

CORONATION OF KING HENRY VII

1485

This done, the Cardinal, as Archbishop of Canterbury, showing the King to the people at the four parts of the said pulpit, shall say in this wise; "Sirs, I here present Henry, true and rightful, and undoubted inheritor of the laws of God and man, to the crown and royal dignity of England, with all things thereunto annexed and appertaining, elect, chosen, and required by all three estates of the same land, to take upon him the said crown and royal dignity, whereupon you shall understand that this day is prefixed and appointed by all the peers of this land for the consecration, enunciation, and coronation." Whereunto the people shall say, with a great voice, "Yea. Yea. Yea. So be it King Henry! King Henry!"

Soon upon the said Cardinal, as Archbishop of Canterbury, being re-issued as appertains for celebration of Mass and also the foresaid Bishops of Exeter and Ely on both sides as above, with other bishops, and with the Abbot of Westminster, who owes always to be near the King for his information in such things as concern the solemnity of the coronation, the King shall be brought honourably from his said seat unto the high altar, where the Chancellor of England shall set down the chalice, and likewise the Bishop of Chichester his patten.

The Queen following the King thither, going afore her the lords as above bearing her crown, sceptre, and rod, and the abovesaid bishops sustaining her, for her shall be ordained, on the left side of the high altar, a folding stool wherein she shall sit while the King shall be required of the keeping of the customs and laws of England, and that done, whilst "Veni Creator Spiritus" is a singing, and all the while the King is anointed, she shall kneel praying for the King and herself.

At the which altar the King ought to offer a pall, and a pound of gold, £24 in coin, which shall be delivered unto him by the Chamberlain; and, forthwith, the pavement afore the high altar worshipfully arrayed with carpets and cushions, the King shall then lie down groveling, whilst the said Cardinal as Archbishop, say upon him, "Deus humilium," which done, the said Cardinal may, at his pleasure, command some short sermon to be said, during the which the said Cardinal shall sit before the altar, his back towards the same, as is the custom, and the King shall sit opposite him, face to face, in a chair prepared as to his high estate accords.

The sermon ended, if any such be, the Cardinal and the King that is to be crowned so sitting as is abovesaid, the same Cardinal with an open and distinct voice shall ask the King under this form: "Will you grant and keep, to the people of England, the laws and customs to them as of old rightful and devout kings granted, and the same ratify and confirm by your oath and especially the laws, customs, and liberties to be granted to the clergy and people by your noble predecessor and glorious King Saint Edward?" The King shall answer, "I grant and promise." And when the King, before all the people, has promised truly to grant and keep all the promises, then shall the said Cardinal open unto him the special articles whereunto the King shall be sworn, the same Cardinal saying as follows: "You shall keep, after your strength and power, to the Church of God, to the clergy, and the people, whole peace, and goodly concord." The King shall answer, "I shall keep."

"You shall make to be done after your strength and power, equal and rightful justice in all your dooms and judgments, and discretion with mercy and truth." The King shall answer, "I shall do." "Do you grant the rightful laws and customs to be held, and promise you, after your strength and power, such laws as to the worship of God shall be chosen by your people by you to be strengthened and defended?" The King shall answer, "I grant and promise."