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WARS OF THE ROSES, PP. 1-138**

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by Anonymous

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ENGLISH HISTORY

AND

LITERATURE.

VOL. III.

THE WARS OF THE ROSES.

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"In history a great volume is unrolled for our instruction, drawing the materials of future wisdom from the errors and infirmities of mankind."—BURKE.

"Literature is the thought of thinking souls."—CARLYLE.

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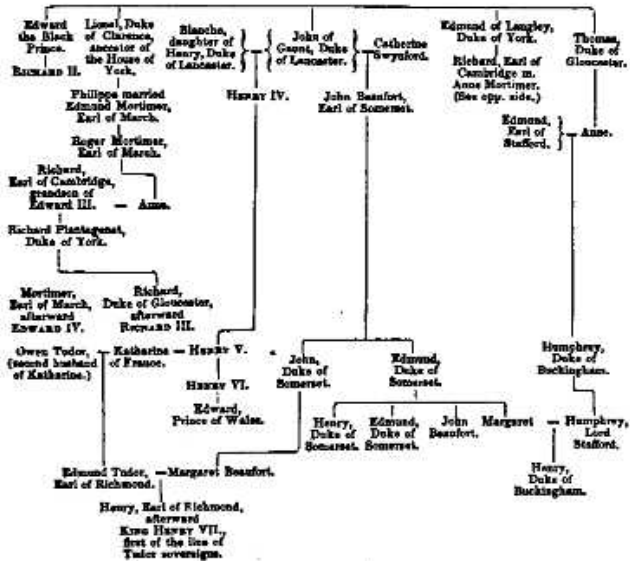
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## THE HOUSES OF LANCASTER AND YORK,

SHOWING THE RELATION OF THE PRINCES MENTIONED IN THIS VOLUME TO EACH OTHER,  
THEIR DESCENT FROM EDWARD III., AND THE UNION OF THE HOUSES OF  
YORK AND LANCASTER IN THE MARRIAGE OF HENRY VII.  
AND MARGARET BEAUFORT.

### EDWARD III.





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THE WARS OF THE ROSES.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE PREVIOUS REIGN.

The reign of Edward III. may be considered the climax of mediæval civilization and of England's early greatness. It is the age in which chivalry attained its highest perfection. It is the period of the most brilliant achievements in war, and of the greatest development of arts and commerce before the Reformation. It was succeeded by an age of decay and disorder, in the midst of which, for one brief interval, the glories of the days of King Edward were renewed; for the rest, all was sedition, anarchy, and civil war. Two different branches of the royal family set up rival pretensions to the throne; and the struggle, as it went on, engendered acts of violence and ferocity which destroyed all faith in the stability of government.—GAIRDNER.

THE WARS OF THE ROSES.

There is no part of English history since the conquest so obscure, so uncertain, so little authentic or consistent, as that of the wars between the Two Roses. Historians differ about many material circumstances; some events of the utmost consequence, in which they almost all agree, are incredible and contradicted by records;