

armies. Parliament—a new factor in the Constitution—took pains in these circumstances to limit by statute the liabilities of the old national forces. An Act of 1328 decreed that no one should be compelled to go beyond the bounds of his own county, except when necessity or a sudden irruption of foreign foes into the realm required it. Another Act, 1352, provided that the militia should not be compelled to go beyond the realm in any circumstances whatsoever without the consent of Parliament. Both these Acts were confirmed by Henry IV. in 1402. But the old obligation of universal service for home defence remained intact. It was, in fact, enforced by Edward IV. in 1464, when, on his own authority, he ordered the sheriffs to proclaim that “every man from sixteen to sixty be well and defensively arrayed and . . . be ready to attend on His Highness upon a day’s warning in resistance of his enemies and rebels and the defence of this his realm.” This notable incident carries us to the end of the Middle Ages, and shews us the old English principle in vigorous operation.

IV. Tudor and Stuart Developments.

The Wars of the Roses, so fatal to the feudal nobility, left the national militia the only organized force in the country. The Tudor period, it is true, saw the faint foreshadowing of a regular army in Henry VII.’s Yeomen of the Guard, and the nucleus of a volunteer force in the Honourable Artillery Company, established in London under Henry VIII. But these at the time had little military importance, and England remained dependent for her defence throughout the fifteenth century, that age of unprecedented prosperity and glory, upon her militant manhood. Hence the Tudor Monarchs paid great attention to the maintenance and equipment of the militia. The practice (which had grown up in the later Middle Ages) of limiting the normal call to arms to a certain quota of men from each county was revived. If the required numbers were not forthcoming compulsion was employed. Statute were passed making discipline more rigid. Lords Lieutenant were instituted to take over the