

clouds were gathering for the weak-minded king. The House of York began to make its claim to the throne. The king, to avert coming evils, and to set himself right with heaven, according to the superstitious ideas of the day, paid a visit to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. The archbishop was there to receive him. This was in August, 1451, and before another year went by, in May, 1452, John Stafford was called to his long home, and the primacy of England was once more vacant. A flat marble stone in Canterbury Cathedral now marks the spot where his body is buried.

And this time it was the Archbishopric of York which supplied Canterbury with a successor. On the death of Archbishop Stafford, the most suitable man to be entrusted with the primacy was thought to be John Kemp, Archbishop of York, and a Cardinal of Rome. Accordingly, though the Cardinal Archbishop of York was at that time seventy-two years of age, he was translated from the junior archbishopric to the senior, a step as yet unprecedented.

John Kemp had run a distinguished career during the reign of Henry V., and the greater part of that of Henry VI. When the frivolous young Prince Henry, afterwards the great and good Henry V., came to the throne, Kemp was a man of thirty-three years of age, of good family and bright prospects. As a boy he went to school at Canterbury, and afterwards became a fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and a distinguished practitioner in canon law.

In this capacity he attracted the attention first of Archbishop Arundel, in the reign of Henry IV., and afterwards of Archbishop Chicheley, in the subsequent reigns. He was introduced to Henry V. as Dean of Arches, and Vicar-General to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and before the death of that monarch was appointed Bishop of Rochester, Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, and subsequently Bishop of Chichester. This latter preferment he received in February, 1421, and before that year closed he was translated to the bishopric of London, in which position he was when, in the following year, 1422, the heroic Henry V. died.

During the infancy of Henry VI., speedy progress marked this active man's career. In 1426, four years after the death of Henry V., he was made Lord High Chancellor of England, and a few months afterwards, in the same year, was elevated to the high position of Archbishop of York. Six years afterwards he resigned the chancellorship, but he still continued a prominent mover in the disturbing events for which the reign of Henry VI. is noted. He was sent frequently as an ambassador to foreign courts, or as a delegate to Church councils, and in all the work that he did he proved himself an undoubted supporter of the pope. It may

be that all this attention to foreign affairs injured him at home. Whether or not, it is certain that at this time he was not popular in England. But what he lost on one hand he gained on the other, as far as his own personal advancement was concerned, for the pope, in acknowledgment of his subservience and assistance to him, made him a cardinal with the title of St. Balbina. In this the pope had another object in view, an object which we have already mentioned, viz., the humiliation of Archbishop Chicheley, who showed more of an independent spirit than was pleasing to a man like Martin V. The humiliation, however, did not occur, for the English parliament insisted that, cardinal or no cardinal, the Archbishop of York in England should not take precedence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. In this may be seen another indication of the difficulty the pope always experienced in seeking to bend the English Church to his imperious will.

The Cardinal Archbishop of York, as might be supposed from his numerous public actions, did very little work in his diocese. York, in those days, appeared a very long way from London. To reach it involved a long, dreary, and hazardous journey and was seldom attempted, to which state of things the cardinal readily yielded. Even when he retired for a time from public life, he withdrew to the quiet attractions of Kent, rather than the rigorous regions of Yorkshire.

After a brief retirement he was again recalled to public life, and was reinstated in his position as Lord High Chancellor of England, and the friend and supporter of Queen Margaret. The king had become so lamentably weak in intellect and body that he was incapable of taking any part in the clouds that were gathering around him. Then it was that his foreign wife, Margaret of Anjou, came forward to take his place, and in the difficult duties thus thrust upon her she leaned upon the aged Cardinal Archbishop of York, who did all in his power to protect the interests of herself and her unfortunate royal lord. Thus was it that Kemp, in the year 1452, at the age of seventy-two, and on the death of Archbishop Stafford, became Archbishop of Canterbury. Under him, for the first time in all history, the Primate of England became a mere delegate of the pope. Owing to the subservient spirit of the new, yet aged primate, the object long wished for on the part of the pope was attained. When Kemp took the oaths of office as Archbishop of York, he swore to obey the kingly power of the pope, and at the same time to obey the kingly power of his own sovereign. It was only a matter of time when these two conflicting oaths must clash. It was a wonder that a man like Kemp did not see the impossibility of attempting to serve two masters. That impossibility showed