

## LXXXIV.

## JOHN, SECOND LORD BOURCHIER.

ALTHOUGH the election of sir John Bouchier into the Order did not take place until towards the close of the year 1392, and a late period of his life, he had proved himself a gallant associate of the heroes who sustained the glory of the preceding reign. He began his career under favourable auspices; being son to Robert lord Bouchier, in whom the qualities of warrior, statesman, and negotiator were, in an eminent degree, united.<sup>1</sup> We find our knight first mentioned in a public record in 1355, when he followed the Black Prince into Gascony;<sup>2</sup> His name occurs again, in 1364,<sup>3</sup> amongst the distinguished combatants at the decisive battle of Auray, which restored the duke of Brittany to his inheritance.<sup>4</sup> His services were also in requisition in 1369;<sup>5</sup> and, in the following year, he and sir Alan Buxhull and sir Thomas Granson were associated in a royal commission as of council to sir Robert Knolles, the king's lieutenant in France.<sup>6</sup> He was further employed in that kingdom in 1375,<sup>7</sup> and 1377.<sup>8</sup>

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In December 1379 Bouchier sailed from Southampton in the fleet, intended to convey a reinforcement to the Breton army, and commanded by sir John Arundel; and he narrowly escaped the disastrous fate of that person, sir Thomas Banastre, and many others.<sup>9</sup> He accompanied, with the rank of

Borselen, and, in the following year, compelled the princess to make a final cession of her states in his own favour. Thus reduced to a private condition, she retired to the castle of Teilingen, where she closed her eventful life on the 8th of October 1436, at the age of thirty-six. Her remains were interred at the Hague. Borselen was restored to liberty, created count of Ostrevant, and invested by Philip with his Order of the Fleece. He lived until 1470.

<sup>1</sup> The elder Bouchier had filled

the high offices of Justiciary of Ireland and chancellor of England; distinguished himself at the battle of Cressy; and been twice employed as ambassador to treat with France.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Vasc. 29 Ed. 3, m. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 38 Ed. 3, m. 4.

<sup>4</sup> Froiss. tom. vi. pp. 259. 266.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Vasc. 43 Ed. 3, m. 7.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Franc. 44 Ed. 3, m. 14.  
July 8. Froiss. tom. v. p. 194.

<sup>7</sup> Rot. Franc. 49 Ed. 3, m. 25.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. 51 Ed. 3, m. 3.

<sup>9</sup> Froiss. tom. vii. p. 280.

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banneret, Thomas of Woodstock to France in 1380;<sup>1</sup> and, after his return, was summoned to parliament among the barons on the 16th July 1381.

Richard II. having, upon the decease of Lewis count of Flanders, in 1384, been solicited by the Flemings to assert his right to homage for that territory as lord paramount in respect of his title to the French crown, lord Bourchier was selected to fill the high office of "Ruard," or guardian, and governor in chief of Flanders,<sup>2</sup> and sent thither with a considerable force.<sup>3</sup> He exercised his high functions at Ghent during a year and a half;<sup>4</sup> but the principal inhabitants of that city having, in 1385, resolved to submit themselves to the duke of Burgundy, the country was evacuated by the English troops.<sup>5</sup> In that year he was appointed to superintend the fortification of Calais;<sup>6</sup> and he was once more employed in France in 1389.<sup>7</sup>

John lord Bourchier was elected into the Order after the death of sir Robert Namur in 1392, and succeeded that knight in the eighth stall on the Prince's side,<sup>8</sup> where his plate still remains.

In 1400 he was, on account of his age and infirmities, excused by letters patent from attendance in parliament and at the council;<sup>9</sup> and he died on the 21st of May in the same year;<sup>10</sup> leaving, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of sir John Coggeshall, an only son, Bartholomew, third lord Bourchier. This nobleman died in 1408; and his only daughter, Elizabeth (who married, first, sir Hugh Stafford, and, secondly, sir Lewis Robessart, K.G., both, in her right, successively lords Bourchier), dying childless in 1433, all issue from our gallant knight became extinct.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Froiss. tom. vii. p. 316.

<sup>2</sup> Rymer, vol. vii. pp. 448. 452.

<sup>3</sup> Wals. p. 338, where he is, by mistake, called "Edward."

<sup>4</sup> Froiss. tom. ix. p. 53.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 177.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Franc. 9 Ric. 2, m. 9.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. 13 Ric. 2, m. 4.

<sup>8</sup> Windsor tables. He had robes issued to him in 1399. See p. 254.

<sup>9</sup> Pat. 1 Hen. 4, p. 5, m. 6.

<sup>10</sup> Esc. 1 Hen. 4, N<sup>o</sup> 9.

<sup>11</sup> Esc. 11 Hen. 6, N<sup>o</sup> 40. Henry Bourchier count of Eu and sixth lord Bourchier, was the next heir of Elizabeth; but Dugdale (vol. ii. p. 128) errs in stating that his grandfather, William, had been brother to Bartholomew, the said William having been younger brother to our knight.