

political training and abilities, but more frequently from noble carriage and expertness in arms.

Of what courage this gentleman was and how expert at feats of arms may be understood from the fact that he was one of the Eighteen chosen to assist King Henry VIII. at the tournament held between him and the French King before Guisness in France, A.D. 1519.

Of these jousts Camden says,—“They were at first public exercises of arms practised by noblemen and gentlemen, but soon became more than mere sports and diversions. They were first introduced A.D. 934, and were always managed by their own particular laws. A long time and in all parts their practise was continued, to that degree of madness and with so great a slaughter of persons of the best quality, especially here in England where it was more prominently introduced by Stephen, that the Church was forced by seven canons to forbid them with the penalty, “that whosoever should happen therein to be slain should be denied Christian burial,” and under King Henry III. by the advice of parliament it was enacted that the offenders’ estate should be