

queen would have all or none. The poor imbecile king was made to sign the order for battle. It was fought at Northampton and won by the Yorkists, who took the poor king captive, marched him off, under the leadership of the Earl of Warwick, and lodged him in the palace of the Bishop of London. Queen Margaret, with her child, abandoned everything and fled for safety. The archbishop remained in attendance upon the king, whose mind was so far gone that he was unable to tell friend from foe, and this was now the strongest point left for the Lancastrian party. The poor king had never injured any one. Anything that he had ever done had been in the interests of religion and peace. His illness and incapacity were not his own fault. The king was pitied, and, now that the "foreign woman" was away, the king was loved. When, therefore, the Duke of York made an attempt to have himself proclaimed king, the loyalty of the archbishop and his own friends to the reigning sovereign rather surprised him. It was finally arranged, however, that the Duke of York should be regarded as the heir to the throne, and, with the consent of the king, he was so proclaimed, and appointed also Lord Protector of the realm. This arranged, the archbishop, wearied, no doubt, with the continued strife he had witnessed, retired to his ecclesiastical duties only, and took no further part in the struggle.

When Queen Margaret heard that her own son was thus shut off from being heir to the throne she was greatly incensed, and with what army she could command marched against the Duke of York. The armies met at Wakefield. The Duke of York was defeated and slain. Terrible vengeance was taken by the enraged woman upon her enemies, till it was thought that the house of York would be annihilated. But suddenly a champion appeared who speedily changed the order of events. This was Edward, the duke's eldest son, now himself Duke of York. A splendid young nobleman, not yet twenty years old, he proved himself a born leader of men. He met the Lancastrians and defeated them at the second battle of Wakefield. His march was retarded by the defeat of the Earl of Warwick, but Edward moved on nevertheless to London and demanded the crown. In the unsettled state of the country he was looked up to as its hope and safety. He was crowned by Archbishop Bouchier, Edward IV., King of England, on the 29th of June, 1461. At Towton he gained a complete victory over the Lancastrians, and, it was thought, broke their power forever.

Though Edward was a good and successful general, and was pronounced "the handsomest prince in Christendom," he was a libertine. He had married secretly a widow—much older than himself—Elizabeth Woodville, and Archbishop Bouchier re-solemnized the marriage

and crowned Elizabeth queen. She was, however, a foolish woman, and brought much trouble to her husband by the enemies that she made. The king saw a sudden change in the minds of many people. Even many of his friends deserted him. The great Earl of Warwick, for reasons that history has never explained, turned against him and united with Queen Margaret. Edward fled, and poor Henry VI. was once more the only king in England. Suddenly, however, Edward returned, raised an army, and, on the bloody field of Barnet, overthrew Warwick, "the last of the barons," and once more triumphed over his foes—his final victory at Tewkesbury over the queen's force that had landed in England immediately after Warwick's overthrow rendering his position unassailable and complete.

The reign of Edward IV., on the whole, was a prosperous one. The rebellion of 1470, under Warwick, was an interruption only of about eleven months. The king was a business man, and, though profligate in his habits, one of the best monarchs that ever ruled in England. He had had terrible experiences in dealing with men when he himself was little more than a boy. Such experiences would have made some men monsters of cruelty and crime, but beyond excesses in the gratification of bodily pleasures, which in the end told upon himself more than upon any one else, he appears in history as a humane and wise ruler, anxious for the prosperity of his people.

Archbishop Bouchier, too, was only too glad to welcome a cessation of the terrible scenes that he himself had witnessed, and to help the king in his laudable endeavors for the welfare of the nation. He had been appointed a Cardinal in 1472. Himself of royal blood, he knew well how to entertain guests at his palace at Canterbury, as the king himself, and even the Patriarch of Antioch, who appeared unexpectedly at the city gates with "two camels and four dromedaries," could testify. He was fond, too, of literary men, and many a man of letters received a cordial welcome and warm patronage at Canterbury. Music was greatly improved, especially in harmony, which was now studied as an art, counterpoint replacing the old, unmusical Gregorians. The post office was first established in this reign. It was set up between London and Scotland, horses being placed at the distance of twenty miles from each other and journeying in this way at the rate of a hundred miles a day. The beautiful St George's Chapel at Windsor, and King's College Chapel, Cambridge, are noble specimens of the architecture of the period. A passion for the study of classics had set in, and astronomy and chemistry began to take the place of the old superstitions of astrology and alchemy. A love for mechanism began to show itself, and even printing is said to have been