II. *Remarks on some of the Stall-Plates of the Knights of the Garter.* By
 THOMAS WILLIAM KING, Esq. F.S.A. Rouge Dragon, in a Letter
 to ALBERT WAY, Esq. Director.

Read 2nd May, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,

College of Arms, March, 1844.

IT has occurred to me that it might not altogether be uninteresting to you, or to the Society of Antiquaries, to receive, in as brief a space as the subject will admit of, a few remarks upon some of the Plates called Stall or Garter-Plates of the Knights of the Order of the Garter; which are or have been affixed in their Stalls in the Royal and Collegiate Chapel of Saint George at Windsor; I have, accordingly, the honour of submitting to you the following notices.

Allow me, however, to state that I am aware that, after the laborious publications by Ashmole, Anstis, and other authors, and the recent work on the British Orders of Knighthood, in which "The Most Noble Order" has been so ably treated upon, including also the erudite labours of a member of this College, lately deceased, whose literary attainments were of no ordinary character, I can have very little to add; but there may be some points not unworthy of notice in an heraldic point of view, which have hitherto escaped observation.

My intention, therefore, in the first place, is to determine the period when the Garter was first introduced upon the Plate as surrounding the Arms of the respective Knights; and, then, to pursue similar inquiries into the adoption of certain heraldic distinctions, and "*exterior ornaments*," which are displayed upon these illustrious memorials of those who were honoured as "Companions of the Most Noble Order of Garter."

It may be premised that there is in this College a series of very valuable

tracings from the plates of the Knights of the Garter, which were taken under the direction of John Anstis, Esquire, Garter Principal King of Arms ; and which he intended should illustrate his History of the Order, of which only a portion appeared in two folio volumes in 1724. These tracings were purchased by Stephen Martin Leake, Esquire, Garter, in 1757. From his collections, therefore, I am enabled to give the following *data*.

Of the Garter Plates which were extant in Anstis's time, tracings were all taken. The total number of Knights, in 1757, was 575 ; and of them 146 Plates were wanting before the reign of Henry VIII. Some of these Knights died without having been installed ; the Plates of others were removed upon attainders ; and others destroyed during the wars of the Roses. From the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. to the year 1757, sixty Plates are wanting ; fifteen were removed on attainders ; and the remainder, some being of silver, have been stolen, or were destroyed during the civil wars of the seventeenth century. The whole number of Plates in the year 1757 was 369. Leake's Collections contain 383 tracings, drawings, and impressions of these Plates up to 1771, being the date of the installation immediately prior to his death in 1773.

The Garter.

But, to proceed to the question in contemplation ; and, perhaps, for this purpose it would be well to quote Mr. Leake's own remarks :—" Mr. Ashmole says," (speaking also of coronets,) " that shortly after the beginning of the reign of King Henry the Eighth the Knights compassed their shields with the Royal Garter, and thereon, if noblemen, placed the coronet belonging to their dignity, continuing the use ever since ; and thus adorned we find the scutcheon of Charles Duke of Burgundy, elected in the reign of King Edward the Fourth ; and yet," he adds, " we do not observe it used in all the reign of King Henry the Seventh, for, although a Plate of Frank Von Hall, a Knight elected by the Founder, is surrounded with the Garter, yet is not this Plate the workmanship of that age, but engraven and set up of late times, as may easily be observed by the workmanship. But here are some mistakes, for as to the Garter, besides that of Charles Duke of Burgundy, are several plates with the Garter before and in the reign of Henry the Seventh." And,

(reciting some instances hereafter adverted to), proceeds, “ and from the beginning of King Henry the Eighth there is but one without the Garter ;” being that of Sir Henry Marney.

Were all the Plates extant which have been placed in the chapel at Windsor, it might not, perhaps, be more definitely ascertained when the practice of surrounding the Knights’ arms with the Garter took place than from the examples before us. The statutes by Henry the Fifth decreed that after the decease of a Knight of this order an escoccheon of his arms should be affixed to the stall which he had occupied : a practice which subsequently resolved itself into that of placing the plate of arms at the time of installation, or within a year, or convenient time afterwards. But the old practice may be still said to be recognized, as regards the Plates being memorials of deceased Knights, by their remaining in the stall which a Knight occupied at the time of his death.

With the view, therefore, of ascertaining the period at which the practice of encircling the arms of the Knights of this most noble order with the Garter commenced ; and of briefly noticing the circumstances under which several contemporary Plates exhibit the arms with and without that ensign, I now subjoin the following list.

Charles Duke of Burgundy, invested with the ensigns	} Arms within the GARTER.
of the order 1469, died in 1477	

This appears to be the first instance in Leake’s Collections of the arms being surrounded by the Garter, upon which any reliance can be placed as a contemporary one with the Plate itself. The case of Von Hall, which has been alluded to, is so clearly an anachronism as not to require further notice.

The four following are without the Garter :

Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, elected 13 Edward IV. died 1485	No GARTER.
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Frederic Duc D’Urbino, elected 14 and installed 15 Edward IV. died 1482	No GARTER.
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Henry Percy, Duke of Northumberland, elected 14 and installed 15 Edward IV. died 4 Henry VII.	No GARTER.
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Richard Duke of York, son of King Edward IV. elected 15 Edward IV. died 1483	No GARTER.
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Francis Lovell, Viscount Lovell, elected 1 Richard III. died 1487	} Arms within the GARTER.
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This is the first instance in these collections of the arms of a Knight subject being encircled with the Garter.

Sir Thomas Burgh, (afterwards Lord Burgh,) elected 1 Richard III. died 11 Henry VII.	No GARTER.
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Thomas Stanley, Lord Stanley, (afterwards Earl of Derby,) elected 1 Richard III. died 1504	} Arms within the GARTER.
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He was created Earl of Derby 1 Henry VII. so that his Plate, upon which the style of Earl of Derby does not occur, appears to have been put up soon after installation.

The five following have no Garter :—

Sir Richard Tunstall, installed 1485, died 7 Henry VII.	No GARTER.
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John Vere, Earl of Oxford, elected 1 Henry VII. died 1512	No GARTER.
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Sir Giles Daubeney, (afterwards Lord Daubeney,) elected 1 Henry VII. died 1507	No GARTER.
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George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, installed 3 Henry VII. died 1541	No GARTER.
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John Welles, Viscount Welles, elected 4 Henry VII. died 1498	No GARTER.
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George Stanley, Lord Strange, elected in the reign of Henry VII. and before 27 May, 1487; died 13 Henry VII. in the lifetime of his father, Thomas, first Earl of Derby, K.G., at Derby House; on the site of which now stands the College of Arms	} Arms within the GARTER.
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Then occur four others not having the Garter.

John Dynham, Lord Dynham, elected 1 Henry VII. died 1501	No GARTER.
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Maximilian, King of the Romans, (afterwards Em- peror,) elected 6 Henry VII. and installed 18 Henry VII. died 1518-19	No GARTER.
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Sir John Savage, elected 4 Henry VII. died 1492	No GARTER.
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- Sir John Cheney, elected 1 Henry VII. died circa 11 Henry VII. No GARTER.
- Alphonso, King of Sicily, installed 9 Henry VII. died } Arms within
1495 the GARTER.
- The Garter in this Plate surrounds the shield, helmet, lambrequin, and crest.
- Henry Algernon Percy, Earl of Northumberland, was } Arms within
K.G. t̃pe Henry VII. died 18 Henry VIII. the GARTER.
- The next four are also without the Garter :
- Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, installed ante 14 Henry VII. died 1539 No GARTER.
- Sir Charles Somerset, (afterwards Earl of Worcester,) installed ante 14 Henry VII. died 1526 No GARTER.
- Robert Willoughby, Lord Broke, installed ante 14 Henry VII. died 1502 No GARTER.
- Sir Gilbert Talbot, installed 11 Henry VII. died 9 Henry VIII. No GARTER.
- Sir Richard Pole, elected 14 Henry VII. supposed to } ARMS within
have died 5 Henry VIII. the GARTER.
- The Garter has been evidently added to this Plate ; it surrounds the shield, and passes over part of the lambrequin.
- Henry Duke of York, (afterwards King Henry VIII.) installed 10 Henry VII. No GARTER.
- Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, installed t̃pe Henry VII. died 1 Henry VIII. No GARTER.
- Sir Richard Guilford, elected 15 Henry VII. died } Arms within
1508 the GARTER.
- The Garter appears also to have been added to this Plate ; as in the case of Sir Richard Pole's, above mentioned.
- Sir Thomas Lovell, installed ante 17 Henry VII. died 1524 No GARTER.
- Guido Ulbaldo, Duc d'Urbino, installed 22 Henry VII. } Arms within
died 1508 the GARTER.

Then four others without :—

Gerald Fitz-Gerald, Earl of Kildare, elected 19th and
installed 20 Henry VII. died 1513 No GARTER.

Henry Stafford, Lord Stafford, elected 20 Henry VII.
created Earl of Wiltshire 1 Henry VIII. 1509, died 14
Henry VIII. No GARTER.

This Plate, from the omission of the title of the Earldom of Wiltshire, was
probably placed in his stall soon after his installation. It also bears the date
of 1504, which would appear to be the first instance of a date given upon a
Stall Plate.

Richard Grey, Earl of Kent, elected 20 Henry VII.
died 1523 No GARTER.

Sir Rhys ap Thomas, elected 20 Henry VII. died 16
Henry VIII. No GARTER.

Sir Thomas Brandon, installed 22 Henry VII. and died }
1510 } Arms within
the GARTER.

This Plate bears the precise date of installation, viz. 10 May, 22 Henry
VII.; a practice, however, which did not prevail till about 1 Elizabeth.

Charles Archduke of Austria, elected 24 Henry VII. }
installed ante 22 January, 1515-16, and being in England } Arms within
14 Henry VIII. "he took his stall," being then Emperor } the GARTER.
of Germany. He died in 1558 }

Installations were frequently by proxy. I have mentioned both the cir-
cumstances of his installation, and when "he took his stall;" as the prior
event, from the omission of his subsequent regal and imperial dignities on the
Plate, nearly fixes the time when his plate was set up; but the latter circum-
stance is not the less interesting.

Thomas Howard, Lord Howard, was created Earl of
Surrey *vitâ patris*, and afterwards succeeded as Duke of }
Norfolk 16 Henry VIII. He was elected and installed } Arms within
2 Henry VIII. died 1554 } the GARTER.

Upon the plate he is styled "Duc de Norfolke;" so that, as he did not
succeed to that title till 16 Henry VIII. it is clear that this plate was not
affixed to his stall at the time of his installation, though it bears the date of

2 Henry VIII. It is to be observed that there are some other instances of a second plate being placed in the stall under similar circumstances.

Sir Henry Marney, elected and installed 2 Henry VIII.
died 15 Henry VIII. No GARTER.

This is the last instance in which the Garter is omitted ; after which every succeeding Plate has the arms surrounded by the Garter.

From a view of the preceding list of the Stall-Plates of the Knights of the Garter, and by collating the several dates of installations, and those of the deaths of the respective Knights, we may arrive at the conclusion that the practice of placing the arms within the Garter became partially prevalent in the reign of Henry the Seventh, and constantly observed soon after the commencement of the following reign. The Earl of Shrewsbury, who was installed 3 Henry VII., appears to have been the longest survivor of the Knights contemporary with that Sovereign, whose arms are *not* surrounded by the Garter, as he lived up to the year 1541. Lord Strange, Alphonso King of Sicily, Sir Richard Guilford, and Guido Duc d'Urbino, all died in the reign of Henry the Seventh, and their Plates exhibit the shield of arms *within* the Garter. As, however, there are not instances wanting of new Plates being put up, some doubt might exist whether in those cases it were not so : but there is no evidence internally upon them to establish such a fact. That of Sir Richard Guilford would seem to have been amended by a subsequent addition of the encircling Garter ; otherwise these four instances alone would fix the period when that honourable symbol of knighthood, of the highest degree, was inserted on the Garter Plates. The Plate of Sir Henry Marney is clearly a contemporary plate *without* the Garter ; and, as we have two instances of the Garter being added to original Plates, it may be conjectured that it was solely at the pleasure of the Knight whether he would adopt the Garter round the shield or not, especially as several Knights lived after the time when it became generally introduced. It must not be forgotten that

there are instances of three Plates of Knights of this order, who were elected prior to the reign of Henry the Seventh, upon which the Garter appears ; and that one was that of Charles, Duke of Burgundy, who was elected and died in the reign of Edward the Fourth : the other two Knights, who were both elected 1 Richard III. lived in the reign of his successor.

I have confined myself solely, in treating upon this subject, to the instances extant upon the Garter Plates : but it may not be unnecessary to advert to an instance of the arms being surrounded by the Garter, quoted by the late Mr. Beltz, in his "Memorials," in which it appears from "a fragment of account of payments" in the year 1351, in the Remembrancer's Office at Westminster, that the "quartered arms of the King" were on "streamers of triple sindon cloth" within the Garter.* Nor have I deemed it requisite to select other instances, *out of the order*, to determine when this very significant ensign encircled the shields of the gartered Knights. That the arms of Knights of this most noble order have been thus dignified, there appears to be instances in early times, one of which may be mentioned, being that of Sir John Fastolf, whose arms were sculptured within the garter at Caister Castle, near Yarmouth, in Norfolk, in the time of Henry the Sixth.

It may be observed that the Arms of the Sovereign of the Order do not appear within the Garter on the Great Seals of England till the time of Henry the Eighth.

Helmets.

The next point which deserves attention is that which would fix the period of the use of the *side-standing barred helmet*, as distinguishing the rank of peerage from inferior degrees. The helmets on all the Stall-Plates of the Knights of the Garter, till towards the close of the reign of Elizabeth, are in profile, having the visors close, like the helmet now used to designate an esquire of the present day. The last instance in that Queen's reign of the close side-standing helmet appearing upon a Garter Plate of a Knight of this

* Sir Harris Nicolas also, in his "Orders of Knighthood," recites similar instances. Vol. I. 1, 82.

order, being a Peer, is on that of William Stanley, Earl of Derby, who was installed 13^o Eliz. and who died in 1642. In the next reign there are two instances of the same helmet being adopted, viz. on the Plate of Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, who was installed 1 Jac. I. and who died 22 Jac. I.; and on that of John Erskine, Earl of Marr, installed 1 Jac. I., and who died in 1635.

The *barred helmet*, in profile, appears on the Plates of the under-mentioned Knights:—

Henry Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, installed 1589, ob. 1593.

Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset, installed 1589, ob. 1608.

Edmund Sheffield, Earl of Mulgrave, installed 1593, ob. 1646.

Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, installed 1597, ob. 1626.

Charles Blount, Earl of Devon, installed 1597, ob. 1606.

Ludovick Stewart, Duke of Richmond, installed 1603, ob. 1629.

William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, installed 1603, ob. 1630.

After which the barred helmet became to be constantly borne on the Garter-Plates of the nobility above the degree of Barons. The first instance of the *barred helmet* for a Baron appears in the case of Lord Knolles, 1615.

It is to be observed, however, that the Earl of Dorset at his creation was only Lord Buckhurst, and was not created Earl of Dorset until 1603; that the Earl of Mulgrave was Lord Sheffield at the time of his installation, and was not created an Earl till twenty-two years afterwards, so that his Plate was not placed in his Stall until 1625; that Thomas Earl of Suffolk was Lord Howard de Walden, and not an Earl until the first year of James I.; that Charles Earl of Devon was Lord Mountjoy only at his installation, being created an Earl 1 Jac. I.; and that Lodovick Duke of Richmond was Duke of Lennox at the time of installation, and was created Duke of Richmond in 1623; so that *five* of the foregoing Plates, having the *barred helmet*, and all of them reciting the superior titles which the respective Knights subsequently to their installations acquired, were not contemporary with the period of installation.

But, nevertheless, the *barred helmet* would appear to have been adopted as early as 1589 to distinguish Peers; as may be seen by the Garter-Plate of the Earl of Sussex; and, as he died in 1593, and remained Earl of

Sussex, it may be reasonably supposed that no *second* Plate was ever put up for him. It is a curious fact, however, that on the several Plates which intervene amongst the seven instances above quoted, the Knights for which they were placed having attained no higher degree in the peerage than that which they severally enjoyed at their respective installations, the helmet in all those cases was the *side-standing close helmet*. This would lead, therefore, to a conclusion that the *barred* helmet did not become constantly adopted as a distinguishing mark of peerage till the time of James the First.

The following Knights, not having attained a higher dignity than that which they enjoyed when severally installed, had the *close* helmet on their Stall-Plates:—

Gilbert Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, installed 1592, ob. 1616.

George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, installed 1592, ob. 1605.

Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, installed 1593, ob. 1632.

Edward Somerset, Earl of Worcester, installed 1593, ob. 1627-8.

Sir Francis Knolles, installed 1593, ob. 1596.

George Cary, Baron Hunsdon, installed 1597, ob. 1603.

Sir Henry Lea, installed 1597, ob. 1611.

Robert Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, installed 1599, ob. 1629.

Thomas Scrope, Lord Scrope of Bolton, installed 1599, ob. circa 1612.

William Stanley, Earl of Derby, installed 1601, ob. 1642.

Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, installed 1603, ob. 1624.

John Erskine, Earl of Marr, installed 1603, ob. 1635.

The Plate of the Earl of Marr, as before observed, is the last instance in which the *close* helmet occurs; and that of Sir Henry Lea is the last of such Knights of the order, having the same helmet, who never attained any degree of peerage; whose installations were in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries. Commoners who were elected after the accession of the House of Stuart into the order, and who, having been installed as Knights Companions, subsequently became peers, have Stall-Plates exhibiting the coronets and *helmets* “befitting their dignity,” and the titles of peerage which they acquired are set forth upon them. One exception, however, may be mentioned:—Sir Thomas Butler, (commonly called Earl of Ossory), then eldest son of the Duke of Ormond, was installed in 1672; and his Plate exhibits

his arms ensigned by the Earl's coronet, and the *barred* helmet. He died in the lifetime of his father ;* but was summoned to the English Parliament as Baron Butler of Moor Park in 1666.

To digress from the subject immediately before us, I am led to refer to the circumstance of the very few commoners who have been elected into the order since the time of Elizabeth ; and here subjoin a list of those who have been honoured with "The Garter."

Sir George Villiers, installed 1616, afterwards Duke of Buckingham.

Sir George Monk, elected in 1660, and was afterwards installed when he had been created Duke of Albemarle.

Sir Thomas Butler, above mentioned.

Sir Robert Walpole, installed 1726 ; afterwards created Earl of Orford.

Sir Frederick North (commonly called Lord North), afterwards Earl of Guilford, elected 1772, but never installed.

Sir Robert Stewart, (commonly called Viscount Castlereagh), installed in 1814, and who became Marquess of Londonderry.

The helmet on the Plate of Sir Robert Walpole, and on that of Sir Robert Stewart, is the *open helmet affronté* ; Sir Frederick North, never having been installed, had, of course, no Plate set up in the chapel at Windsor.

The *side-standing helmet*, or the esquire's helmet of the present day, therefore, appears to have been used on these Garter-Plates for all degrees (foreign princes and princes of the blood excepted) of persons upon whom this most noble order has been conferred, till towards the close of Elizabeth's reign ; and the *side-standing barred* helmet, denoting nobility, became established in the reign of her successor, as suitable to the dignity of the peerage. Why the *barred* helmet was selected as a distinguishing mark of the honour of peerage is a question which, perhaps, can only be solved by its approximating the *barred* helmets used by sovereigns and princes, standing *full-*

* The circumstance of the helmet and coronet of an Earl being emblazoned on the plate of the Earl of Ossory, who was only so by courtesy, is anomalous with the present usage. In the plate of Sir Robert Stewart (commonly called Viscount Castlereagh, and who afterwards became Marquess of Londonderry), installed in 1814, the arms are only ensigned by the present *open helmet*, appropriate to knighthood, and having no coronet.

faced, over the shield in the armorial achievement; and thus approaching midway between the *profile close helmet* of the Knight and those of Royalty. No difference of helmet seems in these Plates to be given for the different degrees of peerage.

From the paucity of commoners elected into the order of whose Garter-Plates tracings or impressions are extant, we are unable to decide when the *full-faced open helmet* became the mark of Knighthood, or of Baronetcy: it is not improbable that it prevailed soon after the Restoration.

Crests.

The next point which presents itself in connection with the foregoing is the introduction of the *Crest*, and of the crest being placed on a *Wreath*.

Crests appear to have been used in the Stall-Plates of the Knights of this order from its earliest institution, but sometimes to have been engraven on a separate Plate; only five instances occur amongst Leake's Collections in which the crest *appears* to be wanted, and as these may have been separated by accident from the Plate of arms, there exists the probability that they were originally fixed in the Stalls of the Knights for whom they appear wanting. There is one instance showing the practice to have been, in some cases, of the crest being upon a separate plate, viz. that of Thomas Stanley, Lord Stanley, elected into the order 1 Richard III.

It is not improbable that the reason of some crests being on separate Plates arose from the directions in the early statutes that the crests of the Knights should always face the altar: hence we see the helmets and crests as they are engraved and depicted in different Plates looking to the dexter or sinister side, depending upon which side of the choir the stall happened to be; but by the crest being on a distinct Plate, the Plate of arms might be removable without alteration. But after the statutes of Henry the Eighth declared the promotion of junior Knights to higher stalls, the practice of varying the position of the crests was laid aside. It may, however, be conjectured that the Knights might have taken the stalls of their deceased predecessors anterior to the time of Henry the Eighth; but originally the stall was irrevocably assigned to each Knight.

The Lambrequin.

The Lambrequin, or Mantling, appears to have been used at all times, varying in fashion in different ages and under different circumstances ; but

The Wreath

does not appear to have been used by the first Knights, for the “ Cappeline Mantling ” was of one piece with the crest. The first instance of a wreath is on the Plate of Sir John Bouchier, who died 1 H. IV. ; and until the 17 Henry VI. only three instances occur, viz.—

Edward Charlton, Lord Powis, who died 9 H. V.

John Grey, Earl of Tankerville, who died 9 H. V.

Sir Lewis Robsart, installed 9 H. V.

After 17 Hen. V. they appear to have been generally used. It is to be observed that when the crest rises from a chapeau, or coronet, the wreath is omitted.*

Coronets.

The coronet, as the mark and distinguishing symbol of peerage, and as possessing a direct personal allusion, seems to require particular notice ; and it may not be uninteresting to devote a few words to its introduction upon the achievements of the Knights of this most noble order. At what period the coronet became assigned to the four superior degrees of the peerage we will not stop to inquire, as foreign to the object of this essay ; but it may, nevertheless, be observed that it was not until the reign of Charles the Second that Barons had this ensign of nobility granted to them. If the Stall-Plates of the Knights of the Garter exhibit evidence of the use of coronets by the persons who were entitled to use them, the period of their first introduction is comparatively late, as the first instance of a coronet appearing on a Garter-Plate is upon that of John Russell, Lord Russell, who was installed in 1539 ; but not having been created Earl of Bedford until 3 Edw. VI. and the Plate having the coronet of an Earl, and his title of Earl of Bedford upon it, it is clear that it was not placed in his stall till after his elevation to that dignity.

* It is doubtful whether any of the Stall-Plates are earlier than the time of Henry the Sixth.

The following Knights have the style and rank of peerage inserted on their Plates, all of whom were installed in the reign of Henry the Eighth, prior to the Earl of Bedford, and upon which Plates no coronet appears;—I have omitted those Knights who were only barons, as no coronet could be expected to be found.

Thomas Howard, Lord Howard, installed 2 H. VIII. became Duke of Norfolk 16 H. VIII. Ob. 1554.

Sir Thomas Boleyn, afterwards Earl of Wiltshire, installed 15 H. VIII. Ob. 1538.

Robert Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, installed 16 H. VIII. Ob. 34 H. VIII. His Plate was probably placed in his stall in 1539, as that date, which is not that of his installation, appears on it.

William FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel, who was installed 17 H. VIII. Ob. 35 H. VIII.

Thomas Manners, Lord Roos, installed 17 H. VIII. Created Earl of Rutland the same year. Ob. 1543.

Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland, installed 17 H. VIII. Ob. 6 Edw. VI.

Sir William FitzWilliam, installed 18 H. VIII. Created Earl of Southampton 29 H. VIII. and died 34 H. VIII.

Henry Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, installed 29 Hen. VIII. Ob. 34 H. VIII.

The next Plate which exhibits a coronet is that of Edward Earl of Lincoln, who was installed 5 Edw. VI. and created Earl of Lincoln 14 Eliz. Intervening, however, between the instance of the Earl of Bedford and the Earl of Lincoln, are preserved the tracings in Leake's Collections of two Marquesses and five Earls whose Plates have no coronets upon them. The tracings about this period are tolerably complete; for of the number of Knights during the reigns of Henry the Eighth and Edward the Sixth, who had been elected into the order, amounting to sixty-six, there are forty-five tracings or drawings of their Garter-Plates.

After passing over the instances of two other Earls and one Viscount whose Plates set forth their respective titles, as in the cases before recited, but upon which no coronet appears, we find that on the Stall-Plate of Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex, who was installed in 1557, (t̃pe P. and M.), the earl's

coronet is placed on the shield ; the upper part of which seems to have been beaten out or erased for its reception ; or, at least, the tracing gives this appearance. This Earl died in 1593.

The next Plate is that of Henry Manners, Earl of Rutland, who was installed 1 Elizabeth, and died in 1563 ; and which is *without* the coronet ; but the following Plate, which is that of Sir Robert Dudley, who was installed at the same time, and was created Earl of Leicester 6 Elizabeth, exhibits the Earl's coronet. Leake considers this to have been a second Plate, if the statutes of King Henry the Eighth were complied with, which directed the Stall-Plate to be put up within one year after installation.

After this period coronets appear on the succeeding Garter-Plates of those Knights who obtained the higher dignities of the peerage. We find that few occur in the reign of Henry the Eighth, or his immediate successors ; and that the custom of placing those distinguishing marks of dignity over the coat of arms did not prevail till about the first of Elizabeth. Sometimes the coronet was placed immediately on the shield, particularly in the earlier instances, and sometimes on the outer edge of the Garter which surrounds the shield ; and two instances occur in which the coronet is placed on the helmet, being those of John Erskine, Earl of Marr, who was installed in 1603, and James Hamilton, Marquess of Hamilton, in 1623. For Knights-subjects the coronet is now placed on the outer circle of the Garter, with the helmet rising from it, or placed immediately over it.

The first coronet having a cap, and being lined with ermine, which occurs in the Collections from which this essay is compiled, is that of Sydney Godolphin, Lord Godolphin, who was installed in 1704. He is also the first Baron who became a Knight of the Garter after the coronet was assigned to that degree of peerage. But we still find coronets after 1704 without caps.

Supporters.

Amongst the privileges enjoyed by the Knights of the Garter, that of bearing supporters to their arms is one, whether they are Peers or not. Much might be said as to the origin of these heraldic figures, as they appear on seals, as well of the ancient gentry as of the nobility of this kingdom. They

appear in the earlier periods to have supported the helmet and crest, rather than the shield, which was frequently *pendant*; and one instance occurs, which will be hereafter mentioned, amongst the Garter-Plates of the Knights of this Order, in which the supporters are so represented. It is not, however, within the limits of the subject now in hand to treat of the origin of heraldic supporters, but simply to recite such instances where they have been adopted by the Knights of the Garter.

The first Plate of which a tracing is preserved in Leake's Collections having supporters, is that of John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, who was elected into the Order 20 Hen. VI. and was created Duke of Somerset in 1443, and died 22 Hen. VI. The shield is supported on the dexter side by an eagle ducally crowned; and on the sinister by an heraldic ibex. The Plate appears to be of a later date than of the period of Henry the Sixth; and is of another character, altogether different from those of the contemporary Knights. This Plate has also other characteristics which render it peculiar, and distinct from others. The area is *bendy or, gules and vert*; and on each side of the shield are two ostrich feathers reaching up to the crest. Upon the whole, it appears to have been designed subsequently to the period in which the Duke of Somerset lived; and caprice seems to have had some hand in the matter. Beltz did not consider it to be contemporary with the Knight.*

The first instance, then, which may be safely quoted as one bearing all the marks of being contemporary with the Knight himself of supporters being introduced on a Garter Plate, is that of John Dynham, Lord Dynham, who was elected 1 Henry the Seventh, and died in that king's reign in 1501. The shield, which is pendant from the helmet, appears quite independent of the supporters, which are two stags. These animals support the *helmet and crest* only, and stand upon the ground or mount upon which the under side of the shield seems to repose. Thirty-seven tracings or drawings of Plates intervene between the Duke of Somerset's and this without the

* It may be well to notice here that Beltz mentions also in his "Memorials," (p. x. n.) that the Plate of Earl Rivers temp. Edward IV. had supporters upon it; an error into which Ashmole had fallen; but, on reference to a tracing preserved by Leake, the arms of Earl Rivers have no supporters.

occurrence of supporters upon them, including a period in which eighty-two Knights were admitted into the Order.

The next Knight on whose Plate supporters are engraved is Henry Algonon Percy, Earl of Northumberland, who was elected in the same reign, and who died 13 Henry the Eighth. The number of Knights-subjects who were elected between Lord Dynham and the Earl of Northumberland, (as may be seen in the list first given in this essay), was only two. The supporters in this case are placed outside the Garter which encircles the Earl's arms. They are thus placed at the present day.

We do not find supporters again adopted till the next reign in the case of Thomas Howard, Lord Howard, who was installed, as before mentioned, 2 Henry the Eighth; but whose Plate was not put up earlier than 16 Henry the Eighth, when he became Duke of Norfolk. On comparing the list, to which I referred in the preceding paragraph, with these instances, it may be seen that supporters did not at this period become general.

Supporters are to be found on the Garter Plates of the following Knights :

Sir Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, installed 15 Henry VIII., ob. 30 Henry VIII.

Robert Radcliffe, Viscount FitzWalter, afterwards Earl of Sussex, installed 16 Henry VIII., ob. 34 Henry VIII.

Sir William FitzWilliam, afterwards Earl of Southampton, installed 18 Henry VIII., ob. 34 Henry VIII.

Henry Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, installed 29 Henry VIII., ob. 34 Henry VIII.

During the period which elapsed from the election of Thomas Lord Howard, in 2 Henry the Eighth, to that of the Earl of Cumberland inclusive, there appears to have been twenty-five Knights-subjects admitted into the Order; and of whose Plates eighteen tracings are preserved in Leake's Collections. We therefore find out of this number only five instances of supporters occurring on the Garter-Plates up to 29 Henry the Eighth extant in Leake's time.

Subsequent to 29 Henry the Eighth, supporters occur on all the succeeding Plates of Knights-subjects: so that the period when they may be said to

have been first introduced in the heraldic character of supporters, if the evidence of the Garter Plates may be presumed to be valuable, was in the time of King Henry the Seventh; and they became the distinguishing *addenda* to the heraldic achievements of the Peerage, and of Knighthood into this most noble Order, in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

I have confined these observations solely to the Plates of the Knights of the Garter; and principally to such only who have been Knights-subjects. I have endeavoured to define the several periods when the Garter first encircled the shield; when helmets assumed the two characters distinguishing those of the nobility from those of commoners; when coronets were introduced to distinguish the several classes of the Peerage; and when heraldic supporters first assumed that character; as principal topics. That these Plates do exhibit a body of evidence throwing considerable light upon those *exterior ornaments*, which embellish and give a character to other armorial insignia, cannot, I think, be questioned; but how long they had been adopted prior to being found in the achievements of the Knights of one of the most illustrious Orders of Knighthood in Europe, and with which no other can vie in excellence and glory, is another question. I have here only attempted to place a few facts, interesting in themselves, in a compendious form, not travelling "out of the record" in quest of extraneous evidences, but taking Leake's invaluable Collections relating to the Order as the solitary authority for these remarks.

I beg to remain,

My dear Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS WILLIAM KING, Rouge Dragon.

To ALBERT WAY, Esq.
Director S. A. &c.