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BLESSED BE THY NAME.

Blessed be thy name for ever,
Thou of life the guard and giver ;
Thou canst guard thy creatures sleeping,
Heal the heart long broke with weeping,
God of stillness and of motion,
Of the desert and the ocean,
Of the mountain, rock, and river,
Blessed be thy name for ever.

Thou who slumberst not, nor sleepest,
Blest are they thou kindly keepst ;
God of evening's parting ray,
Of midnight's gloom, and dawning day,
That rises from the azure sea,
Like breathings of eternity ;
God of life ! that fade shall never,
Blessed be thy name for ever !

THE LION AND THE UNICORN ;

AND THE FORMER SUPPORTERS OF THE ROYAL ARMS OF ENGLAND.

The Lion and the Unicorn have been, for more than two centuries, the supporters of the arms of this Kingdom. They were adopted at the time of the union of the crowns of England and Scotland, under King James the First, in the year 1603, and have been used ever since. Previously, however, to that time, there appear to have been repeated changes in the choice of supporters of the royal arms.

The origin of supporters in general has been traced, by some antiquaries, to the ancient tournaments in which the knights caused their shields to be carried by servants or pages, under the disguise of lions, bears, griffins, blackamoors, &c. who also held and guarded the escutcheons, which the knights were obliged to expose to public view some time before the lists were opened. But perhaps, the best opinion is, that the first origin and use of them are derived from the custom of leading any one who was invested with some great distinction to the prince who conferred it, and of his being supported by two persons of rank when he received the symbols of honour ; and, as a memorial of that ceremony, his arms were afterwards supported by any two creatures which he chose. Hence it is no wonder, that, amongst the various strange and ideal animals, such as the dragon, the griffin, the cockatrice and the wyvern, figures used in heraldry ; the unicorn also, as we now see it represented, should have been employed as a supporter.

For the information and amusement of some of our readers, we subjoin an account of the supporters of the arms of England, from the reign of Richard the Second.

A.D.

- 1377 RICHARD THE SECOND. His supporters were *two angels in white, kneeling.*
- 1339 HENRY THE FOURTH. The line of Lancaster commencing with this monarch, he changed the supporters, and took, on the right side, *a white swan, with a gold collar and chain ;* and, on the left, *a white antelope, similarly collared and chain.*
- 1413 HENRY THE FIFTH. This martial king had for his supporters, on the right, *a lion crowned ;* on the left, *a white antelope, with a gold collar and chain.*
- 1422 HENRY THE SIXTH. On the accession of the House of York, in the person of this prince the supporters were, on the right, *a lion ;* on the left, *a white bull.*
- 1483 EDWARD THE FIFTH reigned but two months : this was during the regency of the wicked and ambitious Richard, Duke of Gloucester.— Supporters, on the right, *a lion ;* and on the left, *a white doe.*
- 1483 RICHARD THE THIRD, late regent, had for his supporters, *two white boars.* To these, GRAY, in his beautiful poem of *The Bard*, makes an allusion, in reference to the murder of Edward the Fifth, and of his brother Richard, Duke of York, which was said to have been committed in the Tower of London, by order of this cruel tyrant, their uncle :
"The bristled boar, in infant gore,
Wallows beneath the thorny shade."
The silver boar was his badge ; and he was generally known, in his own time, under the name of *boar* or *hog.*
- 1485 HENRY THE SEVENTH took for his supporters, on the right, *a red dragon ;* on the left, *a white greyhound.* In this king were united the houses of York and Lancaster.
- 1509 HENRY THE EIGHTH had, on the right, *a lion crowned ;* on the left, *a red dragon.*
- 1547 EDWARD THE SIXTH. This king made no alteration in the supporters, but retained the same as his father had.
- 1558 ELIZABETH resumed the supporters of her father, Henry the Eighth, and of Edward the Sixth ; viz : on the right, *a lion crowned ;* on the left, *a red dragon.*
- 1603 JAMES THE FIRST, (Sixth of Scotland,) king of Great Britain. This king assumed for supporters, on the right, *a lion crowned, and* on the left the UNICORN, which have ever since that period maintained their distinguished