

who was a follower of Wycliffe. During this reign, however, there was only one other death at the stake.

97. The Prince of Wales.—The victory over the Percies at Shrewsbury was due largely to the bravery of the Prince of Wales. Shakespeare, in his play "King Henry IV," has described the prince as a wild and dissolute young man. This is doubtful, but if it is true, Prince Henry promptly laid aside his folly when serious work was to be done. At the age of eighteen he became a member of his father's Council, and gained an experience which proved very useful to him when, five years later, he ascended the throne. The king, who had suffered long from a troublesome disease, died in 1413.

SUMMARY

Henry's lack of hereditary title to the throne opened the way to opposition and conspiracy. The Welsh rebelled, trouble with France arose, and the sympathy of Scotland with the French led to border forays. The House of Commons greatly increased its power. During this reign two men were burned at the stake for heresy.

2. HENRY V. 1413-1422

98. Suppression of the Lollards.—Henry V was sternly religious, and followed his father's policy in suppressing heresy. The leader of the Lollards was now Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, who had been a close friend of the king when Prince of Wales. He was tried and condemned to be burned, but before the sentence could be carried out, he escaped. His followers formed a plot to kill the king and his brothers, but their plans were found out, and thirty-nine of them were captured and put to



HENRY V