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With those words and writings and by some other means, the Duke of Gloucester soon set them on fire, whose nature was of itself easily inflammable. At the head of those stood two great figures, Edward, Duke of Buckingham and Richard, Lord of Hastings who then held the office of chamberlain. Both of them were men of rank and power: the former on account of his noble ancestry, the latter of his high position and the royal favour. Though little love existed between them, their hatred against the queen's party was such that they concurred mutually and with the Duke of Gloucester in the opinion that they should remove from the King's side all his mother's friends under the name of their enemy<sup>ies</sup>. This was the issue which the Duke of Gloucester anxiously expected, for he knew that the nobles near the King's person then intended to bring about his coronation. This plan, if carried out, would be accompanied by growing influence

on the part of their partisans. It would  
 then be difficult for him, he argued, to  
 gain his end without rising in arms and  
 declaring open war against his opponents.  
 But his cause would in that case, be stig-  
 matized as a rebellion against the King  
 & consequently would become quite dubious  
 in prospect. By diverse means, therefore,  
 he secretly brought the queen to the  
 conviction that it was not only useless  
 but also dangerous to give strength to the  
king's party.

Natsume