

ART. X.—*Concerning a Medal struck in commemoration of John Kendal, Soldier, Statesman, and Diplomatist.*
By JOHN F. CURWEN, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

Read at Appleby, September 10th, 1908.

OBVERSE.—Bust of John Kendal, to the right in armour; on his breast the cross of the Order of the Knights of St. John;* head bare, hair straight and long.
Legend:—

I O . K E N D A L . R H O D I . T V R C V P E L L E R I V S .

REVERSE.—Shield bearing the arms of Kendal;† a

* The Knights Hospitallers owe their origin to the piety of some wealthy merchants in Amalfi. In the year 1050 they obtained permission to build and establish a church and hospice, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, in the valley of Jehoshaphat, for the benefit of Christian pilgrims to Palestine. This hospice was placed under the charge of Gerard Tunc, a native of Amalfi, and several of the Crusaders ranged themselves under his banner with the object of aiding him in his philanthropic work. Thus, in the year 1113, was founded the Order of Hospitallers of St. John and Jerusalem. In the year 1130, Pope Innocent II. addressed a bull to the archbishops, bishops, and clergy of the universal church asking their assistance for the Order of St. John in the present maintenance and future support of a body of foot soldiers and cavalry, which had been raised for the protection of the pilgrims from the insults and rapacity of the Turcomans, by whom they were surrounded when going to, or returning from, the holy places of their devotion (Addison's *History of the Templars*, p. 63). This request of the Roman Pontiff met with a ready response, and the Hospitallers soon became a powerful and military body. After being driven from Jerusalem, the knights took Philereinos (November 9th, 1306) by surprise and made it their headquarters for two years, before they were able to capture the city of Rhodes. This latter expedition against the hordes of Saracen pirates that infested the island of Rhodes was undertaken by Grand Master Foulques de Villaret, who finally made a triumphal entry on the 15th of August, 1309. Three years later they were given the estates of the Knights Templars, and from that period the character of the Order changed. They began to live in greater luxury; dressing magnificently and eating sumptuously, they forgot their vows taken in defence of the Catholic faith and for the protection of the poor.

† The shield also appears on the so-called English tower of the Castle of Budrum, a castle built by the Hospitallers out of the ruins of the ancient city of Halicarnassus, at the entrance to the Gulf of Kos in Asia Minor. This English tower is situated at the south-east angle of the fortress, and was probably constructed by our countrymen, whose shields, to the number of twenty-six, are placed in a row over the gateway.



THE MEDAL TO SIR JOHN KENDAL.



TO FACE P. 168.

fret, on a chief three escallops, the whole abaissé under a chief of the arms of the Order of St. John, gules, a cross argent. Legend:—

✠ TEMPORE . OBSIDIONIS . TVRCHORVM . MCCCCLXXX.

(At the time of the siege of Rhodes by the Turks. 1480.)

Mint mark, a cross patée. Bronze, 2.2 inches. Illustrated in *Med. Hist.*, iij., 5; *Perry Supp.*, ij., i.; *Brit. Museum Cat. of Medals*. Very rare.

This medal, supposed to have been the first struck in honour of an Englishman, is of the school of Niccolo Fiorentino, cast and chased, of good but rather rude Italian workmanship. There are two slightly different specimens of it in the British Museum. One of these was found in Knaresborough Forest and deposited in the collection of Mr. Thoresby,* at whose sale it was purchased for a Duke of Devonshire for £3 3s. At the dispersion of the duke's collection, in 1844, this specimen was not included, but it was subsequently presented to the British Museum.

Camden, the historian and antiquary, in his *Britannia*, says that John Kendal was descended from the barons of Kendal, and here on his shield we find the fret and chief, presumably for Curwen, who were of *Kendal* before they exchanged lands with de Lancaster I. (circa 1170) and removed to Workington. Again, Patric de Culwen's younger brother (circa 1236) was known as John de Kendall. I cannot at present pretend to trace any connection here, but the coat of arms, the fact that Camden elsewhere claims relationship between the ancestors of Curwen and the barons of Kendal, and the knowledge that a Knight Hospitaller had to prove several generations of gentle birth, are significant.

* Ralph Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodiensis*, 1715, p. 591.

Sir John Kendal, preceptor of Willoughton, Halstone, and Great Ribstone* was elected Turcopolier by bull of Grand Master Pierre d'Aubusson,† dated at Rhodes, March 14th, 1476-7, on the elevation of John Weston to be Grand Prior of England.‡

The high office of Turcopolier was held exclusively by the English knights (of the Tongue of England), and in precedence was the third in rank in the dignity of the Order. By virtue of this office, John Kendal became commander of the cavalry of the knights, and his special duty was to guard the whole coast line of Rhodes. From this duty, the learned Brucardo says that the name of Turcopolier was derived, *i.e.*, "Turcas pellere" or "expellere," and the Maltese historians, Abela and Ciantar, have come to the same conclusion. For at this time the island of Rhodes was divided into seventeen districts or castellanias, each of which had a castle perched up on some high rock, and a chain of watch towers stood at intervals along the Rhodian coast. Over the whole of these fortifications Kendal was in supreme command, the coast guard against the frequent incursions of Turkish pirates.

It is not certain that he was present when some 80,000 Turks, under the command of Palæologos, a trusted general of Sultan Mahomet II., laid siege to Rhodes in the summer of the year 1480; § for we find that he was in Ireland in the spring of that year, when Edward IV. recommended "Sir John Kendale to all archbishops and others in authority in Ireland ordering them to aid in

* Each Body or Tongue of the Order had a certain number of priories and commanderies in its own country under the supervision of a Grand Prior. The Grand Prior of England had fifty-five such houses, of which we know that Kendal was in charge of these three.

† The Order was divided into eight Bodies or Tongues. Aubusson was of the Tongue of Auvergne; elected Grand Master in 1476; Cardinal in 1489; and died in Rhodes on the 3rd of July, 1503.

‡ Cf. Fra Vincenzo Castelli's *Memorie storiche su la dignità . . . del Turcopoliere* in *Nuova raccolta di opuscoli di Autori Siciliani*, i., 145, which appeared in Palermo in 1788 (Castelli's historical excursus on the dignity of a Turcopoliere in the new edition of the minor works of Sicilian authors).

§ Vertot, *Histoire des Chevaliers de St. Jean de Jérusalem*, 1778, vii., 439.

procuring men and money to assist the knights in resisting the unspeakable [*nefandissimi*] Turk."* To those who should contribute in defence of the Christian faith, the maintenance of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the island of Rhodes, Kendal had authority from Pope Sixtus IV.† to grant faculty to their confessors, with plenary indulgence, and for that purpose he was amply furnished with indulgences and pardons, printed on parchment, to which he affixed his seal. Two copies, one from the press of Caxton and the other from that of Lettou, are in the British Museum.

1480.

April 30.
Westminster.

Notification to all Catholic kings and princes and others, that as the king understands from Sir John Kendale, Turcopolier in the order of knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and lieutenant-general in Italy, England, Flanders and Ireland under Sir Peter Daubusson, grand master of the order and the convent of Rhodes, and their proctor in the court of Rome, that the Grand Turk has subdued all Greece and divers adjacent provinces, cities and islands and now intends to subdue the city of Rhodes and the islands pertaining to it and the castle of Seynt Piere in Turkey, which for a long time has been guarded at the cost of the master and convent of the order, and the said John has obtained from pope Sixtus certain indulgences for all who shall help in the defence of the Christian faith and the maintenance of the said order and the island of Rhodes and others pertaining to it and the said castle, and the pope has committed to him the execution of the same in Ireland. He has taken under his protection the said master and convent and their men and possessions and has granted that they may bear his arms and ensigns, as a sign of the affection which the king bears towards the order and because their island of Rhodes and other lands confront the unspeakable.

* *Calendar State Papers*, 1470-1485.

† The Pope was a great patron of the Order, and during the siege of 1480 sent troops to assist the knights.

(*nefandissimi*) Turk and are in peril unless they are supported by the favour of Catholic princes; and grant that if in the war which they are waging with the Turks they shall be despoiled by any pirates on the Christian side and shall not be awarded damages they shall have countermarque and reprisals.—*Cal. State Papers, Dom. 1470-1485.*

Many valuable documents connected with his career, some of them holograph, are preserved in St. Mark's Library and the archives of Venice. For instance, we find a letter dated November 4th, 1484, from the Grand Master Pierre D'Aubusson to Innocent VIII., in which he accredits as his ambassador to tender obedience on the Pope's accession, the venerable religious brother John Kendal (*Cal. State Papers, Venetian, 1202-1509, 148*). After this mission, Kendal must have succeeded John Weston as Grand Prior of England, for there is a decree of the Venetian Senate, dated April 19th, 1485, as follows:—

Some few months ago the Rev. Prior of England, John Kendal, arrived here as ambassador from the Grand Master of Rhodes. He stated that he had loaded a ship with oil, wine, and other things destined for the relief of Rhodes. He and the ship were detained at Modon by Costantino Loredano, our naval commander there, and although we gave orders for the prior's immediate release he suffered great loss from the detention of the ship by reason of the oil and wine being plundered, and his horse worth 80 ducats being stolen. His excellent qualities and great friendship for our nation are demonstrated by the fact that, when the bulls of the interdict were brought to England, he exerted himself in such wise with the King, enjoying much favour and power with his Majesty, that not only were these bulls not published nor observed, but with his own hands he tore them up, which doubtless was vastly to the repute of our State and to the advantage of our noblemen trading in England. Put to the ballot that there be paid to him the costs of the horses which he kept in Padua, and moreover as amends be there given him by our Signory 200 golden ducats in ready money.—*Ibid.*, 153.

I cannot refrain from giving likewise the text of a circular from the Doge and Senate to the Venetian governors:

of Padua, Vicenza, Verona, and Brescia, dated May 2nd, 1485:—

The Rev. Lord Prior of England, ambassador from the Right Rev. the Lord Grand Master of Rhodes, is about to come to Padua. Watch for his arrival, meet him on the way well accompanied, receive him with every mark of love and respect, accompany him to his lodging where you will have his expenses paid and those of his retinue from the moneys of our Signory. On his departure in like manner, you will accompany him with tokens of honour, making the usual offers and in such bland form of speech as of your prudence you will know how to do.—*Ibid.*, p. 154.

In 1492, Kendal was a commissioner to arrange a peace with France,* and went on a similar mission to the Archduke Philip in 1495-6.† In the year 1494 he was present at a tournament when Prince Henry was created Duke of York.

In 1495-6, a Frenchman named Bernard de Vignolles‡ made a confession at Rouen wherein he accused Sir Jehan Quendal, Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Rhodes, Sir Jehan Tong, his nephew, and John Horsey, archdeacon of London, of treasonable designs and of entertaining a correspondence with Perkin Warbeck. It is said that the three were in Rome together, and that they sought out a Spanish friar who was ready for money to take the life of Henry VII. and establish Warbeck on the throne.

A jury of 1499 called to try the Earl of Oxford consisted of the Earl of Buckingham, Earl of Northumberland, Earl of Kent, Surrey, and Essex, and John Kendal, prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

* Rymer, xii., 481.

† Rymer, xii., 579. Nicholas Kendall, writing to Secretary Windebank, August 24th, 1634, says:—"His ancestor, John Kendall, was the chief commissioner for the peace betwixt Henry VII. and Philip, Duke of Burgundy, which peace was called *Intercursus Magnus*, and the treaty was so solid, as the writer never read the like, and when, by his means, Don Carlos de Coloma got a copy thereof, he carried it beyond seas, saying it was the greatest jewel he found in England."—*Calendar State Papers*, Domestic, 1634-5, 195.

‡ For supposed confession and letters from Kendal, see letters of Richard III. and Henry VII. (*Rolls Series*), vol. ii., 318-325.

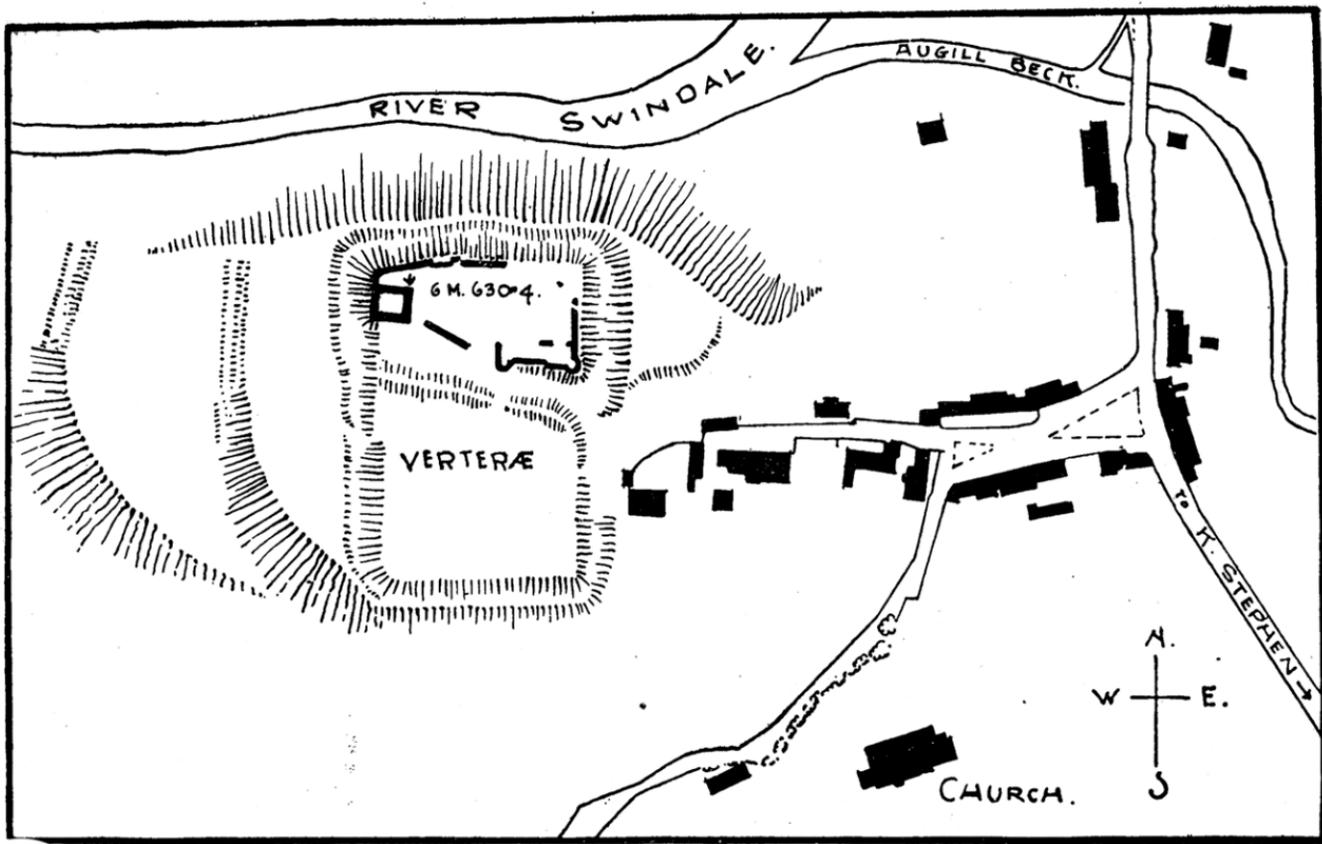
In 1500 Kendal was present at Calais at the meeting of Henry VII. and the Archduke Philip, and was one of those deputed to wait on Catherine of Aragon when she arrived in England in 1501. He apparently died in November of the same year.

A white marble slab, measuring four feet by three feet, carved with four shields beneath a crown, and which once decorated the walls of the ancient house of the prior of England at Rhodes,* is now set up in the entrance of Workington Hall. It was brought over by General Lane Fox Pitt Rivers, and presented by him to the late Mr. H. F. Curwen. The shields bear :—

- 1.—The Royal arms of England with those of Eleanor of Aquitaine.
- 2.—Goultée a chevron ; which is believed to be, argent, a chevron voided sable between gouttes de larmes, for St. Maure.
- 3.—A fret, on a chief three escallops, for John Kendal.
- 4.—Three palets, on a chief as many torteaux ; which is believed to be, gules, three palets argent, on a chief of the second as many torteaux, for Kedslie.

I am indebted to Mr. W. C. Kendall of Kirkby Lonsdale for first drawing my attention to this medal.

* Rottier's *Monumens de Rhodes*, pl. xlvi.ii., liii.



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SITE PLAN OF BROUGH CASTLE,