

3. EDWARD VI. 1547-1553

125. **Somerset is made Lord Protector.**—Edward VI, a delicate, studious lad, became king at the age of nine years. Henry VIII had, in his will, appointed a Council of sixteen men, who were to rule until the young king reached the age of eighteen. The majority of the Council were, however, reformers, and they at once disregarded the terms of the will, seized the power for themselves, and made Edward Seymour Lord Protector of the Kingdom. Seymour was now raised to the rank of Duke of Somerset.

126. **Trouble with Scotland.**—The first important event in the reign was a war with Scotland. After the battle of Flodden, border raids were made both by the English and by the Scots. In 1542, at Solway Moss, a Scottish army, about to invade England, was scattered, in a moment of confusion, by a few hundred English horsemen under Lord Daere. James V was so disheartened at this disgrace that he died. He left the throne to his infant daughter, afterwards famous in history as Mary, Queen of Scots. Somerset now tried to arrange a marriage between Edward and the young queen. Perhaps



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the marriage might have been arranged by a man of tact, but Somerset's plan was an invasion of Scotland. Crossing the border with a large army, he totally defeated the Scots at Pinkie, and desolated the country with fire and sword. But as the Scots sent their young queen to France, where she married the Dauphin, as the eldest son of the king of France was called, the English won no real advantage.