

THE ENGLISH UNDER ELIZABETH.

The English made great progress under Elizabeth. Trade grew and people became richer. They built better houses, and made them more comfortable. The English were very fond of sports and pastimes. They made merry on May Day and Christmas, but some of their sports were very cruel, such as bull-baiting, and whipping blindfolded bears.

There were no great towns in the north. Iron was made in the south, and smelted with wood. The woollen trade was the chief industry. The towns were dirty, with narrow streets, and not very healthy.

THE ENGLISH STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY—I.

Elizabeth was followed by James I. James was foolish and obstinate. He believed he had a right to rule as he pleased. The English did not agree to this, and a long struggle began between King and people. The quarrel grew hotter when Charles I., son of James, came to the throne.

Charles raised taxes without consent of Parliament, and did many other unlawful things. He punished those who would not yield to him. A great Englishman, John Hampden, refused to pay an unjust tax. He was brought to trial, and ordered to pay the money by judges whose only wish was to please the King.

THE ENGLISH STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY—II.

In 1642 Charles came to open quarrel with his people. The Great Civil War broke out. The lords and the gentry fought for the King; the farmers and traders fought for the Parliament.

Now Oliver Cromwell came into notice. He raised a strong body of soldiers, who won the name of Ironsides. Parliament won the battles of Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645).

The King was taken and put into prison. He was brought to trial in 1649, and sentenced to be put to death as an enemy to the country. He was beheaded on January 30, 1649. He died with calm and noble dignity.

THE ENGLISH UNDER A REPUBLIC.

England became a republic, called the Commonwealth. Cromwell soon rose to chief power, because he was supported by the army. The friends of Charles rose in arms in Ireland and Scotland. Cromwell crushed the Royalists in Ireland, then went to Scotland and won the Battle of Dunbar (1650).

In 1651 Charles, son of the dead King, marched into England with an army of Scots. Cromwell beat them at Worcester, and Charles fled. Cromwell ruled the country as Lord Protector from 1653 to 1658. He ruled well, but the mass of the people disliked the Commonwealth: the rule was too strict.

Cromwell died in 1658, and was followed by his son Richard, a quiet man, who soon gave up his great post. The son of Charles I. was asked to return, and came to the throne in May, 1660.