

THE
Royal Visits to Doncaster.

Historical Notices.

"THE KING COMES HERE TO-NIGHT."—MACBETH. ACT

THE announcement of an approaching ROYAL VISIT to this town by our most gracious QUEEN VICTORIA, and H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT, on the 27th instant, *en route* into Scotland, has induced me to put together a few historical notices connected with previous honours of the same kind with which the inhabitants of this borough have been favoured in past times, and I lay them before the public in the hope that they may prove of some little interest on the present occasion. Situated as Doncaster has always been on the great highway between the metropolis and the north, it might have been expected that it would have befallen the town more frequently to have enjoyed the presence of our sovereigns than it has, but these visits have not been many on the whole, and the accounts we possess of those that have occurred are but scanty in the information they afford. Occurring as they have hitherto done long before the establishment of a local press, the modern historian is

thrown for intelligence entirely upon such of our ancient chroniclers who took the pains to make a few brief notes of those local events that seemed to them to be the most deserving of record in their day.

In 1157, according to Fordun, an interview took place at Doncaster between HENRY II. and MALCOLM, King of Scotland, when Malcolm did homage for Cumberland, as his father had done to Henry I. In 1163, Malcolm was again at Doncaster, on his return to Scotland from Woodstock, where he had again done homage, and fell, as the historian says, dangerously ill there.

It was at Doncaster that the friends of RICHARD assembled, when the dubious conduct of Earl John gave room for suspicion and alarm.*

KING JOHN was at Doncaster on several occasions between the 1st and 2d March, 1202 and 1212.† A charter of his bears date at Doncaster, 24th May 8th, of his reign.‡ It was this King that directed his mandate from Nottingham, on the 30th March, 1215, to the bailiffs of Peter de Mauley the first, the lord of Doncaster, commanding them to enclose the town with hertstone and pale, and to make a light barbacan upon the bridge to defend the town if need should require.§

In 1230 it is said that HENRY III. slept at Doncaster, on his way to York, where he spent the Christmas holydays.||

In the winter of 1321-2 Thomas Earl of Lancaster, the great Baron of Pontefract, in opposition to the royal authority, and especially to a proclamation in-

* Hunter, S. Y. vol 1, p. 10.

† Itin : Johan : Archaeologia, vol. 23. Rot : Pat : v. 1.

‡ Hunter, I. p. 15.

§ Clause Rolls, 16 John, m. 6.

|| Miller's Doncaster, p. 40.

hibiting conventicles on any pretence, addressed letters to many of the barons to meet at Doncaster on the Sunday next after the *quindenes* of St. Martin. On the 12th Nov. the King (EDWARD II.) issued his letters to the persons summoned, prohibiting them from attending on pain of forfeiting their lands. The Earl appeared in open rebellion, and to him adhered the Lord Mowbray, of the Isle of Axholme, and many others. On the 18th March, 1322, the King was at Doncaster, and wrote from thence to the Pope, in reply to a letter recommending reconciliation and peace, and was proceeding against the rebels with as much force as he could bring against them.* EDWARD II. was at Doncaster and Bentley in August, 1323, when he touched twenty-seven persons for the cure of the King's evil.†

EDWARD III. was at Doncaster in May, 1333, and in December, 1336.‡

When EDWARD BALLIOLL, King of Scotland, had resigned the crown, he resided at Wheatley, near this town, as is proved by a charter executed by him in 1363, the seal of which is published by Astle, in his *Seals of Scotland*, I. 4. When there he frequently amused himself with sporting on the lands in and about Hatfield Chase.§ There is a curious instrument in the *Fœdera*, dated Oct. 19, 1356, in which a pardon is granted to him and other gentlemen who had hunted with him, for the slaughter they had committed, and which is given with an amusing particularity. The ex-King would, no doubt, frequently be seen in Doncaster.

* Hunter, page 15.

† Wardrobe accounts in *Archæologia*, vol. 26, p. 320.

‡ Hunter, p. 15.

§ Hunter, I. pp. 54 and 155.

In 1399, HENRY IV. styled of Bolingbroke, was at Doncaster after his landing at Ravenspurgh. While here he was lodged at the house of the Carmelites, or White Friars, and it appears that it was in their house that he took the oath in the presence of the Percies and other lords, which he was afterwards charged with having broken—

“ You swore to us—

And you did swear that oath at Doncaster—
That you did nothing purpose 'gainst the state ;
Nor claim no farther than your new-fall'n right,
The seat of Gaunt, dukedom of Lancaster.

* * * *

And from this swarm of fair advantages,
You took occasion to be quickly woo'd,
To gripe the general sway into your hand ;
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster ;
And, being fed by us, you used us so
As that ungentle gull, the Cuckoo's bird,

Useth the sparrow.—SHAKESPEARE, *Henry IV.* p. 1. act 5.

He was also there on 17 Aug. 1403, and on the 9th June, 1404, when he signed a commission of array to the sheriffs of Hereford, Worcester, &c. to raise their counties.*

In 1470, when there was an attempt to dethrone EDWARD IV., the king came to Doncaster, immediately after the decisive battle at Stamford, and there beheaded Sir Robert Welles and Sir Ralph Grey.†

In Sept. 1483 RICHARD III. passed through Doncaster, on his way to York, where he was crowned.

In 1486, HENRY VII. on his way to visit York, in his first progress to the north after his coronation, came from Nottingham to Doncaster, on Saturday, the 15th April ; rested here on the Sunday, and heard mass at the Freres of our Lady, and evensong at the parish church. The next day, the 17th, he went forward by the way of Pontefract, and rested

* Tyler's *Memoirs of Henry 5th*, vol. 1, pp. 181 and 190.

† Hunter, p. 16.

there a few days.* On Thursday, the 20th April, when the king took his journey from Pontefract to York, his suite included the Archbishop of York, the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the great officers of State and of the Household, and many others of the nobility of the kingdom. On their way from Doncaster to Pontefract they had been joined by the Earl of Northumberland, "with a right great and noble company of thirty-three knights of his feed-men," and with this splendid train, and "a marvellous great number, in so short a warning, of esquires, gentlemen, and yeomen in defensible array," the king approached the city of York. How familiar to Yorkshire ears at this day are the names of the knights who formed part of the royal cavalcade nearly four centuries ago: Sir John Savile, sheriff of the county; Sir Henry Wentworth, Sir Thomas Tempest, Sir William Fitzwilliam, Sir Robert Constable, Sir Peter Middleton, Sir Thomas Mauleverer, Sir William Ingilby, Sir James Strangeways, Sir Robert Hilliard, Sir Ralph Crathorne, Sir Stephen Hamerton, Sir William Stapleton, &c.

MARGARET, daughter of Henry VII. in her progress to Scotland, as QUEEN OF JAMES IV. came, on the 13th June, 1503, from Scrooby to Doncaster, where she was received by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, on foot, introduced according to precedent custom, and lodged at the Carmelites.† She was accompanied the next day by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, to the end of the town.

* Do. page 16. Gent. Mag. May, 1851, 480.

† Do. do. The House of the Carmelites, or White Friars, stood in Hall-gate, or rather what is now called High-street, and comprised the site where now stand the Mansion-House, the houses of Mr. Sheardown (now occupied by Dr. Dunn), Mr. Ald. Maw, Mr. Samuel Hall, &c. with the ground behind as far as Cleveland and Printing-office-streets. After the dissolution it was the residence of

When HENRY VIII. made his northern progress, after the suppression of the Pilgrimage of Grace, he visited the county of York. This was in August, 1541.* It was a part of his plan to enjoy the diversion of field sports, which the Chace of Hatfield could so well afford. By the publication of the "Acts and ordinances of the Privy Council," (vol : 7, p. 234,) the accounts of the King's route, which before were considered somewhat contradictory, are now cleared up. His Majesty came from Gainsborough to Scrooby on the 17th August,—was at Hatfield on the 18th, and remained there until he went to Pontefract, on the 24th—from thence he passed on to Hull and York; returned to Hull, and crossed "the see" to Barrow and Thornton. If dependence is to be placed on a memorandum in one of the MS. lists of Mayors I have seen, the King, on this occasion "came to Doncaster." It appears to have been during this progress that he dined at the house a little north of Doncaster, as Leland expressly notices; and that he held the conversation with Bishop Tunstall which has been often mentioned. Hall expressly says that he was met on this progress by the Archbishop on Barnsdale :

the family of Swyft, who had for a short time the title of Lord Carlingford. When they became extinct, it was divided and inhabited by various proprietors. In the once spacious garden behind the house formerly the residence of J. H. Maw, Esq. afterwards of James Jackson, Esq. and now of Mr. Hall, there was a pear tree of goodly size, now no more, that was traditionally stated to have been planted by Charles I. on one of his visits there. Like the Priory of the Augustine Friars, at York, it was usual for the distinguished visitors of Doncaster to be entertained at this house. By an act 27 H. 8. cap. 28 (1535), for the dissolution of religious houses under the value of £200. a year, it was enacted (by section 9) that all persons, &c. to whom the King should grant any site of any such religious houses so dissolved, should be bound "to keep an honest continual house and household in the same site or precinct," under a penalty of £6. 13s. 4d per month for default.

* Hunter, I. p. 156.

that he was twelve days at York, and that 200 gentlemen and 4000 yeomen and serving-men, met him on his entrance in the county.

King JAMES I. began his reign 24th March, 1603, and on the 19th April in that year he came to Doncaster. In the complete and curious account of his progresses, edited by Mr. Nichols,* it is stated that his Majesty came from Grimstone, then the seat of Sir Edward Stanhope, where he slept. He came by Pontefract, from whence "he tooke an horse and rode to Doncaster, where he lodged all night at the sign of *the Bear*,† in an inne, giving the hoast of the house, for

* Nichols's Progresses of James I. vol. 1, p. 84.

† Dr. Miller, in his catalogue of Mayors and local events, alludes to this royal visit as occurring apparently in the year 1602. It should be borne in mind, however, that the mayors were always elected in September, therefore every notice from that date to the subsequent elections should be events occurring in the official years. Thus, this visit of King James's on the 19th April, 1603, would be in the mayoralty of Wm. Cowling, as he was in office from 28th Sept. 1602, to 23d Sept. 1603. Finding "*the Bear*" named as the inn at which the King lodged, Miller has incorrectly, as I imagine, stated that it was the *White Bear*, which is commonly understood to mean the house known by that particular sign in Hall-gate. Without at all wishing to detract from that house the reputed honor of having once been the *hospitium* of Royalty, I think it more than probable that King James's resting place in Doncaster was the inn known to us in these later days as the *Angel*, or as it was subsequently called the *Old Angel*, to distinguish it from the house opposite, which became an inn about 1809-10, and was called the *New Angel*. The (Old) *Angel* it is now well known has disappeared, having been taken down in 1847, and the present Guild-Hall stands upon its once busy site. I have seen some deeds of property adjacent to that inn in which it is described as formerly "*the Bear*." Thus, in a conveyance of a house on the north side of Baxter-gate, dated 9th July, 1619, the property conveyed is stated to abut upon the messuage of Wm. Copley, Esq. "nowe called the Beare," on the north; which is just where the Old *Angel* premises were. Again, in a subsequent deed, dated 26th Nov. 1708, the same property is described as abutting on Baxter-gate south, and "the messuage or inn heretofore called *the Bear*, and now *the Angel*, in the occupation of James Thwaites, on the north." All this is clear enough. In an old roll of Mayors I have seen it stated that the King lodged

his good entertainment, a lease of a manor house in reversion, of good value." There are entries in the accounts of Willm. Cowling, late Mayor, passed 23rd Jany. 1603-4, for £4. "given by the King's Majesty when he came to the town to be given to the poor"—£4. "for money bestowed for Lords Cecil and Munster, and Sir Edwd. Stanhope's charges," on the 19th and 20th April, 1603.—40s. "money given to Mr. Powell, clerk of his Majesty's household"—30s. "for charge when the Lady Stanhope did lie at his house;" and on the 7th Aug. 10s. "to the keeper of the Queen's Majesty's chamber door." On the 8th of April, 1617, James I., on his progress into Scotland, to which he then paid his only visit since his accession to the throne of England, was again at Doncaster. He lodged this time, it is said, at a Mr. Gargrave's* but whether it was an inn or a private house appears uncertain. In a letter of the 4th June, 1617, given in Nichols's Progresses, p. 334, it is stated that the King knighted, amongst others, "an host of Doncaster." I have, however, never met with anything as yet confirmatory of this transaction. In Philipot's catalogue of the Knights of that date, the name of

"at Mr. Levytt's." He was no doubt an innkeeper, for I afterwards meet with a charge in the town accounts "for wine and sugar bestowed on Judge Hutton at Mr. Levett's." The White Bear, in Hall-gate, I am informed by respectable authority, is of comparatively modern origin. From 1715 to 1737 the site is described as "two cottages or tenements." Indeed it is almost within the recollection of some that it was originally two private dwelling-houses, which were converted into an inn under the goodly sign it now bears, the workmanship I am told of a person in the employment of the late Mr. Ald. Waterworth. From a large and shapeless block of wood the artist has well succeeded in producing an *Ursa Major*, which, whilst it is undoubtedly the admiration of all ordinary beholders, is to my own certain knowledge a nursery terror to all evil-doers amongst the more juvenile portion of the population of this town.

* Nichols's Progress of King James I. 11, 269.

Gargrave (if he was the host referred to) does not appear, nor does any other name that I can recognize as pertaining to the town.* Had such an occurrence taken place; I think we should by this time have been in possession of the name of the individual upon whom so unlooked for an honour is said to have devolved. It was customary in those days for corporate bodies to present the Sovereign with sums of money or other valuables on their visiting or passing through a town. Several instances of this practice at York are given in Mr. Davies's extracts from the municipal records of that city. When King Richard III. and his Queen visited York in 1483, the value of the gifts presented to them was between £400. and £500. Accordingly we find that, on this occasion of King James's visit to Doncaster, the Corporation, at a meeting on the 27th Feb. 1616-17, agreed "that 9 of the Aldermen provide scarlet gowns, and the Burgesses black gowns, to meet and attend his Majesty at his coming, against which time £10. in gold, and a comely purse to put the same in, to be provided and presented to his Majesty."

In October, 1608, THE PRINCE OF GERMANY visited Doncaster. He was entertained by the Corporation, after the custom of the day, with "a gallon of clared wine and a pottle of sacke, and iilb of sugar to it;" a mixture, which, if presented to a modern prince, I have no doubt he would prudently decline. In the same month occurs the following charge in the town accounts, but it most probably had reference to some subsidiary matter, and not to a visit to the town:—"Paid Mr. Clarke, cheiffe constable, for the provision

* There was a Sir Richard Gargrave the last possessor of the name at Nostel, which estate he had squandered and sold in 1613, and who afterwards lived as he best could in a low condition. He was alive in 1634, at the Temple, for sanctuary. (Hunter.)

of oxen & wax for the King's howshold, & for Captain Woods pencon the muster maister, October xxii.—£iii. 13s. 4d.

The next mention we have of a royal visit to Doncaster is in 1632, when CHARLES I. made a progress into Scotland. This is alluded to by Miller, apparently as in 1631, but we must remember that he is presumed to give the official year of the Mayor, which in this case was from 22nd Sept. 1631 to 27th Sept. 1632. I find several items of charges, "disbursed since xxth of March, 1632," by the Chamberlains of the borough. May 22d (in accordance with the usual custom before referred to) there was "given to his Majesty £50." Other charges in and after May also confirm the fact of the King being at Doncaster, viz. "Pd to Mr. Kay for his charge to Yorke to fetch a footecloth xiiis. iiid." "Pd to his Mat's Clarke of the markett xls." "Pd to two wrights for making billatt and faggots for his Mate's use iis. vid." "Pd to his Mat's officers xliiili. xiiis. iiid." "Pd to the Beadles for dressyng the streets against his Mat's coming xvid." "Pd to Mr. Levett for Kydds for his Mat's use xiiid. Paid to Mr. Mair for a piece of wood to make tressle feet for his Mat's use, vis. Pd to Thos. Peake for wood to bake his Mat's provision xis. Pd for wyne bestowed of them that watched his Mat's carriages iis. Pd for a purse to give unto his Maty xlvis. viiiid." In the month of February following we find, from the same last-mentioned source, the King at Doncaster on his return. "Paid for Billett when his Majesty came back again iis. vid." On this occasion it is probable that his Majesty lodged at the Three Cranes. I gather this from the following passage in "a relation of a short survey of 26 counties—in a week's journey—1634—by a Captain, a Lieutenant, and an Ancient (Ensign) Lansdown

MSS. Brit : Mus : No. 213, pp : 317—348* “Doncaster. Took up our lodging at the 3 Cranes,† where we found a grave and gentile Hoste, (no lesse you can imagine him to be, *having so lately entertayn'd and lodg'd his Majestie in his progresse.*") In 1639 the King was again at Doncaster. This was when, as Miller states, “the contention between England and Scotland respecting the church liturgy occasioned King Charles to make a journey into Scotland.” Amongst disbursements “from the 9th March 1639, untill the 19th March 1640.” I find in August, “Pd Mr. Maior for wine bestowed on Mr. Newton, usher to his Matie,” 1s. 8d. “Spent at Robte. Cowling's when Mr. Maior and the rest went to meet his Matie,” 3s. 8d. “Spent by Mr. Maior of him that carried the treasure,” 6d.; and “Pd Mr. Maior wch he bestowed in wine of his Matie's footmen,” 4s. 4d. In

* Brayley's Historical Illustrator, 1834, p. 93.

† This inn stood in French-gate, where are now the White Hart, and two or three adjoining tenements. The name is still attached to a public-house up a court known as Crane's-yard. In a deed of 1612 it is mentioned as an inn “sometymes called the Crane and now bearing the signe of the Crowne,” and occupied by Wm. Cowper. In Wainwright's “Wapentake of Strafford and Tickhill,” p. 35, is an engraving of a tradesman's token, inscribed “Thomas
H

Hunte, at the 3 Cranes, in Doncaster, his Half-penny.” T. S. and 1666.

3 cranes. In 1698 it was sold by George Sitwell, Esq. of Derbyshire, to Thomas Squire, of Doncaster, gent for £300. and then described as an “inn theretofore called the Crane, since then called the Crown, but then called the Three Cranes.” In 1733 it was called “the George and Crown,” and occupied by Mr. Gibbins. In 1788 it was sold to one Wm. Dey, and is spoken of as being divided, and made into several tenements, and in the occupation of sundry persons. It has been suggested to me that the 3 Cranes were probably a corruption of the 3 Crowns,—the Tiara, or triple Crown of Rome. I find, however, that there did exist an inn called the 3 Crowns, in High-street: it is mentioned in a deed of 1684 as the tenement of Cuthbert Gibson, gent.

August, 1641, the army which had been raised against the Scots was disbanded at Doncaster by the Earl of Holland. In July of the next year the King was at Doncaster, making preparations for the great struggle which was at hand. A letter by the King to Sir Wm. Saville, "given at our Court at Doncaster" the 21st July, 1642, is preserved in Hopkinson's Collections, and is printed in Hunter I. p. 24. In one of the copies of the roll of Mayors, I have seen it stated as an event in the Mayoralty of Robert Palmer (which would be from 23d Sept. 1641, to 22d Sept. 1642.) that "this year King Charles was at a sermon in Doncaster Church; the Mayor and Mr. Gamble carried the maces before his Majesty, and all the Aldermen were in their scarlet gowns." It is well known that on occasions of royal visits to a corporate town, and where the opportunity permits, the mace is, or ought to be, borne before the Sovereign by the Mayor. Whether it has been always usual thus to honour other members of the royal family is perhaps not so clear, but it appears from Drake's Eboracum, 126, that on the occasion I have before mentioned of the Princess Margaret passing through York in 1503, on her way to Scotland to be married to James IV. the Lord Mayor of that city preceded her with the mace on his shoulder. When, in August, 1645, the King (Charles) had formed the design of marching to join the Marquis of Montrose, in Scotland, he came from Welbeck to Doncaster. He entered the town on Monday, the 18th of August, having slept the night before at Edlington. He had with him 3,000 foot. But the spirits of his friends were broken by the reverses he had experienced; and the report that Leslie was at Rotherham with the Scotch army induced the King to abandon his design, so that on

Wednesday he left Doncaster and marched to Retford. The plague was then in Doncaster.*

On the 30th Nov. 1648, OLIVER CROMWELL appears to have been at Doncaster, and certainly the corporation of that day could not honestly be accused of waste, for in the town accounts we find a charge of but 9s. "paide for wine and biskit bestowed of Leften : Generall Crumwell," and of 1s. 2d. "paide for two bottels wch L. Generall Crumwell men toucke away with them." In 1653 he was proclaimed Lord Protector.†

I have never met with any further instances of royal visits at Doncaster by the Sovereigns, although members of the royal family have occasionally passed through or visited the town. It is to be regretted that we have not fuller and better accounts of these events in the old municipal courtier books.

Miller says that in 1678 the DUKE OF YORK lodged at Mr. Squire's, in Doncaster, on his way to Scotland ; and in 1761 the then DUKE OF YORK lodged at the

* Hunter, I. p. 25, referring to Symonds Iter. Harl. MSS. 944. Symonds, as quoted in the Topographer, vol. 4, p. 243, says that it was on Sunday, 17 August, 1645, *after sermon*, that his Majesty marched *that night* to Doncaster, and drew out Pontefract and Scarbrough Foot from Welbeck, and rested Monday and Tuesday at Doncaster. It seems probable from this that the time when (as Miller says at page 175) "King Charles attended divine service at Doncaster church," was when he was at Doncaster on the last occasion, in 1642, in R. Palmer's mayoralty, as alluded to in the old roll before mentioned, and not in 1644-5.

† Miller states (p 175) that the Mayor, Richard Bradford (elected 22d Sept. 1653) "was turned out of the Corporation for holding Lambert's stirrup." I wish I could see the authority for this. I believe there is nothing in the records of the Corporation in allusion of any kind to such a circumstance. If he was turned out, as stated, he must have been restored, for Bradford died in possession of his office of alderman and justice of the peace, John Ellerker being on the 11th Sept. 1664, elected an alderman in his room. Lambert was at Doncaster in 1656.

Angel. He was here also on 31st July, 1763, there being a charge of £1. 1s. 0d. for "the ringers when the Duke of York came thro', by order of the Mayor." In 1767 the KING OF DENMARK passed through Doncaster, and in 1802 the DAUGHTER OF LOUIS XVI. of France passed through on a visit to the Duke D'Artois, at Holyrood House, Edinburgh. The Doncaster newspaper of the time* states that on Sunday, the 7th October, 1787, the Duke of York arrived in the town, attended only by one gentleman in the chaise, and two servants on horseback. He alighted at Mr. Woodcock's, the Angel Inn, and after stopping about a quarter of an hour, proceeded to his seat at Allerton Mauleverer, near Wetherby. On Thursday, 18th October, 1787, the PRINCE OF WALES came through, on a visit to the Duke of York at Allerton Mauleverer. One of the horses drawing him fell dead just before he entered the town. In 1806 their late Majesties GEORGE IV. and WILLIAM IV., the one then Prince of Wales and the other Duke of Clarence, visited Doncaster at the Races, and were in lodgings at Mr. Lindley's, an architect, in one of the "pillared houses" in South Parade. An anecdote connected with this visit of their Royal Highnesses may here, I hope without fear of *scandalum magnatum*, be related. The two Princes above mentioned attended the Race Balls at the Mansion House, and one evening the Duke of Clarence left the rooms for the purpose most likely of having a stroll through the town, in company with Colonel Mellish, of Blyth, and some others. Falling in with some disturbance that was taking place in one of the streets, the party, with the apparent object of rendering some assistance to the constables in quelling the proceedings (but in reality, as

* The Yorkshire Journal and General Weekly Advertiser.

it was confidently supposed at the time, of having a little *royal fun*), captured and conveyed away to the gaol, *propriis manibus*, two or three of the offenders. Whilst the Royal Duke was busily engaged in securing his prisoners in the yard of the gaol, his jovial companions resolved to get up a little frolic as against him. They stole away from their illustrious friend, turned the key of the street door of the prison, and left the Royal Duke in full possession of the garrison and all its valuable contents. They then proceeded, with very long faces, of course, to inform the Prince of Wales "that they were extremely sorry that Clarence had got into a serious scrape, and was at that moment actually in the custody of the Gaoler of Doncaster,—there was the key,—the Prince of Wales was the only man in the town who could order his release." The Prince of Wales, we are told, immediately complied with the petition, and ordered the state captive to be liberated forthwith, and the illustrious prisoner joined very heartily in the laugh which the wickedness of his friends had thus raised against him.

On the 15th September, 1835, her present most gracious Majesty (whom God preserve!) then the PRINCESS VICTORIA, came to the races, with her august mother, the DUCHESS OF KENT, from Wentworth House. Their Royal Highnesses having expressed a desire that their visit might be conducted in the most private manner possible, it was arranged by the Earl Fitzwilliam that his distinguished guests and their suite should alight at Hall Cross House, the residence of the late John Branson, Esq. for refreshment, and for the purpose of receiving addresses. Accordingly two addresses were presented by deputations appointed by the Corporation, and the inhabitants of the town, in the presence of a large party of

nobility and gentry there assembled. The deputation from the Corporation consisted of William Sheardown, Esq. Mayor; Francis Maude, Esq. Recorder; Frederick Fisher, Esq. Town Clerk; the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. Nicholson); and the Senior Common Councilman (Mr. Joseph Smith). That from the inhabitants was composed of the Rev. John Sharpe, D.D. Vicar; the Rev. Henry John Branson, Incumbent of Christ Church; John Robinson, Esq. M.D. and Edmund Denison, Esq.

A short digression from the original object of this article shall conclude it, although the matter is not entirely foreign to the purport of it.

The loyalty of the town of Doncaster has not only never been called in question but has been on several occasions remarkably displayed. On the 15th June, 1660, it was ordered that Mr. Thomas Bradford, the Mayor, Alderman Edward Sheppard; John Langworth and Thomas Squire, two of the common council of the town, should take a journey to London (an undertaking in those days of no small consideration and trouble) at the Corporation's charge; and there, with the advice of the Recorder of Doncaster, and who else they should think good to advise withal, should frame an address on the behalf of the town, to be presented to the King's most excellent Majesty (CHARLES II.) in the name of the corporation, under the common seal of the town, with which they were entrusted for that purpose. They were authorised in their address to make a tender and freely to offer unto his said Majesty an annual fee-farm rent, which the town was forced to purchase lest it should have devolved into most improper hands.* In 1684, a disturbance took place

* Hunter, I. p. 27.

in the town between a party of drunken soldiers of Sir John Reresby's regiment and a company of theatrical performers, alluded to by Mr. Hunter (page 26). The business, which was but trivial in itself, reached the ears of the King, and there being statements and counter statements made by the parties, it was referred to the Lord Chief Justice Jeffries, at the Lammas Assizes, "and," says the record of the occurrence, "after the Lord Jeffries had examined the matter a little, he ordered Sir John Reresby to go home, and be at peace with the Mayor and Corporation of Doncaster, *for it was as loyal a town as any in England.*"*

On the 16th August, 1681, an address was voted to the King, "to give him thanks for his care in the preservation of the government now established by law both in Church and State," and which was afterwards presented by Sir George Cooke, Bart. and Philip Darcy, Esq. In 1683 (says Miller, p. 50), there were a number of addresses from different parts of the kingdom presented to King Charles II. on his escape from the Rye-house conspiracy. That presented from the corporation and inhabitants of Doncaster, and which is printed in Miller's work at full length, states that "they would cheerfully sacrifice their lives and fortunes in the defence of his Majesty's person, his lawful heirs and successors, against all conspiracies whatsoever. And that they dare the more confidently say it, in regard that they had not one factious seditious person amongst them, being all true sons of the Church of England, and loyal subjects to his most sacred Majesty." On the 4th April, 1688, it was agreed that Mr. Thomas Martin should have paid him by the Chamberlains £10. for his

* Corporation Courtier.

charges and pains for carrying up the last address. In 1793, the corporation subscribed five hundred guineas towards raising men for the internal defence of the country. In 1797 the same body contributed £1,000. to the exigencies of the government ; and in 1802, £500. towards the support of volunteer yeomanry and infantry.

On the 10th February, 1840, the marriage of her present Majesty with Prince Albert was solemnized, upon which occasion appropriate, loyal, and dutiful addresses were presented to those two illustrious individuals by Isaac Morley, Esq. Mayor, on the part of the corporation. This auspicious event had not long taken place before her Majesty, whilst returning from a drive in the Park, was shot at by a person named Oxford. An outrage of such a shameful and daring character naturally called forth, as might be expected, the unqualified abhorrence of the whole nation, and addresses from all parts of the kingdom poured in at the palace. The town of Doncaster was not behind others in its congratulations on her Majesty's providential deliverance. Addresses were accordingly voted by the Council and the inhabitants, which were duly presented by the Mayor, accompanied, on this occasion, at the request of a public meeting, by Mr. Thomas Walker and Mr. Charles Jackson, as a deputation from the inhabitants. The same Mayor had also the honour of presenting a congratulatory address to the illustrious parents of the Princess Royal, in 1841, on the occasion of her birth ; and at the Court at St. James's, held on the 28th of April, 1841, his worship had most graciously conferred upon him by the Sovereign the compliment of knighthood, an honour, it is believed, that had been never previously bestowed upon a chief

magistrate of Doncaster, within the compass of any known historical record, and one which it is hoped that Sir Isaac Morley may long be spared to enjoy.

CHARLES JACKSON.

DONCASTER, AUG. 9, 1851.

In Mr. Jackson's valuable communication, in your last week's paper, he slightly mentioned an event of sufficient interest to call for a more extended notice; and which contrasts the proposed peaceable and domestic visit of Queen Victoria, on her royal progress to her Kingdom of Scotland, with the occasion of Edward the Fourth's belligerent sojourn in this town in a more troublous period of England's history; when the "War of the Roses"—which "for a period of thirty years carried enmity and sorrow to every hearthstone in England, and cut off successive generations of many noble families in the field or on the scaffold." After the battle of Hexham, in 1463, in which the Lancastrians were routed, the Duke of Somerset was beheaded, as were also the Lords Ross and Hungerford. Sir Ralph Grey fled to Bamborough Castle, where he was invested, and, having met with a severe accident, was compelled to surrender. He was carefully tended, and after his recovery had the following sentence passed upon him, by the High Constable of England, at Doncaster—"Sir Ralph Grey, for thy treason the King had ordained that thou shouldest have thy spurs stricken off by the hard heels, by the hand of the master-cook, who is here present. Moreover he had ordained here, as thou mayest see, the King of arms and heralds, and thine own proper coat of arms, which they should teare off by thy body, that thou mightest be degraded, as well of thy worship, noblesse, and arms, as of thy knighthood. Also here is another coat of thine arms reverse, the which thou shouldest wear on thy body, going to thy deathwards, for that belongeth to thee after the law. Notwithstanding the degrading thee of knighthood, and of thy arms, and thine noblesse, the King pardoneth for the sake of thy noble grandfather, who suffered trouble for the King's

most noble predecessors. Now, Sir Ralph, this shall be thy penance : thou shalt go on thy feet to the town's-end, and there thou shalt be laid down and drawn to a scaffold made for thee ; and that thou shalt have thy head smitten off, thy body to be buried in the Grey Friars, and thy head where the King's pleasure shall be." This sentence was executed according to Miller in 1469 when "Edward the Fourth came to Doncaster and y^{re} was headed Sir Robert Wellys and another great captayn." This "great captayn" he states in a note to be Sir Ralph Grey, of York. Sir Ralph had sworn to be true to King Edward, and afterwards revolted to King Henry.

W. SHEARDOWN.