

WARWICK THE KING-MAKER

BLACKIE'S ENGLISH TEXTS  
EDITED BY W. H. D. ROUSE, LITT.D.

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Philip de Comménes

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## INTRODUCTION

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THE AUTHOR, Philip de Commines (1446-1509), was originally the adviser of the Duke of Burgundy, but in 1472 Louis XI persuaded him to leave the Duke for his own service. Philip served the king well, and was rewarded with titles and estates.

His memoirs cover the years 1464 to 1483, and 1488 to 1494. They were first published in 1524 (Books I-VI) and 1528 (the rest).

Hallam speaks of him as almost making an epoch in historical literature. He is the first modern writer who reasons with sagacity on the characters of men and the consequences of their actions, and generalizes his observation by comparison and reflection. His life was spent in action, not amongst books; he is therefore free from pedantry and full of political wisdom. He is also marked by a cynicism which would be unlovely but for his urbane humour.

A good account of Commines and his work may be found in Émile Faguet's *Seizième Siècle: Études Littéraires* (Paris, 1906); more briefly in G. Masson's *Early Chronicles of Europe: France* (S.P.C.K.).

THE TRANSLATOR. Little is known of the translator, Thomas Danett. Besides the *History of Commines*, first published in 1596, he wrote "a continuation of the history of France, from the death of Charles the Eighth,

where Comines endeth, till the death of Henry the Second" (1600), and "The Description of the Low Countries, gathered into an Epitome, out of the history of Francesco Guicciardini" (1593).

The present volume contains portions of the history of Commines that illustrate the history of England between the years 1470 and 1490.