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X. *Memoir upon the King's Jewel-House, with an Account of the ancient Rights of its Master and Treasurer, by Sir Gilbert Talbot, Knt.: Communicated by HENRY ELLIS, Esq. F.R.S. in a Letter to the Right Honourable the EARL OF ABERDEEN, K. T. President.*

Read 17th May 1827.

MY LORD,

HAVING already communicated to the Society of Antiquaries, through your Lordship's hands, two Memoirs by Sir Gilbert Talbot upon subjects of English History,^a I consider his name to be somewhat known to the Society; and shall therefore make but a short introduction to another Memoir from the same pen upon the King's Jewel House, with the ancient rights of the Master and Treasurer. Both of these characters were sustained by Sir Gilbert himself, not only at the time of compiling the Memoir, but also when the celebrated Colonel Blud attempted to steal the Crown, and I have to acquaint your Lordship and the Society, that the particulars relating to that extraordinary theft are preserved in a fourth Memoir by Sir Gilbert, from which the common received Account in our later histories has been taken. This last Narrative (however it may have been pillaged and extracted from) becomes doubly interesting when we learn that the writer of it was in that official station which provided him with the most certain particulars of the robbery.

I am, my Lord, your Lordship's faithful Servant,

HENRY ELLIS.

^a The first of these, "A Narrative of the Venetian's Tender of Assistance to King Charles the First in his Civil Wars," has been since printed in the Second Series of Original Letters illustrative of English History, vol. iii. p. 318. The Second, the Narrative of the Earl of Sandwich's Attempt upon Berghen, is printed in the present Volume, pp. 33—48.

OF THE JEWELL HOUSE, WITH THE ANCIENT RIGHTS BELONGING TO THE MASTER AND TREASURER THEREOF.

The Master of y^e Jewell-House holdeth his Place for life by Patent, under the Broad Seal of England, to enjoy all perquisites and privileges which any of his Predecessors at any time enjoyed :

Which are as followeth.

1. A Fee of £50 per annum out of the Exchequer.
2. A Table of fourteen double Dishes per diem.
3. £300 per ann. out of the New Year's Gift mony.
4. The carrying of Presents to Embassadors.
5. The Small Presents at New Year's Tide.
6. Anciently Treasurers of the Chamber, which Office was a branch of the Jewel-House.
7. Frequently Privy Councillors, as Cromwell & y^e two Carryes.
8. Right to buy, keep, and present, all his Maj^{ties} Jewells (when given).
9. Choice of his under Officers.
10. Choice of the King's and Queen's Goldsmiths and Jewellers.
11. £20 in gold upon signing the Goldsmith's bill.
12. Lodgings in all the King's houses.
13. A Close Waggon (when the Court removeth) for his own goods, and two Carts for his Officers.
14. Precedence in Court and Kingdome.
15. Priviledge of the Drawing Room.
16. Robes at the Coronation.
17. In Procession, place before all the Judges.
18. He putteth on and taketh of the King's Crown.
19. He keepeth all the Regalia.
20. He hath Lodgings, &c. in the Tower.
21. A Servant there to keep the Regalia.
22. He hath no Superior Officer.

23. He furnisheth Plate to Ambassadors, and all the great Officers.

24. He remandeth it when Ambassadors return, and Officers remove or dye.

25. He provideth a Garter and plain George for Knights of the Garter.

26. The Total of his Retrenchments, which will serve to justify the following Preamble from vanity.

The Perquisites belonging to the Master are as followeth.

I. A Fee of £50 per annum payable half yearly out of the Exchequer, which the Master used to call for but once in two years, that he might receive a £100 together; but when Sr George Downing became Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, he (because there is a small fee due to the Secretary, for drawing up the Order to the Exchequer) enjoyned all fees to take out separate Orders for every half year, which exacting invention is still kept on foot, although the fee for every Order is exorbitant.

II. A Table of fourteen double Dishes per diem, with bread, beer, wine, &c. or 38 shill. per diem board wages, if not serv'd in kind; but the L^d Chancellor, who sought all occasions to prejudice the Master of the Jewell-House, put the King upon retrenchment of some of the tables, and went in person to the Green Cloth (altho' unqualify'd, as being no officer there) and cut off the Master's table, and the Groom Porter's for company, that it might not look like personal malice: in lieu whereof, they allow'd each of them £120 per annum board wages, and for this they pretended no other ground or shadow of reason, but because it was when the Treasury was exhausted (and found it in their books) that Sr Rich^d Mildmay proposed to the King the retrenchment of the tables, and desired his Majesty to begin with his. This, the L^d Chancellor's law, and Sr Harry Wood's philosophy, made an argument to cut of the dyet from the Jewell-House.

And altho' Sr G. Talbot's patent gave him all y^e right that any of

his predecessors at any time enjoy'd, there was no releife to be had in their Chancery.

S^r G. Talbot represented this their proceeding to his Majesty, but the Chancellor yet sway'd all things absolutely, and there lay no appeal from him.

For one year after they allowed him his dyet at the great festivals (Christmas, Easter, and Whitsontide), but that was thought too much, and retrench'd likewise.

III. £300 per annum out of the mony presented by the Nobility to the King at New-year's tide, which usually amounted to £3000. And the profit arise to the Master but 12^d in the pound, and the advantage of the gold, for it was ever given away, and paid in silver, till Mr. May came to the Privy purse, who got it annex'd to his Office, by which means that branch was cut off from the Master of the Jewell-House, because the king was neither to pay poundage nor allowance for gold, and the Master had no consideration for it, 'till upon the tender of severall petitions, His Maj^{ty}, in anno 1677, gave him by Privy Seal £400 p. annum out of the New-year's Gift mony, during pleasure.

IV. The Master of the Jewel-House receiveth the value of £300 per ann. (communibus annis) by carrying a present to Ambassadors, till the 1st Duke of Buckingham (who was an enemy to S^r H. Mildmay) prevailed wth the King first, to make all his presents in Jewells (and not in plate, as had ever till then been accustom'd), and next, to send them by the Master of the Ceremonies (an office erected but in King James time).

Thus S^r H. Mildmay, by his professed ignorance in jewells, had the buying of the jewells taken from the place and usurped into the hands of the Ld. Chamberlaine, and the presenting of them, by his provocation of the D. of Buck. transferred to the M^r of the Ceremonys. Nay, and the keeping of all the private jewells is now in the hands of the Page of his Maj^{ty}s Closet, altho' the L^d Chamberlaine, in what he buyeth, nor the said Page in what he keepeth, hath any check upon him, to controll the account of the one, or the guardianship of the other, whereas

the account of the Jewell-House is under the inspection of the L^d Treasurer, or a body of Commissioners, when the King pleaseth to appoint them.

Thus whilst S^r G. Talbot is made Master and Treasurer of his Majesty's Jewells and Plate, he is made a stranger to all but the Regalia, w^{ch} alone are in his keeping.

V. The Master of the Jewell-House hath 28 ounces of guilt Plate, every new-year, and the small presents which are sent to the King, anciently valu'd at 30 or 40 pounds together with the purses wherein the Lds. present their gold (which were wont to be worth 30 or 40 shill. each). These the Ld. Manchester (when Ld. Chamberlaine) claim'd as due to him; S^r G. Talbot proved them to be his right; yet told his L^dship that if he liked any of them he should have them as a gift, but not as his due.

The Earl of St. Alban, who succeeded him, revived the same pretence, but was opposed by the Master, and desisted.

Yet usually the Master gives the Ld. Chamberlaine five or six, at the cupboard, as he doth to other Officers and Friends that ask.

The profit of allowance upon the Ounces (issued by gift from his Majesty) S^r G. Talbot gave (for his time) to his under officers, and the carrying of presents to Residents and Agents, when made in platé, chains, or medalls.

VI. Anciently the Master of the Jewell-House was Treasurer of the Chamber, 'till that branch was taken out and made an office apart; and is now five times more beneficiall than the Jewell-House; all the regulation of expence being apply'd to the remaining parts of the perquisites of the Jewell-House. The fees of the Treasurer of the Chamber and Master of the Ceremonys being left entire.

VII. The Masters of the Jewell-House have been frequently Privy Councillors, such was Cromwell in the time of Henry VIIIth, and appointed Lord Deputies of Ireland, as the two Carrys.

VIII. It belonged to the Master of the Jewell-House to buy; keep,

and present all the Jewells and Plate that belonged to his Majesty, but how that right is invaded see number IV.

IX. The Master hath his choice of all his inferior Officers, and the power of suspending or displacing them upon their misbehaviour.

When he first took possession of his Office he call'd to one of his Yeomen for the Books of Accompt, which were in the keeping of old Layton, who then attended in his month; the peevish old man who had lived long in the office, refused to deliver them: whereupon Sr G. Talbot shew'd him the words of his Patent; but he remained obstinate and insolent, and Sr G. Talbot suspended him from waiting, and acquainted his Maj^{ty} with it, who very well approved of what he had done: but the passionate old man for very vexation of spirit dyed.

His son had the impudence to claim his fathers place, and upon refusal, to threaten an appeal to the King, whereupon Sr Gilbert acquainted his Maj^{ty}, who said, if he came, he should receive an answer.

After this Serj^t Painter without any application to Sr Gilbert went boldly to the King and begg'd the Reversion, and his Maj^{ty} as graciously granted it; Painter thus arm'd came to Sr G. and demanded to be admitted, Sr Gilbert asked him whence he derived his claim? he said the King had given it to him. Sr Gilbert said he would receive the Kings pleasure from himself, and going to his Majesty asked him if he had appointed Painter to succeed Layton? He said, Yes. Sr, said Sr Gilbert, it belongeth to me to choose my own Officers, because y^e trust of all y^r Majestys plate is by me committed to them. Well, said the King, for this time let it pass, and I will invade y^e right no more. Sr Gilbert desired to know if his Majesty would be security for all the plate intrusted in his hands? No indeed will I not, said the King, and if that be requisite, I recommend him not. Sir, said Sr Gilbert, this expostulation is only to shew my right, and the danger of admitting any without security, but since Your Majesty hath made choice of him, he shall stand, and accordingly he admitted him.

X. The appointment of the Goldsmiths and Jewellers, both to the

King and Queen, valu'd at £800 each (as the Yeomens and Grooms places are) when vacant.

When his Maj^{ty} came first into England, Coronell Blage (a Groom of the Bed Chamber) begg'd the nomination of the Goldsmith, and contracted with Alderman Blackwell for £800; but the Alderman, when he understood that it was the Masters right, quitted his bargain, and Mr. Blage deserted his pretentions.

XI. The Master used to receive £20 in gold from the Goldsmith in signing his annual Bill, and this was transmitted in the list of perquisites from S^r H. Mildmay to S^r G. Talbot, yet would he never require the same, least it might look like a bribe to the Master to cast a favourable eye over the account.

XII. He hath right to lodgings for himself, Officers, and Servants, in all the Kings houses: those in Whitehall were (when the King came in) rude, dark, and intermixed with the Queens servants.

The present dining room was a kind of wild barn without any covering besides rafters and tiles. The Masters Chambers were two ill rooms above stairs, and the passage to them dark at noon day; his dineing-room was below. S^r G. T. being willing to improve his lodgings, propos'd to his Majesty an exchange betwixt that wild room and his dining room; the King commanded the Lord Chamberlaine to review and report, which accordingly he did, and told his Majesty, that S^r G. proposal was fair, and much to the advantage of the Queens servants; whereupon leave was given him to build, and when he had finished, S^r Edward Wood came and claim'd his former lodging as being the Queens servant; S^r Gilbert told him, he was the Kings servant, and had built by his authority, and therefore presumed he had title to the apartment, and that the lower room was his if he pleased to like it; he reply'd, that he would try his power, and went with a compliment to the King and told of S^r Gilberts proceedings, who made him answer, that if he would not accept of the ground room he should have none. The angry Knight, finding the power of which he had boasted to fail him, said, then he would

have none; the King took him short at his word, and S^r William Throgmorton the Knight Mareschall being by, begg'd the chamber, and enjoy'd it for a year; but the nature of his place drawing great concourse of people thither, S^r Gilbert thought it unsafe for the Plate, represented the danger to his Majesty, who thereupon caused the Knight Mareschall to be warn'd out; and least the chamber might draw ill company again, he begg'd it for his Officers, who have enjoy'd it ever since.

XIII. Upon all removalls of the Household, the Master of the Jewell-House hath ever a close waggon allow'd him for the transport of his servants and goods, and his Officers had a waggon and a cart for the plate.

XIV. The Master of the Jewell-House was ever esteem'd the 1st Knight Bachelour of England, and took place accordingly.

He hath precedence in the Establishment of the Household before the Master of the Great Wardrobe, and before the Judges in all public Processions, being ever next to the Privy Councillours.

XV. They had the priviledge to go into the drawing room to the Privy Chamber; where none besides themselves under the degree of a Baron were permitted to come, when the Gallery was kept private.

XVI. At the Coronation they wear Scarlet Robes, almost like the Baron's Robes, and dine at the Barons table in Westminster Hall.

XVII. At the opening or concluding of a Session of Parliament, and at the passing of Bills, when the King appeareth in his robes, the Master of the Jewell-House putteth the Crown upon his head, and taketh it off, or if he be absent or indisposed, he deputeth a person of Quality to do it. And the M^r alone hath right to kneel at the steps below the Kings feet (and the Black Rod at the corner of the Wool-sack), altho' of late all the officers of the Privy-Chamber and Presence (and by their example strangers who have no relation to the Court) take up their places there, and possess it all before the Master (who attendeth upon the Crown) can come.

XVIII. He keepeth all the Regalia (and the Plate that is not used in the family) in the Tower, and to that end hath alway conveniences of lodgings for himself, Officers, and Servants therein.

In the new Lodgings given in lieu of the old, because it was pretended that the chimnies might endanger the magazine of powder which is lodg'd in the White Tower, there is not any apartment for the Master; upon complaint thereof made by Sr Gilbert Talbot to the King, the matter was by his Majesty referred to the consideration of the Ordnance-Board, how he might have his accommodation; and the Officers of the Board made an order that there should be two new chambers built for him upon the left hand of the open stairs by the present Jewell-House, which are of absolute necessity to his Majestys service, because of an insurrection in the Nation, or tumult in the City, it is fit the Master should have his conveniency to watch over so considerable a charge.

XIX. He hath a particular Servant in the Tower, intrusted with that great treasure, to whom (because Sr Gilbert Talbot was retrenched in all the perquisites and profits of his place, as is above mentioned, and not able to allow him a competent salary) his Majesty doth tacitly allow him that he shall shew the Regalia to strangers, which furnished him with so plentiful a lively-hood, that Sr Gilbert Talbot upon the death of his servant there, had an offer made to him off 500 old broad pieces of gold for the place.

Yet he first gave it to old Mr. Edwards freely (who had been his fathers servant) whom Blud murdered when he attempted to steal the Crown, Globe, and Scepter.

After the death of the father, he continu'd it to his son, and after his death he gave it to Major Beckman (who married a daughter of old Edwards) upon condition that he should maintain old Mrs. Edwards and the children, which he hath well perform'd.

XX. The Master of the Jewell-House hath no superior officer in Court over him, he receiveth no command but from the King himself, which is transmitted to him by Warrant sign'd by the Lord Chamberlaine, or else by the Secretary of State, signifying the Kings pleasure, and many times he receiveth it by word of mouth from his Majesty unless in case of great importance, wherein he usually desireth a Warrant to be entred for his justification and indemnity.

Yet sometimes the Lord Treasurer, or particular Commissioners appointed for that end, inspect the state of the Jewell-House, as they did Anno 1673, and again in 1679.

XXI. The Master of the Jewell-House furnisheth all great Officers of the House-hold with Plate, and all Ambassadors that are sent abroad, they giving Indentures to restore the same when call'd upon by him, and upon restoration he giveth back the Indentures.

XXII. It is incumbent upon the Master to call upon all Ambassadors for their Plate at their return home; and upon the executors of all Great Officers who dye with plate in their possession; and to sue in the Exchequer any that are indebted to the Jewell-House, which debt cannot privately be compounded for by the Master, but must be satisfied by a ward of Court, or cancell'd by the Kings pardon signified by Privy Seal.

XXIII. If a Knight of the Garter dye, the Master must send to his heir or executor for his Collar, George, and Garter, which his Majesty gave him at his Installation. And likewise to all Serjeants for their Maces, which are furnished out of the Jewell-Office.

XXIV. All the retrenchments of the Perquisites belonging by Patent to Sir G. T. amount to thirteen hundred pound per annum, which in twenty years, since his Majesty came into England, arise to twenty-six thousand pound; besides thirteen hundred pound original debt for his eleven years service under the last King at Venice; so that if he had his right, there would be due to him thirty-nine thousand pound; besides 26 or 27 years Interest for the last sum of thirteen thousand pound expended in the Venetian service.

GILBERT TALBOT,

Master and Treasurer of the Jewel-House.

May the 20th 1680.