XXXIV. *Copy of an Original Manuscript, containing Orders made by Henry Prince of Wales, respecting his Household, in 1610; communicated by Francis Douce, Esq. F. A. S.*

Read February 18, 1802.

Orders for his Highnes Court, given at Richmond the 16th of October, 1610.

ESPECIALL Ordinances for the advancement of my Service, and ordering of my Household affaires, given the 16 of October 1610, at Richmond [*a*].

For that I am now upon the point to sett downe officers and orders for the settling of my household, I have myselfe taken care to

[*a*] In a rare tract, entitled, "A Discourse of the most illustrious Prince Henry, late Prince of Wales," written anno 1626, by Sir Charles Cornwallis, knight, sometimes Treasurer of his Highnesse House, printed in 1641, are the following traits of that prince's character, which may serve to illustrate these Orders. They are taken from a Copy in the possession of the Rev. John Brand, Sec. A. S.

"In the government of his household in yeares so very young, hee gave examples imitable to all other princes.

"His family was ample, as that which consisted of few lesse then five hundred, many of them young gentlemen, borne to great fortunes, in the prime of their years when their passions and appetites were most strong, and their powers and experiences

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to thinck on some especiall matters, that I would have precisely lookt unto, and duly observed as well for the advancement of my service, as for the honor of my court; and although there be many other things very requisite to be considered of concerning the

to temper and subject them to reason most weake, his judgement, his grave and princely aspect, gave temper to them all, his very eye served for a commandement, and more and better service have I noted to be done by the very looks of him, then by sharpe reprehensions of some other princes: If any questions or quarrells were moved amongst his servants, he would give a stoppe and stay to them, at the very beginning by referring them to some such of his principall officers, as hee thought to bee most scient in matters of that nature, and best did know to give just compensation to the injured, and reprove to them that should be found to have offered the wrong; so as in so numerous a family there was not so much as any blows given, or any countenance of quarrell or debate betweene any.

“ Plenty and magnificence were the things that in his house he especially affected; but not without such a temper as might agree with the rules of frugality and moderation; he caused to bee set downe in writing unto him the severall heads of al his annuall charges, the ordinary expence of his house and his stables, the charge of his apparrell and wardrobe, his rewards and all such other thinges, as yearly were to bee issued out of his coffers, and comparing them with his annuall revenue, did so judiciously fashion and proportion them by shortning what he found superfluous, and encreasing what was wanting and too short in any of them, as hee reduced them to a certainty, and such as his revenues would well defray, besides a yearly spare of some thousands of pounds which hee reserved for a store or treasure to be ready for all events and occasions accidentall.

“ By giving of which so good and solid foundation and order unto his state, hee delivered himself from all necessity of becomming rigid or strait to his tenants, either by any unmeasurable improving their farmes or their fines, or seeking or taking advantage of any their forfeitures, and became also unnecessitated to take the benefit that both law and right afforded unto him, of such as had in time of former princes purchased lands appertaining to his dutchy of Cornewall, which could not by law be alienated from the same, to whom out of his princely bounty and gracious compassion, upon resuming of them, hee gave some reasonable satisfaction.

“ The banquets and feasts that any time he made, his desire was, should be magnificent and agreeing with his princely dignity, yet not without an especiall eye and care had that nothing should bee spent in disorder, or the charge made greater through the want of providence, or well managing by his officers; in those hee ever affected the

the same, which I must referre to the diligence and providence of my officers, yet these particulars hereafter sett downe my will and pleasure is to be especially observed and respected.

That

the demonstration of a princely greatnesse, and that all things should passe with decency and decorum, and without all rudenesse, noise or disorder.

“ In any thing either committed or permitted unto him by the King his father, concerning the state and defence of the kingdome, exceeding willing, sedulous and carefull hee ever shewed himselfe, to performe all offices and duties understandingly, and with much circumspection.

“ He was once sent by his Majesty to take view of the navy at Chatham, whither myselfe waited upon him and observed how great his desire was not onely to see with his owne eyes every particular ship, but to inable himselfe by conference and consultation with the best experienced of his Majesty's officers of the navy, in the fashion and fabricature of the ships, to understand their strengths and the forme of their sailing, to take knowledge of such as were then perfected and fitted for present service, and which defective, and in what several parts, to the end there might instantly be order given for the repairing of them; he also very particularly enformed himselfe of their several equipages and furnitures, went in person to take an exact view of them, and of his Majesties store for that purpose, and would not bee satisfied without understanding the speciall uses of every of those things, and of all other that tended to make them serviceable and usefull, what further in yeares more ripe was in navall affaires, wherein consisted the principall strength, honour and advantage of this kingdome, to be expected of him, may easily be discerned by his will, his diligence, his understanding and princely courage, shewed upon occasion of discourse, delivered unto him by a servant of his own, concerning a navall warre with Spaine, whensoever that king shall give cause of a publicke hostility.

“ To publish particulars agrees not with the rules of state, but two especiall thinges being propounded, which were the preparation of a navy, consisting of a certaine number of ships to bee sent into the West Indies, and another to attend the coasts of Spaine to prohibit all entry or issue of ships either into or out of the same.

“ Admirable it was in one of yeares so young, to heare what interrogations he used of every particularity of that designe, of the feisiblenesse and of the difficulties of every branch of it, how he insisted upon every doubt, until by the best experienced and practised both in sea services and in navigation, with reasons and demonstrations he became fully satisfied, and that done, how narrowly and neerly he searched into every knot, both of the honour and utility, and of the danger and charge that an attempt of that nature would draw with it, and ceased not untill he understood every

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particular

That when I am at divine service in my private closett the doores and privie wayes be carefully looked unto by the ushers and groomes, and my gentlemen in ordinary to be generally warned to attend me and be present at tymes of prayer, and to doe the like,

particular of the same, and especially the yeerly charge which that whole expedition would amount unto; which having found so very reasonable, and the hopes so great, and all doubts so well resolved, to shew the valour of his owne heart, hee openly protested to such as were present, that should the King his father bee pleased upon any future occasion to breake with Spaine, himselfe (if so it should agree with his Majesties pleasure) would in person become the executor of that noble attempt for the West Indies.

“ He so distributed the day by dividing his houres into the service of God; to the apting himselfe to the office hee was borne unto, both in government civill and military, and to necessary exercises and recreations, as no part of it could bee said to bee in vaine bestowed; to inable his knowledge in government civill, he read histories, the knowledge of things passed conducing much to resolution in things present, and to prevention of those to come.

“ In the military, hee added thereunto the mathematicks study of cosmography, and had one that instructed him in the matter and forme of fortifications.

“ For practice, hee used in a manner daily to ride and manage great horses, with which hee had his stables most excellently furnished, oftentimes to runne at the ring, and sometimes at tilt, both which he so well and dexterously performed, and with so great a comeliness, as in those his first yeares, he became second to no prince in Christendome, and to many that practised with him much superiour.

“ His other exercises were dancing, leaping, and in times of yeare fit for it learning to swimme, at sometimes walking fast and farre, to accustome and enable himselfe to make a long march when time should require it; but most of all at tennis play, wherein, to speake the truth, which in all things I especially affect, hee neither observed moderation, nor what appertained to his dignity and person, continuing oftentimes his play for the space of three or foure houres, and the same in his shirt, rather becoming an artizan then a prince, who in things of that nature are onely to affect comeliness, or rather a kinde of carelessness in shew, to make their activities seeme the more naturall, then a laborious and toiling industry.

“ Of this and of his diet, wherein he shewed too much inclination to excessive eating of fruits, he was as in al other things content to heare advice, but in these two particulars not to follow it.

“ In

like, when I goe to my publique chappell to service and sermons, wherein I will dispenſe with no man, holding him unfitt to ſerve me that with me will forbear to goe to heare the word of God, which example of liberty ſhall never be tollerated in my court, nor made an example to encourage others in like diſobediennce and contempt towards religion.

That whileſt I am at my publique chappell hearing divine ſervice and ſermons, twoe of my guards be appointed by courſe to wayte without at the dore, as well as an uſher or groome within the dore, and not to depart from that charge untill myſelfe be gone out of the place.

That the ante-chambers of my court be better attended at due howers in the morning, and other tymes, as my preſence chamber and privie chamber, which are often found without any p̃ſon in them, whileſt I am retyred in my more private lodgings; ffor reformation whereof, the uſhers, groomes, and pages muſt be warned to give more diligent and orderly attendance.

That there be not too many double keys allowed of my privie lodginge, cloſe gardens, and retired walkes, and thoſe double keyes

“ In other play or gaming, he ſhewed himſelfe not much inclined, yet would ſometimes play at Obefſe at Bilions and at Cards, but ſo very nobly and like himſelfe, as plainly ſhewed his uſe of it to be onely for recreation, not for appetite of gaine; for whether he wonne or loſt, his countenance was ever the ſame, and for the moſt part, greater appearance of mirth in him when he was in loſſe, then when he wonne, thereby plainly demonſtrating both his judgement in adventuring no more then what he made no regard of if he loſt it: and his princely magnanimity and temper in ſuffering no paſſion or alteration to take hold of him through any croſſneſſe of cards or chance.

“ In ſome young gentlemen whom he affected, he ſeemed to miſlike too much diſpoſition to play, and did not onely diſadvise them from it, but gave unto ſome of them matter of value to become bound to leave the uſe of it; for pleaſure hee tooke them all as it were in paſſage without ſemblance, either to deſire them, or at leaſt to have a will to dwell in them.”

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that are delivered out to be in the hands of men of good trust, and notice to be taken by the gentlemen ushers of my privie chamber who they are that have such keyes, being a charge of no small consequence, considering the danger and practizes of theis tymes.

That my privie chamber be more reservedlie kept, and none p̃mitted so familiarly to frequent it but such as are allowed thereof and sworne to the place, for hereby shall my p̃sence chamber be the better furnished with gentlemen to the honor of my court, and my privie chamber be held in that esteeme and account that it ought, when the rights and respects that d̃lie appertaine thereunto are regarded and observed. But if in my court there should not be made an orderly distinction both of places and p̃sons, it would breed a confusion, and as good it were to be a groome of my great chamber, as a gentleman of my privie chamber, if the places be made com̃on alike. And therefore my will and pleasure is to have it more carefully look't unto and speedily reformed.

That when I am myfelfe at the tennys play, the ballon, or such exercise, twoe of my guards be presently appointed to attend about the dore untill my departure thence; for it hath byn noated and told me, that sometymes when I have byn at the tennys play there hath scarcely byn fix p̃sons about the tennys court, and most of them but lackeys or pages, which is neither safe nor fitt for the state of a prince.

That in my standing house, where I am resident, there be ever a convenient store of munition and armes proportionable to furnish myne owne famely withall upon any suddaine occasion if need require: ffor as it is both safe and princely to have it in good order and readines, so were it a great defect to want that in my court, that every nobleman and gentleman will be provided of in his owne house.

That

Thát amongst other good ordynances for my household, it be thought on and provided, that some one of my principall officers that is allowed a standing table in my court doe keepe the same so orderly furnished and attended as that it may be able in good fashon to receive and entertayne any nobleman or stranger of account, that shall come to visitt me upon any suddaine, as many tymes it may happen: for it were a great indignity unto me and disparagement to my court, that upon any such unexpected accident there should be no place of receipt able to give good entertaynement in that kynde, and although this may be a cause of some extraordinarie charge, yet lett it be p̃formed, and that expence saved in some other more needles sup̃fluity, ffor parsimony in these things that concern the honor and state of my court, were as great an error as prodigality in idle waste.

That in the services about my p̃son or place in my house, my officers and servants in generall doe take knowledge from me, that it is neither agreeable with my likeing and pleasure, that any one man should sue or seeke for multiplicity of offices appertayning to my service, especially if they be of charge or ymportance, for that course I doe well knowe to be a great hinderance to the exact service due to a prince, for one office of consequence is enough to imploy the witt and industry of one man if hee discharge his duty therein thoroughly. Beside it deprives a prince of the meanes to grace and gratifie many of his able and faithfull servants when one man ingrosseth sondry offices, and it diminisheth the maiesty of a court, when there are not so many officers as offices disposed of, the charge being all one, but the honor and benefit much lesse for the prince, when he respects more any one mans p̃ticular avarice or ambition, then the advancement and countenance of his own service. Wee see, that noblemen in the ordering of their owne famelies will admit no such confusion,
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and therefore lesse fitt to be tollerated in a princes court, that is well ordered and disciplined as it ought to be.

That the like knowledg be taken from me, as a matter that I will have duly observed in my house and service, that is, that as I myselfe doe make a choyce and free election of my principall officers and servants without partiality or other respects, then for the worth or desert of the persons themselves, and doe accordinglie dispose thereof by myne owne guift, to the end that thereby I may binde my servants the more faithfully unto me, and not to transferre the thanck for my benefitte to other men. So likewise it is my will and pleasure that the cheife officers doe not in any sort traffique or conferr the interiour offices and places by partiality and bribery, but freely and without corruption, and not to preferre strangers before myne owne servants, if they be fitt and able for the places. And this wilbe a meanes to make men diligent and industrious to attayne to pfection, when they shall see that in my service and favour no partiall respects shall depreffe or overweigh desert or vertue.

That the officers and equerries of my stable doe looke carefully that the groomes be not suffered to putt any under boyes or hirelings to serve and dresse my horses, which will make a great disorder in my equerry, cause my horses to be ill looked unto, and shortned of their allowance to relieve such beggerly creatures as they entertayne to supply their service, whilest they themselves take their pleasures elsewhere and neglect their charge.

That hereafter this be observed in election of my guard as places doe fall, that such men be recommended unto me for that service as are well knowne to be of honest conversation, and withall able and active men qualified with some pfection, as wrestling, tossing the pike, shooting in a muskett, or skill in his weapons, and such like activity, more then to be able onely to wayte with a holberd
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in my great chamber, for I hold it fitting for the court for a manly yong prince to have such a seleſt guard of able bodyes as may match any other men for their number in all manly exerciſes whatſoever, wherein I reſpect not ſo much the greatnes of their ſtature as theſe other habilityes aforenamed, ſo that withall they be well ſhap't and comely p̃ſonages, and amongſt them to have ſome that have been either lieutenants; ancients, or ſergeants in the warres, I would ſpecially allowe of. And that theſe places of my guard be not traffickt or ſould, but freely diſpoſed of for meritt and ſufficiency, for otherwiſe it muſt needs be a hindrance to my ſervice to have them impoverished by purchaſing their places in a mercenary manner, unworthie of a princes court that would be truly and worthily ſerved.

That when my revenues and receipts are truly reſolved of and knowne to what yearly value they will certainly amount (for in this poynt wee muſt ſtand upon certayneties) that then my counſell and chiefe officers do proportion and order the allowances and expences for all offices, tables, ſervants wages, equerry and other neceſſary charges whatſoever proportionably according to the meanes of the yearly rent, and yet not to extend it to the uttermoſt value thereof, but to hold it ſo within the compaſſe of my revenues, as that there may remayne a ſufficient proportion in honorable and plentifull manner to ſupplie my extraordinary expences, ever keeping ſuch ſtore, as that my coffers may never be utterly bare.

And for the firſt yeare I will, that my counsell and chiefe officers doe meete and ſitt together monethlie for the eſtabliſhing and preſerving of the good orders of my court until they be p̃fectly ſettled, and then afterwards to contynue thoſe meetings as cauſe ſhall require.

That there be certayne regiſter bookes made of all my ſilver and plate, whereof my counsell to have one, the chiefe officers of

my household another, and the third to remayne in his hands that hath the cheife charge thereof, and that every quarter my councell and cheife officers doe purposely meete together to call an accompt thereof, whereby the same by such orderly care may be better preserved from imbeaselling and stealth.

That in like manner there be certayne register books made of all my jewells and rich robes, whereof one booke to be in myne owne custody, another in the hands of my councell, and the third with him that hath the charge thereof, and so quarterly to have those bookes surveyed and altered as need shall require by the increasing or diminishing of my jewells.

That in like sort an orderly accompt be kept and given quarterly of the receipt and expences yssuing out of my privie purse, as a matter very convenient and necessary for the holding of correspondencie of order in that point as well as others, whereby a guesse may be given to what proportion that yearly expence may growe, and soe hee that keepes my privie purse may by delivering his accompts, the better aunswaere, and cleare his receipts, and except there be such an order kept of my privie purse there can be no true accompt made how my revenues are expended: for all other waste wilbe colourably layd upon the expence of my privie purse, when they knowe there is no good account kept of what is received and disbursed that way, for the expences of a prince in that kynde are sondry and great, in such sort, as if it be layd out without a reckoning, and received in without charge, my purse may easily be made bare and my coffers emptie, and no good accompt able to be given which way it comes to passe, other then to lay it generally upon my privie purse, and make that a cloake for many other idle and lavish expences.

That there be charge and comãdement given unto my porters by my cheife officers, that they doe looke carefully and diligently unto their charge as well for the back-gates as the foregates of my
house

house where I am resident, and that withall, as a point of their duty and charge, they doe looke carefully that the provisions of my house be not purloyned nor carryed away early or late out of the gates, which is an usuall custome in princes courts, but neither profitable nor honourable; ffor in true consideration such things are more fitt to be spent to the creditt of my house, or the charge thereof to be saved, then to be imbeafelled in such sort, as returns neither honor nor acknowledgement: and if my porters be as honest and trusty servants as they ought, they will rather seeke to deserve favour and reward for faithfull service, then consent to such purloyning to have a share therein themselves. And no man can iustly thinck it too great frugality in a princes court rather to have the allowances publicuely and honorably spent, then secretly imbezelled and stolne.

That the marshalls doe looke more carefully to purge and free those places where my court is resident of that scumme of vagrant and idle rogues, that followe the trayne and my stables with their wives and children, comitting many disorders and stealthes, and withall ever likely to bring danger of infectious sicknes to my court, besides, that in a rable of ill disposed persons many a dangerous villany may be sheltered.

That if any questions or quarrells doe arise amongst my ordinarie servants, which sometymes happens in princes courts, and most likely there, where store of youth is, my will and commaundement is, that the partie greived and wronged should rather make complaynt thereof to some of my counsell and cheife officers, then seeke to right and revenge himselfe by violence, or with the sword. And upon such information and complaynt made, that it be diligently enquired in whome the fault lyeth, and what partie hath received the wrong, and to compell him that hath done the injury to give such satisfaction as shall stand with the points of reason and honor, thereby to avoyd further mischeife, which is not fitt

to be suffered violently to run on to extremities in a well disciplined court, as neither agreeing with pietie nor civilitie. And such as will not informe being wronged, but followe revenge after their own fancie, and those, that will not give satisfaction for iniuries offred in manner as I doe appoint and comãund, I will hold both of those sorts neither worthy to enioy my favour, nor fitt to be longer retayned in my service, and therefore doe I straightly comãund my counsell and cheife officers to looke seriously thereunto, and to informe me of any, that shall vyolate or neglect this my ordynance in either kinde.

That twoe of my guard every night be appointed orderly in their turnes to walke the round in all parts of my court, where I am resident, as well for safety and good order, as to avoyd the danger of fire, which many tymes happeneth by inconsiderate servants, and oftentimes runnes on very dangerously before it be discovered.

That there be a reasonable proportion of ladders made with joynts for the purpose, and leather bucketts for water provided in all my cheife standing houses, to free the danger, that may fall out by fire, without which provisions great mischeifes may happen, but by theis helps be the better avoyded.

That wheresoever any of my standing houses are kept, and my stables about them, that straight charge and comãundement be given to my principall officers, to my equerries, riders and groomes, that none of my great horses or hunting horses be ridden or gallopt over any ploughed feilds where corne is sowed or growes, whereof heretofore complaint hath byn made unto me, and I have so highlie disliked thereof, being a great impietie so barbarously and wilfully to destroy and waist the food of man, as that whosoever shall transgresse and offend therein I will hold him worthie of great punishment, and unfitt to remayne in my service, and
therefore

therefore doe commaund that it be strictly and absolutely forbidden.

That as I began with the due divine service unto Allmightie God, without which nothing can prosper nor yeild comfort either in this world or in the world to come, so doe I conclude, that amongst other my ordynances for the well government of my court, that by my counsell and principal officers it be strictly and carefully lookt unto and observed, that fower times in the yeare, namely at Christmas, at Easter, at Midfommer, and at Michaellmas, all my ordynarie servants in generall without exceptions of any whatsoever, doe receive the communion at my publique chappell, a place used for divine service where my household shalbe then resident, and that before the receiving of the communion one of my chaplyns or some other good preacher doe make a sermon, or read a lecture tending to instruct men to the reverent and worthy receiving of that holy and blessed sacrament. And such as shall either wilfullie refuse so to doe or cautelously absent themselves of purpose, that good notice be taken of such by my counsell or officers, and myselfe informed thereof, to give such further order therein as may stand for an eminent example and chastisement to such ungodly and unchristianlike disposition; for the which kinde of people my court shalbe no shelter, nor my service any protection.