

The London Gazette

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From Tuesday July 24. to Saturday July 28. 1733.

TH*Hague, July 31, N. S.*
E Sovereign of the most Noble Order of the Garter having constituted the Honourable William Finch, Esq; his Majesty's Plenipotentiary to the High and Mighty Lords the States-General of the United Provinces, and John Anstis, Esq; Garter Principal King of Arms, to be his Plenipotentiaries for investing his Highness William-Charles-Henry-Frifo, Prince of Orange and Nassau, lately elected a Companion of that Order, with the Garter, George, and the other Ensigns and Habits thereof; Mr. Anstis landed at Rotterdam upon Friday the 17th Day of July, N. S. in the Evening, and next Morning hastened to the Hague, where attending upon Mr. Finch, they in the Afternoon had a private Audience of his Highness, to whom Mr. Finch made the proper Salutations, and then they delivered their Credential Letters sign'd by the Sovereign, and sealed with the Signet of the Order; which his Highness having perused, was pleased to declare, that he was very sensible of the great Honour his Majesty design'd for him: Garter then taking the Book containing the Statutes of the Order, attested under the Great Seal, enclosed in a Silver Box whereon the Arms of the Sovereign were engraven, and having kissed it, delivered the same to Mr. Finch, who presented it to his Highness, that he thereby might be fully apprized of such Engagements as would be required from him upon his Acceptance of this Order. To which his Highness replied, That he would take the first Opportunity to examine every Article of them.

Upon Wednesday the 22d following, his Highness declared his Readiness to accept these Statutes under some Reservations, which were reduced into Writing in the following Words: *Quatenus observari possint, ac debeant, dum verbo Dei & professe a Nobis Religioni non adversarentur, & quatenus iuribus & privilegiis Sacri Romani Imperii, & iuribus & privilegiis Reipublice Federati Belgii inferioris, sive in particulari earum Provinciarum quarum sumus Gubernator, aut juramentis quibus eisdem ascripti sumus, nullatenus derogarent.*

The Plenipotentiaries agreed to allow all these several Conditions and Reservations; whereupon his Highness having signed and sealed an Instrument, certifying his Reception of the Order in that Manner, Garter King of Arms then delivered the Garter (the chief Ensign of the Order, which was adorned with 545 Brilliant Diamonds) to Mr. Finch, which they forthwith buckled upon the Left Leg of his Highness, in his House at the Hague; Garter then reading the usual Ad-

monition in the English Language, which his Highness understands, and speaks very distinctly.

Then they placed over the Left Shoulder of his Highness the Blue Ribbon with the George pendant thereto, bringing that Ribbon athwart under his Right Arm, Garter then reading the accustomed Admonition; and the irradiated Star, or Glory, was fixed upon the Left Side of his Highness's Coat, pursuant to a Dispensation granted under the Seal of the Order for that special Purpose.

It being agreed, that the remaining Rites of the Investiture should be performed in his Highness's House, called the House in the Wood, distant a Mile and half from the Hague, which was built by the Princess Amelia de Solms, Relict of Frederick-Henry, Prince of Orange, and Knight of this Order; Preparations were made for that Purpose in the Salon there, call'd the Salon d' Orange, because it is adorned with the Representations of the heroidal Exploits of the same Fredrick-Henry, painted by the greatest Masters.

The upper Part of this Room was upon this Occasion raised two Steps, and rail'd in, and covered with Turkey Carpets; in the Middle whereof a Stall was erected with a Canopy for the Sovereign, in which Stall, above the Chair, his Royal Arms and Titles were fixed; and at some Distance, on the Left Side of it, another Stall was erected, with a Canopy, for his Highness, having an Escutcheon of his Arms, inscribed with his Styles, set up likewise over the Chair: Which two Stalls were placed conformable to the Situation of them in the Chapel at Windsor. On the Right and Left Sides of those Rails Spaces were left, wherein Chairs were placed for the Reception of the Deputies of the States of Guelderland, Friseland, and Groningen, and for Ladies, Noblemen, and Persons of great Distinction. On the Sides of this Salon there were Scaffolds built for other Spectators, covered with Cloth. During the Time that these Preparations were making in that House, his Highness was pleased to demand from Garter, whether the Knights Elect, when they came to receive their Installations at Windsor, were not apparelled in some particular Under Habits, which they wore upon their Introductions into the Chapter-house there? Whereunto Garter returned Answer, That King Charles the Second, in the Year 1661, observing, that the Companions at that Time appeared in Under-Habits made of different Materials, and of different Fashions; therefore thought fit to ordain, that for the future all Knights Companions should wear under their Surcoats, a Doublet with the ancient Trunk Hose, or Breeches, made