selves up in the fortresses belonging to their order, to pre­vent their being torn in pieces ; and this precaution was re- , presented to the king of Aragon as an act of rebellion. He marched with a body of troops against one of these for­tresses. The knight who commanded surrendered imme­diately, and told the king the truth, assuring him that they desired nothing but a fair trial. With this declaration the king was extremely moved, took the whole order into his protection, and forbade any to abuse or insult them under the heaviest penalties. At the same time he declared him­self ready to receive any informations against them that were supported by proofs; but he threatened the informers with punishment if they should fail to support their accusation.

These facts plead strongly for the innocence of the Tem­plars, or at least they prove that their guilt must have been exaggerated ; and many of the accusations advanced against them flatly contradict each other, and many members of this unfortunate order solemnly avowed their innocence while languishing under the severest tortures, and even with their dying breath. It therefore seems highly probable that King Philip set on foot this bloody tragedy with a view to gra­tify his avarice, and glut his resentment against the Tem­plars, and especially against their grand-master, who had highly offended him. The principal cause of his invincible hatred against them was, that in his quarrel with Boniface VIII. the knights espoused the cause of the pope, and fur­nished him with money to carry on the war.—They origi­nally wore a white habit, with red crosses sewed upon their cloaks as a mark of distinction.

TEMPLE, Sir William, was bom in London in the year 1628. The family from which he sprung was ancient, and is said to have assumed its surname from the manor of Temple, in the hundred of Sparken Hall, in Leicestershire. He was first sent to school at Penshurst, in Kent, under the care of his uncle, the celebrated Dr Hammond, then minister of that parish ; but at the age of ten he was remov­ed to a school at Bishop-Stortford, in Hertfordshire. When he had acquired a sufficient knowledge of Greek and Latin, he returned home at the age of fifteen ; and two years afterwards he went to Cambridge, where he was placed under the tuition of the learned Dr Cudworth, then fellow of Emanuel College. His father, Sir John Temple, being a statesman, seems to have designed him for the same mode of life; and on this account, after residing at Cambridge two years, which were principally spent in acquiring a com­petency of French and Spanish, both languages exceedingly useful for his intended pursuits, he was sent abroad to finish his education.

He began his travels by visiting France in 1648. As he chose to pass through the Isle of Wight, where his majesty was detained a prisoner, he there accidentally met with the second daughter of Sir Peter Osborne of Chicksand, in Bed­fordshire, then governor of Guernsey for the king ; and his lady being on a journey with her brother to St Maloes, where their father then was, the young traveller joined their party. This gave rise to an honourable attachment, which, at the end of seven years, concluded in a happy marriage. Having resided two years in France, and perfectly learned the French language, Temple made a tour through Holland, Flanders, and Germany, during which he became completely master of the Spanish. In 1654 he returned from the con­tinent, and, marrying Miss Osborne, passed his time in re­tirement with his father, his two brothers, and a sister, then in Ireland, happy in that perfect harmony which has been so often remarked in their family. As he rejected all offers of employment under Cromwell, the five years which he lived in Ireland were spent chiefly in improving himself in history and philosophy; but at the restoration, in 1660, be­ing there chosen a member of the convention, while others were trying to make their court to the king, Mr Temple opposed the poll-bill with so much spirit, that his conduct

soon attracted the attention of the public, and brought him into notice. In the succeeding parliament, in 1661, he was elected with his father for the county of Carlow ; and in the year following he was chosen one of the commissioners to be sent from that parliament to the king, which gave him an opportunity of waiting on the duke of Ormond, the new lord lieutenant, then at London. He soon afterwards re­turned to Ireland, but with a resolution of quitting that king­dom, and of removing with his family to England.

On his return he met with a very favourable reception from the duke of Ormond ; and soon acquired such a share in his esteem, that the duke complained of him as the only man in Ireland that had never asked any thing from him. When he mentioned his design of carrying his family to England, his grace said, that he hoped he would at least give him leave to write in his favour to the two great mi­nisters, Clarendon, then lord chancellor, and the earl of Arlington, who was secretary of state. This the duke did in such strong terms, as procured him the friendship of these two noblemen, as well as the good opinion of the king. Temple, however, made no other use of this advantage than to tell Lord Arlington, that if his majesty had any employ­ment abroad, which he was fit for, he should be happy to undertake it; but, at the same time, he requested that he might not be sent into any of the northern climates, to which he had a very great aversion. The secretary replied, he was very sorry he had made such an objection, as there was no other employment then undisposed of except that of going envoy to Sweden. However, in 1665, about the be­ginning of the first Dutch war, Arlington sent a messenger to acquaint him that he must immediately come to his house. He found that his lordship’s business was to tell him, that the king had occasion to send some person abroad upon an affair of the utmost importance, and that he had resolved to make him the first offer ; but that he must know, without delay, and without telling him what it was, whether he would accept of it, and that he must be ready to set out in two or three days, without mentioning it to any of his friends. After a little consideration, Temple told his lordship, that as he took him to be his friend, and as he had advised him not to refuse, as it would be an entrance into his majesty’s service, he should consult no further. This business was to carry a secret commission to the bishop of Munster. He accord­ingly set out on the second of August, and executed it so much to the satisfaction of Charles II. that, on his return to Brussels, his majesty appointed him resident there, and created him a baronet. As Brussels was a place where he had long wished to reside, he sent for his family in April 1666 ; but before their arrival, he had again been obliged to depart upon business to the prelate’s court. The bishop having listened to terms of accommodation with France, Sir William wrote two letters to dissuade him from that alliance ; and these not having the desired effect, he went in disguise to Munster, where, though he arrived too late to secure the prince in his first engagement, yet he prevail­ed on him to permit five or six thousand of his best troops to enter into the Spanish service. In this journey he passed for a Spanish envoy, having twenty Spanish guards to attend him. In this manner he first went to Dusseldorp, where the duke of Neuburg, though in the French interest, gave him a guard to Dortmund ; but when he reached that place, finding the gates shut, he was forced to proceed to a village at the distance of a league, which being full of Brandenburg troops, he was under the necessity of lodging in a barn, upon a straw bed, with his page for a pillow. Next day he was entertained at a castle belonging to the bishop of Munster, by one Gorges, a Scotish lieutenant- general in that prelate’s service, with what he calls a very episcopal way of drinking. The general coming to the large hall, in which stood a great many flaggons ready charged, called for wine to drink the king’s health. A silver bell\*