

**THE EARLY
TUDORS: HENRY
VII.: HENRY VIII.**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649093632

The early Tudors: Henry VII.: Henry VIII. by C. E. Moberly

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

C. E. MOBERLY

**THE EARLY
TUDORS: HENRY
VII.: HENRY VIII.**

EPOCHS OF MODERN HISTORY

EDITED BY

EDWARD E. MORRIS, M.A., J. SURTEES PHILLPOTTS, B.C.L.

AND

C. COLBECK, M.A.

THE EARLY TUDORS

REV. C. E. MOBERLY

EPOCHS OF MODERN HISTORY

THE EARLY TUDORS

HENRY VII.: HENRY VIII.

BY THE
REV. C. E. MOBERLY, M.A.

LATE A MASTER IN RUGBY SCHOOL

WITH MAPS AND PLANS

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1887

DA
1512

PREFACE.

As the plan of works in this Series does not allow of systematic references at the foot of the pages to larger and more detailed histories of the period, it may be well to mention here a few of the books which are likely to be most useful to those who wish to study it more fully. So far as these are complete histories, they must be chiefly modern, as the age was not fertile in contemporary narratives. Thus for Richard III.'s time Mr. Gairdner's excellent *Life of that king* should be studied, with its appendix on Warbeck; for Henry VII. Lord Bacon's *Life*, which has been carefully edited for the Cambridge University Press by Mr. Lumby. The Stanhope Essay by Mr. Williamson on the 'Foreign Commerce of England under the Tudors' gives ample details on this subject in very small compass; and the religious movement from 1485 to 1509 is described to perfection in Mr. Seebohm's delightful work on Colet, Erasmus, and More, and in Cooper's *Life of the Lady Margaret*.

For Henry VIII.'s reign much has been done of late years, above all by Mr. Brewer in his celebrated Prefaces to the papers of the reign in the Rolls

Series (which have been published separately in two volumes), illustrating the years from 1509 to 1529. The history of the early Reformation is given with much detail and liveliness in Dean Hook's *Lives of Archbishops Morton, Warham, and Cranmer*; the Dissolution of the Monasteries and other measures of the reign have been examined with great care in Dixon's '*History of the Church of England*,' a work of unusual merit. The subject of religion is admirably treated as regards Germany in Ranke's '*History of the Reformation*,' which Miss Austen has translated.

It is hardly necessary to refer to Mr. Froude's history of Henry VIII., for no one can hope to know the period without reading it diligently. True it is that this industrious and most eloquent writer may probably fail in inspiring readers with his own admiration for Henry's actions, which indeed he has of late shown some disposition to reconsider. But, qualify his verdict as we will, we shall still find abundant profit as well as pleasure in reading his great work, especially if we check and perhaps correct his view of some great events by comparing with it Mr. Friedmann's recently published *Life of Anne Boleyn*, which is full of important information and shows the hand of a master throughout. For Scottish affairs Mr. Burton's '*History of Scotland*' is all that can be desired.

Lastly, it may be permitted to refer to some very interesting papers on Henry VII. and Henry VIII.

contained in Bishop Stubbs's recently published volume of Oxford Lectures. No use has been made of these in the present work, which was in type before they appeared; its writer ventures to remark that, where he himself has praised Henry VII., he often finds with great pleasure that the Bishop does the same. It is somewhat disquieting to observe that the Lectures attribute to Henry VIII. far more innate power and ruling faculty than has been here traced in his administration, civil, military, and religious. It may perhaps serve as an excuse for differing from so high an authority that Mr. Friedmann, after taking a connected view from without of Henry's entire management of home and foreign affairs, and of the opinions with regard to him expressed by foreign sovereigns and their correspondents, is inclined to place him lower, even in mere intellect, than any English writer has yet ventured to do.

THE EARLY TUDORS.

CHAPTER I.

THE GROWTH OF DESPOTISM IN EUROPE DURING THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

FOR those who, like ourselves, are trained under free institutions, it is hard to realise that great nations are generally those which have been long under the stern discipline of a despotism at last shaken off. Yet it cannot be denied that this form of government, extending over the whole of a large country, and ruling all things within it, has been more able than any other to create a strong sense of nationality overpowering narrow local differences, to establish thorough internal security, and to direct the people to enterprises requiring great exertion in the general cause, and leading to strong enthusiasms, whether through defeat or victory. It has been mostly when their energies have been thus guided that nations have forgotten the jealousies of province against province, county against county, district against district, and learned that the members of one State are immeasurably nearer to one another than any foreigner can be. And when this feeling for the first time gains strength, and a great nation is brought to feel its own

Unity from
despotism.

unity, how many important consequences spring from the change! A people which has been thus ruled, if only the despotism does not last long enough to break its spirit, is sure to feel intensely. Loyalty to the power which has made it one becomes a passion, sometimes even a madness. Bravery makes no account of its own life or of other men's. Self-devotion prevails in many of its most striking forms. High-spirited men become proud of laying down their freedom at the feet of a master who gives them in exchange for it the prospect of ruling over their fellow-men as his deputies. In such times we must not indeed expect to find justice, humanity, and peacefulness, or even truth and honour as now understood; these are plants which spring only from the soil of freedom. But we can say that the national mind, in order that it may some time feel truth and right strongly, is at any rate learning to feel *something* strongly. That something may be, and often is, perverse; indeed it is with a people as with a child, in whom we tolerate a certain violence and misdirection of will, because we know that such strength is the very seed-bed of future excellence, and that no one can be really great of whom we cannot say that 'quidquid volet valde volet.' Such, then, is on the whole the meaning of those who say that few nations become really great without having been under despotism for a time. In this sense eminent Italian politicians, even of the present day, sometimes hold to Macchiavelli's opinion, that it is the greatest of national misfortunes to their countrymen never to have been welded together by passing through this stage; and far-seeing thinkers among ourselves have considered the present constitution of Russia not unfavourable to her chance of being great at last, seeing that despotism has certainly built up her unity and inspired