

THE BATTLE OF HEXHAM.

YEAR BOOK, 4 EDWARD IV., p. 18.¹*Easter Term.*² [1464].

ABOUT the Feast of Pentecost next before the term of Holy Trinity, the King Henry the Sixth was in the county of Northumberland, in the castle of Anwick, and with him the Duke of Somerset, and the Lords De Ros, Molins, Hungerford, the Queen, with the Prince Edward their son, and others, lords of Fraunce, Sir Pers de Brace, and with him many lords and knights of Eraunce, sent by the King of Fraunce to aid the King Henry and his lords; and then were taken all the Lords of Fraunce, except the aforesaid Pers à Holy Land, by Robert the Lord of Ogiell and others, knights and esquires of the county of Northumberland; and they paid their fines for ransom. And then after came into the same county the Lord of Mountegue, the brother of the Lord of Warwick, the King and his lords being at Everwick [York], and the King Henry, with his lords, &c., that is to say, the Lords De Roos, Molins, Tailbois, Raufe Gray, knight, Findern, Humfra de Nevel, the Duke of Somerset, with many others; but Raufe Percy, knight, was dead in another field, which is called Heggely More, which was pitched by the lords aforesaid against the said Lord of Mountegue; and all the other lords fled, except the said Raufe; and there like a man, was he slain; and then the lords aforesaid took their King Henry, with all their power of people, and took their field in Hexhamshire, in a place called Livells, on the water Devylle, against the aforesaid Lord of Mountegue, who joined battle with them, and had the victory of his enemies aforesaid; and there the Lord of Somerset was taken, and his head cut off at Hexham, and there he lies; and also were

¹ It is unnecessary to reprint the original French. The translation was furnished, says Mr. Jasper Gibson of Hexham, "by Mr. Thomas Chisholm Anstey, after a visit we paid to what we of Hexham regard as the field of battle—viz., the ground between Dukesfield and the Linnels, on the south side of the Devilswater. As to Queen Margaret's adventure, I may add, that besides the "Queen's Cave," there is a small runner, between Hexham and Devilswater, where tradition says her horse fell, and which is still called "The Queen's Letch," and has given its name to a farm-house built near it." The document is interesting in its clear evidence of King Henry's presence at the field of fight. See generally, 1 *Lel. Coll.* 499, 500.

² The battle of Hexham took place in the vacation between the terms. Easter term in 1464, began 18 Apr. and ended 14 May. Pentecost fell on 20 May. Trinity term ranged from 3 June to 18 June. The battle of Hedgeley Moor had been fought in Easter term, on Apr. 25.

taken Lords Ros, Molins, Hungerford, Findern, with many others, knights, esquires, and other men; and their heads were cut off, of Lords Ros, Molins, Hungerford, Findern, with two others, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in a place called Sandhill; and they lie in the Friars Minors and Augustine; and after the skirmish aforesaid, whether the King Henry was taken or not, there are divers sayings of this; but there were taken three of his followers, with his helmet, and two of his *croves* richly arrayed, and presented to the King Edward at Everwike, Wednesday, May 23, in the fourth year of his reign; and thereon the other lords and knights, viz. the Earl of Kime, Grey, Nevel, and Richard of Dunstable, with many others, fled out of the said field called Hexamfield; and the Earl of Kime was taken in Riddesdale long time after, and his head cut off at Newcastle aforesaid; and he lies in the Friars Minors; and the said Humphrey Nevel remained in the region of Derwent, within the county aforesaid, *in tabis*, south of the land, for the space of five years; and then he was taken in Holdernes, and his head cut off at Everwike, by the Lord of Warwike, and many others. And then after, in the same fourth year of the King Edward aforesaid, he went to Durham with his lords, and he sent into the county of Northumberland the Lord of Warwike, Mountague, Fauconbridge, Scrope, and many other lords, to seize the castle of Alnewike, which was filled with the Frenchmen, but then was not seized De Brace; and the castle of Brambrought, in which was the said knight, Sir Ralph Grey; and in the castle of Dunstanbrought, the servants of the lords aforesaid took the garrison, with a man whom they call Goys; and *en prevines* the castle of Alnewike was seized with the lords aforesaid, and was rescued by the men of Scotland, to whom the said Henry, sometime King, had delivered the town of Berwike; and they took the Frenchmen out of the castle aforesaid, against the will of the lords of King Edward, and then had them into the realm of Scotland; and through this surprise, which was made to the said lord the king, the Lord of Fauconbridge died at Durham, who was a noble knight; and then after the lords entered there into the castle of Alnewike; and then they took the castle of Dunstanbrought, and all those of the castle; and the said Goys had his head cut off at Everwike; and they delivered all the others; after which they took the castle of Brambrought, the which Sir Ralph Gray kept against the King Edward IV. after Midsomer; and the said Grey was carried to Doncaster, and there was deprived of the honour of a knight before many of the king's people—viz., his gilt spurs were hewed from his feet, and his sword and all his armour on him were broken and taken from him in the field—and then he was beheaded. And the cause of this punishment of him, in such manner, was by cause of his perjury and doubleness which he had done to King Henry the Sixth, sometime king, &c., and also to the King Edward the Fourth, who now is; and this decollation of him was about the day of Saint Benet, the fourth year of the king aforesaid; and then his head was carried to London the Saturday—viz., the Vigil of Mary Magdalene, the year aforesaid; and this was put on London Bridge on high upon a pole of plain appearance, that it might be viewed—whom God on his soul have mercy, &c.