

5. The industrial arts made great progress during this period. The wearing of linen dates from the reign of Henry III.; that of woollens from the reign of Edward III. Towards the end of the Plantagenet epoch, coal-mining became an important branch of industry. Banking institutions were established, and gradually the basis of England's commercial supremacy was firmly laid.

Manufac-  
tures and  
trade.

6. During this period, Gothic architecture filled England with its glorious creations—York Minster, the Cathedrals of Salisbury and Ely, Westminster Abbey, and St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

Architec-  
ture.

7. When this period began, Latin was the language of the learned classes; French of the nobility and gentry; English, in its early or transition form, was the despised *patois* of the common people. Before its close, peer and peasant, "gentle and simple," alike, spoke English, whose modern form may be said to date from the introduction of the printing-press into England by William Caxton, in the reign of Edward IV. The Plantagenet period included a century of war with France, and thirty years of deadly strife between the Roses, to say nothing of other civil conflicts and almost constant hostilities with Scotland. We should not, therefore, be surprised to find it comparatively barren of great literary productions, which generally demand a somewhat settled condition of society. These centuries, however, gave forth some works of great value. Here it is only necessary for us to mention the "Canterbury Tales" of that immortal poet Geoffrey Chaucer.

Language  
and  
literature.

8. The Plantagenet period saw the Norman and Anglo-Saxon races in England completely amalgamated. The reign of John contributed greatly to this result. By the loss of his Norman provinces, that bad King confined the ambition of his nobles within the limits of England; while by the oppression of all classes of his subjects alike, he led "the two races, so long hostile, to feel that they had common interests and common grievances." By putting a premium on what was distinctively *English*, the Hundred Years' War with France completed the work begun in the reign of John.

Fusion of  
races.

## CHAPTER XXX.

### HOUSE OF TUDOR.—HENRY VII. 1485 to 1509. A.D.

1. Henry Tudor, as we have seen, became King under the title of Henry VII. His coronation, which was delayed by the prevalence of a terrible disease called "the Sweating Sickness," took place at Westminster, 1485. To Parlia-

Accession of  
Henry VII.