

and in 1306 Bruce was crowned king. Edward's wrath was terrible. He sent an army into Scotland, and for a time carried all before him. Bruce had to go into hiding, while his wife and daughters fell into Edward's power. The Countess of Buchan, who put the crown on Bruce's head, was closely confined in a wooden cage in a turret of Berwick Castle. Many Scottish nobles who had aided Bruce were hanged. But the Scots were aroused, and a determined and united people are hard to conquer. Bruce was soon in arms again with many followers.

Edward now gathered a great army to crush the Scots. The brave old king, however, was worn out with a life of warfare, and his hopes rested on the Prince of Wales. The royal army moved slowly northwards, but the king grew weaker every day. At last he could advance but two miles daily, and, when near the border, he died. His last wish was that his son should continue the war, and he asked that his body should be carried at the head of the army, so that he might still lead his men against the hated enemy. But the son was not the man to carry on his father's work. He returned to London, and Edward was buried with his forefathers in Westminster Abbey.

76. Banishment of the Jews.—Perhaps no one act of Edward brought him so much praise at the time as the cruel expulsion of the Jews. Thus far they had been allowed to live in England, although they were treated with contempt by all classes. The people hated them on account of their nationality, their wealth, the hard bargains they drove, and the high rates of interest they exacted on loans. Edward persecuted them unsparingly, and, finally, in 1290, banished them from England. Thousands of Jews were forced to leave the kingdom. They were allowed to take their personal property, but their houses and lands were seized by the crown.

77. Literary progress.—The two centuries that had passed since the battle of Hastings had brought many changes to the language that was spoken in England. The Normans had found it quite worth while to know English, and the English had found it convenient to know French. More