

2. The Duke of Gloucester, who had evidently determined to make himself King, was appointed Protector. Lord Hastings, a powerful noble, who did not readily comply with Gloucester's plans, was accused of witchcraft and was immediately executed. The King's relatives, Rivers and Grey, were beheaded summarily at Pontefract. His brother, the young Duke of York, was taken from the sanctuary at Westminster and sent to the Tower.

**Gloucester  
appointed  
Protector.**

3. A Parliament had been summoned in the name of Edward V., and the 22nd of June was named as the day of the young King's coronation. This was artfully arranged to enable the Protector to secure the throne for himself. Shortly before the day fixed for Edward's coronation, a divine named Shaw, brother of the Lord Mayor, preached a sermon at St. Paul's Cross, in which he denied the legitimacy of the late King's marriage with Elizabeth Woodville, and asserted that Gloucester was his brother's true successor. A day or two later, a carefully contrived deputation, with the Duke of Buckingham at its head, waited on the Protector, and pressed the crown on his acceptance. With well disguised reluctance, Gloucester accepted the trust thus offered. On the 8th of July 1483 he was crowned at Westminster. His wife, the new Queen, was a daughter of the great king-maker, Warwick, and the widow of Prince Edward, son of Henry VI.

**Gloucester  
proclaimed  
King.**

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF YORK.—RICHARD III. 1483 to 1485 A.D.

1. Richard of Gloucester was thirty-three years of age when he thus unlawfully seized the throne of England. During his brother's reign he had given proofs of great capacity. He was a deadly foe to encounter on the field of battle; and amid all the confusion of the times in which he lived he never lost his presence of mind. In planning, he was shrewd and far-seeing; in action, prompt and energetic. His character as depicted by Shakespeare was drawn to please the natural enemies of his family, and may be justly regarded as giving an exaggerated view of his moral deformities. At the same time, the plain facts of history show Richard to have been cruel, unscrupulous, and implacable.

**Character  
of  
Richard III.**

2. To secure popularity in the north, Richard had himself and his Queen re-crowned in York Minster. In various other ways he sought to make his rule acceptable to the people. But he found it impossible to suppress a strong sentiment of sympathy with the captive Princes. Soon the nation

**Disappear-  
ance of the  
Princes.**