

## ROYAL AND OTHER ARMS.



**British Coat of Arms.**

A *Coat-of-Arms*, in the military trappings of the middle ages, was a surcoat worn by princes and great barons over their armour, and descending to the knee. It was made of cloth of gold or silver, of fur or velvet, and was charged with heraldic devices. It was first employed by the crusaders, and became hereditary in families at the close of the 12th century. It took its rise from the knights painting their banners or shields, each with a figure proper to himself, so as to be distinguished in battle, when clad in armour. It is now a relic of the ancient armorial insignia, divested of the surcoat on which it used to be embroidered. It is any device assumed, as by a state or country, as an emblem; the official insignia.

The *British Coat-of-Arms*, or *Royal Arms*, consists of the quartered shield, the first and fourth quarters on a red ground containing the three golden lions passant-guardant, is for England; the