

crown of thorns he had assumed, was sick at Windsor-castle. There was a spiked instrument concealed in his bed, for the purpose of destroying him when he lay down to rest; its introduction, says the monk of Evesham, "was attributed to one of the young queen's servants."

Richard's doom was now sealed. He was hurried from the Tower to Pontefract-castle; meantime, the confederate lords flew to arms, and, dressing up king Richard's chaplain, Maudelain,¹ in royal robes, proclaimed that the deposed king had escaped from his gaolers. The young queen Isabella took an extraordinary part in this movement for the restoration of her husband.² When the earls of Kent and Salisbury came with their forces to Sunning-Hill, where she was abiding, they told her "They had driven the usurper Bolingbroke from Windsor to the stronghold of the Tower, and that her husband had escaped, and was then in full march to meet her at the head of a hundred thousand men." Overjoyed at this news, the young queen put herself at their disposal. She likewise took great pleasure in ordering the badges of Henry IV. to be torn from her household, and replaced by those of her royal husband; in which "harmless spite," says Hayward, "the queen Isabel took the utmost satisfaction." A proclamation was likewise issued in her name, declaring "that she did not recognise Henry of Lancaster as king." The queen then set out with her brother-in-law, the earl of Kent, and his allies, on their march to Wallingford and Abingdon. Full of joyful hope, Isabel expected every hour to meet her king triumphant at the head of a loyal army. She was with the barons when they entered the fatal town of Cirencester; but, amid the mysterious darkness which shrouds the termination of this insurrection, we lose sight of the actual manner in which the young queen was recaptured by Henry IV. Let

¹ He was exceedingly like Richard, and supposed to be an illegitimate son of one of the royal family; he was implicated in the illegal execution of the duke of Gloucester. He had adhered to Richard with the utmost fidelity, from his landing in Wales till his capture at Flint.

² Guthrie and Froissart. Sir John Hayward, p. 127, edition 1599. He says, "the insurgent lords came to the queen from Colnebrook to Sunning, a place near Reading."