OF THE

ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

IN THE

HEREDITARY DOMINIONS

OF THE

HOUSE OF AUSTRIA.

AUSTRIA.

THE Emperor having extenſive dominions in Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, as well as the Kingdoms of Hungary and Bohemia, we have brought together under one head all the Orders of Knighthood, that have been, or that now are, in any part of them, with the origin and occaſion of their inſtitutions; their ceremonies, habits, collars, badges, mottoes, ſtars and ribbons.

The ſame plan is followed in every other kingdom and ſtate; arranging the countries, in alphabetical order.

As to the dates of the various inſtitutions, Authors differ: therefore we have in this Work taken the majority of the moſt authentic and approved writers, without entering into a tedious controverſy, which would exceed the limits of a conciſe hiſtory. But for the ſatisfaction of thoſe who chooſe to conſult the materials from which this hiſtory is extracted, a liſt of the authors and manuſcripts is inſerted at the end of the Foreign Orders of Knighthood.

AUSTRIA.

THE

ORDO EQUESTRIS

OF THE

GERMAN EMPIRE.

THE *Ordo Equeſtris* is of great antiquity, and highly honourable, being compoſed of perſons of the moſt ancient and illuſtrious families of Germany, and in point of rank takes place next to the Barons. It is ſuppoſed to have been derived from the *Ordo Equeſtris* in old Rome, which conſiſted of ſuch as were *Equites*, and ranked next to the Senate. The admiſſion into this Order is, by *Codicilli honorarii*, or letters patent, of honour and ennoblement, under the great ſeal of the Empire, wherein the perſon intended to be ſo dignified is by the Emperor named, conſtituted, and declared, a Knight of the Sacred Roman Empire, and directed to be claſſed in the ſociety or body of thoſe *Equites* in ſuch

ſuch and the ſame manner as if he had been born of the Equeſtrian Order. Theſe letters patent likewiſe give him the full enjoyment of all honours, offices, rights, privileges, liberties, and immunities, to which as well all the other Knights of the Sacred Roman Empire of the ſame deſcent, as thoſe created by word of mouth, or the ſtroke of a ſword, are in any wiſe enittled; together with a grant either of entire new arms, or a confirmation of thoſe theretofore borne by him and his anceſtors. They likewiſe contain an injunction to all Princes and States holding of the Empire, and a requeſt to all others, to acknowledge the grantee as a member of the beforementioned body of Knights; and make the dignity, title, privileges, and immunities, ſo granted, hereditary to all the children and deſcendants in a right line of the Grantee, both male and female. Formerly all thoſe who were admitted into the *Ordo Equeſtris* wore round their neck a golden chain with a medal pendent thereto, and which is ſtill continued to be painted on the helmet placed over each of their coats of arms; but ſince a great number of ſocial and regular Orders of Knighthood have been introduced all over Europe, the chain hath in general been laid aſide, and is now only worn by the principal officers of the diſtricts of the Empire belonging to thoſe *Equites*, and where they are formed into corporations as a free ſtate, holding immediately of the Emperor. Here, however, it is neceſſary to obſerve, that the imperial patent is not ſufficient to enable the Grantee to belong to this body corporate, unleſs he holds a fee of the Empire: on the contrary, without ſuch a holding, the patent gives him only perſonal

honour and precedency in courts of juſtice and all other places indiſcriminately, and that free from all hindrance or moleſtation whatſoever. The *Ordo Equeſtris* are not under any particular reſtraint, or governed by any laws, ſtatutes, or ordinances, other than ſuch as concern the Empire in general. This title is hereditary to all the children and deſcendants in a right line of the Grantee, both male and female, and is entirely patrimonial and feudal; a circumſtance elucidated and fully confirmed by an eſtabliſhed rule of the Empire, already mentioned, *viz.* That ſuch Grantee cannot belong to the body corporate of the *Ordo Equeſtris* unleſs he holds a fee of the Empire; and if he doth not hold ſuch a fee, that he gains nothing further by his patent than perſonal honour and precedency.

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

OF THE

GOLDEN FLEECE.

THIS Order being more fully treated of in the Orders of Knighthood in Spain, it is unneceſſary to ſay any thing farther upon it here, than to obſerve that, inſtead of the number of Knights of it being unlimited as is the caſe of that branch of it of which the King of Spain is Sovereign, the branch of which the Emperor is Sovereign is confined to fifty one, the number appointed by Charles the Fifth. In all other reſpects the ſtatutes and collars of both branches are exactly the ſame. For a fuller account, ſee GOLDEN FLEECE in Spain.

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER OF ST. STEPHEN.

THIS Order was firſt inſtituted at Florence, in the year 1561, by Coſmo Di Medicis, and dedicated to St. Stephen, on whoſe feſtival (the 6th of Auguſt) he gained a victory at Marciano. It was partly a Military, and partly a Religious Order, like that of Malta; but in a ſhort time it fell into diſrepute, and was at length entirely diſuſed. But in May 1764, it was revived by the late Emperor, and put on a reſpectable footing. The ſtatutes and original conſtitution are however in a great degree changed. At preſent this Order conſiſts of an hundred Knights, excluſive of the Sovereign, the Princes of his blood, and Cardinals. Of theſe Knights fifty wear the badge of the Order at the coat button-hole pendant to a crimſon watered ribbon. Thirty wear it pendant to a broad crimſon watered ribbon, worn

ſaſh-ways over the right ſhoulder; and twenty wear a ſtar of eight points, embroidered in ſilver on the left ſide of their outer garment. The firſt claſs conſiſting of fifty are ſtyled ſimply Knights of St. Stephen. The ſecond claſs, of thirty, are ſtyled Knights Commanders. And the third, conſiſting of twenty, are ſtyled Knights Grand Croſſes, and addreſſed by the title of *Excellency*. The badge of the Order is a croſs of eight points enamelled red, and edged with gold; and the collar a gold chain, which however is only worn on the anniverſary of the inſtitution of the Order.

For both the badge and the collar of the Order of St. Stephen, ſee plate 8.

St. Stephen

AUSTRIA.

THE

MILITARY ORDER

OF

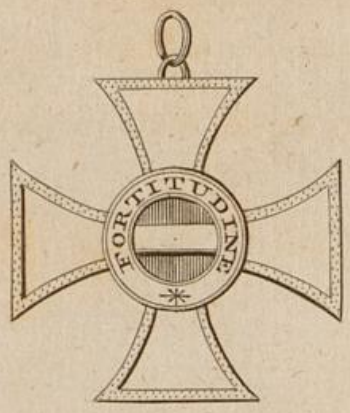
MARIA THERESA.

IN June 1757 the Empreſs Queen inſtituted this Order, which was at firſt compoſed of an unlimited number of Knights, divided into two claſſes; the firſt of which wear the badge of the Order pendant to a broad ſtriped watered ribbon, of which two fifths are black, and three fifths yellow, ſaſhways over the right ſhoulder, and a croſs or ſtar embroidered in ſilver on the left breaſt of their outer garment. The ſecond claſs wear the badge pendant to a narrow ſtriped ribbon at the button hole. This order continued thus from its firſt inſtitution until the year 1765, when the preſent Emperor added an in-

termediate claſs, ſtyled Knights Commanders, who wear the ribbon ſaſh-ways, but without any ſtar on the outer garment. The badge of the Order is a croſs of gold enamelled white, edged with gold, on the center are the arms of Auſtria encircled with the word *Fortitudine*, and on the reverſe is a cypher of the letters M. T. F. * in gold, on an enamelled green ground. This Order is conferred on military men only. (See plate 9.)

* Which implies *Maria Thereſa Fundator*.

Maria Theresa



S.t Gerion

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

OF

ST. GERION.

THE time of the inſtitution of this Order, which is now extinct, is not preciſely known, ſome placing it in the year 1190, under Frederick Barbaroſſa, and others half a century later under Frederick II. However this may be, it was compoſed only of German gentlemen, who wore on the right breaſt the badge of the Order, viz. a patriarchal croſs, Gules, on a mount Vert. St. Gerion, the patron of the Order, is ſaid to have ſuffered martyrdom at Cologne, with 318 of his companions. For the badge, ſee plate 9.

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

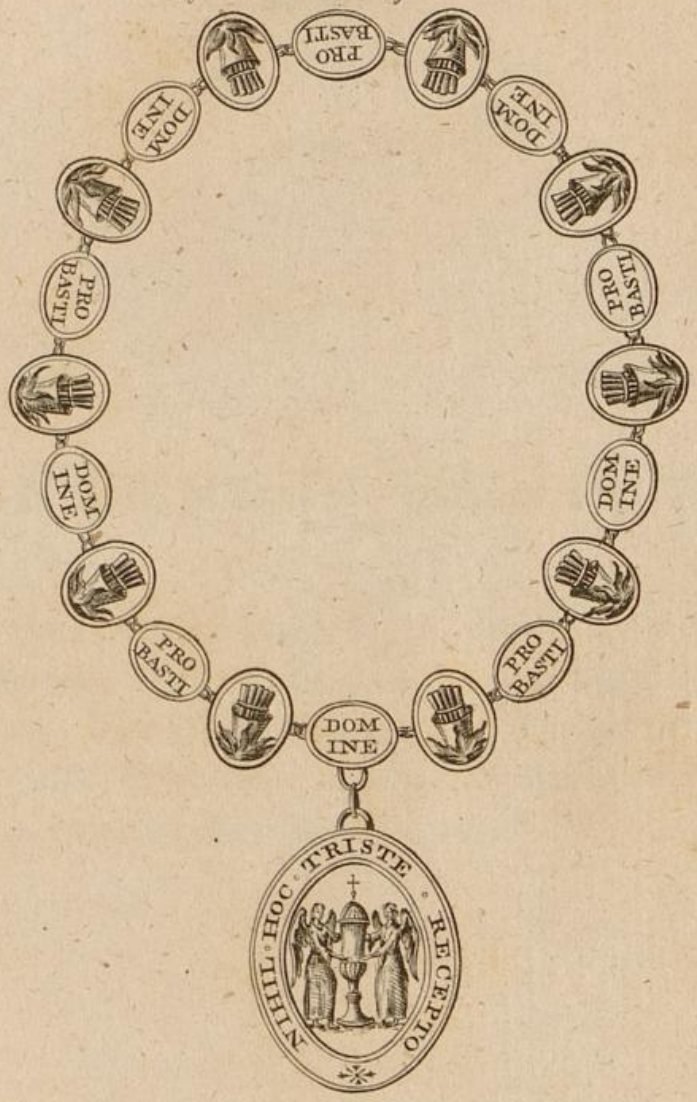
OF THE

BLOOD OF OUR SAVIOUR.

VINCENTIO Di Gonzaga Duke of Mantua instituted this Order in 1608, on the marriage of his son with Margaret of Savoy. It consisted of twenty Knights, exclusive of the Sovereign, and it took its name from three drops of the blood of Christ, which are kept as a relique in the Church of St. Andrew in Mantua. The collar of it is composed of golden ovals, extended some in length, and some in breadth, and interlaced with small annulets: on one of these ovals, placed lengthways, is raised in white enamel the word *Domine*; and on the next, placed in the same manner, the word *probasti me*; and so alternately. On the other ovals are represented flames of fire about a crucible filled with ingots of gold. At the bottom of the collar is pendant an oval of gold,

on which are represented two Angels ſtanding upright, holding between them a chalice crowned; on the table of it are enamelled three drops of blood, and on the oval this inſcription, *Nihil hoc triſte recepto.* (See plate 10.)

AUSTRIA.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AUSTRIA.

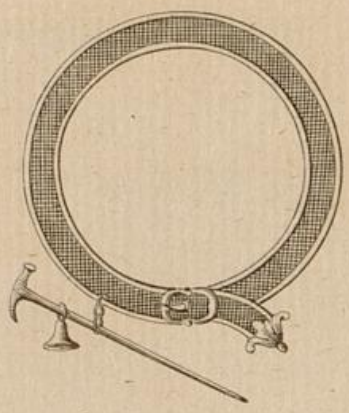
THE ORDER

OF

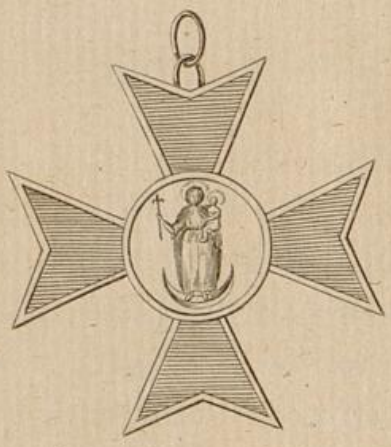
ST. ANTHONY IN HAINAULT.

THIS Order was inſtituted, in the year 1382, by Albert of Bavaria, on his going on an expedition againſt the Sarafins. The enſign of it was a gold collar like a Hermit's girdle, to which hung a walking ſtaff or crutch and a little golden bell. See plate 11.

St. Anthony in Hainault



St. Michael in Germany



AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

OF

ST. MICHAEL IN GERMANY.

THIS Order was inſtituted at Mantua in the year 1618, and in 1619 it was received at Vienna; but though confirmed in 1624 by Pope Urban VIII. it ſoon fell into diſuſe. The enſign of it was a croſs of eight points, embroidered with blue ſilk and gold, on the left ſide of the mantle; in the middle of it was the figure of the Virgin Mary with Chriſt on her left arm, and a ſceptre in her right hand, crowned with twelve ſtars ſurrounded with rays of the Sun, and a creſcent under her feet. See plate 11.

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

OF

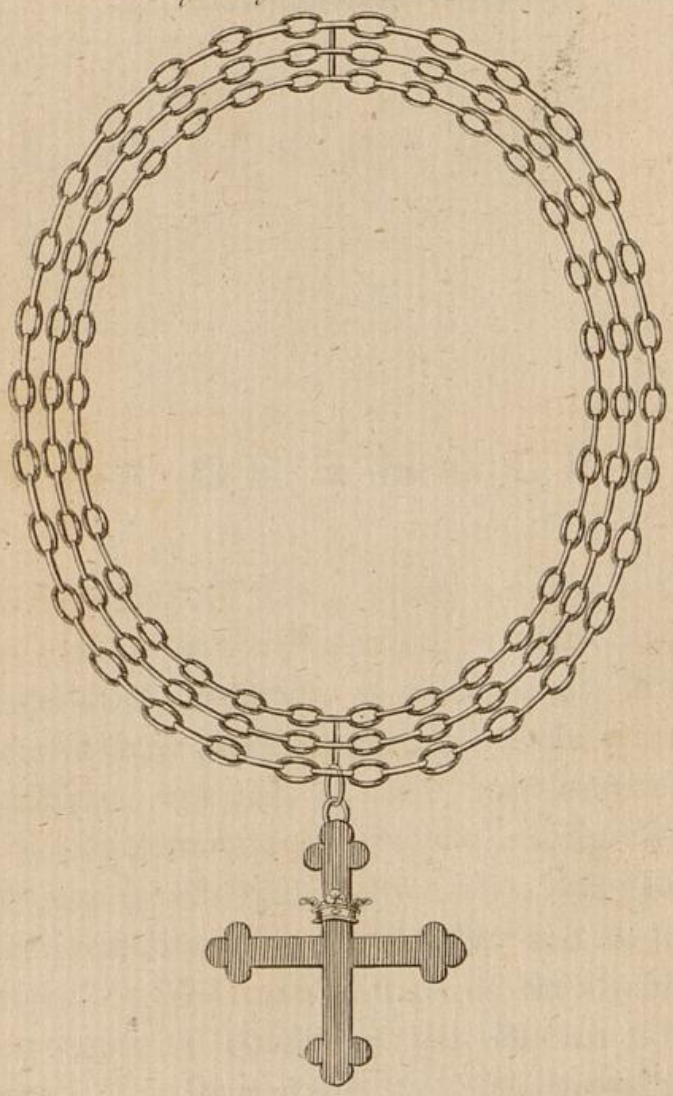
ST. GEORGE IN AUSTRIA.

FREDERICK III. Emperor of Germany instituted this Order in the year 1470, for the purpose of defending the frontiers of his hereditary dominions against the Turks, who harrassed them about that time with frequent invasions; he and his successors were entitled protectors of it, and a Grand Master of their appointment had the government of it. At first this Order was highly esteemed, well encouraged, and performed good services, but in less than a century it began to decline, and was at length entirely set aside. The Emperor Maximilian endeavoured in vain some time afterwards to revive and restore it to its former splendor. The badge was a cross botonnee, Red, encircled on the upper part with a ducal coronet,

Or, and worn pendent from three chains of gold. The ſeat of this Order was at Mildſtad in Corinthia. For the badge and collar of this Order, ſee plate 12.

AUSTRIA.

S.t George in Austria



AUSTRIA.

LADIES ORDER

IN

HONOR OF THE CROSS,

A CONFLAGRATION, which happened at the Emperor's palace in the year 1668, was the occaſion of the foundation of this Order. A golden croſs, in which were incloſed ſome pieces of the wooden one on which Chriſt ſuffered, was ſaid to have been miraculouſly ſaved: to commemorate this event, the Empreſs Eleanora De Gonzaga eſtabliſhed this Order, and placed it under the protection of the Virgin Mary and St. Joſeph. The Empreſs is the Grand Miſtreſs of the Order, and none but ladies of quality of the Roman Catholic religion can be admitted into it. The general aſſembly is held annually on the third of May, being the anniverſary of the inſtitution. The badge of the Order is a golden medal chaſed and pierced; in the center

the Imperial Eagle, over all a crofs furmounted with the letters I. H. S. and a fmall crofs over the letter H. with this motto, *Salus et Gloria*. See plate 13.

AUSTRIA.

Ladies Order in Honour of the Cross

The Red Eagle

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

OF

LADIES SLAVES TO VIRTUE.

ELEONORA Di Gonzaga, widow of the Emperor Ferdinand III. instituted this Order in the year 1662, and declared herself Sovereign of it. The number that compose it is limited to thirty, all to be of the Romish religion, and of the best nobility. The badge worn by the Ladies of this Order is a golden sun encircled with a chaplet of laurel, enamelled Green, with this motto over it, *Sola ubique triumphat*. It is worn pendent at the breast to a small chain of gold, or a plain narrow black ribbon. See plate 14.

Slave to Virtue

Order of the Chace

AUSTRIA.

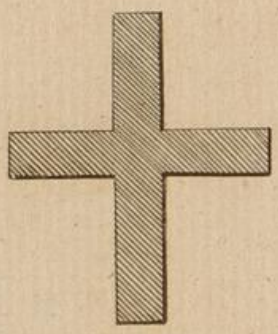
THE ORDER

OF

TUSIN.

THIS Order was instituted by the Archdukes of Austria, for the purpose of defending their frontiers against the Turks. It continued to flourish for upwards of a century and an half, and performed good services, but in the end it was neglected, and when the end for which it was founded was fulfilled, it was set aside. The ensign of the Order was a plain green cross, worn on the outer garment. See plate 15.

The Order of Tusin



Golden Lyon

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

OF

NEIGHBOURLY LOVE.

THE Empreſs Elizabeth Chriſtiana inſtituted this Order at Vienna in the year 1708. It is for perſons of both ſexes and of noble families. The enſign of it is a red ribbon, to which hangs pendent on the left breaſt a golden croſs of eight points, with this motto round the centre, *Amor Proximi*, and the middle enamelled red. The number of perſons that compoſe this Order is not limited. For the badge, ſee plate 16.

Neighbourly Love

Merit in Hesse Cassel

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

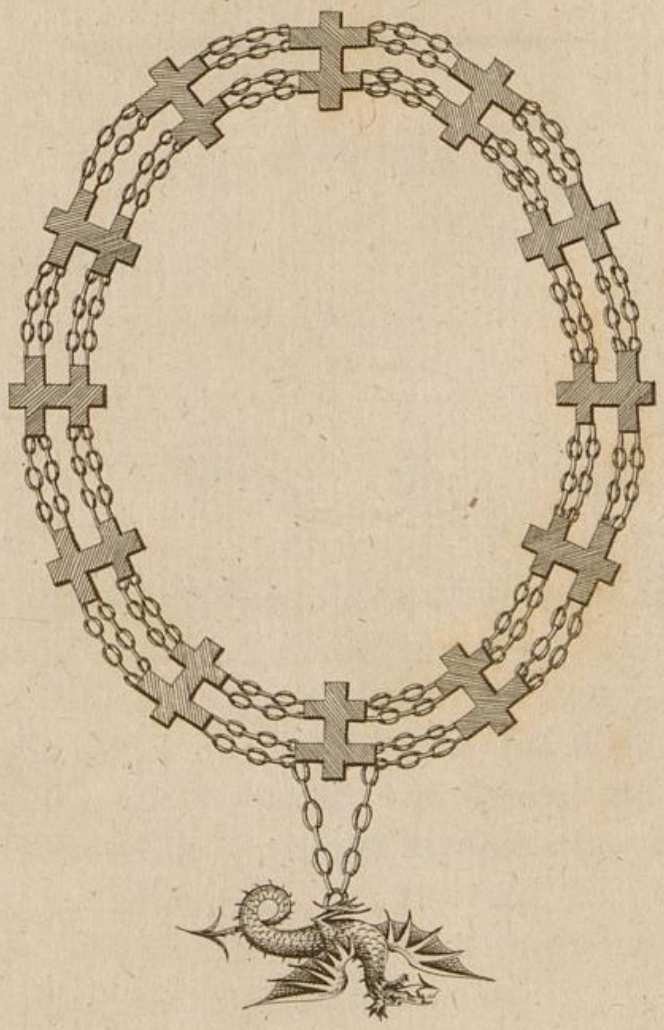
OF THE

DRAGON OVERTHROWN.

THIS Order was inſtituted, in the year 1418, by the Emperor Sigiſmund, for the purpoſe of engaging the nobility of the kingdom of Hungary to defend its frontiers againſt the Turks. During his life it was highly eſteemed, but it declined after his death; and ſoon became obſolete.

The collar was compoſed of double chains of gold, intermixed with croſſes of Lorrain enamelled green, to which hung the figure of a dragon lying on his back with his wings expanded, enamelled with variety of colours. For the enſign and collar of the Order, ſee plate 17.

Dragon overthrown 17



AUSTRIA.

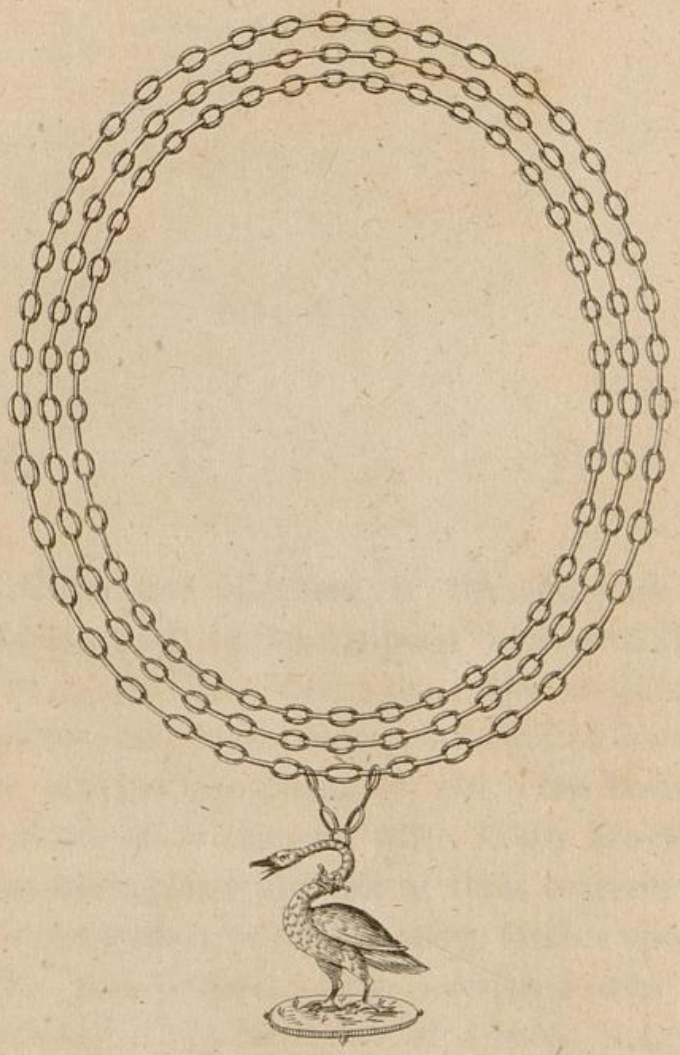
THE ORDER

OF THE

SWAN.

THIS Order is ſaid to have been inſtituted in Flanders by Salvius Brabo, of Brabant, about the year 500, but very little is known relative to the Order, except that the badge of it, was a ſwan enamelled white, on a green ground adorned with flowers, and that it was worn at the breaſt pendent to three chains of gold. Having been upwards of one thouſand years extinct, it is unneceſſary to ſay any thing farther upon it here. For the badge and collar, ſee plate 18.

Swan



AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER OF THE BEAR.

THIS Order was instituted at the abbey of St. Gall in Switzerland, by the Emperor Frederick II. in the year 1213. St. Ursus, being the patron of it, communicated his name to the same; it flourished from its institution until the revolution, by which the House of Austria lost the Swiss cantons, when it was abolished. The Order having been upwards of three centuries extinct, it is unnecessary to say any thing farther upon it. The collar was a gold chain, interlaced with oak leaves, to which hung the figure of a black bear on a medallion, having under it a hillock enamelled Vert. See plate 19.

The Bear of Switzerland

AUSTRIA.

THE ORDER

OF

ST. GEORGE IN ITALY.

THE time of the inſtitution of this Order is uncertain, ſome placing it under Conſtantine the Great, and others, with more appearance of reaſon, under the Princes of the imperial Houſe of Commenes, of whom it is ſaid that four and thirty have been ſucceſſively Grand Maſters of it. However this may be, it is certain the Order fell into diſuſe, and was not thought of until Charles V. revived it, and declared himſelf the Grand Maſter of it, and appointed his natural ſon Don John of Auſtria his deputy. The Order was divided into three claſſes. 1. The Grand Collars, who were fifty in number, and who regulated all the others. 2. The profeſt Knights and Barriſters. 3. The Knights in waiting. The badge of the Order was St. George ſlaying the Dragon, and the collar, compoſed of fifteen

gold plates, richly chaſed on the edges and enamelled blue. On 14 of theſe plates, is the cypher X and P. between the two capitals A and Ω. On the centre oval, which is edged with laurel leaves, the cypher X. P. is placed on a croſs patonce, Red, edged gold, having on its points the letters I, H, S, V. See plate 20.

OF

St. George of Italy