

# MYE'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

## Lambert the Pretender Becomes a Scullion.

### NOTING POPULAR IN IRELAND.

Valor of the French Cavalry at Calais. Lose Their Luggage, but Gloriously Save Their Lives by Daring Cross Country Riding—Woes of a Shabby King.

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#### CHAPTER XVIII.

As a result of the Bosworth victory Henry Tudor obtained the use of the throne from 1485 to 1509. He saw at once by means of an eagle eye that with the house of York so popular among his people, nothing but a firm hand and eternal vigilance could maintain his sovereignty. He kept the young Earl of Warwick, son of the Duke of Clarence, carefully indoors with massive iron grates attached to his legs, thus teaching him to be backward about mingling in the false joys of society.

Henry Tudor is known to history as Henry VII. and caused some adverse criticism by delaying his nuptials with the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV.

A pleasing practical joke at this time came near plunging the country into a bloody war. A rumor having gone forth that the Earl of Warwick had escaped from the Tower, a priest named Simon constructed a good looking young man about now named Lambert Simnel to play the part, landed him in Ireland, and proceeded to call for troops. Strange to say, in those days almost any pretender with courage stood a good chance of winning renown or a hospitable grave in this way. But Lambert was not made of the material generally used in the construction of great men, and though he secured quite an army and the aid of the Earl of Lincoln and many other nobles, the first battle closed the matter, and the bogus sovereign, too contemptible even to occupy the valuable time of the hangman, became a scullion in the royal kitchen, while Simon was imprisoned.

For five years things were again dull, but at the end of that period an undercurrent for Richard, duke of York, arose and made pretensions. His name was Richard Warbeck, and though the son of a Flemish merchant, he was a great favorite at social functions and straw dances. He went to Ireland, where anything in the way of a riot was even then hailed with delight, and soon the York family and others who cursed the reigning dynasty flocked to his standard.

France indorsed him temporarily until Charles became reconciled to Henry, and then he dropped Perkin like a heated potato. Perkin, however, had been well entertained in Paris as the coming English king, and while there was not permitted to pay for a thing. He now visited the Duchess of Burgundy, sister of Edward IV, and made a hit at once. She gave him the title of The White Rose of England (1493), and he was pleased to find himself so popular when he might have been measuring molasses in the obscurity of his father's store.

Henry now felt quite mortified that he could not produce the evidence of the murder of the two sons of Edward IV, and to settle this gay young pretender, but he did not succeed in finding the remains, though they were afterward discovered under the staircase of the White tower and buried in Westminster abbey, where the floor is now paved with epitaphs, and where economy and good sense are better combined, perhaps, than anywhere in the world, the floor and tombstone being happily united, thus, as it were, killing two birds with one stone.

But how sad it is today to contemplate the situation occupied by Henry, forced thus to rummage the kingdom for the dust of two murdered princes, that he might, by unearthing a most wicked crime, prevent the success of a young pretender, and yet fearing to do so lest he might call the attention of the people to the royal record of homicide, fratricide and germicide!

Most cruel of all this sad history, perhaps, was the execution of Stanley, the king's best friend in the past, who

Edward's son, he—Stanley—would not fight against him. For this purely unpartisan remark he yielded up his noble life in 1495.

Warbeck for some time went about trying to organize cheap insurrections, with poor success until he reached Scotland, where James IV indorsed him, and told him to have his luggage sent up to the castle. James also presented his sister Catherine as a spouse to the giddy young scion of the Flemish calico counter. James also assisted Perkin, his new brother-in-law, in an invasion of England, which failed, after which the pretender gave himself up. He was hanged amid great applause at Tyburn, and the Earl of Warwick, with whom he had planned to escape, was beheaded at Tower Hill. Thus, in 1499, perished the last of the Plantagenets of the male kind.

Henry hated war, not because of its cruelty and horrors, but because it was expensive. He was one of the most parsimonious of kings, and often averted war in order to prevent the wear and tear on the cannon. He managed to acquire £2,000,000 sterling from the reluctant taxpayer, yet no monarch ever received such a universal consent when he desired to pass away. If any regret was felt anywhere, it was so deftly concealed that his death, to all appearance, gave general and complete satisfaction.

After a reign of 24 years he was succeeded by his second son, Henry, in 1509, the elder son, Arthur, having died previously.

It was during the reign of Henry VII that John and Sebastian Cabot were fitted out and discovered North America in 1497, which paved the way for the subsequent depopulation of Africa, Italy and Ireland. South America had been discovered the year before by Columbus. Henry VII was also the father of the English navy.

The accession of Henry VIII was now hailed with great rejoicing. He was but 18 years of age, but handsome and smart. He soon married Catherine of Aragon, the widow of his brother Ar-



WOLSEY OUTSHINES THE KING.

thur. She was six years his senior, and he had been betrothed to her under duress at his eleventh year.

Henry VIII ordered his father's old lawyers, Empson and Dudley, tried and executed for being too diligent in business. He sent an army to recover the lost English possessions in France, but in this was unsuccessful. He then determined to organize a larger force, and so he sent to Calais 50,000 men, where they were joined by Maximilian. In the battle which soon followed with the French cavalry they lost their habitual sang froid and most of their hand baggage in a wild and impetuous flight. It is still called the Battle of the Spurs. This was in 1513.

In the report of the engagement sent to the king nothing was said of the German emperor, for the reason, as was said by the commander, "that he does not desire notice, and, in fact, Maximilian objections to the use of his name." This remark still furnishes food for thought on rainy days at Balmoral and makes the leaden hours go gayly by.

During the year 1513 the Scots invaded England under James, but though their numbers were superior, they were sadly defeated at Flodden Field, and when the battle was over their king and the flower of their nobility lay dead upon the scene.

Wolsey, who was made cardinal in 1515 by the pope, held a tremendous influence over the young king and indirectly ruled the country. He ostensibly presented a humble demeanor, but in his innermost soul he was the haughtiest human being that ever concealed beneath the cloak of humility an inflexible, tough and durable heart.

On the death of Maximilian, Henry had some notion of pre-empting the vacant throne, but soon discovered that Charles V of Spain had a prior lien to the same, and thus, in 1520, this new potentate became the greatest power in the civilized world. It is hard to believe in the nineteenth or twentieth century that Spain ever had any influence with anybody of sound mind, but such the voracious historian tells us was once the case.

Francis, the French king, was so grieved and mortified over the success of his Spanish rival that he turned to Henry for comfort, and at Calais the two disgruntled monarchs spent a fortnight jousting, touring, infighting, outfalling, merrymaking, swanking and general acute gastritis.

It was a magnificent meeting, however, Wolsey acting as costumer, and was called the "Field of the Cloth of Gold." Large, portly men with whiskers wore purple velvet opera cloaks trimmed with fur and Gainsborough hats with ostrich feathers worth £4 apiece (sterling). These corpulent warriors, who at Calais shortly before had run till overtaken by

nervous prostration and general debility, now wore more millinery and breast-pins and slashed velvet and satin facings and tinsel than the most successful and highly painted and decorated courtiers of that period.

The treaty here made with so much pyrotechnical display and eclat and hand embroidery was soon broken, Charles having caught the ear of Wolsey with a promise of the papal throne upon the death of Leo X, which event he joyfully anticipated.

War was now waged with France by the new alliance of Spain and England, but success waited not upon the English arms, while, worse than all, the king was greatly embarrassed for want of more scullion. Nothing can be more pitiful, perhaps, than a shabby king waiting till all his retainers have gone away before he dare leave the throne, fearing that his threadbare retreat may not be protected. Henry tried to wring something from parliament, but without success, even aided by that practical apostle of external piety and internal intrigue, Wolsey. The latter, too, had a second bitter disappointment in the election of Clement VII to succeed Adrian, and as this was easily traced to the chicanery of the emperor, who had twice promised the portfolio of pontiff to Wolsey, the latter determined to work up another union between Henry and France in 1523.

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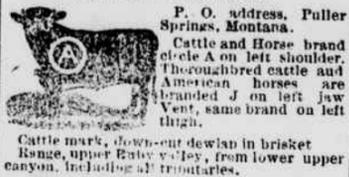
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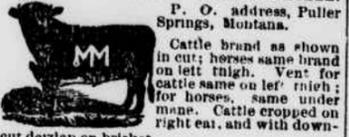
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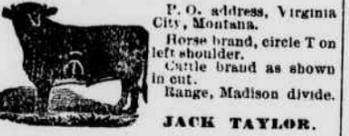
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