

whom England may indeed remember with feelings of gratitude, for hers was the impulse and initiative that has led to centuries of prosperity for the country of her adoption.

That she was beautiful is undoubted, for all chroniclers agree on this point, and also it was, until the time of Katherine of Arragon, taken to be essential that the Queen Consort should be possessed of beauty.

Edward II would seem to have departed from his original purpose of arranging a marriage between his son and the daughter of the Count of Hainault, for we find him, later than 1319, planning to marry the youthful Edward to a princess of Arragon. By this time his Queen, Isabella the Fair, sister of three kings of France had, at last, grown disillusioned and tired of her weak husband and, with her young son, then a lad of fourteen, she went on a visit to the Count of Hainault with the purpose of persuading the latter to raise an army with which to invade her husband's kingdom. Should her enterprise succeed the young Edward was immediately to be placed on the throne of England and to marry one of the daughters of Count William of Hainault. Various circumstances indicate that Prince Edward himself had little or nothing to do with the arrangement, and the money to be settled on his bride by her father was handed to Queen Isabella to finance her attack upon England. And so the "She-Wolf of France," as she came to be called, set out upon her somewhat unusual adventure. Here Froissart may take up the story once again, and he tells us that when the expedition finally departed from Valenciennes "the Queen embraced all the damsels in turn and after her the Prince of Wales. The Lady Philippa, when it came to her turn, burst into tears, and on being asked why she wept said 'Because I have grown so used to my fair cousin of England and he is about to leave me.' Then all the knights who were present began to laugh." Evidently they hoped, or at least surmised, that it might not be so long before she would again see her "fair cousin of England."

The raid of the She-wolf upon her husband's kingdom proved successful, and the only person who seems to have offered any opposition to the consummation of her plans was the young Edward himself. He had been taught from childhood to despise his father, but, when it came to usurping the throne, this lad of fourteen commenced to show some of that firmness which characterised his manhood once he had thrown off the influence of Mortimer and his mother. Eventually he said that only the abdication of his father would lead him to ascend the throne, and this was eventually achieved; the unfortunate and not very admirable Edward the Second, son of the most renowned of all the Plantagenets, met a sorrowful fate soon after at the hands of Mortimer, a fate which his son refused to acknowledge that the Queen had any part in bringing about. But historians are less merciful in their judgments on the She-wolf. Then came the matter of the marriage of the new King, and Froissart relates that, when Edward was approached on the subject of a marriage with a daughter of Count William, he replied with a laugh that he would be better pleased to marry one of them than to go elsewhere and by preference he would have chosen for him the Lady Philippa, "for she and I accorded excellently well and she wept I know well when I took leave of her." So off went the ambassadors once again and Count William made "marvellous great and costly cheere" for their welcome.

In November, 1327, we find my Lord the Constable of Dover and the Earl of Huntingdon receiving the commands of the youthful King "to receive and welcome into his kingdom that noble person William Count of Hainault with the illustrious Philippa his daughter and the familiars of the said Count and damsel." Count William did not, as was expected, accompany his daughter, but she arrived with a very large train of knights and ladies, passed through Canterbury (doing homage at the shrine of Thomas à

Becket) and from there on to London, which she reached on Christmas Eve. Next day she was presented with splendid plate by the Mayor and Aldermen, and after three days of great festivity she set out to meet the Prince, who professed himself as impatient for her coming. Her bridegroom was then engaged in waging war upon the Scotch, and the Princess travelled under the escort of the Lord Constable of England.

It was a splendid procession indeed this that passed along upon the Great North Road in the last days of 1327. Scarcely less gallantly escorted came Edward to York and went out with his company to meet his bride "on an excellently paced hackney, magnificently clad and arrayed, and he took her by the hand and then embraced and kissed her, and so riding side by side with great plenty of minstrels and honours, they entered the city and came to the Queen's lodgings. So there young King Edward wed Philippa of Hainault in the cathedral church of St. William."

On the journey south occurred the first of many acts of mercy that chroniclers have mentioned in connection with Queen Philippa. A child of eleven years was convicted of theft and, through the intervention of the Queen, had her sentence commuted to imprisonment in the Marshalsea "till of age to undergo punishment." Her fate seems anything but an enviable one even after the exercise of the royal prerogative, but apparently it was, at that time, regarded as a merciful dispensation. This was the first of many similar acts on the part of the Queen, and it is interesting to note that most of those were extended to her own sex.

In March, 1330, Queen Philippa was crowned, and in the summer of the same year the Black Prince, hero of Crécy and Poitiers, was born. Many chroniclers have written of the beauty of the child, and it became the fashion to take the Queen and her son as models of the paintings of the Virgin and Child.

Queen Philippa was still very young when she gave that impulse to trade and commerce which was to prove such a splendid mercantile heritage for England. True it is that the Romans played some part in establishing trade and the Saxon women were industrious spinners: the Conqueror too had brought weavers from Normandy, but it remained for Philippa of Hainault to recognise the possible value of a wool trade for England. As a first step she persuaded the King to invite one, John Kempe of Flanders, clothweaver, to come to England with "his servants and apprentices of his mystery and with his goods and chattels." He was to bring his "dyers and fullers to explain their mysteries to the Kingdom of England." They settled near Norwich, and so little did the English welcome their arrival that the King had to extend special protection to those originators of manufactures which were to be the source of so much wealth. It was also due to the vision of the Queen that the coal mines at Tynemouth were opened, and in many ways she used her great influence to develop the resources of her husband's kingdom, notably in opening up the lead works at Derby. The Queen was a patroness of literature and gave great encouragement both to Froissart and Chaucer. But the finest memorial of Queen Philippa is Queen's College, Oxford. It was actually founded by her Chaplain, Robert de Eglesfield, who named it "the College of the Queen"; he placed it under the patronage of the Queens Consort of England, choosing for its motto "Queens shall be thy nurses." The arrangement was a wise one, for it led to emulation and at least a sense of responsibility on the part of a whole line of Queens, in the matter of lending their influence for the endowment and development of the great college. We also find that, at his Queen's request, the King founded a hall known as the Queen's Hall for scholars, chaplains and others.

Queen Philippa has the distinction of being the first Lady

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