

a monster.—That when Robert, Duke of Normandy, son to William the Conqueror, was besieging Antioch, which was attempted to be relieved by a mighty army of Saracens, he appeared with an innumerable host coming to the Christians' assistance, clad each in white, with a red cross on their banners, which instantly caused the Infidels to disperse, and leave the Duke to possess himself of the fortress."—These statements are no doubt connected in some degree with real events in history, but put into this dress according to the spirit of those times, to answer particular purposes of great public moment, and probably were accompanied with extraordinary effects.—The wars also, in which the English were at that time engaged, were of the same nature with those, in which St. George so distinguished himself, namely, the wars of the Christians against the Infidels in the holy land: He, therefore very naturally, according to opinions prevalent in those days was looked to as their patron and defender, his example was very naturally proposed to imitation, that in the recollection of his brave exploits the men might be incited to redoubled courage and perseverance—and so great was the interest, which England at that time felt in those wars, that out of a feeling of gratitude to the God of armies, they considered any remarkable success in battle as a miraculous interposition in their favor.—Hence the great fame of St. George with the English nation in particular.—Hence all those insignia, those banners, which have been adopted as emblematic of the events alluded to, and which woven into the history of our country, and going down from year to year, from century to century in connection with all its public transactions acquire fresh interest in the breasts of all her sons, and act as a stimulus to the imitation of those noble and heroic deeds, which are ever associated with the name of its Patron Saint. It is highly proper however to observe especially from this place, that notwithstanding the high estimation in which we hold him, we intend him no religious veneration—that his great popularity is mainly in connection with the general history of our country, and that, though we are assembled here this day, it is more for the

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