

mellowed his grief for the loved and lost Anne of Bohemia : he could not divorce his heart from the memory of his late queen sufficiently to give her a successor nearer his own age.

Isabella of Valois was the daughter of Charles VI. of France and Isabeau of Bavaria,—that queen of France afterwards so notorious for her wickedness ; but at the time of the marriage of Richard II. with her little daughter, queen Isabeau was only distinguished for great beauty and luxurious taste in dress and festivals. Charles VI. had already experienced two or three agonizing attacks of inflammation on the brain, which had yielded, however, to medical skill, and he was at this time a magnificent, prosperous, and popular sovereign. Isabella, the eldest child of this royal pair, first saw the light in the Louvre-palace, at Paris, 1387, November 9th. She was the fairest of a numerous and lovely family, the females of which were remarkable for the beauty lavished on them by the hand of nature. The queen of France was the daughter of a German prince and an Italian princess ; she was renowned for the splendour of her large dark eyes, and the clearness and brightness of her complexion,—charms which were transmitted to her daughters in no common degree. Isabella had three brothers (who were successively dauphins) and four sisters,—Joanna, duchess of Bretagne ; Marie, a nun ; Michelle, the first duchess of Philip the Good, of Burgundy ; and Katherine the Fair, the queen of Henry V. of England. These royal ladies inherited their father's goodness without his malady, and their mother's beauty without her vices. The princess Isabella was precocious in intellect and stature, and was every way worthy of fulfilling a queenly destiny. Unlike her sisters, Michelle and Katherine, who were cruelly neglected in their infant years, she was the darling of her parents and of the court of France. Isabella is no mute on the biographical page : the words she uttered have been chronicled, and though so young, both as the wife and widow of an English king, research will show that her actions were of some historical importance. The life of Richard's last consort is a curious portion of the biography of our queens of England,

as an instance of circumstances.

"The king of Froissart, researches made. He has been daughters, but cester has, like well pleased with her ; but the cousin-german eldest daughter other : it caused her to be so eager to is not the better 'that the lady or six years she replied pleasantly of age, and her her, because he mind, and to that, as for him

Froissart was met to debate While they were one of the king "The king made business of his the archbishop of marshal, with to should wait on the

¹ The refined taste restoration of this noble
² The Sunday after to receive the present Froissart. "I present laid it on his bed." him before he had risen He ought to have been