



THE FRENCH CHIVALRY THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.
— Vol. ii. 25.

THE POPULAR
HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

BY
CHARLES KNIGHT.

VOLUME II.

FROM THE REIGN OF HENRY V. TO THE REIGN OF MARY.

First American Edition.

NEW YORK:
AMERICAN BOOK EXCHANGE,
TRIBUNE BUILDING.
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POPULAR HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

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HENRY V. was proclaimed king on the 21st of March, 1413. He was crowned at Westminster on the 9th of April, being then in the twenty-fifth year of his age. A parliament, having been summoned by writ, met at Westminster on the 15th of May. There was nothing very noteworthy in its proceedings. The king met his Lords and Commons with an aspect of love and conciliation. He had taken not only the most generous, but the most prudent resolution towards those who had been considered dangerous to his house. He restored the son of Henry Percy to his family inheritance, and he liberated the earl of March from prison.

There were dangers, however, at home which the magnanimity of the king was not calculated to avert. The execrable laws against the preachers of the "new doctrines" had not prevented the tenets of Wycliffe from spreading through the nation, and beyond the narrow bounds of our island. It was a period of alarm for popes and prelates; and for all those who considered that the Church was properly built upon a foundation of worldly riches and dominion. John Huss, a Bohemian priest, had become acquainted with the writings of Wycliffe; and he boldly preached the same doctrines as early as 1405. The archbishop of Prague, in 1409, commanded all the writings of Wycliffe to be delivered up to him by members of the university of Prague, of which Huss was rector; and many of these treasured volumes were publicly burnt.