

LXXXVII.

SIR WILLIAM ARUNDEL.

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ARUNDEL.

FEW particulars are known of the personal history of this individual, who was the second son of sir John Arundel, marshal of England, (by Eleanor,¹ grand-daughter and co-heir of John lord Maltravers,) and grandson of Richard the fifth earl of Arundel of the surname of Fitzalan,² by his second countess, Eleanor Plantagenet, daughter of Henry earl of Lancaster.

Sir William Arundel was born after 1365; and we find him first mentioned, in 1375, as a legatee in the will of the earl his grandfather. In 1389 he had, together with sir Simon Felbrigge and Robert Teye, a licence to travel.³ He attended Richard II. to Ireland in 1394.⁴ In 1395 he is designated custos or constable of Rochester castle;⁵ and, in or about the same year, he was admitted into the Order of the Garter, as successor to sir Nicholas Sarnesfeld.⁶

As the records and chronicles of the period suggest no public ground for this distinction, and for another mark of favour which was soon afterwards bestowed upon him, we must assume that they proceeded from the mere motion of the Sovereign. We may not, in the absence of any evidence on the point, consider them as the reward of an unworthy subserviency to the tyrannical will of his master: yet it is somewhat remarkable that, at the time when the king had "by bland

¹ She afterwards married Reginald second lord Cobham of Sterburgh.

² It is remarkable that the two younger sons of this earl, viz. Thomas Arundel, archbishop of Canterbury, and sir John Arundel, adopted, as their surname, the designation of their father's dignity, or perhaps the name of their birth-place. The latter was usually called, and made his will, as "sir John de Arundel, knight." He had been

summoned to parliament, among the barons, from 1377 to 1379, in which latter year he perished by shipwreck, on the 16th December, near the Irish coast. See p. 208.

³ Pat. 13 Ric. 2, p. 2, m. 12. They were allowed by the licence to take twelve horses with them.

⁴ Froissart, tom. xiii. p. 201.

⁵ Issue roll of Excheq. 20 Apr. 18 Ric. 2; extracts by F. Devon, p. 258.

⁶ Windsor tables.

persuasions," according to Walsyngham,¹ allured the unfortunate earl of Arundel into his power, in order to deliver him up to a cruel and ignominious death, he should have conferred upon our knight, who was the earl's nephew, the offices of constable and warden of Reigate castle, and the rangership of all the surrounding parks and chaces. The earl's execution took place on the 21st of September 1397, and this lucrative grant bears date on the 7th of the following month.²

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Sir William Arundel, and his wife Agnes, (whose filiation we have not discovered,) both received robes of the Order in 1399.³ He made his will in London on the 1st August 1400, wherein he directed the interment of his remains in the church of the priory of St. Andrew at Rochester, at the back of the high altar; and died without issue before the 17th of the same month.⁴ The will of Agnes, his relict, bears date on the 6th September 1401, and was proved on the 8th October following.⁵ She desires to be buried near the body of her husband, under the tomb upon which their effigies had been sculptured.

ARMS.⁶

Quarterly, 1st and 4th FITZALAN, Gules, a lion rampant Or: 2nd and 3rd MALTRAVERS, Sable, a fret Or.

CREST.

Out of a ducal coronet Gules a griphon's head Argent, beaked of the first.

¹ Wals. p. 392.

² Pat. 21 Ric. 2, p^a 1, m. 12.—
"dilecto et fideli consanguineo
nostro, Willielmo Aroundell chivaler."

³ See pp. 254, 255.

⁴ Reg^r Arundel at Lambeth, fo. 173.

⁵ Ibid. fo. 192.

⁶ Garter plate, remaining in the second stall, Sovereign's side.