

As for the little ship that carried him round the world, the Queen gave orders for it to be preserved, and so it was for many years; and when it could not be repaired any longer, the best of the wood was made into a chair and given to the University of Oxford. It stands in the picture gallery of the Bodleian Library, and over it are some verses written by the poet Cowley, ending thus:

“ Drake and his ship could not have wished from Fate
A happier station, or more blest estate,
For lo! a seat of endless rest is given
To her in Oxford, and to him in heaven.”

But finer words than these are said of Drake in the summing up of his character by one of the old chroniclers: “This our captain was a religious man towards God and His houses, generally sparing churches where he came; chaste in his life; just in his dealings; true to his word; and merciful to those who were under him; hating nothing so much as idleness.”

Dominions of the Edwards.

In the days of Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great, Mercia was annexed to the West-Saxon crown, and Edward, king of the West-Saxons, became Edward, king of the English. All England south of the Humber came under his personal rule. The Danes of Northumbria, the Welsh, the Scots, and the Britons of Strathclyde submitted to his power, and voluntarily acknowledged him as overlord; and, claiming not only independence of the emperors in continental Europe, but equality of rank, he held imperial sway. Great as a warrior, and great also as a legislator, Edward the Unconquered was a worthy successor of Alfred; and his name worthily heads the list of the royal Edwards who have ruled our mother land.

Edward the Martyr was the next of the name. Son of Edgar the Peaceful, and grandson of Edmund the Magnificent, he held the sceptre of a still more glorious kingdom than that over which his great grandfather had ruled. The story of Edgar's barge rowed by eight vassal kings may be but partly true; yet it gives us some indication of the grandeur of that island empire which Edgar left to his youthful successor. England was united and strong when the boy king began his short reign. It can hardly be said that he ruled. At the head of affairs was Dunstan, the first great English statesman who was not a king; and under his wise rule the land enjoyed prosperity and peace.

The next King Edward, a nephew of Edward the Martyr, is known in history as Edward the Confessor. The glories of the early English monarchy had passed

away before he ascended the throne. The Danes had come again and conquered; and the great Cnut, son of the conqueror, reigning as a duly elected king of England, had from his English throne ruled also the lands of his own people beyond the sea. But of this northern empire England alone was left when Edward reluctantly accepted his election as successor of the last of the Danish kings. Though of the English royal line, he, too, was a foreigner in training and in sympathy; so his name may well be left to stand, as it occurs in point of time, amongst those of England's foreign rulers. He, however, made good laws; and, by the help of his powerful earls, held his kingdom intact, and reduced the Welsh again to submission for the time.

More than two centuries had passed before another Edward ruled in England. The Norman conquest, like the Danish, had practically for the time attached the conqueror's hereditary dominions to the English crown, (for England, though under foreign rulers, was never under foreign rule,) conquered afterwards by Henry II., it had been lost by King John, though the Channel Islands remained and still remain; the great Angevin dominion, too, had all been lost, with the exception of Guienne; Scotland had been relinquished, Ireland in part subdued, and Wales still remained a vassal state. The banner of St. George had more than once been borne in the Crusades. Edward I. was in Sicily when he was proclaimed King of England, and his coronation took place two years later. An English king in heart as in name, his object was the welfare of England. To his memorable reign we trace our present form of parliamentary government. To secure his English dominions, he conquered Wales and Scotland, though the latter country was again in revolt before the close of his reign.

The final independence of Scotland was the chief event of the reign of Edward II., though it was not formally acknowledged by the English until after his deposition.

Edward III. claimed, through his French mother, the title of King of France. Failing to make good his claim, he, nevertheless, conquered Aquitaine, Ponthieu and Calais, which he ruled as a French Prince, while England and Wales and the part of Ireland within the English pale acknowledged his authority as an English king. The glories of his French wars were followed by defeat. Of all his conquests and his ancient possessions in France, there was at his death little left but Calais.

The Hundred Years' War was over when Edward IV. was crowned; and there was left still less of the French dominions of the King of England. Calais and the Channel Islands only remained. He recovered Berwick