

Hereford's spear that it may enter wretched Mowbray's breast."

But in scene 3 the duel is prevented, and if there is and interposition of Heaven at all, it seems to be all in Richard's favor. Yet, out of the very victory of Richard, in the banishment of Bolingbroke and the subsequent confiscation which that banishment made easy, comes the immediate cause of the downfall of the king.

The differences between Richard and Bolingbroke in fitness for the kingship, may be shown under various heads. Richard's feeling towards his country can hardly be called patriotism. It is seen in many places, but best of all in his address to his native land on his arrival from Ireland. It is summed up in the statement that he looked upon country and subjects as existing for his benefit, as ready to be used for his service. It is not necessary to suppose that this attitude towards his country is an inevitable accompaniment of a belief in divine right by birth, because we find that John of Gaunt holds practically that belief (I., 2), yet no one in the play expresses as lofty a patriotism as his:

Ah, would the scandal vanish with my life,
How happy then were my ensuing death!

Bolingbroke's patriotism is shown rather by deeds than by words. His first act after his successful invasion of England is "to weed and pluck away the caterpillars of the commonwealth," yet his last words before his exile have the true ring:

Then, England's ground farewell: sweet
land, adieu;
My mother and my nurse, that bears me
yet!
Where'er I wander, boast of this I can,—
Though banished, yet a true-born English-
man.

In character the two men are the antithesis of each other. Richard's emotions expended their strength in words, fine phrases certainly; Bolingbroke talked little, but put his whole force into his acts; even Richard

calls him "silent king." The necessary consequent of this contrast would be that Richard should lack the promptness and decision which belongs to Bolingbroke. Indecision and wavering in Richard loses him his throne; "he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, *driven by the wind and tossed.*" Bolingbroke knows what he wants and how to get it, and this makes him independent of Northumberland and all his strongest supporters who thought that they could use him as others had managed Richard. Richard's prophecy that Northumberland would turn against Henry as he had turned against him is quite true and shows Northumberland's motives clearly, but the result is not just as Richard anticipated and in that different result is shown the difference between the two men.

Richard had the loftiest notions about kingship, naturally following from his perverted idea of Divine Right, and yet he degraded his throne to the instrument of his pleasures, robbed the nobles and people to supply his court with means of revelry, and yielded himself to the influence of favorites. In spite of this degradation of his position he had the presumption to speak confidently of the aid which Heaven would give him in time of trial, calling now on armies of angels, now on armies of pestilence, now on the spiders, toads, nettles, adders and stones of the very earth to fight his battles while he lies supinely by. Bolingbroke, on the other hand, owing his throw mainly to the expressed will of the nobles and commons, though his ancestry is the same as that of Richard, lifts the throne out of this slough of corruption and refuses to allow himself to be lorded over even by the family of Percy to whom he owed the most.

To show more clearly the reason of Richard's deposition Shakespeare introduces a good deal of parallelism in the circumstances of Richard and Bolingbroke. In Act I. we see Richard acting as judge in the case