

Within the ancient walls of Windsor Castle, on this gentle afternoon of 1954, imagination thumbs the way back over the pages of history, to centuries long past and all-but forgotten. Turning over page upon page, chapter upon chapter; to the days of chivalry; to the year thirteen hundred and fifty when King Edward III --- under the patronage of the good ~~Knighth~~ Knight, St George, instituted the Order of the Knights of the Garter. The blazing glory of heraldic splendour, summons the ~~mind~~ willing mind to reflect upon the pageantry of mediaeval battleground or tourney; the robes, The Orders, the nodding plumes, ~~recall~~ <sup>call back</sup> the hurrying present to a statelier, more gracious ~~age~~ era --- when knighthood was in flower. This was the setting, in Royal Windsor, when Sir Winston Churchill was installed as Knight Companion, of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

In the procession are the famous names of our time --- the Lords Montgomery --- Portal --- Alexander --- Alanbrooke --- the Duke of ~~Nax~~ Norfolk; hereditary noblemen <sup>and</sup> those who have won fame and honour in the days of our modern wars..... when Britain battled <sup>again</sup> for the hard-won heritage of freedom.

Ascending the steps to ~~the~~ St George's Chapel, are Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Duke of Gloucester --- to the Choir where the Knights of the Order have their place --- and where the stall<sup>s</sup>plates, record the name of each one honoured, for six centuries past.

It is the Queen --- as Sovereign of the Order --- who ends the procession accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. It is the Queen who says: "It is our pleasure that the Knight Companion be installed."

So --- the ceremony ended --- the Prime Minister came out from the chapel --- The Sovereign had bestowed upon her Minister, the reward of devoted service. And of all the great honours gathered by Sir Winston Churchill, during the long years of his life --- this may well be the one he will treasure most.