

NOTE FOR TEACHERS.

EDWARD (1330—76), eldest son of Edward III., was created Duke of Cornwall in 1337, and Prince of Wales in 1343. His father knighted him at La Hogue, when France was invaded in 1345. He 'won his spurs' at Crécy, where he was commander of the van. It was after this battle that he was popularly known as the 'Black Prince'—probably because of the colour of his accoutrements, or, according to some, because he was a terror to the French. The battle of Poitiers was won under his leadership in 1356, and King John of France was taken prisoner. In 1367, the Prince allied himself with Pedro the Cruel, King of Castile, who was at war with his half-brother, Henry of Trastamare; the latter was defeated at Navarrete (northern Spain). Pedro did not repay a large loan which he had obtained from the Prince; and the expenses of the Spanish war were heavy. A hearth-tax was therefore levied on the Black Prince's subjects in Aquitaine. The nobles appealed to Charles V., King of France, and war broke out again in 1369. Limoges, which the citizens had, of their own free will, surrendered to the French, was re-taken in 1370; and, by the Prince's orders, there was a general massacre of the inhabitants. This is the one great blot on the Prince's otherwise fair fame. He returned to England in 1371. His health was broken by the Spanish campaign, and his death ensued five years after. He was buried in Canterbury Cathedral; his helmet, shield, and gauntlets are still to be seen there.

The siege of Calais began in September, 1346, and Sir Jean de Vienne, the Governor, capitulated on August 14th, 1347. The King's anger was roused, not merely by the long resistance, but by the fact that the town had, for many years, harboured pirates, who had done much damage to English trade and shipping. The six burgesses who offered themselves were Eustace de St. Pierre, Jean Daire, Jacques de Wissant and Pierre his brother, and two others, whose names are not mentioned by Froissart. After the surrender, the inhabitants were turned out of the town, and subsequently a number of burgesses and their families were brought from London to re-people the place.—W.H.W.