

Mary, the rightful heir, was (he argued to the King) out of the question, for she would upset the reformed Protestant faith; besides, both she and her sister Elizabeth had been declared illegitimate by Acts of Parliament. Henry VIII.'s will had excluded the heirs of his sister Margaret of Scotland, and in default of heirs to his own children, had bequeathed the crown to the heirs of his sister Mary. The appeal to Edward's strong Protestant feelings was successful. The young King did what he could to disinherit his sisters. Letters-patent were signed bequeathing the crown to Lady Jane Grey.

11. Edward died on the 6th of July 1553, in the sixteenth year of his age, and the seventh of his reign. He was a pious and gentle youth, of scholarly tastes and habits. His relation to the important events of his reign, which still affect the whole structure and tone of English society, was but that of a spectator; though undoubtedly the strong Protestant sentiments with which his mind was imbued made easier the task of Somerset and Northumberland in effecting a religious revolution.

**Death of
Edward VI.**

12. An immense amount of ecclesiastical property was confiscated during Edward's reign. Much of the proceeds was worse than wasted in furthering the designs of ambitious leaders. With a part, however, a number of schools were founded, which are still known as *King Edward the Sixth's Free Grammar Schools*. Shortly before Edward's death an expedition was sent, under the command of Sebastian Cabot, to discover a north-eastern route to China and India. One of the vessels was wrecked off the coast of Norway, but a part of the fleet reached the Russian port of Archangel. Cabot himself is supposed to have perished on the frozen shores of Nova Zembla.

**Events of
the reign.**

13. On Edward's death, the first effort of Northumberland was to secure, if possible, the persons of the Princesses Mary and Elizabeth. In this he failed; and he soon found that he had miscalculated the temper of the nation. The majority of the Council deserted him on the proclamation of Lady Jane Grey as Queen, on the 10th of July. The nation as a whole strongly supported the cause of hereditary right. Mary entered London in triumph. Northumberland, with Lady Jane and her husband, was committed to the Tower.

**Northum-
berland
foiled.**

CHAPTER. XXXIII.

HOUSE OF TUDOR.—MARY I. 1553 to 1558 A.D.

1. Mary entered London as Queen on August 3rd, 1553. A fortnight before, after a brief sovereignty of nine days, Lady Jane Grey