

of Scotland. From this marriage there resulted in time the union of England and Scotland under one Sovereign.

9. Henry VII. died at Richmond, a few miles from London, in April 1509. He was buried at Westminster, in that beautiful Chapel of the famous Abbey which perpetuates his name. It is said that his last days were clouded with remorse on account of his illegal exactions, and that he gave a dying charge to his successor to undo, as far as possible, the wrongs which Dudley and Empson had inflicted on innocent men.

#### Death of Henry VII.

10. Parliament meeting seldom, the legislation of the reign of Henry VII. was meagre and unimportant. A statute was enacted suppressing *maintenance*, or the system by which the greater nobles supported large numbers of retainers, and thus made themselves rivals of the King. Another Act defined the duty of subjects to the reigning Sovereign. To speak technically, *allegiance* was declared to be due to the *de facto* (the actual) King, as distinguished from the *de jure* (rightful) one.

#### Legislation.

11. The period of Henry's reign was throughout Europe marked by great intellectual activity. The revival of learning spread from Italy into other countries. Three great inventions—gunpowder, the printing-press, and the mariner's compass—had already brought about important changes, and were making their influence felt in England. It is to Henry's credit that he obtained for his country some share in the glory of maritime discovery. To the expeditions of John Cabot and his son Sebastian, which sailed from Bristol under the auspices and at the expense of the English King, we owe the discovery of the mainland of North America.

#### Great events.

### CHAPTER XXXI.

#### HOUSE OF TUDOR.—HENRY VIII. 1509 to 1547 A.D.

1. In Henry, the second son of the late King, England had at length a Sovereign who reigned with an undisputed title. In the plume of Henry VIII. the colors of the rival Roses were inextricably blended. The young King being now eighteen years of age, proceeded to carry out the marriage contract with Catharine of Aragon, the widow of his deceased brother Arthur. The royal nuptials were performed on the 7th of June, two months after Henry's accession. The coronation took place a fortnight later in Westminster Abbey.

#### Accession of Henry VIII.

2. Under the guidance of his father's trusted adviser, the Bishop of Winchester, Henry devoted himself to his new duties with considerable energy. Empson and Dudley, the ministers of the late monarch's avarice, were executed on

#### Beginning of reign.