

CHARLES VIII. 1483-1498 His son, Charles VIII., had received no education through the jealousy of his father, who declared that to understand the proverb "qui scit dissimulare scit regnare" was sufficient education for a prince. The government was at first carried on for him by his masterful sister Anne of Beaujeu, who arranged his marriage with the heiress of Brittany, and thus added to the crown possessions the last of the great duchies.

3. *England during the Hundred Years' War and after*

EDWARD III. 1327-1377 Edward III., as we have seen, began the Hundred Years' War partly to secure his possession of Aquitaine from French encroachments, partly to prevent French interference with his protection of Baliol in Scotland, and partly in the interests of English trade, especially the wool trade with Flanders.

In the first two of these aims Edward was successful temporarily but not permanently. Aquitaine, which was secured by the Treaty of Bretigny, was almost entirely lost before the end of the reign. David Bruce invaded England in the year of Crécy but was defeated and taken prisoner at the battle of Neville's Cross (1346). He was, however, ultimately allowed to return to Scotland as king. But in his third aim, the furthering of English trade interests, Edward was more successful. In his reign trade flourished, and the merchant class increased in importance. It was only the wealth which England obtained by her trade that enabled her to maintain the struggle in France for so long. The increasing importance of the Commons is seen by their activity in Parliament during this reign, by the further limitation of the king's power of taxation, by the growing control