

Conquest of France;

WITH THE

Life and Glorious Actions

O F

Edward the Black Prince,

Son to Edward III. King of England, his Victory, with about 12,000 Archers and Men at Arms, over Philip of France, and 100,000 Frenchmen; his vanquishing King John of France, and taking him and his Son Prisoners; his love to the Earl of Kent's fair Daughter, and Marriage with her: Being a History full of great and noble Actions, in Love & Arms, to the honour of the English Nation.



G L A S G O W,

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T H E
F A M O U S H I S T O R Y
O F T H E
B L A C K P R I N C E.

C H A P. I.

How the French King, upon King Edward the third's coming to the Crown, sent to him to come and do him Homage, for the Province of Guyene the English held in France; how he refused it, but laid claim to the Crown of France: entered into Confederacy with the neighbouring Princes: Invaded them with powerful Armies. His Love to the Countess of Salisbury. The Order of the Garter, &c.

WHEN the English valour was more renowned than that of other nations, our heroes brought a terror on their enemies, proud France then trembled, and the English Lyon grasped with so strong a hand, that all the struggling of that Kingdom,

dom, was not able to rescue them from becoming the trophies of our conquering Princes.

King Edward the third, in his Father's life time, took upon him the title of king of England, when he was but fifteen years of age; and shewed much of a martial spirit, and promised great things to the world; for having warred successfully in Scotland, and brought that to his terms, their King submitted, and holding Fealty of him, Philip the French King, began to mistrust his growing greatness, and thinking whilst he was young, to put a check to his valour, sent to demand homage for the province of Guyene, held by him in France, but he not only refused it, but laid claim to the crown, as coming to him in right of Queen Isabella, his mother, being Nephew to Charles the fourth, brother to the said Isabella. To this the French opposed their Salique Law, wherein it was provided, that no woman should inherit the Crown of France: But this being look'd on, as contrived to hinder the succession of the English Kings in their marriages with the daughters of France: a war was proclaimed, the King quartering the arms of France with those of England, and laying claim to the Crown. This business was extraordinary weighty, King Edward craved the advice of the earl of Hanault, father to Philippa his Queen, who with his brother,

brother, procured King Edward to be Vicar General of the Empire; so that, without being controul'd; he might command the nobles, and common people of those countries, to further his purpose in the intended war.

But how secretly soever these things were carried, the French had private notice of what was doing, and stopped the army he had raised, at the importunity of Pope Benedict the eleventh, from passing into the Holy Land, to war against the Turks and Saracens, resolving to defend his own country from the storm. In the mean time, king Edward so settled his affairs, that in the spring, he landed in France, with an army of 27,000 men, bringing a terror on the country; tho' the French had an army of 60,000 soldiers to oppose him, being accompanied with three kings, five dukes, six and twenty earls, and more than four thousand lords and knights; and so both armies drawing into the field, and approaching each other; as the bloody blast was about to be founded, by the mediation of Jane, countess of Hanault, sister to king Philip, and mother to king Edward's Queen, separated from each other without striking a blow, to the great discontent of the English, who full of valour thirsted to begin the battle.

King Edward laid aside his pretensions, but, hearing the French king had sent out
a great

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a great fleet, who robbed the English merchants, being full of valour, and reckoning the French as his subjects, and inferior in arms, especially on the seas, set upon their whole navy, with such courage, that after a long and bloody fight, very few of the French ships escaped, but were either taken, sunk, or burnt by the English, with inconsiderable loss on our side. This great sea victory discouraged the French, and mightily encouraged the English, so that the king landed at Sluys in triumph, and going from thence to Gaunt, where his Queen lay, and the Black Prince, was accompanied with 7 earls, 8 bishops, 28 barons, 200 knights, 4000 men at arms, and 9000 archers; he joined the duke of Brabant, who commanded 22,000 men, and Jaques Dartwell; who commanded 60,000 men, lord Talquemont and others.

With this army he besieged the city of Tournay with great valour, (defended for ten weeks); in which time the French king appeared, not to relieve it; however, by the mediation of Jane d'Vallois, mother to the Queen of England, a truce was concluded; but that expired, soon after these delays, the war began in earnest.

During these transactions, the King returned home to beat the Scots out of England, who in his absence, invaded it, under the leading of David their king, fell desperately

rately in love with the Countess of Salisbury, having delivered her from the siege laid to her castle of Roxborough; he disarmed himself, and with ten or twelve lords, entered the castle, where the Countess so enamoured his heart, that by amorous wooing, he endeavoured to persuade her, to ease his passion, but the beauteous lady with mild entreaties, strove to make him see his error; but such was his desire, and her denials were so resolute, that discontentedly he left her, yet love still prevailing, he wrote the following letter to her.

Fair COUNTESS,

“ **Y**OUR eyes have enthral’d my
 “ heart, and amidst the alarms of
 “ war, my thoughts are chained to see
 “ thy beauty; take compassion on a King,
 “ which, nothing on earth, but your peer-
 “ less self, can bring to the submission of a
 “ suppliant: I own your virtues are great,
 “ yet, to save the life of a Monarch, what
 “ should not one who is all goodness like
 “ you do? Let me entreat you then to take
 “ compassion on the sufferings of my mind,
 “ that I may be restored to my former
 “ peace, and become pleasant to my friends,
 “ and a terror to the enemies of my coun-
 “ try:

“ try: So in expectation you will relent,
“ I rest in hopes of enjoying that blessing I
“ so earnestly wish for.”

Your devoted love, tho' a King.

The Countess having weighed the contents of this letter, was troubled in mind: She knew the King was married to a fair and virtuous Princess, and that he sought by unlawful love to defile her bed; this put her in a passion, considering, if she yielded, how much it would turn to her dishonour: At other times she considered, she was his subject, and knew not to what force his passion might carry him; yet careful of her chastity, she returned him this answer

THE COUNTESS'S ANSWER.

My SOVEREIGN!

“ COULD you but conceive what
“ Disturbance your letter wrote in
“ my mind, you would cease to afflict me,
“ who so highly honour you in all virtuous
“ ways: but in this matter, without a
“ violation of my honour, cannot conde-
“ scend to please you, considering you are
“ married to a virtuous Queen, who loves
“ and honours you; cease then, great Sir,
“ to persecute me with your love, that can-
“ not

“ not be lawfully returned ; I am indeed
 “ your subject, and you may command my
 “ life and fortune, but not in a dishonour-
 “ able way, so humbly intreating you to
 “ weigh these things, I remain your afflict-
 “ ed subject and servant.”

SALISBURY.

The King upon receipt of this letter, was not a little abashed ; at length concludes, time, and rich presents, might overcome her fears ; he trusted his confident, the lord Montague, to bring her to court, in honour of whose presence, the King caused sports and pastimes ; and at last won so much upon her, as to dance with him : when at the end of the dance, a blue ribbon, which she had for a garter, falling off, the King stooped and took it up : at which the Countess blushed, and the nobles smiled : Whereat the King said, HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENCE. Vowing, that the greatest of them should do honour to the silken tye, and creating his son Edward the Black Prince, Prince of Wales, he established the ORDER OF THE GARTER, confining the number to twenty-six, of which, himself, and his successors were Sovereigns, which Order is yearly solemnized, with magnificence, in the King's castle at Windsor.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

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The birth of the victorious Black Prince, his activity in his young days, his first wars under his Father in France. How king Edward, challenged the French King, and on what account he refused it.

PRINCE Edward the Black Prince, was born at Greenwich, the 14th of May, 1336, being the eldest son of king Edward the third, by his beauteous Queen Philippa: At his birth a blazing star appeared with a fiery tail, like a bloody sword, pointing towards France; the sea overflowed its banks in many places, the like never having been seen on our coast.

The King his father, brought him not up nicely and tenderly, but as soon as he had passed his swadling clothes, inured him to hardhips; for he was scarce fifteen years old, when the King took him to the wars, both against Scotland and France; and Jacques Dartwell was so taken with his manly aspect, that he labour'd to depose Loys earl of Flanders, as unfit for government, and place the Prince over those provinces, with so much earnestness, and magnifying the young Prince's early valour, to that degree, that so far encouraged their hatred, that they incensed the common people against him, which took so effectually, that he no sooner

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fooner came to his house at Gaunt, but it was beset by the multitude, when coming out to appease them, they in a fury murdered him; and this for a time, much hindered king Edward's affairs, for the Flemings revolted from him, but he did not regard it, resolving by his own power, to thrust his sword into the bowels of France.

The King being informed, that John the son of the French King, had besieged the castle of Aguillon in Gascony; took the Prince with him, and a considerable army, at whose approach, the French raised the siege and fled; after this he passed into Normandy, took the city of Harfleure, and bestowed the spoil upon the soldiers; took the great and rich city of Caene in Normandy, in which were the earls of Fankerville, Ewe, and Guyen: These were made prisoners to Sir Thomas Holland, an English Knight, with one eye, who sold them to the King, and they were sent prisoners to England: The English army being thus victorious, passed the gates of Abbeville, and St Valary, but they were for want of guides entangled with the river on one side, and the French army on the other. This made the King and Prince consult with the French prisoners, promising rewards, if they could find any passible fords in the river; which one Gopin of Greece undertook to do, but when the King had marched his army thither, he found

found it defended by 12,000 French, yet when the sea was ebb'd, he, with the Prince and the whole army, put themselves into the water, as likewise on the other side did the French, so that the fight was doubtful; but the English at length prevailing, with great slaughter of the enemy, pursued them in full chase a league: and so the English army having passed the river, resolved to abide the whole power of France, tho' six times their number, and dare them to a battle. King Edward to his immortal honour, sent a challenge to the French King, to fight him in single combat, but he excused it cunningly, by alledging it was sent to him, by the name of Philip de Vallois, and not by the title of King of France, and therefore he should betray his royal dignity in accepting it.

C H A P. III.

How king Edward marched with a small army into France, and met Philip the French King, with an army of 100,000 men; how the battle was fought, and the French routed by the Black Prince.

THE French King relying on his numbers, thinking the English thus entangled in the heart of his country, were entrapped in a snare, and could not avoid destruction,

struction, which battle gained, would ever quell the English claim to the French diadem. With these hopes he drew all his forces near King Edward's army, in a spacious field, near the town of Cressly: King Edward and the Black Prince proceeded with all diligence, to put their army in readinets, that he might have the order of battle; to this the King consented. The whole army immediately upon this, was divided into three battles, which the Prince caused to be so barrocaded behind, with the carriages and carts, that the enemy should not be able, if they enclosed them with their numbers, to break into the rear.

Being thus ordered, the approach of the night hindered their joining in battle; so they spent the night in prayers and moderate refreshment, whilst the King and Prince in disguise, went from tent to tent, asking the private soldiers, what they thought of the number of the French army, with many such questions, how the King and Prince stood affected.

The soldiers replied, as for the French numbers they minded them not, for they should soon be lessened, and brought to confusion.

The next morning the signal for battle was given on both sides, to begin the fight, but either for want of skill, or making more haste than good speed, they were put
into.

into disorder, by the English archers, the greatest part of them slain, and the rest soon defeated and compelled to retire, they rushed into the French King's battle, and so disordered it, that the English without mercy put most of them to the sword.

This bad success did not so discourage the French, but trusting to their numbers, they came resolutely on, charged the Prince's battle with great fury, but he stoutly repelled them, doing wonders, so encouraged his men, that they fought like lions, by means whereof, they made havock of the French men, who could not observe any order at all, nor help themselves by any ingenious policy of war, yet those that came to stop the gap that death had made, pressed hard on, and many of them met the like fate; however, the pressing numbers gave no leisure to the Prince nor his assistants to breathe, nor take any respite, or refreshment, so that the brave Prince, though he was full of incomparable valour, being distressed for want of breathing time, sent to the King to come to his relief.

Said the King, tell him from me, that he must expect no aid, for this shall be the day, in which he shall either win honour, or loose his life.

When the Prince was informed what the
King

King said, and animated with fresh hopes of victory, they redoubled their courage, and fought with undaunted spirits, that the Frenchmen fled, and were so pursued, that the greater part of their numerous army lay breathless on the ground; and on the chase two Marshals of England, encountered with a multitude of the inhabitants of Regmerry, Abbeville and Roan, who ignorant of the defeat, were marching to the French army, of whom 7000 were slain, and the rest saved themselves by flight: the next day they were charged by the Archbishop of Roan, who conducted a strong army, whom they worsted, killing great numbers of them; the French King being forced hastily to fly to save his life.

The King and Prince marched through the country without any opposition, and begirt the strong town of Calais with an army of 20,000 men, but finding the passages stopped, he sent to challenge the King to battle in the fair field, as knowing the town could not hold out, King Edward sent him word, he never feared to meet him in the field, as to his coast he had proved; but not knowing his advantage at this time, he would give him the satisfaction he required. Upon this, the French King broke up his army and departed, and the Calaisians despairing of relief, being sorely oppressed with famine, humbled themselves to King Edward,

Edward, and sought his mercy; whereupon he commanded, that six of the principal inhabitants should come bare-headed, and bare-legged, with ropes about their necks, and bring the keys of the town and castle, which they did: The keys he received, but commanded the persons to be hanged; but at the intercession of the Queen and Prince, they were pardoned, and he made Sir Andrew de Futt, the Lombard, captain of it; soon after this, Philip de Vallois the French King died, and his son John was crowned.

C H A P. IV.

How King Edward and the Black Prince returned to England in triumph, and how being entertained at dinner by the Earl of Kent, the Prince fell in love with his Daughter, called the Fair Maid of Kent.

KING Edward having settled his affairs in France, came to England with the Queen and Prince, and landing at Dover, dining with the earl of Kent, the Prince fixed his eyes on Joan, the earl's daughter, whose beauty was so admirable, that she was called **THE FAIR MAID OF KENT**. This Lady soon made our Prince become enamoured of her, yet, not knowing how his father might take it, who designed to match
him

him to some foreign Princess, he at that time bridled his passion all he could, yet his kind discourses to her, and the powerful language of his eyes, made her see she was not indifferent to him; but fearing so brave a Prince, and next heir to the crown, rather had his eyes on her for lust, than lawful love in marriage, which afflicted the tender Lady: But the Prince had his mind far from such thoughts, and was perplexing himself, how he might bring about his design of marriage with her, fearing, if he delayed to make known his mind, she, ignorant of his passion might give herself up to the arms of another; for he was sensible, that the most exalted beauty in the kingdom, could not want adorers: And therefore, knowing the French wars would soon require his presence, he resolved to let her know his unfeigned love for her, and labour to gain her consent, and remove all his difficulties that might stand in the way of his happiness.

The Prince came to the Earl's house, and found the precious jewel of his heart, attended only by a waiting woman, the rest of the family being abroad. She no sooner fixed her eyes on him, but her countenance changed, as fearing some rash design had brought him thither, to make an attempt on her honour. The Prince perceiving the alteration of her countenance, took the opportunity

portunity when her woman was gone, to
say, " Ah! Madam; why fear you him,
" who himself, in spite of courage that has
" been ascribed to him, approaches you
" with fear: Let me beseech thee, fair La-
" dy, to think I intend you no harm."

The Lady observing his modest behaviour,
welcomed his Highness to her Father's
house, ordered her woman to bring wine,
and other refreshments. The Prince having
taken a slender repast, entreated her to
walk with him into the garden, which she
consented to, and after a turn or two in a
cool arbour, fetched a véry deep sigh. This
the Lady perceiving, intreated him to tell
her the cause. The Prince at this favour-
able opportunity, said, " Ah! Lady, it is in
" your power, to ease the doubts and fears
" that labour in my mind. I wish it may,
" said the Lady smiling, tho' not without
" blushes; But I cannot be your physician
" unless I know your grief. Ah! fair Lady,
" said the Prince, since I first set eyes on
" your beauties, my heart has been your
" captive, and this opportunity I have ta-
" ken, to know from your beautiful lips,
" whether you will relieve me by your
" love? Alas! my Lord, replied the Lady,
" still blushing, for that love which is in
" my power to give, you should not pine;
" but a Prince whose royalty may bring
" him a Queen with kingdoms to her dow-
" ry,

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“ ry, will never be mine. Most kind Lady,
“ said the Prince, not but that love I pre-
“ tend is chaste, and it is you above all
“ the queens on earth, that I apply myself
“ to, to make me happy. Oh, consider,
“ said she, how dangerous ’tis for me to
“ entertain your love, since the King’s an-
“ ger may break out on my father’s family
“ to their ruin. Doubt not thou best of
“ women: I will stand between them and
“ you, and perish, rather than any harm
“ shall befall you, only let me be assured
“ of your love and constancy, and at my
“ return, I will so work the matter, that
“ our marriage shall not be hindred.”

C H A P. V.

*How the Black Prince went to France with
an army, won many strong places, and o-
verthrew the French King’s army near
Poitiers, took him and his son Philip pri-
soners. His return to England, and mar-
riage with the Fair Maid of Kent.*

BUT now the trumpets sound again for
war, and the Prince must pass the
seas: and so the lovers parted with vows of
eternal constancy: For a truce that had
been made with France expiring, he was
sent with an army into Gascony, where
land-

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landing, he breathed such terror on that province, that the French grew heartless, so that a great number of towns and castles fell into his hands; this made the new king John, hasten his army into the field, not doubting to oppress the Prince, whose army consisted of not above 10 or 12,000 men; and so accompanied by his youngest son, he marched towards Poitiers, where the English army lay, and the battle began with great fury: The French King had divided his army into four battles, who as it was in their turns, came and fought with much valour. But the thick shot of the English arrows galling their horses, they threw their riders. This soon put their cavalry into disorder, and were trodden to death by their own friends, and such as would have pressed forward to make proof of their valour, were driven back by those that retired from the fury of the English shot. However, the French King's own battle was better ordered than the rest, who performed wonderful fates, being animated thereunto by their King, who exceeded all his nobles that day. But the Black Prince and his battle, which was so well marshalled, that no disorder troubled it, that the French men were not able to stand before them; for the Prince, inspired by the love of his fair mistress, had vowed ere the battle began, he would that day acquit himself

self like a valiant knight; and bearing down his enemies before him, wherever he came, after a bloody fight, the French falling into a strange disorder, fled: that battle in which their King, and Philip his son fought, being opened, the English men entered, beating down all before them. Sir Denis Morebeck took the King and his Son prisoners; so that he was pulled about, till the Black Prince came up, and caused their rage to cease, commanding that none should insult the King or his Son, provided for them honourable attendants, and supplied them with all things they wanted; so that King John said, never prisoners met with a better conqueror, and thought himself happy in falling into such hands.

In this battle a great number were slain, and above 10,000 common soldiers were taken prisoners, all which, with the spoils of the field, the Prince freely gave them, so that there was not a poor man in the army, but every one of them had as much gold, silver and jewels, &c. as gave them full satisfaction for the blood they lost: and hereupon the Prince marched with his army and prisoners to Burdeaux, to give an account of his victory: nor was he wanting to send a particular letter to his fair mistress, who often bedew'd her rosy cheeks with tears for his absence. The words were these:

“FAIR.

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“FAIREST of creatures, this is to
“let you know that fortune has fa-
“voured me with success, and has been
“kind to let me reap fresh laurels with my
“sword, that I may lay them at your feet,
“which shall be as speedy, as the great af-
“fairs I have on hand will permit: In the
“mean time, not doubting your constancy
“and love, I am your faithful and obedi-
“ent servant.”

E D W A R D.

This fair Lady receiving the letter, kissed it a thousand times, writing a loving answer to him, if he had any compassion for her life, that he would not too far hazard himself among the hands of his enemies. The Prince received the assurance of his mistress's love with great joy, and to comfort her, hastened into England with all his royal prisoners, where (for a time) he was royally entertained, and then removed to the castle of Windsor.

The King of England and the Black Prince frequently visiting him; which noble usage, begat lasting love and amity between them, and the Prince, impatient to delay his intended marriage, taking the King in a good humour, fell on his knees, and humbly besought him for all his toils and hazards

hazards he had undertaken, to grant him one request, without naming it. The King hereupon raising him up, said Son, I know your virtue is honourable. Then said the Prince, I take your Majesty at your word; my ambition is far from a crown, all I request is, that I may have the earl of Kent's fair daughter to be my wife: the King was amazed at this request; yet seeing him earnestly bent upon it, and hearing what had passed between them, he consented. So the Earl, his Countess, and Daughter, were sent for to court, and their consent being easily had, the marriage was celebrated with all imaginable pomp, so that night the lovely pair enjoyed their heart's content; from the fruits of this love, sprung a son named Richard, who succeeded his grandfather in the kingdom; and after a long reign, was deposed by Henry Duke of Lancaster, who took upon him the crown, under the title of Henry the fourth, and being deposed, was murdered in the castle of Pomfret, by Sir Piercy of Exton; but not degenerating from his heroic father in valour, seizing an halbert by main strength out of their hands, he killed four of them, ere they dispatched him. But to return. The French King and his Son, having been four years prisoners in England, made several overtures to King Edward for their release: but Charles the French King's eldest Son, having gotten the

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the regency into his own hands, would not agree with his Father; whereupon the French King was committed a close prisoner, to the Tower, and King Edward with the Black Prince sailed over with an army, wasting the country very dreadfully; so that many towns were yielded to him, by which he compelled the regent, to become petitioner to him for a peace, and it was concluded on these articles.

I. That the French King should pay four hundred thousand pounds Sterling for his ransom.

II. That no King of France should aid the Scots against England, in any invasion, nor the English assist the Flemings in any war against France.

III. That the King of England should freely enjoy the the territories of Gascoin, Guyene, with the precincts, territories, castles, forts, and towns, thereto belonging: Also the cities of Poictiers, and Peregords, the earldom of Bigrot, and Guyeus, the cities of Limoges, Thorbes, Guaras, Agu, Angolsom, Arguomois, Ryuern, Coraus, the lordships of Xantoigne, Crumesen, Hames, Ony, Montrel, with the seignories of Calais, Marguise, Sandgate, and Cologne.

C H A P. VI.

How the Black Prince overthrew the army in Spain and France, and restored the deposed King of Castile to his throne, &c.

THE Black Prince's fame spread over the world, he was sued by distressed kings to relieve them, and Peter King of Castile being overthrown in battle, by Henry his brother, assisting under hand the new French King, humbly imploring him to re-instate him in his kingdom. The Prince knowing him to be the rightful sovereign of the kingdom, so far compassionated his cause, that he raised an army and went to re-in throne him: (But to conclude my history) The Black Prince, fierce in war, but mild in peace, being dead, King Edward created Richard Prince of Wales, and because he was young, he appointed the regency to the Duke of Lancaster, 'till he came to years, and being worn out with age, and grief, for the death of the Black Prince, he died and was buried at Westminster. Thus have I fulfilled my promise; in a true account of this renowned history.

F I N I S.