

**EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY;  
THE BOOK OF THE KNIGHT OF LA  
TOUR-LANDRY: COMPILED FOR  
THE INSTRUCTION OF HIS  
DAUGHTERS**

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**GEOFFROY DE LA TOUR LANDRY & THOMAS WRIGHT**

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The Book of the  
Knight of La Cour-Landry.

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The Book  
of the  
Knight of La Tour-Landry,

Compiled for the Instruction of his Daughters;

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL FRENCH INTO ENGLISH  
IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VI, AND EDITED FOR THE  
FIRST TIME FROM THE UNIQUE MANUSCRIPT  
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM, WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,

BY

THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq., M.A., F.S.A., M.R.S.L. &c. &c.

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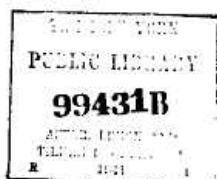
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SSS  
La Tour-Landry





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BY T. COMBE, M.A., E. B. GARDNER, E. F. HALL, AND H. LATHAM, M.A.,

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE feudal castle of La Tour-Landry, from which the author of the following book received his name, stood between Chollet and Vezins, in the part of the old province of Anjou which lay between Poitou and Britany, where its ruins are still visible, consisting of a great donjon, or keep, said to date from the twelfth century. The family of our Knight appears to have been established there at least as early as that date. In the year 1200, a Landry de la Tour, lord of this place, is found engaged in a lawsuit relating to lands; and the names of different members of the family are met with not unfrequently during the thirteenth century. M. de Montaiglon, the editor of the original text of the Knight's "Book," who has investigated this question with laborious care, considers that the father of our author was Geoffroy de la Tour, spoken of at the beginning of the fourteenth century as lord of La Tour-Landry, Bourmont, La Galonière, Loroux-Bottereau, and Cornouaille, and who, under the banner of the Count of Anjou in 1336, distinguished himself by his courage in the war with the English.

This Geoffroy de la Tour had two sons, our Geoffroy, who was the eldest, and another named Arquade, who is supposed to have been

much younger than his brother. The latter, our Geoffroy de la Tour-Landry, appears from his own account to have been present at the siege of Aguilion in 1346. His name again appears in a military muster in 1363. We know that he married Jeanne de Rougé, younger daughter of Bonabes de Rougé, lord of Erval, vicomte of La Guerche, and chamberlain to the king, but we are unacquainted with the date of this marriage, though in 1371 and 1372, when he composed the following book, he must have been married a sufficient length of time to have sons and daughters of an age to require instruction of this kind.

The name of Geoffroy de la Tour occurs several times between the date of the compilation of his book and the end of the century. In 1378 he sent his contribution of men to the army employed in the siege of Cherbourg, but he did not serve in person on that occasion. In the document recording this fact, he is described as a knight banneret. In 1380 Geoffroy served in the war in Britany, and we find him again in active service in the September of the year 1383. We learn from another document, that at this last date Geoffroy's first wife, Jeanne de Rougé, was still living; but she must have died within a few years afterwards, for at a subsequent date, which M. de Montaiglon places in 1389, he contracted a second marriage with Marguerite des Roches, lady of La Mothe de Pendu, the widow of Jean de Clerembaut, knight. This is the latest mention of the name of our Knight which has yet been discovered among contemporary records; the date of his death is quite unknown, but it probably occurred at some period towards the end of the fourteenth century.

The descendants of Geoffroy de la Tour-Landry appear to have been all active in the turbulent times during which they lived, and through one of them the name became again rather curiously connected with literary history. The Knight of La Tour tells us that he had sons (in the plural); for at the beginning of the book now published he tells us in the original that he had compiled two