁵ Ibid. p. 356.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 245.

⁸ Pat. 9 Ric. 2, p. 1, m. 38.

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into Northumberland.¹ In 1390 the earl was appointed captain of Calais for the term of five years;² subsequently, that term was extended, and he was constituted the king's lieutenant in Picardy, Flanders, and Artois.³ In 1394 he attended the king to Ireland.⁴ In 1396 he was joined in a commission to negotiate a marriage between the king and Isabel of France.⁵ In the same year he obtained a charter confirming to him the office of earl marshal, with reversion to the heirs male of his body.⁶

The conduct thenceforward of this young nobleman (for his age scarcely exceeded thirty years) exhibits him in the most odious light. Unrestrained by an ordinary sense of honour, and devoid even of the common feelings of humanity, he became the criminal instrument of Richard's unnatural revenge against his uncle, as well as against Arundel and Warwick, for acts in which Mowbray himself had as fully participated as those individuals. He joined in the appeal of 1397,⁷ designed not only to set aside the enactments of 1388, but to deprive three of his own associates, in the conspiracy which had produced them, of life or liberty, and by the forfeiture of their estates to consign their families to ruin. Having abetted the king in the treacherous arrest of the duke of Gloucester, he blushed not to accept the office of his gaoler; and, amid the prison's gloom, to superintend his murder.

As if the measure of Mowbray's guilt had not been full, the chroniclers assure us that, within the same month in which this crime was committed, he accompanied the king and the earl of Kent to the scaffold of Arundel; who, on observing

¹ Wals. p. 368.

² Rot. Franc. 14 Ric. 2, m. 3.

³ Ibid. 16 Ric. 2, m. 11.

⁴ Wals. p. 388.

⁵ Pat. 20 Ric. 2, p. 2, m. 14. The original instruments relating to this contract with the appendant seals, in a beautiful state of preservation, are in the Trésor des Chartes at the hôtel de Soubise in Paris, Carton I, 643-4.

⁶ Cart. 20 Ric. 2, No. 3. He was authorised by this charter to carry,

as earl marshal, a golden truncheon, enamelled with black at each end, having at the upper end of it the royal arms, and at the lower end his own arms, engraven thereon.

⁷ Dugdale, when referring, in his baronage, vol. i. p. 129, col. 1, lines 14 to 21, to the council held at Nottingham, at which this appeal was agreed to be made, has strangely misquoted Walsingham, p. 392, No. 20.

his grandson and son-in-law amongst the witnesses of his approaching death, is said to have reprimanded them for their want of feeling, and to have foretold the speedy retribution which awaited them.¹

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Before the expiration of that month of horrors, the earl marshal received the reward of his baseness—the dukedom of Norfolk,² and a grant of all the forfeited lands of the earl of Arundel, with a large portion of those of the earl of Warwick.³

But a just punishment quickly followed his atrocious conduct. The king, anxious to remove from his sight the now detested partner of his guilt, availed himself of a quarrel which had arisen between him and the duke of Hereford, and which was to have been settled by a duel at Coventry, to exile both parties from the realm.⁴ The lands of Mowbray were escheated to the crown; and, after having been imprisoned a few months at Windsor, he was allowed to transport himself with forty persons of his retinue from any port betwixt Orwell and Scarborough; and to go into Germany, Bohemia, and Hungary, with such personal effects as he should think fit to carry with him.⁵ A pilgrimage to Jerusalem was, in those days, commonly prescribed, either as a penance, or as the means of averting the judgments of heaven. By the route assigned to Mowbray in his banishment, it was clearly intended that he should conform to this custom.⁶ He died of the pesti-

¹ Wals. p. 393; Froissart, tom. xiv. p. 82. The latter says that the earl marshal bound up the eyes of Arundel and performed the execution, *i. e.* caused it to be done, in virtue of his office; and that the awful scene took place in Cheapside, London. But these are, doubtless, errors. It appears by a record of Parliament (*Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 377*) that, on the 21st September, the sentence was pronounced against Arundel, and immediately carried into effect on Tower-hill by the lord Morley, lieutenant of the marshal of England. The absence of Mowbray may be inferred from this circumstance,

and also from a writ on the same day directed to him, as captain of Calais, requiring him to bring the duke of Gloucester to answer the appeal in person; to which, three days afterwards, he returned for answer that the duke had died in prison whilst under his custody.

² 29th Sept. 1397. *Cart. 21 Ric. 2, No. 23. Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 355.*

³ *Cart. 21 Ric. 2, Sept. 28, No. 23.*

⁴ See pp. 240, 241.

⁵ *Rot. Franc. 22 Ric. 2, m. 12.*

⁶ *Pat. 22 Ric. 2, p. 1, m. 8.*

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lence at Venice, on his return from Palestine, on the 22nd of September 1399.¹

By Elizabeth Fitzalan (who married, thirdly, sir Gerard de Ufflete, and, fourthly, sir Robert Goushill, and died 8th July 1425) he left two sons and two daughters. Thomas Mowbray, the eldest son, succeeded as earl marshal; but, taking part with archbishop Scrope, he was beheaded at York in June 1405, at the age of nineteen, leaving by Constance Holand his wife no issue. John, the second son of our knight, was restored to the dukedom of Norfolk; and his line became extinct on the death of his great-granddaughter Anne, who was affianced to Richard duke of York, the second son of king Edward IV.

The daughters of Thomas duke of Norfolk and Elizabeth Fitzalan were—

1. Margaret, who married sir Robert Howard, and is now represented, in the male line, by Bernard-Edward duke of Norfolk, K.G. earl marshal; and, as heirs-general, by William-Francis-Henry lord Petre and William lord Stourton.

2. Isabel, who married sir James Berkeley, and whose present representative is Thomas-Morton-Fitzhardinge earl of Berkeley.

ARMS.

Gules, a lion rampant, Argent.

CREST.

A leopard Or, gorged with a coronet Argent.²

¹ Esc. 1 Hen. 4, No. 71; Wals. p. 403. A pension had been settled on him, payable out of the exchequer, and the following entry appears on the issue roll of Michaelmas term, 1 Hen. 4,—“Executoribus testamenti Thome nuper Comitis Notyngham pro debitis ipsius nuper comitis *apud Venys* et alibi in partibus transmarinis, M^{li}.” Among the debts, incurred by the duke at Venice, was a sum of 750 ducats, advanced by Antonio Bembo, knt. and Giov. Cane, for the expenses of his voyage towards the holy sepulchre. See letters, claim-

ing the re-payment, from the doge Michael Steno and the said Bembo to king Henry IV, dated 1 May 1404, in Cotton. MS. Nero, B. vii. fo: 5 & 6.

² The patent, 17 Ric. 2, p. 1, acknowledges his just and hereditary title to bear for his crest *a golden leopard with a white label*, (the crest of Thomas of Woodstock,) and grants the *coronet* instead of the *label*, upon the ground that the latter would appertain to the king's eldest son, if he had any.