

XCII.

SIR SIMON FELBRIGGE.



THIS knight is ranked by Ashmole among those elected by Henry V;¹ but it is certain that his admission into the Order took place during the reign of Richard II, and before St. George's day 1399, as robes were provided for his attendance at that feast;² and that he occupied the thirteenth stall, on the Prince's side, to which his plate is still affixed.³

The lineal ancestor of sir Simon Felbrigge was Simon le Bigot, (a near kinsman, as presumed, of Roger Bigot earl of Norfolk,)⁴ who acquired, in the reign of Henry III, the manor and parish of Felbrigge⁵ in the county of Norfolk in right of his wife, Maud, the sister and heir of William son of Richard de Felbrigge. Sir Roger Bigot, the great-grandson of Simon and Maud, adopted the surname of "Felbrigge,"

SIR
SIMON
FELBRIGGE.

¹ MS. 7395 in Mus. Ashm. Oxon.

² See p. 254.

³ In the Windsor tables he is placed as successor to the Soudan de la Trau; but, for reasons already stated at p. 315, *note* 11, the thirteenth stall is presumed to have

been intermediately filled by sir Henry Percy.

⁴ Roger Bigot, the earl's ancestor, appears by Domesday-book to have possessed Felbrigge.

⁵ The seat, in modern time, of the late right hon. William Windham.

SIR
SIMON
FELBRIGGE.

and was, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Robert lord Scales, father to the individual to whom this notice relates.

Not having discovered, among the public records, any inquisition taken after the death of sir Roger Felbrigge, (who is stated, on a cenotaph to his memory in his parochial church, to have died and had sepulture at Paris,)¹ we are unable to fix the age of our knight; but, according to his own avowment, he was armed and in the retinue of John of Gant at the relief of Brest in 1386, and with that prince in his expedition to Spain during the same year.² Upon his return, in 1387, he purchased the manor of Colby in Norfolk,³ and must therefore be supposed to have been of full age at that date. In 1389⁴ he had a licence to undertake a pilgrimage beyond sea in the company of sir William Arundel, subsequently also a Knight of this Order; and it was probably after the accomplishment of that voyage that he formed a matrimonial connection with one of the ladies of honour by whom Anne of Bohemia had been attended into England.

This lady is described in several heraldic collections as Margaret the daughter of Premislaus duke of Teschen,⁵ and as a relative of the queen her mistress. If the nobleman of that name, who accompanied the queen to this country in 1381, was father to Margaret, the latter part of the description would apply to her; for Premislaus (who, in the letters of credence from the emperor Wenceslaus to Richard II, is styled *sororius noster*)⁶ was the queen's great-uncle:⁷ but the Silesian genealogies, received as the most authentic,⁸ give no

¹ Blomefield's Norfolk.

² Deposition of sir Simon Felbrigge at North Walsham, 20th July 1408, in a suit between Reginald lord Grey de Ruthyn and Edward Hastings touching the right to the arms "Or, a maunch Gules."—See a recital of the deposition in *Anstis*, vol. i. p. 170, note m.

³ Rot. Fin. 11 Ric. 2.

⁴ Pat. 13 Ric. 2, p. 2, m. 12.

⁵ Vinc. N^o 20, fo. 50. H. 25, fo. 11, in Coll. Armor. and sir Henry Spelman's *Icenia*, p. 412—"Margareta filia ducis *Thasa*, regis Bohemie neptis."

⁶ Rymer, vol. vii. pp. 283. 293. 295, &c.

⁷ The affinity to the emperor, designated by the term "*sororius*," was that of his *sister's kinsman*. Queen Anne was half-sister to Wenceslaus; and her mother, Elizabeth, the fourth consort of the emperor Charles IV, was the daughter of Bugislaus, duke of Pomerania, by Elizabeth, sister to Premislaus duke of Teschen.

⁸ *Silesiacarum rerum scriptores*, a Sommersberg, Lips. 1729, and *Diplomatische Beyträge zu der Schlesischen Geschichte und Rechte*, &c. von Ehrenfried.

daughter, of the name of Margaret, to the duke in question; an omission, however, by no means conclusive against the statement.

It was, not improbably, under such auspices that sir Simon Felbrigg obtained, in 1395, the important office of the king's standard-bearer, as successor to sir Nicholas Sarnesfeld, K.G.¹ In 1398, being then one of the knights of the king's chamber, he had a grant of the manor of Beston in Norfolk, which had formed part of the possessions of the unfortunate earl of Arundel,² executed in September preceding, and whom he also appears to have succeeded as a member of this Order.³ In April 1399 letters of general attorney were granted to him preparatory to his departure for Ireland,⁴ in the exercise of his duties near the royal person on that expedition.

The favourable light, in which he had been regarded by Richard, may account for the neglect shown to him in the succeeding reign; during which there is little mention of him besides his attendance before the court military as a deponent in the Grey and Hastings' controversy in 1408,⁵ and the issue of robes of the Garter to him in that⁶ and the following year.⁷

Upon the accession of the warlike Henry V. he was once more summoned to the performance of military duties. That king, in the first year of his reign, ordered that the annuity of one hundred marks, which had been assigned to sir Simon out of the fee-farm rents of the city of Norwich by Richard II, should be paid to him, with an additional annuity of like amount charged upon the revenues of Norfolk and Suffolk;⁸ and, in the same year,⁹ as well as in the third¹⁰ and ninth¹¹ of

SIR
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¹ Pat. 18 Ric. 2, p. 2, m. 17.—
"Fideli militi nro Simoni Felbrigge
vexillifero nro tale feodum sicut
Nicolaus Sarnesfeld nuper vexilli-
fer percepit." 7th April.

² Pat. 22 Ric. 2, p. 3.

³ As we find him named with sir Henry Percy in the same wardrobe account in 1399, and are assured that both occupied, at different periods, the thirteenth stall P. S., we are authorised, upon reference also to the scheme of the stalls in that year, to presume that Felbrigg was elected to the vacancy

created by the death of the earl of Arundel, and that Percy was thereupon translated to the higher stall.

⁴ Pat. 22 Ric. 2, p. 3, m. 21, 28th April.

⁵ See p. 370, note 2.

⁶ Wardrobe account 9 Hen. 4—
Queen's Rememb. Off.

⁷ Ibid. 10 Hen. 4.

⁸ Privy seal, 19th Dec. 1 Hen. 5,
in Off. Pell.

⁹ Wardrobe account, 1 Hen. 5.
Anstis, vol. i. p. 14, note g.

¹⁰ Ibid. p. 15, note k.

¹¹ Ibid. p. 171, note b.

SIR
SIMON
FELBRIGGE.

that reign, robes of the Order were again prepared for him. On the 29th April 1415 he was retained by indenture to serve in the wars in Guienne and France, with twelve men-at-arms and thirty-six archers:¹ but he seems not to have attended the king on the expedition which landed in France in the following August, and which was rendered so brilliant by the battle of Agincourt; for we find that, on the 4th of October, he accompanied John duke of Bedford to St. Alban's, on which occasion his name was registered among the benefactors to that monastery.²

The records of the Order mention his attendance, and, occasionally, excuses for his absence, at various chapters and ceremonies during that and the ensuing reign. In the first year of Henry VI. he is described as the "senior" knight, and, in the next year, as "Ordinis maxime senex." His name occurs for the last time in the register in 1437; and he died, at a great age, on the 3rd of December 1442;³ having, on the 21st of September preceding, at his mansion in Norwich, executed his last will, which was proved on the 20th February following.⁴ According to his direction in this instrument, his remains were deposited in the church of the friars preachers, or Black Friars, in that city; although he had, many years antecedently, provided his burial place in his own church at Felbrigge, near the body of Margaret, his first wife, who died on 27th June 1413.⁵

Sir Simon Felbrigge married, 2ndly, Katherine,⁶ relict of

¹ Vincent's "Exitus," in Coll. Armor. fo. 43.

² Bibl. Cotton. Nero, D. VII.

³ Esc. 22 Hen. 6. N^o 33. In the issues of robes of the Order for the 21st and 22nd years of Hen. 6, the name of our knight is, by mistake, included in the wardrobe accounts for those years. The former of these accounts, now in the Queen's Rememb. Office, commences 29th Sept. 1442, and the latter, transcribed by Anstis, (vol. i. p. 174, note o.) is from Michaelmas 1443.

⁴ Reg^r. Rouse, in Cur. Prer. Cant. fo. 14.

⁵ See in Anstis, vol. i. p. 174, an engraving of the monument on which are the figures of sir Simon Felbrigge and dame Margaret his consort, "nomine Boema ac olim domicella illustrissime dñe dñe Anne quondam inclite regine." Our knight is represented in complete armour, with the Garter on the left leg, and his right arm supporting the standard of England; having thereon the royal arms impaled with those of Edward the Confessor, as borne by Richard II.

⁶ This lady is in Halsted's "House of Mordaunt," &c. stated

sir Ralph Grene, of Drayton, co. Northampton, daughter of sir John Clifton,¹ of Buckenham, in Norfolk, by Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph 2nd lord Cromwell. By this lady he had not any issue; but by Margaret, his first wife, he appears to have left two daughters, Alana and Anne. The latter is mentioned in his will as being then a nun in the convent of Brusyard. Alana, the heiress of sir Simon, married, first, sir William Tindale, of Dene, in the county of Northampton, who died in 1426; and she took to her second husband sir Thomas Wauton, knight. Her grandson, sir William Tindale, of Hockwold, in Norfolk, received the knighthood of the Bath at the creation of Arthur prince of Wales; and a strange tradition, noticed by Spelman, but unsupported by evidence of any description, asserts him to have been declared heir, in right of his descent, to the kingdom of Bohemia.²

SIR
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Upon the death, 1st Sept. 1473, of Elizabeth lady Scales, sole daughter and heir of Thomas lord Scales, and wife, first, of Henry Bouchier, and secondly, of Anthony Widvile (in her right, lord Scales) 2nd earl Rivers, her estates were inherited by Elizabeth, wife of John de Vere 12th earl of Oxford, as heir of the body of Margaret Scales, who married sir Robert Howard, and by the above-mentioned sir William Tindale, as heir of the body of Elizabeth Scales, sister of Margaret, and wife of sir Roger Felbrigge.

The representation of sir William Tindale, and consequently of sir Simon Felbrigge, together with a share in the abeyance of the ancient barony of Scales, appears to have been vested, in 1738, in Lucy, wife of Charles King (the son of William King, D.C.L. principal of St. Mary Hall, Oxford),

to have been the daughter of Anketill Mallory; an assertion disproved by the inquisition taken after her death, which happened 23rd March 1459-60. She is therein described as widow of sir Simon Felbrigge, and theretofore of sir Ralph Grene; and her heir is found to be John Knyvet, esq. son of Elizabeth, daughter of Constantine [Clifton], brother of the said

Katherine.—*Esc.* 38 *Hen.* 6, *No.* 21.

¹ Summoned to parliament among the barons from 50 *Edw.* 3, 1376, to 12 *Rich.* 2, 1388, in which year he died. Constantine Clifton, his son, was also summoned to parliament in 1393 and 1394.

² "Margaretta proavia sue hæredem regni Bohemiae denunciatum."

SIR
SIMON
FELBRIGGE. and grand-daughter and heir of John Tindale, of Maplested,
in Essex.

ARMS.

Or, a lion rampant, Gules.

CREST.

Out of a ducal coronet, Gules, a plume of ostrich feathers, Ermine.

XCIII.

SIR PHILIP DE LA VACHE.



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SIR PHILIP DE LA VACHE obtained, in 1370,¹ livery of the lands of his father, sir Richard de la Vache, who had been also a knight of this Order,² and had died in 1366. Of his employment, towards the close of the reign of Edward III. in the wars of France, evidence is afforded by the disposal to the king, in 1376, of certain prisoners whom sir Philip had taken in some military adventure jointly with John de Harleston, then captain of Guines castles.³ In the same year he

¹ Rot Claus. 44 Edw. 3, p. 1.

² See p. 106.

³ Rymer, vol. vii. p. 103. They were prisoners of rank, if we may

judge from the amounts of the ransoms. The sum paid for John sire de Poys was 1500*l.* and for Walter Châtillon 1000*l.*