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EDUCATION.

School days of Eminent Men in Great-Britain.

By JOHN TIMBS, F. S. A.

(Continued from our last.)

XXIX.

EDWARD THE FOURTH AND HIS TUTORS.

Edward IV., born at Rouen, in 1441, has little if any claim to Edward IV, born at Rouen, in 1441, has little if any claim to be recorded as a promoter of education. We have seen how he impoverished the two royal colleges of his predecessor, Henry VI., at Eton and Cambridge, by seizing upon their endowments, and endeavouring to divert the streams of their munificence. The whole life of Edward was divided between the perils of civil war, and unrestrained sensual indulgence. Nevertheless, Edward drew up for the observance of his offspring, a set of regulations, which so closely corresponded with those made hy his mother, that it may closely corresponded with those made by his mother, that it may be fairly inferred he followed the same plans which had been strictly enforced in the education and conduct of himself and his brothers in their own youth in Ludlow Castle. Though the disci-pline was constant and severe, the noble children expressed with pline was constant and severe, the noble children expressed with familiarity their childish wishes to their father, and communicated to him their imaginary grievances. This is instanced in a letter preserved in the Cottonian MSS. from Edward to his father, written when he was a mere stripling, petitioning for some "fyne bonetts" for himself and his brother; and complainings of the severity of "the odious rule and demeaning" of one Richard Crofte and his brother, apparently their tutors.

In another letter, one of the earliest specimens extant of domestic and familiar English correspondence-it being written in 1454, when Edward the Earl of March was twelve, and the Earl of Rut-land eleven, years of age-addressing their father as "Right high and mighty Prince, our most worshipful and greatly redoubled lord and father," they say:-

And if it please your highness to know of our welfare at the making of this letter, we were in good health of body, thanked be God : beseech-

ing your good and gracious fatherbood of your daily blessing. And where you command us by your said letters to attend specially to our learning in our young age, that should cause us to grow to honour and worship in our old age, please it your highness to wit, that we have attended our learning since we came hither, and shall hereafter, by the which we trust to God your gracious lordship and good fatherhood shall be pleased.

Yet, Edward's attachment in his maturer years to his tutor Crofte, of whom he complains above, was evinced by the emoluments which he bestowed upon him after his accession to the crown. Sir

which he bestowed upon him after his accession to the crown. Sir Richard Crofte esponsed the lady governess of the young Planta-genets: he lived to a great age, and was one of the most cistin-guished soldiers of his time; he survived every member of the family in whose service he had been engaged, and had to mourn the premature and violent deaths of the whole of his princely pupils. --(Retrospective Review, 2nd S. vol. i.) Edward has, perhaps, a better title to be considered a legislator than any other King of England, as he actually presided in the courts of justice, according to Daniel, who states that in the second year of his reign Edward sat three days together, during Michael-mas term, in the Court of King's Bench, in order to understand the law; and he likewise, in the 17th year, presided at the trials of many criminals. many criminals.

XXX.

COSTLINESS OF MANUSCRIPT BOOKS.

The books that were to be found in the palaces of the great at this period, were for the most part highly illuminated manuscripts, bound in the most expensive style. In the w drobe accounts of King Edward IV., we find that Piere Baudwyn , paid for "buding, gilding, and dressing" of two books, twenty shillings each, and of four books sixteen shillings each. Now, twenty shillings in those days would have bought an or. But the cost of this binding and garnishing does not stop here; for there were delivered to the binder six yards of velvet, six yards of silk, laces, tassels, copper and gilt clasps, and gilt nails. The price of velvet and silk in those days was enormous. We may reasonably conclude that these royal days was enormous. We may reasonably conclude that these royal books were as much for show as use. One of these books thus garnished by Edward the Fourh's binder, is called "Le Bible Historiaux" (the Historical Bible), and there are several copies of the same book in manuscript in the British Museum.

Edward was, however, a reader. In his Wardrobe accounts are entries for binding his Titus Livius, his Froissart, his Josephus, and his Bibles, as well as for the cost of fastening chests to remove his books from London to Eltham; and the King and his court lent a willing ear to the great discovery of Printing, which was to make knowledge a common property, causing, as Carton says Earl Rivers did, in translating three works for his press, "books to be imprinted and so multiplied to go abroad among the people."

A letter of Sir John Paston, written to his mother in 1474, shows how scarce money was in those days for the purchase of luxuries