

This very ancient "Right of Sanctuary," based on the Jewish Cities of Refuge, whose beginning is immemorial, continued in England, for all offences until after the Reformation, when it was abolished only for Treason. In the reign of Elizabeth it was swept away as to all crimes, leaving its immunity to Debtors: and that was finally removed in 1677; (9 W. & M.) while, even now, by charter, Holyrood Palace and its precincts are a Debtor's Sanctuary.

The date (1306), and Era of this First Patent of Arms lie in the far depths of the History, whose fruits are the World's modern progress.

Only four years had elapsed since in 1302, at Naples, the Mariners Compass was invented, or re-discovered to Europe, and applied by, Gioja of Amalfi.

The inspired, suffering, exiled "Poet Saturnine," immortal Dante had just completed his *Divina Comedia*: enshrining forever the Italian language complete, so many ages before all other European tongues.

The fierce persecution and martyrdom of the Knights Templar was raging; and, but six years previous, all Christendom had been convoked to the first Jubilee at Rome by Pope Boniface VIII. In the same year the Republic of Switzerland was founded; Robert Bruce was crowned at last, King of Scotland; and Rudolph of Habsburgh, founder of the Austrian Empire and family of monarchs, ascended the Throne of Germany. It was forty years before the Battle of Cressy, so famous in Froissart; and the Roman Republic of Rienzi, "the last of the Tribunes," whose history living on the pages of Bulwer, and native writers, has been the parent of its modern revolutions under Garribaldi and Mazzini.

It long preceeded the accepted Era of the English Language.

Wicliffe's Bible, sometimes quoted as specimen of early English, but not now intelligible to an English reader, however cultivated, did not appear till 1370. Chaucer, whose Norman English is perhaps our earliest English, but must be translated for our apprehension, was born about 1340, and died 1400. Norman French was then; and from the Conquest had been the exclusive language of the Court, Law, Parliament and society: Saxon, of the mechanic and peasant, and the English language was legally unknown till 1327. This Act of Edward 3d.'s reign required all proceedings in Courts and Parliament to be in Englysshe: but this law never took effect and became obsolete. The book most like English, Sir. John Mandeville's Travells, appeared in 1356.