

Siege of Caën, the maces of the then serjeants-at-arms are described as of silver—a strong proof of the high position held at that period by the royal body-guard. In an illumination still preserved and reproduced in Planché's work on Costumes, we find depicted the presentation of a book by John Talbot to Henry IV. and his Queen, and in this is to be seen the earliest known example of a mace surmounted by a crown, as are the maces of gentlemen-at-arms at the present day, when these officers no longer act as a military body-guard, but as attendants on the royal person. That maces were employed as emblems of royal authority, not only in Parliament, but by civic corporations previous to the time of Richard II., is evidenced by the fact that, in 1344, under Edward III., the Commons prayed the King that none within cities and boroughs should bear maces of silver except the King's serjeants, but should have them of copper, and of no other metal; but, in 1354, the King granted to the Mayor and Sheriffs of London and Middlesex liberty to cause maces of gold or silver to be carried in the presence of the King, Queen, or children of the royal pair, although the right to use a mace had been previously possessed by them. Grants of maces by the King to favoured cities were not uncommon, and from an article in 'The Antiquary,' from the pen of George Lambert, Esq., F.S.A., to which the writer is indebted for much interesting information, we learn that these marks of royal generosity were sufficiently numerous to arouse the jealousy of the Commons. While the Parliament of Edward III. protested against the use of silver maces by the officers of cities and boroughs, that of Richard II. petitioned that no serjeant of any town should be allowed to carry his mace out of his own liberty, or township. But the boroughs were rapidly gaining in importance and strength, and could not be so easily denied or curtailed of privileges;

and gifts of maces still continued to be exercised and accepted as marks of royal favour or concession. In the fifth year of Henry IV., permission was granted to the City of Norwich to display a gold or silver, or silver-gilt, mace in the royal presence, and Henry V. gave to the Guild of St. George, in the same city, a wooden mace 'with a dragon's head at the top thereof.' Similar grants of civic maces were made by other monarchs, and Norwich, in these distributions, appears to have been specially fortunate. Elizabeth, in 1578, presented it with a mace, and James I., in 1605, permitted it to have two serjeants to carry two maces of silver, and gilt with gold, bearing the King's arms. After the Restoration, when the plebeian had wrested from royalty and nobility a much larger share of power than he had previously possessed, and become an object of fear as well as of respect, a thing to be cajoled and conciliated, the right to use the mace by civic corporations became almost a matter of course, although still derived from the Crown. The right was almost lavishly extended, and maces were frequently a graceful gift from wealthy commoners to their fellow-citizens. The whole of these were now surmounted by the crown, and the free use of this emblem came to be regarded as not only a proof of the loyalty of the authorities to the newly-restored régime, but as a rebuke to the Puritanical hatred of symbols which had prevailed in Cromwellian days. But the whole of the maces were not of the costly metals. In Llandiloes, Wales, there was one of lead, and at Langharne two still exist of wood. Nor was the shape, with which we are familiar, invariably observed. Two, at Fowey, were made representative of the locality, by being fashioned in the form of a pair of oars. And utility was consulted as well as appearance at times. The crown of the mace was so constructed as to unscrew from the bulb at the top of the shaft, which