

In judging him we must remember his deep contrition for his backslidings; and the memorable lesson which he taught with his dying breath, that, to ensure true comfort and happiness, a man must addict himself to the service of God, instead of being misled by the lures of pleasure and ambition.

The subsequent part of Henry's reign is the best panegyric on Wolsey; for, during twenty years, he had kept free from the stain of blood or violence the Sovereign, who now, following the natural bent of his character, cut off the heads of his wives and his most virtuous ministers, and proved himself the most arbitrary tyrant that ever disgraced the throne of England.¹

conduct of the Cardinal, as we may judge from Lord Surrey's speech to him:—

"I'll startle you
Worse than the sacring bell, when the brown wench
Lay kissing in your arms, Lord Cardinal."

Skelton likewise was probably only embodying in rhyme the common talk of the town when he wrote,—

"The goods that he thus gaddered
Wretchedly he hath scattered,—
To make windows, walles, and dores,
And to maintain bauds and whores."

¹ See Fiddes's *Life of Wolsey*, folio, 1724. Gall's *Life of Wolsey*, 4to. 1812.