

read it. The next year, in order to "abolish diversity of opinions," the king, with the consent of Parliament, issued a new creed in Six Articles, asserting the main doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. With this "whip of six strings" Henry persecuted his people until the end of his reign. Any one who would not conform was to lose his property for the first offence; for the second he lost his life. Hundreds of people were arrested, and during the rest of Henry's life, which stretched out eight years longer, several were burnt at the stake. In spite of this, however, there was at court a strong party in sympathy with the reformers, prominent amongst whom was Edward Seymour, the uncle of the young Prince Edward.

124. **Last years of Henry.**—The king now had three children: Mary, the daughter of Catherine of Aragon; Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn; and his only son, Edward, the child of Jane Seymour. His obedient Parliament agreed to allow him to fix the succession. He made a will in which he provided that, first, Edward should rule, then Mary, then Elizabeth. The king had grown, in his later years, to an unwieldy size, and suffered constantly from a painful disease. He died in 1547. His reign is chiefly to be remembered for the change he made in the government of the church.

SUMMARY

Henry VIII came to the throne with the advantage of an unquestioned title and a full treasury. By his foreign policy, Henry avoided trouble with the continental powers. He ruled the land with an absolutism by which, indeed, quiet and order were secured, though the power of Parliament was greatly lessened. His interest in the new learning strengthened the influence of the Renaissance in England. His quarrel with Rome resulted in the complete separation of the English church from Rome. In this reign the sufferings of the poor were multiplied by the suppression of the monasteries, together with the spread of the custom of sheep-raising and "inclosing." Beggary and robbery increased in spite of severe penalties. By Henry's will the crown was to descend to Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth, in the order named.