

punished for rejecting *to-day* doctrines which might not be declared heretical until *to-morrow*.

35. It must not be forgotten that Henry's reign naturally divides itself into two parts—that which *preceded* and that which *followed* his divorce from Catharine of Aragon. During the first half of his reign, Henry was the gay and splendid monarch; devoted to pleasure, yet not neglectful of business; lavish of the treasures hoarded by his father; anxious to raise England to a higher place among the European nations; interesting himself in the progress of education; and writing in defence of his religious opinions. The course of events accompanying and succeeding the divorce rapidly developed the worst elements of his nature. Base appetites obtained the mastery over him. He became at once cruel, haughty, and licentious. Flattered by servile courtiers, he respected neither the rights of man nor the law of God. With impartial cruelty he beheaded Catholics for opposing his spoliations of the Church, and burned Protestants for rejecting his definitions of religion.

36. Notwithstanding the religious troubles which prevailed, England continued to advance as a commercial nation. Like his father, Henry devoted much care to the building up of an efficient royal navy. Learning also received much encouragement. On his death-bed he munificently endowed that great seat of science, Trinity College, Cambridge. Christ Church College, Oxford, originally founded by Wolsey as *Cardinal College*, reveres his memory as its chief benefactor.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

### HOUSE OF TUDOR.—EDWARD VI.

1547 to 1553 A.D.

1. According to the terms of his father's will, Prince Edward, then in his tenth year, ascended the throne under the title of Edward VI. He was crowned at Westminster on February 28th 1547. The whole power of the Council of Regency appointed by his father in his will was illegally assumed by its President, Lord Hertford. He took the title of *Protector*, and was created Duke of Somerset.

2. The Protector was brother of Jane Seymour, and therefore uncle of the young King. He was naturally interested in the welfare of his nephew; while the fact that he had no royal blood in his veins tended to disarm popular suspicion. As a zealous Protestant, he took care to have the King trained in the principles of the new faith. The Earl of Southampton,