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SUIT OF TILTING ARMOUR FROM KNOLES.

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ARMS AND ARMOUR SEIZED AT KNOLE DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

BY CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

AMONG the papers preserved at Knole is a list of the arms and armour which were seized there in 1642 by the Parliamentary forces. As an introduction to the list itself, the circumstances leading up to the seizure must be recalled.

Edward Sackville, 4th Earl of Dorset, was a staunch Royalist, and suffered severely for his adherence to Charles I. and his Queen.

In the Thomason Tracts* will be found:—

Some speciall and Remarkable passages from both Houses of Parliament since Munday the 15 of August till Friday the nineteenth 1642.

Vpon Satterday night last, the Lord Generall having information of a great quantity of Armes of the Earle of Dorsets at his house at Synnocke in Kent, in the custody of Sir John Sackuile, which were to be disposed of by him to Arme a great number of the Malignant party of that County, to go to Yorke, to assist his Maiestie; Called a Councell of Warre, to consider of the same, and about twelve of the clock at night sent out three Troops of Horse into Kent to seize upon the said Armes; which they did accordingly on the Sunday following, and on the Munday brought the same to London, and Sir John Sackvile prisoner, there being compleat Armes for 500 or 600 men.

The officers† in charge of this raid on Knole were Colonel

* A valuable collection of some 30,000 items relating to the Civil War, from 1640—61, collected by George Thomason, bought by George III. and presented by him to the British Museum in 1762.

† MSS. of the House of Lords,—Hist. MSS. Comm. 5th Report. 1876. p 46.

Sir John Seaton, Kt., and Colonel Edwyn Sandis. On Sunday 14 August 1642 Sir John Sackville was apprehended on his way from Knole to Sevenoaks church for the morning service. After taking all the arms from Knole the Parliamentary forces visited Cobham Hall, Lady Wootton's at Allington Hall, and the Earl of Thanet's, taking arms from each. As regards the arms at Knole the steward there wrote to his master, the Earl of Dorset:—

The hurte done at Kuoll house the 14th daie of August 1642 by the companie of Horsemen brought by Coronell Sandys:—

There are above fortie stock locks & plate locks broken open w^{ch} to make good again will cost x^{li}

Ther is of gold branchd belonging to y^e Cooche in the rich Galleon as much cut awaie as will not be made good for 40^{li}

And in my lords Chamber 2 ° long Cushion cases imbroidered wth sattin & gold, & the plumes upon the bedd herten to y^e value of 30^{li}

They have broken open six trunckes in one of them was money; what is lost of it wee know not in regard the Keeper of it is from home.

They have spoyles in the painters Chamber his oyle and other wronges there to y^e value of 40^s

They broke into S^r Joⁿ his Granerie and have taken of his oates & peas to y^e quantity of 3^e or 4^{er} quarter 4^{li}

The Armes they have wholie taken awaie there being five wagenloads of them.

On the day after the raid the Lord General reported to the House of Lords*: “. . . that the Arms of the Earl of Dorsett, which were at Kuolle house, are brought to Town, to be kept from being made use of against the Parliament.” A list of the said arms was delivered in, under the Earl of Dorsett's hand. Thereupon this House ordered: “That such as are rich Arms shall not be made use of, but kept safely for the Earl of Dorsett; but such as are fit to be made use

* *Lords' Journals*, vol. v., p. 289^a.

of for the Service of the Kingdom are to be employed; an inventory to be taken, and money to be given to the Earl of Dorset in satisfaction thereof."

This inventory does not appear in the Lords' Journals, but I have obtained from the House of Lords a copy of the original inventory made for Dorset in 1640.

It will be noticed that the extract quoted from the Thomason Tracts states that there were "compleat Armes for 500 or 600 men," but in the inventory printed below there are only complete arms for, perhaps, one-fifth of this number. If the Thomason extract is correct, it looks as if Dorset had accumulated at Knole a large quantity of extra arms for the Royalist cause:—

An Inventory of such Armes as are now remaining in the armory Knowle belonging to the Right hon^{bl} Edward Earl of Dorset, taken the 13th of Jan: 1640 & first the horsmens Armes and necsaryes belonging to them:—

Cornets for horses	2
Curasiers Arms giuilt	ii
Curasiers plaine	31
Whit tilting Armor	3
A baryears Armore gorget & gantlet wanting	1
Shan front for tilting	1
Run plates for barryers (No number given.)	—
Plated sadels sutabel to the guilt arnes and furnituer	
rotton	ii
Old ruset Sadels trimd w th red lether and furnituer	
defettue	12
Old ruset and blacke Sadels	12
Blacke lether Sadels w th al furnituer bitts excepted	ii
Old french pistols	13
whereof 4 haue locks the other 9 haue none and Dubel	
mouldes to them.	
Swordes	14
Horne flaskes	49
whereof on old damuske on couered w th veluet and many	
not servicabel.	
Slight Armes backe & brest 2 gorgets only to them	13

Armes and other necsaryes for foot men.

On Ingraunen target	1
Partisian rould w th redd veluet and naled with gilt nails	
& Damusked w th gould	1
Partisians Damusked w th Silliuer & the Catte on them	4
Corsletes w th backe brest cases & headpeces	138
Spanish pickes & English pickes w th Spanish heads	
wherof 4 are broken	151
Comb head peces	70
Ould Spanish murians	50
Halberts	7
Bitts	6
Full muskets Compleat	76
Bastard muskets	56
Muskets imperfect	4
Moulds to the muskets	2
New Rests	64
Old Rests	7
Bandeleiars	36
Barriles of mach wanting 16 bundells	2

(Signed) DORSET.

After the Restoration the Earl of Dorset tried to get back some of the goods removed from Kuole in 1642.

On 30 June 1660 the House of Lords ordered,* upon information given to the House, "That Arthur Brooker, Vintner, at the Crown in Rochester, and Richard Greene, Alderman of the same, do detain divers of the Household Stuff which were formerly belonging to Edward, Earl of Dorsett, and now do belong to the Earl of Dorsett." It is ordered, by the Lords in Parliament assembled, "That the Earl of Dorsett's Servants are hereby authorized to make search for the said Household Stuff in the Dwelling-houses or other Places belonging to the said Arthur Brooker and Richard Greene, and that, in search for the said stuff, any Door, Trunk, Chest or Box that shall not be opened in

* *Lords' Journals*, vol. xi., p. 80^a.

obedience to this order may be broken up, in the Day-time, by a lawful officer, and the same to be taken and carried away for his Lordship's use."

Notwithstanding this order, it does not appear that any of the arms or armour was ever recovered; certainly none of it is at Knole at the present day.

In the Wallace collection at Hertford House, London, there is a complete suit of armour which, it is evident, was the property of Sir Thomas Sackville, afterwards 1st Earl of Dorset, who died in 1608. There can be little doubt that this is one of the three suits of tilting armour mentioned in the inventory of 1640. This magnificent suit of armour* was made about 1575, and is supposed to be the work of the armourer Jacob Topf, being illustrated in the book of his original drawings now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. It came from the Chateau de Coulonmiers in Brie, where it is said to have belonged to Helionorus, 8th Duke of Longueville.

This suit, the whole of it richly decorated with bands and bordering, deeply etched and partly gilt with a scroll design, consists of the following pieces:—

Closed Helmet, which is composed of a burgonet, with hinged ear-pieces and hinged umbril, to which is attached a triple bar face-guard.

Gorget, of four plates.

Breast-plate, of peasgod form, with roped turnover and roped laminated gussets.

Back-plate, secured to the breastplate by steel straps passing over the shoulders and beneath the armpits.

Taces, of one plate.

Tassets, of four plates.

Shoulder-plates, of five plates.

* Catalogue of the Armour in the Wallace Collection, p. 117.

The arms are complete, comprising:—

Turners, Rere and Vam Braces, and Coudes.

Fingered Gauntlets, the wrist guarded by five laminated plates.

Thigh Guards, of seven plates.

Knee Pieces, of five plates, with small heart-shaped plates protecting the outside bend of the leg.

Greaves.

Boots, of ten plates.