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Packe, Edmund

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Chapter III.

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CHAPTER III.

Death of King Charles the Second, and Accession of King James the Second—The Duke of Monmouth invades the Kingdom—The Blues join the army under the Earl of Feversham—Advance of the Duke of Monmouth—He passes the Avon on his march northward—Retires to Bridgewater—Battle of Sedgmoor, and defeat of Monmouth—Arbitrary measures of the King—The Earl of Oxford dismissed from the command of the Regiment, which is given to the Duke of Berwick—Prince of Orange lands at Torbay—The Blues join the Army assembled at Salisbury—Defection of Lord Cornbury, who attempts to carry over this with two other Regiments to the Prince of Orange—The King arrives at Salisbury—Harangues his Army, and rewards those who had remained faithful—Earl of Arran appointed Colonel of the Regiment—King retires to London—Advance of the Prince of Orange—Earl of Oxford restored to the Colonelcy of the Blues—King quits the Kingdom—Quarters appointed for the Forces.

THE King died on the 6th of February, 1685, 1685 and was succeeded by his brother, King James the Second. The coronation of this Prince was celebrated with much solemnity on the 23rd of the following April. But the rejoicings consequent upon that event were scarcely concluded, when the nation was alarmed by the invasion of the Duke of Monmouth, who, with a few followers, had landed at Lyme, in Dorsetshire (June 11th). The King immediately took energetic measures to suppress the rebellion: the militias of Dorset and Somerset were called out; but, not altogether trusting to these, he assembled

1685 his regular forces from all parts of the kingdom, gave orders for raising new regiments, and recalled those which were in the service of the States*. The troops of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards marched from their quarters at Portsmouth, Chichester, and the vicinity of London, to join the army, which was now assembled in the West, under the Earl of Feversham. In the mean time, Monmouth, whose followers at his landing are said to have scarcely exceeded eighty, was now at the head of above two thousand men†: with these he advanced to Taunton, where he was proclaimed King, on the 20th of June. Having declared the Duke of Albemarle a traitor, who, with the militia of Somersetshire lay within six miles of Taunton ready to attack him, he marched forward to Bridgewater; and from thence, proceeding northward, with the intention of penetrating into Cheshire, (where it was supposed he had many friends,) he crossed the Avon at Keynsham Bridge; but hearing of the defeat of his confederate, the Duke of Argyle, in the North, and being assured that great numbers of the country people in the marshes of Somersetshire‡ were ready to join him, he determined to fall back to Bridgewater. On his retreat he had a sharp skirmish with a party of the King's troops at Philips Norton, in which

* Rapin's History of England.

† Rapin.

‡ Evelyn says that his army was principally composed of Mendip miners.—*Evelyn's Memoirs*, vol. i. p. 601.

the latter was repulsed with considerable loss. 1685
Upon arriving at Bridgewater the Duke seems to have been much dispirited; his troops were badly armed, and he was in want of good officers, none but the meanest of the people having joined him. He now decided upon again attempting to penetrate northwards with his army; accordingly, on the evening of the 4th of July, he marched out of Bridgewater, hoping, by a night march, to elude the vigilance of the King's army. As, however, he was passing over the bridge, he was informed by a spy, that the Royal army had left its previous quarters at Somerton, with the apparent intention of preventing his march to the northward, and had halted at a village called Weston, near to which they had encamped that very afternoon. Upon inquiring of the spy, whether they had begun to intrench, and being assured that they had not, which was also corroborated by a second spy, the Duke resolved upon an attempt to surprise Feversham in his camp.

That General, though his military reputation was by no means worthy of his relationship to Turenne, whose nephew he was, does not appear upon this occasion to have been wanting in vigilance. His infantry, amounting to about eighteen hundred men, were encamped upon Sedgmoor, having the village of Weston in their rear; their front was protected by a ditch, which serves as a drain to the Moor, and though it was then a dry season, was not to be passed by horse but in one

1685 or two places. It was this drain deceived the Duke of Monmouth; for he, not knowing of it, thought the foot lay exposed, and consequently the whole quarter: the horse amounted to about seven hundred, the main body of which were posted in the village. A party of the Horse Guards, under Major Oglethorpe, were sent to patrole the roads in the direction of Bristol and Keynsham, whilst a squadron of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, and about fifty Dragoons, under the command of Sir Francis Compton, were posted as an advanced guard upon the Moor, in front of the infantry. The artillery, consisting of sixteen guns, was drawn up upon the high road leading from Weston to Bridgewater, and in front of them a small party of dragoons were stationed as a guard.

In order to avoid the fire of the artillery, and to attack, what he deemed to be the weakest part of Feversham's position, the Duke of Monmouth commenced his march, at eleven o'clock at night, along the road leading from Bridgewater to Bristol, until he came to a lane that leads on to the Moor; by which, after ordering his baggage and carriages to turn off upon the Axbridge road, there to await his further order, he advanced to attack the King's army. His horse, consisting of some eight squadrons, marched first; his cannon, which were but three small iron guns, followed at the head of the foot, which were formed in five battalions, each of which had one company rudely armed with scythes, instead of

grenadiers. The horse were commanded by Lord 1685
Grey, and the five regiments of foot by Lieut.-
Colonel Wade. After passing through two de-
files, the last of which was about a mile from the
camp, their march was discovered by the ad-
vanced sentries of the Royal Regiment of Horse
Guards; and Compton, after exchanging a few
shots with them, withdrew his party to the camp,
and, having given the alarm, formed his men on
the right of the infantry. Immediately the alarm
was given in the camp (continues the King's
account) 'the foot stood to their arms, and were
' drawn up in battle at the head of their tents, in
' very good order; and the horse were drawing
' out of the village as fast as they could. The
' foot were in six battalions: the first on the
' right was composed of five companies of Dum-
' barton's, one of which were grenadiers, com-
' manded by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas; next
' to which were two battalions of the first regi-
' ment of guards, of six companies in each, besides
' one company of grenadiers of that regiment, at
' the head of the first of which, was the Duke of
' Grafton, their Colonel, and Eaton, the Major of
' it, was at the head of the other; next to them
' was a battalion of the second regiment of guards,
' of six companies, and another of grenadiers,
' at whose head was Lord Sackfield; then five
' companies of Trelawney's, one of which were
' grenadiers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel
' Churchill. On the left of all was another small
' battalion, composed as the former, commanded
' by Colonel Kirke. As for the horse, there

1685 ' were one hundred and fifty commanded out of
 ' the three troops of guards, and sixty grenadiers
 ' on horseback, commanded by Villiers, seven
 ' troops of the King's Regiment of Horse*, and
 ' four of dragoons: the horse commanded by
 ' Sir Francis Compton, and the dragoons by
 ' Lord Cornbury, one of which last was at Lam-
 ' port, commanded by Captain Coy, to secure
 ' that pass, and so get intelligence in case the
 ' rebels should march westward: the train of
 ' artillery consisted of sixteen field pieces, under
 ' the conduct of Mr. Sheers.'

Oglethorpe's party in the meantime, though he crossed both the roads leading northwards, saw nothing of the rebels, they not coming so far: he therefore returned to the Moor, passing through Chedsey, and crossed to the other road leading from Bridgewater to Weston. Here he halted, and sent four horsemen as far as the bridge, to bring him certain news. Being challenged by a centinel near the bridge, they pretended to belong to his party, and were informed that Monmouth had marched with all the army, leaving only a small guard there. Upon receiving this information Oglethorpe made what haste he could back to the camp.

The advanced guard under Compton having

* From the War Office books it appears that the troops of the six following Captains were certainly present at the battle, viz., Parsons, Littleton, Windham, Sandys, Adderly, and Compton. The King's account, however, says, that seven troops were present—the seventh was either Lloyd's or Cornwall's. Slingsby's was detained at Egham, upon the arrival of the account of the Duke's defeat.

retreated, the Duke of Monmouth immediately 1685 ordered Lord Grey with his horse to dash forward into the camp; and, mixing with the King's foot, endeavour to keep them from coming together, that the cannon should follow the horse, and the foot the cannon; and so finish what the horse had begun, before the King's horse or cannon could get in order. The horse accordingly advanced; but finding the ditch, of whose existence they were till then ignorant, and having received the fire of one or two battalions, which were already formed on the other side, a panic seems to have seized them, and, headed by their pusillanimous commander, they fled from the field in disorder. Meanwhile, Monmouth was advancing rapidly with the main body, directing his march by the matches of Dumbarton's (which was the only one of the King's regiments that had matchlocks). But finding his horse all gone, and the King's troops already formed, he halted within thirty or forty paces of the ditch, and attempted to form his battalions (for he had advanced in such haste that they were in great confusion). But before this could be done, one of his battalions rashly beginning to fire, the whole army followed the example; and being for the most part untrained men, their fire was ill-directed, and did but little execution upon the King's troops. His three guns, however, which were formed in the front, being exceedingly well plied by a Dutch gunner, which he had brought over with him, were very destructive. The battle had become general, when

1685 Feversham, having brought up his artillery, ordered Villiers, with a party of the horse and grenadiers on horseback, Captain Adderly's Troop of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, and one troop of dragoons, to pass over the ditch on the left of the foot, to threaten the right flank of the rebels; and, meeting Oglethorpe, who had now returned with his patrolling party, also Captain Upcot's guard of fifty horse, he ordered them to join Sir F. Compton with the remainder of the horse, on the right of the foot. Day now began to break, and the Royalist foot advancing across the ditch, while the horse upon the right fell upon the flank of the rebels, they fled in confusion, and were pursued with great slaughter till they got off the Moor into the inclosures; which they soon did, the Moor, in that place, being not above eight hundred yards broad from ditch to ditch. There was the greatest slaughter of the rebels in that ditch, which was deep and boggy, and in the corn-field on the other side of it. About one thousand four hundred of the rebels were killed in the battle and pursuit, and about an equal number made prisoners.

The loss on the King's side is supposed not to have exceeded three hundred. Monmouth fled from the field with a single attendant, and, two days afterwards, being taken in disguise near Ringwood, in Hampshire, was carried to London, and met his fate upon the scaffold within ten days after his defeat. The services of the Royal army were liberally rewarded; considerable sums of money being granted to the officers, non-commis-

sioned officers, and soldiers wounded during the 1686 campaign in the west*. Upon the assembling of his Parliament in the autumn of this year, the King told them that having found the militia insufficient for the security of the Government during the late insurrection, he had increased the regular forces to near double their former number†; and, in fact, from this time he seems to have proceeded systematically in his attempt to render the army the instrument by which he hoped to make his government absolute, and to subvert the established religion of the kingdom‡. To convince the people that he was determined to support his authority by force of arms if necessary, and to overawe them by a display of his power, a large encampment was formed upon Hounslow Heath during the summer of the three following years §;

* See Appendix.

† Hume's History of England, chap. 70.

‡ There is, in the books of the War Office, an order, dated February 19, 1685-6, to pay Robert Burk, Chaplain of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, six months' pay, due to him, amounting to 20*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* It seems within the verge of probability that this person (bearing a name almost peculiarly Irish) was a Roman Catholic.

§ During these encampments the King spent much of his time in disciplining his army, which, says Dr. Lingard (History of England, chap. 8, vol. viii), 'was, in the general opinion, the best paid, the best appointed, and the best disciplined in Europe.' The number of the troops encamped, however, at any one time, did not probably exceed ten thousand men. The Duke of Berwick, in his Memoirs, says that, 'in the year 1688, we had in the camp upon 'Hounslow Heath about four thousand men.' Out of compliment to that young commander, who returned to England in 1687, having highly distinguished himself by his gallantry when serving with the Austrian army, at the siege of Buda, the particular operations of that siege were represented by the troops encamped under his direction.

1686 and no pains were omitted to induce commanding officers to suffer their regiment to be recruited with Catholics. He personally solicited the chief of his nobility and others who possessed influence, civil or military, to exert that influence in favour of the changes he contemplated. Nor did he hesitate, where persuasion failed, to employ menaces, and to visit with his highest displeasure those who dared to evince the least resistance to his 1688 designs. Amongst the rest, in the spring of 1688, the Earl of Oxford, as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Essex, having been pressed to use his influence in his Lieutenancy to procure petitions in favour of the repeal of the penal laws and test, boldly answered—‘That he could not persuade others to do that which in his own conscience he disapproved.’ In consequence of this the command of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards was taken from him and given to the Duke of Berwick, the King’s natural son*.

The transactions of this memorable year are detailed in the general histories of the period, to which they properly belong. Confining this narrative, therefore, to such of them as are purely military, and, as far as possible, to those in which this Regiment was engaged, the next event to be recorded is the landing of the Prince of Orange. Though aware of the contemplated invasion, the King was for some time uncertain in what part of his dominions the invader would land: but when

* Memoirs of Sir John Resesby, p. 256.

certain tidings arrived that the Prince of Orange 1688 had landed at Torbay (November 5), he proceeded to assemble his forces. This Regiment marched, on the 8th of November, from its previous quarters at Winchester, to Salisbury*, the rendezvous of the army, which its Colonel, the Duke of Berwick, was appointed to command. But James seems to have been now sensible that his tyrannical government during the last three years had alienated the affection of his subjects, and that energy which had marked his measures in suppressing the insurrection of the Duke of Monmouth was no longer apparent. The disaffection was indeed universal, and, as Hume justly remarks, 'even those who took not the field against him were able to embarrass and confound his counsels.' The Duke of Berwick was still at Portsmouth, of which place he was Governor: his orders to proceed to Salisbury to take the command of the army having been purposely delayed for some days by Mr. Blathwayte, the Secretary at War, in order to favour the designs of the disaffected officers†. In the mean time Lord Corn-

* There is apparent treachery in the Order (see Appendix). It would seem to have been the intention of the Secretary at War to disarm the Regiment, in order that it might be more easily delivered into the hands of the Prince of Orange; whilst the circumstance of leaving their 'armour' (probably only 'backs and breasts' are included in this term) behind them would prepare the soldiers to expect a long forced march. The disaffected officers foresaw, that, in order to enable the horses to bear the fatigues of the long and rapid march they projected, it would be desirable that they should turn out in what we should now call Light Marching Order.

† The Duke of Berwick, in his Memoirs, says—*J'étois alors à*

1688 bury, Colonel of the Royal Dragoons, who, in the absence of the Duke, was the senior officer with the army, had entered into a design with Lieutenant-Colonel Langston, commanding the Duke of St. Alban's Regiment, and some of the officers of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, to carry over these three regiments to the Prince of Orange; which design was carried into effect in the following manner* :—Orders were given at the setting of the watch at ten o'clock at night, on the 11th of November, that the Adjutants and Quarter-Masters should hold themselves in readiness for the coming of the post, as marching orders were expected. At twelve o'clock the post arrived; and Colonel Langston, having broken open the bag before the officers, the orders, apparently from Mr. Blathwayte, were produced, and carried to Lord Cornbury, who then gave directions for the regiments to march at five o'clock towards the

' Portsmouth mon Gouvernement, et j'y reçus ordre d'aller à Salisbury prendre le commandement des troupes qui s'y assembloient.' A little further on the Duke continues—' Le Sieur de Blathwayt, Secrétaire de la Guerre, pour favoriser ce projet, avoit expres différé pendant plusieurs jours de m'envoyer l'ordre du Roi.'—*Memoires du Berwick*, tom i. p. 29.

The Earl of Feversham had the general command of the army under the King.

* This account of the defection of the three regiments has been taken partly from a letter of Lieutenant-Colonel Ambrose Norton, of St. Alban's Regiment (who was made prisoner by the Prince of Orange's troops, but afterwards returned to the King), given in Macpherson's Original Papers; partly from the Life of King James, edited by Dr. E. S. Clarke; and partly from the *Memoires du Berwick*. These three accounts, for the most part, very closely agree.

enemy, which they accordingly did, Lord Corn- 1688
 bury himself accompanying them; and, fearing
 lest upon the arrival of the Duke of Berwick he
 should be pursued, he continued his march day
 and night, making only such occasional short halts
 as were necessary to refresh his men and horses.
 Upon arriving at Axminster, within six miles of
 the Prince of Orange's quarters, on the afternoon
 of the 13th, they were joined by the Earl of
 Abingdon, Sir Walter Clerges, and about thirty or
 forty other gentlemen, who pretended to be volun-
 teers. It was now given out that a design of the
 enemy to beat up their quarters had been disco-
 vered, and, to prevent it, orders were given that
 they should be ready in the evening to beat up
 those of the enemy. Accordingly, late at night,
 the three regiments were again in motion towards a
 large body of cavalry, which the Prince of Orange
 (apprized of their approach by Lord Cornbury)
 had sent to meet them. When, at length, finding
 themselves betrayed*, the greater part of them
 galloped back as fast as they could, being pursued

* The treachery, it appears, was thus discovered:—Lord Corn-
 bury was now requested by Clifford, the Major of his own regi-
 ment, and Littleton, Major of the Royal Regiment of Horse
 Guards, to exhibit his orders, 'and was so terrified by the threats
 ' of the loyal officers, that he stole away and made his escape,
 ' whilst his regiment, with that of the Duke of Berwick, with the
 ' exception of thirty troopers, marched back to Salisbury. The
 ' third regiment, belonging to the Duke of St. Alban's, had mus-
 ' tered at a distance, and the men, ignorant of the transaction, fol-
 ' lowed Colonel Langston to Honiton, where they were received as
 ' friends by General Talmash.'—*Lingard's History of England*,
 vol. viii. chap. 8.

1688 for some distance by the horse of the Prince of Orange. But, meeting in their flight with the Duke of Berwick (who, upon his arrival at Salisbury finding the regiments gone, had immediately set out in pursuit of Lord Cornbury), he was speedily enabled to rally the fugitives, and conducted them back to Salisbury. Besides the few officers who went over, the number of private soldiers who embraced the Prince of Orange's service, or were detained at his quarters, are stated to have been—of the Duke of Berwick's twenty-five mounted, and two foot; of St. Alban's, one hundred and one mounted, and fifty dragoons*.

* These numbers are taken from the letter of Colonel Ambrose Norton. King James says,—‘ Only Cornet Compton, with two or three subalterns and about ten troopers of the King's Regiment of Horse, deserted. It was believed the Lieutenant-Colonel would have done so too, but that he was stunned and apprehended—the Major would have secured him—so he returned to the King, and Clifford, the Major of Dragoons, brought off the body of the Regiment. Nay, most of the troopers of St. Alban's returned as they found opportunity, which shewed a greater honour and fidelity in the common men than in the generality of the officers, who usually value themselves so much for those qualifications.’—*Life of King James II.*, vol. ii. p. 217. The Cornet Compton here mentioned was the son of Sir Spencer, and nephew of Sir Francis Compton.

In an old Jacobite song, published about the year 1692, called ‘ The Belgick Boar,’ to the old tune of Chevy Chase, and preserved in ‘ Ritson's Collection of Ancient Songs, from Henry III. to the Revolution,’ is the following passage, to which the editor of the collection has subjoined an explanatory note :—

‘ O how my very heart doth bleed
 To think how basely they
 Who long had eaten Royal bread
 Their master did betray.

In the mean time the councils of the King were 1688 much divided; his Popish councillors, probably in order to protect themselves, were anxious that he should remain in the capital. His Protestant advisers, on the other hand, as has been asserted with the intention of betraying him, strongly pressed his taking the field. The King of France, by his ambassador, Barillon, seems to have given him sincere advice—to put himself at the head of his army, and to strike a decisive blow before the disaffection should have time to spread. Accordingly, leaving a small force to maintain tranquillity in the capital, the King, accompanied by Prince George of Denmark, the Earl of Dumbarton, Lord Churchill, the Duke of Grafton, and a numerous staff, left London for the head-quarters of his army at Salisbury, on the 17th of November†. On the 21st, having reviewed his troops stationed

‘ And those to whom he’d been most kind,
And greatest favours shown,
Appeared to be the very first
Who sought him to dethrone.

‘ O Compton, Langston*, and the rest
Who basely from him ran,
Your names for ever be accurs’d
By every Englishman.’

* ‘ Lieutenant-Colonel Langston was the first officer who deserted with his regiment from the King’s army at Salisbury: Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Francis Compton was of the same party, but had not the courage to go forward; it should seem, however, that he afterwards made a more successful attempt.’

† The King set out for Salisbury on the 17th of November, where he arrived in three days, being conducted thither by a detachment of the Horse Guards and the Irish Dragoons.—*Life of King James II.*, vol. ii. p. 220.

1688 in and near that city, who were drawn out to receive him, he addressed them in a gracious speech*, and, particularly noticing the conduct of the Duke of Berwick's and the two other regiments who were decoyed away, he ordered a gratuity to be given to each of the private soldiers who had returned to their duty, and to the officers proportionate, and gave public liberty to all who were unwilling to serve him, that they might depart the army without molestation†. This appeal to their loyalty was answered with such flattering shouts and assurances of attachment that the King's confidence was in great measure restored. On the following day it was intended that he should proceed to Warminster, to inspect the division of the army which was posted near that town, under General Kirk. But he was prevented by a violent bleeding at the nose ‡, to which he is said to have been constitutionally subject. In the evening a Council of War was held, at which it was proposed that the army should retire, in order to take up a stronger position, beyond the Thames. Upon this occasion Lord Churchill is said to have given his opinion in favour of remaining at Salisbury: it seems, however, certain that, at the breaking up of the Council at midnight, he, with the Duke of Grafton, Colonel Berkeley, and about twenty troopers, went over to the camp of the Prince of Orange §. The unfortunate

* Muddiman and Randall's Letters—MS. Sloane, 3929.

† Ibidem, Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Ambrose Norton.

‡ Lingard, vol. viii. chap. 8.

§ Lingard—Hume.

Monarch, finding himself thus deserted by his 1688 officers, and not knowing whom to trust, determined to retire, and to withdraw his army towards London. Before leaving Salisbury he bestowed the Colonelcy of the second troop of Horse Guards, now vacant by the desertion of Lord Churchill, upon the Duke of Berwick; and the Earl of Arran, eldest son of the Duke of Hamilton, a nobleman who, though a firm Protestant, was devotedly attached to his sovereign, was promoted from the command of the Fifth Horse to be Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards*.

Returning towards London, the King reached Andover on the evening of the 25th, from which place Prince George of Denmark, the Duke of Ormond, and some other persons of distinction, abandoning the falling fortunes of their sovereign, retired to the quarters of the Prince of Orange; and, at the same time, the Princess Anne, accompanied by Lady Churchill, fled from Whitehall, where she resided, putting herself under the guidance of her old preceptor, Henry Compton,

* The Earl of Arran attended King James on his flight to the moment of his embarkation at Rochester; and at the meeting of the Scottish nobility and gentry in London, January, 1689, at which the Duke, his father, presided, he expressed himself, in reply to the request of the Prince of Orange for advice, 'That the surest way to heal the breach was to address his Majesty to return from France and call a free Parliament.' 'I can distinguish,' said he, 'between his popery and his person; I dislike the one, but have sworn and do owe allegiance to the other.' The end of this nobleman was tragical (having become Duke of Hamilton); he was slain in a duel with Lord Mohun, having also killed his antagonist, 15th November, 1712.

1688 Bishop of London, by whom she was conducted to Northampton, and afterwards to Nottingham*.

Meanwhile the army of the Prince of Orange, daily increasing in numbers, had advanced to Oxford, and the scattered regiments which still remained faithful to the King, were withdrawn to the neighbourhood of the metropolis. But almost all trace of their movements is now lost, for the

* A guard of gentlemen was formed for the Princess, who, it is said, insisted upon being commanded by the Bishop. The following account is given of her entrance into Oxford, whither she proceeded to meet her husband, Prince George of Denmark, December 15, 1688 :—

‘ The Princess of Denmark made a splendid entrance into Oxford on Saturday last; Sir John Lanier, with his Regiment, meeting her Royal Highness some miles out of the town. The Earl of Northampton, with five hundred horse, led the van; her Royal Highness was preceded by the Bishop of London at the head of a noble troop of gentlemen, his Lordship riding in a purple cloak, martial habit, pistols before him, and his sword drawn, and his cornett had the inscription in golden letters on his standard, “ Nolumus Leges Angliæ Mutari.” The rear was brought up by some Militia troops.’—*Ellis's Correspondence*, 1827, vol. iv. pp. 177, 178.

Granger, in his account of Bishop Compton, alludes to this same appearance in arms, but at Nottingham, before the Bishop came to Oxford. He gives the following as a remarkable instance of Bishop Compton's spirit :—‘ King James, discoursing with him upon some tender point, was so little pleased with his answers, that he told him he talked more like a Colonel than a Bishop. To which he replied, that His Majesty did him honour in taking notice of his having formerly drawn his sword in defence of the constitution, and that he should do the same again if he lived to see it necessary. Accordingly, when matters were come to extremity, he carried off the Princess Anne to Nottingham, and marched into that town at the head of a fine troop of gentlemen and their attendants, who had formed a guard for her Highness.’—*Biographical History of England*, vol. iv. p. 283.

unhappy King, driven to despair by the universal 1688 treachery which surrounded him, and having determined to fly from the capital, seems to have considered it his most advantageous policy to promote confusion; and, with this view, after ordering the Great Seal to be thrown into the Thames, he commanded the Earl of Feversham to disband the army. It is probable, that in this emergency this Regiment was kept together, and preserved for the service of the succeeding Monarch, by its officers* ; as, on the 17th of December, the Earl of Oxford was again appointed its Colonel; this being one of the first acts of sovereignty performed by the Prince of Orange. And the King having now quitted the kingdom, the Prince issued a proclamation, appointing ‘certain quarters for the English, Scots, and Irish forces, to which all officers and soldiers were commanded forthwith to repair†’ (December 20). The station appointed for the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards was Northampton.

* Littleton, the Major of the Regiment, who had shown his attachment to King James by his exertions to prevent its falling into the hands of the Prince of Orange at Axminster, was about this time killed in a duel by a brother officer, Captain Adderley.—*Ellis's Correspondence*, vol. iv. p. 177.

† London Gazette, December 20, 1688.