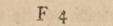
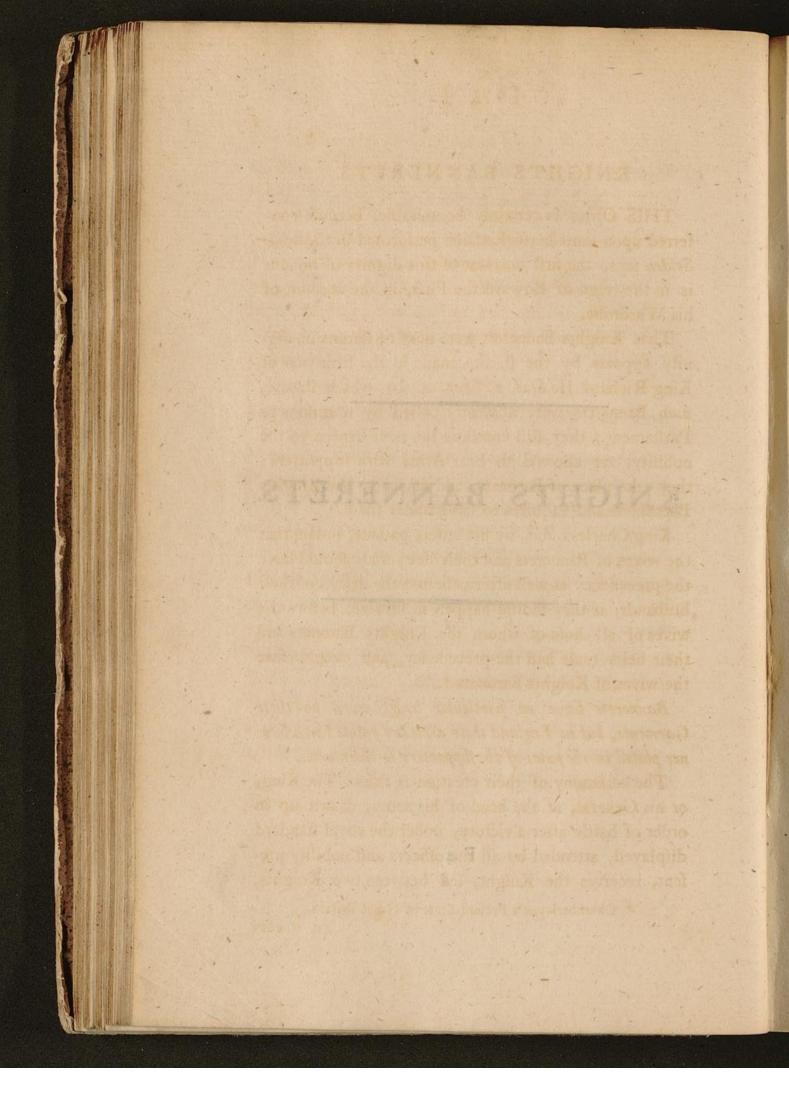
KNIGHTS BANNERETS.





KNIGHTS BANNERETS.

THIS Order is certainly honourable, becaufe conferred upon fome heroick action performed in the field. *Selden* fays, the first account of this dignity of honour is in the reign of Edward the First, in the account of his Wardrobe.

That Knights Bannerets were next to Barons in dignity appears by the flatute made in the fifth year of King Richard II. Stat. 2. Chap. 4. by which flatute, fuch Bannerets were anciently called by fummons to Parliament; they flill continue the next degree to the nobility, are allowed to bear Arms with fupporters; they take place of Baronets, and anciently had Knights Batchelors and Efquires to ferve under them.

King Charles I. did, by his letters patents, ordain that the wives of Bannerets and their heirs male fhould have the precedency as well after as before the deaths of their hufbands, if they fhould happen to furvive, before the wives of all those of whom the Knights Baronets and their heirs male had the precedency, and even before the wives of Knights Baronets *.

Bannerets have no particular badge worn on their Garments, but in England their arms are painted on a banner placed in the paws of the fupporters to their arms.

The ceremony of their creation is thus: The King, or his General, at the head of his army, drawn up in order of battle after a victory, under the royal flandard difplayed, attended by all the officers and nobility prefent, receives the Knight, led between two Knights,

* Chamberlayne's Prefent State of Great Britain.

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carrying his pennon of arms in his hand, the Heralds walking before him, who proclaim his valiant atchievements, for which he has deferved to be made a Knight Banneret, and to difplay his banner in the field; then the King or the General fays to him, Advances toy Banneret, and caufes the point of his pennon to be rent off; then the new Knight. having the trumpets before him founding, the nobility and officers bearing him company, is fent back to his tent, where they are all entertained.

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The words the Herald fays to the King or his General, upon prefenting the Knight, are thefe;

"May it pleafe your Grace to underftand, that this Gentleman hath fhewed himfelf valiant in the field, and for fo doing deferveth to be advanced to the degree of a Khight Banneret, as worthy from henceforth to bear a banner in the war."

The Heralds that conducted him were to receive for their fees three pounds fix fhillings and eight pence; and if he was before a Knight Batchelor, then he was to pay to the trumpets twenty fhillings.

In the year 1773, at a review of the Royal Navy at Portfmouth, his Majefty was gracioufly pleafed to confer the honour of Knights Banneret, on the following flag officers and commanders under the royal ftandard, who kneeling, kiffed hands upon the occafion; viz. Admirals, Pye and Spry; Captains, Knight, Bickerton, and Vernon.