
T H E O R D E R

O F

KNIGHTS BACHELORS.

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O F
K N I G H T S B A T C H E L O R S

KNIGHTS B A T C H E L O R S.

THIS degree of honour is the most ancient, though the lowest 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 so 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 esteem, is now conferred indiscriminately upon Gownsmen, Physicians, Burghers and Artists, whereby the original institution is perverted, and is of less reputation than it hath been; it still is accounted a respectable degree of honour both in England and foreign countries.

A Knight may be made as soon as a child is baptized; the ceremony now in use being no other than kneeling down before the King, who with a drawn sword lightly touches him on the right shoulder, with these words, *Sois chevalier au nom de Dieu*; and then, *Avancez, chevalier*.

A Knight must be named by both his Christian and surname (with Sir preceding) as Sir T—— L——, Knight. If a Knight be made a Nobleman, he still retains the name of Knight, and is to be so styled in all writs.

KNIGHTS

KNIGHTS-BATCHLORS

THIS degree of honour is the most ancient, though the lowest Order of Knights in England. It was accounted the first of all military dignity, and the foundation of all honours. The first that was called by King Henry the first, and so 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 esteem, is now conferred indifferently upon Gentlemen, Physicians, Burgers and Artists, whereas the original institution is preserved, and is of less reputation than it hath been; it still is accounted a respectable degree of honour both in England and foreign countries.

A Knight may be made a Baron, a Bishop, or a Peer; the ceremony now in use being no other, than kneeling down before the King, who with a drawn sword lightly touches him on the right shoulder, with these words, *Benignus in Christo, et in pace, et tunc* Answer, *Deus in excelsis.*

A Knight may be named by God, the Christian and surname (with Sir preceding) as by T. ——— Knight. If a Knight be made a Nobleman, he still retains the name of Knight, and is so styled in all wars.

KNIGHTS