

followed he showed that he had profited by the lessons of Crécy and Poitiers, for he refused to fight any pitched battles, and contented himself with harassing and annoying the English armies.

The Black Prince returned to England a broken-down invalid ; his chief captains were dead, his brother, John of Gaunt, proved an unworthy successor, and through a naval defeat by a combined French and Spanish fleet the English lost the command of the seas, so that their armies could only reach Aquitaine by a march from Calais through hostile territory. The armies of Charles, led by his skilful captain, Bertrand du Guesclin, gradually recovered the land held by the English, until in 1375 the English had nothing in France but Calais, Cherbourg, Brest, Bayonne, and Bordeaux, and the strip of land connecting the last two towns.

In the minority of Richard II. the war was carried on spasmodically by the English with little success. Richard himself, when he began to govern, not only ended the war, but entered into an alliance with France.

INTER-
MITTENT
WAR

While Henry IV. was King of England the civil wars of Burgundians and Armagnacs were desolating France in the time of the mad King Charles VI. The French constantly harried the English coast, and Henry sent help from time to time to one or other of the French parties.

With the accession of Henry V. a new phase of the war began. Henry was ambitious and longed to conquer France, partly in order to gain military glory, and partly in order to occupy the minds of his subjects and divert their attention from the question of his right to

RENEWAL
BY
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