

of that place, of which Henry left him in charge, as his "Lieutenant." He was perfectly successful there to the satisfaction of his country; and, March 26, 1546, the King made him by patent Licut. General and Commander of all his forces at sea for the effectual prosecution of the war against France. The French had formed vast alliances and obtained the aid of the great maritime powers, but Sir John Dudley, by his courage and address, frustrated all their designs with a far inferior force.*

The Lord High Admiral invaded their territory with 5000 men landed from his fleet upon their coast, burnt towns and villages, (among them, Freeport,) and then re-embarked for England, losing but one man and vastly injuring the French. The next year he was commissioned to take the French King's oath for observing a treaty of peace June 7, 1546.†

Near the close of Henry's reign, he received very large grants of church lands from the King, which relieved him from the effects of his unbounded generosity, but created him bitter enemies.

The King's health failing, he was constrained to prepare for death, and made his will, naming Dudley one of his sixteen executors. Thus had he served, and been rewarded by, one great Sovereign of England, without a stain of reproach or even suspicion. Henry died Jan. 31, 1547, and Edward VI., his only son, succeeded him. Sir Edward Seymour, grandfather of Edw. VI., was one of the executors, and he wanted King Henry's will to be altered, so that he might be Protector, which was granted him. Thereupon he caused Dudley to resign his office of Lord High Admiral, so that he, the Protector, might give it to his brother, Thomas Seymour. Much trouble arose from these unlawful changes of the will. But Dudley lost nothing, for he was created Earl of Warwick and Great Chamberlain of England.‡ Soon after, he had large grants from the crown, (among them, Warwick Castle and manor), to which he had a hereditary claim.

The Protector led an army to Scotland and took Dudley as his Lieut-general, in which expedition all the success was attributed to Dudley, and a noted victory was gained by his prompt energy. Next Dudley led an army against ten thousand rebels, under Robt. Kit, and defeated them. Then, being marshalled for another battle, he sent the rebels an offer of the King's pardon if they would deliver up their leaders. They replied they would submit if he would give his word; for they looked on him as a man of so much generosity that the

* Biographia Brit. Vol. V. p. 429.

† Rhymer's Foedera, XV. 98. ‡ Stowe's Annals.