

force was so small that he dared not risk a battle, and so he resolved to temporize with the rebels. Aske, who seems to have been actuated by truly noble and patriotic motives, and wished to avoid bloodshed, consented to treat with the Duke. It was agreed that if the rebels should return peaceably to their homes, the King would grant a general pardon, and call a Parliament at York to consider their grievances. In the following year, however, fresh disturbances broke out in Cumberland and Westmoreland, and Henry, making this a pretext for the non-fulfilment of his promises, caused Aske and the other leaders to be arrested. They were all condemned and executed; Aske had the distinction of being hanged in chains on one of the towers of York.

Of all the leaders in this formidable rebellion, Aske is by far the most interesting. His widely extended influence and popularity, his powers of organization, and his extreme moderation, render him a very remarkable character.

Luther, Martin, the great German Reformer, was born in Saxony. At the age of twenty-one he became an Augustine friar, and resolved to lead a spiritual life and devote himself to the study of the Scriptures. Gradually he became convinced of the many errors which had crept into the Roman Catholic Church, and when Tetzel, a Dominican friar, was appointed to sell "Indulgences" to raise money for the completion of St. Peter's at Rome, Luther loudly protested against the practice. He drew up his ninety-five theses on "Indulgences," denying to the Pope the right to forgive sins, and fixed them on the great door of the Church at Wittenberg. In 1520, Luther published his treatise, entitled "The Babylonish Captivity of the Church," attacking the doctrines of the Church of Rome. This led to his excommunication by Leo X. Luther set the Pope at defiance by publicly burning the papal bull containing his excommunication, before the gate of Wittenberg Castle. Being summoned to appear before the Emperor at the Diet of Worms, he ably defended himself, but the Elector of Saxony was apprehensive for his safety, and took him under his protection. Luther's opinions spread rapidly throughout Germany, and thousands of persons joined the ranks of the Reformer. He died in 1546, and was buried in Wittenberg.

## EDWARD VI.

Seymour, Edward, Duke of Somerset, was the brother of Jane Seymour, one of the wives of Henry VIII. On the marriage of his sister with that monarch, he rose to some importance in the State, and was constantly employed on military and diplomatic services. In 1537, he was created Earl of Hertford. In the Scottish War of 1554 he captured Edinburgh and Leith. He became one of the leaders of the "Reforming Party," and succeeded in overthrowing his opponents, the Duke of Norfolk, and his son, the Earl of