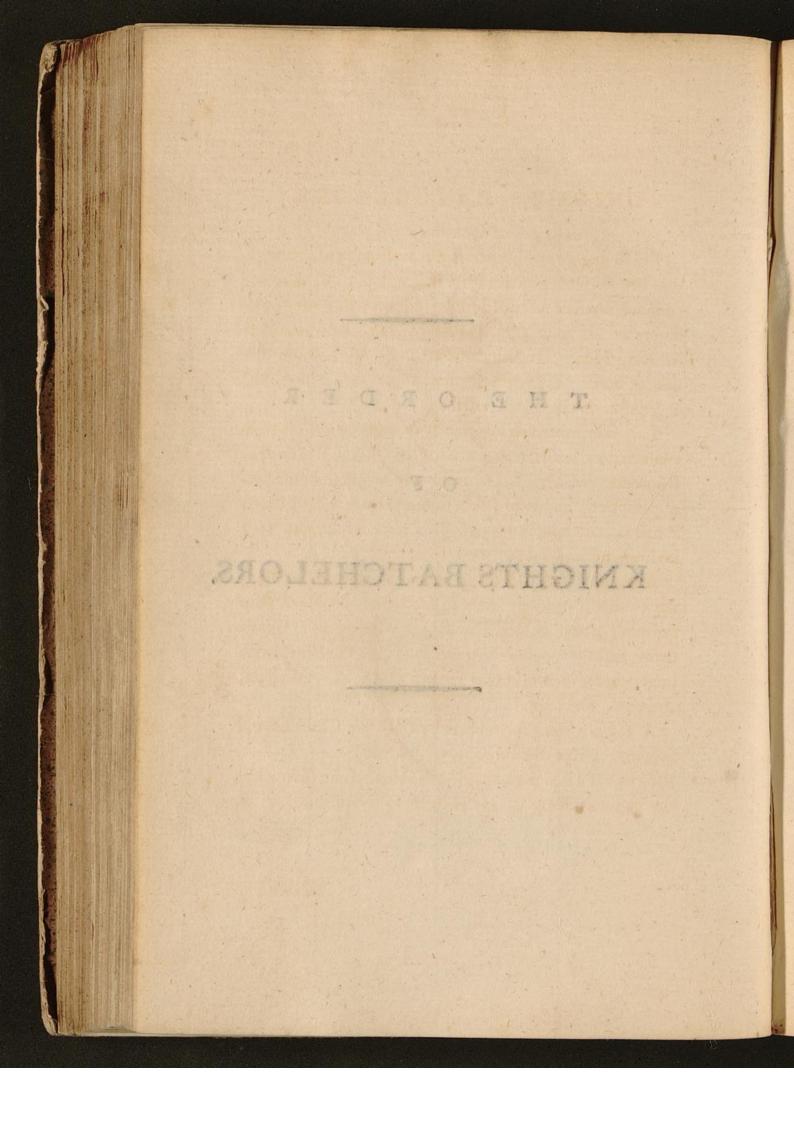
## THEORDER

OF

# KNIGHTS BATCHELORS.



### [ 153 ]

#### KNIGHTS BATCHELORS.

THIS degree of honour is the moft ancient, though the loweft Order of Knights in England. It was accounted the first of all military dignity, and the foundation of all honours. The word *Batchelor* was added by King Henry the third, and fo styled, because this title of honour dies with the person to whom it is given, and descends not to his posterity.

This title, which was anciently in high effeem, is now conferred indifcriminately upon Gownfmen, Phyficians, Burghers and Artifts, whereby the original inftitution is perverted, and is of lefs reputation than it hath been; it ftill is accounted a refpectable degree of honour both in England and foreign countries.

A Knight may be made as foon as a child is baptized; the ceremony now in ufe being no other than kneeling down before the King, who with a drawn fword lightly touches him on the right fhoulder, with thefe words, Sois chevalier au nom de Dieu; and then, Avancez, chevalier.

A Knight muft be named by both his Chriftian and furname (with Sir preceding) as Sir T— L—, Knight. If a Knight be made a Nobleman, he ftill retains the name of Knight, and is to be fo ftyled in all writs.

#### KNIGHTS

