

so long as Prince Edward lived to represent the Lancastrian cause.

**Death of
Henry VI.**

Now, however, the ex-King would serve as a point around which his party might rally. His death would plainly be serviceable to the King's cause, and we are not surprised to hear that it almost immediately followed that of his son. It was given out that he had died of grief.

11. We have seen that Edward's brother, the Duke of Clarence, had, under the influence of Warwick, deserted his cause at a critical

**Death of
Clarence.**

time. Though the Duke afterwards deserted his father-in-law and assisted Edward at the Battle of Barnet, he was never forgiven. When once secure on his throne, Edward had Clarence accused and convicted of treason. His death in some unknown manner followed soon after.

**Edward's
reign.**

12. From the Battle of Tewkesbury until his death Edward IV. reigned about twelve years. These were marked by no events of consequence. In 1475 he invaded France; but nothing came of the movement except the so-called *Treaty of Pecquigny*, by which Edward agreed to release Margaret of Anjou for a stipulated price; and to give his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, in marriage to the Dauphin. The latter agreement was never fulfilled. Edward's favorite method of raising money for the support of his government and of his pleasures was by means of "benevolences," or forced loans, exacted from wealthy nobles and merchants. He was thus comparatively independent of Parliament.

13. Edward's constitution was impaired by intemperance, and he died in April 1483, at the early age of forty-two. He left two sons—Edward, aged twelve, and Richard, aged nine; also five daughters, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, subsequently became the wife and Queen of Henry VII.

CHAPTER XXVII.

PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF YORK.—EDWARD V.

April to June, 1483 A.D.

1. Edward V., who reigned for a few months as nominal King of England, was a lad of twelve at his father's death. When that event

**Accession
of
Edward V.**

took place he was at Ludlow Castle, in charge of Lord Rivers, his maternal uncle. On his way to London, he was met by his father's brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Rivers and the King's half-brother, Lord Grey, were treacherously seized by Gloucester and thrown into prison. Edward himself was brought to London, and placed under guard in the Tower. His mother, with her other son and her five daughters, took refuge in Westminster Abbey.