THE BLACK PRINCE.

The metried chronicle of the life and feats of arms of Edward the Black Prince, which has recently been published by Mr. J. G. Fotheringham, under the able editorship of M. Francisque Michel (whose labours of a similar kind are now too famous to require any reference), belongs to the library of Worcester College, Oxford.

The MS. volume is described as an oblong octavo on vellum, containing 61 leaves and 32 lines on a page, remarkably well written, with illuminated capital letters and rubricated titles. It was bequeathed to Worcester College, with many other valuable books, by Dr. George Clarke, Fellow of All Souls and M.P. for the University. How Dr. Clarke acquired it is not known, but the volume at one time belonged to Sir William Le Neve, Mowbray Herald, and afterwards Clarenceux King of Arms, from whom, with other collections, it passed to Sir Edward Walker, Garter King of Arms, and was inherited by Sir John Clopton, who married Sir Edward's daughter.

Affixed to the book is a letter written by Anstis (the historian of the Order of the Garter), which comments on its value as written by an eyewitness of the matters narrated, and stating that (as he supposes) there never was but one person known as Chandos Herald.

It is of course notorious that in the ancient days of chivalry great feudal nobles were represented by their own heralds, *e.g.*, the Duke of Norfolk by Mowbray Herald; while the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Lisle, and others, gave the names of their titles to heralds. In Scotland there existed at least one variation in the case of the Earl of Crawford, whose herald was known as "Indure," from the Earl's motto. But it appears from the title of our author that such a personage as Sir John Chandos, who, although a knight banneret, in the confidence of the prince, and entrusted by him with high missions, could scarcely be called a great feudal noble, was nevertheless represented by a herald.

Sir John Chandos was killed in 44 Edward III, his death being recorded in the poem; but Anstis mentions that the author retained the name Chandos until he was afterwards created Ireland King of Arms, the order of herald being in fact indelible like that of a priest. It is difficult, perhaps, to realize the deep religious mysticism, which was anciently interwoven with heraldry.

[1] 'Le Prince Noir.' Poème du héraut Chandos. Edited with English translation and Notes, by Francisque Michel. Fotheringham, 1883.

This chronicle has been printed once before—for the Roxburghe Club—under the editorship of the Rev. H. O. Coxe, librarian of the Bodleian Library. M. Francisque Michel considers that Mr. Coxe's reproduction contains many errors; but we think this an unnecessary apology for the reproduction of a work of so great historical interest, and of which there exist so very few printed copies. We congratulate the editor upon the skill of his translation—though we have detected here and there an English equivalent which we thought rather less dignified than an Englishman would have used—and upon the valuable information given in his notes. The latter cannot be too highly prised. M. Francisque Michel has given genealogical memoranda in relation to almost all the knights and nobles mentioned in the poem, and as many of them were founders of the Garter, the facts stated are of great historical interest; while upon subjects of a purely antiquarian character, such as the meaning of the words "clergie" and "jongleur," the coining of money and the character of a popular festival upon receiving a victorious army, his notes are full of useful hints.

We also congratulate the publisher upon the manner in which the work is produced. The printing, which appears to have been performed at Dieppe, is excellent, and the paper admirable. It is indeed long since a modern book has come into our hands which, without being very costly, so satisfies our taste and study.

We do not propose to review the history told by Chandos Herald further than to note that he describes the taking of Calais, the battles of Creçy and Poictiers, the assumption of the Government of Gascony, and the unfortunate expedition into Spain, which was undertaken by the Black Prince in order to reinstate Pedro—nicknamed the Cruel—upon a throne from which he had been ejected by his bastard brother Enrique.

It is known that, after the Prince had attained his object, his army was detained in a very unhealthy climate, and that a very large number of Englishmen died of dysentery. The prince himself contracted about the same time a fatal disease, which never left him during the few remaining years of his life; and he who was accredited the greatest knight of his time—not even excepting the renowned Bertrand du Guesclin (his opponent in Spain)—died at the early age of 46. We shall probably interest the readers of the GENEALOGIST better by enumerating some of the persons who figure in the poem, facts relating to whom are either confirmed or announced of new therein.

In the first expedition narrated,—that of King Edward into Normandy, which terminated in the re-taking of Calais—we find that there were present: the Earls of Warwick, Northampton, Suffolk, Stafford, Salisbury, and Oxford; John Beauchamp, Ralph de Cobham (who, Mr. F. Michel thinks, is intended for

Reginald), Sir Bartholomew de Burghees, Guyon de Brian, Richard de la Vache, Richard Talbot, Chaundos, Audeley, and Thomas Holland, who became Earl of Kent *jure uxoris* in 1358 (*pace* Lord Redesdale) on marrying Joan Plantagenet. All these knights, except Sir James de Audeley, were Companions of the Garter, and most of them appear in the list of founders. The name of Sir Richard de la Vache is little known, and his family have disappeared from heraldry. Upon landing the Prince of Wales, the Earls of March and Salisbury, and John de Montagu, his brother, were knighted. At the Battle of Creçy there were killed—one king (Bohemia), one duke (Lorraine), eight counts, and more than sixty bannerets. After the taking of Calais there was discovered a plot by one Aimery, a Lombard, to betray the town to the Sire de Beaujeu and Messire Geoffrey de Charguy, and Chandos Herald attributes to the Black Prince's courage the saving of his father, the king.

Many of the above-mentioned knights were in the prince's army when he sailed to Bordeaux to take possession of Gascony, and we find the additional names of Lord le Despenser, Basset, and the Lord of Meinel. Among the barons of Gascony who saluted the prince on his arrival were: the Prince d'Albret (who is stated to be the Sire d'Albret), Viscount of Tartas (afterwards lieutenant of Gascony), the Sire de Montferrand, Mucidan, Rauzan, Courton, Amenion de Faussard, the great Sire de Pomiers, and the rightful Sire de Lesparre. We have not space to comment upon the biographical notes relating to these noblemen, of which the most interesting is a critical enquiry as to the personality of the "rightful Sire de Lesparre." We meet with repeated mention of the Captal de Buch, the possessor of which title was Jean de Grailly, one of the founders of the Garter. The exact meaning of the word *captal* is not defined, though presumed to be equivalent to *Princeps;* while attention is called to another curious title borne by the Lords of Latrave—that of *soudan* or *souldich.*

The poem contains a long and animated account of the battle of Poictiers. To the Marshals of Clermont and Audenham was assigned the French vanguard with "le noble duc d'Ataine," whom the editor describes as Gautier, comte de Brienne, duc d'Athènes; the Dukes of Normandy and Bourbon, with the Lord of St. Venant and Justan de Magnelais, carrying the banner, were in the second division; the third was commanded by the Duke of Orleans: and King John, with the Dukes of Anjou and Berry, Philip le Hardi, Jacques de Bourbon, the Count d'Eu, the Counts of Longueville, Sancerre, and Dammartin, remained in the fourth division. Guichard d'Angle, the Lord d'Aubigny, and Eustache de Ribemont, commanded a separate body of 400 knights. On the English side we have special mention of Sir

Eustace d'Abrichecourt (whose father was a founder of the Garter), the Lord Courton, many others already mentioned (of whom Audley was killed), Lesparre, Langoiran, Fossard, Couchon, and Rauzan, Mucidan, Canfrenc, and Montferrant. With the king there were taken prisoners: the Counts of Eu, Artois, Dammartin, Joigny, and Tancarville, the Earl of Saltsburg, and the Count of Sancerre—over sixty counts and banncrets, and three thousand others. Among the killed were the Duke de Bourbon, the Duke of Athens, the Marshal of Clermont, Matas, Laudas, Ribemont, and Renard de Pons.

Upon the triumphant return of the prince with the captive king of France, we are told that Edward met him *with more than twenty earls*, when festivities ensued, during which many a dame and damsel, "tres amoureuse, frike et bele," danced, hunted and hawked, as in the reign of Arthur, for four years and more!

The king then made an expedition through Artois, Picardy, Vermandois, Champagne, Burgundy and Brie, up to Paris, and then set the King of France at liberty, upon signing a treaty of peace.

The account of the Spanish expedition commences with a statement that Sir Bertrand de Gueselin, with the sanction of the Pope and accompanied by a great number of noble knights, among whom were Sir Hugh de Calverley and Sir Matthew de Gournay, undertook to open the passes of Granada and to make peace between Spain and Arragon. Their interference resulted in the dethronement of Pedro, King of Castile, in favour of his bastard brother, Enrique, and the appeal of Pedro to the Prince of Wales, upon advice of Fernando de Castro. Edward summoned his council, and with the consent of his nobles—among whom we observe Sir Simon de Burleigh—determined to march to the succour of Pedro. Chandos collected fourteen companions of the Great Company. Sir Eustace d'Abrichecourt, Devereux, Cresswell, and Briquet, at once left the service of Enrique and joined the Prince. The expedition began in the year 1366 (erroneously translated 1306), three weeks before Christmas, with the rendezvous at Dax; shortly after which the princess gave birth to her son Richard. At Dax the Prince of Wales was joined by the Duke of Lancaster, and, having made oaths of friendship with the King of Navarre, advanced through the passes. The vanguard was led by the Duke of Lancaster, and of those under him we have mention of Thomas d'Ufford, Hugh de Hastings, William Beauchamp (son to the Earl of Warwick), the Lord of Neville, Sir John Chandos, Constable of the Host, leading the companions, of whom were present: Lord de Raix, the Signor d'Aubeterre, Messire Garsis de Castelle, Gilbert de la Motte, Aimery de Rochechouart, Sir Robert Camyn, Cresswell, Briquet, Sir Richard Taunton, William de Felton, Willecok le Boteller, Peverell, John Sandes and John

Allein his companion. Among others we find Shakell, Hawley, Stephen de Cosinton, and Guichard d'Angle, the Marshals with the banner of St. George. With the prince were the King of Navarre, Messire Louis de Harcourt, Sir Eustace d'Abrichecourt, Sir Thomas de Felton, the Lord de Fontenoy, all the brothers of Pomiers, the Lord de Clisson, the Lord de Courton, the Lord de la Warre, Sir Robert de Knolles, the Viscount de Rochechouart, the Lord de Bourchier, the seneschals of Aquitaine, Poitou, Angoumois, Saintonge, Perigord, Quercy, and Bigorre.

In the rearguard are mentioned the King of Majorca, the Count d'Armagnac, Bernard d'Albret, the Lord de Mucidan, Sir Perdiccas d'Albret, the bastards Verteuil and Camus, Naudon de Bergerac, Bernard de la Salle, and Lami, followed by the Lord d'Albret and the Captal, each commanding two hundred men-at arms. Besides the above names recorded, we find incidental reference during the ensuing engagements—which ended in the overthrow of Enrique—of Degory Says, Sir Gaillard Beguer, and Mitton.

On the other side were, Bertrand de Gueselin, the Marshal d'Audrehem, the Counts Sancho and de Denia, the Begue de Villaine, Messire Jean de Neuville, the Count don Tello, and more than four thousand others from Spain, Arragon, France, Picardy, Brittany, and Normandy.

The Duke of Lancaster knighted several persons, and among them, Cursor, Priour, Eliton, Sir William de Faringdon, Gaillard de la Motte, and Sir Robert Briquet.

Percy, Sir Walter Hewet, and the Lord de Ferrers (who was killed), were also present on the English side; and among the prisoners were the Grand Master of Calatrara, the Prior of San Juan, and the Master of Santiago.

Before the battle of Najera, the prince knighted King Don Pedro, Thomas de Holland, Hugh de Courtenay, Philip and Peter, John Trivet, and Nicholas Bond. The Duke of Lancaster made twelve knights, of whom were, Walter Ursewick, Thomas d'Abernethy and Sir John de Grevedon. The manner in which the prince created Sir John Chandos a banneret, by delivering him his banner during the battle, is vividly painted.

Don Pedro, upon the intercession of Edward, pardoned all those who had taken arms against him except Gomez Cavillo, who was put to death as a traitor, having his throat cut.

Passing over the account of all that followed, the brilliant victory, the splendid courts, the misery and disease to which we have referred, the sickness of the prince, the death of his son Edward, we find the names of the prince's principal officers in Aquitaine. These were, besides those already mentioned, Sir Baldwin de Freville, Sir John Harpeden, Sir Henry del Hay, Sir Thomas de Roos, Sir Richard Abberbury, Sir Thomas Wetenhale, Sir Thomas Walkfare, Sir Richard de Baskerville, Sir

William le Moigne, Sir Richard Walkfare, Sir John Roche, and the Sire de Pyan.

In conclusion, as we reflect upon the noble deeds of chivalry chronicled in this fine poem, and contemplate the deaths of valiant heroes, whose very names have in many cases disappeared from England for want of descendants, we are moved to feelings which cannot be more suitably expressed than in the very words of Prince Edward's inscription written by himself for his own tomb: "All ye that pass with closed mouth by where this my body reposes, hear this that I shall tell you, just as I know to say it. Such as thou art, such was I, thou shall be such as I am. Of death I never thought so long as I had life; on earth I had great riches, of which I made great nobleness, land, houses, and great wealth, clothes, horses, silver and gold; but I am now a poor wretch, deep in the earth I lie. My great beauty is all gone, my flesh is all wasted, right narrow is my house, with me but worms remain; and if now ye should see me, I do not think that you would say that ever I had been a man: so totally am I changed. For God's sake pray the heavenly king that he have mercy on my soul. All they who pray for me, or make accord to God for me, God give them His paradise, where none are wretched."

Such are the last words of the Flower of Chivalry, the greatest of England's princes, the last great product of the Plantagenet race. The memory of his death was appointed to be held on the 8th June, which was probably the date on which fell at that time the Festival of the Holy Trinity; for it was one of the curious and deeply interesting features of the Black Prince's character that he lost no opportunity of proclaiming his belief in the great mystery of the Godhead, and his devotion to the most Holy Three in One.

W. A. L.