

was shocked, if not surprised, to hear that these innocent boys had disappeared. The commonly received story is to the effect that a man named Tyrrel, acting under orders from the King, smothered them with pillows, and afterwards buried them under a stairway. This report, which is in itself probable, receives confirmation from the fact that in the reign of Charles II. some workmen engaged in making repairs found the bones of two boys buried under the staircase leading to the chapel of the Tower.

3. Richard soon found that, though he had won a crown, he had not secured the confidence of his subjects. He had now arrayed against him not only the Lancastrians, but also many of the Yorkists, who were indignant at the murder of his nephews. The Duke of Bucking-

**Coalition  
against  
Richard.**

ham, a former supporter, deserted him. Efforts were made to effect a coalition of all the King's opponents. The Duke of Buckingham put himself at the head of the movement. Henry, Earl of Richmond, grandson of Owen Tudor and Catherine, widow of Henry V., and through his mother a remote descendant of John of Gaunt, was fixed on as Richard's successor. Richmond, who was an exile in Brittany, lent himself to the designs of the conspirators, assenting to his proposed marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. The attempt came to nought. Buckingham was defeated and slain. Richmond, after vainly trying to effect a landing on the southern coast, returned to France.

4. But one Parliament was held in Richard's reign. It passed a statute declaring "benevolences" unlawful. For the first time the Acts of Parliament were printed.

5. In 1484 Richard lost his only son, the young Prince Edward. The next year his Queen also died. On the death of his son and his wife, he declared his nephew, John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, heir to the throne. It is said that at one time he cherished the unnatural purpose of marrying his niece, Elizabeth of York.

6. The failure of Buckingham's insurrection did not quench the ambition of the Earl of Richmond. Having been again invited to England by the various parties opposed to Richard, he carefully watched his opportunity. It must be understood that he had no rightful claim to the English throne. The Lancastrians accepted him as their representative, simply because their true royal line had been cut off in the carnage of the civil war. Richmond's descent from Edward III. was tainted with illegitimacy. In the popular estimation, though not in reality, his claim received some strength from the fact that his grandmother had been Queen.

7. Richmond having collected a small force in Normandy, crossed