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An historical record of the Royal Regiment of horse guards

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Chapter I.

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HISTORICAL RECORD
OF THE
ROYAL HORSE GUARDS.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction—Insurrection of the Millenarians—First establishment of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards—Names of the first Officers—Biographical notices of some of the most remarkable.

THE Royal Regiment of Horse Guards was raised 1661 in the year 1661, in the reign of King Charles the Second.

Sensible of the advantage of retaining a military force to support his recently restored authority, and of the means its patronage afforded him to reward his faithful followers, it was not without some reluctance that the King consented entirely to disband the Army of the Commonwealth*. In the first instance, therefore, immediately after the Restoration, several regiments were re-organized, by the appointment of known Royalists to fill the subordinate commissions, as well as to command them; and the King himself was pleased to take for his Own the regiment which had been com-

* Hume, chap. 63.

1661 manded by Colonel Unton Crook, which was then styled 'The Royal Regiment*.'

But anxious as Charles probably was to maintain a standing army as a necessary implement of Royalty, he was compelled to yield his wishes to the frugal jealousy of his Parliament and the advice of his Minister, Clarendon. The greater part of the army was therefore disbanded in the autumn of 1660, and, amongst the rest, 'The Royal Regiment,' then commanded by Colonel Daniel O'Neale, was disbanded at Bath, in the beginning of December, 1660, by Quarter-Master General Butler†. At the very commencement, however, of the following year, an event occurred which furnished the King with the pretext for maintaining at least a few regiments for the protection of his person. This was the fanatical in-

* 'That the Soldiers may see the affection that his sacred Majesty hath for the Army, He hath been pleased to do them so much honour as to take that regiment that was lately Colonel Unton Crook's for his Own, which is now styled the Royal Regiment.'—*Mercurius Publicus*, 28th June to 5th July, 1660—See *Journals of the House of Commons*, Wed. 11th January, 1652-60.

'We shall now shew you how the Regiment of Horse that was Unton Crook's is disposed of: viz., Daniel O'Neale, of His Majesty's Bedchamber, Colonel of the Regiment; William Basset, son of Sir Richard Basset, Governor of Cardiff Castle, Captain-Lieutenant; Sir John Stevens, Major; Lord Mandeville, eldest son of the Earl of Manchester, Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household, Captain of the Troop, late Captain Witham's; Lord Windsor, Captain; Nicholas Armorer, Captain; one of His Majesty's Esquires commands the Troop late Captain Gascoyne's;—Bertie, second son of the Earl of Lindsey, Captain of that which was Colonel Upcott's Troop.'—*Mercurius Publicus*, 26th July to 2nd August, 1660.

† Parliamentary Intelligencer, 10th to 17th December, 1660.

surrection of the Millenarians (or the Fifth Mo- 1661
 narchy Men, as they were called), under Venner
 (January 5, 1660-1). The insurrection was
 speedily suppressed; for it seems doubtful whether
 the number of Venner's followers ever exceeded
 sixty*. But the Duke of York took this occasion
 to propose 'to the Council which was called in
 ' time of the insurrection, that they should write
 ' to His Majesty and desire him to stop the dis-
 ' banding of the Generall's Troop of Horse Guards,
 ' and the Regiment of Foott, which were to have
 ' been payd off that day, and that he would rather
 ' think of raising more men for the security of his
 ' Person and Government. Daniel O'Neale was
 ' accordingly sent with an account to the King,'
 then at Portsmouth, ' who immediately gave or-
 ' ders for raising a new Regiment of Guards of
 ' twelve companys, to be commanded by Collonel
 ' John Russel, and a Regiment of Horse of eight
 ' troops, of which the Earle of Oxforde was to be
 ' Collonel, and also a troop of Horse Guards to be
 ' commanded by the Lord Gerrard†.' In conform-
 ity with this advice, a Warrant was issued under
 the Sign Manual for the establishment of these
 Regiments from the 26th of January, 1660-1.
 That to be commanded by the Earl of Oxford
 consisting of eight troops; of which the first,

* Hume, chap. 63.

† Life of King James II., edited by Dr. E. S. Clarke, pp. 390,
 391.

Extract, No. 2. A. D. 1661, from the Life of King James II.—*In
 Macpherson's Original Papers*, vol. i.

1661 which His Majesty was pleased to designate 'as His Own,' was to have eighty, and the remaining seven sixty men in each, besides officers*. Efficient and loyal men, it may well be supposed, were selected from the disbanded corps without difficulty: and the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards was speedily completed, and mustered in Tuthill Fields, Westminster, under the command of its Colonel, February 16, 1661.

NAMES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF HORSE GUARDS, AT ITS FIRST MUSTER, 16th February, 1661†.

Of His Majesty's Own Troop.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| DANIEL O'NEALE | Captain. |
| WILLIAM BASSET | Lieutenant. |
| PEREGRINE BERTLE | Coronet. |
| ROBERT COOPER | Quar. Master. |

Of the Earl of Oxford's Troop.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| AUBREY EARL OF OXFORD | Colonel. |
| THOMAS ARMSTRONG | Captain-Lieut. |
| EDWARD SHELDON | Coronet. |
| WILLIAM MONTGOMERY | Quar. Master. |

* Establishment of the newly-raised forces, January 26, 1660-1.
—*In State-Paper Office.*

† The list of the officers, as mustered in Tuthill Fields, is published in the Kingdome's Intelligencer, February 18th, 1661, and in Mercurius Publicus, February 21st, 1661. A similar list of these officers is also contained in 'A Lyst of all the Officers in Commission,' &c., a MS. in the State-Paper Office. Whilst it continued the only regiment in the service of the King, Lord Oxford's Regiment was generally styled 'the Royal Regiment of Horse;' but when other regiments were raised its original distinction was used in the official orders, and it was always styled the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards.

Of Colonel Sir Francis Wyndham's Troop. 1661

FRANCIS WYNDHAM . . . Major.
 GEORGE MARKHAM . . . Lieutenant.
 CHARLES WYNDHAM . . . Coronet.
 FRANCIS BYAM . . . Quar.-Master.

Of the Lord Hawley's Troop.

FRANCIS LORD HAWLEY . . Captain.
 SIR HENRY JONES . . . Lieutenant.
 WILLIAM JENKYN . . . Coronet.
 EDWARD HAWLEY . . . Quar.-Master.

Of Sir Charles Compton's Troop.

SIR CHARLES COMPTON . . Captain.
 FRANCIS COMPTON . . . Lieutenant.
 HENRY COMPTON . . . Coronet.
 FLAMOCK COLBORNE . . . Quar.-Master.

Of Colonel Sir Edward Bret's Troop.

SIR EDWARD BRET . . . Captain.
 JOHN ARUNDEL . . . Lieutenant.
 HENRY SLINGSBY . . . Coronet.
 JO. YOUNG . . . Quar.-Master.

Of Colonel Sir Henry Wroth's Troop.

SIR HENRY WROTH . . . Captain.
 THOMAS MORLEY . . . Lieutenant.
 JOHN ELVIS . . . Coronet.
 GYLES FORMAN . . . Quar.-Master.

Of Colonel John Fretchville's Troop.

JOHN FRETCHVILLE . . Captain.
 THOMAS CARNABY . . . Lieutenant.
 FERDINANDO LITTLETON . . Coronet.
 GEORGE BLACKSTONE . . Quar.-Master.

1661 As most of the officers in the foregoing list were persons of considerable distinction amongst the cavaliers, a short notice of some of the most remarkable is here inserted.

Aubrey de Vere, the nobleman selected to command the First Regiment of Horse, which had been raised under the restored Monarchy, was the twentieth and last Earl of Oxford, of the illustrious family of Vere. Being only five years of age at the death of his father, who was killed at the siege of Maestricht, in 1632, the young Earl became a ward of the Crown, and upon the breaking out of the Civil War was sent abroad to the Court of the Princess of Orange, to complete his education*. He had the command of a regiment of English foot (the Holland Regiment), in the service of the States General, in or before the year 1648†. Having returned to England, he was committed to the Tower as a conspirator against Cromwell, on the 20th of June, 1654. He shortly afterwards obtained his liberty, but continued ever constant to the royal cause, and was engaged in all the eight attempts made for the Restoration of the King, from 1652 to 1659. In the latter year he was again sent to prison

* Collins's Account of the Family of Vere, fol.

† For on the 10th of January that year, the famous Algernon Sidney, in a letter to Robert Earl of Leicester, informs him, that old Berington being dead, his brother, Robert Sydney, was made Lieutenant-Colonel to the Earl of Oxford, then abroad. This regiment, on the breaking out of the war with the Dutch, was sent for to England; and the said Robert Sydney was made Colonel thereof by King Charles II., 31st of May, 1665, and is yet subsisting, called the Holland Regiment.—*Collins's Account of the Family of Vere.*

(August 13), on suspicion of being connected with 1661 the rising of Sir George Booth; but was released November 14th of the same year, by the Committee of Safety appointed by the army, on security to live peaceably. In the following year, at the Restoration, he was the first of the six lords deputed by the House of Peers, with twelve of the Commons, to present to the King at the Hague, the humble petition of Parliament,—‘That His Majesty would be pleased to return and take the government of the kingdom into his hands.’ His Lordship returned to England with the King, by whom he was invested with the Order of the Garter, on the day after his arrival at Whitehall. He was also in the same year constituted Chief Justice in Eyre, and Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Essex, and was appointed Colonel of one of the re-organized regiments which were afterwards disbanded*. Having been so great a sufferer in the Royal cause, he had a fair claim to reward from the Crown. But in that age promotion was commonly obtained by intrigue. The Earl was at this time paying his addresses to the daughter of the Earl of Bristol, afterwards married to the Earl of Sunderland. Bristol was then in

* ‘Aubrey Vere, Earl of Oxford, Colonel of that regiment lately Colonel George Smithson’s; his Captain-Lieutenant, Sir William Blackstone; George Smithson, late Colonel, now the Major; Thomas Lilburn, late Major, the eldest Captain; Francis Wilkinson; Wm. Rhodes, Captain; Wm. Wheatly, Captain; Thomas Fairfax, formerly Captain-Lieutenant, now Lieutenant to Major Smithson.’—*The Parliamentary Intelligencer*, 16th July, 1660.

1661 high favour with the Duchess of Cleveland, and it was, in some degree, to her influence that the Earl of Oxford was indebted for his appointment to be Colonel of the newly-raised regiment of Horse Guards.*

The Captain-Lieutenant and Cornet of 'His Majesty's Own Troop' had previously held commissions in 'the Royal Regiment,' late Unton Crook's. The Captain, Daniel O'Neale, was the nephew of the celebrated Irish leader, Owen O'Neale. In the Civil War he held the rank of Lieutenant of the Horse under Prince Rupert, and was Groom of the Bedchamber to the late King, an office which he continued to hold under his son.

Lord Clarendon gives the following sketch of his character:—'He was in subtlety and understanding much superior to the whole nation of the old Irish. He was well known in the Court of King Charles the First, having spent many years between that and the Low Countries; the winter season in the one, and the summer always in the army in the other: as good an education towards advancement in the world as that age

* 'Bristol set up for himself, and paid his court to the Duchess of Cleveland, then angry with the Chancellor's forbidding his wife to visit her. The King shewed Bristol much countenance, and he got the Regiment of Horse for the Earl of Oxford, then a pretender to his daughter, since married to the Earl of Sunderland; and had he not drove on too fast, he might have got more, and might, by the help of his *she friend*, have ruined the Chancellor as he designed.'—*Extract No. 2, A. D. 1661, from the Life of King James II., in Macpherson's Original Papers, vol. i.*

‘knew. He had a fair reputation in both cli- 1661
‘mates, having a competent fortune of his own to
‘support himself without dependence, and a natu-
‘ral insinuation and address, which made him
‘acceptable in the best company. He was a great
‘observer and discerner of men’s natures and
‘humours, and was very dexterous in compliance
‘where he found it useful.

‘As soon as the troubles began in Scotland, he
‘had with the first the command of a troop of
‘Horse; to which he was by all men held very
‘equal, having had good experience in the most
‘active armies of that time, and of a courage very
‘notorious. And though his inclinations were
‘naturally to ease and luxury, his industry was
‘indefatigable when his honour required it, or
‘his particular interest, which he was never
‘without, and to which he was very indulgent,
‘made it necessary or convenient. In the second
‘troubles in Scotland he had a greater command,
‘and some part in most of the intrigues of the
‘Court.

‘When the Civil War began, he, being then
‘in the Low Countries, having made an escape
‘out of the Tower, where he stood committed by
‘the Parliament on a charge of high treason*,
‘chose rather to be Lieutenant-Colonel of Horse
‘to Prince Rupert than the name of a greater
‘officer which he might well have pretended to;
‘presuming that by his dexterity, he should have

* ‘He accomplished his escape very dexterously in a lady’s
‘dress.’—*Clarendon’s History of the Rebellion*, book viii.

1661 ‘ such an interest in that young Prince as might
 ‘ make his relation to him superior to those who
 ‘ had greater titles*.’ After the execution of the
 King, O’Neale proceeded to Ireland, to the Mar-
 quis of Ormond, the Lord-Lieutenant ; to whom
 he was of great service in forwarding his negocia-
 tions with his uncle Owen O’Neale, then General
 of the Irish. From Ireland he went to the King
 in Holland, ‘ just as His Majesty was about to
 ‘ embark for Scotland, and so waited upon him ;
 ‘ but he was no sooner known to be with His
 ‘ Majesty (in Scotland) (as he was a person very
 ‘ generally known), but he was apprehended, by
 ‘ order from the Council, for being an Irishman,
 ‘ and having been in arms on the late King’s
 ‘ behalf, in the late war ; for which they were not
 ‘ without some discourse of putting him to death ;
 ‘ but they did immediately banish him the king-
 ‘ dom, and obliged him to sign a paper, by which
 ‘ he consented to be put to death, if he were ever
 ‘ after found in the kingdom†.’

After this O’Neale retired into Holland, and
 remained in attendance upon the exiled Royal
 Family, sometimes attending the King in his va-
 rious movements, at others residing at the Hague,
 at the court of the Princess Royal, with whom he
 was a great favourite‡, and whose governess,

* Clarendon’s History of the Rebellion, book viii., where see an
 account of the intrigue to obtain for him the office of Groom of the
 Bedchamber, which he obtained in 1643.

† Clarendon’s History of the Rebellion, book xiii.

‡ Clarendon’s Life and Continuation.

created Countess of Chesterfield at the Restoration, he afterwards married*.

William Basset, the Captain-Lieutenant of the King's Troop, was the son of Sir Richard Basset, a gentleman of Glamorganshire, who, having been compelled to fly the country on account of his share in an insurrection in that country against the usurpations of the Parliament, in 1647†, was now appointed Governor of Cardiff Castle‡.

The Cornet, Peregrine Bertie, was the second son of the Earl of Lindsey, whose gallant deeds in the Civil Wars, and devoted loyalty, had raised him to a high place in the King's favour.

Colonel Francis Wyndham, the Major of the Regiment, was the fourth son of Sir Thomas Wyndham, of Kentsford, in Somersetshire. He had acquired a high military reputation by his gallant defence of Dunstar Castle, against the Parliamentary forces, which he surrendered upon fair terms, at the conclusion of the war§. But he is chiefly memorable as the affectionate partizan of the Royal Family, by whose instrumentality the King was enabled to escape from his enemies after the battle of Worcester. Upon that occasion Wyndham received the fugitive Monarch into his

* Collins's Peerage, by Sir J. Bridges.

† A full Relation of the whole proceedings of the late Rising and Commotion in Wales.—*Tract*, 4to. London, July 2, 1647.

‡ Parliamentary Intelligencer, July 9 to July 16, 1660.

§ Clarendon's History of the Rebellion.

1661 house, at Trent, in Somersetshire, having first requested permission to communicate the secret to his wife and his mother. That venerable lady, upon receiving her Royal Guest, expressed great joy that, having lost three sons and one grandchild in the service of his father, she herself was still spared to aid in the preservation of his son. Colonel Wyndham told the King, that his father in the year 1636, not long before his death, had assembled his five sons, and addressed them in these remarkable words. He said,—‘he feared
‘ the beautiful garment of peace would shortly
‘ be torn in pieces, through the neglect of magistrates, the general corruption of manners, and
‘ the prevalence of a puritanical faction; which,
‘ if not prevented, would undermine the very
‘ pillars of Government. My sons, we have
‘ hitherto seen serene and quiet times; but now
‘ prepare yourselves for cloudy and troublesome.
‘ I command you to honour and obey our gracious Sovereign, and in all times to adhere to
‘ the Crown; *and though the Crown should hang
‘ upon a Bush, I charge you, forsake it not.*
‘ These words, Sir, (said the Colonel,) made so
‘ firm an impression in all our breasts, that the
‘ many afflictions of these sad times cannot raze
‘ out their indelible characters.—Certainly these
‘ are the days which my father pointed out in
‘ that expression; and I doubt not, God hath
‘ brought me through so many dangers, that I
‘ might show myself both a dutiful son, and a

‘loyal subject, in faithfully endeavouring to serve 1661
 ‘your Sacred Majesty, in this your greatest dis-
 ‘tress.’*

The King, accompanied by the Lord Wilmot, remained many days in concealment at Trent; during which time Wyndham was indefatigable in his exertions to procure a vessel, and to ascertain from what place he might most securely embark. In this, however, he was entirely unsuccessful, and the King having made an attempt to embark at Lyme, in Dorsetshire, narrowly escaped being betrayed, and was obliged to return to Wyndham’s house. At length after various perilous adventures and disappointments, a vessel was procured at Shoreham, in Sussex, and His Majesty was conveyed in safety to France†.

After the Restoration a pension of £600 per annum was granted to Colonel Wyndham, for his services to the Crown‡. He was also knighted, and appointed one of the Colonels of Militia for the County of Somerset§. In the summer of 1660 he was elected Member of Parliament for the Borough of Milburn Port||, and subsequently, in the year 1673, was created a Baronet.

* Narrative of concealment at Trent, at the end of Boscobel.

† Narrative of concealment at Trent; Clarendon’s History of the Rebellion.

‡ Case of Sir Francis Wyndham, folio tract, 1716.

§ Mercurius Publicus, August 2 to August 9, 1660.

|| ‘Colonel Sir Francis Wyndham, who so nobly held out Dunstar Castle for His Majesty, being lately chosen Burgess for Milburn Port, in the county of Somerset.’—*Parliamentary Intelligencer*, August 26 to September 3, 1660.

1661 Charles Wyndham, the Cornet, who also was afterwards knighted, was the younger brother of Sir Francis.

The three Comptons were sons of the Earl of Northampton, who was slain in 1643, at the battle of Hopton-Heath, near Stafford, after performing acts of the greatest heroism. That nobleman left six sons, who were all highly esteemed for their eminent abilities. Five of them received the honour of knighthood, and the youngest was not less conspicuous. Sir Charles Compton, the second son, who was now appointed to the command of a troop in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, had long been distinguished for his soldier-like conduct and activity in the field. He was with his father in the engagements of Edge-Hill, Hopton-Heath, and other actions. But the most remarkable adventure of his life was the surprise of Beeston Castle, in Cheshire*. This he effected with six men in disguise, under pretence of bringing in provision, of which an intercepted letter had apprized him that the garrison were in want. In this action he was in great danger; two pistols were snapt in his face, but both fortunately missed fire, and he immediately killed those who held them. He likewise showed the greatest bravery in the year 1644, in endeavouring to surprise Compton House†, in Warwickshire, which the Parliament had secured and made a garrison of. He so far succeeded in

* Lloyd, 360.

† Whitelock's Memorials.

this, that he possessed himself of the outworks, 1661 cut down the drawbridge, seized the Governor's troop horses, and took thirty of his soldiers in their beds; but not being succoured, he was compelled to retreat. Sir Charles was in great favour with King Charles II., having shown an ardent zeal for his Restoration. He was unfortunately killed by a fall from his horse, at Northampton, in November, 1661*.

Francis Compton, afterwards Sir Francis, the fifth son of the Earl of Northampton, had also been exercised to arms from his youth, having been engaged in the Civil Wars. He was chosen to represent the borough of Warwick in the first Parliament after the Restoration.

A yet more remarkable person was Henry Compton, the sixth and youngest son of the Earl; he had been educated at Oxford, and possessed considerable literary talents, which he afterwards improved by travelling in France, Italy, and other countries†. After the Restoration, fired with the enthusiastic loyalty of the period, and the gallant example of his brothers, he adopted the profession of arms, and became a Cornet in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards; but being shortly afterwards persuaded by his friends that it would be advantageous to the interests of the Established Church to have one of his descent and education enter into holy orders, he readily

* Wood's *Athenæ Oxoniensis*; Collins's *Peerage*, by Sir E. Brydges.

† Wood's *Fasti Oxoniensis*, by Bliss, part ii. p. 293.

1661 adopted their advice, and after attaining successive dignities, became Bishop of London, in December, 1675*.

* From some expressions contained in his letter to Sir Robert Southwell, Clerk of the Council (now extant), it may be inferred that the difficulty of obtaining higher rank in the army had some influence in inducing him to change his profession. He announces to Sir Robert that 'he had procured a cornetcy in the King's Regiment on Hobson's choice;' and adds—'I find that preferment, like other things, is more easily imagined than compassed.' Upon quitting the army he proceeded to Cambridge, where he took his degree of Master of Arts. Afterwards obtaining a grant of the next canonry of Christchurch in Oxford, he visited that university, and, on April 6, 1666, was incorporated Master of Arts there. In the year following he was made master of the Hospital of St. Cross, near Winchester. On May 24, 1669, he was installed Canon of Christchurch, and in the same year took his degree of Doctor in Divinity. In 1674 he was elected Bishop of Oxford; in 1675 he was made Dean of the Royal Chapel; and in December of that year was translated to the see of London, and sworn one of the Lords of the Privy Council. Upon the accession of King James II., whose measures he had strongly opposed, he was dismissed from the Council Board, and also from the deanery of the Royal Chapel. On the 16th of September, 1686, he was suspended, *ab officio Episcopi*, for refusing, when commanded by the King, to suspend Dr. John Sharp, Minister of St. Giles's in the Fields, who had preached against His Majesty's declaration for dispensing with the penal laws. Being reinstated September 30, 1688, he exerted himself warmly in favour of the succession of the Prince of Orange at the Revolution, when he was again sworn of the Privy Council, and made Dean of the Royal Chapel. In September, 1689, he was empowered to act as Archbishop of Canterbury (the Archbishop, Doctor Sancroft, having refused to take the oath of allegiance), and as such officiated at the coronation of King William and Queen Mary, with whom he was in high favour, having been Tutor to Her Majesty and also to the Princess Ann, her sister. He attended King William III. to the Congress at the Hague in 1691, and from this time appears to have devoted himself entirely to the duties of his diocese till his death, which took place, at the advanced age of eighty, on the 7th of July, 1713. From the noble stand he made against Popery, both in the reigns of Charles II. and James II., he has been pe-

Francis, Lord Hawley, in the year 1642, had 1661 raised a troop of Horse for the King's service in Somersetshire, at his own expense*, and subsequently, during the Civil War, held a high command under Prince Rupert†. He was created a Baronet in 1643, and Baron Hawley, 8th July, 1646‡; and, at the Restoration, was appointed to command one of the re-organized regiments, which was afterwards disbanded§.

Sir Edward Brett was, in the year 1644, Captain of a troop of Horse under Sir Richard Greenvill, in Cornwall. 'This troop' (says Lord Clarendon) 'was presently added to the King's Guards, under Lord Bernard Stuart; and Captain Bret was made Major of that Regiment. He had done very good service in that part of the country||.' His Cornet, Henry Slingsby, was the second son of Sir Henry Slingsby, a distinguished Royalist, who, after lying in prison

cularly styled the Protestant Bishop; and his industry and pastoral care of his flock, added to his learning, have acquired for him the reputation of being one of the most exemplary prelates that ever sat upon the bench. The Bishop, who was an excellent botanist, introduced various species of the maple, cedar, walnut, pine, oak, &c., which yet remain in the gardens of Fulham, the parent stocks of their respective races in the kingdom.

* Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, book vi.

† Whitelock's Memorials.

‡ Peerage of Ireland, October, 1768, where he is stated to have been appointed Gentleman of the Bedchamber to James, Duke of York, in 1673. He died December 22, 1684.

§ 'His Excellency hath by commission given the command of the Regiment which was lately Colonel Hacker's to Francis, Lord Hawley, Viscount Duncannon.'—*Mercurius Publicus*, June 28 to July 5, 1660.

|| Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, book viii.

1661 for two years, was barbarously executed by Cromwell, in the year 1658.

Colonel John Fretchville, or Fretzeville, had also been a distinguished Royalist Commander, and was engaged in most of the great actions of the war. In reward for his services he was subsequently created Baron Fretchville, March 6, 1664*.

Thomas Armstrong, the Lieutenant of the Earl of Oxford's Troop, had been employed by the Royalists as a trustworthy emissary to the King, at Brussels, previous to the Restoration; in consequence of which he had suffered a rigorous imprisonment under the Government of Cromwell†. This unfortunate gentleman (afterwards Sir Tho-

* Sir John Fretchville, who was a most active Royalist, garrisoned his house at Stavely, in the Civil War. He distinguished himself on various occasions, particularly in a skirmish with Captain Revel's and two other troops, which he drove for shelter into Mr. Eyre's house, at Hassop, and, having procured some reinforcements, took them all prisoners. In the month of August, 1644, Stavely House was taken by Major-General Crawford and a part of the Earl of Manchester's army, by capitulation. It is said to have been strongly garrisoned—12 pieces of ordnance, 230 muskets, and 150 pikes were taken in the house.—*Lyson's History of Derbyshire*, p. 265.

† ' Armstrong, before his execution, in answer to the King's ' reported assertion, "that he had been sent over by Cromwell to ' assassinate him," said—" I was told a very great person says I ' was a spy of Cromwell's. I have been sent from England by ' the best and most considerable friends the king then had, with ' bills of exchange for His Majesty's use, and letters of very great ' importance to His Majesty, then at Brussels. I appeal to His ' Majesty if I delivered them not safe to him, and his answers ' too when I returned, which I had not been above six days, ' when I was clapt up ten weeks a close prisoner in the Gate- ' House, and in no small hazard of my life for that journey. Before ' this time I had been a whole year at least in Lambeth-House

mas), attaching himself to the fortunes of the 1661 Duke of Monmouth, was executed without trial, in the year 1684, for his share in the Rye-House Conspiracy.

‘ a prisoner, and after both these times a prisoner in the Tower,
 ‘ when the usurper died, and near starving in every one of them—
 ‘ very ill treatment for a spy and a pensioner. My Lord of Oxford
 ‘ and many other persons of quality will, I think, testify my innocency
 ‘ upon this point. ’’—*Ralph's History of England*, vol. i. p. 799.