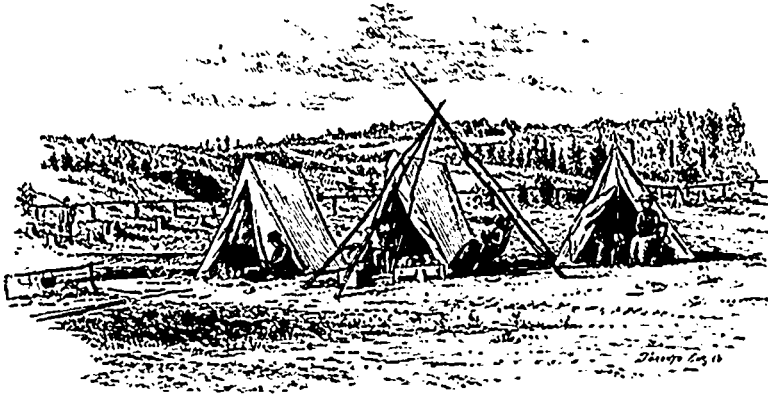




CAMPING IN ATHABASCA.

north. An unfortunate gust of wind swept it into the river.

We occupied the guide's boat; the next boat, some twenty yards behind, picked up the straying helmet, and ne'er did I see disgust more strongly depicted on human countenance than on that of the owner, as we beheld, amid roars of admiring laughter, the soaked and dripping helmet pressed ruthlessly down over the perspiring brows of first one and then another of the rescuing crew till it had gone the round.

(To be continued.)

THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY.

UNDER HENRY VII.

(Continued.)

THE man whom Archbishop Chicheley had selected to be his successor was John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells. He was a man of noble family, and was educated at Oxford as a lawyer; but lawyers in those days were pretty sure to obtain ecclesiastical preferment. It was so with Stafford. On receiving the necessary legal education, he proceeded to holy orders, and was made Dean of St. Martin's, London, and afterwards Dean of Wells. His ability as a lawyer was recognized in high places, especially in the Church, which often stood in need of legal advice. It was in this way that Archbishop Chicheley and John Stafford were thrown together. The archbishop noticed the legal acumen of the dean, and attracted the attention of King Henry V. towards it. This procured for him rapid preferment. He was made Keeper of the Privy Seal, and when Henry VI. came to the throne he was appointed also Lord High Treasurer of England. Stafford had also a staunch friend in Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, and the king's uncle, through whose influence he was presented with the bishopric of Bath and Wells. He managed to retain the friendship of both the archbishop and Beaufort, though these two ecclesiastics were bitterly opposed to one an-

other; and this, not by a policy of neutrality, for he openly espoused the cause of Beaufort. This shows amiability on the part of the archbishop and considerable tact on the part of Stafford. Henry VI., as a mere child, was crowned King of France in Paris, amid much pomp and splendor. At this ceremony Stafford was present, and on his return to England he was made Lord High Chancellor, a position which he retained for many years. When he had held it for

eleven years, the aged Archbishop of Canterbury felt that he could no longer perform the duties of his office, and therefore begged that Stafford might be appointed in his place. Through the united influence of the archbishop and Beaufort (then a cardinal) this somewhat complicated result was secured. The appointment was made on the 14th of May, 1443, and a few months afterwards Archbishop Chicheley died, leaving the new primate in sole and uninterrupted possession of his high and honorable position.

It was Stafford who brought about the marriage of the English king, Henry VI., with the French lady of royal blood, Margaret of Anjou. He did it in the interest of peace between the two countries, for he readily saw that the mere title of King of France would not prevent, but might rather promote war between the two countries, so bitterly hostile to one another. Margaret of Anjou was destined to play an important part in the history of England.

The reign of Henry VI. is noted for a series of revolutions, which gradually deepened until a civil war, one of the worst known to history, convulsed and devastated the whole of England. The terrible movement began in 1450, when the Duke of Suffolk was banished by the House of Commons, when Jack Cade raised his insurrection, and when the Bishops of Chichester and Salisbury were murdered. In that year Archbishop Stafford resigned the Great Seal, which he had held for the unusually long period of eighteen years. His conduct throughout all the troublesome scenes enacted around him was worthy of a man of a truly noble character. He retained his popularity and escaped impeachment, while at the same time he bravely faced all the difficulties that surrounded him. Henry VI., unlike his heroic father, was totally lacking in governing power. He was, however, kind, gentle and pious. It was he who established Eton college; and it was Archbishop Stafford who first breathed the prayer, "Floreat Etona," which is still used in numerous homes throughout England. But