

during his sad pilgrimage towards the metropolis as a captive to Henry, and that their meeting and parting were tender and heart-breaking ; but the whole of Richard's progress has been minutely described by eye-witnesses, who, it may be thought, would not have been silent on a circumstance so picturesque and touching. This interview must, therefore, be considered as a mere romance of history, interwoven into English historical ballads: Shakspeare has made use of it with beautiful effect.

In the midst of these changes, the young queen was hurried from place to place with little rest. From Wallingford she was carried by the popular party to Leeds-castle, in Kent, where she was placed under the care of the widowed duchess of Ireland ; who, having been wronged by king Richard and his late queen, was not supposed to be extremely favourable to the cause of the imprisoned monarch. As lady de Coucy was sister to the duchess, she certainly obtained access to the queen again, notwithstanding her dismissal by king Richard ; for she was at Leeds-castle when the insurgent Londoners took umbrage at her vicinity to the queen of Richard, and one of their leaders thus addressed her :—" Lady, make instant preparations of departure, for we will not suffer you to remain longer here. Take care, on saying farewell to queen Isabel, that you show not any tokens of anger at our dismissing you ; but tell her that your husband and daughter in France have sent to entreat your return. This we advise you to do, if you regard your life. You must ask no questions and make no remarks to the queen, on any thing that is going on. You will be escorted to Dover, and embarked in the passage-boat for Boulogne." The lady de Coucy, alarmed at these menaces, and knowing those who made them to be cruel and full of hatred, replied, " That in God's name she would do as they directed."—" Palfreys and hackneys were furnished for herself and attendants, and all the French of both sexes were sent off.<sup>1</sup> The foreign household of the queen being thus broken

<sup>1</sup> Either Froissart is mistaken in this assertion, or the French servants of the young queen were replaced by Henry IV., for the Minutes of Council contain a long list of French persons who returned to France with Isabella as officials of her household.