payre to the common house and there to elect theim a speaker, or theyr common mouth, and to certifie the lorde Chauncellour of the same, whyche should thereof make report to the kynges moste noble grace, whyche should declare hys pleasure when he would have hym presented before hys personne. Thys was the cause of the Parlyament he sayd, but surely of these thynges no worde was spoken in the whole Parlyament, and in effect no good acte made except the graunt of a greate subsidie were one, but according to this instruccion the commons departed to the common house and chose for their speaker sir Thomas Moore knight and presented hym the saterday after in the Parlyament chamber, where he according to the old usage disabled hymselfe both in wit, learning, and discrecion, to speake befor the kyng, and brought in for his purpose how one Phormio desired Hanniball to come to his readyng, whyche thereto assented, and when Hannyball was come, he began to reade, de re militare, that is of Chivalrie, when Hannyball perceived hym, he called hym arrogant foole, because he would presume to teache hym whych was master of Chivalrie, in the feates of warre. So the speaker sayde, if he should speake before the kyng of learning and orderyng of a common welth and such other like the kyng beyng so well learned and of suche prudence and experience might say to hym as Hannyball sayd to Phormio. Wherfore he desired hys grace that the commons might chose another speaker: The Cardinall answered, that the kyng knewe his witte, learnyng and discrecion by long experience in his service, wherefore he thought that the commons had chosen him as the moste metest of al, and so he did admit hym. Then sir Thomas Moore gave to the kyng hys moste humble thankes, and desired of hym two peticions: The one, if he should be sent from the commons to the kyng on message and mistake their entent, that he might with the kinges pleasure resort againe to the commons for the knowledge of their true meaning: The other was, if in communicacion and reasoning any man in the common house should speake more largely then of dutie he ought to do, that all such offences should be pardoned, and that to be entred of recorde, whiche two peticions were graunted, and so thus began the Parlyament and continued as you shall heare.

The Oration of Sir Thomas More.

Because an evil chaunce happened to the great rebuke of

THE LIVES OF THE KINGS

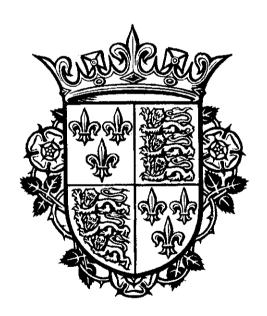
HENRY VIII

BY EDWARD HALL

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

CHARLES WHIBLEY

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