

ARMS.<sup>1</sup>

Argent, a cross engrailed Gules between four water-bougets, Sable.

## CREST.

A man's head, in profile, proper, ducally crowned Or, with a pointed cap, Gules.

## LXXXV.

## JOHN FOURTH LORD BEAUMONT.

THIS eminent individual was the great-grandson of Henry the first lord Beaumont, who, in right of Alice Comyn, his wife, bore the title of earl of Boghan, or Buchan, in Scotland, and had been a person of great historical celebrity during the reigns of the three Edwards.<sup>2</sup> John, the son of the earl of Boghan, succeeded to a vast inheritance on the death of his father in 1340; but did not use the Scottish dignity. By the lady Eleanor Plantagenet, sister of Henry duke of Lancaster, he left, in 1342, Henry Beaumont, the third baron; who, by Margaret de Vere daughter of John earl of Oxford, was father to the subject of this notice.

JOHN  
LORD  
BEAUMONT.

John lord Beaumont was eight years old at the death of his parent in 1369. He was, in 1383, summoned to parliament; commenced immediately afterwards his military career in the expedition of the warlike bishop of Norwich against the partisans of pope Clement VII;<sup>3</sup> and was with the garrison at

<sup>1</sup> Garter plate extant.

<sup>2</sup> The lineage of the earl of Boghan has been differently stated by genealogists; some asserting that he was son to Louis de Brienne, by Agnes, the heiress of Beaumont, and grandson to John de Brienne, king of Jerusalem, by Berengaria, his second consort, the daughter of Alphonso IX, king of Castile: whilst, according to others, his father was Louis, the second son of Charles of Anjou, king of Sicily and Jeru-

salem, younger brother of St. Louis. Henry de Beaumont and his brother Lewis (afterwards bishop of Durham) are supposed to have come into England with one of the consorts of Edward I, and to have been her kinsmen. Upon the former hypothesis, he was cousin-german, once removed, to Eleanor of Castile; and, if the other be adopted, he was second cousin to Margaret of France.

<sup>3</sup> Froiss. tom. viii. p. 414.

JOHN  
LORD  
BEAUMONT.

Bourbourg, in French Flanders, when that town capitulated, after a gallant defence, to Charles VI.<sup>1</sup> In 1386 he held a command in the army during the Peninsular campaign, and was a guest at the banquet given by the king of Portugal to John of Gant and his staff at Oporto.<sup>2</sup> Upon his return to England, in the following year, his near connection in blood with the duke of Ireland occasioned probably his removal from the court by the party of the duke of Gloucester, as one of the evil counsellors of the king.<sup>3</sup> He seems, however, to have ere long regained his station near the Sovereign; as we find a licence granted to him in April 1388, to proceed to Calais for the purpose of arranging the conditions upon which certain jousts were to take place between four English and as many French knights.<sup>4</sup> Upon this occasion he tilted with the chamberlain of France.<sup>5</sup> He was, in 1389, constituted admiral of the fleet in the northern parts,<sup>6</sup> and one of the wardens of the marches towards Scotland;<sup>7</sup> whereupon he invaded that kingdom and took many prisoners.<sup>8</sup> The castle of Cherbourg was, in 1390, committed to his custody; and, about the same time, his ardour for chivalric exercises induced him to join sir Thomas Clifford and sir Peter Courtenay in soliciting from the king a safe-conduct for Regnault de Roye, Bouçicaut la Misne, and the sire de Saint-Py, to enter the march between Boulogne and Calais for the purpose of holding a tourney.<sup>9</sup> The permission was, nevertheless, qualified by an order that the proposed feat of arms should not take effect without the sanction of the earl of Northumberland, then governor of Calais.<sup>10</sup> The splendid jousts, described in detail by Froissart, were held in the beginning of May in that year, near the abbey of St. Inghelbert; and our knight is recorded to have tilted, though not successfully, with the famous Bouçicaut.<sup>11</sup>

Lord Beaumont was, in 1392, appointed constable of Dover

<sup>1</sup> Froiss. tom. viii. p. 469.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Franc. 10 Ric. 2, m. 10;  
Froiss. tom. x. pp. 124. 213.

<sup>3</sup> Knyghton, 2705.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Franc. 11 Ric. 2, m. 8.

<sup>5</sup> Knyghton, 2706.

<sup>6</sup> Rot. Franc. 12 Ric. 2, m. 26.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. m. 7.

<sup>8</sup> Stowe, sub. a°. 1389.

<sup>9</sup> Rot. Franc. 13 Ric. 2, m. 8.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. m. 4.

<sup>11</sup> Froiss. tom. xii. p. 131.

castle and warden of the cinque ports;<sup>1</sup> and, in the course of the same year, retained to serve the king during his whole life upon an allowance of 100*l.* per annum.<sup>2</sup> The death of lord Devereux happening in February following, he was honoured with the Garter, and admitted to the thirteenth stall on the Sovereign's side, to which his plate is still affixed. In 1394 he is mentioned among the witnesses to the grant of the duchy of Aquitaine to John duke of Lancaster.<sup>3</sup> He was nominated, 7th October 1395, one of the ambassadors to the French court to demand, in the king's name, the princess Isabel in marriage.<sup>4</sup> After having fulfilled this commission, he proceeded to Scotland, in order to discharge his duties as warden of the West marches;<sup>5</sup> and died at Stirling on the 9th of September 1396;<sup>6</sup> leaving, by Catherine Everingham<sup>7</sup> his wife, (who lived until 1426,<sup>8</sup>) Henry de Beaumont, his heir, the ancestor of Miles-Thomas Stapleton, of Carlton hall, in the county of York, esq., and of Montague Bertie earl of Abingdon, by whom our knight is at present represented, and who are coheirs of the ancient barony of Beaumont.

JOHN  
LORD  
BEAUMONT.

ARMS.<sup>9</sup>

Azure, semée of fleurs de lis, a lion rampant, Or, BEAUMONT, quartering COMYN, Azure three garbs Or.

## CREST.

On a chapeau d'état Azure, doubled ermine, a lion statant Or.

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Pat. 16 Ric. 2, p. 3, m. 35.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 2, m. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Froiss. tom. xiii. p. 198.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Franc. 19 Ric. 2, m. 19; Froiss. tom. xiii. pp. 212. 231.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Scoc. 19 Ric. 2, m. 6.

<sup>6</sup> Esc. 20 Ric. 2, N<sup>o</sup>. 14.

<sup>7</sup> Dugd. vol. ii. p. 53.

<sup>8</sup> Esc. 5 Hen. 6.

<sup>9</sup> Garter plate.