Abstract of the Hist. of Englan Henry VII.

1485. Upon Richard's death the Army proclaim'd Henry King, & the Crown found on the Field of battle was plac'd on his head.

We shall wave the discussing here the various titles Henry pretended to have to the Crown, that has been already done, it is sufficient here to observe that Henry accepted the present made him by the Souldiers & was determin'd to keep possession of what Victory had given him, to advance

+ Cont. Hist

his claim as Heir to the House of Lancaster, without suffering it to be discuss'd; He had it in his power by thoroughly uniting the Houses of York & Lancaster to have satisfy'd the Minds of all; but the Mortal aversion He had imbib'd when Young against the House of York continu'd to his death, notwithstanding his Marriage to the Ps. Elizabeth that he did not celebrate till forc'd to it by the people.

From this arose all the misfortunes of his Reign, for by treating the Yorkists as Enemys, He instantly made them such.

The first instance he gave of this aversion, was his sending Edw. Plantagenet E. of Warwick to the Tower, whom Richard had confin'd in Yorkshire, & who had reason to expect (both from his tender age & his being no obstacle to the succession of Henry to the Crown) a milder treatment.

Henry went to London by slow journeys, avoiding all the appearance of Triumph, He solemnly renew'd his promise of marrying Elizabeth, but still jealous of her right, was resolv'd his Coronation should precede it.

At this time the sweating sickness prevail'd, & swept away

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1485 numbers of People for the space of several Weeks, the Patients generally dying or recovering in 24. Hours.

Henry at his Coronation made Pembroke his Uncle D. of Bedford, his Father Stanley E. of Derby, & Edw. Courtney E. of Devonshire.

In the Parliament that met soon after the Crown'd was entail'd upon the King without any mention of the P. of Elizabeth; but Henry not satisfy'd with this the following Year he procur'd a Bull from the Pope to confirm his Right, this was follow'd by the reversing several Attainders against the Partizans of the House of Lancaster, & passing several new

+ 7th Nov.

1465. Acts of the same kind against the late King & many of the unfortunate House of York; After which an Act of Grace was issued by way of proclamation.

The Men in whom the new King most confided were Morton & Fox, the first made Bish. of Ely & afterwards raised to Canterbury, the latter Bish. of Exeter & finaly had the See of Winchester & the Privy Seal.

1466. In the beginning of the following Year he celebrated his Marriage, when the Universal Joy shown by all ranks of People inflamed his jealousy, bred a disgust & hatred to the Queen, & poison'd all his domestick

Peace.

Hitherto nothing had happen'd to interrupt the Public tranquility, but on the King's making a progress to the North, he had intelligence that the Staffords were marching to besiege Worcester, & that Lovel at the head of 4000. Men intended to attack him at York.

He assembl'd a small body of troops under the Command of the D. of Bedford, who publishing a pardon to the Rebels, so intimidated Lovel, that he deserted his troops, upon which they submitted to the King's mercy; the others rais'd the siege of Worcester

& dispersed, the Staffords were taken & the Eldest Executed at Tyburn.

This success was followed by the birth of a Prince whom the King nam'd Arthur.

The next incident worth mentioning is the imposture of Lambert Simnel. This Youth was the Son of a Baker fifteen Years old, who tutor'd by one Richard Simon a Priest attempted to personate the E. of Warwick, who it was said had escap'd from the Tower, they begun the Scene in Ireland, where he met with so much credit that the whole Country revolted to him.

Henry upon this seiz'd the Queen Dowager, who past'd the rest of her days in confinement;

Warwick was taken out of the Tower & shown to the People, the only person that seem'd to favour the Conspiracy in England was the E. of Lincoln, son to ~~La Pole~~ D. of Suffolk & Ed. IV. sister; Margaret D-s. of Burgundy took a share in this business, & sent ~~two~~ thousand Germans under the command of Swart to Ireland.

This encourag'd the Rebels to Land with an Army in England; they met the King's Army at Stoke in Nottinghamshire, & ~~after~~ in a bloody

Battle where Lincoln & Swart perish'd, they were entirely defeated, & Simon with his pupil Simnel taken, this last was too contemptible to be punish'd with severity, & was dooms'd to live a Scullion in the King's Kitchen.

The King now freed from his Enemys made his revenge subservient to his avarice, & in a progress that he took through the Northern Counties, exacted heavy Fines in the most arbitrary manner.

This done He at last brought himself to permit the Queen's Coronation.

1488. This Year the French Invaded Britany, & sent an Embassy to England to amuse the King, who fell into the

trap thinking it impossible that France should attempt the Conquest of a Country so easy to be defended by England, & at a time when Charles the French King was contracted to Maximilian's Daughter who had himself married the Ds. of Britany; but ~~Charles in~~ the end of the following Year coming suddenly before Reims forc'd the Town to Capitulate, & the D. to Marry him; upon which Maximilian's Daughter was sent back, & Britany annex'd to the Crown of France.

This & an insurrection in the North serv'd the King for pretexts to demand Money from Parliament besides arbitrary Taxations.

The King proposd the Conquest of France to his Parliament, & Members of the Nobility deceiv'd by this Artifice, sold their Estates to attend him; He accordingly
1492. went in Oct. to Calais with an Army of 27,000. Men; but all this terminated in Charles's engaging to pay the King a hundred & eighty odd thousand pounds, besides a Yearly pension of 25,000. Crowns, so that Henry ~~[illegible]~~ procur'd money from all sides, at the expence of his Character.

This business over every thing seem'd prosperous, his Coffers were full, his Reputation for policy establish'd, & all pretensions to the Throne cut off, by his Marriage & Children, but

when he least thought of it, the Duke of Burgundy raised him up an Enemy in Perkin Warbeck, that gave him great inquietude for many Years.

We shall not enter into the particulars of this Youths birth & Education, for they are very differently related by different Authors; He was said to have good parts & a strong resemblance to Ed. IV. & as it was said the Duke of Burgundy took great pains to instruct him in the Figure he was to make; as the War was ready to break out betwixt France & England (this time was pitched) to begin the Scene, He accordingly landed

+1492.

at Cork in Ireland under the Name of Richard Plantagenet, & dispers'd papers throughout that Kingdom giving an account of his escape from his Uncle Richard's Cruelty; This News reaching France, Charles immediately invited Perkin to Paris, the fame of his accomplishments spread every where, & many Gentlemen went from England to share his fortune; upon the Peace between France & England, he was dismiss'd from that Court, & repair'd to the Dss. of Burgundy, as her Court was in the Neighbourhood of England, a regular correspondence was held, & his party encreas'd every day; among these were several People of Distinction, as L^d. Fitzwalter,

Sir Simon Montford, Sir Robert Clifford, & even Sir Wm. Stanley Chamberlain.

The King fully apprizd of all this kept quiet untill he had got a full account of the pretended Plantagenet's pedigree, & then had all the Conspirators seizd at once, most of them were executed, but Clifford who had made his escape returnd, & procurd his pardon, by giving evidence against Stanley, who was thereupon beheaded, & his Estate consisting of £3000. a Year, & 40,000. Marks in Money, confiscated.

Stanley's fate made the greatest impression upon the People, as they observd whilst he livd in the greatest confidence with the King, he was perpetually

surrounded with Spys that betray every word & Action; so that a general distrust was plac'd, a mutual Confidence was destroy'd among the most intimate Friend & Acquaintance.

Henry very indifferent about the affection of his Subjects provided He fill'd his Coffers, employ'd every art of perverted Law & justice to raise Fines & Compositions, yet this did not produce any great effect, as He took care to level his Arts Chiefly against the Nobility, & carress'd all Lawyers to the greatest degree, by which means He Supported the Vigour of his Government & made the Laws subservient to his own Rapacious

measures.

Perkin observing the King's Authority every day more established, resolv'd to try his fortune again, & with 5, or 600. outlaw'd & desperate Men, attempted a descent on the Coast of Kent, but had 150. of his followers taken Prisoners, who were all executed; from thence he retur'd into Flanders, attempted Ireland once again without Success & from thence went to James IV. of Scotland, to whom he had been recommended by the French King. He insinuated himself so much into James's favour, that he gave him a relation of his own in Marriage

About this time an insurrection broke out in Cornwal, headed by Ld. Audley, ~~that~~ exercasing ~~amounting~~ to 16,000. Men, pac'd the King's Army at Blackheath, but were defeated, & their Leaders taken.

This done Henry attempted to enter into Negociation with James, who began to be sick of his new Friend; a Truce was concluded for some months, during which James privately desir'd Perkin to depart the Kingdom.

~~As~~ at the same time a Treaty was just finish'd between the Flemings & his Court all retreat was cut off; Perkin therefore determin'd to try his fate in Cornwal, landing at Bodmin 3000. Men immediately flock'd to him

proclaiming him King by the title of Richard IV.

He laid siege to Exeter, but upon the King's Army coming up to its relief withdrew from his own people the 7000. Men & took Sanctuary in the New forest in Buley; the King was unwilling to violate the rights of the Church, & at last prevail'd on him to surrender under promise of pardon; Perkin tho' secure of life was impatient in his Prison & made his escape to the Monastery of Shire, from thence he was committed to the Tower, where he found the Peers of opinion a Communication with the

E. of Warwick whom he prevail'd upon to attempt making his escape; the plot discover'd & Perkin was executed, & this was follow'd by the death of the E. of Warwick a stain of infamy on this Reign that can never be wash'd out.

Here fell the last remaining Heir of the line of Plantagenet, but so great was Henry's power both at home & abroad that this barbarity produc'd no effect, on the contrary he was Courted by most Foreign powers; but the P. whom Henry valu'd the most was Ferdinand of Arragon, his daughter Catherine He therefore
1502 chose for his son Arthur, but the

Young P. dying in a few Months, He forc'd His next Heir Henry notwithstanding all the opposition a Youth of twelve Years old could make against it, to be contracted to Her,

The same Year He gave His eldest Daughter Margaret to K. James, the Match was oppos'd in Council, some objecting that England might by that means fall under the dominion of Scotland, to which the King reply'd with great Wisdom & truth, that on the contrary Scotland would only be an accession to England.

The following Year the Queen

died in childbed lamented by all except her husband.

Henry now at Peace with all the World, gave full scope to his natural avarice; He had found in Empson & Dudley Lawyers of Mean birth & brutal tempers, two proper instruments for satisfying his tyranny; by degrees the very appearance of Law was neglected, Juries were no longer a security to the Subject, & the feudal Law then prevailing was turn'd into a system of oppression; the Penal Laws were executed with the greatest rigour tho' all these prosecutions ended in enormous

fines by which the King is said to have amass'd 1,800,000 £ Silver being in this Reign at 37s. 6d. a pound, makes the sum amount to 2,750,000 £. which considering the great difference of the price of Commodities then & now will raise it to an immence treasure indeed.

The rest of the King's life contains nothing remarkable; He died of a Consumption a Richmond in the 52d. year of age & 24th. of His Reign.

1509.

The Power of the English Kings never well defin'd became during H. VII. Reign absolute to a very great degree, to produce which several different reasons occur; He come to the throne after

long Civil Wars which had destroy'd most of the Nobility & the Nation tir'd with the intestine convulsions was willing to submit even to tyranny rather than plunge into their former Miseries, the Steadiness of his own Character also very much assisted him, & the many ineffectual efforts made against him strengthen'd his authority as generally happens in these cases; He govern'd by Faction compos'd of low People, who owing every thing to him were ever ready to support his power at the expence of public Liberty.

Notwithstanding all this Severity his Reign was rather happy for the

Country, the putting an end to the long Civil Wars, the depressing the exorbitant power of the Nobility, & the maintaining Peace & order in the State were great benefits;

Abroad He was fear'd & respected; He was naturaly bold & loved peace without fearing War, very suspicious, harsh & severe, but his severity actuated more by the maxims of policy than revenge; selfish & avaricious to the last degree, the very services He render'd the People were more deriv'd from private interest, than any public Motive; He had a good capacity but contracted by the narrowness of his heart, possessing

address & insinuation, but never employing them but for some interested point; incapable of pleasure or any generous passion.

He gave great application to business, but not having the gift of foresight, he was more judicious in providing remedys, than avoiding mistakes.

His Reign is celebrated by Bacon for many good Laws, but that does not belong to our present purpose.

Be it sufficient to remark here that however this Prince's Reign may have been fam'd for Wisdom, the Arts he made use of were odious to every generous principle of human Nature, & perhaps the Annals of

our History does not produce a meaner & more despicable character, for his predominant passion ~~inalienable~~ Avarice contaminates every Virtue even in private Life; but when it prevails to a great degree in a Crowned Head, it produces the baneful effects of a thousand other Vices that perhaps the person is entirely free from.

Henry VIII.

1509. On the accession of Henry VIII. the People were so rejoic'd, that the whole World saw, how little they regretted his Father. They flatter'd themselves that Faction would now be at an end, & all agree in pursuing the interests of the Nation.

He chose the least unpopular of his Father's Ministers for his Counsellors, out of these the E. of Surrey, & Fox Bishop of Winchester were the Competitors for his favour; the former soon gain'd the King by encouraging his inclinations for magnificence; & thus Henry daily grew more negligent of Public Affairs, & consequently the whole management of them fell to the Earl; as to the Bishop

1509. he had been too long accustom'd to Henry VII. oeconomy to be easy at the expences of a Young King, & therefore was never agreable to Henry.

The People esteem'd the King still more on His ordering Empson & Dudley his Father's cruel instruments for raising money to be try'd; these were sometime after executed upon false suppositions, his impious action was the first mark of Henry's tyrannical disposition.

The King about the same time deliberated with His Council whether He should Consummate His Marriage with Katherine of Arragon His Brother's Widdow; which they thought very proper.

1512. War was declar'd against France on Henry's not succeeding in his desire that the Pope should be left in Peace, the Marquis of Dorset was sent with 10,000. Men

1512. to Fontarabia, but finding out the intrigues of the K. of Spain, & the troops mutinying return'd to England without having attempted any thing.

1513. The next Year James K. of Scotland declar'd War against Henry & sent Ld. Home, the Warden of the Marches into England at the head of the Borders. The E. of Surrey prepar'd troops to march against him.

About this time Wolsey son of a Butcher at Ipswich (who had been tutor to the Marquis of Dorset's sons, & by the recommendation of this Gentleman appointed one of the late King's Chaplains, & had been employ'd in Foreign affairs) was pitch'd upon by Fox as a proper instrument to destroy Surrey's credit with the present King; Wolsey by entring

1513. into Henry's pleasures, (many of which were unworthy his Crown) soon became a favourite & soon after was made Prime Minister.

A Corps of 8000 Men was sent to Calais under the Command of the E. of Shrewsbury, & a second under that of Ld. Herbert. The Queen was appointed Regent during the King's absence, who follow'd the Army, attended by many of the Nobility, He soon defeated the French at Guinegate, & took many Officers of Note Prisoners, this Action is oftner call'd the Battle of Spurs the French Cavalry having us'd them more than their Arms., Henry did not make proper use of this Victory, for He spent his time in making Sieges instead of pushing forwards, & return'd with the greatest part of His Army to England, without having obtain'd any

1513. advantage for his Country.

The English Arms were more decisive against the 50,000 Scotch that had entered England under the Command of Ld. Home; for the E. of Surrey at the head of 26,000. Men, met them near
9th Sept. Flouden, the action was very bloody, & lasted till Night seperated the two Armys; above 5000. Men fell on both sides; but the English had only lost that number of Soldiers, but on the contrary the Scotch, their King, all the flower of their Nobility; it is still disputed whether James perish'd in the Engagement, or whether by the hands of Ld. Home's Clients in crossing the Tweed near Kelso.

Henry shew'd great magnanimity on this occasion, for he granted Margaret the Young King's Mother, & Regent during his Nonage, a Peace.

1514. He restor'd the E. of Surrey to the Dukedom of Norfolk for gaining this Victory, & rewarded others who had distinguish'd themselves on this occasion.

Henry finding all the Allys had ~~separately~~ ~~infamously~~ concluded a Peace with France without previously notifying it to each other; ~~he~~ also enter'd into a

7th Aug. treaty with that Court.

1515 The Kingdom remain'd in a state of tranquility during some Years, ~~[illegible]~~ meanwhilst Wolsey on the death of Bambridge Arch B. of York, obtain'd that See on resigning that of Lincoln,

1515. He afterwards united the Bishoprieks of Durham & Winchester to it, besides administring the Bishoprick of Tournay, renting the Revenues of Bath, Worcester, & Hereford, at a low price, & holding the Abbey of St. Albans in commendam, & the Pope sent him a Cardinals Hat; His attendants amounted to the number of eight hundred, among whom were several Knights, & Gentlemen. On Warham Archbishop of Canterbury's retiring from Court & resigning the Office of Chancellor, Wolsey obtain'd ever that, & gain'd great reputation for his impartial administration of Justice; The Dukes of Norfolk & Suffolk, & Fox Bishop of Winchester withdrew themselves from business, the Cardinal was now without any Rival

1518. So great was Wolsey's power over the King, that on Francis I. of France refusing to provide for the Bishop of Tournay, & give him that See, he occasion'd a great Coolness between the two Kings; & on Francis pretending to have great opinion of him, Wolsey obtain'd the Restoration of Tournay to France; Some Authors have pretended that the Cardinal grew so much pleas'd with Francis as to wish Calais might also be deliver'd to him;

Wolsey's pride was still farther gratify'd being appointed Legate, & obtaining a power of suspending Ecclesiastical Laws for a Year.

He erected an Office which he nam'd the Legantine Court, to examine into matters, this was a kind of Inquisition where the conduct of the Laity as well as Clergy were

1514. examin'd; He also pretended a right of judging Wills & Testaments, & presented to what benefices he pleas'd, without regarding the election of Monks nor patronage of the Nobility.

1519. The Emperor Maximilian dying Charles K. of Spain, & Francis K. of France appear'd Rivals for his Dignity; Henry from the situation of his Kingdom, might have kept the ballance of Europe in his own hands, had he known how to act;

1520. Francis knowing how much would depend on the part Henry took, desir'd an interview with him, & hop'd entirely to secure by flattering him;

Charles hearing of this intended Meeting, [illegible] England in his way from

1520. Spain to the Low Countrys, after making Henry many compliments, & giving hopes of the Papal See to Wolsey, at Dover, he continued his journey.

Henry embark'd at the same time for Calais from whence He went to Guisnes a small town on the frontiers & Francis came to Andres, a place a few miles from it, the Kings met in a Field on the English borders, nothing but Feasts & Tournaments pass'd at this interview.

Henry when return'd to Calais, went to see Charles at Gravelines, who return'd with him to Calais where all inclination to Francis was eradicated, chiefly owing to the promises Charles made the Cardinal.

1521 A War soon after broke out between Charles & Francis; Henry remaining

1521. Genter, & both the Kings at War pretending a desire of peace, Henry was the Diator at the Congress of Calais; Wolsey was his Ambassador on this occasion, but Charles's demands were so unreasonable that it was impossible for Francis to agree to them; ~~the Treaty broke~~ ~~conseq~~ ~~things the Pope remained upon~~ the War consequently proceeded, & Wolsey made Charles a Visit at Bruges, who treated with all the distinction he could have shown Henry; an offensive alliance was here concluded between Charles & Henry, & this contrary to the true interest of England, merely to satisfy the ~~Ambition~~ private Speculations of this Prelate.

The People look upon the ~~Fate~~ ~~& Execution~~ of the D. of Buckingham Constable of England & the first Peer both in Rank & Fortune, as owing to his disgust to the Cardinal; the truth

1521. is, He had made threats against the King's life & let fall some expressions as if he thought he had an undoubted right to the Crown in case the King died without children; He was descended from the D. of Glocester son of Ed. III. the E. of Surrey son to the D. of Norfolk & married to this unhappy Man's Daughter was created Lord Steward for this Trial, a Duke, a Marquiss, seven Earls, & twelve Barons, were the Jury; on the Execution of this Duke the office of Constable became extinct that he had inherited from the Earls of Hereford, & remained during the rest of this Reign in desuetude.

About this time, Luther began to publish his Doctrine, Henry wrote a treatise against him, for which the Pope conferr'd on him the title of Defender of the Faith.

1522. Pope Leo X. dying, Adrian Charles's Tutor succeeded to that See; the Emperor knowing Wolsey would be much hurt at this, went again to England, where he made many promises to the King & gave the Cardinal fresh hopes that as Adrian was old & could not live long, he should succeed him; Charles was created Knight of the Garter, & then sate out for Spain.

War was soon after declar'd against France, but nothing of consequence done the King having dissipate d all the immence treasures of his Father. He raised some money very illegally; he doing it of his own accord without previous knowledge of Parliament. The Scotch also begun to grow troublesome, but their dissension prevented their acting vigorously, & soon pred them to remain quiet.

1523. Henry soon after summon'd a Parliament when he obtain'd less money than he had with reason demanded; but what is most extraordinary, they did not exclaim against his having levy'd money illegaly. The King after this continu'd raising supplys without any meeting of Parliament for seven Years.

Pope Adrian VI. expir'd about this period, & Clement VII. by the assistance of the Imperial Court succeeded to the Papal Chair. Wolsey now sees the Emperor would never allow him to fill that Seat; ~~he therefore began to [illegible]~~

1525. On Francis's defeat & imprisonment at Pavia, Henry resolv'd to quit his alliance with the Emperor & assist Francis; this was chiefly owing to Wolsey's grudge to the Emperor, for he made the King jealous of

1525. Charles's great Situation; & therefore concluded an Alliance with the Regent.

Thinking this would draw him into a War against Charles, he raiss'd money in a more open illegal method than on any former occasion; this so greatly disgusted the People, that there were some insurrections; but Henry had the prudence to grant a general pardon & deem'd their Rebellion ~~to be~~ ~~caus'd by their~~ want; this pardon was by all look'd upon as owing to the King's ~~[illegible]~~ & the exactions laid upon the Cardinal; 'tis thus to this day every man who is refus'd any thing lays it upon the Minister, & if he obtains his request, the Sovereign ~~is~~ scarcely thank'd, but the Minister entirely forgot.

The transaction between Charles & Francis during the imprisonment of the latter being quite foreign to our purpose, we shall pass on to the time when Charles after having
1526. 16. Mar. released Francis, sent Bourbon into Italy who having conquer'd the whole
1527. 6th May Milanese, ~~[illegible]~~ took & sack'd it; ~~[illegible]~~

Upon this Henry & Francis made a fresh treaty on purpose to relieve Rome, & Wolsey went to France to concert Measures for that purpose; & soon after they declar'd War against the Emperor.

Henry about this time growing tired of his Queen, & finding an Object that gain'd his affection, began to examine

1527. into the legality of his marriage with
his Brother's Widdow; all the Ecclesiastical
Books the King examin'd into, look'd on
it as contrary to the Mosaical Law; the
Bishops also were of the same opinion,
except Fisher Bishop of Rochester;
upon which Henry apply'd for a divorce
to the Pope, who seem'd willing to favour his
request; yet Clement delay'd suffering
any trial to be commence'd; at length
13th Mar. 1529. the King & Queen were summon'd
before the Cardinals Wolsey &
Campeggio (the last came on purpose
from Rome) & after spinning out
+23d July the affair Campeggio adjourn'd
the Court, for some time, & in the mean
while the Pope evok'd it to Rome.

This ruin'd Wolsey with the King, for, Anne Boleyn whom ~~the~~ Henry was in love with, laid all this delay upon the Cardinal, Catherine's Friends did the same, & also the King blam'd him; Henry soon took the Seals from him & ~~[illegible]~~ conferr'd them on Sir Tho. Moore, a man of great integrity & knowledge, & order'd the Cardinal to retire to his Country seat at Asher near Hampton Court, & Henry seiz'd on York Palace, a House he had built in Town with all his treasures there, this place since became the Residence of our Kings, & was call'd Whitehall, the Parliament which met soon afterwards attack'd this unhappy Man, & ~~[illegible]~~ every thing shew'd how people are ready to fall upon the distress'd.

1529. About this time people began to open their eyes concerning the irregular lives many of the Clergy led, & to wish to lessen their income; accordingly many Acts passd in Parliament much to the dissatisfaction of that order.

Henry asked the ~~opinion~~ advice of the principal Universitys of Europe concerning his Marriage, who thought it unlawful; the Convocations of Canterbury & York were of the same opinion; He then sent the E. of Wiltshire to Rome with a letter signd by the Nobility desiring the Pope to decide the affair to the King's desire; ~~[illegible]~~

Wolsey was allowd to remove from Asher to Richmond, from where he was order'd to go to York; after having liv'd some time there, ~~[illegible]~~ visited by the E. of

1530. Northumberland for High Treason, he set out for London; the agitation of mind this flung him in, brought on a Dysentry, that scarcely left him able to reach Leicester-Abbey, where he expir'd.

Thus ended the life of a most considerable Man, whose fate must ever be a lesson to all in power how little is to be depended upon fortune, & more particularly the smiles of most Courts.

Wolsey was undoubtedly a most ambitious Man, otherwise he had not in Foreign affairs so often prevail'd on his Master to take steps very prejudicial to the Country; but the obtaining the Papal see was the sole Play of his life; he had also in the former part of his life not led so regular a life as the dignity of his Cloth requir'd; in short we cannot

1530.

be accus'd of prejudice when we alledge that this Prelate was an able man, a great protector of learning; but very ambitious, full of pride.

1530. be accus'd of prejudice, when we alledge that this Prelate was very able, & a great Protector of Learning; but very imperious, proud, & ambitious

1531. At the meeting of the Parliament the King shew'd his conduct a resolution to depress the Clergy, they to prevent this pay'd him 116,£40. & sign'd a confession by which they acknowledg'd that the King was the Protector & supreme head of the Church & Clergy of England; but some of them artfully inserted these words in so, far as it permitted by the Law of Christ.

1532. The next Session Acts were pass'd for prohibiting the making any payments to the Pope, unless with the King's permission.

1532. Soon after the King privately espoused Anne Boleyn, one of Catherine's Maids of Honour, with whom he was much in Love, after having created her Marchioness of Pembroke; & on her proving with Child, erected a Court to finish the business of his Marriage with Catherine, Cranmer Archbishop of Canterbury as President declared it void. Then Henry own'd Anne as his Lawful Wife & had her Crown'd. She was soon after delivered of a Daughter who was nam'd Elizabeth.

1534. ~~At the next meeting of~~ Parliament the Papal power was still more retrench'd, & the King's Marriage with Anne confirm'd, & an Act passed declaring

1534 all Slander against the King, Queen, or their Issue Misprision of Treason; the Bishops at this period took out fresh Commissions affirming at the same time that all Spiritual Authority was derived from the Crown.

The King was soon after declared Supreme Head of the Church of England.

Thus the dispute concerning the King's Marriage has proved very advantageous to this Country, by exterminating the power of the Papal See in this Kingdom, without which that Greatest of blessings, Liberty could never have been thoroughly enjoyed by us.

A Rebellion broke out in Ireland about this time; this was occasion'd by the E. of Kildare's (who acted as Deputy to the D. of Richmond)

the King's Natural Son, & Ld. Lieutenant of that Kingdom) been accusd of having ill treated the Ossory family who had always been at Enmity with him; & on arriving in England imprison'd; some troops going to Ireland, the troubles were put a Stop to When the Young Earl (his father having died in prison) & his five Teneler were executed.