XIII. *Narrative by Sir William Swan, of a Journey to Dresden made by him, in 1678; from a Transcript preserved among the Lansdowne MSS. in the British Museum. Communicated in a Letter to the Right Hon. the EARL STANHOPE, President, by Sir HENRY ELLIS, K.H., F.R.S., Director.*

Read December 18, 1856.

MY LORD,

I BEG to lay before your Lordship and the Society of Antiquaries a Narrative of some interest as regards the exhibition of the Manners of a former period.

It may not be unknown to your Lordship that, in the olden time, foreign Princes, who had been received into the Order of the Garter in this country, were usually accustomed to acknowledge their high sense of the honour so conferred upon them by the annual celebration of St. George's day in their own countries; thus doing honour to the Order by keeping its feast.

The Original of the Memoir I have here transcribed is preserved at Oxford among the manuscripts in Ashmole's Museum (No. 1134), and is entitled "Sir William Swan's Narrative of his Journey to Dresden, April and May, 1678."

He was at that time King Charles the Second's minister at Hamburg. His Will, which is in Latin, dated 22nd August, and proved November 6th, 1678, shows us that he died in the latter part of the very year in which this Narrative was written. He there styles himself "Magnæ Britanniaë et Angliæ Regis ad Externa Negotia in Hamburgam Ablegatus plenipotentarius."

Sir William Swan, in his earlier day, was about the Queen of Bohemia, and is mentioned in one of the Queen's letters to Sir Edward Nicholas: he is also casually noticed, two or three times, by Pepys. He married a daughter of Sir John Ogle, of Pinchbeck, in the county of Lincoln, sometime Lieutenant-Colonel to Sir Francis Vere in the Low Countries; but she died before him.

The Elector whom Sir William Swan visited on this occasion was George II., Duke of Saxony, and Prince Elector of the Holy Roman Empire. He had been elected K.G. 19th June, 1668; had been invested at Dresden 13th April, 1669; and installed by proxy 28th May, 1671.

This Narrative is curious on another account, inasmuch as it shows a most generous and magnificent reception on the part of the Duke of Saxony, of a private person.

For the chief particulars here detailed relating to Sir William Swan I am indebted to the kindness of Sir Charles G. Young, Garter King of Arms.

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship's faithful Servant,

HENRY ELLIS.

To the Right Hon. the Earl Stanhope.

&c. &c. &c.

A Brief Narrative of my Journey to Dresden, my Reception, Treatment, and Dismission there, and what else has been observed at that Court, and in my way.

The 11th of April, 1678, about noon, I went from Hamburgh by land, being strong twelve persons, viz.: myself; an Irish gentleman, Mr. Tobin, who came hither from Tangier; a secretary; and nine persons in livery: among these there was a Valet de Chambre, a page, a cook, a barber, a footman, and two grooms; beside coachman and postillion. I had a Coach with six Horses for myself; a waggon with four for my people and baggage; and four English saddle-horses.

On the 15th I arrived at Magdeburgh, where I found a letter from Count Vander Nath, advising me, That it was the Elector's desire I should take my Journey quite through his Country over Wittenberg, and not go to Leipsig, which I obey'd; and, entering his Country the next day, was received at Gommern (two miles from Magdeburgh) by the Elector's Officers there; treated with a handsome dinner, and so sent to Zerbst with the Elector's Coach and Waggon.

Half an hour after I was arrived there, Duke Charles Guillaume of Anhalt, who resided at that place, sent a Gentleman on horseback, with four of the Duke's footmen, to compliment me, and to desire me to lodge at Court; which I refused, but would not fail to kiss his Highness's hand the next morning.

Notwithstanding this, the Duke sent his own Brother, in a Coach with six horses and half a dozen footmen, fetch'd me to Court, treated me with a noble Supper, and forc'd me to lodge at Court. The next day his Highness sent me in

his Coach to Coswill; four gentlemen, many Pages, footmen, and Trumpets of the Duke's going along, and there caus'd me to be treated at Dinner, after which, about four o'Clock, I went to Wittemberg, and so further up the Country.

On the 19th I arrived at Haym, four miles from Dresden, whither a Commissary of the Elector's was come the day before to compliment me from the Prince, and to take my Credetifs from me, whom I told I had none, and that I came to the Elector as a private person upon his Invitation. Nevertheless, half a mile from the Residence, I was met with twenty-four Coaches with six horses, with the greatest men of the Court in them; and abundance of Cavaliers on horseback; beside about five hundred of the Elector's troops, with Trumpets, Kettle Drums, and other sorts of Musick: after that I was complimented, I was set in the Elector's own Coach; on both sides there went halbertiers bare-headed, all the soldiers and constables stood in arms, and in this manner I was conducted to the Castle and lodg'd there in the best Room, called the Elector of Brandenburg's Quarter.

There were ordered to wait upon me, Mons^r van Kosbott, Counsellour of the Court, and Justice, as Commissary and Cupbearer;

Mons^r van Hangwitz, gentleman of the Elector's privy Chamber, and Major of Horse, as Marshall;

Mons^r van Nostis, captain and gentleman of the Elector's privy Chamber;

Mons^r Schaffer, Commissary of the Court;

Two gentlemen as Carvers;

A Page of the Elector's Chamber;

The Fouriers of the Court and Chamber;

A Trumpet;

A Footman;

All the Elector's Coachmen de Corps and Waggon-holders;

The four Officers of the Court, viz., Kitchen, Cellar, Silver-chamber, and Baking-house;

The Elector's Bed-master;

The Tapizier;

The Silver-keepers;

All the Watches of Drabants and Switzers.

That night I supped in my Apartment and was very handsomely served, Count vander-Nath being, amongst other Great men, at table with me. Mr. Tobin and my Secretary had the Marshall's table: and the rest of my servants were likewise all treated at Court.

The next morning, which was Sunday the 21st, at 5 of the Clock, the Music of the Dragoons, which were hautboys, came under my chamber windows and welcomed me. At 7 of the clock I was fetched to the Church by the abovesaid Gentlemen, who, to the number of a dozen at least, went always bareheaded before me.

There was an extreme fine Italian and other Musick with Trumpets and Kettle-drums before and after the Sermon. After this I was brought to my chamber; and then fetched to my public Audience; brought to my chamber again; and then fetch'd to dinner in the same manner.

I was set at the upper end, the Elector at my right, and Electoral Prince at the left hand; next to him sat Prince Maurice, the Elector's brother, and over against him Prince Christian of Halle. Item both the Trisen Privy Councillors, and Prince Maurice's Governor. At night I supped at my lodging, and

On Monday, being the 22nd, in the forenoon, I saw the Chambers of Art, the Stables; and dined in my Chamber. In the afternoon I saw the Hunting House in the Old Town, being carried thither in a Coach with six horses; and followed by another with two, and waited on by the said Gentlemen.

On Tuesday morning the 23rd, which was the day of the Feast, about six o'clock, were three great guns shot off for a signal; and afterwards, about 7, all the guards of Germans and Switzers appeared in the Court, and under my Chamber windows, all very well cloathed and exercised. At 9 o'clock I received the visits of the Imperial and Danish Ambassadors. At 10 o'clock I was fetch'd in great state and carried upon the Riesen Sahl (a great hall in the Court), which was hanged round about with crimson damask, and on the ground with red Cloth. There was an Altar made at the upper end, upon and about which were abundance of wax Candles burning upon great silver Stands and Lamps. At the right hand was a Throne and Canopy for His Majesty, and a Chair set for me below it. Over against was one for the Elector, and under it, over against me, Chairs for the Electoral Prince, Prince Maurice, and Prince Christian of Halle.

About both the Thrones there stood six pages in blue satin clothes, with gold laces, very rich; and a little lower four gentlemen with halberts. When the Elector came in, which was after ten o'clock, there went about fifty great guns off, and salve was twice given out of Musketts.

In the mean time the Elector came in, in his robes, under the sound of twenty-four Trumpets and Kettle-drums, who were all in a yellow satin livery, with black and golden laces.

Afterwards the great music of Italians and others, who were on the lower end

of the Hall, began, which lasted an hour and a half, and then the Vice-Chancellor Van Oppeln made a very handsome speech in high Dutch, in praise of the Garter, upon the words, "*Hony soit qui mal y pense.*" I have a Copy, and will see it translated into English. Thus done, the Music began again, and the Elector went out in the same manner. So that day, about a hundred great Guns were shot off.

About 12 o'Clock we went to dinner in the Riesen Gemach, as they call it, joyning to the Great Hall, which was very magnificent.

There was none at table but the Elector, Electoral Prince, Prince Maurice, Prince Christian, and I, plac'd as the Sunday before; waited upon by none but that wore the golden key, and the greatest of the Court.

St. George, the Dragon, and the words "*Hony soit que mal y pense,*" were everywhere seen upon the Dishes, Meat, sweetmeats, and silver-gilt plates. All the wine was credenc'd, and the several Musicks changed from one to another, which lasted till 5 o'clock in the evening; and I was brought to my chamber again.

On Wednesday the 24th there was held a Running at the Ring, by the Elector, Electoral Prince, Prince Maurice, and Prince Christian of Halle, beside abundance of gentlemen of the court, all in extreme rich cloaths, and rich furniture of horses. It began at 10 o'clock and lasted till one. After which we went to dinner in the Stone Room, and were plac'd as yesterday, except that some of the greatest of the Court were at table. There was all sorts of Musick, and amongst them the Singers of Silver Miners, in the Elector's livery, which lasted till half an hour past Five.

At seven o'Clock we went to the Play House, where there was acted the Comedy of Jason and Medea, in high Dutch, w^{ch} lasted till 10 o'Clock at Night.

On the 25th I dined in my Chamber, and supped with the Elector in the Church-room, which is near the chapel. At 9 o'clock the Fire-work of Jason's conquering the Golden Fleece at Colchos began, and lasted till 12, which was an extraordinary thing, and hardly better seen. There was a castle built upon the wall near my chamber-window, with five towers full of fire-works and rockets within. On the top whereof stood Jason armed; on the ground was the dragon; and the two oxen, spitting fire; and the plough. Round about the castle were planted 75 great mortar pieces full of fire-works, and abundance of small shot in the wall; whereof the history is printed in High Dutch at Dresden.

There have been 28,000 rockets; among whom there were some of two hundred and odd pounds weight. This Fire-work has been kept for an extraordinary

occasion these twenty-four years, and has cost above 20,000 crowns, the Elector (as he told me himself) having made most of it himself, when he was Electoral Prince.

On the 26th I dined alone, and supped with the Elector in the same Room. After which there was an Opera acted, of the rarest Voices, containing the matter of the Comedy. The words "Hony soit que mal y pense" were seen burning all along above the Theatre, and there were two Ships fighting at Sea, whereof one was called the Dragon, and the other St. George; which latter burnt and sunk the former: a great many small Mortar pieces having been planted about the Play-house, which were shott off under the Fight and sound of trumpets and kettle-drums.

On the 27th I dined in my Chamber, and went to Moritzburgh in the Afternoon with the Elector, who had caused all his Musicians to come thither.

On the 28th, after seven o'Clock in the morning, I was fetch'd to the Chapel, which is very fine, where there was an excellent Musick before and after the Sermon. After which we dined below, where there were several great men of the Court at table.

On the 29th, in the Morning, at 7 o'Clock, the Elector returned to Dresden again, and I was carried to Radeberg, conducted by a Company of Horse. All the Gentlemen that were ordered to wait upon me; and Mons^r de Metzrad, House-Marshal, Mons^r Klengel, Colonel of the Artillery and Inspector of some of the places where I was carried to, besides Trumpets, Pages, Footmen of the Elector's going along. We dined at Radeberg, and went to Stolpen that day, where we supped and lay that night.

N.B. The Castle lies upon a high Rock, which is harder than iron, and grown so strange that it is to be admired, whereof I have brought with me two pieces, which I intend to send for England. There is likewise a Fountain cut, or rather forced with fire in the rock, of very great depth; and a Park about the Castle, wherein there are several hundreds of white Stags.

On the 30th we went to Pirna, and further to Konigstein, the strongest place by Nature in Europe, which lies upon such a great and high rock, that fifty men are able to keep off an Army of 50,000. There is a Fountain cut in the rock to the very bottom of it, which is 300 fathom deep, and a great Fatt full of Wine which holds 2200 Aumes, as also a fine Wood, Corn-fields, good buildings, and Arsenal above, and reckoned a great favour unto him that is admitted to come up. After we had dined above, we went down that night to Pirna, the Castle whereof is called Sonnenstein, where we supped and lay that night.

On the 1st of May I returned to Dresden, where I arrived at noon, and was treated by Count Vander Nath.

On the 2nd there was held a Shooting with Crossbows, and I dined with the Elector in the Shooting-house.

On the 3rd I was treated by Mons^r D'Alefield, the Danish Minister there.

On the 4th in the morning I had my Audience of congé of the Elector, and in the Afternoon I went down to my Boat in the Elector's Coaches, accompanied with abundance of Gentlemen of the Court, and having taken my leave of them at the Bridge foot, where all the soldiers and constables were in arms, they returned into the Tower again; and I went that night to Meissen, in company with the said Gentlemen that were with me in the Country.

On the 5th in the morning I saw this Castle, and afterwards went down to Gorgan, where I arrived in the Evening, and was very handsomely received and treated.

The next morning, being the 6th, I saw the Castle, which is of an excellent building, and afterwards went down to Wittenberg, which is an University.

On the 7th, after dinner, all the Gentlemen and Attendants of the Elector left me, and I went that Evening to Coswick, where I was again treated by the Prince of Anhalt, who was come thither but a little while before me; and I was lodg'd at Court.

On the 8th in the morning I went into my Boat again, and arrived at Hamburg the 12th.

Mons^r. Van Oppeln's Speech on S^t. George's Day, 23 April, 1678.

HONY SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.

This, may it please your Electoral Highness and Gentlemen, is the Motto of the Royal Order; the Memory of its Institution is the occasion of this Day's solemnity; and this shall likewise be the beginning, middle, and end of my Speech.

The auncient Albion had not yet bowed his knees before any foreign Government, being, from the time it was first inhabited, acted by principles of the most heroic Virtue. And though the first Emperour Julius (who was never conquered, till he fell a sacrifice to the falseness and treachery of his own people,) landed the first foreign forces upon its shore, yet found much resistance, that in none of his wars he atchieved less than in those with the Britons.

In after times, especially under the two Emperors Claudius and Domitian, it was, after so many bloody wars, not so much conquered as received into friendship and alliance with the Romans, who set so high a value on the courage and gallant behaviour of its inhabitants, that they called this Island by way of eminence the Roman Island; who took their best men out of it, and employed them for the defence and protection of their other Countries and Provinces against the Invasions of the barbarous Nations; whereupon it was so weakened of Men that afterwards those Britons that were remaining, being involved in the distractions of an intestine war, and the Romans being hindered to assist them, were forced to call in the valiant Saxons, long before this time renowned for their noble Actions, who delivered them not only from the Picts and Scots, but part of them remained there also, from whom (the brave Norman being afterwards joyn'd to them) the noble Nation of England had the Original; who were at present known to be victorious within and out of Europe, and in the other Parts of the World.

The King of Birds—the Eagle—doth not usually bring forth a Pigeon, nor is a flying Deer, or fearful Sheep, the common issue of a Lyon; but when the latter mixed with the Pardelin, the offspring is a Leopard, so the coalition of these two so gallant Nations entailed upon their successors an everlasting zeal to attempt brave actions. And because they knew that honour and knowledge of justice was the right tinder and support of Virtue, they wakened the active and vigorous blood in their breast, by rewarding their generous actions, and putting them in mind to follow the brave examples of their Ancestors, if not to surpass them.

They rewarded their youth publicly with Shield, Sword, and Girdle, declared them therewith fit for service of War, and separated them from the common people under the Names of Noblemen and Knights. They found out almost as many Orders, as they observ'd the different ways whereby they gave proof of their good conduct and virtues. Those that excelled in horsemanship they made Knights of the Golden Spur. The Knights of the Bath were not looked upon so much for the cleanness of their bodies, as the purity of their spirits, and the innocence of their morals; and the bravest they rewarded with embroidered Flags, painted with the Arms of their Families, and created them Knights Bannerets. To say nothing of the Valvasors, weapon or shield-bearers, and the Knights of Batchelors, who were formerly used with them.

Arthur, an ancient King of Britain, did set the most renowned Officers with him at a Round Table, to show the high esteem he had for them; that he esteemed them all equal, and himself no more than they; from whence came the Order of the Round Table.

King Richard the First, together with those under his royal conduct, with King Philip of France, went into the Holy Land against the unbelievers, Saracens, and their King Saladin, who had already made himself Master of Jerusalem and other the best Towns.

And the siege of Acon or Ptolemais, which is now commonly called by the Inhabitants and others Tolometta, happening to be very long and tedious, made choice of some of his best Noblemen, and tied a leather Thong about one of their legs, thereby to lay the greater tye upon them to prosecute the service they were upon with the greater zeal; took also the Town, and laid in a manner the first stone upon which in the following times the most famous Order of the Garter was built; for when afterwards King Edward the Third, victorious in his Wars against the French and Scots, distributed the same for a Signal, won therewith several Battles, and having taken prisoners King John of France and King David of Scotland, he thought it reasonable to reward the virtue of them that had behaved themselves well and more gallantly than others, and that the memory of such great Victories might be preserved to after Ages, He in place of the leathern gave a blue silk ribbon with this embroidered Inscription, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*; did appoint a certain number of the Knights, and Rules and Laws for the Garter; ordered also that the Holy Knight and Martyr George of Cappadocia (who, three hundred and three years since our Saviour's birth, at the time of the cruel Persecution of Diocletian, was martyred and beheaded at Nicomedia in Bithynia,) should be the Patron of it (as was usual then), gave his Picture unto the Knights to wear, and commanded that on this day they should meet at Windsor (which was the place of his birth, and of the two Kings' Imprisonment), and that all should be obliged to celebrate the same there, except those that were far absent and hindered by any extraordinary occasion from coming thither; nevertheless should do it in their respective places.

It is not to be expressed with what passion this Order has been accepted by the greatest heads of the World; and how happy and venerable have they been accounted that have been honoured with it ever since its Institution.

The Emperors Sigismund and Charles the fifth thought it no lessening of their greatness to receive the Order in person from the hands of King Henry the 5th and 8th. Others received it by splendid Embassies. And, though in examining the rules of the Order (which at once suffer no more but twenty-five Knights besides the King as Sovereign) it appears that in so many Years the Number doth not amount to five hundred; yet it is remarkable that, amongst them, eight Roman Emperors, near thirty foreign Kings, and as many or more Electors and

Princes, beside the English, can be counted, which cannot be affirmed of any Order whatsoever.

There was one thing wanting, which might add a new lustre and glory to this illustrious Company. The famous Nation of the Saxons, after they had been carried into the Islands of Britannia by the great King Hengist, were so taken with its largeness, pleasantness, and fertility (in all which it surpasses all the Islands in Europe, and I may say in the World), that they remained there, and took possession of the land.

The noble root of Witikind dispersed itself in so many branches, that their agreeable shadows covered most part of Germany. And when formerly England, through the King Coel's daughter Helena, had given to the world the great Constantine for an Emperour, so had these through the great Otho and his successors done the like, and to this day preserved two famous Circles of the Empire, principally by this Electoral House, under the protection of which we live. Of this so illustrious House, there was a stem wanting in the fine and fertile Garden of the Royal Garter Order, and the same was happily planted in, when almost ten years ago, viz. the 19th June 1668, the now reigning and most potent King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Charles the Second, Defender of the Faith, as Sovereign of the Order, in an Assembly of the present Knights, not only nominated and chose the present Serene Elector of Saxon and Burggraffe of Madeburgh, Duke John George the Second, but also with a splendid Embassy, who brought the Habit of the Order along, was invested and publicly declared a Knight of this Most Noble Order with all due Ceremonies.

What the costly Habit of the Knight is; and what jewels they wear are and signify; as also wherein their Rules and Laws consist; has been formerly explained in this place, and is to be had in print.

His Electoral Highness my gracious master, at present keeping this day according to custom, acknowledges with particular satisfaction and humble Thanks that His Majesty of Great Britain, as Sovereign Protector and Master of the Order, upon the Elector's notification, was not only pleased with this his intention, but also to demonstrate the same has sent his Embassy, by which the Feast appears the more glorious, His Electoral Highness obliges himself that he will endeavor to merit it with all due and agreeable Services to His Majesty, and thanks the Ambassador for the pains of having taken upon him a troublesome Journey, and will do all whatever may tend to the satisfaction, honour, and interest of His Majesty and the whole Fellowship of the Order.

We cease not at all times to echo forth our joyful acclamations of all happiness

and prosperity, and heartily wish that this excellent Union of these great Persons may tend to the constant Defence of the Honour of God, to a restoration of a Peace for the quiet of Christendom, which his Majesty hath hitherto laboured to procure, with great zeal, to His immortal praise, and at last to the prosperity of all the Members of the Order, especially to both the Royal and Electoral Houses great *flor*,* to a good understanding betwixt them, whom God grant long to reign in all happiness; as also to the Protection, Welfare, and Increase of their Kingdoms, Electordom, and Lands, and that by them and their successors this may not be looked upon to be only as a Common Motto of the Order, but may be and remain a maxim of eternal Truth—

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.”

* The transcript in the margin says *sic*.