

Transcript of GEO/ADD/32/116, 'Henry VIII', from *A Short History of England from ye Earliest Times to ye accession of the present Royal Family, with remarks on ye Govern[ment] Laws & Constitutions, with ye various alterations they have gone thro', during this long Period.*

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Henry VIII came with great advantages to the Crown.

1. In him the two Roses were united.
2. He had no competitor, which had not happen'd for several ages.
3. He had a good person, which pleas'd the vulgar & demanded their respect.
4. He was a very good scholler for those times, which made him be esteem'd by all men of sense.
5. The Barrons having sold ^some of^ their lands, ^they had lost^ great part of their power.
6. His father left immense riches which were of great use to him, in bringing many things about which without it he could never have done.
7. He had Empson & Dudley, his father's Ministers tried & Executed, which was a very popular measure.

Tho these were great advantages yet his love of diversions put him for some time under great difficulties. For in a few months after he came to the crown, having spent all the money his father had left; he was forc'd to ask a subsidy of the Parliament, which was not agreed ^to^. He then sent Wolsey to the House of Commons, but they would not hear ^him^. This haughty Prelate had the impudence to say that he would debate it with the House it they would not agree to his request. They at last grant a subsidy but not so great a one as the King had ask'd.

Now tir'd of his Queen, he resolv'd to be divorc'd, his pretence was that his conscience would not allow him to be married to his Brother's Widdow. He ask'd Adrian VI. to divorce him, but the Pope dying he was forc'd to ask ^it of^ the new Pope Clement VII. But this Pope was affraid of disobliging Charles V. if he gave Henry absolution. At length Henry being tir'd out, he call'd together an assembly of Peers divines, by the advice of Arch. Bishop Cranmer, for to examine into the matter & to divorce him.

When this great step was done without the advice of the Pope, he resolv'd to go on further, he therefore denied the infalability of the Pope, & declar'd himself head of the Church of England. He also drove all the Monks & Nuns out of the Kingdom. He could not have done all this if the People had not gone hand in hand with him. This was so popular a measure that he gain'd so much upon the people, that he became entirely absolute & the very Parliament

which had in the beginning of his reign refus'd him the subsidy were now ready to do whatever he chose.