

men were engaged for several weeks in erecting a costly and magnificent palace of wood-work for the accommodation of Henry, his Queen, and their attendants. All that money and art could do was lavished on the edifice; the furniture was of the most costly description, the ceilings were covered with silk, and the walls with cloth of arras. Near the town of Ardes a building of similar description was erected for the accommodation of Francis. Three weeks were spent by the two Sovereigns in visits of state, tournaments, feats of arms and banquets. Yet, beneath all these elaborate displays of friendship, there lurked mutual jealousy and mistrust, which practically kept the two monarchs apart, and hindered the transaction of any real business. Francis was, however, under the impression that he had gained the friendship and confidence of Henry.

NOTE.—The magnificence displayed at this meeting gained for it the name of the "*Field of the Cloth of Gold.*" The French noblemen were clad in such costly garments, that they were said "to have had their estates on their backs."

(3) **Henry meets Charles at Gravelines.** No sooner had Henry left Francis, than he met Charles, in a less ostentatious fashion, at **Gravelines**, and conducted him to Calais, and whatever good impression had been made on Henry's mind at the "Field of the Cloth of Gold" by Francis, was entirely swept away.

(4) **Wolsey acts as arbitrator between Charles and Francis.** The political rivalry between Charles and Francis soon broke out into open hostilities, and Francis led an army over the Pyrenees into Spain. Both sovereigns laid their complaints before Henry, who pretended to be neutral, and sent Wolsey to Calais to meet the ambassadors of both parties and act as arbitrator in negotiating peace. His policy was to maintain a "balance" between the two, so as to prevent either of them from becoming too powerful. The terms proposed by Charles were indignantly rejected by Francis, and so the congress broke up without effecting anything.

Wolsey, following his master's instructions, met the Emperor at Bruges, and concluded an alliance with him against France, stipulating (1) that both Henry and Charles should invade the French dominions; (2) that the projected