

as an instance of a girl of tender age placed in unusual circumstances.

"The king," says sir John de Grailly, (a courtly informant of Froissart,) "is advised to marry again, and has had researches made every where, but in vain, for a suitable lady. He has been told that the king of Navarre has sisters and daughters, but he will not hear of them. The duke of Gloucester has, likewise, a grown-up girl, who is marriageable, and well pleased would he be if his royal nephew would choose her; but the king says 'she is too nearly related, being his cousin-german.' King Richard's thoughts are so bent on the eldest daughter of the king of France, he will not hear of any other: it causes great wonder in this country that he should be so eager to marry the daughter of his adversary, and he is not the better beloved for it. King Richard has been told 'that the lady was by far too young, and that even in five or six years she would not be the proper age for a wife.' He replied pleasantly, 'that every day would remedy the deficiency of age, and her youth was one of his reasons for preferring her, because he should educate her and bring her up to his own mind, and to the manners and customs of the English; and that, as for himself, he was young enough to wait for her.'"

Froissart was staying at Eltham-palace when the parliament met to debate the marriage in the beautiful gothic hall.¹ While they were walking on the terrace, sir Richard Sturry, one of the king's household, gave him this information:—"The king made the archbishop of Canterbury speak of the business of his marriage. In the debate it was agreed that the archbishop of Dublin, the earl of Rutland, and the earl-marshal, with twenty knights and forty squires of honour, should wait on the king of France,² and propose a treaty of

¹ The refined taste of the late princess Sophia Matilda led to the recent restoration of this noble relic.

² The Sunday after the departure of the embassy, Richard II. was at leisure to receive the presentation-copy of the poesies prepared for him by sir John Froissart. "I presented it to him in his chamber, for I had it with me, and laid it on his bed." From this passage it would appear that the king received him before he had risen. "He took it, and looked into it with much pleasure. He ought to have been pleased, for it was handsomely written and illuminated,