

The exact day of the appointment is fixed by the following entry in the register in the Council office:—

"Att the Court att Bruges, the 13th day of Jan^r. 1658, st. n.

" Present, His Majestie.

" Duke of York.

" Lord Lieut. of Ireland (Ormond).

" Mr. Secretary Nicholas.

" Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.

" His Majestie declared his resolution to leave his Greate Seale in custody of an officer, and therefore had made choice of Sir Edward Hyde, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to be Lord Chancellor of England, unto whom he forthwith delivered the Greate Seale, and commanded him to be sworn; who took the oath of supremacy and allegiance upon his knee at the board, and Mr. Secretary Nicholas gave him the oath of Lord Chancellor of England, and then he took his place by his Majestie's command."

Great Seal, being lately dead at Paris." The Great Seal had been taken from Herbert on the removal of the Court from Paris in 1654. But this statement has misled almost all writers who have noticed the subject, to state that Herbert continued Lord Keeper as long as he lived, and that it was on the vacancy occasioned by his death that Hyde was appointed.