

by Henry of Lancaster. His plea was unanimously accepted, and he was led to the throne by the two archbishops.

There had been a somewhat, but not precisely, similar occurrence seventy-two years before, when Edward II. was forced to abdicate in favor of his son. Parliament had drawn up articles setting out his defects and crimes, and advanced these as good and sufficient reasons for his deposition. But this abdication was in favor of his own son and Heir Apparent, and therefore not quite the same as the eventful proceedings of 1399.

Then the Crown descended from father to son until the weak and unfortunate Henry VI. In his reign the Wars of the Roses were waged. On the victory of the York faction, the "White Rose," in 1459, Edward of York was not elected King as he had hoped; but Henry remained king with Edward declared by Parliament Protector, Prince of Wales and heir to the Crown. This arrangement did not please Margaret, the noble wife of Henry; and the war began again, and then came the election, in 1461, of Edward as king by a meeting of notables of the York faction, who called their meeting a Parliament. The fighting continued for some five years, when at length Henry was captured by his enemies. Even this did not break Margaret's spirit; but she kept up the struggle for her husband and her son. In 1470 she succeeded; Henry was released and reinstated as king, but almost immediately after the fatal fight at Tewkesbury he died by the hand of an assassin, the very day of Edward's triumphal entry into London.

The York dynasty did not last long. Henry of Richmond conquered Richard III. at Bosworth Field in 1485, and claimed the Crown both by hereditary right and by the judgment of God as shown on the field of battle. A Parliament was called by him