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978-1-108-04848-4 - A Collection of the Chronicles and Ancient Histories of Great Britain, Now Called England: Volume 3: From A.D. 1422 to A.D. 1431

Jehan de Wavrin Edited and translated by Edward L.C.P. Hardy

Excerpt

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OF THE
CHRONICLES AND ANCIENT HISTORIES OF GREAT
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BY JOHN DE WAVRIN.

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FIFTH VOLUME : THIRD BOOK.

HERE BEGINS THE THIRD BOOK, WHICH CONTAINS FIFTY-  
ONE CHAPTERS. IN THE FIRST IS SHOWN HOW THE  
NEWS OF THE DEATH OF KING CHARLES THE  
WELL-BELOVED WAS CARRIED TO THE DUKE OF  
TOURAINNE, THE DAUPHIN, HIS ONLY SON. CHAP-  
TER I.

AFTER the death of king Charles the Well-beloved the A.D. 1422. news of it was carried to the duke of Touraine, the Dauphin, his only son, who was then near Le Puy in Auvergne, in a small fort named Espailly, which belongs to the bishop of Le Puy. The Dauphin then, hearing the news of the death of the king his father, was very sad at heart and wept very copiously, and immediately, by the decree of his council, he was clothed in black for the first day, but on the morrow he went to his mass in a scarlet robe; and there were many heralds clothed in coats fashioned with the arms and blasons of their lords and masters. Then there was raised a banner of France within the chapel, and those officers of arms began to cry many times loudly and clearly, "Long live the king." After the cry had ceased, Divine Service began in the church, and no other solemnity was then performed, and from that day forward those adhering to his party began to call him king of France.

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A.D. 1422. At this same time duke Philip of Burgundy, who after the death of king Henry of England his brother-in-law had returned into his countries of Flanders and Artois, as has been noticed above, assembled many of his captains in the city of Arras, where he held many consultations with them, at which it was decided that Sir John of Luxembourg should assemble some men-at-arms to subdue the Dauphinists, who then garrisoned many castles and fortresses in the county of Guise and in the country around and greatly harassed the marches of Cambresis and Vermandois; and he made his muster around Peronne. And when all who were summoned had come, the said Sir John of Luxembourg, with that company, very well furnished with all that was needful for him to perform the charge confided to him, entered into the county of Guise, where in a short time he laboured so strenuously that he conquered there many castles and fortresses, as Bassy, Sery, Fontaines, Proisy, and some others, all which he placed under the government of the king of England and the duke of Burgundy. Then he and all those who had served him in this expedition returned to their dwelling places.

In this same year the duke of Bedford, brother of the late king of England, at the request of the duke of Burgundy his brother-in-law, set at full liberty the lord of Lisle-Adam, who had for a long time been imprisoned by the king of England in the tower of Saint Anthony at Paris; and he was then reinstated and restored in his possessions and part of his offices.

During these events the duke of Touraine the Dauphin, whom his people then unanimously called king of France, by the counsel of his princes, dukes, counts, and barons, had himself crowned in the city of Poitiers, wherefore, as has been said, he was from that day forward called king by those of his party as his father had been during his life. This same Dauphin had a little before been in great peril of death in the city of La

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Rochelle, for it happened, at the very hour he was holding council, that a part of the room where he was fell down, whereby some of his people were slain and wounded, among whom there died there John of Bourbon lord of Preaux and some others of the council, and indeed the Dauphin himself was hurt, but he was soon got out of danger by his people and taken to a safe place, where he quickly recovered from his injury. A.D. 1422.

*How the Parisians sent their embassy into England to the young king Henry and his council.*

## CHAPTER II.

IN this great tribulation which was then upon the noble kingdom of France, the people of the good town and city of Paris sent an embassy to the young king Henry of England and his governors, and also to the queen his mother, to make request that they would send into France as soon as possible a certain number of combatants to resist the attacks which were made daily by the men-at-arms of the new king Charles, lately dauphin of Vienne. In this embassy went the bishop of Terouanne, brother to sir John of Luxembourg, Maitre John de Mailly, sir Lourdin de Saligny, Michael Laillier, a burgess of Paris, William Sanguin, and some other notable persons, who went by way of Lille in Flanders, and conferred with the duke of Burgundy; then they rode to Calais, where they embarked upon the sea, and landed at Dover; thence they went to London, where they found the young king Henry and the queen his mother and all their counsellors assembled, for they had been beforehand apprised of the coming of the said ambassadors; and they were received with great joy and respect, and a promise was made to them by the queen and the royal council that according to the tenor of their mission, they should have good and speedy succour. When the said French ambassadors had well and nobly

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A.D. 1422. acquitted themselves of the charge given to them by the Parisians, and had the answer above mentioned, after great feasting at dinners and banquets and many fair gifts made to them, they took leave and departed; and they set out on their journey and made such good progress that in a few days they arrived at Paris, where they made report and relation of the answer they had received at the English court from the queen and from the council of the young king Henry, with which news the people of Paris were well content.

*The taking of the bridge of Meulan by the French.*

## CHAPTER III.

A.D. 1423. IN the same year, the fourteenth day of January, the fortress of the bridge of Meulan was taken by stratagem by the French, who had for their chieftain in this enterprise Sir John de Graville, and with him were many very notable warriors to the number of five hundred combatants, who quickly put to death without mercy all the English they found in the place, and then prepared themselves diligently to hold the passage of the bridge of Meulan, providing the town and fortress of the said bridge with victuals and all munitions of war suitable for their purpose, and repairing and fortifying the place as well as they could. In this same year there were at Paris many burgesses who conspired together against king Henry, that is to say, to deliver up the city and put it into the hands of the new king Charles; but they could not carry out their design, but several were accused, some of whom were taken and beheaded at the market-place of Paris, and a woman consenting to it was taken and burned; others took to flight, among whom there escaped Michael de Laillier; and all their goods were confiscated and put in the hands of king Henry. Again, in a short time after, the town of La Ferté Millon was taken by the French with the consent

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of the residents and inhabitants of the said town; but A.D. 1423. the fort or castle was defended by those who were within on the side of the English,<sup>1</sup> who hastily put out one of their companions, whom they sent to the lord of Lisle-Adam, the lord of Chastillon and the bastard of Thyan, to obtain help. Then the lord of Lisle-Adam in very great haste assembled from five to six hundred combatants very expert and accustomed to war; and rode with his troop so prudently, that he led them through the outer gate into the castle of La Ferté; then at a certain hour agreed upon by them they all together vigorously assailed the people of the said town, in such wise that they were soon discomfited without much resistance; some of them were taken to ransom and the others cruelly slain, and all their goods taken, seized, carried off, and made booty without any mercy or pity.

*How the duke of Bedford, regent of France, laid siege to the bridge of Meulan.* CHAPTER IV.

THE duke of Bedford, when he knew that the bridge of Meulan had been taken by the French, with great haste and diligence made a great muster of men-at-arms and archers, as well English as Picards and Burgundians, Normans and all others that he could then obtain, well furnished with victuals and with all appliances necessary for sieges of towns and fortresses; and the waggons were loaded and the horses put to; and then the regent took the field in very good order, as one who was well accustomed and instructed in war. The said regent rode with his host until he arrived before the town of Meulan, where he set and laid his siege on both sides of the river; then he had many engines set up against the gates and walls to break and batter them down, diligently carrying on all things hurtful

<sup>1</sup> MS. H. here reads — *which* | *and the bridge raised, and then they*  
*by one of them was hastily closed,* | *sent, &c.*

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## 8 COLLECTION OF THE CHRONICLES OF ENGLAND.

A.D. 1423. to the besieged; who, seeing that they were so surrounded, and that the day was past on which help had been promised them by the new king Charles, whose quarrel they were maintaining, and that they had no longer any hope of having aid from any quarter, fell into great sadness, but at this time they could not amend the matter, so they had to suffer it. Then the besieged within Meulan seeing this, took the banner of the king of France their lord, which had been placed over one of the gates, and threw it down to the ground, and tore it up there upon the wall; then they tore off the crosses and emblems of the king of the French which they wore, reviling and speaking contemptuously of those who had sent them there, and soon afterwards they began to parley with the people of the regent; wherefore there were chosen and deputed to treat on the side of the said regent, firstly, the earl of Salisbury, sir John Fastolf, sir Peter de Fontenay, sir John de Poulligny, lord of La Motte, Richard Wideville, Nicholas Burdet, chief butler of Normandy, and Peter Le Verrart. And on the part of the besieged were appointed sir John de Graville, sir Louis Martel, sir Adam de Croisilles, knights, sir John d'Estambourg, John de Mirot, Roger de Boisie, Oudun de Boisie and John de Merle, esquires; which commissioners and negotiators of the said parties met together many times on several days, and they agreed at last in the form and manner hereafter declared.

*How the besieged at the bridge of Meulan made their treaty with the duke of Bedford, regent of France.*

## CHAPTER V.

FIRSTLY, it was concluded and ordained that the besieged should give up and deliver the bridge and fortress of Meulan into the hands of the lord duke of Bedford, the regent, or of his commissioners, furnished and fortified with all the cannon and mortars, powder, and all other



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munitions of war whatsoever, as it was then provided and A.D. 1423. stored for its defence, without making any waste or doing any damage to them, nor to any victuals useful for the sustenance and nourishment of the human body : which fortress and bridge they were to give up in form aforesaid by the hour of tierce on the next day, which was the second day of the month of March.

*Moreover*, it was agreed that all those who were in the fortress, of whatever condition they might be, should place and surrender themselves entirely at the will of the said regent with the greatest humility that submission admits of: on account of which obedient humility the said commissioners and deputies on the part of the lord of Bedford, the regent, promised them that this noble prince, of his exalted grace, using his accustomed mercy, and in honour and reverence of God and of the good and holy time of Lent which then was, would receive them and grant them their lives, except those who formerly had been subjects of the late king Henry of England, if any such were found there (who in his time was the only and true heir to the kingdom of France),<sup>1</sup> and those who might have been consenting to the death of the late John duke of Burgundy not long since pitifully murdered; also Welsh, Irish, and Scots, if any such there were; except also John de Dourdas, Savary, Ferdinand de Barnabant, Oliver de Lannoy; also the gunners and those who were in the first ambuscade, who entered first on the said bridge of Meulan, all of whom should remain simply at the will of the said regent.

*Furthermore*, it was there agreed that if any gentlemen and others above mentioned, and not excepted, should be willing to give themselves up to the king of England and the lord regent as true liege men, and to make

<sup>1</sup> MS. H. here reads—*and those who had made oath concerning the* | *last final peace between France and England.*

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## 10 COLLECTION OF THE CHRONICLES OF ENGLAND.

A.D. 1423. war on their adversaries, as they did lately against the late king of England and the lord regent there present, the said regent, of his grace, would retain them without their paying fine or ransom, provided always that they should give sufficient pledge and security to do and perform this.

*Also*, besides all the things above named, it was fitting that all those who at present were in the said town and fortress of the bridge of Meulan, who held (or others for them) any places not obeying the king of England or the said duke of Bedford, the regent, should yield them up into the hand and obedience of the said king of England or his commissioners, and, moreover, should use their influence with their relations and friends, who likewise held any such, to yield them up to the said lord regent, at whose will they should remain until they should have performed the things above mentioned, which being accomplished, he should duly receive them as above is mentioned.

*Furthermore*, if any who were at the said bridge of Meulan had or held in any place whatever any prisoners, whether English, French, Burgundians, or others, as well merchants as fighting men, bound by oath to the king of England or to the lord regent, they should deliver and yield them up freely and quit, without taking from those prisoners, or from their sureties if they had given any, any fine or ransom.

*After* this it was agreed that those who were in this fortress of the bridge of Meulan, by the hour of tierce on the next day, should place, or cause to be placed, in one or two fixed places in this fortress all their weapons of war, without breaking, bruising, injuring, or destroying anything, and they should also cause to be put in another fixed place all the gold, silver, plate, jewels, and other goods of value being in the said fortress, without retaining, concealing, or secreting any in any place whatsoever, or in any manner whatsoever, but should