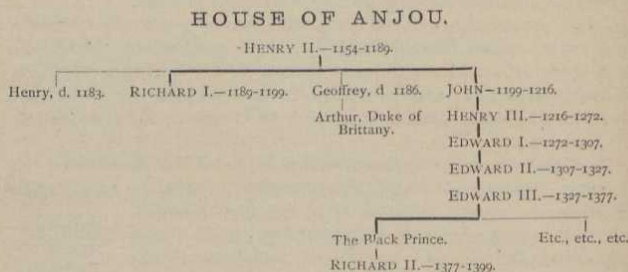


throughout England. His disciples were afterwards called *Lollards*. He had influential friends; among them John of Gaunt, and, as is supposed by some, Queen Anne herself.

14. In the year 1393, a long controversy as to the respective rights of the Crown and the Church in the matter of ecclesiastical nominations was settled, as far as Parliament could settle it, by the passage of a statute called *Præmunire*. *Præmunire* is still in force; but it now includes a number of miscellaneous offences. One of its effects is to make elections by the clergy purely nominal, it being treason to reject the nominees of the Crown.



CHAPTER XXIII.

PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF LANCASTER.—HENRY IV. 1399 to 1413 A.D.

1. The Parliament that deposed Richard proceeded to confirm the claim of his successful rival, Henry of Lancaster. The new King, who had been surnamed *Bolingbroke*, from the place of his birth, assumed the title of Henry IV., and was crowned a fortnight after Richard's deposition—October 14, 1399. Henry ascended the throne by right of conquest, not of birth. According to the law of succession, there stood between him and the crown the young Earl of March, descended from Lionel of Clarence, second son of Edward III., whereas his own father, John of Gaunt, was third son. Henry himself vaguely claimed the crown as "descended by right line of blood from King Henry III." That he was so descended by both lines is an undoubted fact, his mother, Blanche of Lancaster, being sprung directly from the second son of the third Henry. But a weak claim is not strengthened by adding to it another weaker than itself.