

William Caxton was the first English printer. He learned to print in Flanders. Many people went to see Caxton print, among them King Edward IV. Caxton not only printed books, but wrote them also. He died in 1491.

THE ENGLISH ENTER UPON A NEW AGE.

New ideas arose in the time which followed the War of the Roses, and new things were found out. Printing and gunpowder were two things which were of much importance. It was found that the earth was round, not flat, and men began to sail unknown seas.

In 1492 Columbus discovered America. The way to India round the Cape of Good Hope was discovered. A new time of peace and quietness came to England. The people were very glad of it. They had had enough of strife and bloodshed.

THE ENGLISH BECOME PROTESTANTS.

Henry VII. was a cold hard man, who loved money. His son, Henry VIII., married his brother's widow, and many years later wished to put her away. Only the Pope could give Henry permission to do this, and the Pope refused. Henry became angry, and broke the power of the Pope in England.

In 1535 he declared that he was head of the English Church instead of the Pope. England now became a Protestant country instead of Roman Catholic. This change is known as the Reformation. The religious houses were destroyed, and those people who continued to obey the Pope were treated harshly by Henry.

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS.

Henry VIII. was followed by his son, Edward VI., and Edward by his sister Mary. Mary was a Roman Catholic, and tried to turn the country once more to the former faith. Many Protestants were put to death for their religion.

Bishop Latimer and Bishop Ridley were burned at Oxford. They died bravely. Archbishop Cranmer was also burned. He had written that he was sorry he had become a Protestant. When brought to the stake, he thrust his right hand among the flames. The Reformation spread the more for the death of the martyrs.

THE ENGLISH STRUGGLE WITH SPAIN.

After Mary died, Elizabeth came to the throne. She had a long and glorious reign of forty-five years. At that day England and Spain were great enemies. The great English sea-captains attacked the Spanish ships, took them, and plundered them.

Philip, King of Spain, sent the 'Invincible Armada' to attack England. The English ships met the Armada in the Channel, and there was a week's fighting. The English won a great victory, and broke the power of Spain on the sea for ever.