

followed one another in swift succession. The Spensers were seized and executed. The hapless King was captured in Wales and conveyed as a prisoner to Kenilworth. Isabella assumed regal authority, and summoned a Parliament, which met at Westminster in January 1327.

8. The Parliament solemnly deposed the captive King, and recognized his son, Prince Edward of Wales, as his rightful successor. Edward himself was committed to the custody of a certain Sir John Maltravers, who had orders to transfer him hastily from castle to castle. After suffering indignities worse than death, the unfortunate captive was cruelly murdered at Berkeley Castle, September 1327. His death has left an ineffaceable stain on the memory of Isabella and her "gentle Mortimer."

**Deposition
and death
of Edward.**

CHAPTER XXI.

PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF ANJOU.—EDWARD III. 1327 to 1377 A.D.

1. Edward, Prince of Wales, was a minor at the time of his father's death. He was crowned at Westminster in January 1327, when but fourteen years of age. A council of guardians was appointed to direct affairs during his minority; but all real control was in the hands of Isabella, the Queen-mother, and Mortimer.

2. A year after Edward's accession, the difficulty with Scotland was settled by a treaty between the English rulers and the Scottish King. England acknowledged the independence of Scotland, and renounced all claim to feudal superiority (1328). The treaty was very unpopular in England, where Isabella and Mortimer were accused of giving away the rights of their country.

3. As Edward approached manhood, he chafed under the rule of his mother and Mortimer. The haughty demeanor of the latter made him many enemies among the nobles; and to this feeling of hostility, the young King, when eighteen years of age, determined to appeal. Mortimer was surprised at Nottingham Castle by Edward in person, and captured, and was arraigned before Parliament as a traitor. The Queen-mother was imprisoned within her own house for life. Mortimer was hanged at Tyburn (1330).

4. Edward was now in reality King of England. Few sovereigns have surpassed him in the possession of kingly qualities. He was a firm, and, generally speaking, a wise ruler. He caused the law to be impartially administered, and this secured the confidence and esteem of his subjects.

**Character
of
Edward III.**