

stage of English life. Away in the county of York, Wentworth, the great, eloquent, bad Wentworth, is presiding over the council of the north; while in another part of the kingdom Laud is holding his high commission court. In the village street of Elstow there plays a little boy, who, in a score of years, will be called the Bedfordshire tinker, and in three centuries glorious John Bunyan. Down in Huntingdonshire lives that stalwart farmer, Oliver Cromwell, soon to be the ablest general of his country and the greatest ruler in the world; and in Buckinghamshire is that brave patriot, John Hampden. In the Middle Temple, poring over his ponderous law books, is Edward Hyde, destined to be Earl of Clarendon; while in Northamptonshire is the little boy, John Dryden. Seventeen times (only seventeen times) has the river Avon, when swollen by the rains of April, sung the dirge of England's greatest poet, William Shakespeare, who used to walk the banks of his loved river, whose gentle murmur fell sweet upon his childish ear, and who, in manhood as in youth was wont to