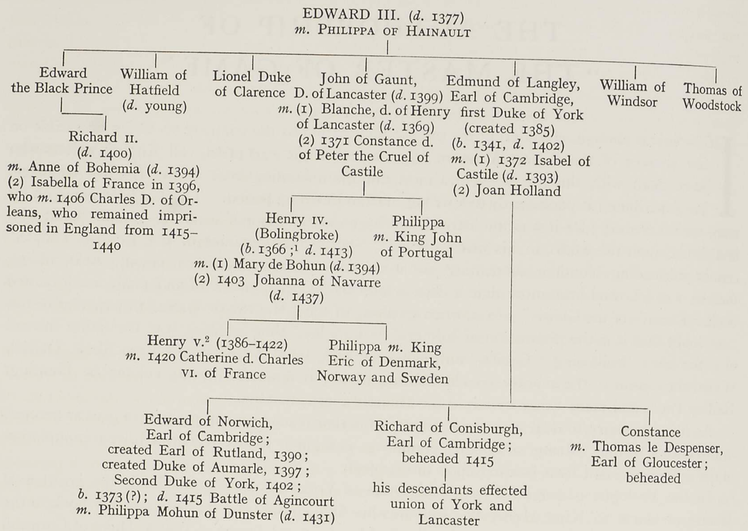
had the work been dedicated at an earlier period by the uncle to his youthful nephew, the former would scarcely have "submitted his little simple book" to a mere child's "noble and wise correction." It was exactly at that period, when it lay very much in the interest of the thrice disgraced Duke of York to regain the King's good will and to conciliate the powers at court. So we see that the flattering language of the dedication was probably intended to serve a purpose.

The following genealogical table may prove of use to show the royal descent of the author:



THE CAREER OF EDWARD, DUKE OF YORK, AUTHOR OF "THE MASTER OF GAME"

EDWARD PLANTAGENET, known also, from the place of his birth, as Edward of Norwich, was, it is almost certain, born in 1373, a year after the marriage of his father, Edmund of Langley, with Isabella of Castile, second daughter of Pedro the Cruel. Edmund of Langley, the founder of the

[1] The date of Henry IV.'s birth is nowhere recorded with exactness, as he was born in a private station, and the existing evidence is of a conflicting nature (Wylie, iv. 330).

[2] About the birth of no English King since the Conquest is so little authentic known as of Henry V.'s birth, for at the time nobody could have foretold that he would ascend the throne. Various historians give different dates: Ramsay, following Williams, gives August 9, 1387; *Encyc. Brit.* and Pauli, August 9, '87; Brockhaus, August 29, '87; William of Worcester, Tyler, Strickland, Holt, Langley, Coxe, Luders, Solly-Flood, Church, *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* and Gardiner, all accept 1387 as the year of his birth, and, as Wylie points out, it is placed on his statue in Agincourt Square, Monmouth. Others give 1388, as in *Archæol.* xx. 29, "Wills of Kings" 404, Sandford, Blore, Lingard, Skeat, Chaucer, i. 83, Banks, *Yorks. Arch. and Top. Jour.* iv. 267, *Notes and Queries*, March 5, '87; while Clarke and Wright even put it a year later. Wylie, on the other hand, proves with clearly reasoned data that 1386 was the year of his birth, having been born at the castle at Monmouth in August 1386, when his mother was only 16 years old. We know that he was 26 years old when he was crowned on April 9, 1413, that he was 34 years old when his brother Thomas died on March 22, 1421, and that he was 36 when he himself succumbed on August 31, 1422. Moreover, as Wylie points out, the records of the Duchy of Lancaster show that his mother and father, Mary de Bohun and Henry Earl of Derby, were keeping house at Monmouth in the summer of 1386, and that their next son, Thomas, was born in

House of York, who, it is said, was the first to use the rose as an emblem, was the least capable of Edward III.'s sons. He occupied various posts at Court, the fact that he was Richard II.'s Master of Game and Master of the Mews being one of the reasons why so many writers erroneously attributed the "Master of Game" to him. He also was one of the Commissioners of Government during the minority of his nephew Richard II., and, later on, was three times Regent of England during Richard's absence in Ireland and elsewhere.[1]

Edmund of Langley proceeded in 1381 at the head of an army to Portugal to assist his brother John against the King of Castile. He was accompanied by his wife and his youthful son Edward, our author. There the latter, who had been knighted by Richard II. at his coronation, was married as a boy of eight or nine to Beatrice, daughter of King Ferdinand of Portugal, as one of the conditions of the Treaty of Estremoz. But as Ferdinand refused to let the child-wife accompany her equally youthful spouse back to England, the marriage was annulled, and she was shortly afterwards re-married to the Infante John of Castile, with whose father her own parent had recently made peace.[2]

In 1390 King Richard created the young Prince Edward Earl of Rutland, to hold that dignity during the life of his father, together with rents of the annual value of 800 marks secured on the castle and lordship of Okeham, and the whole of the forest of Rutland. In 1392 he was made, in spite of his youth, Admiral of the Northern Fleet, and in the following November Admiral of England, an office which he retained until 1398. When Richard's relations with Gloucester and Arundel grew more and more strained, he showed increasing favour to Edward, and, if we can believe Creton, there was no man in the world whom Richard of England loved better than Edward, and according to one authority ("Ann. Richardi," p. 304), Richard at one time contemplated abdication in Edward's favour.

In 1392 Edward, in conjunction with his uncle, John of Gaunt, visited France to negotiate at Amiens for peace. Two years later he accompanied the King on his first expedition to Ireland, and in the subsequent year he acted as Richard's principal plenipotentiary in the negotiations concerning the latter's marriage with Isabella of France, a suggested marriage between Rutland himself and Jeanne, a sister of Isabella, coming to nothing. He figured prominently at the costly meeting at Guisnes between the Kings of England and France in October 1396, which preceded the marriage. In the spring of 1397 Edward went abroad again on a mission to France and the Princes of the Rhine, and important positions rained down on him. He was made Earl of Cork, he was Constable of the Tower, Warden of the Cinque Ports with the reversion of the Governorship of the Channel Islands, Warden and Chief Justice of the New Forest and of all the forests south of the Trent, Lord of the Isle of Wight, and Warden of the West Marches. It has been pointed out[3] that it can hardly have been a mere coincidence that just before taking his revenge upon the revolting Lords Appellant, King Richard entrusted so many important strategical points along the Channel to the man who already commanded the fleet. When the crisis came Rutland took a leading part in the arrest of his uncle Gloucester, and of Arundel and Warwick, and was given the first-named's office of Constable of England. If the informer Halle spoke the truth at

London in 1387, Doyle, i. 397, giving the date as Sept. 29, 1387. Wylie, so extremely accurate in his dates, makes a slight slip, when (i. p. 17,) he declares that Henry of Monmouth when created Prince of Wales on October 6, 1399, was a lad *twelve* years of age; were this so his argument that he was born in the summer of 1386 would fail. Henry of Monmouth was not the eldest son, a boy having been born in April 1382, when his mother was only 12 years of age, but he was the first to be reared (Wylie, iii. 324–5).

[1] Hardyng says of him: "as fayre a person as a man might see anywhere." Harl. MS. 1319 contains a portrait of him, and his will is given by Nichols. His devotion to sport is well known:

"When all the lordes to Councell and parlyament
Went, he wolde to hunte and also to hawckyng."

[2] Froissart, vol. iv. chap. xxi., makes a misleading mistake in connection with this incident, for he calls Edmund of Langley's son "John," instead of Edward. He says in another place (ii. ch. 84), when speaking of this marriage, that "young as the married couple were they were both laid in the same bed" (Archæol. vol. 46).

[3] "National Biography," vol. xlv. p. 401.