

in less than a month he drove his enemies south of the Loire, and completely re-established his authority. Shortly afterwards, his Queen bore him a son and heir. He was master of two kingdoms, beloved by his soldiers, revered by his subjects. His future was bright with promise. But for some time a secret malady had been preying on his constitution. Joined by his wife and child, he had spent Whitsuntide at Paris in great splendor; but even amid the festivities he had forebodings of his approaching end. Retiring to Vincennes, he died there, August 31, 1422. His remains were brought to England for interment, and his saddle and helmet still hang over his tomb in Westminster Abbey. Like his father, Henry V. had cherished a strong desire to lead a crusade for the recovery of Jerusalem. His widow, Catherine of France, afterwards married a Welsh gentleman named Owen Tudor. Their son Edmund Tudor, by marrying a descendant of John of Gaunt, laid the foundation of the Royal House of Tudor.

10. The premature death of Henry saved France from ruin as an independent kingdom. Henry's successor was an infant in arms; while the Dauphin of France, who had never acknowledged the Treaty of Troyes made in the name of his insane father, was in the full vigor of early manhood. It will be our lot to see that Prince, under the title of Charles VII., not only recover his lost possessions, but even strip from England the last fragment of her domain in France.

**Deliverance
of France.**

CHAPTER XXV.

PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF LANCASTER.—HENRY VI. 1422 to 1461 A.D.

1. The new heir to the crowns of England and France was nine months old when his father died. Parliament acknowledged him under the title of Henry VI. His eldest uncle, the Duke of Bedford, was appointed "Protector of the Realm and Church of England;" but as Bedford's real duties lay in France, where he acted as Regent, the chief direction of affairs at home devolved on a younger uncle, the Duke of Gloucester. The personal guardianship of the infant King was committed to his grand-uncle, Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, a son of John of Gaunt by his third marriage.

**Accession of
Henry VI.**

2. A few months after the accession of Henry VI., Charles VI., the imbecile King of France, breathed his last. In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Troyes, Henry was immediately proclaimed his successor at Paris. Bedford, who was a man of great ability, did his best to uphold his nephew's authority. But, as we have seen, the Dauphin Charles,

**War
in France.**