

**GRANTS, ETC. FROM THE CROWN
DURING THE REIGN OF EDWARD THE
FIFTH: FROM THE ORIGINAL DOCKET-
BOOK MS. HARL. 433 AND TWO
SPEECHES FOR OPENING PARLIAMENT**

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Grants, Etc. from the Crown During the Reign of Edward the Fifth: From the Original Docket-Book Ms. Harl. 433 and Two Speeches for Opening Parliament by Various

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97. Brit. Sovereigns, etc. 1480 (Edward V)

GRANTS, ETC. FROM THE CROWN

DURING THE

REIGN OF EDWARD THE FIFTH,

FROM THE ORIGINAL DOCKET-BOOK

MS. HARL. 488.

AND TWO SPEECHES FOR OPENING PARLIAMENT, *

BY JOHN RUSSELL, BISHOP OF LINCOLN, LORD CHANCELLOR.

WITH AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

BY

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A. LOND. AND NEWC.



PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

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HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

THE Manuscript volume from which this work of the Camden Society is derived has been long known as a record of great value: and has been quoted as such by several of the most inquiring and painstaking of our historical writers. Having come into the collection of the founder of the Harleian Library, so highly was its importance estimated by Humphrey Wanley, his librarian, that he described it at greater length than any other to which he ever devoted his attention. His account of its contents occupies no fewer than sixty-five pages of the folio Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts (vol. i. pp. 256-311). It was found, however, some years ago, on comparison of this calendar with the book itself, that it was far from presenting a complete view of the whole contents of the Manuscript, many entries being arbitrarily passed over, in the proportion of nearly two-fifths. In consequence it was thought desirable, with a view to an improved Catalogue of the Harleian Collection, which was then in contemplation, to make a fresh abstract of the volume. This was executed in the Manuscript Department of the British Museum in the year 1835; and, as there was no immediate prospect of its being printed, it was made accessible to the public by being classed as the Additional MS. 11,269. This latter book, however, being a mere abstract, page by page, unprovided with any index, is not at present of the least utility, except perhaps to a reader who might require assistance in his attempts to decypher the original.

The contents are of various character: but it may be generally described as a rough register or draft-book into which public business of all kinds, transacted by the clerks in personal attendance upon King Richard the Third, made their daily entries, commencing at that momentous period when the usurper first seized upon the reins of dominion, together with the person of his nephew Edward the Fifth. Such brief titles, or abstracts, of official documents have usually passed by the name of dockets.

A large portion of the book relates to matters which passed the King's Signet,^a the initiative process towards their being forwarded to the Privy and Great Seals. Some grants, however, are detailed at length, with all the precision and prolixity which characterize Letters Patent; and this is especially the case in the portion now printed, which is limited to the two months of Edward's nominal rule.

King Edward the Fourth died on the 9th of April, 1483; and his son and successor^b remained under the protection and conduct of his maternal uncle and former governor,^c Anthony earl Ryvers, until

^a At fol. 107 commences a catalogue of "Certaine thinges that passe by the kynges signet from the iij^{ij}th day of Jullye the first yere of Kyng Rycarde iij^{ij}th."

^b Edward the Fifth was born on the feast of All Souls the 2d Nov. 1470, in the sanctuary at Westminster, the king his father being then in Flanders. (See communications from Sir Frederic Madden and Mr. W. H. Black in the Gentleman's Magazine for June and Sept. 1832, in correction of various misstatements on this point.) He was consequently in his 13th year at the period of his father's death. He was created Prince of Wales upon the 26th July, 1471, and the ceremony of his investiture is in the MS. Cotton. Vespasian, C. x. f. 217. In the same month an oath was taken by his uncle the duke of Gloucester and other lords assembled in parliament to accept him, if he survived his father, "as true, veray, and righteous king of England."

^c Ryvers had filled this office from the prince's childhood, having received the appointment when the prince's household was first set up, on the 27th Sept. 1473. The king's directions for the prince's education, addressed on that oc-

the last day of the same month; when, being overtaken on his route to London from Ludlow, where he had been resident as Prince of Wales, his person was seized by the duke of Gloucester, and earl

casian to earl Ryvers and the bishop of Rochester, are printed in the Collection of Household Ordinances, published by the Society of Antiquaries 1796, 4to. p. 27*, and again more fully in Halliwell's Letters of the Kings of England, vol. i. p. 136. (Mr. Halliwell there gives the name of Russell to the bishop, but the prince's preceptor was Russell's predecessor in the see of Rochester—Alcock, afterwards bishop of Worcester, and president of the prince's council.) So far as the accomplishments of learning went, the prince is supposed to have done credit to his instructors. Rous describes him as of "mirabilis ingenii, et in literatura pro tempore suo optimè expeditus." Sir Thomas More says of both the brothers, that they "had as many gifts of nature, as many princely virtues, and as much goodly towardness, as their age could receive."

The following particulars of the constitution of the prince of Wales's officers are not generally known, and will be found corrective of much confusion which has arisen on the subject. They are derived from the MS. Sloane 3479, which is an enlarged copy of Sir John Doddridge's History of the Principality of Wales. On the 26th June, 1471, when the prince was nine months old, he was by charter created Prince of Wales; and the king, by letters patent, dated on the 8th July following, ordained the queen, the archbishop of Canterbury, George duke of Clarence, Richard duke of Gloucester, Robert Stillington the bishop of Bath and Wells (and chancellor), Lawrence Booth bishop of Durham, Anthony earl Ryvers, the abbat of Westminster (Thomas Millyng) chancellor to the prince, William Hastings knight lord chamberlain to the king, Richard Fynes lord Dacres steward to the said prince, John Fogge, John Scotte, knights, Thomas Vaughan chamberlain to the prince, John Alcock and Richard Forster to be of council unto the said prince, giving unto them, and every four of them, with the advice and express consent of the queen, large power to advise and counsel the said prince, and the nomination of his officers when they should happen to become void or that the parties were insufficient, the said authority to continue until the prince should accomplish his age of 14 years.

By another charter in English bearing date 10 Nov. anno regni sui 13, (1473) earl Ryvers was appointed governor of the person of the prince, and to have the education and the instruction of him, in all virtues worthy his birth, and to have the government and direction of his servants.

On the 25th Feb. 1482-3, the king addressed to the council of the prince of Wales a code of "ordynances concerning our said sonnes person," and in the