

Halle's Chronicle, 4th Issue, 1550.

Wants Title and preliminary matter (See Lowndes)
(6 leaves)
and last pages of the Table to Henry VIII.

Fol. ij of Introduction to Henry IV in M.S.; copied
line for line from copy in Brit. Mus. 683. b. 15.

Corner of Fol. xxvii Henry VI, mended.

Last leaf of Table to Edward IV torn

EEEd

An introduction into the history of
kyng Henry the fourth.

Fol. i.



What mischief hath inturged in realmes by intestine deuision, what depopulacion hath ensued in countreies by ciuil discencion, what detestable murder hath bene committed in cities by sepetate factions, and what calamities hath ensued in famous regioes by domesticall discorde & vnatural controuersy: Rome hath felt, Italy can testifie, Fraunce can bere witness, Beame can tell, Scotlande may write, Denmarke can shewe, and especially thys noble realme of Englande can apparently declare and make demonstration. For who abhorreth not to expresse the heynous factes committed in Rome, by the ciuill warre betwene Julius Cesar and hardy Pompey by whose discorde the bright glory of the triumphant Rome was eclipsed & shadowed: Who can reuerse what mischiefes and what plagues the pleasaunt countrey of Italy hath tolled and suffered by the sedicious factions of the Guelphes and Gabelynes: Who can reporte the misery that dayly hath ensued in fraunce, by the discorde of the houses of Burgorne and Orleans: Or in Scotlande betwene the brother and brother, the vnckle and the nephew: Who can curiously endite the manifolde battailes that were fought in the realme of Beame, betwene the catholikes and the pestiferous sectes of the Adamites and others: What damage discencion hath done in Germany and Denmarke, all christians at this date can well declare. And the Turke can bere good testimony, whiche by the discorde of christen princes hath amplified greatly his seignorie and dominion. But what miserie, what murder, and what execrable plagues this famous region hath suffered by the deuision and discencion of the renowned houses of Lancastre and Poike, my witte cannot comprehend, nor my toung declare, neither yet my penne fully set forth.

by remoued small
by disorde
Doffe away from

For what noble man liueth at this date, or what gentleman of any ancient stocke or progeny is there, whose image hath not bene infested and plagued with this vnnatural deuision. All the other discordes, sectes and factions all moste lyuely royshe and continue at this presente tyme, to the greate displeasure and prejudice of all the christian publike wealth. But the olde deuided controuersie betwene the fornamed families of Lancastre and Poike, by the vniou of Matrimony celebrate and consummate betwene the high and mighty Prince kyng Henry the seventh and the Lady Elizabeth his mooste worthy Quene, the one being indubitate heire of the house of Lancastre, and the other of Poike was suspended and appalled in the persone of their mooste noble, puissant and mighty heire kyng Henry the eight, and by hym clerely buried and perpetually

and

A. I.

perpetually

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Fol. i.



That mischief hath ensued in reatnes by intestine deuision, what depopulacion hath ensued in countres by ciuil discencion, what detestable murder hath bene committed in citres by separate factions, and what calamities hath ensued in famous regions by domesticall discord & vnnatural controsuersy: Rome hath felt, Italy can testifie, Fraunce can bere witness, Beame can tell, Scotlande may write, Denmarke can she we, and especially thys noble realme of Englande can appa-

tauntly declare and make demonstration. For who abhorreth not to expresse the heynous factes committed in Rome, by the ciuill warre betwene Julius Cesar and hardy Pompey by whose discord the bright glory of the triumphant Rome was eclipsed & shadowed? Who can reuerse what mischiefes and what plagues the pleasaunt countrey of Italy hath tasted and suffered by the sedicious factions of the Guelphes and Gobelynes? Who can repute the misery that daily hath ensued in Fraunce, by the discord of the houses of Burgoyne and Orleans: Or in Scotlande betwene the brother and brother, the vnckle and the nephew? Who can curiously endite the manifolde battailes that were fought in the realme of Beame, betwene the catholikes and the pestiferous sectes of the Adamites and others? What damage discencion hath done in Germany and Denmarke, all christians at this date can well declare. And the Turke can bere good testimony, whiche by the discord of christen princes hath amplified greatly his seignorie and dominion. But what miserie, what murder, and what execrable plagues this famous region hath suffered by the deuision and discencion of the renowned houies of Lancaster and Yorke, my witte cannot comprehend, nor my toung declare, neither yet my penne fully set furth.

FOR what noble man liueth at this date, or what gentleman of any auncient stocke or progeny is there, whose linage hath not bene infested and plagued with this vnnaturall deuision. All the other discordes, sectes and factions all moste lyuely florish and continue at this presente tyme, to the greate displeasure and prejudice of all the christian publike wealth. But the olde deuided controuersie betwene the fornamed families of Lancaster and Yorke, by the vnion of Matrimony celebrate and consummate betwene the high and mighty Prince Kynge Henry the seuenth and the Lady Elizabeth his mooste worthy Quene, the one being indubitate heire of the house of Lancaster, and the other of Yorke was suspended and appalled in the persone of their mooste noble, puissant and myghty heire kynge Henry the eight, and by hym clerely buried and perpetually

A. i.

perpetually

An introduction into the history of

perpetually extinct, So that al men (more clerer then the sonne) may ap-
parantly perceiue, that as by disorde great thynges decaye and fall to
rupne, so the same by conorde be reuiued and erected. In likewise also
all regions whiche by deuision and discencion be vexed, molested and
troubled, bee by vniou and agreement releued, pacified, and enriched.

BY vniou of the Godhed to the manhod, manne was toynded to God
whiche befoze by the temptation of the subtle serpente, was from hym
segregate and deuided. By the vniou of the catholike churche and the
outwozne sinagoge, not onely the hard ceremonies and dedly peines of
the Moisaicall law were clerely abholyshed and made frustrate, but also
christian libertie is inferred and Christes religio stablised and erected.
By the vniou of man and woman in the holy sacrament of Matrimony
the generacion is blessed, and the spynne of the body clene extincte and put
away. By the vniou of mariage, peate betwene realme and realme is ex-
alted, and loue betwene countre and countre is noyshed. By continen-
cion of matrimony, malice is extinct, amitie is embzaced, and indissolu-
ble aliaunce and consanguinite is pzoured. What pzoite, what com-
fozt, what toy succeded in the realme of England by the vntion of the for-
named two noble families, you shall aparauntly perceiue by the sequele
of this rude and vnlearned histozy. And because there can be no vniou
or agreement but in respect of a deuision, it is consequent to reson that I
manifest to you not onely the ozyginall cause and fountain of the same,
but also declare the calamities, troubles and miseries whiche happened
and chaunced durynge the tyme of the said contentions discencion.

FOR the whiche you shall vnderstande (accozding as it is an acte of
Parliament made in the firste yere of the reigne of kyng Edward the
fourthe specified and declared.) That the high and mightie Prince kyng
Henry the third of that name, had issue Edward his firste begotten
sonne bozne at Westminster the eleuenth Kalendes of July in þ bigile of
Sainte Marke and Marcellian in the yere of our Lorde a thousande
two hundred nyne and twenty. And Edmonde his seconde begotten
sonne bozne on the date of saint Marcell in the yere of our Lorde a thou-
sande two hundred forty and fyue. Whiche Edward after the death
of kyng Henry his father, was entytled and called kyng Edward the
first, and had issue his first begotten sonne entitled and called after the
death of kyng Edward his father, kyng Edward the second, whiche had
issue the right noble & honozable prince kyng Edward the third whiche
kyng Edward had issue Edward his first begotten sonne prince of Wa-
les, William of Hatfeld the second begotten sonne, Lionell duke of Cla-
rence the third begotten sonne, Thon of Gaunt duke of Lancaster the
fourth begotten sonne, Edmond of Langley duke of York the fift be-
gotten sonne, Thomas of Woodstocke duke of Glocester the syxt begot-
ten sonne, and William of Wyntoz the vii. begotten sonne. The said
prince Edward died in the lye of his father kyng Edward the. iii. and
had issue Rycharde bozne at Burdesux, whiche after the death of kyng
Edward the. iii. as colin and heire to him, that is to saie sonne to the said
Edward

Henry the. iiiij

Fol. ij.

Edward prince of Wales sonne to the said kyng Edward the thirde
succeded him in the royall estate and dignitie, lawfully entitled and called
kyng Rycharde the seconde and died without issue, Lionell Duke of
Clarence the third begotten sonne of the said kyng Edward the thirde
had issue Philippe his only daughter whiche was married to Edmond
Mortymer earle of Marche and had issue Roger Mortymer earle of
Marche: whiche Roger had issue Edmond Mortymer earle of Marche,
Anne and Elenor, whiche Edmond and Elenor died without issue.
And the said Anne was married to Richard earle of Cambridge sonne to
x Edmond of Langley duke of York the fifth begotten sonne of the said
kyng Edward the thirde, whiche Rycharde had issue the famous prince
Richard Plantagenet duke of York whiche had issue that noble prince
kyng Edward the fourth father to Quene Elizabeth united in matrye
mony to the high and sage prince kyng Henry the. vij.
Thon duke of Lancaster had issue Henry earle of Derby, and Thon
earle of Somersette. This Henry earle of Derby had issue, kyng Henry
the fift father to kyng Henry the syxt whiche begat Prince Edward
that was slayne at Tewkesbery, and diseased without issue. Thon the
earle of Somersette before named, sonne to Thon Duke of Lancaster,
xx engendered Thon duke of Somersette father to the lady Margaret
Countes of Richemonde mother to the noble and haute Prince kyng
Henry the seventh whiche espoused lady Elizabeth the heire of the illu-
stre family of York, by the whiche marriage, the deuise or badge of the
houe of Lancaster whiche was the redde Rose, was unite and ioyned
with the white Rose, whiche was the cognisance & ensigne of the noble
progeny of York, as by the genealogy conteigned in the ende of this
wooke more plainly shall appere.

Thi aforenamed Henry earle of Derby beeynge created a little be-
fore duke of Herefforde, a prudente and polittike persone, but not more
xxx polittike then wellbeloued, and yet not so wellbeloued of all, as of some
highly disdainned, began to consider with hymselfe how that kyng Ri-
charde his cotyn germaine was now brought to that trade of liuyng
that he litle or nothyng regarded the countaill of his vnles, nor of o-
ther graue and sadde persones, but did all thyng at his pleasure, set-
tyng his will and appetite in stede of lawe and reason. Wherefore on a
daie beeynge in the compaigny of Thomas Mowbray firste Duke of
Norfolke and earle Marshall, beganne to breake his mynde to hym
more for dolour and lamentation, then for malice or displeasure, reher-
syng howe that kyng Rycharde litle cotemed and lesse regarded the no-
x l bles and Princes of his realme, and as muche as laye in hym soughte
occasions, inuented causes and practised pryncely howe to destroye the
more parte of them: to some thretenyng death, to other manacing exile
and banishment, forgettyng and not remembryng what blotte it was
to his honor, and what detrimente and damage it was to the publike
wealthe, to suffre his realme to lese the aunciente fame and prynciate
renoume by his slooth and negligence, and that all thynges bothe in
A. ij. the

An introduction into the history of
the tyme of peace, and also of warre, as well in the realme as without,
waxed worse and worse, and had neuer prosperous successe nor fortun-
ate conclusion. And because noble men murmured, and the common
people grudged, and all men wondered, at his vnprincely doynge,
he desired the duke of Norffolke, whiche was one of the kynges princy
counsaill and well heard wyth hym, to aduise the kyng to turne the life
and to take a better lesson. When the Duke of Norffolke had heard
fully hys devise, he toke it not in good parte, but rebaued that he had
gotten a praye by the whiche he should obtayne greater fauor of the
kyng then euer he had, & to be at that tyme dissimuled the matter (as
he was in deede bothe a depe dissimuler & a pleasaunt flaterer.) And
after whiche he had oportunitie and sawe his tyme, was very glad (as tell
tales and scicophantes bee, when they haue anye thyng to instill in to
the eares and heddes of Princes) to declare to the kyng what he had
heard, & to agrauate and make the offence the greater, he muche more
added but nothyng diminished.

¶ This matter some what quickened and more tickled the waueryng
mynd of kyng Richard, and brought hym into a great fury. But when
the water of fumitory was well digested in his stomacke, he determ-
ined to here bothe the parties indifferently, and called to him the duke
of Lancastre and by counsaill, and also the Dukes of Berfforde and
Norffolke, & caused the accusor to report openly the wordes to him declar-
ed, which rebaued them agayn as he had before related to the kyng.
When Duke Henry heard the tale otherwyse reported then he ether
thought or sayed, somewhat vnquieted for the noueltie of the thyng, or
troubled with anger for the vntrowth of the matter, stode still & paused a
good while looking stedfastly vpon the kyng. And after takinge a good
courage to hym, makinge low obeisance, besought his highnes to conceyue
no mistrust in hym till he had seen & herd more. Then turninge hymself
to hys accusor, declared worde by worde what he had sayd showinge the
cause & occasion why he doo spake, denyinge fierstly at the other new inu-
cions alleged & proponed to his charge: affirmyng if of the kyng would
permit & suffre hym he would proue his accusor vntrowe, vniust & a false
forger of lies & malicious tales by the stroke of a spere & det of a sword.
The Duke of Norffolke affirmed constantly his sayynge to be true & re-
fused not the cobate. The kyng demaunded of them if they would agree
betwene themselves, whiche they both denied, and threw downe theyr
gages, by my truth of kyng, if you of your selves will not agree I wyll
not study how to agree you: and then he graunted the the battayll & assi-
gned the place to be at the cite of Couentre in the moneth of Auguste
next ensuyng, where he caused a disputerous theatre and listes royall gor-
geously to be prepared. At the day appointed the .ij. valiant dukes ca to
Couentre, accompanied with the nobles & gentrys of their linages which
them encouraged and hertened to the vtmoste. At the day of the cobate
and fight, the duke of Berfforde that daie high counstable, and the duke
of Surrey that daie high Marshall of Englande entred into the listes
wyth

with a great copany of men apared in lilke sendall embroidered with
siluer both richely and curiously, euery man hauyng a tipped staffe to
kepe the feld in order. About the tyme of prime came to the barriers of
the listes, the duke of Berfford mounted on a white coler barbed with
blewe and grene beluet embroidered sumpteously with Swannes and
Antelopes of goldsmithes worke, armed at all poinctes. The Constable
and Marshall came to the barriers, Demaundyng of hym what he
was, he answered: I am Henry of Lancastre Duke of Berfford, whiche
am come hether to dooe my deuoyre against Thomas Howbray Duke
of Norffolke as a traytor vntrew to God, the kyng, his realme & me.
Then incontinent he swore vpon the holy Euangelistes that his quarell
was trewe and iust, and vpon that poyncte he desired to entre into the
listes. Then he put by his swerde whiche befoze he helde naked in his
hande, and put doune his biser, made a crosse on his forhed, and wyth
spere in hand entered into the listes, and disconded from his horse and
set hym doune in a chayer of grene beluet whiche was set in a trauers
of grene and blewe beluet at the one ende of the listes, and there repo-
sed hym selfe expectyng and abydyng the comyng of hys aduersarye.
¶ Sone after hym entered into the felde wyth greate pompe kyng
Richard accompaigned wyth all the peeres of hys realme, and in hys
compaignie was therle of sent Paule, whiche was come out of fraunce
in post to se this chalenge performed. The kyng had aboute ten thou-
sand persones in harnesse, leaste some frate or tumulte might spryng
emongest hys nobles by partakynge or quarellynge. When the kyng
was set on his stage whiche was richely hanged and pleasantly adoz-
ned. A kyng at Armes made open Proclamacion, prohibityng all
menne in the name of the kyng and the high Constable and Marshall
to enterprise or attempte to approche or touche any parte of the listes
vpon payne of death, except such as were apoynted to ordre and mar-
shall the felde. The proclamacion ended, another Herald cried: behold
here Henry of Lancastre duke of Berfford appellat, which is entered
into the listes royall to dooe his deuoyre against Thomas Howbray
Duke of Norffolke defendante, vpon payne to be proued false and re-
creant. The Duke of Norffolke howered on horsebacke at the entery of
the listes, his horse beyng barbed with crimosen beluet embroidered ri-
chely with Lions of siluer and Hulbery trees, and when he had made
his othe befoze the Constable and Marshall that his quarell was iuste
and trewe, he entered the felde manfully sayynge aloude, God aide him
that hath the righte, and then he departed from his horse & sate doune
in his chayer whiche was Crimosen Beluet, curtened aboute wyth
white and redde Damaske. The lord Marshall bewed their speres to
see that they were of egall length, and deliuered the one spere hym selfe
to the duke of Berfforde, and sente the other spere to the duke of Norf-
folke by a knyghte. Then the Heralte proclaymed that the trauer-
ses and chayers of the Champions shoulde bee remoued, commaun-
dyng thein on the kynges behalfe to mounte on horsebacke and
adresse

The Duke of Berfford
entred the listes

The kyng
his many army

An introduction into the history of

adresse themselves to the battaill and combate. The duke of Herfforde was quickly horsed and closed his bauer and caste hys spere into the rest & when the trüper sounded, set forward coragiouly toward his enemy. by. oz. vii. paces. The Duke of Norfolkke was not full set forwarde whē the kyng cast doune his warder & the heraultes cried ho, ho. The kyng caused their speres to be taken from them, and commaunded them to repaire again to their chayers, where they remained two long houres, while the kyng and his counsaill deliberatly consulted what waie was best to bee taken in so waighty a cause. Then the heraultes cried silence and sir Thon Bory secretary to the kyng red the sentence and determination of the kyng and his counsaill in a longe rolle, pronounsyng it after this maner. My lordes and maisters I intimate and notify to you by the kyng & his counsaill, that Henry of Lancastre Duke of Herfforde appellante: and Thomas Duke of Norfolkke defendante, haue honorably and valiantly apered here within the listes royall this daie, & haue been redy to darraigne the battaill lyke two valiant knyghtes and hardy chāpions, but because the matter is greate and weyghty betwoene these two greate princes, this is the ordze of the kyng and his counsaill, that Henry Duke of Herfford for diuerse consideracions and because he hath displeased the kinge, shal within. xv. daies departe out of the realme for terme of ten yeres, without returnyng excepte by the kyng he be repealed again and that vpon pain of death. When the people whiche pertely loued the Duke of Herfford heard this crie, they were not a litle amaled, & marueled muche that he which had doen his deuoz to the perfozrance of his chalenge should be thus banished and exiled. Then the herault cried again oyes, & the secretary declared that Thomas Howbrey Duke of Norfolkke by the ordinate of the kyng and hys counsaill because that he had sowen sedicion in this realme by his wordes wherof he can make no proffe, shall a voide the realme of Englande and dwel in Hūgery, Beame, Pruice or where he list, & neuer to retuene again into Englande nor approche the cosines nor borders of the same, vpon pain of death, and that the kyng would stae the profites and reuenewes of his landes in his handes till he had receiued suche sommes of money as the duke had taken by of the kynges tresorier for the wages of the garrison of Caleis which wer still vnpaid. When these iudgemētes wer thus deuulged, the kyng called befoze him the two exiles & made the swere that the one shoulde neuer come into the place wher the other was (willyngly) nor kepe company together in any forren region, which othe they receiued humbly and departed from the listes. It was supposed that the kyng mistrusted that yf they two should ioyne in one again, and conspire to be reuenged against him, that they and their frendes might woork hym greate trouble and calamitee, and for that cause to haue deuiled this othe. The duke of Norfolkke whiche supposed to haue been bozne out by the kyng, was sore repentāt of his enterprise, and departed sorowfully out of the realme into Allmaine, and at the laste came to Venice where he for thoughte and Melancolye deceased.

St. Infyng was
the Duke of
Berky

the Duke of
Berky

the Duke of
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King Henry the. iiii.

ceased. The Duke of Herfford toke his leaue of the king at Elthā, which there released foure yeres of his banishment. And so he tooke his iorney & came to Calyes, & so into Fraunce, wher he continued a whyle. Wondreful it is to wyte, and moze straunge to hear, what nombre of people ran in euery towne & strete, lamentyng and bewaylyng his departure. As who say, & when he departed, the only helpe, defence and comfort of the comon people was vā dū and gone, as though the sunne had fallē out of the spere, or the mōne had lapsid fro her proper epiciele. When he was arriued in Fraunce, kyng Charles hearing the cause of his banishment, which he esteemed very smal and lyght, receyued him gently, & him honorably entretēnyed. In so muche that he had by fauour obteyned the mariage of the only daughter of Tho Duke of Berky vncle to the frenche kyng, yf kyng Richard had not cast a stoppe in his waye. For he well considered how the communitie loued the duke and how desirous they were of his retuene into England, and the forseyng that if he should be ioyned wyth so great an affinitie as the blood of the house of Berky was in Fraunce, & after ward sodeinly to retuene into Englande, it myght fortune to redounde to his moze dyspleasure then pleasure, wherfore he letted the mariage to his owne distruction. Durynge the first yere of this dukes exile, his father Tho of Gaūt Duke of Lancaster deceased, & is buryed on the northsyde of the high alter of the cathedral churche of S. Paule in London. The death of this duke abbreviated the life of king Richard, for he notwithstanding the Duchy of Lacastre was to this duke Henry lawfully descended, not only ceased without ryght or title all the goodes of Duke Thon his parent, but also defrauded his heire of his lawfull inheritauce, receyuyng the rentes and reuenues of all his patrimony, & geuyng to other that whych was not his, & distributed the dukes landes to hys parentes and flatterynge folowers. This facte was adyudged of all the nobilitie to be vnlawful, vniust and vngodly, to depriue a man beyng banished out of the realme without deferte, without culpe, and wythout cause, of his inheritauce and patrimony. But Edmond Duke of Porke vncle to Henry now lawfully duke of Lancastre, was sore moued with thys chaunce, to see the kyng breake and violate all lawes, all iustice and equitie, and after the murder of his brother the duke of Glocestre, to spoyle and robbe the sonne of his other brother. For he befoze thys tyme asmuche as his patience could beare, did tollerate and suffre the death of his brother, the exile of hys nephiew, and an hundred mo iniuries, which for the leuitie and youth of the kyng, he remitted and buryed in obliuion. And therefore consideryng that the gloz of the publique wealth of hys natyue countrey was lyke to decay by reason that the kyng was not moste ingenious, & had no man nere him that would boldely admonishe him of his office & dutie, thought it the acte of a wyle man in tyme to get hym to a restyng place, and to leaue the folowynge of such a doubtfull captayne which with a leaden swozd would cut his obdū throte bolle, wherfore he

the Duke of
Berky

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An introduction into the hystory of

he both the duke of Almarle his soonne went to his house at Langley reioysing that there was nothyng in the common wealthe misshapened either by his deuyce or consent, and he lamentably desyred daielye side of almighty God to diuert from kyng Richard the darke cloud whiche he saw hangyng ouer his head.

In this cealon kyng Richard sailed into Irelande as diuers autho- res testifie, but what he did there is no parte of my processe, whiche de- pendeth on the sequele of this deuotio. While kyng Richard was in Ire- land, the graue persons of the nobilitie, the sage prelates of the clergy & sad magistrates & rulers of the citees, townes & comminaltie percea- uing daily moze & moze the rea- me to fall into ruyne and desolacion (in maner irrecuperable as long as kyng Richard either liued or reigned,) after long deliberacion, wrote into Fraunce to duke Henry, whom they nowe called (as he was in deede) duke of Lancastre & Herfforde, solici- tyng and requiryng hym with all diligente celeritee to conueighe hym self into Englande, promisyng hym all their aide power and assistance, if he erpelling kyng Richard as a manne not mete nor conueniente for so princely an offyce and degree, would take vpon hym the sceptre rule and diademe of his natue cuntrye and firste nutyritiue soyle. And for that cause they sente the reuerent father Thomas Arundell archebis- hop of Cauntorbury with certein lordes and citezens of diuerse citees and boroghes in habite pallyate and dissimuled, into the citee of Paris, some goyng one waie and some another, but all assemblyng together at the house of Clugny where the duke the loioured. When he sawe the archebishop his especiall frend and looked on other his fautoures and louers, yf he thanked God no manne oughte to maruell, yf he welcom- med these ambassadozs no creature can wondze: but if he reioyced and applauded not at their accesse and comyng, wise menne maie thynke folie & foolis maie laugh hym to skorne. When he was of them saluted, and thei of hym not onely resaluted but heartely welcommed & frendly entertained. The archebishop desirynge the duke to absent al other per- sons then such as wer his copanions, sated these or like woordes to him. When your louyng and natural kynsmen and countrymen most no- ble and mightie prince, had muche and long tyme considred & debated with the selues of their affaires and busines in this tempestuous world and realon (in the whiche no manne of our nacion is sure of his life, nor enioyeth his landes and seigniories without dreade nor possedeth his mouables without terrour or feare, whiche outragious dooinges ma- ny peres occupied hath brought the publique wealth of our aboundat cuntrye almoste to wrecke and vtter exterminio) their last ankerholde & refuge and conforzte was to studye and deuysle howe to haue a gouer- noure and ruler whiche shoulde excell and florisse in wisdom, polycye and iustice aboue all other. By whiche realon a greate nombze of nobilitie and in maner al the comminaltie, being led and perswaded (wher thei had well cast their eyes and marked all the peres and nobles of the realme

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realme of England (they could fynde no duke, nor marques, no erle nor other potentate within all the realme, to whose empire and authoritie thei would be subiect and ballals so gladly as to youres. For this I as- sure you (and you knowe it aswell as I) that wee miserable subiectes haue so long borne the yoke of boston vniwitty kyng Richard, and haue pacielly tolleate the pernicious perlecucion of his greedy and auarici- ous counsellors, and haue wynde at the pollyng and extorcion of hys vniuersal officers, that oure backs bee so galde that we can no moze suffre, and oure chynne bones so weake that we can no leger carry. And therfore necessitie and not wyll, realon and not affeccion, costancy and not leuitie enforzeth vs to lamente and desyre youre ayde and co- forzte, to whom we be sent by the moste part of the nobilitie and also of the moze parte of the vniuersal comminaltie, to desyre and requyre you to take vpon you the high power, gouernaunce and sceptre of your na- tiue cuntrye and ryghte inheritaunce, and thesame to gouerne, rule and defend accordyng to your approued wisdom and longe experimē- ted pollecie, whome we haue euer knowen to be of that iustice, of that prudence & of that integritie that you wyl not commaund, admonish or attempt any thyng which shall not be iust, honest and laudable. Whiche request yf you well consider and diligently pondze preuely wyth your self, you shal easely perceyue that nothyng moze profitabile, moze ho- nest or moze glortous can by any waies happen or chaunce to you then to accept and conforzte your self to thesame. For what can you moze ex- pect and wish, then to commaund and do al thynges accordyng to ryght, realon & honestie. We offre not to you golde, siluer, perle, or precious stone, but our cuntrye, oure bodies, goodes and vs al to vse as youres and not as oures, desiring you to geue to vs in recompēce, indifferēcy quietnes and peace, and to restore to her seate and trone agayn, & lady iustice, which hath so long bene banished out of oure nacion, to thentent that wyse, sage and good persons (whose desire and appetite is euer to liue wel) may honour, loue and embrace you as a gouernour and kinge sent from God, and that malicious and obstinate persons (whose col- scyence is grudged with dayly offences, and whom the feare of iustice and punymente doth continuallye bere and trouble, fearyng you as the skourge and plague of their naughtye doynges and mischeuous ac- tes, maye eyther sone amende, or shortly auoide your cuntrye and re- gion. Now occacion is offred, refuse it not, by the which your wisdom pollecie and valiantnes shall appere to the vniuersal world, by the which you shal not onely byyng vs into an vnitie and monacoide, but also re- presse all sedicion and cancarde dissimulacyon: then the noble men shall triumphe, the ryche menne shall lyue wythoute feare, the poore & neddy persones shal not be oppressed nor confounded, and you for your so do- yng, shall obtēin thankes of your creatour, loue of your people, fauour of your neyghbonres, fame and honoure for euer. When the byshoppe had ended, the duke pauised a while, and then put of his hood and said.

An introduction into the history of

The answer of Henry Duke of Lancastere to Thomas Arundell Bishop of Caistorbury.

My lord of Cauntorbury and you my other faendes and louers; your comyng to vs is very pleasaunt, but moze ioyous is your message, for we of our owne naturall disposition for the good wyll and singular affection that you haue euer borne to vs, haue loued, embraced, and highly esteemed you and all your doyniges. Surely we woulde you knewe with what ioye and agony of mynde we haue borne your be-racions, calamities and oppreffions (as for the manifeste iniuries and opprobrious offences done and committed agaynste vs as you knowe well ynough, we wolle not speake at this tyme) of the whiche we este-med oure selfe a partener, as a thyng common betwene vs. For as it is heard that the hed shal not feele, when the had or any other membre is greued or sicke, so it is vnlike that anye displeasure or discommoditie shoulde happen to you wyth whiche we shoulde not talt in parte, suche agrement is emong membres, and suche communitie is emong frendes. Wherfore neither for ambition of woordly honour, nor for desire of Em-pire or rule, or for affection of woordly ryches, and mycke of the woorde, we wolle agre to your peticio, but onely to releue your miserable cala-mitie, to restoze iustice to her auncient rone & preheminece, & to defend the poze innocent people fra the extort power of the greedy cozmerates & rauenuous oppreffours, requiring you to ioine with vs & we with you in aduancing forward this our incepted purpose, & preteted entreprize

When the Duke was condiscended to the bishoppes reouest, the bishop and his complices departed into Englande, makynge relacion to their cofederates of the Dukes agrement and pleasure exhorting euery manne to be prest and ready at his arryual.

After their departure, the Duke sayned to the french kynge, that he would go into Briteyn to visite his frende Duke Ihon of Briteyn. The french kynge thynkyng him to meane inwardly as he outwardly dis-symuled, sent to the duke of Briteyn letters of commendacion in fauor of the Duke of Lancastre. But yf he had knoben that his entent was to transfret into England and depose his sonne in lawe kynge Richard, he woulde surely haue stopped him a tyde, and let his purpose and pas-sage. What should I saye, that which shalbe, shalbe. The Duke passed into Briteyn and there conducted and waged certeyne men of warre and shippes, and wyth good winde and better spede sailed into Englad and landed at Rauenspurre in holdrenes as most wyriters affirme. But some saye that he landed at Blimmoth, and other at Dortelmouth, but where loeuer he arryued, sure it is that he tooke lande peaceably wyth out any agaynsay or interrupcion. I wyll not be tedvous to you in re-herlyng how the Erles of Northumbzelande and Westmerlande, the lordes Berce, Rose, Wylloughby and other resorted to him & takynge an othe of him that he shoulde not dooe to kynge Rycharde anye bodelye harme, & made to hym homage and became his liege men. I omit howe chylzen reioyled, how women clapped their handes, & how men cried oute for ioy in every toune & village where he passed. I relinquish far-ther

Kyng Henry the.iiij.

Fol. vj.

ther the concourte of people, the number of hozles, whiche occurred to hym as he iourneyed toward London, reioysynge at his repaire and comyng to the Citie. I will not speake of the procesion and singyng of the Cleargie, nor of the pleasant salutacions nor eloquent oracions made to hym by the Welacie, nor of the presentes, welcomynges, lau-des, gratificacions made to hym by the citelens and comminaltie of the citie of London, but I wyll go to the purpose. When he was come to Londõ he consulted with his frendes diuers dayes, to whome came Thomas Earle of Arundell sonne to Richard of Arundell, by kynge Richard a littell afoze put to death, which had lately escaped out of pri-son. When the Duke hadde perceued the fauour of the Nobilitie, the affection of the Cleargie and the sincere loue of the comminalte to-ward him and hys procedynges, he marched foreward with a greete company toward the West countrey, and in passynge by the waie, the people assembled in great and houghe multitudes (as the nature of the common people is, euer desirous of newe changes) callynge hym their kynge, Deprauyng and railyng on kynge Richard, as an innocent a da-starde, a meicocke and not worthy to beare the name of a kynge. When he had assembled together a conuenient number of people for hys pur-# pose and was clerely determyned to depose kynge Rycharde from his rule and dignitie, he proclaimed open warre agaynste hym and all hys partakers fautours and frendes. Kynge Richard beyng in Irelande was certified of the Dukes arriual, from whence (when he had paci-fied the sauage and wilde people) he retourned agayne into England, entendinge to resiste & defend the eminent perill & apparant iopardy, and for the moze tuicion and safegard entred into the stronge castell of Flint in North Wales, .x. myles distaunt from Chester. When kynge Richard perceued that the people by plumpes fled from hym to Duke Henry, he was amased and doubted what counsell to deynlye to take, for on the one parte he sawe his title iust, trewe, and ynfallible, and be- side that he had no small truste in the Welshemen, hys conscience to be cleane, pure, immaculate, wythout spot or enuye: on the other side, he sawe the puissaunce of his aduersaries, the sodaine departyng of them that he mooste trusted, and all thynges turned bplydowne, with these thinges he beyng moze abashed then encouraged, compelled by neces-sitie, determined to kepe hym selfe in that castell tyll he myghte see the worlde stable and in moze suretie. For nowe he euidentely espied and manifestly perceued that he was leste, lowted and forsaken of theym by whom in tyme he myght haue bene ayded and relieued, and whiche nowe was to late and to farre ouerpassed: and this thinge is worthy to be noted with a whitestone, of all princes rulers & men set in auctory-tye and rule, that this Duke Henry of Lancastre shoulde be thus cal- led to the kyngdome and haue the healde and assistance all mooste of all the whole realme, whiche perchaunce neuer thereof once thoughte or yet dreamed: and that kynge Richard shoulde thus be leste desolate void and desperate of all hope and comfozte, in whom yf there were any of- fence

Henry the Duke of Briteyn out of Irelande at his comyng to London.

Henry the Duke of Briteyn out of Irelande at his comyng to London.

An introduction into the history of

sence, it ought moze to be imputed to the frailtee of his wanton youth then to the malice of his heart or cankerdnesse of his stomacke, but such is the frayle iudgement of mortall men whiche vilependynge and not regardynge thynge present befoze their eies, do euer thincke all thynge that are to come to haue a prosperous successe and a delectable sequele. When the Duke of Lancastre knewe that kynge Richarde was come to the Castell of Flint, which a man maye call the dolorous Castell, because there kynge Richarde declined from his dignitie & lost the tipe of his glozre and prehemynence, he assembled together a great armye in small space lest he myght geue his enemies tyme to pzeuent his purpose and so to lose the good occasion of victozy to him genē, came to the towne of Bristowe where he apprehended William lord Scrope the kynges treasurer sir Ihon Bullbe and sir Henry Grene knyghtes, and caused their heddes to be stricken of, and from thence toke hys iourney directly to Chester. When Thomas Percy Earle of Worcester & great Maister of lord Stuard of the kynges household beyng brother to the Earle of Northumberland hard tell of the dukes approach, beringe displeasure to the kynge because he had proclaimed his brother a traiter, brake befoze all the kynges household his white staffe, whiche is the ensigne and token of his office and without delay went to Duke Henry. When the kynges familer seruitours perceiued this, they disperled them selves some into one countrey and some into another.

The Duke came toward the castell of flinte wherof kynge Richarde beyng advertised by councell of Ihon Ballet and Richarde Seimer his assured seruauntes departed out of the castell and toke the landes by the ryuer of Dee trustyng to escape to Chester and there to haue refuge and succoure, but or he hadde farre passed he was foze layed and taken and brought to the Duke, which sent hym secretly to the Towze of London. When the Duke had thus possessed hys longe desyred praye, he came to London in solempne estate and there called a Parliament in the kynges name, to the whiche many of the kynges frendes, but moze of his there appeared. There was declared howe vnprofitable kynge Richarde had bene to the realme durynge his reigne, howe he subuerted the lawes, polled the people and ministred Justice to no man but to suche as pleased hym. And to the entent that the commons should bee perswaded that he was an vniuste and vnprofitable Prince and a tiraunte ouer his subiectes, and worthy to bee deposed. There were set foze the xxxv. solempne articles verye heynous to the eares of men, and to some almost vncredibile: The very effecte of which articles I will truly reporte herafter accordyng to my copie.

Firste that kynge Richard wastfully spent the treasure of the realme and had geuen the possessions of the Crowne to men vnworthy, by reason wherof daily newe charges moze and moze were layd in the neckes of the poore comminaltie. And where diuerse lordes as well spirituall as temporall, were appointed by the highe court of Parliament to comon and treate of diuers matters concernynge the common wealth of the

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Kyng Henry the. iiii.

the same, whiche beyng busie about the same commission, he with other of his affinitie went about to empeach of treason, and by force and menace compelled the Justices of the realme at Shrewsburye to condiscend to his opinion, for the destruction of the sayd Lordes: in so muche that he began to reise war against Ihon Duke of Lancastre, Thomas Erle of Arundell, Richard Erle of Warwicke, and other Lordes contrary to hys honoz and promyse.

Item that he caused his vncler the Duke of Gloucester to be arrested without lawe, and sent him to Caleis, and there wythout iudgemente murdered hym. And although the Earle of Arundell vpon his arraignment pleaded his charter of pardon, he could not be heard, but was in most vile and shamefull maner sodainly put to death.

Item he assembled certain Lancashire and Cheshire men to the entent to make warre on the foze said Lordes, and suffered them to robbe and pill without correction or represe.

Item although the kyng flateringlye and with great dissimulacion made proclamacion throughout the realme, that the lordes before named were not attached for any crime of treason, but onely for extorcions and oppreSSIONS done in this realme, yet he layed to theym in the parliament, rebellion and manifest treason.

Item he hath compelled diuers of the said Lordes seruauntes and frendes by menace & extreme paymentes, to make great fines to they vtter vndoynge. And notwithstanding his pardon to them graunted yet he made them fine of newe.

Item where diuers were appointed to common of the estate of the realme, and the common welthe of the same. The same kynge caused all the rolles and recordes to be kept from them, contrary to hys promise made in the parliament, to his open dishonour.

Item he vncharitably commaunded that no man vpon paine of losse of life and goodes should once entreate him for the retourne of Henry nowe Duke of Lancastre.

Item where this realme is holden of God, and not of the Pope or other prince, the said kynge Richard after he had obtained diuers actes of parliament for his owne peculier profite and pleasure, then he obtained Bulles and extreme censures from Rome, to compell all menne straightely to kepe the same, contrary to the honour and auncient priuileges of this realme.

Item although the duke of Lancastre had done his deuoir againste Thomas Duke of Norfolk in profe of his quarell, yet the said kynge without reason or grounde banished him the realme for ten yeres contrary to all equitee.

Item befoze the dukes departure, he vnder his brode seale licenced him to make attourneis to prolocute and defend his causes: The said kynge after his departure wold suffre none attourney to apere for hym but did with his at his pleasure.

Item the same kynge put oute diuers shryues lawefully elected and put

An introduction into the history of

- put in their robes, diuers other of his owne minions subuerting the lawe contrary to hys othe and honour.
- 14 **I**tem he borrowed great somes of money, and bound him vnder his letters pattentes for the repaimēt of thesame, & yet not one peny paid.
- 15 **I**tem he taxed men at the wil of him & his vnhappy counsell, & thesame treasure spent in folie, no paynge poze men for their vitail & viande.
- 16 **I**tem he saied that the lawes of the realme were in his head, & somtyme in his beste, by reason of whiche fantastical opinion, he destroyed noble men and empoueriſhed the poze commons.
- 17 **I**tem the parliament setting and enacting diuers notable statutes for the profite and aduancement of the common welth, he by his priuie frendes and solliciters, caused to be enacted that no acte the enacted shoulde be more preiudiciall to him then it was to any of hys predeceſſors, through which Douiso he did often as he liste and not as the lawe ment.
- 18 **I**tem for to serue his purpose he would suffer the Shyres of the Shire to remaine aboue one yere or two.
- 19 **I**tem at the commons of the Parliament when knightes and burgesſes shoulde be electe that the election had bene full proceeded, he put out diuers persones elected, & put in other in their places to serue his wyll and appetite.
- 20 **I**tem he had priuie espialles in euery shire, to here who had of hym anye communicacion, and if he commoned of his lasciuious liuyng or outragious doynge, he streight waies was apprehended and made a greuous fine.
- 21 **I**tem the spiritualtie alledged againste hym that he at his goynge into Ireland eracted many notable somes of money, beside plate & iuwels, without lawe or custome, contrary to his othe take at his coronacio.
- 22 **I**tem when diuers lordes & Justices were swozne to saie the truthe of diuers thinges to them committed in charge both for the honor of the realme and profite of the kyng, the said kyng so menaced theym wyth fore thretenynges, that no man would or durste saye the ryght.
- 23 **I**tem that with out the assent of the nobilitie, he caried the iewels and plate and treasure ouer the see into Irelande, to the great empoueriſhing of the realme. And all the good recozdes for the comon welthe and against his extorcions, he caused priuely to be embesiled and conueied away.
- 24 **I**tem in all leagues and letters to bee concluded or sent to the see of Rome or other regions: His wytyng was so subtile and so darke, that no other prince durst once beleue him, nor yet his owne subiectes.
- 25 **I**tem he mooste tyrannously and vnpryncely sayd that the liues and goodes of al his subiectes were in the princes hādes & at his disposicio.
- 26 **I**tem that he contrary to the great Charter of England caused diuers lustie men to appele diuers olde men, vpon matters Determinable at the common law, in the court marciall, because that in that court is no triall but onely by battail: where vpon the said aged persones

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Byng Henry the. iiii.

Fol. viii.

fearing the sequelle of the matter submitted themselves to his mercy whom he fined and raunſomed vnreasonably at his pleasure.

Item he craftely deuised certain priuie othes contrary to the lawe, & caused diuers of his subiectes first to be swozne to obserue the same and after bound them in bondes for former keepng of thesame, to the great vndoynge of many honest men.

Item where the Chauncellour accordyng to the lawe woulde in no wise graunt a prohibicion to a certain person: the kyng graunted it vnto thesame persone vnder his priuie seale with great threatenynges if it should be disobeyed.

Item he banysed the byshop of Canterbury without cause or iudgement and kept hym in the parliament chamber with men of armes.

Item the byshops goodes he graunted to his successour vpon condition that he should mainteine all his statutes made at Shrewsburie, Anno. xxi. and the statutes made Anno. xxii. at Couentree.

Item vpon the accusacion of the Archebyshop, the kyng craftely persuaded thesaid byshop to make no aunswere, for he would be his warrant, and aduised hym not to come to the parliament. And so without aũswere he was condempned and exiled, and his goodes seized.

These bee the articles of any effecte which were lated againste hym sayyng foure concerning the byshoppe of Caunterbury, which onely touched hym, but his working brynought kyng Rycharde from his crowne.

AND for as muche as these articles, and other heinous and detestable accusacions were lated againste hym in the open parliament, it was thought by the mooste parte that kyng Rycharde was worthy to be depole of all honour, rule and princely gouernaunce. And instrumentes autentike and solempne to depole, and other instrumentes were made to certain persons for them, and all homagers of the realme to resigne, to him all the homages & fealties dewe to him as kyng and souereigne.

But of this depolition was executed in tyme, he came to Westminstere and called a great counsaill of all the nobilitie and commons to the entent to conclude and make expedicion of all thinges whiche befoze were purposed and set forwarde.

In the meane season diuers lordes of kyng Rychardes seruantes whiche by licence had accesse to his person, comforted, animated and encouraged hym being for some tyme withered, broken and in maner halfe deade, aduertising and exhortyng hym to regard his welthe and to saue hys lyfe. And first they aduised him willyngly to suffer hym selfe to be depole bothe of his dignitie, and deprived of his cythes: so that the duke of Lancastre might without murther or battail obtene the scepter and Diademe, after the whiche they well perceived he gaped and thrust by the mene wherof they thought he should be in perfect assurance of his life long to continue, and therfore might commit hym selfe to good hope, whiche to the best felowe & companion that a man in aduersite can assigne: or in tyme hym selfe withall. Surely this counsaill was both good & honeste in so greate an extremitie, but yet the full effecte folowed not as the

An introduction into the history of

the sequelle of the thyng shewed and apparantly declared. What profite, what honoure, what suretie had it bene to kyng Rycharde, if he when he might, whiche professed the name and title of a kyng, whiche is as muche to saie, the ruler or keper of people, had excogitate or remembred to haue bene a keper of his owne hedde and lyfe, which nowe beyng forsaken reiect and abandoned of all suche as he, beyng an euell shephard or herdman, befoze tyme did not plie, kepe and diligently ouerse was easely reduced and brought into the handes of his enemies. Nowe it was no mastery to perswade a man beyng desperate penlife and full of dolour, to abdicate him selfe from his empite and imperiall prehemynence: So that in only hope of his life and sauegarde, he agreed to all thynges that of hym were demaunded, and desired his keepers to shewe and declare to the Duke, that if he would vouchesafe to accorde and come to hym, he woulde declare secretly thynges to hym bothe profitable and pleasaunt. His keepers sent worde of all his saynges to the Duke, which incontinent repaired to his chamber. There kyng Richard commoned with hym of many thynges, and amongst all other affirmed those accusations to be to muche trewe whiche the comminaltie of the realme alledged against hym: that is to say, that he had euell governed his dominion and kyngdome, and therfoze he desired to be disburdened of so great a charge and so heauy a burdein, besechyng the duke to graunt to hym the sauegarde of his life, and to haue compassion of hym, nowe as he befoze that tyme had bene to hym bountifull and magnificent.

The duke bidding hym to be of good comfort and out of feare warranted him his life, so that he woulde resigne to hym his scepter crowne & dignitie: also nether to procure nor consent to any thyng or acte whiche might be hurtfull or prejudiciall to his person or succession, to the which demaundes he graunted and frely condiscended and agreed.

The Duke of Lancastre the nexte daie declared all kyng Rychardes hole mind to the counsaill, but especially to his vnckle Edmund duke of York (whose helpe he muche vsed) whiche hearyng all thynges to be in a hysple, a fewe daies befoze was come to London. The nobles and commons wete wel pleased that kyng Richard should frankely and frely of his owne mere motion (whiche they muche desired, least it should be noyed and reported that he therunto were enforced and by violence constrained) resigne his crowne and departe from his regalite.

Not long after he caused a great assemble to be appointed at the towre of London: where kyng Richard appaueled in vesture and robe royall the diademe on his head, and the scepter in his hand, came personally befoze the congregation and said these wordes in effecte. I Rycharde kyng of England, Duke of Fraunce, Aquitaine, and Lozde of Irelande, confesse and say befoze you, my lordes and other oure subiectes, that by the hole space of .xxii. yere in the whiche I haue obtained and possessed the rule and regimene of this famous realme of Englande, partely ruled and misruled by the euill and sinister counsaill of puerle & flattering persones: and partely led by the faultie of young waueryng and wanton

King Richard confessed to be deposed

It is to be noted that the Duke of York was the first to propose the deposition of King Richard II.

not a... of waueryng & voluptuous

ton youth, and with defectacion of worldly and voluptuous appetites haue omitted and not executed my royall office and bounden dutie accordyng as I oughte to haue done, in ministering iustice and preferment of the common wealth, whiche negligence I more then any of you as I thynke my selfe, do soze repente and bewaile, and specially because I am brought to this poynte, that I knowlege and confesse my selfe, not worthy longer to reigne nor to haue any farther rule. So that now I can nother amende my misdoedes, nor correcte my offences whiche surely I intended to do, and especially in my olde age, in the whiche euell thynges be accustomed to be amended, and the fautes and offences of youth, to be corrected and reformed. For what young man comonly can be founde indued with so muche vertue and so good qualities, whiche agitate and pricked with the heate of youth, shall not turne and decline from the right pathe and directe waye, and yet when he cometh to the more ripenes of yeres and greate grauntie, doth not amend and change into better his old errates & wanton actes, for experiēce teacheth, that of a rugged colte, cometh a good horse, and of a shreude bove, proueth a good man. But siche fortune doth not permit and suffre me so to do, to the intent that the publike welth of this realme may be holpen and auanced by my meane, and after this not lyke agayn to declync and decaye. And to the intent that it shall bee lesfull to you, to electe and chose my cōsyn germaine, Henry Duke of Lancastre, a man mete for a realme, and a priuice apt for a kyngdome, to your kyng and soueraigne lozde: I of my owne mere motion and frewill, do putte and depole my selfe out of all royall dignitie, prehemynence & soueraignite, and resygne the possession, title and vse of this realme, with all rightes thereunto apperteinyng, into his handes and possession. And then with a lamentable voyce and a sorowfull countenaunce, deliuered his scepter and crowne to the duke of Lancastre, requiryng euery persone seuerally to graunt and assent that he might lyue a priuate and a solitary lyfe, with the swetnesse whereof he woulde be so well pleased, that it should be a paine and punishment to hym to go abrode, and deliuered all the goodes that he had, to the some of thre hundred thousand pounde in coyne, besyde plate and iuels, as a pledge and satisfaction, for the iniurtes and wronges by hym committed and done. But whatsoeuer was promised, he was disceiued: For shortly after his resignation he was conueyghed to the Castell of Leides in Kent, and from thence to Doumffret where he departed out of this miserable life, as you shall heare hereafter.

A summe of money... 300000 lb.

The firste yere of
C The vnquiet tyme of Kyng Henry
the fourth.

The firste yere.



At the same was dispersed abroad that kyng Rycharde had putte hym selfe from his dygnitee royall, and resigned his Scepter and Diademe imperiall, Henry Plantagenet bozne at Wolynghroke in the Countie of Lyncolne duke of Lancastre and Berfford, erle of Derby, Lecester and Lyncolne sonne to Jhon of Gaunt duke of Lancastre, with one voice bothe of the nobles and comons, was published, proclaymed & declared kyng of England and of Fraunce, and lord of Ireland;

and on the date of sainte Edward the confessor, was at Westminster with great solempnite and royall pompe, sacted, enoynted and crowned kyng by the name of kyng Henry the fourth. But whosoever delighted at his high promotion, sure it is that Edmond Mortimer erle of Marche whiche was heire to Lionel duke of Clarence, the thirde begotten sonne of kyng Edward the thirde, as you before haue heard, and Richard erle of Cambryge sonne to Edmond duke of York, which had married Anne sister to the same Edmond, were with these doinges neither pleased nor contente. In so muche that nowe the deuision once beyng begonne, the one linage persecuted the other, and neuer ceased tyll the heires males of bothe the lines were by battaill murdered or by sedicion clerely extinct and destroyed.

At the date of the coronacion, to the intent that he should not seme to take vpon hym the crowne and scepter royall without title or lawfull clayme, but by extorte power and inuisious intulson, he was aduised to make his title as heire to Edmonde, surnamed or vntuely sayned Crouchebacke, sonne to kyng Henry the thirde, and to saie that the sayd Edmond was elder brother to kyng Edward the firste, and for his defoznite repudiat and put by from the crowne royall, to whome by hys mother Blanche daughter and sole heire to Henry duke of Lancastre, he was next of blood and vndoubtfull heire. But because not onely his frendes but also his prey enemies knewe, that was but a title and that this title was by inuentours of mischite sayned, anagened & published and were surely enformed not only that the sayd Edmond was younger sonne to kyng Henry the thirde accordyng as it is declared in the acte of parliamēt before recited: but also hauing true knowledge that Edmond was nether Crouchebacked nor a defozmed persone, but a goodly gentyll man and a valiaunt Capitayn, and so muche fauored of his louyng father, that he to preferre hym to the marriage of the Quene Dowager of

Flaerne

Kyng Henry the.iiij.

Fol. 12

Flaerne hauyng a great liuelode, gaue to him the countie Palatine of Lancaster with many notable honours, hyghe seignioryes and large priuileges. Therefore they aduysed him to make some other claime to the newe obteyned regimēt, and so caused it to be proclaymed and published that he chalenged the realme, not onely by conquest, but also because he was by kyng Richard adopted as heire, & declared successor of hym by resignation had accepted the crowne and sceptre, & also that he was the next heire male of the blood royall to kyng Rychard.

After that he was crowned, he created hys eldest sonne lord Henry, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornewale, & Erle of Chester, then beyng of the age of .xij. yeres. This solēntie finished, he called his high court of parliament, in the which it was demaunded by the kynges frendes what should be done with kyng Richard. The bishop of Carleile which was a man bothe wel learned & wel stomacked rose vp and sayde. My lordes I require you take hede what answer you make to this questyon. For thyncke there is none of you worthy or mete to geue iudgemente on so noble a Prince as kyng Rychard is, whom we haue taken for our soueraigne and liege lord by the space of .xxij. yeres, and assure you, there is not so ranke a traytor, nor so arrant a thiefe, nor so cruel a murderer, which is apprehended and deteigned in prison for his offence, but he shall be brought before the iustice to heare hys iudgemente, and yet you wil procede to the iudgemente of an annoynted king, & heare neyther hys answer nor excuse. And I say that the duke of Lancaster, whom you cal kyng, hath more offended and more trespassed to kyng Richard & thys realme, then the kyng hath done to hym or to vs. For it is manifestly knowen that the duke was banished the realme by kyng Richard and his counsayl, and by the iudgemente of hys owne father, for the space of tenne yeres, for what cause all you know, and yet without lycence of kyng Rycharde he is returned againe into the realme, yea and that is worse, hath taken vpon hym the name, title & prehemynence of a kyng. And therefore I saie and affirme that you do apparantly wrong, & manifest iniury to procede in any thinge agaynst kyng Richard, without callunge hym openly to hys answer and defence. When the bishop had ended, he was incontinent by the erle Marshal attached & committed to ward in the Abbey of S. Albones.

And then it was concluded, that kyng Richard should continue in a large prison, and should be plentifully serued of all thinges necessarye bothe for viande and apparell, and that yf anye persones would presume to reue warre or congregate a multitude to releue or deliuer him out of prison, that then he should be the firste that should dye for that sedicious commocyon. In this parliamēt the lord Fitzwater appeled the duke of Humarie of high treason, and offered to fight with him in listes royall. Likewyse the lord Hozley appeled the erle of Salisbury, and there were more then .xx. appellantes whiche waged battaill in this parliamēt. But the kyng pardoned al their offences sauing

B. 4.

uing

Handwritten note: King Henry the fourth was crowned by adoption.

Handwritten note: The bishop of Carleile was a man bothe wel learned & wel stomacked.

Handwritten note: The erle Marshal attached & committed to ward in the Abbey of S. Albones.

Handwritten note: The duke of Humarie was offered to fight with him in listes royall.

Handwritten note: Edmond Mortimer was the third begotten sonne of kyng Edward the thirde.

Handwritten note: The duke of Lancaster was banished the realme by kyng Richard.

The fyrste yere of

King Henry the first

uyng the fautes of the lord Hoyle and therle of Salisburie, whome he committed toward, & after at the request of their frendes, their offences were remitted & thei deliuered. He punished also extremely all such as were priuie and doers of the homicide of Thomas hys vncler late Duke of Gloucester, whiche was shamefully murdered befoze the toun of Caleys. Besides this, he auanced his frendes, and called out of exile Richard erle of Warwycke, and restozed the erle of Arundelles sonne to his owne possession and dignitie, and many other. He toke into his special fauor Ihon Hollande duke of Exeter and Earle of Huntingdone halfe brother to kyng Richard, which had espoused the lady Elizabeth his owne suster. And beyng befoze captaine of Caleys, greatly moued and inwardly greued that kyng Richard hys brother was amoued out of the seate royall, began to reyle and stirre by newe mocyons and sedicious faccions wythin the realme. Wherfoze to aduoyde suche pestiferous dangers, the newe king reconciled him to his fauor, and made hym as he surely coniectured his perfite frende, where in dede he was inwardly hys deadly enemy. In this Parliamente wer adnichilate all actes passed in the parliament holden by kyng Richard in the .xxi. yere of his reygne, which was called the euill parliamente for the nobilitie, the worse for the menaltie, but worste of all for the commonaltie. For in that parliament, will ruled for reason, men alyue wer condemned wythout examinacon, men dedde and put in execucio by priuy murder were adiudged openly to dye, the hie prelate of the realme wythout answer was banished: An erle arraigned could not be suffered to plede his pardon, and consequently one counsayler did al thynge, and all counsaylers did nothynge, affirmynge the saying of Clope, which hearynge his felow to say that he could do al thynge, sayed that he could do nothing. Wher he had thus reconciled his nobilitie, and gat the fauor of the spiritualtie and wonderfully pleased the commonaltie, but not so muche pleasyng them, as the possession of the crowne pleased hym self, and his frendes, he of them and by the fauor of them both, for the auoydance of all clammes, titles and ambiguities to be made vnto the crowne and diademe of the realme had hys dignitie lygne and succession enacted, confirmed and entayled by thassente of the hygh Courte of Parliamente as foloweth wyth worde by worde.

At the request and petition aswell of the nobilitie as of the comons in this parliament assembled, it is ordeigned and establisshed that the enheritaunce of the crownes and realmes of Englande and of Fraunce, and of al other lordshippes to the kyng our soueraygne lord, aswell on this syde the seas, as beyond apperteynyng, with their appurtenances, shalbe vnited and remayn in the person of our soueraygne Lorde the kyng, and in the heyres of his bodye lawfully begotten. And especially at the request and assent aforesayd, it is ordeygued, established, pronounced, enacted, wyrtten and declared, that my lord Prince, Henry eldest sonne to our soueraygne lord the kyng, shal bee heyre apparant and successor

Kyng Henry the.iii.

Fol. xi.

successor to our sayed soueraygne lord in the said crowne, realmes & seigniozes, to haue & enioy them with al their appurtenances after the discease of our sayed soueraygne to him and the heires of his bodye begotten. And yf he die without heires of his body begotten, that then the said crownes, realmes and seigniozes with their appurtenances shal remain to the lord Thomas, second sonne to our said soueraygne lord and to the heires of hys body begotten, and yf he depart wythout issue of his body begotten, al the premises to remayne to lord Ihon hys thirde sonne and to the heires of hys body begotten. And yf he dye wythout issue, then the crownes, realmes, & seigniozes aforesayde with their appurtenances shal remain to the lord Humfrey the .iiij. sonne to our said soueraygne lord, and to the heires of his body lawfully begotten.

After which acte passed, he thought neuer to be by any of hys subiectes molested or troubled. But O Lord, what is the mutabilitie of fortune: O God what is the chaunge of wordely safetye: O Christ what stablenes consisteth in mannes prouision: O what ferme sutely hath a Prince in his throne and degree: Considering this kyng hauyng the possession and crowne of the realme, and that in open parliament, agreed to by the Princes, condiscended to by the Clerkes, ratified by the commons, and enacted by the thre estates of the realme, was when he thought him selfe surely mortified in a ferme rocke & immouable foundation, todaynely wyth a trimbeling quicksand & vusted faste ground like to haue sonken or ben ouerthrowen. For diuerse lordes which wer kyng Rychardes frendes, outwardly dissimuled that whyche they inwardly conspired and determined, to confounde this kyng Henry to whom they had both swozn allegeance, and done homage, and so erect agayn and set vp their old lord and frend kyng Richard the seconde.

In thys case there lacked only an orgaine and conueyghance bothe how secretly to searce and knowe the myndes of the nobilitie, as allso to bring them to an assemble and counsayl, where they myght consulte and comen together, how to bring to efficacitie and effect, their long desired purpose and secrete nterpryse. Se how the deuyll is as redy to set furth mischief, as the good angel is to auance vertue. At this time was an Abbot in Westminster, a man of apparant vertues, professyng openly Christ, Christian Charitie, and due subieccion and obeyfance to hys prince: whych Abbot hearynge kyng Henry once say when he was but erle of Darby and of no mature age or growen grauitie, that princes had to litle, and religions had to muche, imagined in hym selfe that he now obteynynge the crowne of the realme, yf he wer therein a long continuor, woulde remoue the great beame that then greued his eyes and pricked hys conscience. For you must vnderstaude that these monasticall persones, lerned and vniterate, better led the taught, toke on the to wyrtte & register in the boke of fame, the noble actes, the wyse doynages, and politike gouernaunces of kynges and princes, in whiche cronographye, yf a kinge gaue to them possessions or graunted them liber-

B. iij.

ties

ties or exalted them to honor & worldly dignitie, he was called a saynct he was praised without any desert about the Moone, hys genealogie was wyttē, and not one iote that might exalt his fame, was ether forgotten or omitted. But if a christian prince had touched their liberties or claimed any part iustly of their possessions, or woulde haue intermitted in their holy franchises, or desired ayde of them against his, & their comon enemies. Then songes talked and penes wrote, that he was a tirant, a depresser of holy regyon, an enemy to Christes Church and his holy flocke, and a dampned and accursed persone with Dathan and Abiron to the depe pitte of hel. Whereof the prouerbe began, geue and be blessed, take away and be accursed. Thus the feare of lesynge their possessions, made them pay verely annates to the Romish byshop: thus the feare of correccion and honest restraint of libertie, made them from their ordinaries, yea almoste from obedience of their Princes to sue dispensacions, exemptions and immunities.

This Abbot that I spake of which could not well forget the sayng of kynge Henry, and beyng before in great fauor and highe estymacion wyth kynge Richard called to his hous on a day in the terme season all such lordes & other persones whiche he ether knewe or thought to be as effeccionate to kynge Richard, and enuious to the estate and auā-
xx cement of kynge Henry, whose names were, Thon Hollande Duke of Excester, and erle of Huntingdon, Thomas Hollande Duke of Surrey and erle of Kent, Edward duke of Aumerle and erle of Rutland sonne to the duke of Yorke, Tho Montague erle of Salisbury, Hughe Spenser erle of Glocester, Thon the bishop of Carleyll, sir Thomas Blount and Magdalene one of kynge Richardes chapell, a man as lyke to hym in stature and proporcion in all liniamentes of his body, as vnlyke in birth dignitie or condicions. Thys Abbot highly fested these greates lordes and hys speciall frendes, and when they had well dyned, they al withdrew them selves into a secret chamber and sat doun to counsayll
xxx when they were set, Thon Holland Duke of Excester whose rage of reuengyng the iniury done to kynge Richard was nothing mitigate nor mollified, but rather encreassed and blossomed, declared to them their allegeance promised, and by othe confirmed to king Richard his brother forgettyng not the high promotions and notable dignities whiche he and all other there present had obteygned by the high fauor and munificent liberalitie of his sayed brother, by the which they were not onely by othe and allegeance bounde, and also by kyndnes and vrbantie mensensed & moued to take part wyth him and his frendes, but also bound to be reuenged for him and his cause, on his mortall enemies and deadly foes, in whiche doyng he thought polecie moze meter to be vsed the force, and some wittie practise rather to be experymented then manys self hostilitie or open warre. And for the expedicion of this enterpryse he deuised a solempne iustes to be enterprysed betwene him and, **xx** on his part, and the erle of Salisbury and, **xx** on his part at Oxforde: to
cho

the whiche triumphe, kynge Henry should be invited and desired, and when he were mozte busely regardyng the marciall playe and warlye disporte, he sodainly shoulde be slaine and destroyed. And by this meanes kynge Richard which was yet a lyue, shoulde be restored to hys liberty and repossessed of this crowne and kyngedome, and appoynted farther who shoulde assemble the people, the nobze and persones, which shoulde accomplyshe and perfozme this inuented assaye and policie.

This deuyle so much pleased the sedicious congregacion, that they not onely made an indenture sextipartite sealed wyth their seales and
x signed with their handes in the whiche eche bounde him selfe to other to endeuoure them selves bothe for the destruction of kynge Henry and the creacion of king Richard, but also sware on the holy Euangelistes the one to be true and secrete to the other, euen to the houre and point of death. When al thinges were thus appoynted and concluded the duke of Excester came to the kynge to Windsor, requiringe him for the loue that he bare to the noble actes of chivalrie, that he woulde bouchsafe not onely to repaire to Oxforde to se and behold their manly feates, and warlike pastime: but also to be the discoverer and indifferente iudge (yf anye ambyguitie shoulde aryse) of their coragious actes
xx and royall triumphe. The kynge seing himself so effectuously desyred, and that of hys brother in lawe, and nothinge lesse imagenyng them that which was pretended, gentelly graunted and frendly condiscensed to his request. Which thing obteyned, al the lordes of this conyrracie departed to their houses (as they noised) to set armorers on work for trimming of their harneys agaynst the solempne iustes. Some had the helme the visere, the two bawiers & the two plackardes of the same ruriouly grauen & conningly costed: Some had their collers fretted and other had them set wyth gylt bullions: one company had the plackard, the rest, the port, the burley, the tasses, the lamboys, the backpece
xxx the tapull, and the border of the curace all gylte. And another bande had them all enameled Azure. One sorte had the bambzales, the pacegardes, che grandgardes, the poldren, the pollettes, parted wyth gold and azure: And another flocke had them siluer and sable: Some had the mainferres, the close gantlettes, the guissettes, the flancardes dropped & gutted with red, and other had the spekeled with grene: one sort had the quiffes, the greyes, the surlettes, & sockettes on the ryght side and on the left side syluer. Some had the spere, the burre, the cronet al pelowe, and other had them of diuerse colours. Oneband had the scufferon, the cranet, the bard of the horse al whyt, and other had them all
xl gylt. Some had their armynges swerdes freshly burnished and some had the conningly vernysshed. Some spurres wer whit, some gylt, and some cole blacke. One part had their Blumes al whyt, another hadde them al redde, and the thyrde had them of seuerall colours. One ware on his head pece his Ladies fleue, and another bare on hys helme the gloue of his dearlyng: But to declare the costlye Bases, the ryche bar-
B. iij. **des**

conspiracy

the names of the point of armor

conspiracy



conspiracy



The fyrst yere of

Des the pleasaunt trappers both of goldsmithes worke, and embzaw-
dery, no lesse sumptuously then curiously brought, it woulde aske a lōge
time to declare, for every man after his appetite deuised hys fantasie
berisyng the olde proverbe, so many heades, so many wittes.

The Duke of Excester came to his house & rayled men on every side
and prepared horse and harneis, mete and apte for his compassed pur-
pose. When the Duches his wyfe which was syster to king Henry per-
ceiued this, she no lesse trouble coniectured to be prepared against her
brother, then was in dede eminent & at hand, wherfore she wept & made
great lamentaciō. When the Duke perceiued her dolour, he said, what
Belle, how chaunseth this, when my brother king Richard was depo-
sed of his dignitie, and committed to harde and sharpe pryson, whyche
had bene kyng and ruled this realme noblie by the space of. xxij. yeres,
and youre brother was exalted to the throne and dignitie imperiall of
the same, then my harte was heauye, my lyfe stode in ieopardie, and
my combe was clerely cut, but you then reioysed laughed and trium-
phed, wherfore I pray you be contente that I may alsoe reioyce and
haue pleasure at the deliueying and restoring of my brother iustlye to
his dignitie, as you were iocond and pleasant, when your brother vn-
iustly and vntruelye depriued and diseased my brother of the same. For
of this I am sure, that yf my brother prosper, you and I shal not fal nor
declyne: but yf your brother continew in his estate and magnificence I
doubte not your decay nor ruine, but I suspecte the losse of my lyfe, be-
syde the losse of my landes and goodes. When he had sayde, he
killed his Lady which was sorowfull and pensife, and he departed to-
ward Oxford with a great companye both of Archers and horsemen,
and when he came there, he founde ready al his mates and confedera-
tes wel apoynted for their purpose, except the Duke of Aumerle Erle
of Rutland, for whom they sent messengers in great hast. Thys Duke
of Aumerle went before from Westminster to se his father the Duke of
Poike, and sittyng at dyner had his counterpaine of the endenture of
the confederacye wherof I spake before in his bosome.

The father espyed it and demaunded what it was, his sonne lowly
and beningly answered that it mighte not bee sene, and that it touched
not him. By saint George quod the father I wyll see it, and so by force
toke it out of hys bosome, when he perceyued the content and the syre
signes and seales sette and fyred to the same, whereof the seale of hys
sonne was one, he sodainly rose from the table, comaunding his horses
to be ladeled, and in a greate furye saied to his sonne, thou traytour
these, thou hast bene a traytour to kyng Richard, and wylte thou nowe
be false to thy colen kyng Henry: thou knowest well ynough & I am
thy pledge borowe and mayneperner, body for body, and land for goo-
des in open Parliament, and goest thou aboute to seke my death & de-
struccion: by the holy rode I had leauer se the strangeled on a gybbet.
And so the Duke of Poike mouited on horsebacke to ride toward Wind-
sore

*the opening of
the confederacye
of the Duke of
Excester*

King Henry the.iiiij.

Fol.riij.

for to the king, and to declare the hole effecte of his sonne and his adhe-
rentes & partakers. The Duke of Aumerle seyng in what case he stode
toke his horse and rode another way to Windsor, riding in post thither
(whiche his father being an olde man could not do.) And when he was
alighted at the castel gate, he caused the gates to be shut, sayinge, that
he must nedes deliuer the keyes to the kyng. When he came before the
kynges presence, he kneled doune on his knees, besechyng hym of mer-
cy and forgeuenes: The kyng demaunded the cause: then he declared to
him playnely the whole confederacie and entier coniuracyon in maner
and forme as you haue hearde: Wel sayde the kyng, yf this be true we
pardon you, yf it bee sayned at youre extreme peryll bee it. Whyle the
kyng and the Duke talked together, the Duke of Poike knocked at the
castel gate, whom the kyng caused to be let in, and there he deliuered
the endenture which before was taken from hys sonne, into the kynges
handes. Whiche writinge when he had redde and sene, perceiuyng
the signes and seales of the confederates, he chaunged his former pur-
pose. For the day before he heard say that the chalengers were all rea-
dy, and that the Defenders were come to do their deuoir, purposed to
haue departed towarde the triumph the next day, but by hys prudent
and forecastyng counsell, somewhat stayed till he might se the syre clere
and no darcke cloude nere to the place wher the listes were. And now
beyng aduertysed of the truthe and veritie, howe his destruccyon and
death was compassed, was not a litle vexed, but wyth a greate and
meruelous agony perturbed and vniquieted, and therfore determined
there to make his abode not hauinge tyme to loke and gaze on Justes
and tourneys, but to take hede how to kepe and conserue his lyfe and
dignitie, and in that place tarped tyl he knewe what way his enemyes
would set forward. And shortly wrote to the Earle of Northumberland
his high Costable, and to the erle of Westmerland his hygh Marshall,
and to other his assured frendes of all the doubtfull daunger and pere-
lous ieopardy. The coniuratoures perceyuinge by the lacke of the
Duke of Aumerles comyng, and also seyng no preparacion made there
for the kynges comming, imagined wyth them selves that their enter-
pryse was intimate and published to the kyng: Wherfore that thynge
whiche they attempted priuily to do, nowe openly with speare & wynde
they determined with al diligente celeritie to set forth and aduance.
And so they adozned Magdalene, a man resembling much kyng Ri-
chard in royal and princely besture, calling him kyng Richard, affir-
ming that he by fauor of hys keepers was deliuered oute of pryson and
set at libertie, and they followed in a quadzart array to the entent to de-
stroy kyng Henry, as the most pernicious & venemous enemy to the
his owne naturall countrey. While the confederates wyth thys newe
publyshed Adole accompanied wyth a pupylant armye of men, toke the
directe way and passage toward Windsor: kyng Henry beyng admo-
nished of their appochoyng, wyth a fewe horse in the nyght, came to the
Tower

the confederacye

*the Duke of
Excester*

for hunger, besette wyth twentie deintie dysches. One wyter whiche
 seemed to haue in his knowldege of kyng Rycharde's affayres, sayeth
 that kyng Henry sittyng at his table soze syghyng sated, haue I no fai-
 therful frende whiche wil deliuer me of hym whose life will be my death,
 and whose death will be the preseruation of my lyfe. This sayng was
 muche noted of them whiche were present and especially of one called
 Sir Piers of Exton. This knight incōtinently departed from the court
 with eight stronge persones and came to Donfret, comaundyng that
 the esquier whiche was accustomed to sewe and take the assaye befoze
 kyng Rycharde, should no more vse that maner of seruite, sayng, let hym
 eate well now, for he shall not long eate. Kyng Rycharde sate downe to
 dynner and was serued without curtesie or assaye, he muche mētuallyng
 at the sodayne mutacion of the thyng, demaunded of the Esquier why
 he dyd not his duety: he sated he, I am otherwise commaunded by Sir
 Piers of Exton, whiche is newly come from kyng Henry. When he
 heard that worde, he toke the caruyng knife in his hande and stroke the
 Esquier on the head sayng, the deuill take Henry of Lancastre and the
 together. And with that worde Sir Piers entered into the chamber wel
 armed with eight tall men in harnes, eury man hauing a byll in his
 hande. Kyng Rycharde perceyving them armed, knewe well that they
 came to his confusio, and puttynge the table from hym, valiantly toke
 the byll out of the furste mannes hande, and manly defended hymselfe,
 and slewe foure of them in a short space. Sir Piers being somewhat dis-
 mayned with his resistyng, lepte into the chaire where kyng Richard was
 wonte to sitte, while the other foure persones assailed and chaled hym a-
 boute the chamber, whiche being vnarmed defended hym against his e-
 nemies beyng armed, (whiche was a valiant acte) but in conclusion
 chalyng and traucrsyng from the one syde to the other, he came to the
 chaire where Sir Piers stode, whiche with a stroke of his Dolar felled
 hym to the grounde, and then shortly he was rid out of the worlde, with
 out ether confession or recett of sacrament. When this knight perceiued
 that he was deade, he sobbed, wept, and rent his heare cryng, Oh Lord,
 what haue we done, we haue murdered hym whome by the space of two
 and twenty yeres we haue obered as kyng, and honoured as our soue-
 reigne lord, now all noble men will abhorre vs, all honest persons will
 disdain vs, and all pooze people will rayle and crie out vpon vs, so that
 duryng our naturall liues, we shalbe poincted with the synger, and our
 posterite shalbe reprovod as children of Homicides, ye of Regicides and
 prince quellers. Thus haue I declared to you the diuersities of opin-
 ions concernyng the death of this infortunat prince, remittynge to your
 iudgement whiche you thynke moost trewe, but the verye truthe is that
 he died of a violent death, and not by the date of naturall infirmitie.
 When Atropos had cut the lyne of his lyfe, his body was embaulmed
 and seared and couered with lead all saue his face (to the entent that all
 men myght perceiue that he was departed out of this mortall lyfe) and
 was

*some yeres fought
 manfully by the
 of some yeres*

the verye

was conueyghed to London, where in the cathedrall chutche of saincte
 Paule he had a solempne obsequie, and from thence conueyghed to La-
 gley in Buckyngham Wyre, where he was enterred, and after by kyng
 Henry the .v. remoued to Westminster, and there entombd honozably
 with quene Anne his wyfe, although the Scottes vntreuly wyte that
 he escaped out of prison, and led a verceous and solitary lyfe in Scot-
 lande, and there dyed and is buryed in the blacke Friers at Sterlyng.
 What trust is in this worlde, what futette man hath of his life, & what
 constancie is in the mutable cononaltie, all men maye apparantly per-
 ceue by the ruine of this noble prince, whiche beeyng an vndubitate
 kyng, crowned and anoynted by the spiritualltie, honozed and exalted
 by the nobilitie, obeyed and worshipped of the comon people, was so
 daintly disceyued by them whiche he moste trusted, betrayed by them
 whom he had preferred, & slayn by them whom he had brought vp and
 nozished: so that all menne maye perceue and see, that fortune wayeth
 princes and poze men all in one balance.

VHEN newes of kyng Rycharde's depolyng were repozted into
 Fraunce, kyng Charles and all his court wondered, detested & abhorred
 suche an iniurye to bee doen to an anoynted kyng, to accoured prince, &
 to the hed of a realme: but in especiall Walteram erle of sent Paule whiche
 had married kyng Rycharde's halfe suster, moued with high disdain
 agaynst kyng Henry, ceased not to stirre and prouoke the frenche kyng
 and his counsayll to make Charpe warre in Englande, to reuenge the
 iniurie and dishonoz comitted and doen to his sonne in lawe kyng Ri-
 chard, & he hym self sent letters of defiance to Englande, whiche thyng
 was sone agreed to, and an armye to all appoynted with all speede, to
 invade Englande. But the frenche kyng so stomaked this high disple-
 sure, & so inwardly conceiued this infortunat chance in his mynde, that
 he fell into his old disease of the frensy, that he had nede accordyng to
 the old prouerbe, to sayle into the Isle of Anticyra, to purge his melā-
 colle humoz, but by the meanes of his phisicions, he was somewhat rele-
 ued & brought to knowldege of hym self. This armye was come doune
 into Picardy, cedy to be trasported into Englad, but when it was certa-
 inly certified that kyng Richard was ded, & that their enteprise of his
 deliuerace was frustrate & voyd, tharmitte scattred & departed a sonder.

*is from the
 of some yeres
 of some yeres*

BUT when the certaintie of kyng Rycharde's death was declared to
 the Aquitaynes and Gascons, the moste parte of the wisest men of the
 countree, fell into a greate bodely feare, and into a dedly dreade. For
 some lamentyng the instabilitee of the Englishe people, iudged them
 to be spotted with perpetuall infamie, and brought to dishonoz & losse
 of their auncient fame and glozy, for comittynge so heynous a cryme and
 detestable an offence against their kyng & soueraigne lord. The memo-
 rie wherof, they thought would neuer be buried or extincted. Other fe-
 red the losse of their goodes and liberties, because they imagined that
 by this ciuill discencion and intestine deuision, the realme of Englande
 should

*Anticyra is
 an Isle in Asia,
 wherewith an
 herbe is pur-
 ged wherof
 the prouerbe,
 go saile to An-
 ticyra, as who
 saith, go
 purge your
 melancholy,*

Should so be vexed and troubled, that their countree (yf the Frenchmen should invade it) should be destitute and left void of all aide and succor of the English nation. But the citizens of Bourdeaux took this matter very sore at the stomacke, because kyng Richard was bozne and brought vp in their citee, lamentyng, and cryng out that lithe the beginning of the worlde, there was neuer a more detestable, a moze villainous nor a moze heynous acte committed: whiche beyng sad with sorrow and enflamed with malencolie, saied that vnttrue, vnnaturall and vnmmercifull people had betrayed and slayn, contrary to all lawe and iustice and honestie, a good man a iuste prince and polettike gouernour. Besechyng God deuoutly on their knees, to be the reuenger and punisher of that detestable offence and notorius crime.

WHEN the Frenchmen, which haue eyes of the waking serpent, perceued the dolor and agony that the Aquitaynes and Gascons were in for the death of their prince, duke and contrymanne, they reioyced and applauded in maruelous maners thynkyng with themselves that (the Gascons nowe abhorryng and detestlyng the English men moze then a Dogge or an Alder) they verte easily mighte obtayn the whole countree and douchie of Aquitaine, with the members and territories there to apperteynyng, yf they would ether by entreatie or by inuasion moue the people beyng now amased and comfortles, as shepe without a shepheard, or beastes without an herdman. Wherfore in greate haste and slowe spede, Lewes duke of Burbon was sent to Angiers, & wrote to diuers citees and townes on the confynes of Aquitain and Gascon, exhortyng them with large promises and flatteryng wordes, to reuolte and turne from the English subieccion, and become bassals to the crowne of Fraunce. But all his glosyng wordes serued litle, and all his faire promyses profited muche lesse. For the people knewe that the English yoke was but a fether, and the yoke of Fraunce, was moze ponderous then lede, seyng daily how the Frenchmen vexed and molested their miserable people with extreme exactions and intollerable tallages, rasyng their skynne to the very bone, and their purses to the very botome wherfore they determined rather to abide in their old subieccion and obedience, then for a displeasure irrecuperable to auenture themselves on a newe chance and a doubtfull parell.

KING Henry beeyng aduertised of all the frenche attemptes and couert conueighances, sent the lord Thomas Percy erle of Worcester with a goodly crewe of souldiours into Aquitayn to ayde and assist sir Robert Knolles his leiuetenante ther, and to perswade and exhorte the people to continue in their auncient libertie and dewe obeysance. The erle arriued there, and so wysely entreated the noble men, so grauouly perswaded the magistrates of the citees and townes, and so gently and familiarly vled and tracted the vulgare people, that he not onely appeased their furpe and malyce, but brought them to a louyng and vntoyme obeysance, receiuyng of them othes of obedience and loyall feal-

tie whiche done he retourned agayne into England with great thankes. When kyng Charles of Fraunce perceued that his purpose and attempte was frustrate and came to no good conclusion in Aquitayn and that kyng Richard beyng deade, his enterpryse into England was of no value and to small purpose, he determined with hym selfe to inuent some way howe to haue the Lady Isabell his daughter, somtyme espoused to kyng Richard restored to hym agayn: and for that purpose sent a solempne ambassade into England to kyng Henry, whiche gently receyued them, and gaue in answer that he wold send his commissioners shortly to Caleys, whiche should farther common and conclude with them, not onely that request, but diuers other matters of gret effecte and efficacie. And shortly after their departyng he sent Edward duke of Yorke, befoze called duke of Aumerle, whiche succeeded in the sayd duchie his father Edmond duke of Yorke, a littell befoze diseased and Henry erle of Northumberland into the countrey of Guisnes. The commissioners assembled at diuers places at sondry tymes. The duke of Borbon aboute all thynges requyred in the name of the French king his master, to haue queene Isabell to hym deliuered. The Englishmen that to do continually did deny requyryng to haue her married to Henry Prince of Wales, a man bothe in blud and age to her in all thynges equall. But the frenche kyng that mariage vtterly refused, sayng he wolde neuer ioyne affinitye after with the English nation, because that the aliance had so vnforsunate successe.

Then they began to entreate a continuall peace, whiche request the Frenchmen refused, and inconclusion they agreed that the truce whiche was taken betwene them and kyng Richard, for the terme of .xxx. yeres was renouate and confirmed. Some authours affirm that there was a newe leage concluded and confirmed betwene both the realmes duryng the lyues of bothe the princes, whiche semeth to haue a certeyn colour of verite. For the kyng sent shortly after the foresayd Lady Isabell vnder the conduycte of the Lord Thomas Percy erle of Worcester, associate with many noble and honourable personages, as well of women, as men, haupyng with her all the Jewelles ornautes & plate (with a gret surplusage geuen to hir by the kyng whiche he brought into England) was sente in solempne estate to Caleys, and there deliuered to Walteram erle of saint Paule Lieutenant for the French kyng in Picardie, and so conueyghed to her father, whiche gaue her in mariage to Charles sonne to Lewes duke of Orleans. The Frenchmen often tymes requyred kyng Henry to assigne to her a dower, but al was in vayne, for the Englishmen answered that the matrimony was neuer consummate, by reason wherof she was not dowable, by the very treatie of the mariage concluded, and so this matter sealed and was no moze moued. As the old prouerbe saith, after wynde commeth rayn. & after one euyl comoly ensueth another, so duryng the tyme that kyng Henry was vexed and vniquieted, bothe within the realme and without.

The firste yere. of

OVVEN Glendoꝝ a squyre of Wales. perceiuyng the realme to be vnquieted, and the kyng not yet to be placed in a sure and vniouable seate, entēdyng to vsurpe and take vpon hym the principalltie of Wales, and the name and pꝛeheminence of the same, what with faire flatterynge wordes and with large promyses, so enuegled entiled and allured the wilde and vndiscrete Welshmen, that they toke hym as their prince and made to hym an othe of allegeance and subieccion. By whose supportacion, he beyng elated and set vp in aucthorite, to the intent to bee out of all doubte of his neyghboꝝ, made sharpe warre on Reigulde loꝝde Grey of Rithen and toke hym prisoner, promysing hym libertee and dischargyng his raunsome, yf he would espoule and marie his daughter, thinkyng by that affinitie, to haue greete ayde and muche power in Wales. The loꝝde Grey beeyng not very riche nether of substance noꝝ of frendes, consideryng this offer to be the onely waye of hys releffe and deliuerance, assented to his pleasure and married the damosell. But this false father in lawe, this vntrew, vnhoonest and periured person, kept hym with his wyfe still in captiuitie till he dyed. And not content with this heynous offence, made warre on loꝝde Edmond Mortimer erle of Marche, and in his owne loꝝdship of Wigmore, where in a conflict he slewe many of thes men and toke hym prisoner, and fetterynge hym in chaynes, cast hym in a depe and miserable dongeon. The kyng was requyred to purchase his deliuerance by dyuerse of the nobilitie, but he could not heare on that syde, rather he would and wished all his linage in heuen. For then his title had been out of all doubt & question, and so vpon this cause as you heare, after ensued great sedicion.

THVS Owen Glendoꝝ glorifyng hym self in these two victozies, invaded the Marches of Wales on the west side of Seuerne, robbed vilages, bzent townes, and slewe the people, and laden with praies and bloudy handes returned agayn into Wales, neuer desistynge to do euill till the next yere, that the kyng reised a greete armee and puyssance to resist and defende his malicions attemptes and sedicious inuasions, as after shall be declared. It was not sufficiēt in this first yere of kyng Henry, this realme to be troubled with domestical sedicion, vexed with the craftie practises and inuencions of the Frenche men, and inuaded and infested with the frantike waueryng Welshemen, but also fortune hauyng enuy at the gloꝝy and fortunate procedyng of this man, muste in his iayed firste yere also, arme the Scottes with spere and shelde agaynst hym and his realme, wherof the occasion shall bee to you declared accordyng to the Scotticall histories. A litle before this tyme, George of Dunbar Erle of the Marches of the realme, made meanes to kyng Robert of Scotlande, that Dauid his eldest sonne might marie and espouse the erles daughter called Elizabeth, and deliuered for the performance of the same marriage into the kynges handes a greete some of money. When Archebailde erle Douglas heard of this conclusion, disdaining therle of the Marches blud to be auanced before

not in wales

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Kyng Henry the. iii.

his stocke, wherfoze ether by faire wordes, or els by disbutyng a greete some of money, he so enuegled kyng Roberte of Scotlande, that Dauid his heyre refuysng the first damosell, espoused Mariell the erle Douglas daughter. Therle of Marche desired restitution of his money, to whom the kyng gaue many frivulus and triseyng aunsweres, wherfoze he disdaining so to bee mocked & deluded of his money, with his wyfe and family, fled into England, to Henry erle of Northumberland, entēdyng with bent of sword to reuenge the iniury & displeure to hym by the kyng committed & doen, & so with the help of the borderers bzent diuerse townes, & slew many persons in the realme of Scotland.

KING Robert beeyng thereof aduertised, byste depriued the Erle George of all his dignitees and possessions, and caused his goodes to be confiscate, and after wrote to the kyng of Englande, instantly requiryng hym, yf he would the truce any longer, to contynue, ether to deliuer into his possession the Erle of Marche, and other traitors and rebelles to his persone and realme, or els to banyshe and exile them out of his realme, territories and dominions. Kyng Henry discretly answered the herault of Scotland, that the worde of a prince ought to bee kepte and his wyrtynge and seale ought to bee inviolate, and consideryng that he had graunted a saueconduyte to the erle and his company, he would nether without cause resonable breake his promyse, noꝝ yet deface his honoꝝ. Whiche aunswer declared to the kyng of Scottes, he incōtinēt dyd proclayme and intimate open warre, agaynst the kyng of England, with blud fire and sword. Kyng Henry perceiuyng, that pollice pꝛeuenteth chance, gathred and assembled together a greete armee, and entred into Scotlande, burnyng townes, villages and castels, sparing nothyng but religious houses and churches, and bzent a greete parte of the townes of Edenborough and Liche and beleged the castle of Haydens in Edenborough, in the ende of September, wherof was xxx capitayn, Dauid duke of Rothsay and prince of the realme, and Archibalde erle Douglas, with many hardy men: Roberte duke of Albany, beeyng appoynted gouernoz of the realme, because the kyng was sycke and vnapt to rule, sent vnto kyng Henry an hartold, assuryng hym on his honour that yf he would abyde and tary his comyng and repaire, whiche should be within sixe daies at the most, he would geue hym battayll, and remoue the siege, or els die for it.

The kyng beeyng glad of these toyous good newes, rewarded the herault with a goune of silke and a chayne of gold, promysing hym in the worde of a prince, not to depart thence but abide there, the comyng of the gouernoz. The sixte daye passed, ye sixe and sixtene to, the gouernoz noꝝ nether appered noꝝ sent worde, the winter waxed cold, vitayle failed, men died of the fire, it rained euery daye so habundantly, that hunger and colde caused the kyng to breke vp his siege, and to departe out of Scotland, without battayll or strength offered. Durynge whiche tyme bothe the wardens of the Marches beeyng with the kyng, the Scot-

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The first yere of

tes made a rode into Northumberlande, and burned diuerse townes in Bambozough there, and shortly returned agayn, or els they had been trapped & come to late home. When the kyng of England had dismissed his souldiers, and discharged his army, the Scottes entending to bec reuenged of their greate domages to theim by the Englishe nacion doen and committed by therle Douglas, appoynted twoo armys to inuade Englande. Of the first was cheifcaptayn, sir Thomas Halibarton of Dirlton, and Patrike Hebburne of Hales, whiche made a rode into Englande, and returned with litle losse and no greate gapn. After this the forsaide sir Patrike Hebburne, encouraged & boldened with the profperous successe of this first iorney, with a greate armye of the people of Lowdian inuaded Northumberlande, robbing and spolyng the countree and departed homeward, not without greate gapn of bestes and captiues. But in the returne he was encountred with therle of Northumberlandes vicewarden, & other gentelmen of the borders at a town in Northumberlande called Felbit, and there the Englisshmen soze assailed, and the Scottes valiantly resisted, but after a long fight, the victoery fell on the Englishe parte, and as Ihon Mayer the Scot writeth, there were slain the flower of all Loughdean, and especially sir Patrike Hebburne with many of his linage. There wer apprehended by Ihon and William Cockeburne, sir Robert of Was, Ihon and Thomas Hablinton esquiers, and a greate nombre of the comon people. The erle Douglas soze beyng greued with the losse of his nacion and frendes, entending a requitement yf it were possible of thesame, by the consente of the gouernour of Scotlande, dyd gather a houge armye of twentie thousande felle menne and moze.

In the whiche armye was Lord Mordake earle of Fife sonne to the gouernour of Scotland, the erle of Angus, and many other earles and barons of the nobilitie of Scotland. These valiaunte captiues and couragious souldiours entered into Northumberlande with banners displayed lyke menne ether apte or thynkyng theim selves able to destroy the townes and spoyle the countrey and Marches of Northumberlande. When they were entered into England thynkyng no puissance able to encountre with their force, out of a valey beside a town called Homeldon issued sodainly the Lorde Henry Pierce whom the Scottes for his haut and valiant corage called sir Henry hotspur, and in his company the Lorde George of Dunbar erle of Marche before banished Scotlande, as you haue heard, with all the gentyll menne of Northumberland, and eyght thousande men on horsebacke and on fote. The encounter was sharpe, the syght was dangerous, the long continuance was doubtfull, for some were felled and rescued, some in rescuyng other were slayne, other greedy of pray moze then of strokes fled to se what baggages were kept emongest the Pages. Thus with pure fightyng of the Englisshmen, and fainte hertes of the bragging Scottes, the bryghte beame of victoery shone on sainte Georges crosse, and

Looseme of Scott

my lord percy allyd with the Scottes

Kyng Henry the. iiii.

and there were slayne of men of great renoune and estimation sir Ihon Swinton, sir Adam Gordon, sir Ihon Leuiston, sir Alexander Ransley of Dalehowse, and .xxiii. knightes moe, whose names ether for igno- rance or for feare of reproche, Hector Boece the Scottissh arche chro- nocler kepeth in silence & dothe omitte, beside .x. commons. But there wer taken prisoners, Mordake erle of Fife, Archebald erle Douglas, whiche in the combat loste one of his eyes, Thomas erle of Murray, Robert erle of Angus, and as other writers affirme, the erles of Athell and Wentethe with .v. C. other.

When the Lord Percie had thus obtained this glorious victoery, he sent his prisoners into diuerse fortresses, and determined to subdue or destroy all the countreys of Lowdene and Marche, whose heades and Gouernours ether he had slayne or by force taken captiues. And so with a gret power entered into Ciuendale wastyng and destroyng the hole countrey, and they beseged the castell of Cokelaues, wherof was capitayn sir Ihon Grenlowe, which seyng that his castell was not long able to be defended cōpounded with the Englisshmen that yf the castell wer not succored within .iii. monthes, that then he would deliuer it into the Englishe mennes handes. The capitane thereof wrote vnto the Gouernour, whiche calling a greate countell, the moste parte adyled hym rather frankely and frely to yelde the castell, than to put in leopar- die and cast in hazard the remnaunt of the Northyng nobilitie of the realme. So muche was their courages abated and their fumilhe crakes refrigerat with the remembraunce of the last condict and bataill. But the gouernour rebukyng their timorous heartes, and feminine audacitie (whether he thought so or no was a question) swate that if no man wold folowe of the nobilitie he would do his deuote to reskewe the castell at the day. But his othe was nether kept nor broken, for he litell preparyng and lesse entending the othe whiche he solsimply made neuer set fote forwarde dutyng the first .ii. monethes, for the resyng of the siege or reskewe of the castell. But the Englishe men beyng sent for to go with the kyng into Wales, raised their siege and departed lea- uying the noble men prisoners still with the erle of Northumberland and the Lord Percie his sonne, whiche by the kyng were commaunded to kepe them to his vse, and not to deliuer them without his assent.

KING Henry forgat not his enterpryse into Wales, but made pro- uision for menne, munitions and artillery mete and conuenient for so great abusynesse, wherof the Frenche kyng beyng aduertised, sente priuile Lorde James of Burbone earle of Marche and his two bre- thren Ihon and Lewes, with .xii. C. knightes and esquiers to aide Owen Glendore agaynst the inualions of kyng Henry, he toke shipping with .xxi. sayle at the mouth of Beme, and the wynd was not fauor- able to his purpose for he coulde neuer approche the coaste of Wales but came before the towne of Blimmonthe in Deuonshire, and there leauyng his great shippes lying at ancre, in the nyghte toke land and

many / saym.

kyng James / into wales.

The second / day of / agaynst /

byent, spoiled and destroyed diuers small villages, and poore cotages, and robbed. v. or. vi. littell Craters and fishre botes laden with fysh and corne. But while he and his companie like gredy wolues were lea- kyng after their praye the wynde rose highe and a great tempestuous rage and furious stozme sodaynely flutshed and drowned. xii. of his great shippes whiche laye in the mouthe of the haueu for his sauegard and defence. Wherof when the erle was aduertited, and perceiuyng by the fyring of the beacons that the people began to assemble in plum- pes to encounter with hym, and also seyng his purpose soze diminished as well by the slaughter of suche as ranged abzode in hope of spoyle and praye, as by the furious rage of the vniuersall lee and hydeous tempest, with much payne and great labour toke his shippes agayne, and was not without reopardie of hys lyfe. Dzyuen on the coast of Bri- tayne and landed at saint Malos. The French kyng perceiuyng that this chace had it successe appointed one of his Marshals called Memo- rancie, and the master of his Crossbowes with. xii. M. men, to sayle in to Wales, whiche toke shipping at West and had the wynde to them so prosperous that they landed at Harfords haueu, and leauyng the castell of penbroke vnassaulted, because it was well fortified, manned, and vi- tayed, besieged the towne of Harfords West whiche was so well de- fended by the erle of Arundell and his power that they much moze lost then gayned. And from thence they departed towarde Owen Glendog whome they nominated pynce of Wales, and founde hym at the towne of Dinbigh abidyng there commyng with ten thousand men. They wer of hym louyngly receyued, and gentelly interteyned, and when all thyn- ges were prepared, they passed by Glamoigan shire toward Worcester and there byent the suburbes, but hearyng of the kynges approachyng sodaynly returned into Wales. The kyng with a great puyssaunce fo- lowed and founde them embattayled on a highe mountayne, and a gret valey betwene bothe the armyes, so that eche armye playnely perceyued other, and euesy hoste lobed to be assauted of his aduersary, and of the ground to take the most aduantage: thus they cotinued eight dayes fro moynyng to nyght ready to abyde but not to geue battayle. There wer many feare skirmishes and many propre seates of armes daily done, whiche the French Cronicles moze then the Englishe writers can re- porte. For there were Rayne the Lord Patrioles of Cries, brother to the Marshall of France, the Lord Hattelone and the Lord Vale and the bastarde of Burbon, with. v. hundred gentelmen.

The frenche men and Welthe men were soze troubled and afflicted with famine, that their herdes were appalled and their corages soze a- bated, for the kyng had so stopped the passages that nether vntayll nor succour could by any way be conueighed to the. Wherfore of very ne- cessitie they were compelled eyther to fyghte or flee: And so by the ad- uisement and counsell of the Marshall of Fraunce, whiche put not to much confidence in the waneryng Welshemen, the hole hoste depart- ed

ted theight day at midnight in the most secretest maner that they could deuyle. The frenche men with littell rewarde and no gayne returned into Brytayne makyng small boast of their paynfull iourney.

THE kyng seyng them departed, folowed the into Wales, and cha- sing them from hilles to dales, from dales to woddes, from woddes to marishes, and yet could neuer haue them at any aduantage. A world it was to see his quotidiarie remouyng, his paynfull and busy wande- ryng, his troublesome and vncertayne abidyng, his continuall mocion, his daily peregrinacion in the desert, felles and craggy mountains of that barrene vnfertile and depopulate countrey. And thus beyng tol- led from countrey to countrey, from hyl to valey from marische to wod, from noughte to worlde, without gayne or profite withoute vitayle or succour he was of necessitie compelled to retire his armye and retourne agayne to Worcester, in whiche retournyng the Welshemen knowyng the passages of the countrey, toke certayne cariages of his laden with vitayle to his gret displeasure, and their gret comforte. When he came to Worcester perceiuyng winter to appoche whiche season of the yere is not conuenient and proper for men of warre to lie in the feldes, and specially in suche a barrayne and hyl countrey as Wales is, dis- perded his armye for that tyme and returned to London. In the meane tyme while the kyng was thus occupied in Wales, certayn malicious and cruell persons enuyng and malignyng in their heattes that kyng Henry contrary to the opinion of many, but agaynst the will of mo had so shortly obteyned and possessed the realme and regalitie, blased a- abzode & noyled daily amongst the vulgare people that kyng Richard (whiche was openly sene dead) was yet luyng and desired ayde of the common people to repoesse his realme and roiall dignitie. And to the furthraunce of this fantasticall inuencion, partly moued with indig- nacion, partely incensed with furious malencolte, set vpon postes and caste aboute the stretes railyng rimes, malicious meters and taun- tyng verses agaynst kyng Henry and his procedynges. He beyng net- teled with these vncurtous ye vniuertuous prickes & thornes, serched out the authours, and amongst other were found culpable of this of- fence and crime, sir Roger Claryngdon knight, and eight gray friers whiche accozdyng to their merites and desertes were stranged at Ci- bozne and there put in execucion. I may not here forget to shewe you howe that kyng Henry sekynge nowe affinitie and frendshippe in Ger- manie sent this yere his eldest doughter Blaunche accompanied with the Erle of Sommerset, the Bishop of Worcester, and the Lord Clif- forde, and other noble personages into Almanye, whiche brought her to Colepne, and there with great triumphe she was married to Wylly- am Duke of Bauner, sonne and heyre to Lewes of Bauper the Empe- tour, in whiche yere also dyed Lady Katherine Swynford the thirde wyfe of Ihon of Gaunt duke of Lancastre father to this kyng Henry, & was buried at Lincolne. In the same yere kyng Henry married Jane Duches

with the French...

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The third yere. of

Duches of Britayne late wyfe to Ihon Duke of Britaine at the citie of Wimbester and with triumphall pompe conueighed her thozow the citie of London to Westmynster, and there she was crowned Quene. While these thinges were thus doying in England Walterain Erle of saint Daule whiche had married the halfe sister of Richard hauyng a malicious heart and a deadly hatred to kyng Henry, assembled a great company of men of warre to the number of xvi. or xviii. C. wheteof the greatest parte were noble men, and made great prouylion of all thyn- ges necessary for his feate and enterpryse. And on saint Nicholas day entred into his shippes at Hartlete and landed in the Isle of Wight, and when he sawe no apperaunce of defence, he burned two pooze byl- lages and. iiii. simple cottages, and for great triumphe of thys noble acte he made. iiii. knightes: but sodainly when he was aduertyled by his espials that the people of the Isle wer assembled and approched to fight with hym. He with all haste possible toke his shippes and retour- ned home agayne, wher with the noble men of his company were muche discontente and displeased consideryng that his prouylion was great and his gayne small or none. And in the same very season Ihon Erle of Cleremond sonne to the Duke of Burbone, wonne in Gascoigne the castelles of saint Peter, sainte Marie and the newe castell, and the Lord Belabzethe wonne the castell of Carlassin, whiche was no small losse to the Englihe nacion: Durynge which tyme dyed Philippe duke of Burgon, and duke Albert of Bauier Erle of Henault.

The thirde yere.

In thys yere appered a comete or blaspyng Starre of a hounge quantitie by a long seasion whiche as the Astronomers affir- med, signified great effusion of mannes blud, whiche iudge- ment was not frustrate as you shall perceiue. For Henry erle of Northumberland and Thomas erle of Worcester his brother, and his sonne Lord Henry Percy called hotspur, which were to kyng Hen- ry in the beginnyng of his reigne bothe fautours frendes and ayders, perceiuyng nowe that he had pacified all domesticall sedicion and re- pressed his enemyes, and reduced his realme to a conuenient quietnes, began somewhat to enuye the glozy of hym, and grudged agaynst hys welthe and felicitie. And specially greued, because the kyng deman- ded of the Erle and his sonne suche Scottishe prisoners as they had taken at the conflictes fought at Hameldon and Nesbit as you before haue heard. For of all the captiues whiche were there taken, ther was deliuered to the kynges possession onely Mordake earle of Fife sonne to the duke of Albanie Gouernour of Scotland, for the kyng them dis- cuses assuymyng them to be their owne propre prisoners and their pecu- liar pzaies, and to deliuer theym vtterly denyed, in so muche that the kyng openly sayed that yf they wolde not deliuer them, he would take them without deliuerance. Wherwith they beyng soze discōtent, by the counz

The. iii. yere.

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Kyng Henry the. iiii.

counsell of Lord Thomas Percy erle of Worcester, whose study was euer to procure malice, and to set all thinges in broile and vtterentle, saynyng a cause to proue and tempte the kyng, came to hym to wynd- for, requityng hym by raunsonne or otherwile to cause to bee deliuered out of prision Edmond Mortimer erle of Marche their colyn germain whome (as they reported) Owen Glendoz kepte in filthy prision shab- led with yrons, onely for that cause that he toke his parte, and was to hym faithfull and trewe. The kyng began not a litell to muse on this request, and not without a cause, for in dede it touched him as nere as his herte, as you well may perceiue by the Genealogy reherled in the beginnyng of this story. For this Edmond was sonne to Erle Roger whiche was sonne to Lady Phillip daughter to Lionell Duke of Cla- rence, the thirde sonne to kyng Edward the thirde, whiche Edmonde as kyng Richardes goyng into Ireland was proclaimed heire apparant to the crowne and realme, whose Aunt called Elinoz this Lord Henry Percy had married. And therfore the kyng litell forced although that that lignage were clerely subuerted and vtterly extincte.

V. M. H. N. the kyng had long digested and studied on this matter, he made aunswere and sayed that the Erle of Marche was not taken prisioner neither for his cause nor in his service, but willyngly suffered hym selte to be taken, because he would take no parte agaynst Owen Glendoz and his complices, and therfore he would nether raunsonne nor reueue hym, whiche fraude the kyng caused openly to be published and diuulged, with whiche aunswere yf the parties were angry doubt you not. But with the publyshyng of the cautell, that the Erle of Marche was willyngly taken, they ten tymes more fumed and raged in so muche that sir Henry hotspur sayd openly: Behold the heire of the realme is robbed of his righte, and yet the robber, with his owne, will not redeme hym. So in this fury the Percys departed, nothyng more myndyng then to depole kyng Henry from the high tye of his regali- tie, and to deliuer and set in his throne their colyn frende & confederate Edmonde Erle of Marche, whome they not onely deliuered oute of the captiuitie of Owen Glendoz, but also entered into a leage and a- mitie with the sayd Owen agaynst kyng Henry and all his frendes and fautours, to the great displeasure and long ynquietyng of kyng Hen- ry and his partakers. Here I passe ouer to declare howe a certayne writer writeth that this earle of Marche, the Lorde Percy and Owen Glendoz wer vnwysely made beleue by a Welsh Propheetier, that king Henry was the Holdwarpe, cursed of Goddes owne mouth, and that al they thre were the Dragon, the Lion and the Wolffe, whiche shoulde deuide this realme betwene them, by the deuiacon and not deumacion of that matomet Merlin. I will not reherle howe they by their de- puties in the howse of the Archdeacon of Bangoz, seduced with that falce fained Propheetie deuided the realme amongst thē, nor yet write howe by a tripartite endenture sealed with their scales, all Englande from

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