

union with England as a wedge against the King of France, his perpetual foe. He declared that if Catherine had no marriage in England the dowry should be returned! But the Roman church had taken an official position against a brother marrying a widow of another brother and had branded it a great sin. But the two kings put a lot of pressure on Julius II (as did Queen Isabella) and both a private and public dispensation was given for the marriage of Catherine and Arthur's brother, Henry. Catherine was five years older than Henry and in 1505 he recorded his personal objection to the marriage. The powers of the church were brought to bear on both him and Catherine (she was not particularly eager for the marriage) and the objections of the Archbishop of Canterbury (he doubted that the Pope could grant a dispensation against a mortal sin) were overcome. Shortly after becoming king, therefore, Henry VIII fulfilled the paternal promise and married Catherine of Aragon in 1509. There are many little pieces in this puzzle that will fit together in the later period of Henry's break with Rome.

Henry VIII assumed the kingship on the death of Henry VII in 1509. He would rule until 1547. An athletic person, well-educated, trained in clerical pursuits, able in the field, he had all the technical skills that were necessary for leadership. He commanded a good public and popular image, he was loyal to the Roman See, in 1512 he was instrumental with the Holy League, and in 1514 he was honored with cap and sword, in a ceremony that made him the patron of the church. Working to expand the Roman understanding of the sacraments, Henry penned a work DEFENSE OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS which was pointed at Lutherans and others and for this service, Pope Leo gave to him the title "Defender of the Faith" in 1521. No king or national leader in Europe showed so much affection for the papacy or enjoyed so much of its favor.

Henry Breaks With Rome

II.7.b

Henry Breaks with Rome

The Marriage Problem

Henry was anxious for a male heir. He and Catherine did have six children but only one lived to maturity: Mary, later queen following the death of Edward. The time came when it was obvious that Henry would have no son by Catherine and he began to plot ways out of an heirless marriage situation. He turned to the most prominent English clergyman of the time, Thomas (Cardinal) Wolsey.