

Mr. Long Wellesley will now enjoy the courtesy title of Viscount Wellesley, or that of Lord Maryborough, whichever he may choose.

The following extract from Southey's *Life of Wesley* will be a proper accompaniment to the preceding narrative:—

While Charles Wesley was at Westminster, under his brother, a gentleman of large fortune in Ireland, and of the same family name, wrote to the father, and inquired whether he had a son named Charles; for if so, he would make him his heir. Accordingly, his school-bills, during several years, were discharged by his unseen namesake. At length a gentleman, who is supposed to have been this Mr. Wesley, called upon him, and after much conversation, asked if he was willing to accompany him to Ireland. The youth desired to write to his father before he could make an answer. The father left it to his own decision, and he, who was satisfied with the fair prospects which Christ-church opened to him, chose to stay in England. John Wesley in his account of his brother, calls this a fair escape. The fact is more remarkable than he was aware of; for the person who inherited the property intended for Charles Wesley, and who took the name of Wesley, or Wellesley, in consequence, was the first Earl of Mornington, grandfather to the Marquis Wellesley and the Duke of Wellington. Had Charles made a different choice, there might have been no Methodists, the British empire in India might still have been menaced from Serin-gapatam, and the undisputed tyrant of Europe might at this time have insulted and endangered us on our own shores."—*Southey's Wesley*, vol. i. p. 45. Charles Wesley went to Westminster in 1716, and was elected on the foundation of Christ Church in 1726. Garrett Wellesley, Esq. of Dargan, M. P., for the County of Meath, was then living; he was the son of Garrett Wellesley, who had married Elizabeth, the eldest surviving daughter of Mr. Dudley Colley. This Mr. Garrett Wellesley, junior, died without issue in 1728, (a few years after the above alleged interview,) and his estates devolved upon his cousin, Richard Colley, who took the surname and arms of Wellesley. It was this Richard Colley Wellesley, who, in 1746, was raised to the title of Baron Mornington in the Kingdom of Ireland. His son Garrett was made Earl of Mornington in 1760, and was father of the late Marquis Wellesley and the present Duke of Wellington. The circumstance of Garrett Wellesley dying without issue, nearly at the period mentioned by Southey, seems to render the narrative not improbable. The substitute, however, of Charles Wesley was only Baron, not Earl of Mornington.

#### POINTS OF ETIQUETTE.

At an adjourned meeting of the magistrates for the Kensington division of Middlesex, at which were present Mr. L. T. Floode (chairman,) Captain Bague, R. N., Captain Fitzgerald, and Messrs. G. Scott, R. Tubbs, W. B. France, J. Frere, and J. Percival, held for the purpose of further revising the jury lists of the respective parishes within the division, after several alterations had been made in the designation of persons calling themselves "coal merchants" and "wine-merchants" to that of "dealer," the very learned Chairman laid before the bench a letter he had received from Mr. James Pitt, of Chelsea, who, at the previous sitting of the magistrates, had applied to have his designation of "gentleman" altered to that of "esquire," on the ground that he had been a captain in the St. James's Volunteers, in which that gentleman prayed that a decision might be come to in his case, the bench having on the last occasion been equally divided on the subject. The Chairman said, he need not tell the bench that the case of Mr. Pitt had not been decided at the previous sitting, although the question had been put to the vote. He had contemplated deeply on the subject matter of discussion, and he regretted that a magistrate should have said that he would not vote for a volunteer captain or even a militia captain being made an esquire. The merits of the case were then fully discussed by all parties: Sir E. Coke, Camdem, Blackstone, the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and Mr. White of the police-court, were all quoted as authorities by the various speakers; when, after a warm and lengthened debate, being the second one on a matter of such weighty import, the chairman decided it was a "floating question;" and having put the motion, the designation of Mr. Pitt was, after due deliberation, altered from "gentleman" to that of "esquire."

The following extracts from DODD'S *MANUAL OF DIGNITIES*, in which the titles of *Esquire* and *Gentleman* are fully examined, while it shows the ignorance of the Middlesex Bench, may convey useful information to our readers:—

#### ESQUIRE.

"No man shall be received as an esquire who cannot bring a certificate that he has conquered some lady's obdurate heart; that he can lead up a country dance; or carry a message between her and her lover, with address, secrecy, and diligence. A squire is properly born for the service of the sex, and his credentials shall be signed by three toasts and one prude before his title shall be received in my office."—STEELE.

That courtesy of British society which extends the title of Esquire to every person who has received the education, or conforms to the habits of a gentleman, naturally requires that some account should be given of those who are entitled to the distinction

as contrasted with those who enjoy it *by courtesy*. The following is a list of all who, by right, possess this title, and whom it would be incorrect otherwise to describe in any ceremonial or legal proceedings.

The sons of peers, whether titular lords or titular honourables.

The eldest sons of peers' sons, and their eldest sons in perpetual succession.

The eldest sons of knights, and their eldest sons in perpetual succession.

The sons of baronets.

The esquires of the knights of the Bath, (each of whom constitutes three at his installation.)

Esquire: by prescription, as lords of manors, chiefs of clans, &c.; and all others being tenants of the Crown *in capite*, and not being peers, baronets, or knights.

Esquires by patent, and their eldest sons in perpetual succession.

Esquires by office, as

Justices of the peace while on the roll,

Mayors of towns during mayoralty,

Sheriffs of counties, who retain the title for life.

All who in commissions signed by the Sovereign are ever styled esquire, retain that designation for life, as for example captains in the army; but the claim of captains in the navy is, not founded on this, for though they are of higher relative rank, their commissions are only signed by the lords of the Admiralty.

Barristers at law.

Bachelors of divinity, of law, and of physic.

The above list does not profess to state the relative rank of these different esquires amongst themselves, but merely the elements which compose the class. For all particulars respecting rank, the reader is referred to the article on "PRECEDENCE."

The origin of the title esquire is of considerable antiquity, and its source is coeval with that of knighthood; the designations of armiger, scutifer, scutarius, ecuyer, and esquire, are all derived from the carrying of knight's shields, and other portions of his arms. But it was not till the time of Richard II. that it came to be expressly conferred by patent or investiture; and this consists in the imposition of a collar of SS, or the putting on a pair of silver spurs, the knights having had golden spurs, and the squires silver.

The Collar of SS. is a mode of creation frequently referred to, but not commonly understood.

By some authorities it is described as having been founded in memory of a Roman senator, Simplicius, who with Faustinus suffered martyrdom under Diocletian; and as consisting of a silver collar, between the links of which were twelve small pieces of silver engraved with the twelve Articles of the Creed, together with a single trefoil; the image of St. Simplicius (SS.) hung at the collar, and from it seven plates representing the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost.

By others, the title of SS. is derived from the shape of the links representing the double S in their outline.

Others, again, maintain that these S links stood as the initial of the word "*souvenez*."

But whatever may have been the real meaning of the name which these collars bear, it appears that in the reign of Edward IV. they were made principally of silver roses, having a white lion attached; while those given by king Richard III. had a white boar suspended. These were called "collars of the king's livery," (from the *liberate*, it is said, which issued from the great wardrobe,) and were granted by the sovereign to persons of both sexes and of various ranks; they continued to be conferred till the reign of Henry VII., by whom the ensigns of the Order of the Garter were instituted. By a statute of Henry VIII., in 1532, it was enacted, that "no man, unless he be a knight, should wear any collar of gold, named a collar of S.;" and though it seems to have been then the peculiar badge of knights bachelor, its use is now confined to the chief justices and the chief baron, the lord mayor of London, the king's heralds, serjeants at arms, and a few other functionaries.

The addition of the word "esquire" to any name, does not continue necessary when the person has been raised to a higher rank, and therefore it differs essentially from the dignity of knighthood. A knight is not divested of his title by any subsequent advance in rank or precedence, and the word "knight" after his name is quite necessary, even if he became a duke; but an esquire, by receiving knighthood or any superior distinction, is stripped of his previous title, and totally removed from the class of which he was formerly a member.

The addition of the word esquire to the names of those who did not derive the title from being knights' attendants, is stated to have originated as far back as 1245; but now, in the ordinary intercourse of society, it is conferred on all who have any pretensions to the bearing of gentlemen, and to such an extent is this carried, that its application confers no honour, though its omission constitutes a negative offence. The number of persons who by birth are legally entitled to the designation of esquire, far exceeds any possibility of calculation; for they include the eldest sons of all sons of peers, the eldest sons of esquires by patent, the eldest sons of knights and all the eldest sons of these three classes in perpetual succession, as also all the sons of baronets; hence tens of thousands of gentlemen who receive this affix, apparently as a matter of courtesy, really enjoy a legal right; and though it be more frequently used than any other courtesy distinction, yet the right to it is more extensively possessed.