

Wolsey's unprincipled cunning peculiarly acceptable. The royal treasures were exhausted, and the king relied on Wolsey to replenish his coffers, and no person could be fitter for the purpose. His first care was to get a large sum of money from the people, under the title of a benevolence, which added to its being extorted, the mortification of its being considered as a free gift.

Hitherto the administration of all affairs was carried on by Wolsey, who kept the king ignorant of the complaints of the people, in order to continue his own uncontrolled authority. But now a period was approaching that was to put an end to this minister's exorbitant power. The work of reformation had begun through the instrumentality of such spirits as Martin Luther, the enthusiasm of popery began to lose its influence, and liberty of conscience began to assume its empire.

It happened, that among the maids of honour then attending the queen, there was one Anna Bullen, the daughter of Sir Thomas Bullen, a gentleman of distinction, and related to most of the nobility.

The beauty of Anna surpassed whatever had hitherto appeared at this voluptuous court; and her education, which had been at Paris, tended to set off her personal charms. Her features were regular, mild, and attractive; her stature elegant, though below the middle size, while her wit and vivacity exceeded even her other allurements.

Henry, who had never learned the art of restraining any passion that he desired to gratify, saw and loved her; but after several efforts to induce her to comply with his criminal desires, he found, that without marriage he could have no chance of succeeding.

Henry therefore resolved to divorce his queen, and to that intent applied to Pope Clement the Seventh. During the course of a long, perplexing negotiation, on the issue of which Henry's happiness seemed to depend, he had at first expected to find in his favorite Wolsey, a warm defender, and a steady adherent; but in this he found himself mistaken; Wolsey seemed to be in pretty much the same dilemma with the pope. On the one hand he was to please his master the king, from whom he had received a thousand marks of favour, and on the other hand, he feared to disoblige the pope, whose servant he more immediately was, and who besides had power to punish his disobedience.

Wolsey's scheme of temporizing was highly displeasing to the king; but for a while he endeavoured to stifle his resentment, until it could act with more fatal certainty. He for some time looked

out for a man of equal abilities and less art; and it was not long before an accident threw into his way one Thomas Cranmer, of great talents, and probably of more integrity.

Thus finding himself provided with a person who could supply Wolsey's place, he appeared less reserved in his resentment against that prelate. The attorney general was ordered to prepare a bill of indictment against him, and he was soon after commanded to resign the great seal. Crimes are easily found out against a favourite in disgrace, and the courtiers did not fail to increase the catalogue of his errors. He was ordered to depart from York palace, and all its furniture and its plate were converted to the king's use.

The inventory of his goods being taken, they were found to exceed even the most extravagant surmises. Of fine Holland alone there were found to exceed even the most extravagant surmises. Of fine Holland alone there were found a thousand pieces; the walls of his palace were covered with cloth of gold and silver; he had a cupboard of plate of massy gold; all the rest of his riches and furniture were in proportion, and probably their greatness invited the hand of power.

He was soon after arrested by the earl of Northumberland at the king's command, for high treason, and preparations were made for conducting him from York, where he then resided, to London, in order to take his trial. He at first refused to comply with the requisition, as being a cardinal; but finding the earl bent on performing his commission, he complied and set out by easy journeys, for London, to appear as a criminal where he had acted as a king.

In this way he stayed a fortnight at the earl of Shrewsbury's, where, one day at dinner he was taken ill, not without violent suspicions of having poisoned himself. Being brought forward from thence, he with much difficulty reached Leicester abbey, where the monks coming out to meet him, he said, "Father abbot, I am come to lay my bones among you;" and immediately ordered his bed to be prepared. As his disorder increased, an officer being placed near, at once to guard and attend him, he spoke to him a little before he expired, to this effect:

"I pray you have me heartily recommended unto his royal majesty; he is a prince of a most royal carriage, and hath a princely heart, and rather than he will miss, or want any part of his will, he will endanger one half of his kingdom. I do assure you I have kneeled before him for three hours together; to persuade him from his will and appetite, but could not prevail. Had I but served God as diligent-

ly as I have served the King, he would not have given me over in my gray hairs. But this is the just reward that I must receive for my indulgent pains and study; not regarding my service to God, but only to my prince."

He died soon after, in all the pangs of remorse, and left a life which he had all along rendered turbid by ambition, and wretched by mean assiduities.

The Casket.

Devoted to Select Tales, Sketches from Biography, Natural and Civil History, Poetry, Anecdotes, the Arts, Essays, and Interesting Miscellany.

HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 12, 1851.

AGENTS FOR THE CASKET.

Messrs. G. W. Withead, *Burford*; J. Williamson, *Stoney Creek*; Henry Nelles, *Grimsby*; H. Mittleberger, *St. Catharines*; John Crooks, *Niagara*; W. J. Suranar, *Nelson*; J. H. VanEvery, *O. W. Everett, Paris*; J. Harris, *West Flamboro*; A. Bates, *Wellington Square*; Robert Heron, *London*.

¶ We have not been able to devote that attention to making arrangements with agents which we should have done; but hope to be able to announce them more generally in our next number.

The Coronation.—This memorable event took place on the 8th of September last, a day which, while it becomes an epoch with the historian, has furnished the most brilliant materials for the poet and the painter. We cannot pretend to enter into its details, nor even to give an abridgement of them, but shall notice such particulars as seem more especially interesting.

So far as the doctrine of omens is concerned, the day was most auspicious; and the demonstrations of mutual love between sovereigns and subjects, which the occasion called forth, seem to promise that the whole day of their reign shall be as bright as was that of the coronation. It is, however, remarked of the diadem used in the ceremony of Crowning, that "the King evidently appeared to labor under this part of our antiquated regalia; and an individual of a great deal younger than his Majesty, might have found it too heavy for his neck and shoulders to bear." Now we hope the lovers of the marvellous will not interpret this weakness as ominous of any catastrophe in his Majesty's administration. That one of our puny race should bow beneath the massy crown of a giant of antiquity, is easily explained without regarding it as the precursor of his sinking beneath the weight of an empire. Ours is a generation of manikins, and this is one instance among many in proof of our physical inferiority to the ancients—

"O Luxury! bane of elated life;
Of affluent states!"

what will become of the neck and shoulders of George VI. and King William X. and what degenerate mortals will they govern, if the *good things* of life continue to make such ravages as they have done during the last ten centuries?