

Imperial University at Tokyo, who has put forth several works on the Japanese language, and who is regarded as having a better knowledge of Japanese than any other foreigner living, sums up an article on the difficulties of the language with: "Add all these (difficulties) . . . and the task of mastering Japanese becomes almost Herculean." And I thoroughly agree with him.

## THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY

UNDER EDWARD III.

**E**DWARD II. had proved himself incapable of governing his people. As time advanced he found himself a man almost without a friend. His greatest enemy was his own wife, but inasmuch as she was a woman of no enviable character this does not count for much. Her opposition to her husband went to the furthest possible extent. In a foreign land she raised an army against him. At home there was no one to defend him. In abject sorrow, he took off his crown and laid it at the feet of his nobles. It was the ceremony of his deposition, and was conducted with much solemnity. At it John, Bishop of Winchester (known as John Stratford, from the name of his native place on the banks of the Avon), was one of the chief movers.

The unfortunate king, though promised freedom and liberty of action, departed a prisoner, and in an old rocky castle, not long afterwards, his piercing cries told of a violent death and of a terrible crime perpetrated at the instigation of his wife.

His son was then recognized as king, under the title of Edward III., and John Stratford, in the year 1333, was translated from Winchester to Canterbury. There was no opposition apparently to his appointment, the monks of Canterbury and the pope proving agreeable to the wishes of the king.

John Stratford was a man who might be relied upon for aid. His resources as an ecclesiastic and a politician were various. He speedily rose to be not only Bishop of Winchester, but also Lord Chancellor of England. To the young king he was as a father, and was, next to him, the most admired of all men. He found the country in a deplorable state, all law and order seeming to be set at defiance. To meet this evil Stratford founded the system of county magistrates, which proved a wholesome check upon the lawless and disobedient. By his influence also the Commons of England sat for the first time as a separate house. Thus as a statesman he has left his mark upon the page of history.

But when he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, he resigned the Lord Chancellor.

ship--only to resume it again within a period of time less than nine months. His mind was too active to be content with one line of action only, especially in an age when leading statesmen were supposed to be clergymen, and he was soon once more the active first minister of Edward III.

That monarch has a good name in history as a resolute prince, powerful in battle and strong in the promotion of the glory of England; but his private life was none of the best, and his tyranny was often conspicuous. His demands for money were more than his first minister could meet, and therefore a coolness sprang up between them, which soon ripened into enmity.

The king and the archbishop were at daggers drawn, and it looked at one time as if the tragedy of Thomas à Becket might be re-enacted at Canterbury. But Stratford stood his ground well, though he had many other enemies besides the king. He again, however, resigned the Chancellorship, which was filled by his brother, Robert, Bishop of Chichester, the archbishop being president of the council.

The continued opposition of the king, and many others in England, aroused the energy of Stratford. One memorable day in his own cathedral he excommunicated all, except the king and his family, who were disturbing the peace of the realm. This caused great excitement. The archbishop was summoned into the presence of the king. The summons was not obeyed: but a circular was sent by the archbishop all over England, and to the king himself, setting forth most vigorously his defence. A counter document, known as the "Famosus Libellus," was published by his enemies, and ended with a reference to the archbishop as "a mouse in the bag, a serpent in the cup, and fire in the bosom." To this the archbishop replied with energy, and set before the king the numerous ways in which he had worked for him. He had spared neither body nor mind to help him, and now he was compared to a mouse, a serpent, and a fire.

He was summoned again to appear before the king and parliament. He travelled to Lambeth, not as a criminal, but as an archbishop, and appeared there as a member of the ministry, ready to take his place. After a long struggle against fierce, rough men, he was allowed to take his place in parliament as the first noble of the realm, and the king, overcome by his strong defence, received him as his old adviser and friend. Thus the struggle was over, and the archbishop had prevailed.

Without showing any feelings of triumph for his victory, his grace turned his attention to the practices and condition of the clergy, and found many irregularities which needed correction. Among other things, he insisted upon the employment of a barber. This may seem strange to people of our own day, but it had a meaning