

DESCRIPTION OF HENRY VIII

Pasqualigo to his brother

1515

His Majesty is the handsomest potentate I ever set eyes on; above the usual height, with an extremely fine calf to his leg. His complexion very fair and bright, with auburn hair combed straight and short in the French fashion, and a round face so very beautiful that it would become a pretty woman, his throat being very long and thick.

He wore a cap of crimson velvet, in the French fashion, and the brim was looped up all around with lacets and gold enamelled tags. His doublet was in the Swiss fashion, striped alternately with white and crimson satin, and his hose were scarlet and all slashed from the knee upwards.

Very close around his neck he had a gold collar, from which there hung a rough-cut diamond, the size of the largest walnut I ever saw, and to this was suspended a most beautiful and very large round pearl.

His mantle was of purple velvet, lined with white satin, the sleeves open, with a train more than four Venetian yards long. This mantle was girt in front like a gown, with a thick gold cord, from which there hung large golden acorns like those suspended from a cardinal's hat; over this mantle was a very handsome gold collar, with a pendant Saint George entirely of diamonds. Beneath the mantle he wore a pouch of cloth of gold, which covered a dagger, and his fingers were one mass of jewelled rings.

University of Pennsylvania, Department of History. *Translations and Reprints from the Original Sources of European History* (1900), I:4-5.