

OBSERVATIONS

Introductory to an

Historical Essay,

UPON THE

Knighthood of the BATH.

ON Occasion of a late Report, that a new Creation of *Knights of the BATH*, is intended, Questions have been proposed to me from several Persons, both in private Conversation, and by Letters, as well concerning the Origin, the Antiquity, the Dignity of their Degree, as concerning the ancient and solemn Rites of conferring it; for the Satisfaction of such Persons, and in Answer to their respective Demands, who have been pleased to consult me upon this Head, as supposing the Nature of my Office hath obliged me to make some more curious and particular Researches into the

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different

different Ranks and Distinctions of Men in civil Life, I have here made some cursory Observations, which may be sufficient, at present, to give a general Idea of this State of Knighthood, 'till I find a proper Opportunity for methodizing the Collections, which may be applied, towards compiling a regular, and more complete History, upon the Subject.

I. In Answer to the first Inquiry, concerning the Origin of this Degree, it may be observed, that the End of all Institutions in respect to Titles, or Offices of Honour, is to encourage and promote Vertue; *That* being the great Support and Security of civil Government, All wise and well regulated States, in the World, have ever been careful to reward such Persons, who have distinguished themselves by any vertuous Qualities, or Atchievements, with certain publick honorary Badges of Distinction. And as Vertue tends, in all Instances, and in every different Branch of it, to promote the publick Good, so different Orders, or Rules of a vertuous Conduct, have been assigned to Men, by Means of which, they might, in their several Stations, be rendered, at once, more useful, and ornamental to Society.

The more specifick Rule to that *Degree* of Knighthood, which I am now considering, and wherein the proper Character of it, as contradistinguished from other Orders, doth consist, is comprehended in the
Reasons

Reasons of its Institution, which I am going to recite. It may be questioned, indeed, whether there is any Rule extant, in any Order, that may not be reduced to one, or other of the excellent Ends, for which this Degree, in particular, of the *Bath* was instituted; Ends so great, so good, so pious, and comprehensive, that they do not seem capable of receiving any Additional Improvement: For what can be said to amplify, or illustrate the Design of an Institution, after we are told, It “ is for the Exaltation of the Holy
 “ Christian Religion; the Support of the Rights of
 “ our Sovereigns; the Defence of their Realms; the
 “ Advancement of Justice; the Protection of Virgins,
 “ Widows, and Orphans; the Relief of the Op-
 “ pressed; and for demonstrating the Affection of our
 “ Monarchs towards the Estate of *Chevalrie*; to the
 “ End, both their Subjects, and Foreigners may be
 “ rewarded for heroick military Actions, and towards
 “ exciting other Persons to imitate such Examples.” So that in respect to the Origin of this Degree, in general, we may conclude, it to be founded, upon religious, upon moral, and political Considerations.

II. In Reference to the Antiquity of Knight-hood of the *Bath*, I shall cite the Authority of *a Jean du Tillet*, who supposeth it to have been practiced by

^a Recueil des Roys de France, leurs couronne, & maison p. 431.

the ancient *Franks*, with *that* of ^b Mr. *Camden* to the same Effect, who writes, that He observed nothing more ancient concerning this Dignity, than that it was in Use among the old *Franks*: These were the Inhabitants of lower *Germany*, with whom, it is highly probable, the *Saxons*, who invaded *England*, had the same common Descent; and who, with other Customs, upon their Settlement here, introduced the same Method of Knighthood; *Du Tillet* farther remarks, these ancient *Franks*, when they conferred Knighthood, observed many solemn Rites; Before they performed Vigils, they *bathed*, to signify that such, who were admitted to this Degree, should be of a pure Mind, and of honest Intentions; Be willing to conflict with any Dangers, or Difficulties, in the Cause of Virtue; take Care both in their Words, and Actions, to follow the Maxims of Prudence; and on all Occasions, religiously observe the Rules of Fidelity, and Honour. Which Rites and Conditions, according to his Testimony, still continued to be practised in *England*; and from the Practice of them, Gentlemen were here denominated Knights of the *Bath*.

If it should be then admitted, that the Title is of no greater Antiquity, in this Kingdom, than from the Reign of *Hen. IV*; or, that we have not any authentick Monument, before his Time, which specifies a Degree

^b *Britannia* p. 124. *Ordines Angliae*.

of Knighthood, under that express Appellation; yet this ought not to be considered, as any Argument, against the Antiquity of the Thing itself: For if the Ceremony of *Bathing* was formerly used, as it will presently appear to have been, in creating Knights, though our Historians have omitted, on the Occasion, to mention that Ceremony; yet all the real Ends of the Institution were equally answered, and the Honour of it, as effectually conferred, as if Bathing had been expressly mentioned by such Historians; it being usual with the best historical Writers, under some general Character, or Action, to imply, or suppose Things, with which such Character, or Action, was known to be constantly attended. For Instance, the Inauguration, or Coronation of the King, doth suppose, that all the other sacred concomitant Rites of that Solemnity, were then fully and regularly performed, though they may not be distinctly enumerated; The Rule holds, with Respect to all inferior Administrations, whether in religious or civil Life. The Honours of the Peerage, for Example, to which any Person hath been advanced, were ever presumed to be effectually conveyed, and the principal Rites, appropriated to the Conveyance of it, to be always performed, notwithstanding specifick Mention was not made by Historians, concerning the Performance of every separate Rite, in particular, then constantly used upon such Investitures.

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It may be farther assigned, as a Reason, why Knights of the *Bath* had not that Appellation more early attributed to them by Historians, that it was the usual Custom, even in Records, and legal Courses of Procedure, to denominate all Knights by that Addition solely, without descending to specify the Order, or Degree of Knighthood, whereby they were respectively distinguished, as I have particularly observed in Reference to *c* Knights of the *Garter*; who for several Reigns, successively, after that most noble Institution, were not yet stiled Knights of the *Garter*, in Patents from the Crown, or Instruments respecting their own private Affairs. But no one will therefore pretend to infer, in Contradiction to unquestionable Facts, that there were no Knights of the *Garter* antecedent to the Usage of that Title.

Though the Denomination then was not used, yet if certain Ceremonies, peculiarly appropriated to this Degree, are mentioned by any former Historians or Records; Ceremonies, which had no relation to any other known Degree of Knighthood, we may justly conclude, this determinate Degree of Knighthood is thereby to be understood; as, particularly, from the Robes of Russet, or brown Colour, the crimson or scarlet Robe, the Vigils, the Bed, the Bed-ticking, the Matrace, the Canvas, the Sheets, the Oblation of

c *Introducl. to the Register of the Garter, p. 5.*

the Sword upon the Altar, &c. For since it doth not appear, that the Crown, at the Times referred to, did give Furniture, or Habiliments of this Kind, to Knights-Bachelors made by the Stroke of the Sword, or Bannerets, *simply* as such, or that they performed any of these Ceremonies; it undeniably follows, that Knights, to whom the like Furniture or Habiliments were given, and who actually went through all these Forms, are to be considered, as of a different Rule or Degree, both from Knights-Bachelors, and Knights-Bannerets.

Thus in a publick Creation of Knights, which was made by *Edward the First*, *Matthæw of Westminster* reports the several known Ceremonies and the Vigils used on that occasion, without any recital of the Ceremony of *Bathing* in particular; yet in the ^e Record or Account of the Wardrobe, particularly referring to that Creation, there is an Article, wherein a distinct Charge is exhibited for Expences *solely* belonging to the *Bath*, to the Covering of it, and of the Bed, &c. And there is the same Reason to conclude, that at other Creations, the same Rites of *Bathing* were used; though it was not necessary to mention them, where the Reason of the Fact, and common Usage supposed every thing done according to Form: But, in exhibiting a Bill of Expences, it is usual, and necessary indeed, on some Accounts, to descend to particular Cir-

^e Appendix, Numb. xii, xiii.

cumstances,

cumstances, which yet it would be improper for an Historian to be minute, and scrupulously Particular in relating. And even the Clerks of the Wardrobe itself do not always mention those Particulars of the Covering of the *Bath*, and of the Bed, which yet are known to be implied, or tacitly comprehended in their Accounts: Even in the Reign of *Hen. VII.* a Roll exhibiting the Names and Arms of all the Knights created by him, only mentions in general, *Knyghts made at the Coronacion off the Kyng; Knyghts made att the Coronacion off the Quene; Knyghts made att the Creacion of Prynce Arthur; Knyghts made att the Creacion off Henry Duc of York;* without descending to distinguish them, as Knights of the *Bath*; though these were certainly so; as will appear from the Instruments in the *Appendix*, taken from other Memoirs of that Reign.

This, I apprehended, might be conveniently premised, as introductory to what I am proceeding to cite from *Mr. Camden*, who relates, “That as to the
 “Knights of the *Bath*, he had found nothing more
 “ancient, than that this Dignity was in use among
 “the old *Franks*, and that *Henry* the Fourth, King of
 “*England*, on the Day of his Coronation, in the
 “*Tower of London*, conferred the same upon Forty-six
 “Esquires, who had watched all Night before, and

f Britannia, p. 124.

“ had *bathed* themselves; that he gave to every one
 “ of them a green Side-coat reaching down to the Ankle,
 “ strait-sleeved, and furred with Menever, and ha-
 “ ving on the Left-shoulder two white silk Twists
 “ hanging loose, with Tassels at them;” which Words,
 as far as they relate to *Henry IV*, are apparently ta-
 ken from *Froissart's* Narrative of that Coronation.
b Mr. *Selden* seems to have followed the Opinion
 of this learned Antiquary; for he writes, “ that the
 “ first express Mention of the Knights of the *Bath*,
 “ as of a distinct Order, is commonly attributed to
 “ the Beginning of *Henry* the Fourth;” and he quotes
 the same Passage from *Froissart*, “ that this King, at
 “ his Coronation, made Forty-six Knights at the *Tower*,
 “ who were *bathed*;” though he soon refers us to what
 he had said in the other Parts of his Treatise, about
bathing, in making Knights-Batchilers (as he terms
 them) by the Kings of *France* and *England*, long be-
 fore the Reign of *Henry IV*. Othersⁱ have pretended
 to discover a more early Rise of this Dignity and Ap-
 pellation, from a Statute in the 20th of *Richard II*,
 which in the old Prints was expressed in such a Man-
 ner, as might at first View support that Assertion; yet,
 upon consulting the original Record more carefully, it

^g Appendix, Numb. 34.

^h *Titles of Honour*, p. 678.

ⁱ *Thinn's Advocate, and Anti-Advocate*, MS. penes me, G. 2. p. 246 b.

Whitlock's Reading on the Statute of Pluralities, MS.

will be found, that the Word from whence the Mistake hath arisen is ^k *bannuz* banished, not, as it hath been supposed, *baignees* bathed; and accordingly it is observable, that in the Act of the 11th of *Richard II*, whereby the Persons mentioned in this Statute of the 20th Year, *Belknap*, *Holt*, and *Burgleigh*, three Judges, were banished, they have only the bare Addition of Knights; though indeed the two latter of them were really Knights created by *Bathing*: For though this Act of 20 *Rich. II*, by reason of what hath been already remarked upon it, cannot be regularly produced to shew, that they were so created; yet the Fact is evident from another ^l Instrument of 7 *Rich. II*, the Authority of which cannot be disputed.

There are good Grounds to suppose, that the Custom of *Bathing* before Knights were formally constituted, was much more antient; and that *Bathing*, as previous to a Degree of Knighthood, and concomitant with the Vigils, had been introduced by the *Saxons*. We have indeed few Memorials of that Age relating to our Subject; however ^m *Malmsbury* informs us, that *Alfred* conferred on his Nephew *Athelstan*, some De-

^k Item nostre Seigneur le Roi est assentuz, & ad grauntez de sa grace espediale par assent, & accord de toutz Seigneurs espirituels & temporels, & de toutz les Comones en cest Parlement a *Robert Bealknap*, *John Holt*, & *William de Burgh*, Chivalers bannuz, & demourantz en *Irland* q'ils reviendrent en *Engleterre*, &c. St. 20 R. 2. c. vii.

^l Append. Numb. 29.

^m Appendix, Numb. 1.

gree of Knighthood; in which Action he gave him a crimson Robe, which might not then be appropriated, but is now peculiarly appropriated to Knights of the *Bath*; and likewise a Sword, under the express Denomination of a *Saxon* Sword; which Article, as it may intimate that Custom of Knighting was introduced by the *Saxons*, and derived from them, so perhaps might be designed, as some special and standing Memorial to preserve the Remembrance of their Residence among us.

But *Ingulfus*, who lived at the Time of the Conquest (as it is usually termed) of this Kingdom by the *Normans*, is very particular, concerning the Practice of conferring Knighthoods by his Countrymen the *Saxons*.

“ It was the Custom (”saith he) of the *English*,
 “ before the *Norman* Invasion, that he, who was to be
 “ regularly admitted to the Degree of Knighthood,
 “ should, on the Eve of the Day before his Initiation
 “ to that Degree, repair to some Bishop, Abbot, Monk,
 “ or Priest, and there, with all Humility and Com-
 “ punction of Heart, confess all his Sins; and having
 “ received Absolution, should continue the whole
 “ Night in the Church, exercising the strict Offices of
 “ Piety, and a sincere Humiliation; that in the Mor-
 “ ning he should hear Mass, offer his Sword upon the

n Appendix, Numb. 2.

“ Altar, and, after the Gospel, the officiating Priest
 “ should, with his Benediction, lay a Sword, sacred to
 “ that Use, upon this Knight’s Neck, who then ha-
 “ ving participated of the Holy Mysteries of the
 “ Communion, was from that Time constituted and
 “ reputed a compleat Knight : Of which Custom (as
 “ he proceeds) the *Normans* expressed an high Detef-
 “ tation, as reputing Knighthood conferred in this
 “ Manner, to be of a mean, degenerous, and ignoble
 “ Creation.”

Thus *Ingulfus* represents the Matter : But ^o Mr. *Camden* and ^p Sir *Henry Spelman* seem to be of Opinion, that the *Normans* did not really dislike, or discontinue this Practice ; because *William Rufus*, Son of the Conqueror, was Knighted by Archbishop *Lanfrank*, and upon some other Accounts specified by them, which it is not here necessary to mention.

I shall not dissemble, that in the Passage cited from *Ingulfus*, he doth not use the Term *Bathing* ; but this cannot be urged, upon any good Grounds, as a negative Argument, that *Bathing* therefore was not, at the Time of his Writing, used preparatory to the Vigils : For within the Space of eighteen Years after his Death, which happened in 1109, *Bathing*, as will appear from the Extract, that I am going to produce, is separately, and expressly mentioned, not as a new

^o Britan. p. 126.

^p Dissertatio de Milite in Reliquiis, p. 177.

Custom introduced, but as a common requisite Article among other known and received Rites of conferring Knighthood.

“¹ *Geoffrey* the Son of *Fulk* Earl of *Anjou*, which Earl was afterward King of *Jerusalem*, being in the fifteenth Year, the Flower of his Age, *Henry* the First, King of *England*, proposed to give his only Daughter in Marriage to him: Overtures were made to that End by King *Henry* to *Fulk*, who promised, that he would conform to the King's Pleasure, and Demands: Engagements were made, and solemnly ratified on each Part, and all Obstacles to the Execution of the Treaty seemed to be effectually removed: While the Negotiation was depending, the King sent a Message to the Earl, requiring, that his Son, who had not yet been initiated into any military Degree, should, at the approaching *Pentecost*, come honourably attended to *Roan*; that he might there receive his Arms in Form [that is, the Dignity of Knighthood] with other young Gentlemen of the same Age, and by that means participate in the Royal Festivities. The King found no Difficulty on occasion of this Demand; a just, and reasonable Request is easily granted. *Geoffrey*, by Command of his Father, upon the Prospect of being made Son-in-Law to a King, attended by five Lords

¹ Appendix, Numb. 3.

“ and a numerous Company of Knights came to
 “ *Roan*: The King, that he might the better disco-
 “ ver his Temper and Capacity, proposed several
 “ Questions to him, and conferred with him after
 “ a free, and familiar Manner; the whole Day was
 “ spent in Joy, and Triumph: Early the next Morn-
 “ ing a *Bath* was prepared, according to the Ceremo-
 “ nial when any Person is to receive Knighthood;
 “ then, after Bathing, he put on a linnen Shirt;
 “ over that a Vestment embroidered with Gold, and
 “ upon it a Mantle of Purple or Scarlet, with a Pair
 “ of silken Stockings, and Slippers on whose Out-
 “ side golden Lyons were worked. The King's Son-in-
 “ Law being thus splendidly habited, an Horse of the
 “ finest Shape was prepared, and a Coat of Mail made
 “ of double Rings, and of such a Temper as render-
 “ ed it impenetrable to any Lance; his Boots for his
 “ Legs were likewise of Mail duplicated in the like
 “ Manner, and his Spurs were made of Gold; his
 “ Shield, charged with golden Lyons, hung upon his
 “ Neck; upon his Head he wore an Helmet adorned
 “ and enriched with many precious Stones, which
 “ was also tempered in such a Manner, that no Sword,
 “ or other Instrument of War, had Force sufficient to
 “ pierce it, and then was put into his Hand a Lance
 “ of Ash, armed at the Point with Iron of ^b *Poitiers*.
 “ In the Close of the Ceremonial, they delivered to

^b See Du Fresn Gloss v. Ferrum Picavienfe.

“ him

“ him a Sword which had long been in the King’s Ar-
 “ mory, in embellishing which, one *Galan*, the most
 “ famous Engraver of that Time, had discovered great
 “ Art, and used much Industry. Our young Knight
 “ being thus armed, as a good Prefage of his future
 “ Gallantry, mounted his Horse with great Agility.
 “ To conclude, that Day being peculiarly dedicated
 “ to the Honour of his Knighthood, and to uninter-
 “ rupted Mirth; martial Exercises, and Decorations
 “ of Feasts, and Dress, were the whole Business and
 “ Entertainment of it. The Solemnity of the Initi-
 “ ation of this Knighthood continued successively for
 “ seven Days.”

Several Observations may be made upon this Hi-
 story, towards illustrating the present Subject: It is
 remarkable, in the First Place, that a King of the *Nor-*
man Line, the Son of the Conqueror, yet observed
Bathing, (which may be esteemed appendent to the
Saxon Custom of Vigils) even when he was in his *Nor-*
man Dominions beyond Sea: A Circumstance, which
 may be improved, to shew the Improbability of *In-*
gulfus his Opinion, concerning the Dislike of the *Nor-*
mans to the Method used by the *Saxons*, in creating
 Knights: For it cannot be supposed, whatever poli-
 tical Reasons might induce a Sovereign Prince to cer-
 tain Acts of Compliance with his People, against his
 Inclination and Sentiments, while he resided among
 them; yet, that in his foreign Dominions he would
 choose

choose to act after a Manner disagreeable to his own Temper, and to that of his foreign Subjects.

II. This Creation of Knighthood, it may be farther observed, was, at the Time of solemnizing a Marriage; and the Degree of Knighthood of the *Bath* hath been since frequently conferred on the like Occasions. This Ceremony was performed upon one of the highest Festivals of the Year, the Day of *Pentecost*; in the Choice of which, it is not improbable, King *Henry* was rather determined for doing such an Act of Grace, since himself had been Knighted on that ^r Anniversary in the Year 1084.

III. A considerable Number of young Gentlemen, by whom *Geoffrey* was attended, were ^s knighted with him; and, conformable to that Practice, the same Usage hath been retained in subsequent Creations.

IV. It may very reasonably be concluded, that in the free and familiar Conversation which the King had with this young Candidate, he might himself descend to instruct him in the Nature, and Duties of the Degree with which he was preparing to honour him;

^r Mat. Paris, p. 11. Numb. 50.

^s Thus in Mr. Selden's Copy, in his Titles of Honour, p. 640. Ejus vero confodales qui cum eo militiæ suscipiendæ munus expectabant, universi bysso & purpura innovantur.

a Conjecture, which may be more reasonably made, as this King, having been himself a Man of uncommon Erudition, would naturally be a greater Encourager of Ingenuity and Arts: And it will be evident from Precedents hereafter cited, that we have had several Monarchs who did not think it below their Dignity, personally to instruct the Esquires who were to receive this Honour of Knighthood from them.

V. There is a near Affinity observable between the Make of the Habits, as they are represented at that Time, and the Manner, and Ceremony of putting them on, with the Forms that are now used, in both Respects.

VI. And whereas an Horse, we are here told, was presented to the young Knight, it is well known, that in succeeding Times these Knights of the *Bath* were obliged to make Cavalcades with great State.

VII. Besides these several Usages, which might be derived from the *Saxons*, a Lance, a Coat of Mail, a Shield, an Helmet, &c. were delivered, which probably were according to the *Norman* Method of conferring Knighthood, by whom, according to the Customs of *France*, Tilts and Tournaments might be then practised, which yet were not introduced into this Realm till under the Reigns of the succeeding Kings.

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VIII. In the Formularies of the Knighthood of the *Bath*, and in several Precedents cited in the *Appendix*, the Eldest and younger Sons of our Sovereigns, as well as other Candidates for this Honour, at their Coming to Court for the Reception of it, were only permitted to serve up the first Dish to the King's Table; and had not the Privilege of sitting down, until they had been actually made compleat Knights, according to the Rites of the Ceremonial: Which Custom is plainly intimated, in this History, by the Words, *Regalibus gaudiis interesset*; an Institution of great Antiquity; for *Paulus Diaconus*, who died in the Beginning of the ninth Century, in his History of the *Lombards*, is very full and clear to this Purpose; "You know, saith he, it is not customary, that even the Son of the King, should be permitted to sit at Table with him, except he hath first received Arms from some foreign Prince." And so late, as in the Interview of the Emperor *Charles IV*, with *Charles V* King of *France*, in 1378, the Dukes who were not Knights, had not the Privilege of sitting at Supper with them, which was allowed to those who had been dignified with that Honour.

The next Testimony will be taken from *John Salisburienfis*, who lived to the Year 1182, and must be ad-

† l. i. c. 23.

* *Entreveus, &c. par Godefroy, p. 72.*

mitted

mitted a competent Witness; because, under the Pontificate of Pope *Adrian*, his, and our Countryman, he took a Journey, in his younger Years, to *Rome*, to visit that Pope; and in his Journey (as it appears from his own Testimony) did himself receive the Honour of ^x Knighthood, from an Archdeacon, in *Italy*: He is indeed silent, as to the Articles of *Bathing* and *Vigils*, but mentions another Characteristick of this Knighthood, the Oblation of the Sword, as a ^y Form pre-required; and which, he writes, still subsisted in his Time. *Petrus Blesensis* was his Contemporary, and Scholar at *Paris*, and as he had the farther Advantage of living for some Time in the Court of *Henry II*, so it must be supposed he was sufficiently qualified to judge of the Customs in that Court, especially of such, as were practised on the most publick, and signal Occasions. He ^z observes, that, “ formerly Knights obliged themselves, by a military
 “ Oath, to do true and faithful Service to the State;
 “ never to fly in Battel, and always to prefer the Publick Good to the Safety and Preservation of their own
 “ Lives; and even, at this Time the Candidates receive
 “ their Swords from the Altar; thereby interpretatively,
 “ ly, and as by a visible Test of their Sincerity, declaring
 “ themselves true and faithful Sons of the Church; ready to maintain the Honour of the

^x Append. Numb. 5. ^y Append. Numb. 4. ^z Append. Numb. 6.

“ Priesthood, to defend the Poor, to punish Injustice,
 “ and to assert the Liberties of their Country : But
 “ this Design is now notoriously and shamefully per-
 “ verted : they who are at present invested with Knight-
 “ hood, being Enemies to the professors of Christiani-
 “ ty, are the Men who invade and lay waste the Patri-
 “ mony of the Church.”

This *Petrus Blesensis*, whom we last quoted, died, as appears from a ^a Record, before the Twentieth of May, in the fourteenth Year of King *John's* Reign ; under which, we find Directions in the King's Wardrobe for providing ^b Habits of Scarlet, of green or brown Colour, with Breeches and Shirts, *Braccis & Camisfis*, which agree exactly with the Formulary of creating Knights of the *Bath* ; and also Bedding, Coverlets and Sheets, which were doubtless for the Service of those who were to be *Bathed* : for no other proper, or indeed probable Occasion can be assigned for them : And like Orders frequently occur for providing Beds and Coverlets in the ^c Reign immediately succeeding, and in that too of ^d *Edward* the First. But, in this Reign, we have also a collateral Testimony to our Purpose from ^e *Matthew of Westminster*, who, tho' he doth not, as we have already acknowledged, descend to specify *Bathing* ; yet, in the

^a Claus. 14 Joh. ^b Append. Numb. 7, 8. ^c Append. Numb. 9.
^d Append. Numb. 10, 11. ^e Append. Numb. 12.

Record *f* for providing Materials for these very Knights, whom he doth mention, the *Bath* is expressly mentioned. And, as several pertinent and useful Observations may, and will be made upon this Citation from the Monk of *Westminster*, I thought it might be convenient to insert a true and entire Copy of it.

“ The King, to render his Expedition into *Scotland* more splendid and numerous, caused Proclamation to be made throughout *England*, whereby
 “ all Persons entitled [compellable] to take Knight-
 “ hood by Right of Hereditary Succession, that is,
 “ by Lands descended to them; or who had
 “ Estates sufficient to support that Degree, were re-
 “ quired, on the Feast of *Pentecost*, to attend at *West-*
 “ *minster*, where, every one of them should receive se-
 “ verally, out of the King's Wardrobe, at the King's
 “ Expence, all Things belonging to the Habit of
 “ Knighthood, except what related to the Furniture
 “ of his Horse [or Armour for such Knight]. At
 “ the Time and Place appointed, there was an Appear-
 “ ance of Three-hundred young Gentlemen, Sons
 “ of Earls, Barons, and Knights, to whom was di-
 “ stributed in ample Measure, according to their dif-
 “ ferent Qualities, Purple, fine Linnen, Furrs, and
 “ Mantles embroidered with Gold: And because the

f Appendix, Numb. xiii.

“ Royal

“ Royal Palace, though spacious, was not of Extent
 “ sufficient to accommodate so great a Number, they
 “ repaired to the *New Temple*; where they erected
 “ Tents and Pavilions, having first cut down the
 “ Trees in the Orchat, and levelled the Walls of it,
 “ that they might separately, and more commodiouf-
 “ ly dress themselves in their splendid Habits. That
 “ Night, as many of them performed their Vigils
 “ in the *Temple-Church*, as the Place would well
 “ contain: But the Prince of *Wales*, by Command
 “ of the King his Father, kept his Vigils in the Church
 “ of *Westminster*, with some other Persons of the first
 “ Dignity. There, the Noise of Trumpets and Pipes
 “ was so great, and the Acclamations of the People
 “ so loud and extended, that the Voices in one Choir
 “ could not be distinctly heard in another. On the
 “ Day following, the King invested his Son with the
 “ military Belt, and consigned to him the Dutchy of
 “ *Aquitain*. The Prince being Knighted, went to
 “ the Church of *Westminster*, that he might confer
 “ the like military Honour on his Companions;
 “ there, the Press, occasioned by a promiscuous Con-
 “ course of People, was so great, before the high Al-
 “ tar, that two Knights were stifled; and several faint-
 “ ed away; for every Knight had, at least, *Three other*
 “ *Knights* to conduct and support him. But the
 “ Prince was obliged, by Reason of the tumultuous
 “ Croud, to invest his Companions upon the high
 “ Al-

“ Altar, having, by his Guards, made Way for them
 “ to pass through the People. Then were brought and
 “ presented two Swans, introduced with much Pomp,
 “ and covered with golden Nets, adorned and em-
 “ bossed with golden Studs, a Solemnity highly grate-
 “ ful to the Spectators : The King offered a Vow to
 “ God, upon the Presentation of the Swans, that he
 “ would make a Descent upon *Scotland*, with a De-
 “ sign, whether he should live or die in the Attempt,
 “ to revenge the Death of *John Comin*, and the vio-
 “ lated Faith of the *Scots*, &c.

Thus *Matthew of Westminster* describes the Celebra-
 tion of this great Festival ; wherein there is a particular
 Article, somewhat foreign indeed to our Subject ; which,
 however, I shall proceed, directly, to explain ; that is, a
 Vow, made upon the Exhibition, beforementioned of
 two Swans, in Conformity to an ^s Usage, continued for

^g In the sumptuous Festival held by Philip Duke of Burgundy at Lisle, on
 the 17th of February 1453, after the *Justs* were finished. “ En telle ordon-
 “ nance vinrent les Officiers d’Armes, & le dernier d’eux estoit *Toison d’Or*
 “ Roy d’Armes, lequel portoit en ses mains un Phaïsant en vie, orne d’une
 “ riche Collier d’Or garny de pierres fines, & de perles.” — Et apres la re-
 verence le dit *Toison d’Or* parla a iceluy Duc en cette maniere, *Treihaut &*
trespuissant Prince & mon tres redoubte Seigneur, Voyez icy les Dames, qui
 tres humblement se recomandent a vous : & pour ce, que c’est la coustume,
 qui a este anciennement institue, qu’es grandes Festes & nobles Assemblies,
 on presente aux Prince, & Seigneurs, & aux nobles Hommes le Paon, ou
 quelque autre noble Oyseau, pour faire des voeux utiles, & valables : pour ce sub-
 ject on m’a envoye avec ces deux Damoiselles, pour vous presenter ce noble
 Phaïsant ; vous prians que le veuillez avoir en souvenance ; ces paroles estans
 dites, iceluy Duc prit un brief escrit, lequel il bailla a *Toison d’Or*, &c. and
 thereon he vows an Expedition against the Turks, *Hist. Chronolog. du Charles 8.*
p. 672. and the same Narrative is in Olivier de la Marche. p. 428.

Chifflet Breviar. Hist. Velleris Aurei, c. 3. endeavours to explain this Custom.

some

some Ages; according to which, when any hostile Expedition was intended, the commanding Prince formally and solemnly bound himself to execute it upon the Oblation of some Bird, as a visible Test or Signal of such Engagement.

Matthew of Westminster informs us, the Creation of these Knights was made, by Virtue of Writs directed to the Sheriffs, and we find indeed such Writs upon ^b Record: and it is farther acknowledged, that other Writs were at ⁱ that Time also sent to the Sheriffs towards an Election of Members of Parliament, to the End, such Aid might be given, which should become due to the King upon the Knighthood of this Prince: But if any of the young Gentlemen, the Sons of Earls, Barons, or Knights, as our Historian doth severally denominate them, who was to be promoted to this Degree, had not arrived to the Age of One and twenty Years; or if any of them was not seized of an Estate, to the Value required by the Law; in either of these Cases, a Proclamation by the Sheriff could not extend to bring such Person under an Obligation to

^b Claus 34 E. 1. m. 16. dorso. Rex Vic. Linc. Salutem. Præcipimus tibi, quod per totam ballivam tuam in locis, quibus videris expedire, tam infra Libertates, quam extra, publice proclamari facias ex parte nostra, quod omnes illi, qui Milites non sunt & Milites esse voluerint, veniant usq; *London* citra diem *Pentecostes* prox. futur. ad apparatus suos eis in hoc casu necessarios de Garderoba nostra recipiendos de dono nostro, ut Arma Militaria de nobis ibidem suscipere valeant dicto die. Teste Rege apud Wolveseye 6 die Aprilis. Edem modo mandatum est singulis Vicecomitibus Angliæ.

ⁱ Rym. Fœdera, vol. 2. ad A.D. 1306.

accept

accept the Degree of Knighthood: And they being Persons of the first Distinction, as it may be concluded from a List of their Names published by ^k Mr. *Asb-mole*, there is no Question, but the determinate Ages of several of them may be ascertained from Records, which I am not now at leisure to consult, and therefore shall only observe, at present, that many of them are expressly mentioned in that List, as Sons of particular Persons; some of whom, it is supposed, might be living at the same Time. The Crown indeed was interested, in order to support a considerable Branch of the Revenue, not to admit any Person under Age to the Dignity of Knighthood, upon the Summons, and Return of the Sheriff; because, in case any Minor should have been actually knighted, the King had lost the Benefit of the Royal Prerogative, in respect to the Wardship of his Body, and the Marriage of his Person: and therefore, antiently, in Grants of Wardship by the Crown, there was a special ^l Provision, that the Assignee, or Guardian should not assist his Pupil, in any Measures, towards his Reception of Knighthood, 'till the King's Consent should be previously obtained: and for this Reason it is still supposed, upon good Grounds,

^k *History of the Garter*, p. 38.

^l Rot. Pip. 15 H. 2. Norf. Avelina de Ria reddit compotum de 1401. 13 s. 4 d. quod fecit filium suum militem, qui erat in custodia Regis.

Cart. 5 Joh. n. 199. *Wardship of Rob. de Stutevill granted the to Archbishop*, dum ipsum non maritabit, nec militem faciet, nisi per voluntatem nostram.

E

that

that Gentlemen under Age, who were to be advanced to the Knighthood of the *Bath*, had Letters Missive, from the Crown, immediately directed to them, or to their Guardians, requiring them to receive that Degree upon solemn Occasions: And consequently, it seems, no Minor was under any Engagement to receive it, by Virtue of any Mandate directed to the Sheriff. For, as to this Writ of 34 *Edward I*, now under Consideration, it may be proper to advertise, that it is only a Proclamation of Favour or Indulgence, inviting such Persons, who were not already Knights, "*qui milites non sunt, & milites esse voluerint*," and were desirous to receive Knighthood, that they might appear to accept that Degree; and not a Proclamation, by Way of Command, or strict authoritative Compulsion to those, who were under any Engagement by Tenure to be Knighted, or else might be fined; in which Case, the Clause was "*omnes, qui milites esse debent, & non sunt*" all such, who *ought* to be Knights, and are not so; and the Sheriff is not here directed, or empowered personally to summon, or to return the Names of any Persons; which are the Terms used in the Form of the Writs, that command Persons, obliged by Virtue of their Tenures, to take Knighthood upon them: It is highly probable, that in regard to the ready and loyal Zeal of those, who, for the King's Service and Pleasure, made a voluntary Tender of themselves, to accept Knighthood on this Occasion, and did not accept
it

it from any Motive of legal Constraint, had some particular Marks of Favour then conferred on them.

II. In this Extract we find Musick, and different Kinds of musical Instruments, which are still retained when Knights of the *Bath* are created, with some Variation, as expressing the Joy, and contributory to the Grandeur of the Solemnity.

III. Every Knight-Candidate had, at least, three other Knights, *Milites*; which may possibly design the Veteran Knights, who instructed him in the Rules of the *Bath*; and by whom, according to the Ceremonies, such Candidate was to be introduced to the Presence of the Sovereign, or to his Lieutenant; or we may understand by them, the two Esquires-Governors, and the young Esquire, who, by the Formularies, are required to attend him.

IV. It appears also, there was some Difference in the Furniture provided on the Occasion, according to the different Quality of the Persons to be created Knights; and the Custom hath been conformable to this Rule: for we find Habits provided under the following Distinctions, *m tanquam pro Milite simplici*, as, for Knights simple; *n tanquam pro Baneretto*, as, for Knights-Banne-

m Append. Numb. 10, 16.

n Appendix, in several Places.

rets ; *o* *tanquam pro Comite*, as, for an Earl ; *p* *comme pour celuy, qui est fitz de Conte*, as, for the Son of an Earl.

V. In Regard to the Number of the Knights mentioned by this Historian, I must take the Liberty of remarking, upon the Authority of the Record here referred to, that he was mistaken. There were not, as it appears from this Instrument, Three hundred Gentlemen then knighted, but only Two hundred sixty seven ; whose Names being already printed by *q* Mr. *Asmole*, it was not necessary to repeat them in the *Appendix*, where a distinct Account is given of the Habits provided by the Wardrobe on the Occasion. At which Time it is also memorable, as I have Authority to observe from a Manuscript in my *r* Custody, that the Earls of *Hertford* and *Lincoln*, at that Time, performed the Ceremony of putting on the Spurs of the Knights ; one of the grand Rites in conveying this Degree of Knighthood.

Under the Reign of *Edward II*, the Accounts of the Wardrobe are still more express, and particular, in mentioning the Articles relating to the Creation of

o Appendix, Numb. 20.

p Appendix, Numb. 13.

q *History of the Garter*, p. 37.

r Appendix, Numb. 14.

Knights ;

Knights ; they recite, that Orders were given for providing, *Capam intus vigilandum*, an Outer-garment ; for that, doubtless, is the ' Signification of the Term, to defend them from the cold Air of the Night ; and we learn also from the same Accounts, that this " Garment was of a mixed, or murray Colour.

The Creation, upon the 20th Day of *January*, in the * twentieth Year of *Edward II*, was appointed, by the Command of the King's eldest Son ; between which Time, and the Renunciation of his Father, only five Days intervened ; and therefore the Knights, for whom Robes were then prepared upon this Mandate, are concluded to have been Knights of the *Bath*, who attended on the ' Son's Coronation, on the first Day of *February* following. These Orders discover a farther Particular, that Cloth of Gold, grounded upon diapred Silk, was also then delivered ; which, in the Accounts of succeeding Reigns, is often termed *Racamatz*, and *Sigaston*.

The next z Instrument, to which I refer, bears date five Days after, being the Day of *Edward the Third* his Accession to the Throne ; at which Time, he had not himself been knighted : It bears the expresse Title *pro Militia Regis*, for the King's Knighthood, and contains

f Appendix, Numb. 16.

t Du Fresne Gloss. v. Capa.

" Appendix, Numb. 16, 20. x Append. Numb. 20.

y Dugd. i Vol. Baron. p. 143. of the Mortimers, and in several other Places.

z Appendix, Numb. 21.

the

the several Materials provided by the Wardrobe for that purpose, and they are such, which are still continued for the same Use; though for the King's Service, upon this his personal Knighthood, they were of a more rich and curious Composition.

It is more particularly remarkable, from this Record, that with reference to the Ornaments of the Chamber, wherein the King was to *bathe*, there is a Circumstance mentioned, which discovers, the King's Arms were placed in the Corners of the Tapestry; and the Method of placing the armorial Ensigns of Knights of the *Bath*, in the Room where they *bathe*, still continues. It likewise appears from the same Record, the King performed his Vigils on the Last of *January*; and we know, that he was solemnly crowned on the Day following.

Our Writers are divided in Opinion, as to the ^a particular Person, by whom this Creation of Knighthood was actually solemnized: they who suppose him to have been ^b *John of Heinnault*, afterward Earl of *Cambridge*, seem to me to form their Judgment upon the most probable Grounds, as it was more especially, by his Interest, this King obtained the Throne.

In the ^c third Year of his Reign, there is an Entry, directing Provisions to be made for Vigils, Beds, and

^a By Henry Earl of Lancaster. Walf. Ypod. Neustr. p. 509. n. 30.

^b Cleopatra D. 9. in Bibl. Cotton. *Edwardus* in festo Sanctæ *Brigide* a *Johanna* fratre Comitiss *Hannonie* miles factus, & eodem die in Regem consecratus.

^c Appendix, Numb. 22.

Robes,

Robes, according to the usual Manner: and in the Year ^d following there is the like Entry in Behalf of five Knights, who were, probably, made at the Coronation of the Queen-Consort, mentioned in that Account as crowned on the 18th of *February*: One of these Knights, *Thomas de Bradstan*, by special Favour from the Crown, received an Augmentation of several Presents, above the usual stated Allowances; among which were four Pair of Spurs, six Pair of Gloves, three Girdles of white Silk, four Pair of Hose or Stockings of brown Cloth, one Saddle *cum arfone albo*, with a white Saddle-bow, a shaving Bason, &c. all which Articles are still used by Knights of the *Bath*, at their Investiture.

In the ^e fifth Year of this Reign, Sir *Walter Manny* had Materials appointed for his Vigils and Bed: This Knight rendered himself most famous, by a Course of martial and brave Exploits, for which he was at length deservedly elected a Companion of the most Noble Order of the *Garter*.

In the ^f two Years succeeding, we find the usual Preparations in favour of several Judges, who were to be created Knights: and in the ^g 21st of the same King, *Maurice Fitz-Thomas* of Ireland, *Philip de Staunton*, and *Thomas de Fencotes* had the like Materials for their

^d Appendix, Numb. 23.
Numb. 25, 26.

^e Append. Numb. 24.
^g Appendix, Numb. 27.

^f Appendix,

Knight-

Knighthood on the Day of our Lord's Nativity; afterwards, in the ^b 34th of this Reign, two Judges received also the like Provisions for Knighthood at *Christmas*.

In the 7th Year of ⁱ *Richard II*, two Judges of the *Common Pleas* had the like Furniture for their Knighthood at the same Festival; and in the eleventh ^k Year, Orders were issued for providing the usual Materials for the Knighthood of the two Chief Justices, who were to receive this Degree at *Windsor* on the Feast of *St. George*. In the Twelfth of that Reign, there is a Bill ^l of Account, which mentions the silken Lace, the black Stockings, the white Scabbard for the Sword, a black Saddle with a white Saddle-bow, the pectoral Plate, and the black Bridle for the Horse, &c. all which are still used by Knights of the *Bath*, upon their Creations. And, in the following ^m Year, Directions were given, that Robes should be prepared for the Earls of *March* and of *Stafford*; and for *Alfonfus*, Son of the Count of *Denia* in *Arragon*, with the requisite Provisions for their *Bathing*, and Beds, at the Feast of *St. George*, in the said Year. The Father of this *Alfonfus* having been taken Prisoner in the Battle of *Nazarre*, the Son was sent a *Hostage* into *England*, as Security for his Honour, and Appearance: Our Records and Historians inform us, that he resided here

^b Appendix, Numb. 28. ⁱ Append. Numb. 29. ^k Append. Numb. 30. where, instead of 2 R. 2. should be 11 R. 2. ^l Append. Numb. 31. ^m Append. Numb. 32.

for several Years in that Quality, his Father not having taken care to perform the Conditions necessary to his Discharge and Return; yet, during the whole Time of his Residence, though so long protracted; he gave all possible Proof, that he had, with a strict Notion, a most tender and powerful Sense of Honour, and that no Temptation, or Opportunity could ever induce him to entertain a Thought of falsifying his Promise.

The next Extract, to which I refer, is taken from *Froissart*ⁿ, wherein we have an Account of the Knight-hood conferred on the four Kings of *Ireland* by *Richard* the Second, after they had performed their Vigils. The printed Copy represents these Kings as *sitting*, on that Day, at King *Richard's* Table: But, according to a very beautiful^o Manuscript-Copy of our Historian, curiously embellished with Limnings in the brightest Colours, these *Irish* Potentates *served* that Day at the King's Table; though there is an obvious Method, which may be proposed, for reconciling the seeming Difference between these two Accounts. There are reasonable Grounds to conclude, that these *Irish* Kings, upon their Appearance at the Court of the King of *England*, in order to take this Degree, might, in the Quality of Esquires, according to the Formulary, *serve* up the first Dishes, and when they had the Character

ⁿ Appendix, Numb. 33.

^o In Custody of Mr. Woodman the Bookseller.

of this Knighthood actually conferred on them, were then permitted to have the Honour of *sitting* at Dinner with his Majesty.

We proceed now to consider another Report of *Froissart's* ^p, concerning the Coronation of *Henry IV*, which is acknowledged by Mr. ^q*Camden* to be the most ancient Testimony he had found, relating to Knights of the *Bath*: ^rMr. *Selden* adds, “*That the first express Mention of them, as a distinct Order, is commonly attributed to the Beginning of this Reign.*” I shall here render the Words of *Froissart*, recited in the *Appendix*, and from whom we learn, “That the Vigil before that Coronation, was on the Evening of *Saturday*, on that Occasion, and at that Time, in the *Tower*, there watched, *saith he*, that Night, all the Esquires, who were on the next Morning to be created Knights, to the Number of Forty-six, each of them had his Esquire [attending him] a separate Chamber, and each his separate Bath, where the Rites of Bathing were that Night performed. On the Day following the Duke of *Lancaster* [*Henry IV.*] at the Time of celebrating Mass, created them Knights, giving them long green Coats, the Sleeves whereof were cut streight, and furred with Minever, and with great Hoods or Chaperons furred in the same

^p *Append. Numb. 34.*
p. 678.

^q *Britann. p. 124.*

^r *Titles of Honour,*

“Man-

“ Manner, and after the Fashion used by Prelates;
 “ and every one of these Knights, on his Left-shoul-
 “ der, had a double Cordon, or String of white Silk,
 “ to which white Tassels were pendent.”

This Passage, it is granted, tho’ not easily account-
 ed for, when we consider Mr. *Camden*’s profound Skill
 in Antiquities, yet, might have been the first, that
 occurred to his Observation from our Historians, print-
 ed in his Time, relating to the *Bathing* of Knights in
 this Kingdom. But this being admitted, by what
 Rule of Argumentation could any Person, from these
 Words of *Froissart* infer, that *Knights of the Bath*, had
 their first Institution at that Coronation; or from that
 Period, commenced to be a distinct Order of Knight-
 hood.

An Order, in the large Sense of the Word, is of
 equivocal, and very indeterminate Signification; it is
 attributed indifferently to every Degree of Knighthood;
 and several Records in the *Appendix* confessedly term
 that Knighthood, wherein Baths were prepared, a mi-
 litary Order, *ordinem Militarem*: But when we speak
 of an Order, in a strict, or more restrained Sense, ac-
 cording to the Definition, or rather, as I have chosen
 to express my self, the Description of it, in the Place
 to which the Reader is here directed; that is, if by an
 Order, we understand a Brotherhood, Fellowship, or

f *Introduet. to the Register of the Garter, p. 63.*

Association of a certain Number of actual Knights; subjected under a Sovereign, or *Great Master*, united by particular Laws and Statutes, peculiar to that Society, not only distinguished by particular Habits, Ensigns, Badges, or Symbols, which usually give Denomination to that Order; but having a Power, as Vacancies happen in their College, successively, of nominating, or electing proper Persons to succeed, with Authority to assemble, and hold Chapters; according to this State of an Order, it is not easy to be conceived, how any learned Man could ever infer, from the forecited Testimony of *Froissart*, that the Knights of the *Bath* had their Commencement at this Time, as Knights strictly and regularly of a Military Order.

But not to insist upon the ambiguous Signification of Words, or to enter upon a specifick Enquiry here, whether the Knighthood of the *Bath*, was properly an Order of Knighthood at this Time, or in any former Time; this is certain, from the Authority of unquestionable Records; that, long before this Time, Provisions were made for the *Baths*, and Coverings of the Baths, prepared at the Creation of Knights.

There is a Record still remaining, which specifies the very Materials delivered from the Wardrobe for these Knights, made at the Coronation of *Henry IV*,

which were no more, than an Upper-coat of Russet for the Vigils, a Mantle of green Tartarin irradiated with Gold, furred with Minever, and Cloth of Gold, termed *Racamatx*; for their Beds, with Linnen of *Brabant*, and *Flanders*, and *Carde*; all which Articles are contained in Words of the same import, in the Accounts of the Wardrobe inserted in the Collections, which were for several Reigns antecedent to the Reign of *Henry IV.*

From this Record, we likewise learn the Names of some of the Persons, who had then this Knighthood of the *Bath* conferred on them.

Thomas, *John*, and *Humfrey*, the younger Sons of that King, were then in their Infancy: The *First* was born in 1388, the Second in 1389, and the Last in 1390; and this their Father's Coronation was on the Thirteenth^x of October 1329.

Mr. *Sandford* saith, That the eldest Son of the King, was then likewise created a Knight of the *Bath*, which must be a Mistake; for I may affirm, with assurance, upon good Grounds, though I cannot distinctly recollect my Authority for my Assertion, that this most heroick Prince received the Honour of Knighthood from *Rhichard II.* in *Ireland*.

^x MS. in Offic. Arm. inter Cod. Norf. n. 48.

^y Rot. Parl. 1 H. 4. n. 61.

^z General Hist. p. 267.

There.

There were likewise several of the Nobility then promoted to the same Dignity, whose Names are recited in this Instrument; but the Time, to which I have limited my self, doth not permit me to make such distinct Inquiry, as may precisely determine their respective Ages: and for the same Reason I have not, in the former Part of this *Introduction*, descended to specify the Ages of those Noblemen who were honoured with this Degree. However, I think proper, incidentally, to take notice, from a Circumstance, which leaves no Room for Doubt, or Uncertainty, that the Earl of *Arundel*, the First of the Noblemen here mentioned, who were not Princes of the Blood, was at this Time only fourteen Years old; for, upon the Death of his ^z Mother, in the sixth Year of this King's Reign, he was in the twentieth Year of his Age.

The Record concludes, by naming Sir *Beaumont*, with Thirty-three Knights besides, then created; though, the Names of these Knights are not inserted; which Omission *Hollinghead* hath, in some Measure, supplied^a. And here it may not be improper for me to remark, that besides the legal and customary Fees, which Knights of the *Bath* were obliged to pay to the Heraldick Officers; the King himself, by Way of *Largesse*, out of his Royal Munificence, ordered a certain

^z Esch. 6 H. 6. n. 31.

^a Append. Numb. 35.

^b Sum

Sum^b to be distributed among them, for their Attendance at the Solemnity of creating these Knights; and we find the like ^c Orders issued by the Kings his Successors.

At the ^d Coronation of *Henry V*, we have a particular Detail of the Ceremonies used in creating Knights of the *Bath*; of which, a Translation is here exhibited. “ In the Year 1413, in the twenty-sixth Year “ of the Age of *Henry V*, on a *Friday*, which preceded the *Sunday* before the Passion [Week], all “ the Requisites for his Coronation having been prepared by the Direction of his Ministers, according “ to the ancient, and laudable Rites, and Usages of “ the Kingdom: The King, accompanied with a noble and numerous Train of Lords Spiritual, and “ Temporal, set forward from his Palace of *Kingston* “ upon *Thames*, towards the *Tower of London*: he was “ met on the Way by a great Number of Earls, Barons, Knights, Esquires, and other his Subjects of “ Condition; particularly, the Citizens of *London*; “ who made a splendid, and handsome Appearance; “ sparing no Expence, whereby they might testify their “ Zeal and Exultation, while the Clergy made a regular Procession, with much Solemnity. The King, “ in this Manner, and under so many Marks of Ho-

^b Appendix, Numb. 36.

^d Append. Numb. 37.

^c Appendix, Numb. 45. 47.

" hour, was conducted to the *Tower of London*; where,
 " about fifty gallant young Gentlemen, or more, of
 " noble Birth, well qualified, to receive the Degree
 " of Knighthood, waited in expectation, that they
 " might receive this Honour from the Hands of so
 " great a Monarch, at the first opening of so glo-
 " rious a Solemnity. These young Candidates, be-
 " ing decently habited in their proper Vestments, to
 " express the more Honour to the King at so grand
 " a Feast, to which nothing requisite for the Magni-
 " ficence of it was wanting; and while his Majesty in
 " royal State, as became his Dignity, was attended
 " by the great Lords; those Candidates, in Testimo-
 " ny, that they should not be obliged at any Time
 " future, to do the like Service in the Habit of Esquires,
 " served up the Dishes at this royal Festival, accord-
 " ing to the received Usage: and, immediately, af-
 " ter the Entertainment was concluded, they retired
 " to an Apartment appointed and prepared for that
 " Use; where Dukes, Earls, Barons, and honourable
 " Knights, as their Counsellors, or Directors, instru-
 " cted them concerning their proper Rules of Beha-
 " viour upon their Accession to this venerable Order;
 " and with much prudent, and forcible Persuasion,
 " taught them what they ought to do, if they would
 " faithfully discharge the proper Duties of it. The
 " young Candidates, according to Custom, at a con-
 " venient Time prescribed, went into the *Baths* pre-
 " pared

“pared severally for them, performing their Vigils,
 “and the other Rites, and Exercifes preparatory to
 “this Degree, regularly, with Affiduity, and an in-
 “tense Degree of pious Zeal. The whole Night ha-
 “ving been devoted to thefe Lucubrations, early the
 “next Morning, upon the firft Appearance of Light,
 “theſe Candidates, having given the rich golden Beds,
 “wherein they had reposed themſelves in the Night,
 “to ſome domeſtick Servants of the King’s Houſe-
 “hold, as their cuſtomary Fee, proceeded to hear
 “Maſs; and when they had gone regularly through
 “the Courſe of their Devotion, having mounted their
 “fine Horſes, they rode, in their rich ſilk Mantles, ’till
 “they came to the Gate of the Royal Palace; where,
 “deſcending from their Horſes, each of them, being
 “ſupported by two Knights, and conducted with all
 “proper Marks of Honour, and Reſpect, ſuitable to
 “his different Quality, was introduced, and preſent-
 “ed to the King; who, ſitting in royal State, the
 “Throne being ſurrounded with a numerous Train of
 “noble and great Perſonages, promoted them ſeveral-
 “ly to the Honour of Knighthood: After their In-
 “veſtiture, they were permitted to ſit down in their
 “rich ſilk Mantles in the King’s Preſence; but did
 “not, during the whole Time of Dinner, taſte
 “any Part of the Entertainment. After the roy-
 “al Feaſt was concluded, the young Knights di-
 “veſting themſelves of their Mantles, put on rich
 G “ Robes,

“ Robes, being the King’s *Livery* of the same *Suite* ;
 “ and when the King, in the Vigil of the *Sunday* be-
 “ fore *Passion-Week*, rode to *Westminster*, in much State
 “ and solemn Order, attended with a great Concourse
 “ of Princes and Noblemen, as became the Grandeur of
 “ so potent a Monarch ; all these young Knights pre-
 “ ceded the King, riding on their Horses in admi-
 “ rable Order, through the Middle of the City, and
 “ made so delightful an Appearance, that all the Spec-
 “ tators seemed to be inebriated with Joy.”

Every one of the particular Rites here expressed,
 perfectly agrees with the Ceremonial now in use ; and
 from that Use, as from the former Quotation about
Geffery of Anjou, and another, that will be inserted re-
 lating to the young King of *Sicily* ; we learn, that the
 Habits of Esquires were different from those of
 Knights : And it seems to be also here intimated, that
 these Candidates had Knights appointed to instruct
 them, which were of their own respective, and pro-
 per Degrees ; because we find such Office of Instruction,
 promiscuously imposed upon Dukes, Earls, Barons,
 and Knights, and severally exercised by them ; of
 which Practice, Precedents are inserted in the *Appen-
 dix*.

*e I may, on some future Occasion, make a Disquisition concerning these Distinctions,
 in this and foreign Kingdoms ; but, to prevent too great an Interruption in the
 Course of these Remarks, I shall now only refer the Reader to the Sumptuary
 Laws.*

It

It may contribute to gratify the Reader's Curiosity, if I should here descend to take Notice, concerning the Prohibition, imposed on a Knight, of not eating; the first Instance whereof, in this *Introduction*, occurs from the Passage before us. The Words containing this Prohibition in the Ceremonial, both *French* and *English*, express, that he ought not to eat or drink, but under the Restraint of a Bride, upon the Day of her Marriage. This Rule, as it relates to the other Sex, appears to have been more peculiarly adapted to the native Innocency, and simple Manner of former Ages: It may not be unentertaining to cite a Passage from *Chaucer*, upon this Occasion, which discovers how reserved, and modest, the Comportment of our *English* Ladies was, in his Time.

The Names of the Knights then created, may be collected from the *Record* of the Wardrobe; and the preparatory Materials for their Creation were, according to usual Precedents, delivered out of that Office.

This King, in the *fifth* Year, or rather, according to more exact Computation, in the Sixth, promoted

f The Merchants Tale of the Marriage of January with May, v. 1375.

Holdith hir Chamber unto the fourth Day,
As usage is of Wivis for the best, &c.

v. 1405.

A Custom is unto these Noblis all,

A Bride shall not eten in the Hall,

Till Dayes four, other thre at the leste

Thassid bin, then let her go to Feste.

g Appendix, Numb. 38.

h Appendix, Numb. 39.

G 2

seve-

several Persons to the Knighthood of the *Bath*, whilst he was in *Normandy*, on the Anniversary Feast of *St. George*.

In his ⁱninth Year, upon the same Anniversary, at *Windsor*, he conferred the like Dignity upon the King of *Scotland*, and upon the Earl of *Stafford*. This King was *James*, the *First* of the Name, in that ancient Monarchy; who, in the ninth Year of his Age, 1406, whilst his Father was yet living, being sent toward *France*, in order to his Education, was taken in the Voyage by the *English*, and brought into this Kingdom; where he was detained, for the Space of eighteen Years.

This is the last Account, from the Wardrobe, to which I have referred, in the *Appendix*; though a much greater Number of Precedents might have been cited, from that Office, if the Occasion of my treating, professedly, upon this Subject, had been foreseen. But when I perused the Records of the Wardrobe, having no Design of collecting from them, any Informations, but what related to the *History of the most Noble Order of the GARTER*, I only made Extracts of such Memoirs, as had some more special, and direct Reference to that Undertaking.

After the Demise of this most victorious King, we find, in the Inventory and ^kAppraisement of the

ⁱ Appendix, Numb. 40.

^k Appendix, Numb. 41.

Goods,

Goods, which he devised for Payment of his Debts, an Article, specifying *Tartarin* irradiated, for the Habit of Knights of the *Bath*.

Henry the Sixth was 'born on the Festival of St. Nicholas, in December 1421, and on *Whitsunday* 1426, he was knighted ^m by his Uncle the Duke of Bedford, who had himself been created Knight of the *Bath* in the ⁿ first Year of his Father's Reign. This Record, indeed, according to the Letter of it Imports, that a Summons was issued to several Persons, requiring their Appearance, in order to their being knighted with the King, without descending to specify the particular Degree of Knighthood, which was then to be conferred: But that these Persons here summoned, had really the Knighthood, of the *Bath* conferred on them, may be concluded from what hath been observed ^o before, concerning the Practice in the like Cases. For here some of these Mandates were immediately directed to the Guardians of young Gentlemen, who were in Wardship, and others to the Parents of young Persons of noble Birth, to attend, in pursuance of such Summons, to receive Knighthood: So that according to my former Conjecture, for I only call it so, tho' it hath so many strong Appearances of Probability and Truth, whenever Letters Missive to the like effect were

^l Walsingham, p. 406.
Numb. 36.

^m Append. Numb. 42.

ⁿ Appendix,

^o See above, p. 24, 25, 26.

thus:

thus sent by the Crown on solemn Occasions, and at royal Feasts, directly to the Persons, or to the Guardians of those, who were in their Minority to command their Appearance, in order to their being knighted, and not by the Intervention of Writs to the Sheriffs; which Practice will be confirmed by several Instances in the Sequel; It is again concluded, that Knights created at such solemn Festivals, in pursuance of such Summons, were of a different Degree of Knighthood, from Knights made in pursuance of Writs directed to the Sheriff; which was the Thing to be proved.

Notwithstanding this late Creation, about two Years, and six Months afterward, there were Thirty-two, others say, Thirty-four Knights of the *Bath* made, at the ^P Coronation of this King.

The Serjeant of the Ewery, who had exercised the Office of a Barber, at the Gate of the Royal Palace, and enjoyed the Profits appertaining to that Office, preferred a Petition to the Crown, in the Twenty-fifth Year of this Reign; and, upon his Petition, that Employment was confirmed to him, and to another Person, with all appendent Advantages, together, as it is expressed in the ¹ Patent, with the Fees payable by those, who should be created Knights of the *Bath*; that is, “from
“ every Knight twenty-four Ells of Linnen-cloth;

^g Appendix, Numb. 43.

^b Append. Numb. 44.

“ which

“ which was to be placed about the Bathing-Vessel;
 “ with a Tapet, or Carpet of red Worsted; and twenty Shillings for shaving him; forty Shillings from every Baron, or his *Peer*; one hundred Shillings from every Earl, or his *Peer*; and ten Pounds from every Duke, or his *Peer*, severally, on the same Account.”

It hath been formerly ^r observed, that in the Directions to the Wardrobe, for preparing Materials, at the Creation of these Knights, it is provided there should be a Distinction in the Habits, according to the different Qualities of the Candidates to be created Knights; and that, which was an Act of pure arbitrary Favour from the Crown, Habits of superior Distinction, should be given to Persons, for which their Quality could not, regularly, or directly, entitle them; and yet, on whom that Mark of Favour was conferred, as if they had been really, and actually, qualified by such Titles to receive it; which Remark may serve to render more intelligible the Meaning of the Specifications already mentioned, *tanquam pro Banneretto*; *tanquam pro Comite*, &c. whereby it might be imported, that these Persons were, on the Occasion, considered, as equal, or *Peers*; and accordingly, vested in such Habits, though they were not really and legally of the same Degree: and the same Remark may, in some measure, serve also to ex-

^r See above, p. 27.

plain

plain these Entries, in the forecited Patent, *Peers* to a Duke, to an Earl, and to a Baron; to which it may be farther added, that though the eldest Son of a Duke hath no Claim to the Right of Peerage in Parliament; yet he is, by his Birth, entitled to precede an Earl; as the eldest Sons of Earls precede Barons; and therefore the Sons of the higher Nobility, with reference to this Degree of Knighthood, may be esteemed Peers to the lower Distinctions of Nobility; accordingly, the eldest Sons of the higher Nobility, invested with this Degree of Knighthood, paid Fees to the Heralds, in some stated Proportion, according to the Precedence due to their Birth: For example, the ^j Son to the Marquess of *Dorset* paid fifty Shillings, upon his advancement to this Degree, at the Creation of *Henry* Duke of *York*, when the Barons, then promoted, paid only forty Shillings; and on Account of such Difference in the Habits, the Earl of *Derby* created Knight of the *Bath*, at the Coronation of *Queen Anne Bullen*, in compounding with the Heralds, paid a larger ^t Sum, for his Robe, than the Lord *Vaux* paid, on the same Occasion; and Sir *Thomas Howard*, Son to the Earl of *Surrey*, made Knight of the *Bath* at the Coronation of *Queen Mary*, paid ^u Fees to the Officers of Arms, equal to those paid by the Lords, who were then also created.

^j Append. Numb. 59.
^u Ibid. p. 153 b.

^t *Partition-Book in the Herald's Office*, p. 49, 50.

This

This Conjecture, which I have here made, and which is proposed only as a Conjecture, seems to me, at present, to give the most specious Account concerning the Distinction of *Peers* to Earls, and *Peers* to Barons: As to the other Branch of the Distinction in the Patent, *Peers* to Dukes; it may probably denote the younger Sons of the Blood-Royal, who might have this Dignity conferred on them, antecedently to their Creation, by Patent, to any determinate Title of Peerage. The three * younger Sons, for Instance, of *Henry* the Fourth, were created Knights of the *Bath*, before any one of them was actually possessed of such Title of Peerage.

Upton, a Writer of great Knowledge, Reputation, and Authority, in Affairs relating to Heraldry, and the Rules of conferring Knighthood, flourished in this Reign; and he expressly † recites this Method of creating Knights by *Batling*, and gives a Description of a white Ensign [Stigma] as it may be rendered; which, he saith, the new-created Knight was to wear, 'till he should perform some gallant Exploit, in case no Lady, before that time, or when no opportunity for signaling his Prowess might intervene, should, by a gentle Violence, pluck that Badge of Probation away from him. It is observable, that the Passage, upon which I am now reflecting, supposes, that the Wearing this

* Appendix, Numb. 36.

† Append. Numb. 46.

white Ensign, was agreeable to the antient established Custom in *England*, and is, as he saith, particularly enjoined in the *Ceremonial*, "*uti docet Consuetudo Angliæ*," to which may be added another memorable Circumstance from him, that this Knighthood was conferred, in Time of Peace, "*ubi regnat Pax*;" in which Observation he might probably have an Eye to the Title of the Treatise in the *French* Language hereafter quoted, and inserted in the *Appendix*, concerning the Form of creating Knights of the *Bath*. I shall also endeavour, in the Sequel, to prove, that this very Formulary hath in it certain Characters, which shew, it was compiled, and perhaps for some considerable Time before the Age, wherein *Upton* wrote.

We shall now proceed to the Facts, which I have thought most proper to select, in reference to the present Subject, that occur in the Reign of *Edward IV*, at whose ^z Coronation in *June* 1461, his Brothers, the Duke of *Clarence*, and *Gloucester*, were, with several other Persons of Distinction, created Knights of the *Bath*, in the *Tower*. The Duke of *Clarence* was then in the twelfth, and the Duke of *Gloucester* only in the ninth Year of his Age; the Former was ^a born in *Ireland* on the 22d of *October* 1449; the Younger, at *Fodringay*^b on the 2d of *October* 1452; and, in the

^z Append. Numb. 47.
n. 48. ^b Ibid.

^a MS. in Offic. Armor. inter Cod. Nort.

Rites of this Ceremony, we have a specifick Account of their wearing white silk Tokens, or Laces, on their Shoulders, besides their Gowns, and Hoods.

Scarce three Years were expired, before a new Creation was solemnized on occasion of Crowning the Queen-Consort, when two ^c Noblemen of *Gascoign* had this Dignity conferred on them; a Dignity received with such Ostentation of State, and Magnificence, that a special Provision was made in the ^d Statute against giving Liveries, that it should not however extend to the Creation of Knights of the *Bath*.

In the ^e Regulation of the Household, settled by this King, there are References to the Fees, which arise, as due from the Knights of the *Bath* at their creation, both to the heraldick Officers, and to the Service of the *Wait*, who attended their Vigils.

This King, in the fifteenth Year of his Reign 1475, made a very ^f magnificent Promotion of his two Sons, the Prince of *Wales*, and the Duke of *York*. The Prince had not, at that Time, compleated the fifth Year of his Age, and the Duke is said by Mr. ^g *Sandford* to have been born on the 28th Day of *May* 1474, by ^h others on the 17th of *August* 1472; at this Promotion *Thomas Gray*, then Earl of *Huntington*, the Son of the

^c Appendix, Numb. 48.

^d Appendix, Numb. 49.

^e Append. Numb. 50.

^f Append. Numb. 51.

^g *Geneal. Hist.* p. 415.

^h *Collect. Thinne, Lancaster, B. 2. penes me, p. 292.*

Queen-Consort by her first Husband, had the Knight-hood of the *Bath* conferred on him, and after he was actually, and really invested with that Dignity, the King immediately created him Marquess of *Dorset*; and then he had the Privilege of sitting at Dinner, in the Robes of that Estate, above the other Habits appropriated to the Degree of the *Bath*. At the same time, several Persons of the first Distinction, and in the highest Favour at Court, were advanced to this Honour, whose Names will be found in the *i Appendix*: But it ought here to be particularly observed, the King, at the Time of conferring this Honour upon them, did himself personally condescend to instruct them in the Nature and Duties of it; and this Precedent was followed in several *k Creations* under the Reigns of succeeding Kings.

The Reader may likewise find in the *l Appendix*, the Names of those who were created Knights of the *Bath*, when the Marriage of the Duke of *York*, the younger Son of *Edward IV*, with the Daughter and Heiress of the Duke of *Norfolk*, was solemnised. The next Instrument regularly, in order of Time, should have been inserted before, under the fourth Year of this King's Reign; it reports the *m Sentence* given against Sir *Ralph Gray*, by which he was degraded from his

i Append. Numb. 51.

k Appendix, Numb. 56. 58, 59, 60.

l Appendix, Numb. 52.

m Appendix, Numb. 53.

Character, as Knight of the *Bath*; for he is so expressly stiled, in a ^m Copy which I have, of the Proceedings in that Case, but which would, if transcribed here at length, take up a greater Space than my present Design of Brevity will allow: however, I shall occasionally observe, there is no Expression used, or any Intimation given of his Perjury and Doubling with *Henry VI*, as he is charged by the Memorial entred in the Year-Books of the Law. I have not yet been able to discover the determinate Time, when he was advanced to this Degree, but it is highly probable, it was at some Solemnity in the Reign of that Prince, to whose Cause he at last sacrificed his Life, Fortune, and Honour.

We come now to the Reign of *Edward* the Fifth, when a Design was formed, or rather an Appearance of such a Design projected by the Duke of *Gloucester*, who, during the King's Minority, was constituted Protector of the Realm, for the King's Coronation on the Twenty-second of *June*, and accordingly ⁿ Summons, bearing date on the Fifth of that Month, were issued immediately, and separately to such Persons, whose Names are recited in the *Appendix*, to appear at the Time appointed, that the Degree of Knighthood might be then conferred on them: In which Summons, no mention, indeed, is made of Knighthood of the *Bath*.

^m I. 12. penes me, p. 556.

ⁿ Appendix, Numb. 54.

yet it is evident, that Degree must have been here particularly intended, because Writs, dated on the twentieth Day of *May*, issued to all the Sheriffs of *England*, for obliging all Persons, whose Estates rendered them liable to be summoned for that End, to take the Degree of Knighthood; that is, of common or simple Knighthood upon them, on the eighth Day of *June*. This Writ, I say, to the Sheriffs, was dated on the twentieth Day of *May*; and as it bears a different Date, requires a different Return, and is directed to the Sheriffs, whose Authority only extended, and could only extend, in a legal Way, to summon Persons of full Age, who had Estates to the annual Value of forty Pounds, to accept simple or common Knighthood: We conclude, as in other Cases of the like^o circumstance, that the former Summons respected a different Degree of Knighthood, which could be no other, on any reasonable, or indeed any possible Supposition, than the Knighthood of the *Bath*: And what is here observed, will still be more fully confirmed by the Practice, upon the Accession of succeeding Princes to the Throne; from which it will appear, that besides the Writs issued to the Sheriffs in general, to oblige Persons qualified by their Tenures, to appear, and accept Knighthood, there were separate Summons sent immediately to Persons, who are therein expressly, and by Name designed to be crea-

^o Above p. 24, 25, 26.

ted Knights of the *Bath*, at their respective Coronations.

But the *Protector*, whether he had originally any real Design, that his Nephew *Edward* the Fifth should be crowned at the Time appointed; or whether he only dissembled an Intention to that End, to amuse the People, to gain Time, or to render his Design less suspected, 'till they should be more ripe for Execution; whether he was actuated by any of these Motives, or by all of them, in giving Notice of the Time proposed for the King's Coronation; this is certain, that being instigated by a Spirit of Ambition, if a cruel, and bloody Attempt against all Obligations of Religion, of Honour, of natural Affection, and common Humanity, may be called by so soft a Name, he became soon resolved to prevent his Nephew's Coronation on the 22d of *June*, by previously taking Possession himself of the Throne, and that too in his own pretended Right, on the 18th of the same Month.

And as he had invaded the Crown, so, at his own Coronation, according to the usual Custom and Form, he exercised this Act of the Royal Prerogative in creating Knights of the *Bath*, and the Names of those created by him may be found, under the Reference here made to the *p* *Appendix*.

In the succeeding Reign of *Henry VII*, we shall produce Instances, from which it will appear, that at the Creation of Knights of the *Bath*, at different Times, there was much Solemnity, and several grand Rites used, which will afford Matter for useful, and curious Reflections. This potent and wise Prince, had so great a Notion concerning the Dignity of this Knighthood, that none of our Monarchs his Predecessors, or Successors, seem to have conferred it in a more solemn, exact, or magnificent Manner, or by more signal Acts of a personal Administration. At his Coronation, the young Duke of *Buckingham* was created Knight of the *Bath*, with several other great Personages. In the third Year of that Reign, when the Queen was crowned, there was the like Creation of Knights of the *Bath*, who were called by the *Kings moost Honourable Lettres to receyve the Order of Knyghthood*, and there it is immediately expressed, that they *were created Knyghts of the Bath*; whose Names, with those of the Esquires-Governours appointed to attend them, may be seen in the *r Appendix*.

The King having an Intention to create *Arthur*, his eldest Son, Prince of *Wales*, he previously conferred on him the Knighthood of the *Bath*, on the 20th Day of *December* 1489, when his *Age* did not exceed

q Append. Numb. 56. *r* Appendix, Numb. 57. *f* Depositions in
Lord Herbert's Hist. of Hen. 8. p. 271.

thereon

thereon three Years and three Months. We have a Catalogue of the Names of the Persons promoted at the same Time to this Degree, with a 'Detail of several Ceremonies, and Solemnities used on that Occasion; when the King created a Pursivant for this Prince, by the Title of *Walsingford*, a Castle then belonging to the Prince in Right of his Dutchy of *Cornwall*; and we find a like Precedent by this King, when Knights of the *Bath* were created at his own Coronation; at which Time he instituted a Pursivant by the "Appellation of *Rouge-dragon*: and I have, in *another Place, produced several Examples, to shew, that the Sovereigns of this Kingdom, having the Crown on their Heads, in all Royal State, frequently created, and conferred such Officers.

In the tenth Year of *Henry VII*, we have an Account of the Investiture of his younger Son, the Duke of *York*, (afterward *Henry VIII*.) with this Dignity, on the Eve before *All Saints* Day 1494, and the Names of the Persons who were at the same Time created, with their respective Esquires, are recited in the 'Appendix. It appears remarkable in this Ceremony, that the Lord *William Courteney*, Son of the Earl of *Devon*, who had himself been created Knight of the *Bath* in

t Appendix, Numb. 58.

u Appendix, Numb. 56.

x *History of the Garter*, p. 459.

y Appendix, Numb. 59.

the ² third Year of this Reign, should execute the Office of a young Esquire to this Prince; and that a particular Concession was made in favour of the Knights then created, by which they were "*licensed to ett their metts, by-cause hyt was fastyng-day*:" Now, according to the Ceremonial, these Knights ought to have abstained from eating, if it had not been a Fasting-day; and therefore the Reasons of this Permission to eat, because it was a Fasting-day, I readily acknowledge, appear to me, at present, altogether unaccountable. This Prince having been born ^a on the 28th of *June* 1491, was at this Time, in the same Year of his Age, with that of his Brother *Arthur*, when he was promoted to this Degree.

At the Celebration of Prince *Arthur's* Marriage, there was another Creation of Knights, whose Names are contained in the ^b *Appendix*; and the Roll, already quoted, specifies Knights made at the Time, when, after his Death, the King's second Son, *Henry*, was created ^c Prince of *Wales*; and here again it is acknowledged, the Roll doth not stile those Knights, expressly Knights of the *Bath*, but simply Knights, without any Addition; however, it may be reasonably inferred, that these were really Knights of the *Bath*, from the Solemnity of the Occasion, the Dignity of the Persons knight-

² Appendix, Numb. 57.

^b Append. Numb. 60.

^a Herb. Hist. Hen. 8. p. 272, 274.

^c Appendix, Numb. 61.

ed, and the Method of this Rolle, which only mentions Knights made on solemn Occasions, without specifying the particular Degree of Knighthood conferred on them, though they were, as it hath been proved, created Knights of the *Bath*; but there is no necessity of repeating continually, what hath been said in support of this Assertion.

Under the Reign of *Henry VIII*, there were two grand Occasions, the Former, at the Time of his own Coronation, the Other at *that* of his Queen *Anne Bullen*, when Knights of the *Bath* were severally created, whose Names are exhibited in their proper ^d Course. Sometime before his Demise, he designed to create his Son *Edward*, Prince of *Wales*, and proper Dispositions were made for that End; and, previously, he intended to confer the Knighthood of the *Bath* upon him; for which, suitable ^e Apparel was provided; but his Death prevented the Execution of that Design.

Several Persons of the first Quality were nominated, in order to their being regularly promoted to this Honour, at the Coronation of *Edward VI*; but by reason of some Accident, *because the Time* (as it is ^f expressed) *was so short*, the usual Ceremonies were, by Dispensation, omitted; and to supply that Omission, the King having the Crown on his Head, with *greate*

^d Appendix, Numb. 62, 63.

^e Appendix, Numb. 64.

^f Appendix, Numb. 65.

Royaltie knighted them, having himself first received Knighthood from his Uncle the Protector, who was authorised by Letters Patent, under the Great, Seal to confer it.

Upon the Accession of Queen *Mary* to the Throne, a ^g Commission was granted to the Earl of *Arundel*, empowering him to make Knights; but without any additional Title, within two Days after the Date of that Patent, which were the two Days preceding her Coronation; in pursuance hereof, we find the Names of the Knights created by him, according to the stated Form of creating Knights of the *Bath*, and the Variety of the Ceremonies then used, so distinctly related, that it particularly deserves to be consulted in the ^b *Appendix*.

When Queen *Elizabeth* succeeded to the Crown, she granted the like Commission to the same noble Earl, “to do, and exercise everie thinge, and thinges on hir behalf to be done and exercised, for the full making of “*Knights of the Bath, and of other Knights,*” so they are expressly distinguished. The ⁱ Preamble to this Commission recites, the Reasons upon which the Grant of it was made, and those Reasons are proposed in so good a Light, and supported on such good Grounds, that the Reader, in consulting them, will not find his

^g Appendix, Numb. 66.
^h Appendix, Numb. 69.

^b Appendix, Numb. 67, 68.

Time disagreeably employed. The Names of the Persons advanced to this Dignity, in pursuance of the Commission, will be found in the proper Course in the ^k *Appendix*.

In respect to these Commissions of our Queens-Regent, I have, in another ^l *Treatise*, occasionally mentioned something relating to their Manner of conferring Knighthoods, upon which, I shall not now proceed to enlarge: neither shall I enquire, whether our Kings, who succeeded these two Queens, did not, implicitly, follow the like Method of Proceedure, without reflecting, that such Commissions might be originally owing to the Difference of their Sex, or to certain Reasons of Decency, and Propriety, on that Account. A learned ^m *Jesuit*, indeed, hath asserted, but upon what Authority I cannot conjecture, that *Elizabeth Queen of England, caused her self to be armed on the Day of her Coronation, to be Sovereign of the Orders of Knighthood in England*; neither can I apprehend to what particular Rite, on the Occasion, he intended to refer, as performed by *Queen Elizabeth*, personally, except that of putting on the Spurs, at the Time of her Coronation; the Propriety of which

^k *Appendix*, Numb. 70.

^l *Introduet. to the Register of the Garter*, p. 34.

^m *Menestrier de la Chevalerie*, p. 114. *la Reine Elizabeth d'Angleterre se fit armer le jour de son couronnement pour estre Chef des Ordres de Chevalerie d'Angleterre.*

Ceremony, in this Case, I am not at leisure here to examine.

From the Ceremonial, as it is described, of the Creation in the Reign of Queen *Mary*, we learn, that the Candidates went into the *Bath* in Linnen-Drawers, or Breeches, according to the Rules of an antient Formulary; that the Queen, with her own Hands, tied on their Swords; which yet was not the determinate Action, that impressed the Character of Knighthood; but the Earl of *Arundel* formally and effectually conferred it, when he executed his Commission by giving the Acollade, or by laying his Hands upon the Shoulders of those, who were designed to be honoured with this Degree; concerning which Practice, it will be necessary to add some explanatory Remarks in the Sequel.

As Queen *Elizabeth* was never married, the Reasons of several publick Creations of Knights of the *Bath*, in former Reigns, did not subsist, during the Time of her Reign; which continuing above forty-five Years, she (as it is ⁿ asserted) survived all the Knights, ^o eleven in Number, upon whom this Honour had been conferred at her Coronation.

When King *James* was crowned, he promoted ^p sixty-two Persons to this Dignity; and in the second Year

ⁿ G. 2. penes me, p. 221. 237.

^o Appendix, Numb. 70.

^p Append. Numb. 71.

of his Reign, his younger Son, then in the ⁹ fourth Year of his Age, was ^r invested with this Degree, previous to his being created Duke of *York*.

It was allowed, that Knights of the *Bath* ought to have Precedency of all Knights-Batchilers, though in order of Time knighted before them in this Reign: But some Knights-Batchilers, formerly created, claimed a Right of preceding them: This Contest occasioned a very elaborate and curious Treatise by *Mr. Thinne, Lancaster-Herald*, in answer to the Arguments alledged by the Knights-Batchilers, who insisted on that pretended Right; a Treatise that very well deserves to be made publick; and according to the Argument of which, the Precedency was determined, as rightfully belonging to Knights of the *Bath*.

In the tenth Year of his Reign 1610, when his eldest Son *Henry*, was to be created Prince of *Wales*, there was a general Promotion made of the ^t Knights of the *Bath*, though this Prince himself, it is confessed, never had this Degree actually conferred on him; the Reason of which particular Exception to the general Rule, in respect to Princes, especially to the first Prince of the Blood, most probably was, that Knighthood might have been conferred on him at the Time of his

⁹ Appendix, Numb. 74.

^r Appendix, Numb. 73.

^f G. 2. penes me, p. 196, &c.

^t Appendix, Numb. 75.

Baptism, according to the "antient Custom of *Scotland*, when "he was crowned and created Prince and "Great Steward of *Scotland*, Duke of *Rosay*, Earl of "Carrick, Lord of the *Ilis*, and Baron and * Knight of "Renfrew.

And because different Writers frequently remark the Rites observ'd in publick Solemnities, after a different Manner, so that we frequently find several Circumstances particularly related by one of them, which are only in general transiently mentioned, or perhaps wholly omitted by another, I thought it might not be improper to refer the Reader to several ^y different Narratives, concerning that particular Solemnity, which is the Subject of our present Inquiry: But I have not now an opportunity to examine, whether the Order of Precedency, in the Return of this Procession, as related by Mr. *Stow*, was perfectly agreeable to ancient Usage.

Upon the Death of Prince *Henry*, his Brother *Charles* Duke of *York* (afterwards *Charles* the First) was, with much Solemnity, created Prince of *Wales*, when several ^z Persons were promoted to the Knighthood of the *Bath*, and there was the like Investiture after his Suc-

* See *Scotichron.* l. 16. c. 6. which was also the Practice in France. *Annotat. sur l'Hist. de Ch. 6.* p. 532, and in Burgundy, *Pont. Heuter.* l. 15. *Rer. Burgund.*

^x *Rymeri Fœd.* Vol. 15, p. 263.

^y Appendix, Numb. 75, 76, 77, 78.

^z Appendix, Numb. 79.

cession

cession to the ^a Crown in *February* 1625. In the End of the Year 1637, he ^b appointed that his eldest Son the Prince, afterwards *Charles* King of *England*, the Second of that Name, should, on the thirty-first Day of *May* following, be advanced to this Dignity, before his Election into the Fellowship of the *Garter*, and the ^c Register of that Order mentions his Election on that very Day, but seems, indeed, to imply, that the Degree of Knight-Batchiler, only, was then conferred on him.

Soon afterward the Rebellion and Civil War broke out, putting all Things in a State of the utmost Disorder: and although the very Title of the Formulary seems to imply, that this Degree of Knighthood was only to be conferred in Time of Peace; yet, if what is asserted by a ^d *French* Writer of Character, upon Subjects of Nobility, Titles, and other Adjuncts of Honour, may be of any Authority, *James* Duke of *York*, afterward King of *England*, and the Second of that Name, was created Knight of the *Bath*. But he was certainly elected Companion of the *Garter* at *York*, on the 20th of *April* 1642, the Morning after the last annual Festival of *St. George*, celebrated before the Restoration of King *Charles* the Second, upon which that Monarch restored this Dignity of Knighthood of the *Bath*,

^a Appendix, Numb. 80.

^b Appendix, Numb. 82.

^c Append. Numb. 83.

^d De la Roque Traité de la Noblesse, p. 351.

K

and,

and, previously to his being crowned, created sixty-eight Knights of that Denomination.

III. The Dignity of this Degree may, in general, be concluded, from the pious, the beneficial, and other most excellent Ends of its Institution, which have been already specified: But that we may be able to form still a more adequate, and distinct Judgement in the Case, it may be convenient to proceed upon a summary Consideration of the following Particulars, concerning the solemn Times, Places, and Rites of conferring it, as well as Persons, on whom it hath been peculiarly conferred.

1. Our Monarchs, to do the greater Honour to this Degree, and which may serve to give us a more just Idea concerning the Dignity of it, have chosen the most publick, the most splendid, and joyful Occasions for creating Knights of the *Bath*. This Act of Royal Grace hath been usually display'd upon the Coronation, and Marriage of our Kings; the Coronation of both Queens-Regents and Queens-Consorts; the Birth, and Marriage of the Royal Issue, and their first Advancement to Honours; upon the designed Expeditions by our Kings against their foreign Enemies; upon Installations into the *Most Noble Order of the GARTER*,

and when some grand Anniversary-Festivals were celebrated.

2. The Place, where our Princes have conferred this Honour, was always inseparably, and necessarily annexed, on that Occasion, to the Palace, or within the Verge of the Court, where they resided. And for the greater Solemnity of their Action in conferring it, and to shew the high Importance, and Design of it, the Ceremonies, so far as they respected the Ends of Religion, were solemnized in some Chappel or Church dedicated to the Honour, and appropriated to the Worship of God.

3. But besides these Circumstances of Time, and Place, both which are, without doubt, designedly adapted to the Nature of the Action performed in them; the Manner of creating Knights of the *Bath*, hath several Things in it of more peculiar Consideration, which may be proper still to heighten our Esteem for so antient, and honourable an Institution.

The moral Signification of the several Rites used in creating Knights of the *Bath*, will be considered under a distinct Section in the Sequel. What I shall at present observe, concerning those Rites, only relates to the Lustre, the Importance, and Number of them. In the former respect, they participate with several Ceremonies immemorially used at the Coronation of our Kings; such are the Bath, the Buskins, the Coif, the

Spurs, the Gloves, the Sword, the Oath, the Robes, &c. and probably from thence, as Circumstances varied, these particular Usages, in reference to the Creation of these Knights, did originally take their Rise, and Direction; and consequently, if any Objection should therefore be pretended against them, such Objection would be founded, not in their Want of Splendor, and Dignity, but rather in their exceeding on these Accounts.

The Importance of these Rites, is not less considerable. The personal Administration of the King, when he is present, or at least his virtual Presence under some delegated Authority, in assisting at the Ceremonial by a Train of Actions, peculiar to his Royal Majesty, necessarily contribute to augment the State and Grandeur of the Solemnity; and the great Officers of the Sovereign's Household, received the Candidates to be created Knights of the *Bath*, at their first coming to the Court, who were afterwards successively conducted through a Ceremonial, as we shall presently see, of a various, and elaborate Process.

I need not here proceed to shew, that in proportion, as greater Solemnities are used, in the Designation of a Person to any Office, the more Honour is always, upon a natural Presumption, intended to be done to him, when such Office is conferred. If this be a known Rule, in ordinary Promotions to any Civil Character, or Employment, it will hold still stronger,

ger, when such Ceremonies are performed, which al-
lude principally to those, that have been celebrated,
when Sovereign Princes were invested with the Rights
of their Regalities; or such, as have some visible Rela-
tion to any sacred, and instituted Rite, or Rites of re-
ligious Worship.

It may be proper therefore to take notice, that the
greater Ceremony, from which the Knighthood of the
Bath is denominated; and which, we must therefore
suppose, was instituted with a peculiar Design of re-
presenting the Dignity of it, hath the like Foundation,
as to the moral Design of it, with the great, and sa-
cred Ordinance, by which we are initiated into the
Faith, and Profession of our Holy Religion. And it
is not improbable, that as *Bathing* was intended, in
the allegorical Construction of it, to denote the inward
Purgation and future Purity of the Mind; so, the Oc-
casion of applying it, in that Sense, might be origi-
nally taken from a Consideration of the baptismal
Grace, and Efficacy; for the Origin of this civil In-
stitution may, for the Reason here mentioned, be much
more probably derived from the Christian Religion,
than from the Lustrations of the Heathens, with whom,
it is yet allowed, *Bathing* was used, as one of their re-
ligious Solemnities.

The Distinction, indeed, or proper Character of all
Things is known, and can only be known by the dif-
ferent Forms, under which Things appear: There is

no

no other Reason to be assigned of the different Degrees of Nobility, but from the different Manner, according to which Nobility was at first originally created, or hath been since successively derived: Were it not for certain external Signatures, whereby Persons and Things are known from other Persons and Things, there could be no particular or distinct Knowledge, in either respect.

But of all Distinctions, none are more visibly adapted, and universally understood to represent, or signify, what is intended by them, than those, which are known by different Habits: It is therefore a received Maxim, "The Quality, and Dignity of the Person to be distinguished, is demonstrated from the different Habit appropriated to him." And for this Reason, I may, on some future Occasion, descend to a more particular Consideration of the Robes, and other Marks of Distinction appropriated to Knights of the *Bath*, with some occasional Remarks, concerning the particular Reasons of such Appropriations; contenting myself, at present, by adding, that in the Church of *Wath* in *Yorkshire*, upon the Monument of Sir *John Norton*, created Knight of the *Bath* at the Marriage of Prince *Arthur*, and who died on the 28th of *August* 1520. He was represented by his Portraiture, having over his Armour, the Mantle, and Gloves hanging thereat, as

f G. 2. penes me, p. 214 b.

they

they were used at the Time of his Creation, and with a Cross upon each Knee, which will be hereafter explained.

I shall only make transient Mention here, that these Robes were delivered by the King's special Warrants, at the Expence of the Crown, as an additional Circumstance, to shew another considerable Character of Distinction, in respect to the Dignity, and Honour of this Degree; and I shall here incidentally take the Liberty of repeating, that as a Mark of a more honorary Impress upon this Act of Royal Grace, Knights of the *Bath* are summoned, in order to their Creation, by the King's Letters, or special Missive Writs immediately directed to them for that Purpose.

As the greater Solemnity of any particular Ceremony doth, according the Tenour of the foregoing Argument, demonstrate the greater Dignity of the Action, to which such Ceremony is appropriated; so the Dignity of such Action must necessarily be presumed to arise in proportion, as a greater Number of solemn concurring Circumstances is previously required to the Performance of it: The Rule in this Case, *The more Ceremony, the more State*, needs no Comment; especially, where the Sovereign himself appears, or is understood to appear in all the Splendor, and Majesty of the State-Royal: And therefore, though all Honour is ultimately derived from him, as the sole Fountain of Honour; yet, every Dignity conferred by him, re-

ceives

ceives an additional Lustre, as it is more expressive, or understood to be more expressive, of the Royal Favour, from the Circumstances of conferring it.

I come now to make some Reflections upon the Manner and Act of conferring this Knighthood; and it will appear, there hath not been any Method, or Form of Rites in conferring Knighthood in any Age, or any Part of the World, wherein one Ceremony or other was used, which separately conveyed Knighthood of a different Kind, that is not particularly, and conjunctly retained in conferring the Knighthood of the *Bath*; such was the Investiture with the Military Belt, the Cincture of the Sword, the Placing the Spurs, the Blow upon the Neck, the Acolade, with the Embracing, and Kiss of Peace. Indeed, the Ceremony, by which Bannerets were created, in cutting the *Guidon* into the Form of a Square, could not, with any Propriety, be used in creating Knights of the *Bath*, as it was a Military Action always performed in Time of War, where Banners were displayed.

The Time to which I have confined my self, doth not permit me to explain these several Methods of conveying Knighthood in distinct Ages, and Countries: But, to satisfy the Curiosity of those, who may have a Desire to know, what is the precise, and determinate Action, by which Knighthood of the *Bath* is ultimately, and compleatly conveyed, I shall take the
present

present Occasion to ^g repeat, that the Action which fully and finally impresses the Character of Knight-hood in this Degree, is, the Blow given with the Hand upon the Neck or Shoulder. The Reader by the ^b Reference in the Margin, will find, that it hath been controverted between some foreign Writers, whether the Stroke, which impressed the Character of Knight-hood, was heretofore given with a Sword, or by the bare Hand upon the Neck.

At the Creation of Knights of the *Bath*, it was also usual to make simple Knights, or Knights-Batchillers; which was done solely by the Stroke with a Sword, who are therefore, in some Ceremonials, termed Knights of the ^a *Sword*; and in others, Knights of the ^b *Carpet*. And it should not be omitted, that Persons of the greatest Quality, and particularly a ^c Son of the King of *Portugal*, have taken upon them that Degree, on the Occasion, when Knights of the *Bath* were created. And it is accordingly observable, that in the ^d Commissions issued for creating Knights of the *Bath*, previous to the later Coronations, there was a Clause, which not only gave Powers to that End, but *also to make, and ordain other Persons Knights*.

^g See above. p. 62.

^b Du Fresno, Gloss. v. Alapa Military.

^a Claudius, C. 3. in Bibl. Cotton in several Places.

^b Usually to be found in the Lists.

^c Append. Numb. 43.

^d Append. Numb. 69. 72. &c.

The Knighthood of the *Bath* being more antient than any of the Religious, or Civil Military Orders, which were not founded before the ^e Twelfth Century; there are good Grounds to infer, that several Rites in those Orders might, in succeeding Times, owe their Origin to this Institution: And it might be a proper Subject of Enquiry, whether there is any one of these Orders that was not primarily formed upon the Model of it. As to the Religious Military Orders, it is evident, the Method of ^a admitting a Member into the Fraternity of the Knights-*Hospitallers*, one of the most antient Societies of this kind, had an apparent Assimilation with the Rites used in constituting a Knight of the *Bath*. And as the Ceremonies in creating Knights of the *Bath*, seem to be derived, in several Respects, from the Forms used in the Coronations of our Sovereigns; so several Princes, from this Institution of Knighthood, have probably taken Hints, or certain exemplary Projects, upon which they have erected their Civil Military Orders. I shall not enter upon a particular Discussion, whether even the royal and magnificent Founder of the most Noble Order of the *Garter*, might not, in certain Instances, copy from this Precedent; but I shall confine my self, at present, to what appears, at first sight, to have been somewhat singular

^e In the *Introd. to the Register of the Garter*, p. 63.

^a Menen. Dilic. Equestr. p. 72.

in the Ritual of this Degree of the *Bath*; namely, that every young Knight should wear a white Silk Lace on his Left Shoulder, 'till it should be taken off by the Hand of the Prince, or of some noble Lady, upon his having performed some brave and considerable Action: which might give Rise to the Institution of an Order of Knighthood, from the Badge proper to it, denominated the *Knot*; and this Knot was to be worn by the Companions ^a *untied*, till they had respectively done some such signal Military Exploit.

In the former Ages of Gallantry, Knights obliged themselves, by Vows, to perform *Feats of Arms*; and as a visible Test of their Prowess and Resolution, made choice of some particular Ensign, a Bracelet about the Arm, a Chain about one of their Legs, or some other Device of like nature; first tied on with great Ceremony by the Hand of some beautiful Lady, and worn as the Signal of a Challenge to all Persons, termed, in the Language of that Time, an *Emprise*; as, upon the Performance of that Vow, the same Badge was likewise taken off by a Lady; which Action was called *Deliverer de sa Emprise*, and probably the Word *Enterprize* may owe its Etymology to this Practice.

^a Hist. des Ordres Militaires, Amsterd. 1721. Vol. 3. p. 413, 414. Car. de Iellis in famil. Neapol. Hic jacet strenuus Miles Collutius Bozzutus filius eius qui fuit de Societate Nodi, quem Nodum in campali bello victorioso dissolvit, & dictum Nodum religavit in Jerusalem, qui obiit, 1370.

The taking this Silk Lace off the Knights of the *Bath* by a Lady, is the more observable, as to defend and protect Virgins and Widows was a Duty incumbent on them, by vertue of their Oath; and therefore it might not be improper, that they should be despoiled of this Badge by so soft, and pleasing a Violence. But, that the Ladies might still do greater Honour to the Knights, who were the Objects of this Favour, Tilts and Tournaments were ordinarily appointed on the Solemnities, in which Knights of the *Bath* were created; and when they were to make a Trial of their Strength and Skill, which by the Monkish Writers, and Historians, are termed *Tyrocinia*, probatory Martial Exercises, wherein the Ladies were generally appointed Judges, and distributed honorary Rewards to the Combatants, according to the different Proofs of their Strength, Art, and Activity; the Discussion of which particular Articles would require too great a Compass in this Place, and therefore I must dismiss that Enquiry to another Opportunity; as also the Consideration of the Badge granted to the Knights of the *Bath*, by which they are distinguish'd, being *Three Crowns*, the Arms ascribed to King *Arthur*.

4. The other Method of making an Estimate concerning the Dignity of any Honour, is, from the Character of the Persons, on whom it hath been peculiarly conferr'd. Our Kings themselves, who had not been knighted before their Accession to the Sovereign Authority,

thority, have formally taken this Knighthood upon them, at the same time with the Crown; the Princes of the Blood Royal, foreign Princes, young Gentlemen of the highest Nobility, and first Distinction for their Birth, Quality, and personal Merit, have been the proper and select Objects of this Royal Grace: Instances whereof may be found in the Appendix.

5. Concerning the allegorical Construction of the Ceremonies used throughout the whole Process of conferring this Dignity, and the mystical Signification of the particular Make, and different Colours of the Materials, which are expressly enjoin'd by the Formulary, whereof I promised to give some Account: I shall now cursorily remark, that the Humour of former Ages disposed them to be very particular and prolix in the Explication of Forms. I have in ^a another place observed, how far the Rites relating to the Fashion and Colour of the Ensigns used by the Knights of the Garter, have been moraliz'd; and in reference to the present Subject, shall take notice, that the most learned Mr. ^b Selden, for the Proof of *Bathing*, cites an old Book, describing the Game of *Chesse*, translated by *Caxton*, without assigning the Time when the Writer of that Book lived. A Transcript of which I have, in Deference to Mr. Selden's Authority, inserted from ^c a Translation of it into the *French* Language; for

^a *Introd. to Register of the Garter*, p. 119, 120. ^b *Titles of Honour*, p. 456.
^c Appendix, Numb. 87. from a very fair MS. in the Hands of Mr. Woodman the Bookseller.

the

the Book is said to have been written originally in *Latin*, and even this *French* Translation being dedicated to *John* Duke of *Normandy*, eldest Son of *Philip* King of *France*, it follows, that it must have been made in the Interval between the 17th of *February*, 1331, when the Title of that Dutchy was conferr'd on him, and the Time of his Accession to the Throne by the Demise of his Father on *Aug.* 22, 1350.

Bathing, from whence these Knights took their Appellation, represents the ^a Purgation of the Person bathed from Sin, and from all Kind of moral Impurity; as a Person, by Baptism, is sanctified by a Principle of inward and spiritual Grace.

After *Bathing*, he is put into a new and clean Bed, to denote that perfect and sedate Composure of Mind, with which a Course of virtuous Atchievements, in his new Military State, is to be finally rewarded.

After he hath for some time repos'd himself, Robes of *Crimson*, or *Red Tartarin* were deliver'd to him; by which significant Rite and Ornament he is instructed, that the Duty of his new Military Office requires, he should, for the Service of the Christian Religion, and for the Church, be ready to expose himself, whenever there may be just Occasion, to the greatest Diffi-

^a See Appendix, Numb. 86, 87. for the Proofs of these Allegories. *Cambden's Britan.* p. 124. juxta vas balneatorium linteis opertum, in quo cum se Deo commendaverint, se abluunt, ut deinceps corpore, animoq; mundo esse admoneantur, &c.

culties and Dangers; though such as may occasion the shedding of his Blood: And these Robes are guarded, lined, or edged with white Silk, as emblematical of that immaculate Honour, which, in virtue of his Knight-hood, he is inviolably obliged to preserve and maintain.

The *Chausses semellees*, or Black Stockings soled with Leather, are intended, as several other Materials of that Colour, in the Allegorical Construction of them, for a Document of Humility; reminding him of his first Extraction, in respect to his mortal, and material Part, the Earth, out of which his Body was originally formed, and into which it must sometime certainly be resolved.

His Spurs denote his Ardour, Forwardness, and Activity in the Pursuit of Military Adventures, and Honour; and particularly, a ready and chearful Obedience to any superior Command, such as himself should think reasonable to be obey'd without Scruple, or Regret, by those, over whom he might be placed in any Degree of Authority; especially, where Circumstances would not admit Dispute or Delay. And here I am to remark, that according to the Heraldick System, Spurs are carried, among other Trophies, at the Funeral of a Knight of the *Bath*; a Privilege not allowed to any other Person, under the Degree of a Baron, except only to Bannerets, and in later times, to Colonels of Horse.

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His white Girdle or Belt, represents the Vertue of Chastity, not in Opposition to Marriage, but to ^a impure and criminal Love, which Knights ought particularly to detest, as being the avow'd Guardians of Female Vertue and Honour.

The Ceremonial directs, that the Lords, who by the Sovereign's Appointment, shall put on the Spurs, do likewise make the Sign of the Cross on each Knee of the Knight; and several Monuments of Knights of the *Bath* were lately, if not still remaining, having ^b Crosses placed in this manner upon their Knees.

The Sword is design'd as a Token of the Knights declaring open Defiance to the Devil, and of his resolving to defend Religion, and the Duties of his Calling, with all Vigour and Constancy; particularly, to undertake the Protection and Defence of Poor Men against the Rich, and of weak Men against the Strong.

The Coife, white Covering, and white Hat upon the Head, imports, in the moral Design of it, that as a Knight is under indispensible Obligations, in vertue of his Character and Function, to perform good and commendable Works; so he ought to preserve a pure Conscience before God, and should be careful never to do, never to design any thing, for which his Mind may inwardly challenge or reproach him.

^a That of Sir R. Willoughby, Chief Justice in the Reign of Edward I. Of Sir John Norton, in 1520. in the Church of Wath in Yorkshire. Of Sir John Leigh in Lambeth, &c.

^b See Du Fresne Gloss. v. Cingulo militari decorare.

The

The Blow on the Neck is intended, as a ² Memorial to him, that he ought not to be insensible of any real Indignity, or Affront; that Honour is a tender Point; and no Impressions are sooner felt, or ought to be longer retained, than those whereby any Person suffers in his Character, as a Man of Honour.

This Account of the mystick Signification, in giving the Blow, is agreeable to the Opinion, which hath prevailed in later Times. But since learned Men have made different Conjectures, about the Origin of it, as I have in another Place observ'd, it may be convenient to propose some of them, which have been thought most specious, to the Reader, that he may judge for himself, concerning the Propriety of them. There are Authors, who have derived this Blow from the Stroke given by the Romans *per vindictam*, with the Rod, upon any Person, in his receiving Manumission: Others have deduced it from the Stroke, that the Bishops frequently gave to Persons confirmed by them: Others contend it was given upon the Creation of a Knight,

² Lambertus Ardenſis Hiſt. Com. Guiſn. qui vixit ſub Philippo Auguſto. In die Sancto Pentecoſtes ei Militarem, non repercutiendus, dedit alapam, & militariſ eum in virum perfectum dedicavit ſacramentis. In that Age, the Hiſtorians obſerv'd not the ſtrict Rules of Grammar; and it being evident from the whole Paſſage, that the Words, non repercutiendus, muſt refer to the new-created Knight; it may not be unreaſonable to gueſs, that the true Reading ought to be non repercutiendo; more eſpecially, ſince this Signification of that Stroke is remembred by other Writers. Thus in the Appendix, Numb. 86. at the Knighting of Hdebrand, this Advice is particularly given him.

^a Introduction to the Register of the Garter. Other Authors have attributed it to the ancient Adoptions *per arma*.

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with

with such Violence, that he should, by the sensible Impression of it, be more powerfully, and permanently reminded of his Profession; which Opinion appears consonant to an antient Custom of the *Romans*, transmitted from them to the *Germans*, of giving a Blow to a Person, who might be called upon to attest any Thing in Evidence, that had happened at the Time, when the Blow was given, or was for some special Reason to be particularly remembred; several Instances of which Practice are collected by ^b *Du Fresne*; to which may be added, it was customary in the ^c Northern Parts of *Europe*, when the Priest put the Ring upon the Bride's Finger, for those, who assisted at the Marriage, to give themselves such Strokes, the more effectually to remember the Solemnization of it. After such Instances, I need not make an Apology for observing, there is, in many places, a Custom of the like Nature observed in our annual Perambulations, in order to determine, and ascertain to our respective Parishes, their true Bounds, and proper Claims of Right, by such Treatment of young Persons, as may ever after cause them to remember the Occasion of it. Some Ceremonials of Knighthood presuppose, indeed, another Reason for this Rite of the Blow, and say, it was appointed in ^d Memory of our Saviour's being buf-

^b Gloss. v. auris, alapa.

^c Olaus Magnus, l. 14.

^d *The Knighthood of William Earl of Holland*, 247. in *Selden's Titles of Honour*, Part 2. c. 1. § 60.

feted, and smitten for our Offences. This Blow was probably given on the ^e *Back* of the Shoulder, or Neck, that the Person, who received it, should continually remember, that he ought never to give an Enemy the Opportunity, upon his flight from the Battle, of striking him in the same Place. There is another Account, concerning the Origin of this Ceremony, which I shall barely mention, without any Remark; namely, that it was derived from the ^f *Sword*, when the Military Oath was taken by the Soldiers, under the Roman Emperor *Julian*, *Gladio cervicibus admoto*, mentioned by *Marcellinus* ^g.

However this may be, yet, it ought not to be disguised, that not only the Monarchs of this Nation, but several foreign Princes have also, in former Ages, upon extraordinary Occasions, conferred Knighthood by *Bathing*. And since we may receive several considerable Informations concerning the Rites, and Import of these Rites, from the Methods used by them, I thought proper to insert some Precedents in the *Appendix* of such foreign Creations. In 1350, Robes were prepared for the ^h Knighthood of the *Dauphin*, in which he was to perform his Vigils, with Coverings also for his Bed, and Coats of Arms to be set up in the Chamber, with several other Materials. The Method

^e Caseneuve v. Accollee.

^f Cassellii Variar. l. 1. c. 8.

^g Lib. 21.

^h Du Fresne, Gloss. v. Miles.

of conferring this Knighthood, by the King of *France*, upon *Lewis* King of *Sicily*, in *May* 1389, by *Bathing*, and other Ceremonies, corresponding with these used in this Realm, is so noble and ⁱsolemn, that unless I had been confined so much to Time, I ought to have made a Version of it. This Practice was likewise upon grand Occasions observed in *Italy*, whereof ^kInstances will be found in the *Appendix*, and which, in Truth, should have been, but for the same Restraint, rendered in *English*: And as to *Spain*, ^lMr. *Selden* hath already told us, what the antient Customs of that Nation were, in this Respect; and he takes it for granted, that our *Edward* the First, was there knighted in this Manner: Several curious Observations might be drawn from these Narratives, which must be postponed to another Time.

The antient Ceremonial, both in the *French* and the old *English* Language, wherein the Rites of conferring this Degree are exhibited, will enable us to form the most clear and distinct Notions concerning the Reason, and End, upon which they were appointed. The *French* Ceremonial, indeed, hath been already printed by *Bispe*, in his Notes upon *Upton*; but either the Copy, from which he transcribed, was faulty; or he was not so careful, and exact, as he ought to have been

ⁱ Appendix, Numb. 85.

^k Appendix, Numb. 86.

^l *Titles of Honour*, l. 2. c. 4. § 8.

in transcribing. ^m Mr. *Selden* hath referred us to a Formulary in the same Language, which he supposeth, was not more antient, than the Reign of *Henry VII.* It is probable, he did not meet with any Copy that was extant, though there were certainly several latent Copies of it, written before that Time. There are still some Copies remaining, which, by the ⁿ Characters, seem to be of much greater Antiquity. ^o Mr. *Thinne*, a good Judge of such Matters, refers to one in his own Custody, written under the Reign of *Edward III.*; and it hath been already hinted, that ^p *Upton*, who wrote in the Reign of *Henry VI.*, might, in all probability, refer to this Ceremonial, as extant in his Age: To which may be added, that the whole Process contained in this *French* Formulary, hath all the Characters, or proper Marks of a more early Composition: It corresponds exactly with the Preparations in the Accounts of the Wardrobe; and it is observable, that in the Article concerning the Fees due to the *Barber*, it specifies only such, which are to be paid by an Earl, Baron, Banneret, or Knight. The Fees, indeed, as due from the Degree of Dukes, are therein omitted; which Omission, if it should not be allowed as a just Consequence, that this Instrument is more antient, than

^m *Titles of Honour*, l. 2. c. 5. n. 45.

ⁿ There is one such Copy in the Cotton Library, and another in my Custody,

p. 35.

^o *Advocate and Anti-Advocate*, MS.

^p See above, p. 52.

the Erection of the Ducal Dignity in this Kingdom; yet, we may reasonably conclude, it was framed before the twenty-fifth of *Henry VI*, when the Fees of the respective Degrees were confirmed to the ^q *Barber*, and the Fees for a Duke particularly expressed, and determined to be in a duplicate Proportion to those of an Earl; and in several later Copies of this *French Ceremonial*, these Fees, due from a Duke, are mentioned. *Bysse*, and *Dugdale* in his *Warwickshire*, have severally exhibited, in Sculpture, the Method of conferring this Degree; the original Drawings, from whence these Sculptures were taken, are now in the Possession of his Grace the Duke of *Montagu*: In them, several of the Esquires, as there represented, have, about their Necks, a Collar of white Roses, with a white Lyon pendent to it, which I have observed in ^r another Place, was the Collar, and Badge used by the Domesticks of *Edward the Fourth*. But if *Henry VII*, permitted his Queen-Consort to give her Servants the Badge, used by her Father *Edward IV*, then this Sculpture may be the Picture referred to in the ^s *Appendix*, which represented the Manner of creating Knights of the *Bath*, at her Coronation.

I had a Design to add explanatory Notes upon the Ceremonial, towards discovering more fully the Nature

^q Appendix, Numb. 45.

^r *Introduction to the Register of the Garter*, p. 119.

^s Append. Numb. 57.

of the Rites required, and the Meaning of several Terms therein contained; but the Printing of those Notes, was not practicable, within the Time limited for the Publication of this Essay. However, to express in some Degree, my most grateful, and dutiful Acknowledgement to the Earl Marshal, whose Fees are expressed in this Ceremonial, I cannot omit to remark, that these Fees do not depend upon the Authority of this Formulary, but are grounded upon an immemorial Usage, and as such, confirmed expressly by the Statute-Law^t of this Realm, and frequently recited in the "Records, and by our *Historians.

These are the Facts, which I have at present thought necessary to produce; and the Reader may be assured, they have been faithfully cited, and that due Care hath been used, not to misrepresent the Sense, or Design of the Authors, or Instruments, from which they were taken: But as to the Observations, which have been occasionally made upon those Facts, though it is hoped, notwithstanding the short Time, wherein this imperfect Scheme of an History hath been drawn up, I have not committed any material, and I am sure, cannot be charged with any wilful Mistake, in deducing

^t Stat. Westm. 2. c. 42.

^u See Prin. on 4th Inst. p. 74. and at the Coronation of Queen Alianor, the red Book of the Exchequer informs us, that Gilbert Earl of Strigul, then Marshal, Recepit autem de quolibet Barone facto militæ a Rege, & quolibet Comite ea die Palfridum cum sella.

^x See the Claim in Mat. Paris, under 35 Hen. 3. p. 830.

them;

them; yet, if it should, in Time future, appear, that I have really drawn any false, or even precarious Inference on any Account, from the Authorities, on which my Arguments have been founded, I desire to reserve a Liberty to my self of correcting such Error, and of proposing the Matter in Question in a more true and convenient Light.

COLLECTIONS