

INVESTITURE of His Imperial Majesty, NAPOLEON III, EMPEROR of the FRENCH, with the Ensigns of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

At the Court at Windsor Castle,
April 18, 1855.

A CHAPTER of the Most Noble Order of the Garter having been summoned for this day, the following Knights Companions, in their mantles and collars, assembled in the Guard Chamber; viz:—the Marquess of Exeter, the Duke of Richmond, the Marquess of Lansdowne, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, the Marquess of Salisbury, the Duke of Cleveland, Earl De Grey, the Marquess of Abercorn, the Marquess of Hertford, the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Clarendon, Earl Spencer, Earl Fitzwilliam, the Duke of Northumberland, the Earl of Ellesmere, and the Earl of Aberdeen, attended by the undermentioned Officers of the Order, in their mantles, chains, and badges; viz:—the Bishop of Winchester, Prelate; the Bishop of Oxford, Chancellor; the Honourable and Reverend the Dean of Windsor, Register; Sir Charles George Young, Knight, Garter Principal King of Arms; and Sir Augustus William James Clifford, Baronet, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. At half-past three o'clock the Knights Companions were severally called over by Garter, and proceeded into the Grand Reception Room, when the Sovereign, and His Royal Highness the Prince Albert, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, and His Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen, having passed to the Throne Room, the Knights Companions, with the Officers of the Order, proceeded into the presence of the Sovereign.

The Sovereign being seated in Her Chair of State, the Knights Companions took their respective seats at the table, the Prelate standing on the right hand of the Sovereign, the Chancellor on the left hand, the Register, Garter, and Black Rod at the bottom of the table.

The Chancellor then, by command of the Sovereign, promulgated a new Statute, dispensing with the existing Statutes of the Order, in as far as required for the especial purpose therein mentioned, and in consideration of the high friendship and close alliance now happily subsisting between the Sovereign and His Imperial Majesty, Napoleon III, Emperor of the French, ordaining and declaring His Imperial Majesty a Knight of this Most Noble Order, any statute, decree, rule, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the two Senior Knights Companions present, thereupon retired from the Chapter, and conducted the Emperor of the French from His Imperial Majesty's Apartments to the Chapter Room, between their Royal Highnesses, preceded by Garter (bearing the Ensigns of the Order upon a crimson velvet cushion) and by Black Rod.

On entering the Chapter Room, His Imperial Majesty was received by the Sovereign and the Knights Companions standing, and on approaching the Sovereign was seated in a Chair of State on the right hand of Her Majesty.

The Sovereign announced to the Emperor of the French that His Imperial Majesty had been declared a Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Garter then, kneeling, presented the Garter to the Sovereign, and Her Majesty, assisted by His Royal Highness Prince Albert and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, buckled it on the left leg of His Imperial Majesty, the Chancellor pronouncing the Admonition.

Garter next presented in like manner the Ribband with the George, and the Sovereign, assisted as before, put the same over the left shoulder of His Imperial Majesty, the Chancellor pronouncing the Admonition.

The Sovereign thereupon gave the Accolade to the Emperor of the French; and His Imperial Majesty then passing round the table received the congratulations of each of the Knights Companions present, and then resumed his seat.

The Chapter being ended, the Knights Companions were severally called over by Garter, and, with the Officers of the Order, retired from the presence of the Sovereign with the usual reverences.

During the ceremony a Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms was in attendance at the door of the Chapter Room; and a special Guard of Honour of the Honourable Corps was on duty, in attendance upon His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French. A Guard of Honour, consisting of two Companies of the Grenadiers, and one Company of the Coldstream Guards, with the Band of the latter corps at their head, were posted in the Great Quadrangle of the Castle, and, on the termination of the Investiture, saluted and retired.

Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of the French, attended by the Princess d'Essling, the Countess de Montebello, and the Baroness de Malaret, witnessed the August Ceremony, as did also the French Ambassador and the Countess Walewski, and the following members of His Imperial Majesty's suite; viz.—Marshal Vaillant, Minister of War, the Duke of Bassano, the Count of Montebello, Colonel Count Ney, Count Fleury, the Marquis de Toulangeon, and Count Tascher de la Pagerie.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Cambridge, and the Princess Mary of Cambridge, several of the Great Officers of State and Cabinet Ministers, with the Officers of the Royal Household, were also present.

At the conclusion of the Chapter, Her Majesty accompanied the Emperor to his apartments, followed by the Empress and His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Imperial and Royal Suites. Her Majesty and the Prince then returned to their own rooms.

The Officers of the Order had afterwards the honour of being severally presented to Their Imperial Majesties.

In the evening a State Banquet was given in St George's Hall to their Imperial Majesties, at which were present the above-named Royal, Noble, and Distinguished Personages; the Knights Companions and Officers of the Order.

During the Banquet Her Majesty drank to the health of Her Illustrious Visitors the Emperor and Empress of the French.

In the Evening a Grand Concert was performed in the Music Room, to which a numerous party of the Nobility were invited, and the town of Windsor was illuminated.

At the Court at Windsor Castle,
April 18, 1855.

The Queen, as Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, hath been graciously pleased, by Letters-Patent under Her Royal Sign Manual and the Great Seal of the Order, bearing date this day, to dispense with all the statutes and regulations usually observed in regard to Installation, and to grant unto His Imperial Majesty NAPOLEON III, EMPEROR of the French, Knight of the said Most