

**THE GRANVILLE HISTORY  
READERS. NO. III: HISTORY OF  
ENGLAND. FROM THE WARS OF  
THE ROSES TO THE PRESENT TIME**

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The Granville History Readers. No. III: History of England. From the Wars of the Roses to the Present Time by Thomas J. Livesey

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**THOMAS J. LIVESEY**

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No. III.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

FROM THE WARS OF THE ROSES

TO

THE PRESENT TIME.

EDITED BY

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[The Poetical pieces are distinguished by a star\*.]

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## GRANVILLE HISTORY READERS.

## TABLE OF KINGS—HOUSE OF YORK.

<i>Kings.</i>	<i>Relation to last King.</i>	<i>Reign.</i>
Edward IV.	sixth in descent from Edward III.	1461-1483
Edward V.	Son . . . . .	1483-1483
Richard III.	Uncle . . . . .	1483-1485

## I.—MARGARET OF ANJOU.

BESIDES his two good uncles, the Duke of Bedford and Cardinal Beaufort, Henry VI. had another, who was a very bad man. This was the Duke of Gloucester, who tried every means to get himself made Protector, and to usurp all the power in the kingdom into his own hands. In spite of all that his brother could say, he would marry the Duchess Jacqueline of Holland, who had been living for a long time in England. This lady, whom Henry V. always called *Dame Jake*, was very rich; and it was to gain her money more than anything else that the Duke of Gloucester married her. This marriage offended the great Duke of Burgundy, Jacqueline's feudal lord, and made him help the French king instead of helping Henry, as he always had done hitherto.

After Gloucester had done this, Jacqueline was taken prisoner and sent to her own country; and instead of going to help her, and trying to get her back again, this

wicked man married another wife, who was as bad as himself. This woman was said to be a witch; and she was accused of making a wax-image of the king, and melting it before a slow fire. It was foolishly believed that when the image was melted, the king would die.



Windsor Castle, Birthplace of Henry VI.

She was condemned to walk through London with a lighted taper in her hand, as a public penitent; and the Duke of Gloucester, who was extremely proud, felt this disgrace very much.

It is not certain whether his anger led him to make any plots against the king; but very soon afterwards

he was arrested, and died quite suddenly, some said of apoplexy, and some by poison. It is more likely that his angry passions caused him to die a natural death.

Soon after, the great Cardinal Beaufort died too ; but not before he had married Henry to his beautiful and brave wife, **Margaret of Anjou**. She was the daughter of King René of Provence and Isabella of Lorraine, who was descended directly from Charlemagne, and she inherited from her mother all the valour and beauty of the great Carlovingian race. When she was quite a little girl, her father was taken prisoner by the Burgundians, and her mother went with her and her little brother Louis to live at a beautiful castle on the banks of the Rhone. The children were both so wonderfully beautiful, that whenever they went out, the people strewed flowers at their feet, and sang songs about them.

Margaret was only fourteen when Henry VI. sent the Earl of Suffolk to ask her to marry him ; and some time after, he brought her to England. The whole of King René's court wept bitterly when she came away, for she was universally beloved by them ; and when she came to England, and the people saw how good and beautiful and kind she was, they followed her about in crowds, made processions and shows to welcome and amuse her, and wore her badge, the daisy,\* in their caps and jackets. All the books that were made had daisies painted in them ; and nothing was talked of but the beautiful young Queen Margaret.

Margaret was very different indeed to what she was afterwards driven to become by the cruelties and horrors of the last years of Henry's reign. She was very meek and gentle, and did all she could to make peace with France, and to set poor distracted England in order, and to establish new manufactures of silk and woollen, in which she took great interest.

But all that she could do was in vain. The meek and gentle Henry was too weak to control the fierce passions of the time, or to tame the powerful nobles, who had, in

\* *Marguerite* in French.