



FROM THE PAINTING IN THE LAMBETH LIBRARY

KING EDWARD THE FIFTH—WAS TO BE CROWNED 1483, BUT WAS MURDERED

stored the Lancastrians. Handsome of person, generous unless betrayed or attacked, and without the instincts of a despot, there is much in Edward IV to admire. His love-match with Elizabeth Woodville, whose relatives filled all the chief posts in the State, drove the older nobility into revolt. But the London merchants were the king's staunch allies, and the mass of the people were not dissatisfied. Every kind of expedient for raising money, short of direct tyranny, was resorted to. The king's personal graces stood him in good stead. Once he visited in person a rich widow who gave him a benevolence of £20 for "his pretty face," and doubled the sum when he kissed her. Tax-gathering in our day lacks variety and charm.

A more pitiful tragedy than the fate of his young son, Edward V, is not

to be found in romance or history. He was thirteen when his father died in 1484. The picture of him preserved in the Lambeth library is that of a mere child in crown and robe. His ruthless uncle, Richard III, was the first to take the oath of fealty to the boy monarch, and rode before him bareheaded in the royal procession into London. This was in April. The coronation was fixed for June 22, but it never took place. Parliament was summoned for June 25, but no regular meeting was held. A royal speech for the occasion was actually composed and still exists, but the young king who was to have read it was a prisoner in the Tower, and soon to be murdered. His uncle and sworn protector seized the crown, on the pretence that Edward IV's marriage with Elizabeth Woodville was invalid, and sent assas-