

The Rose of England.

In very early times England was called "Albion," a word which means "white," because of its white cliffs. But the writer Pliny, who lived many years ago, and who was a great lover of flowers, thought that perhaps it was so called because the white roses grew so plentifully there. But the rose did not become the national flower of England till many years after the country was called "Albion." When Edward III. was king of England, a coin was made which had a rose on one side. This coin was called a rose noble. But even then the rose was not England's national flower.

When Henry VI. was king, a great trouble arose in the land. He was a good man, so good that he has been called the "Saintly Henry." He belonged to the Lancaster branch of the royal family. And the other branch, which was the house of York, wished for the throne themselves. The leaders of these two families met one day in the Temple garden, at London, and disputed together. The leader of the house of York plucked a white rose from a rose-bush, and called upon all his friends to do the same. The leader of the house of Lancaster then plucked a red rose, and asked the friends of that house to pluck a red rose also. So in the great wars that followed between these two branches of the royal family, those of the house of Lancaster wore the red rose for a badge, and those of the house of York wore the white rose. These wars are called in history the "wars of the roses." They lasted thirty years, and many, very many, men were killed. Then a prince of the house of Lancaster married Elizabeth of York, and this marriage put an end to the wars.

There is a pretty story that at the time of the marriage a rose-tree in Wiltshire, which had always borne white roses, put out roses of mingled white and red. However true that may be, there is a rose which grows in English gardens of mixed petals, white and red, and which is called the York and Lancaster rose.

So the two roses have ever since been united in one, and make the double rose, which is called the Tudor rose. It is carved upon royal palaces and royal tombs. The Prince of the house of Lancaster, who married Elizabeth of York, was Henry VII. He built a beautiful chapel at Westminster Abbey, in which he and his wife were buried. If you should go there, you would see the rose, both double and single, carved all over its walls and on its doors, panelled in its beautiful windows, and also carved upon the splendid monument under which they lie. This monument is inclosed by a screen of bronze, and here again you find the rose.—*Our Little Men and Women.*

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cipline. And at length, when her children had become men and women, accustomed to the hard strife of the world, her name was the dearest name they could speak, and she who had "fed their bodies from her own spirit's life," who had taught their feet to walk, their tongues to speak and pray, and illuminated their consciences with the great light of righteousness and duty, held their reverence and love, increased a thousand fold by the remembrance of an early education that had its inspiration in the faith of God, and its fruit in the noble lives of upright men and women.

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