

TYLER REBELLION

19

years later Queen Eleanor died at Hardeby, Lincolnshire, and each spot where her body rested on its last journey to London became the site of a cross erected in her memory. Charing Cross was the last of these memorials.

THE TYLER REBELLION, 1381

BUT I will first go on with this rebellion in England. When those who had lodged at Rochester had done all they wanted, they departed, and, crossing the river, came to Dartford, but always following their plan of destroying the houses of lawyers or proctors on the right and left of their road. In their way they cut off several men's heads, and continued their march to Blackheath, where they pitched their quarters; they said they were armed for the king and commons of England. When the citizens of London found they were quartered so near them, they closed the gates of London Bridge; guards were placed there by orders of Sir William Walworth, Mayor of London, and several rich citizens who were not of their party; but there were in the city more than thirty thousand who favoured them.

Those who were at Blackheath had information of this; they sent, therefore, their knight to speak with the king, and to tell him, what they were doing was for his service, for the kingdom had been for several years wretchedly governed, and to the great dishonour of the realm and the oppression of the lower ranks of the people, by his uncles, by the clergy, and in particular by the Archbishop of Canterbury,