

suade the king to send away his bad companions ; but they were disappointed, for Richard II. was too ill-tempered to take her advice, and the people, who had loved him when he was a child for his father's sake, now began to hate him.

In the mean time he was at war with Scotland, and with Ireland, and with France ; and instead of gaining battles, and making the name of our dear England glorious, he lost, by degrees, all credit, and was laughed at by foreigners, as well as his own subjects.

I have told you that the king had several uncles, who took care of the kingdom while he was a child. Instead of being grateful for this, he ordered one to be put to death, and ill-used another ; and when his third uncle, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, died, he took all his money and lands away from John's son, whose name was Henry of Hereford, and made use of his riches to spend in eating, drinking, and riot of all kinds.

The good Queen Anne died soon, and she had no son, and the people all began to wish they had another king instead of this Richard, who was a disgrace to his good father the Black Prince.

Now Henry of Hereford, who was the king's cousin, was very clever ; and the people knew he was very brave, for he had fought in the armies of some foreign princes at one time, when Richard would not let him stay in England. Then Henry behaved kindly and good-naturedly to the people, so a good many of them began to wish him to be king.

These persons sent word to Henry that King Richard was gone to Ireland to quiet some disturbance there, and that, if he pleased to come to England