

sentative of the elder branch of the royal family, was at first victorious, and secured his recognition as Henry's heir. Queen Margaret, however, was furious at the disinheriting of her son, and collected an army to maintain his right. By her victory at Wakefield she defeated and killed the Duke of York. But his son Edward soon avenged his father at the battle of Towton and gained the throne. Edward IV. had won the crown partly by the support of the most powerful of the barons, the great Earl of Warwick and his family, partly by the support of the trading classes, who longed for a strong ruler to maintain order. His quarrel with Warwick, the Kingmaker, led to a temporary restoration of Henry VI. But at Barnet and Tewkesbury Edward was once more triumphant. The great Earl and the Lancastrian Prince of Wales perished, and Henry VI. died as a prisoner in the Tower.

The foreign policy of Edward led him, in alliance with the Duke of Burgundy, to invade France in 1475, but at the Treaty of Pecquigny he was cajoled and bribed by Louis XI. into an immediate return.

On his death the crown soon passed from the little Edward V. to his ambitious uncle Richard III. But Richard only retained his ill-gotten kingdom for two years. In 1485 he was defeated and killed at Bosworth by the Lancastrian Henry VII.

The Wars of the Roses were over, and the nation longed for peace and good government. Henry VII. governed in the interests of the middle classes. He kept the country at peace, repressed disorder with a firm hand, crushed the power of the nobles, and encouraged trade. With him began the Tudor despotism, which was based on the support of the trading classes.

EDWARD  
V. 1483

RICHARD  
III.  
1483-1485

HENRY  
VII.  
1485-1509