

XC.

JOHN MONTACUTE THIRD EARL OF
SALISBURY.JOHN
EARL
OF
SALISBURY.

THE intercourse, which is known from contemporary authorities to have subsisted between this nobleman and several persons distinguished for their genius and talents, justifies us in assuming that the intervals of his leisure from military duties were embellished by a taste for literature and the fine arts, rarely cultivated at that period by individuals of his rank.¹

Sir John Montacute, the eldest son of sir John Montacute by Margaret Monthermer,² has been sometimes mistaken by genealogists for his more warlike father, the companion in arms of the Black Prince at Cressy and Poitiers; but his career commenced when all the great victories had been achieved, and the English dominion in France was on the wane. He was born in or about the year 1350;³ and received knighthood, in 1369, from the earl of Cambridge, in reward of his prowess at the siege of Bourdeille, where two

granted to him the lieutenancy of Ireland for three years, the duke to maintain 150 men-at-arms, knights, and esquires, and 100 archers. Dated Westm^r, 10 April, 22 Ric. 2. Harl. MS. 5805. p. 392.

¹ We owe to a suggestion of Salisbury the interesting metrical history of the concluding year of Richard II, of which the reverend John Webb has contributed an excellent version to the 20th volume of the *Archæologia*. The earl's talent for poetry is celebrated in the text; and the erudite translator has collected, in his highly entertaining and instructive notes, all that appears to have descended to us, through other channels, on the subject. Specimens of the "ballads, songs, and roundelays," which he is said to have composed, are

unfortunately missing, but may possibly yet be discovered among the literary treasures which doubtless lie concealed in the muniment-rooms of our nobility and great landed proprietors. How much might be achieved by a patriotic association of the chiefs of our patrician families, and the appropriation of a common fund towards redeeming from oblivion many original documents of great historical value which would be found in those repositories!

² Daughter and heir of Thomas de Monthermer, the son of Ralph Monthermer, sometime earl of Gloucester, by Joan of Acres sister to Edward II.

³ Esc. 13 Ric. 2, N^o 34, when he is stated to have been in his thirtieth year.

renowned captains, Ernaudon and Bernardet de Batefol, surrendered to him as prisoners.¹ In the course of the same campaign he was, with the rank of banneret, attached to the staff of that prince at Belle Perche, when the duchess of Bourbon was carried from that fort in the view of her son's army.² Upon those occasions Froissart identifies him as "nephew to the earl of Salisbury:" but where the name of "sir John Montacute" occurs in the public records between the years 1370 and 1390 (the latter being the date of his father's death), it may be difficult to decide whether it apply to father or son.

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In 1391 our knight, having done homage for his patrimonial inheritance,³ obtained the king's licence to journey into Prussia with a retinue of ten servants,⁴ probably in the same expedition against the Lithuanians in which the earl of Derby bore a part. In the following year he was summoned to parliament; and, in the autumn of 1394, he attended king Richard into Ireland.⁵ In the spring of 1395 he inherited the Monthermer estates upon the decease of his mother;⁶ and in 1396 was employed, for the last time, in a military capacity beyond sea.⁷

The dignity and estates of his uncle, William earl of Salisbury, devolved to him in 1397, and he was about the same time elected to the stall in St. George's chapel which that eminent warrior had filled as one of the Founders of the Order.⁸ From that date, we find him constantly near the person of the king, whom he served with unabated attachment during the guilty and unhappy remnant of his reign. He naturally became, under such circumstances, one of the appellants against Gloucester, Arundel, and Warwick; and, upon the forfeiture of the last of those noblemen, eight of his escheated manors fell to his share.⁹

Towards the close of 1398 he was nominated marshal of

¹ Froissart, tom. v. p. 91.

² Ibid. p. 170.

³ Rot. Fin. 14 Ric. 2, m. 23.

⁴ Rot. Franc. 15 Ric. 2, m. 12.

⁵ Stowe, p. 309.

⁶ Esc. 18 Ric. 2, N^o 31.

⁷ Rot. Franc. 20 Ric. 2, m. 11.

⁸ He had robes of the Garter

issued to him against the feast in 1399 (see p. 254), and the fourth stall, on the Sovereign's side, was the only one which, according to the then state of the Order, he could have occupied.

⁹ Pat. 21 Ric. 2, p. 1, m. 9.

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England during the absence of the duke of Surrey in Ireland:¹ and Froissart's narrative, that he was, about Christmas, entrusted with a negotiation of great delicacy at the French court, seems to be corroborated by the record of a safe-conduct then granted to him.² The design of his mission was to frustrate a proposed matrimonial alliance between Henry, then duke of Lancaster, and Mary the daughter of the duke of Berri; and Salisbury succeeded in that object.³ Upon his return, he was one of the peers who assented in parliament to the repeal of the patent which had reserved to Henry the control over his estates during his exile.⁴ He was also joined in a commission with others to treat for a peace with Scotland;⁵ but it is doubtful whether he proceeded on that service, as he was certainly in the retinue of the king on his fatal expedition to Ireland in May 1399.⁶

The intelligence of Lancaster's arrival in England induced Richard to despatch Salisbury from Ireland with a part of the army to oppose him; and, landing near Conway, the earl was enabled to augment his forces by new levies in Wales and Cheshire: but the gentry of those districts, who had been persuaded to take up arms, dispersed upon finding the voyage of the king from Waterford protracted by adverse winds, and hearing of the formidable approach of Henry after his successful visit to the metropolis. The unfortunate monarch, therefore, when he had at length reached the English coast, saw himself powerless and at the mercy of the invader.

Notwithstanding the hostile part, which Salisbury and other loyal adherents of the fallen sovereign had taken against the usurper, it was the obvious policy of the latter to suppress his resentment. They were accordingly left unmolested during the first days of the new reign. But the throne had no sooner been secured to Henry by the unanimous consent of parliament, than it was decided to wrest from Richard's late favourites the immense wealth which they had acquired by the confiscations of 1397; and the appellants

¹ Pat. 22 Ric. 2, p. 1, m. 12.

² Rot. Franc. 22 Ric. 2, m. 12.

³ Froiss. tom. xiv. p. 155, et seq.

⁴ Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 372^b.

⁵ Rot. Scoc. 22 Ric. 2, m. 2.

⁶ Pat. 23 Ric. 2, p. 3, m. 37.

of that year were called upon for their justification. Salisbury, in his turn, endeavoured to extenuate his conduct upon grounds similar to those which had been pleaded by his former confederates; averring that he had not been the author or contriver of the bill of appeal, and his ignorance even of its purport until commanded by the late king to join in the proceeding, when he had only concurred, in common with his peers, in the judgments given thereon. It having moreover, as he said, been alleged that the duke of Norfolk had informed the now king, that he (Salisbury) had compassed the death of the late duke of Lancaster; he was ready, if Norfolk were present, or if any other person should repeat such false assertion, to defend himself as a gentleman, and in any way the king might think fit to direct. For the rest, he repented of his error; and threw himself upon the mercy of God, the king and his crown. The duke of Norfolk was then no more; but the lord Morley appears to have risen to repeat the accusation against Salisbury; and the latter to have defied him to prove it by wager of battle.¹ We learn, from a record recently inspected, that the duel between these noblemen was appointed to be held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne,² probably on the king's expedition to Scotland; but we are not aware of any evidence that the meeting took place.

It is remarkable that Salisbury should have been excepted³ from the parliamentary sentence by which his associates in the appeal were deprived of the grants of land made to them subsequently to the ruin of Gloucester and his party; and that he should have so hastily and so treacherously requited Henry's forbearance towards him. At the close of the session he conspired with Albemarle, Exeter, and Surrey (then degraded to their former titles of Rutland, Huntingdon, and Kent), to seize and destroy the king; and having, on their arrival at Windsor for that purpose, failed in their object,

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¹ MS. Bodl. 2376, fo. 213.—Rot. Parl. vol. iii. 451^b.

² 21 Feb. Joh'i Vaux assign. p. com. Northumb. et Westmorland const. et maresc. Angl. commissar. et deputat' eorundem ad sessionem

faciend. apud villā Novi Castri sup. Tynam sup. judicio duelli inter comitem Sar. et dñum de Morley p' veniend. ibidem. In denar' Cs.³
—*Exit. Pell. Mich. 1 Hen. IV.*

³ Rot. Parl. ut sup^a p. 452.

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Salisbury accompanied the earl of Kent, in open rebellion, into the western counties. Having been (according to the narrative generally received by historians, and confirmed by the allegations of a petition presented by his son in the following reign) overpowered and detained in custody, at Cirencester, during a day and the half of a night,¹ with a promise that he should be safely delivered up to the king, he was, in consequence of some sudden attempt to rescue him, beheaded by the townsmen on the 7th January 1399-1400.²

His remains were deposited in Cirencester abbey; but, upon the petition of his widow to Henry V. in 1420, they were permitted to be removed to Bustleham priory in Berkshire, the foundation of his ancestor.³

Walsyngham relates, with acrimony, that the earl had been a chief patron of the sect of Wickliff, or Lollards, having carried his iconoclastic zeal so far as to destroy all the images of saints which had been set up in his chapel at Shenley by Aubrey and Buxhull, his wife's former husbands, excepting that of St. Katherine, which, being an object of particular veneration to his household, he allowed to remain in his bake-house. The chronicler adds, that he became contrite just before his execution, and expressed an ardent desire to be shriven according to the rites of the mother church.⁴

By Maud, his countess, daughter and at length heir of sir Adam Franceis of London, knight (relict, first of John Aubrey of that city, and, secondly, of sir Alan Buxhull, K.G.) the earl of Salisbury had two sons, Thomas, who was restored to the earldom and became also a Knight of this Order, and Richard, who died without issue; and three daughters, 1. Anne, who married, first, sir Richard Hanckford, secondly, sir John FitzLewis, and, thirdly, John Holand earl of Hunt-

¹ Rot. Parl. vol. iv. p. 18, a°
² Hen. 5.

² By the inq. after death of the earl of Kent it was found that he died on *Wednesday next after Epiphany*, which festival, in that year, fell on *Tuesday*. It is known that

Salisbury suffered at the same time. The date also agrees with the account of the transaction by Walsyngham.

³ Dugd. vol. i. p. 650.

⁴ Wals. 358.

ingdon, duke of Exeter; 2. Margaret, who married William lord Ferrers of Groby; and, 3. Elizabeth, the wife of Robert lord Willoughby of Eresby.

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His coheirs-general, representing his grand-daughter Alice wife of Richard Nevil earl of Salisbury, are George-Augustus-Francis marquess of Hastings, and William Lowndes and William Selby-Lowndes, esquires.

ARMS.

Argent, three lozenges conjoined in fess Gules.¹

XCI.

ALBERT, COUNT PALATINE, DUKE OF BAVARIA,
COUNT OF HAINAULT AND HOLLAND.

We have elsewhere² assigned our reasons for placing the name of this prince in the list of Knights of the Order. The fact of his reception into the illustrious fraternity is vouched by a public record amongst the French Rolls, supported, were it necessary, by a doubtless equally authentic instrument cited by Monstrelet.

ALBERT
COUNT
OF
HOLLAND.

Albert was the third son of the emperor Lewis, the Bavarian, by Margaret heiress of Hainault, Holland, and Zealand, the sister of our queen Philippa. His elder brother William III. of Hainault and V. of Holland, having, in 1357, after his return to the Hague from a visit to the English court, betrayed symptoms of mental alienation, was, towards the close of that year, placed in confinement; and, subsequently, removed to the castle of Quesnoi, where he lingered thirty years. The government was, in the mean time, administered by Albert, his presumptive heir, who, on the 23rd February 1358, was acknowledged by the States at Dordrecht, as

¹ He was entitled to quarter, in right of his mother, the arms of Monthermer, "Or, an eagle displayed Vert."

² See Preface.