

LEADING DATES.

Execution of Lady Jane Grey	1554
Wyatt's Rebellion	1554
Latimer and Ridley burnt	1555
Cranmer burnt	1556
Loss of Calais	1558

SECTION I.—THE USURPATION OF LADY JANE GREY.

1. **Mary escapes to Norfolk, and Lady Jane is proclaimed Queen.** Northumberland tried to conceal the news of King Edward's death, until he could arrest the Princess Mary. She had, however, received secret intelligence of it while at Hunsdon in Hertfordshire, and having eluded the Earl of Warwick, Northumberland's son, who was sent to effect her capture, rode forty miles without rest to Kenninghall, a strong castle in Norfolk. This castle belonged to the Howards, her staunch supporters, and afforded, from its proximity to the sea, an easy means of escape to the continent, if flight should be necessary.

When, however, it was no longer possible to conceal Edward's death, Northumberland proclaimed Lady Jane as Queen. But all London was strongly in favour of Mary. Both Catholics and Protestants were so thoroughly persuaded that she was the rightful heir to the throne, and their hatred of Northumberland so intense, that the proclamation was received with ominous silence. An apprentice lad spoke the feelings of the assembled citizens, when he boldly shouted that "*the Lady Mary had the better title.*"

NOTE.—Lady Jane was a sweet, beautiful and accomplished girl of sixteen. Although so young, she had acquired an unusual amount of book learning, but she had no knowledge of matters of State, and had accepted the crown much against her inclination. There had been no Queen "regnant" in England before this, and it was a part of Northumberland's plan that his son, Lord Guildford Dudley, should be crowned King and rule conjointly with Lady Jane. She, however, resolutely refused to sanction such a proceeding; "*her husband,*" she said, "*could only be crowned by Act of Parliament.*"

2. **Northumberland's plot fails, and Mary is proclaimed Queen.** Meanwhile all England had declared for Mary. In Norfolk, 30,000 volunteers had gathered round her; in