

ransom one of their kinsmen who had been captured by the Welsh, they joined with his enemies against him. Under Harry Percy, called "Hotspur" from his vigour and daring in battle, they united their forces with the Scots and marched south to join Owen Glendower. Henry met the combined armies at Shrewsbury in 1403 and defeated them. Hotspur was slain, and Glendower escaped to the mountains of Wales, where he maintained his independence until his death. There were a few more uprisings against Henry, but none of them gave him any serious trouble.

Peace with France was soon concluded, and by accident the young Prince James, the heir to the Scottish throne, fell into the hands of Henry. This insured freedom from Scottish invasion. For seventeen years the prince was kept a prisoner, and was then released to become King James I of Scotland.

95. **The House of Commons.**—Henry's need of strong support from the people, in order to retain his crown and to carry on his wars with Scotland and France, led to a great increase in the power of the House of Commons. The Commons secured the sole right to levy taxes, and before granting money to the king insisted on having evil practices remedied. They also secured for their members freedom of speech and freedom from arrest while in discharge of their duties. They had an accurate journal of their proceedings kept, so that there could no longer be any dispute concerning what they had done. Henry IV was so careful to rule according to law that he has been called the first constitutional monarch in the history of Europe.

96. **Persecution of the Lollards.**—The reign of Henry IV will always be remembered as the first reign during which any one in England was burned for heresy; that is, for not believing what the church taught. Henry was not a cruel man, but as he wished to be sure of the support of the church, he induced Parliament to pass, in 1401, a law that punished heresy by burning at the stake. This law, known as the Statute of Heretics, was aimed especially at the Lollards. The first one to die was a London clergyman,