

himself. When he died, he left a fortune of about £2,000,000 sterling, equal in our money to-day to at least \$90,000,000.

112. Commerce and exploration.—There was no English navy in the fifteenth century for the protection of commerce. Piracy was common, and merchant vessels went armed. Fur-trading was now begun with the coasts of the Baltic, and, in the west of England, companies were formed to engage in the fisheries around the coasts of Iceland. Domestic trade also was protected and prosperous.

The introduction of the mariner's compass into Europe during the fifteenth century had enabled navigators to sail far from land and to venture into unknown seas. It was during this reign, in 1492, that Columbus made for Spain his wonderful voyage westwards to what he supposed was eastern Asia. A few years later, in 1497, John Cabot, a Venetian living in Bristol, with his son Sebastian, discovered Newfoundland. The private diary of Henry VII bears this entry, "To him that found the new isle, £10." Another entry says, "To men of Bristol that found the isle, £5."

113. The death of Henry.—As Henry was securely established on his throne and was recognized as a rich and powerful monarch, his children were sought in marriage by other royal families. His eldest son, Arthur, married Catherine of Aragon, daughter of the king of Spain. Arthur dying the next year, negotiations were begun for marrying the young widow to Henry, the second son of Henry VII. The king's eldest daughter was married to James IV, the king of Scotland.

Henry died in 1509, after a reign of twenty-four years, and was buried in Westminster Abbey in a splendid chapel which he had built for the purpose. He left to his surviving son, Henry, a strong, well-organized, and orderly government.

SUMMARY

With Henry VII began the "personal monarchy" of the strong-willed Tudors. Henry had so firm a hold on the crown by the decree of Parliament, by the result of battle, and by his marriage, that the