

and was known as "the parson of Blokesworth." He was much attached to the Queen, Margaret of Anjou, and fled with her when Edward of York won the victory which made him King of England, and seems to have followed her fortunes faithfully until, seeing that Edward IV. was well established on the throne, he received pardon from him, and was reinstated in power. New honors came in, thick and fast, upon him. He became Master of the Rolls, a member of the Privy Council, and as such of the royal household. And the king further advanced him in 1478 to be Bishop of Ely. On the death of Edward the life of Morton was more than once in danger from the suspicions of Richard III., but he managed to escape, and it was he, as we have seen, who worked hard to bring about the accession of Henry Tudor, and the union of the rival houses of York and Lancaster.

He was enthroned Archbishop of Canterbury on the 28th of January, 1487, and, like most of his predecessors, began his work by trying to reform the clergy, some of whom were living improper lives. Many of them had ceased to wear the clerical dress, and had also thrown aside the clerical character. In fact, it was becoming very evident that a reformation in ecclesiastical circles was a necessity that was beginning to make itself felt. The charges brought against the monastery of St. Alban's, accusing the inmates of gross immorality, would alone indicate that.

It is, however, in his capacity of Lord High Chancellor and chief adviser of King Henry VII. that Archbishop Morton's name is best known in history. It was a time when a new state of things was beginning to dawn for the world. An age of expansion and freedom had already set in. It was the age of the "discovery of America" by Christopher Columbus, and of Newfoundland by the Cabots. It was a time when nobles could no longer oppress the people, for the people, through trade and merchandise, were themselves becoming too powerful to be meddled with. The great "middle class" of England was beginning to make itself known. Henry VII. was a wise enough man to see all this, and to govern himself accordingly, and the Archbishop, as his chief adviser, must come in for a share of the wisdom shown in directing a stream which it would have been folly to have attempted to withstand. In the affairs of the Church, however, Archbishop Morton, himself a Cardinal, was devoted to the see of Rome, and was unable to foresee the dawn of better things that were close at hand for the English Church. He had under his care the king's second son, Prince Henry, who was destined to play an important part in the Reformation that was soon to come. England was becoming a different England. Not only were the houses of

York and Lancaster united by Henry VII., but, by the marriage of his daughter Margaret with the King of Scots, the way was paved for that close relationship between England and Scotland which afterwards took place.

Archbishop Morton did all in his power to promote learning, and he himself was fond of displaying the knowledge that he possessed of the Greek and Roman classics. A frequent visitor to his household was "young Thomas More," afterwards the accomplished and unfortunate Sir Thomas More, who, in his "Utopia," spoke kindly of things he had seen and heard at the hospitable table of the Archbishop.

Thus, working in the offices of politician and ecclesiastic combined, Archbishop Morton continued a conspicuous figure in English history up to extreme old age; but, in the year 1500, an attack of ague carried him away. He was buried in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral, but it is said that his bones were stolen, bit by bit, as relics, till not a trace of them was left behind.

The policy of Henry VII. was to consolidate his kingdom, to bring Ireland and Scotland, if possible, into closer touch with England, and so lay the foundation of the future "Great Britain and Ireland." He found Ireland a mere dependency upon England, left to herself, isolated and neglected. To improve this state of things the king appointed Henry Dean, prior of a Welsh monastery, to be Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Dean conducted himself so well in this position that the king made him Bishop of Bangor, in Wales. Bangor being close to the channel between England and Ireland, the king thought it might be useful to have Dean there, so that, on an emergency, he could readily pay a visit to the "Green Isle." Shortly afterwards, however, Henry Dean was promoted to the bishopric of Salisbury.

Such was the position of affairs when Archbishop Morton died. On his death Thomas Langton, Bishop of Winchester, was designated archbishop, but he died of the plague before the appointment could be consummated. The choice then fell upon the Bishop of Salisbury, a man in whom, as we have seen, Henry VII. had every confidence; but Archbishop Dean lived only two years after his consecration. The most of this brief period he devoted to the interests of the king. His episcopal duties were relegated to a suffragan, John Bell. It was Archbishop Dean who officiated at the marriage of Arthur, Prince of Wales, the king's eldest son, with the young Princess Katharine, of Arragon. The relationship of this lady to the bridegroom's brother, Prince Henry, is a matter of after history. How little, amid the pomp and splendor of her wedding, did she know of all the misery that lay before her in after years!

When Archbishop Dean died, in 1503, the