peace, though a hollow one, was re-established between them, but it could never be restored on its former footing. About that time, by the consent of king Richard, the Norman church was relieved from the long yoke of slavery by which it had been oppressed, to the extent that henceforth, on no ground whatever, were any of the clergy to be taken by the secular power, as they hitherto had been, except for homicide, theft, arson, or some similar enormity; The bishop of Ely, indulging in excessive arrogance, consumed a vast treasure in surrounding the Tower of London with a marvellous wall, and he also designed to bring the Thames entirely round it; and he, in many ways, put the king to vast expense, and caused him great loss of money. And, therefore, at last, he was precipitated from his elevation into the depths of confusion.

Acre is taken. Cyprus is subjugated by king Richard. Pope Clement dies, and is succeeded by Celestine.

A.D. 1191. Richard, king of England, and Philip, king of France, set sail for Messina, on Palm Sunday. And, after that, the king of France landed at Acre, on the twenty-first of April, and the king of England on the second of June; and Acre was taken on the twelfth of July, and there a quarrel broke out a second time between the two kings. This year, also, Geoffrey, archbishop of York, having been consecrated at Tours, came to England, and landed at Dover. But finding there that designs were formed against him by the partisans of the chancellor, he took refuge in the church, from which he was dragged by the chancellor’s guards, and conducted to Dover Castle, where he was detained some days, till he was released by count John, his brother, and the justiciaries of the land. About the same time, the aforesaid chancellor being deprived of the high dignity which he had before, came to Dover, and, wishing to cross the sea secretly, disguised himself irreverently in a female dress, which some people detected, and treated him with deserved contempt, and gave notice of his conduct to the justiciaries; but, however, immediately afterwards, he crossed the sea. Reginald, bishop of Bath, was elected archbishop of Canterbury by the monks of that church, but soon afterwards died. This year, also, Robert, son of William, son of Radulf, seneschal of Normandy, was made bishop of Worcester. Pope Clement died, and was succeeded by Celestine, by whom the emperor Henry was crowned, on the vigil of Saint John the Baptist. William Postard was promoted from being prior of Westminster to be abbot of the same place. Hugh de Minaud, bishop of Chester, expelled the monks from the church of Coventry, and instituted secular clergy in their places. King Richard subdued Cyprus, where he married Berengaria, the daughter of the king of Navarre. The bones of Arthur, that most famous king, were found at Glastonbury, a place which was formerly called in the British language the Isle of Avalon, that is to say, the Isle of Apples. The same year, king Richard redeemed, for an enormous sum of money, the relics of the saints which Saladin had carried off in the Holy Land, in order that he might have those persons as intercessors in heaven for him, whose relics he had ransomed from the hands of the infidels. On the vigil of Saint John the Baptist, being the Lord’s day, an eclipse of the sun took place about six o’clock, and lasted till eight. The same year, an oath of fealty to king Richard was taken at London, in the chapter-house of Saint Paul, for the king had suspicions of his chancellor. William, archbishop of Rouen, was appointed, by letters of king Richard, chief regent and governor of England, and the chancellor was ignominiously deposed.

King Richard is taken prisoner by the duke of Austria, and sold to the emperor.

A.D. 1192. King Richard, returning from the Holy Land, was arrested by the duke of Austria, in a town which is called Gymnasium, in Austria, and delivered up to the emperor Henry. The bishop of Worcester died; and Savaric was consecrated bishop of Bath. The same year, the chalices and treasures of the churches, and a fourth part of the revenues of the whole of England, were taken for the purpose of furnishing the king’s ransom. The king of France returned to Paris from his pilgrimage, where he was received with a solemn procession by the clergy and people. The same year, after the feast of Easter, the emperor Henry brought many accusations against Richard. First of all that, by his assistance and counsel, he had lost the kingdom of Sicily and Apulia, which belonged to him by hereditary right after the death of king William, for the acquisition of which he had, at an infinite expenditure of money, assembled a vast army, when the same king Richard had promised faithfully to contribute his assistance, to enable...
A.D. 1192. MATTHEW OF WESTMINSTER. A.D. 1192.

The English. The king of France invaded Normandy, and stormed the castles of that province, and occupied them himself. Gisors he got possession of by treachery. About the same time, the king of France espoused the daughter of the king of Denmark, and soon after divorced her.

The emperor and the duke are admonished by the pope to release king Richard, but in vain.

A.D. 1193. The fame of king Richard was sufficiently cleared from all the false accusations which had been brought against him, by the reading of the letter which the Old Man of the Mountain had by this time transmitted to the emperor and the duke of Austria. And, accordingly, both the duke and the emperor were admonished by the lord the pope to suffer king Richard to depart in peace. But they were altogether unwilling to let so rich a prey escape them. About the same time, Saladin died, and was buried in hell, and his brother, Sofadun, succeeded him. The king of France continued to prosecute the war in France with great vigour. But the friends of the king, and the faithful subjects of the kingdom, seeing that delay brought danger with it, hastened to pay his ransom; the king being also in great distress of mind, for whom they felt deep sympathy. For the count John was usurping his kingdom, the king of France was endeavouring to make himself master of Normandy, and dangers were threatening him on all sides.

The king of France repudiated his wife, and committed her, as it were, to custody in prison. All transactions respecting things to be sold, were, by command of king Richard, ordained to be regulated by one standard of weight and measure throughout the whole realm of England.

King Richard is released. Having paid his ransom, he arrives in England. He visits Saint Thomas.

A.D. 1194. King Richard, having now paid the greater portion of his ransom, and given hostages for the remainder, was, on the day of the purification of the blessed Mary, released from all custody on the part of the emperor, to whom the duke of Austria had sold him, and allowed to return to his own country. But the king, when he had arrived in England, went to the tomb of the blessed Thomas to pay his adoration, and afterwards to that of Saint Edmund, and after that to that of Saint Alban, the proto-martyr of England; and advancing from thence to Nottingham, he put down all those whom his
brother, the count, had bribed. He recovered the castle, and treated those whom he took mercifully. The same year, all the churches in England were taxed and charged with imposts. Having, therefore, in a short time subdued all his adversaries in England, he, by the advice of his nobles, though against his own will, was crowned a second time at Winchester, in Easter week, Hubert, the archbishop, performing the mass, and William, the most pious king of Scotland, being likewise present. Which same William, king of Scotland, on the aforesaid day of the coronation of king Richard, carried before the king, as his proper service, one of the three swords which were brought forward out of the king’s treasury; and the two counts, Hamelin de Warenne on the right hand of the king of Scotland, and Ranulph, earl of Chester, on his left hand, carried the two other swords. After that, on the day of the festivals of the two saints, Nereus and Achilles, he embarked on board ship at Portsmouth, and landed in Normandy, and rested that night, and slept after his fatigues at Brus, where count John, taking good advice, came to meet the king in a suppliant manner, and with many of his soldiers threw himself humbly at his feet, and with profuse tears implored the mercy of his brother. But the king, who in time of peace was most merciful, wept, and raised up his prostrate brother, and received him again into his paternal affections, and immediately he delivered Verneuil from siege, and relieved the whole country from the oppression of the French. Immediately after this, he drove the king of France from the province of Touraine, and took all his horses and carriages, and beasts of burden, and then suddenly crossing into Poitou, he compelled all his enemies in that district to retreat; so that from the castle of Verneuil, as far as CharlesCroix, there was no one who could resist him. About this time the king of France sent four messengers to the king of England, to bring him a pacific message, which he sent in treachery, proposing that, desisting from their vast expenses and useless exertions on both sides, they should submit the questions in dispute between them both, to be decided by a battle between five picked men of each kingdom. The king of England replied that the proposal was very agreeable to him, provided that the king of France would himself make one of his five warriors, as he himself would be one of the five on his side; but this the king of France refused.

A.D. 1195. The Duke of Austria dies.

The same year, Robert, earl of Leicester, was taken prisoner by the king of France. Henry de Marischal, brother of Walter de Marischal the elder, was made bishop of Exeter. The same year, king Richard passed over into England, and appointed tournaments to be held in certain places, in order that the English, who were persons of great personal strength, might by practice become more expert in warlike exercises. In these days also, a certain Alexius, son of Manuel, having collected a countless number of armed men, attacked Carsak, the emperor of Constantinople, in a hostile manner, and took him prisoner, and put out his eyes, and reduced him to the condition of a eunuch, and then consigned him to perpetual imprisonment, and occupied his kingdom.

The duke of Austria is excommunicated, and dies. The king of Morocco invades Spain.

A.D. 1195. Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, on the thirtieth of April received, with the archbishopric, the appointment of legate over the whole of England, Wales, Scotland, and also the church of York. The prior of the hospital of Jerusalem was made bishop of Bangor, on the sixteenth of April. The same year, the duke of Austria, who had taken king Richard prisoner, being smitten by the judgment of God, died in an excommunicated state, because, though he had been repeatedly admonished by the Roman church, he refused to release king Richard. Hugh de Pusac, bishop of Durham, and Henry, bishop of Worcester, died. The harvest was spoilt by the excessive rains and floods. The emperor Henry, on the death of Tancred, who had unjustly succeeded king William, now made himself master of the kingdoms of Apulia and Sicily. For he had married the sister of king William, and therefore when he was dead, the kingdom more justly belonged to him. The same year, the king of Morocco invaded Spain, and committed unexpected slaughter among the Christians. The same year, also, Garin, abbot of the church of Saint Alban, died, on the twenty-ninth of April, and was succeeded by John, a monk of the same church, on the twentieth of July. About this time, also, the king of France was constantly admonished to treat his queen in a proper manner. Also the lord, the pope Celestine, admonished all the prelates of England, for the advantage of the Holy Land, to preach to the people, and to impose the sign of the cross on all faithful believers.
The emperor Henry repents of having accepted the ransom, but is not regarded.

A.D. 1196. John de Constance, dean of Rouen, was consecrated bishop of Worcester, on the twentieth of October. Also William Fitzosbert, surnamed A la barbe, was slain while attempting to defend the cause of the poor at London. Richard, king of England, fortified the new castle of Audley against the will of Walter, archbishop of Rouen, and as the king, though often admonished, would not desist from his undertaking, the said archbishop laid the whole of Normandy under an interdict, and then went to the court of Rome. The emperor Henry, being alarmed at the thoughts of divine vengeance, gave to the brotherhood of Carthusian monks the money which he had received for the ransom of king Richard, to make silver incense burners. But the abbots refused to receive it in that form. In these times, a monk of Evesham, being thrown into an ecstasy and delirium, saw some wonderful things, which would require a special treatise. Philip of Poitou was consecrated bishop of Durham. The emperor who has been mentioned above, and who sold king Richard after he had bought him, and who, on that account, incurred the bond of anathema, died this year; whether he ever secretely had done penance and been absolved, is not known.

At Christmas, king Richard was at Poictiers, and after that, on the day of the festival of Saint Hilary, Philip, king of France, and Richard, king of England, met in a conference at Louviers, where they made a treaty in the following terms:—The king of France claimed from king Richard and his heirs quiet possession of Issoud, with all the rights pertaining to it, and all the rights which he had in Berri, and Auvergne, and Gascony, and surrendered to him tranquil possession of the castle of Argues and the county of Alenmarle, and many other castles which he had seized after his return from his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. And Richard, king of England, claimed from the king of France quiet possession of Gisors, and a tax of a twentieth throughout the whole of Normandy. And that this agreement might be firmly established, they provided sureties on both sides, and bound themselves to a mutual observance of it under a penalty of fifteen thousand marks. But in process of time, the king of France repented of having made the exchanges to which he had consented; and as king Richard had now peaceable possession of all the aforementioned places and rights, he collected a great army, and having broken his treaty with the king of France, laid siege to Alenmarle. And after having done this, the king of England ordered all the estates and possessions to be seized which were in his reach belonging to the abbots of the great monastery at Cluny, of the monastery of Saint Denis, and of the monastery of Charity, who were the securities for the king of France in the matter of the covenant before mentioned which was to the effect, that if the king of France transgressed it, they should pay the sum of money named in the agreement. In the mean time, the king of France took the castle of Alenmarle by storm, and destroyed it, as he did many others. The same year, Hugh de Chaumont, a very powerful noble, and a great friend of the king of France, was taken prisoner. In these days also, count John and Mareadée, being at no great distance from the city of Beauvais, took prisoner Philip, bishop of that city, in full armour, and William de Merlan, his son, with many other knights, and a great number of common soldiers, and Mareadée coming early in the morning to the bedside of king Richard, said to him in the Norman dialect, “Sus, Richard, sus, je te ayneme le cantatur de Bulevais.” And so the bishop was presented in complete armour to king Richard, and by the king’s command, he was detained in prison in his armour; and when the lord the pope wrote in his behalf, desiring that he might be released, severely reproving king Richard for having taken prisoner and detained in this manner a bishop, who was his most beloved son, the king sent to the pope, who wrote thus for his son the breast-plate of the bishop in which he had been taken, and said in his letter of answer, “See, O father, whether this be thy son’s coat or no.” And as the pope desisted from making any more requests in his behalf, the bishop was subsequently liberated by ransom.

The interdict in Normandy is relaxed. Fulk distinguishes himself as a preacher.

A.D. 1197. Richard, king of England, in order to procure the relaxation of the sentence of interdict which the archbishop of Rouen had uttered, because of the affair of the castle of Audley, sent to the Roman court his chancellor, William, bishop of Ely, and the bishops of Durham and

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1 "Get up, Richard, get up, I bring you the charter of Beauvais."
Exeter, to plead his cause against the archbishop. But William, bishop of Ely, died on his way to the Roman court, and was buried in the abbey of Pynnes, belonging to the Cistercian order, on the thirtieth of January. But his fellow-bishops arrived at Rome, and effected a reconciliation between the king and the archbishop on terms which were not injurious to either party, and it was confirmed by a charter. At this time it was intimated to king Richard, that ships were accustomed to come from England to Saint Valori, bringing supplies to his enemies, when they were in need of them, to his own great injury. And so, to revenge this wrong, he burnt the town, dispersed the monks, and transported the bier of Saint Valori, with his remains, into Normandy. And in that harbour he found ships loaded with corn, the sailors of which he ordered to be hung, and having burnt the ships, he distributed the provisions among his own soldiers. At this time also, the munificence of king Richard won over many of the more powerful nobles of France, especially Baldwin, count of Flanders, the counts of Champagne and Brittany, and many other nobles of the French, who abandoned the king of France, and became adherents of king Richard. In these days, another prophet arose in France, a most powerful preacher, namely, the master Fulk, for whose sake the Lord descended manifestly to work miracles. That Fulk one day came to Richard, king of England, and said to him, “I, on the part of Almighty God, command thee immediately to give in marriage your three wicked daughters whom you cherish, lest a worst thing happen to thee.” And the king is said to have answered him, “Thou hypocrite, thou hast lied, because I have no daughter at all.” To which Fulk replied, “Certainly I do not lie, because, as I have said, you have three most infamous daughters, one of which is pride, the second covetousness, and the third luxury.” Accordingly, the king having summoned the counts, and many others who were at hand, to appear before him, said to them, “Hear all of you the prompting of this hypocrite, who says that I have three very wicked daughters, namely, pride, covetousness, and luxury, and he has enjoined me to give them in marriage; I therefore give my pride to the pride of the Templars, my covetousness to the monks of the Cistercian order, and my luxury to the prelates of the church.”

A.D. 1198. Hugh, bishop of Chester, dies.

This Fulk tried by all means to extirpate usury, which having been derived from the men of Italy, at that time was polluting France exceedingly. He also sent a religious and eloquent preacher into England, namely, the abbot of Flai, of the Cistercian order, to put a stop to the traffic which at that time was carried on on the Lord’s day. At this time, Robert of Shrewsbury was consecrated bishop of Bangor. Meantime, the count of Flanders laid siege to the castle of Arras, and blockaded it; and when the king of France wished to relieve it, the count so cut him off from all the roads by his canals, that the king was compelled to submit to the count’s will. All measures and weights throughout the kingdom were brought to one legal and uniform standard.

Otho is crowned king of Germany in an honourable manner.

A.D. 1198. Otho, nephew of king Richard, was honourably crowned king of Germany, at Aix-la-Chapelle, by the management of king Richard himself; and immediately afterwards he married the daughter of the duke of Louvaine, and, on the day of his coronation, he sat with her on his throne at the banquet, but she was not yet crowned. The same year, pope Celestine died, and was succeeded by Innocent the Third, who was consecrated pope on the day of the festival of the Chair of Saint Peter, and was placed in the chair of Peter. Would that he had followed the footsteps of Peter! By his favour there arose in Italy a new kind and order of preachers, who chose to call themselves Jacobites, because they seemed to imitate the life of the Apostle. About the same time, Hugh, bishop of Chester, being on his death-bed, moved with compunction of mind and penitence for his sins, paid the debt of nature, at Beccumberhe, in the countries beyond the sea. The same year, the secular clergy were expelled, and the brotherhood of monks at Coventry was recalled to their former and proper position, on the Sunday on which the anthem “Rejoice, O Jerusalem,” is sung. Eustace, dean of Sherborne, received the dignity of the bishopric of Ely, and received consecration at the hand of Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, at Westminster. And, after his election, Geoffrey was elected bishop of Chester, on the twenty-first of June.

This year, a shower of blood fell on the masons who were building the tower of Audley. About this time, a quarrel arose between the archbishop and the monks of Canterbury, because
of the church which the said archbishop had lately built at Canterbury. For the monks were afraid lest the archbishop should transfer the seat of his diocese to Lambeth, as he had threatened. On which account they went to Rome, and, complaining to pope Innocent, they prevailed on him to depose the archbishop from the office of justiciary, and in this the archbishop displayed great arrogance and audacity in resistance. For it really was not proper for him to involve himself in matters of secular business, and be present in cases where human life was put in peril. Accordingly, the bishop having, by the Roman church, been removed from the office of justiciary, the king appointed Geoffrey, the son of Peter, in his stead. In those days, also, Philip, king of France, and Richard, king of England, met in battle between Guisnes and Vernon, when the king of France and his army, being unable to withstand the shock of the conflict, consulted their safety by flight, and fled for refuge to Vernon. But before they could enter the castle, king Richard overtook them with the edge of the sword, and took prisoners twenty knights and two hundred and sixty men of inferior rank.

About the same time, Richard, bishop of London, paid the debt of nature; and, in the course of the same year, king Richard, having assembled all his forces, took by storm three castles from the king of France, namely, those of Sirefontaine, Buris, and Courcelles, being nobly assisted by his English troops. But the king of France having reinforced his army by four hundred knights and a thousand esquires, and with the garrisons which he drew from Nantes and other places, sallied forth, and marched to relieve the castle of Courcelles, which he believed had not yet fallen. But when king Richard knew this, he marched to meet him, and a most severe and bloody battle took place in the plains between Courcelles and Gisors; but the king of France not being able to withstand the shock of the battle, was routed with his army, and fled to the castle of Gisors; and when, in the flight, his troops had all thrown themselves pell-mell on the bridge of Gisors, it broke down under the number of those who tried to cross it, and the king of France himself, in complete armour, on horseback, fell from the height of the bridge into the river Eure, with a great number of his soldiers besides; but the king himself got out of the river, though deep and rapid, and was dragged out of the mud, and so, though with difficulty, saved from death. But the rear division of the flying army, in order to secure the safety of the king, and to enable him to be dragged more readily out of the deep mud, returned to encounter king Richard, showing itself the most gallant portion of the French nation, which thus exposed themselves to danger of death for the safety of their lord. And, accordingly, that most bloody battle was there renewed, and the clang of arms and the crash of spears again resounded, but at length the side of king Richard prevailed, and three of the chief knights of the king of France were taken prisoners, namely, Matthew de Montmorenci, Alan de Rossi, and Fulk de Gre­ville; and, besides these, there were taken in the actual conflict a hundred noble knights, and two hundred esquires, and an innumerable host of men-at-arms.

The king sent a consolatory epistle, with the news of this glorious victory, to his prelates and friends who were remaining in England. Therefore, the king of France, seeing that the force of the king of England was increasing day by day, entreated the pope to bring about a peace between them. Therefore, the pope sent a legate with a most special letter to Richard, king of England, entreat­ing him, in an affecting manner, to be favourable to his desires in the matter of the arrangement of peace. Accordingly, king Richard accepted the promotion of his nephew, Otho, so that he should be crowned king of Germany, in reference to which he acquiesced in the prayers of his suppliant, and showed favour to the lord Innocent the pope, and approved of the advancement of the imperial dignity. Therefore, the two kings met together, and swore to a truce for five years, agreeing that the subjects and merchants of each king might go and return through both countries, and buy and sell without hindrance. And when this had been done, the king of England sent to Rome the abbot of the Charter House, and Raymond, a monk of Saint Alban's (who had at the same time been despatched on the affairs of his own church to the king at his court in Normandy), that they might complete the before-mentioned arrangement, and for the completion of the business, the king levied an aid of five shillings on every hide of land throughout the whole of England. The same year, there was an extraordinary storm of thunder and lightning, and rain, such as was never seen before. Eustace was consecrated bishop of Ely. Hugh of Chester died, in the habit of a monk, at Bec. Also, John, bishop of Worcester, and Peter, bishop of Saint David's, died.
King Richard, being wounded by an arrow from an arbalist, dies, and is succeeded by John, his brother.

A.D. 1199. Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, to his own disgrace and that of many others, in consequence of the intrigues of the monks of Canterbury, to whose injury it was founded, and in compliance with the authority of the supreme pontiff, who commanded the deed, levelled with the ground the church of Lambeth, which Baldwin, his predecessor, had founded in honour of the blessed Thomas the Martyr, and which he himself had almost completed. At the same time, a truce, as has been said before, having been made between king Richard and the king of France, king Richard directed his formidable standard against some barons of Poitou, who had rebelled against him; and while he was besieging the castle of Chalos, he was wounded, on the twenty-sixth of March, by an arrow from an arbalist, and, as the wound was unskillfully managed, he began to feel the danger of approaching death. However, he made himself master of the castle by storm, and for the love of God he permitted the author of his death to depart free. Being therefore about to die, he ordered his body to be buried at Fontevraud, at his father's feet, to whom he confessed that he had behaved traitorously; and for the especial love which he bore to the Normans, he bequeathed his invincible heart to the church of Rouen. And ordering his entrails to be buried in the castle before-mentioned, he bequeathed his dung to the people of Poitou, to mark their treason by such a bequest.

CH. VII.—From A.D. 1199 to A.D. 1216.

John succeeds to the throne—Many of the nobles adhere to Arthur—Marriage of John—The king of France espouses the cause of Arthur—Death of Arthur—Inactivity of John, and his losses in France—The emperor Otho comes to England—Rapacity of John—The pope lays England under an interdict—John makes a treaty with the king of Scotland—The pope absolves the English from their obedience to John—John subdues North Wales—The king of France prepares to invade England—John submits to the pope—Magna charta is granted—The barons elect Louis of France king, and invite him to England—Louis invades England—Death of John.
A.D. 1201. Pope Innocent having assumed the sign of the cross, enjoins a general pilgrimage. John, king of England, celebrated the nativity of the Lord at Steenwold, where he distributed many garments, suited to the festival, among his troops. And Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, as if vying with the king, and on equal terms with him, did the same at Canterbury; at which the king conceived no small indignation. Then the king went to Canterbury, and in that city, on Easter day, he and his queen wore their crowns. William de Blos was made bishop of Lincoln. That year, also, the holy Wolstan, and the holy Modwen, were distinguished by many miracles. Pope Innocent, after he had by force extorted money from the Cistercian order for the expedition of the pilgrims who had assumed the cross, having been very severely reproved by the blessed Mary, the patroness of that order, desisted from that exaction. The same year, after having celebrated the feast of Pentecost, at Portsmouth, the day following the king and his queen embarked on board ship, and, although with some difficulty, landed at Normandy. After that, the two kings came to a conference near the island of Audley, and made a peaceful agreement with one another; and three days afterwards, king John, on the invitation of the king of France, came to Paris, and was lodged in the king’s palace in that city, the king of France himself lodging elsewhere. This year some terrible and destructive tempests struck terror among mankind. The same year, Sirard, prior of Norwich, died. The same year, at the instance of pope Innocent, the fortieth part of the revenues of all the churches was given in aid of the Holy Land against the Saracens, who were gaining the superiority at that time. The same year, Hugh de Neville, who had conquered and slain a lion, died.

The kings again become enemies on account of Arthur.

A.D. 1202. John, king of England, kept the festival of the Nativity of the Lord at Argenton, in Normandy, and, in the following Lent, a conference was held between the kings of France and England, in which the king of France, being armed with mutual hatred against the king of England, ordered him indignantly to restore to Arthur all the lands which he held and unjustly retained possession of on the continent, namely, Normandy, Touraine, Anjou, and Poitou; and he also required many other things of him, which the king of England declared that he would never do. Therefore, as the conference was not attended by the desired result, the next day the king made a sudden attack upon the castle of Batavant, with military violence, and threw the castle to the ground, and, advancing from thence, he took other castles and towns...
in a hostile manner, and destroyed them; and he besieged the castle of Bladepond for an entire week. But when the king of England came to his relief, he retired in disorder, and turning off to Gournay a few days afterwards, he entered that town, and reduced it under his own power. Then returning to Paris, he placed Arthur under guardianship, giving him two hundred picked knights of the kingdom of France, who were to go to Poitou and reduce that province under his authority. And they, hearing that queen Eleanor was staying at Mirabeau, laid siege to that castle, and compelled it to surrender, the tower alone holding out, into which the queen had betaken herself with a few armed men. When, therefore, they had blockaded it all round, there flocked thither to the assistance of Arthur all the nobles of Poitou, especially Hugh surnamed the Brown, count de la Marche, who was a public enemy of king John, on account of queen Isabella, whom the said count had married as his wife before she was espoused to the king of England; and in this way they made a great army, and attacked the tower with repeated assaults. The queen being in a strait, signified this to king John, who was at that time in Normandy, entreating speedy and effectual succour. And when king John heard of her distress, he flew with all possible speed, and with a numerous army, to the castle of Mirabeau, and the French and the people of Poitou met him boldly, and began a most violent battle. But the French being repulsed, were forced to enter the castle, and the king, pursuing them, continued the bloody conflict within the castle itself, and being assisted by a valiant and glorious body of English, rejoiced in the desired victory. In that battle two hundred knights of the kingdom of France were taken prisoners, and Arthur himself, and all the nobles of Poitou and Anjou, so that not one of them escaped. And the nobles he at once sent into England, and into Normandy, and committed them to custody there; but he sent Arthur to Falaise, to be carefully guarded. But when the king of France, who was besieging and vigorously attacking the castle of Argues, while the garrison was making a manly resistance, had heard this news, he retired from the siege in disorder.

On this, king John, ordering Arthur to be brought before him, enquired of him whether he would adhere to him as his uncle and lord in all good love and peace, to whom Arthur made a spirited and haughty reply, requiring him to surrender

the kingdom of England and all his territories. Then the king commanded Arthur to be conducted rapidly to Rouen, and to be carefully kept in the closest custody, and soon after he disappeared.

The same year, king John, coming into England, was crowned at Canterbury, by the hand of Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, on the fourteenth of April, and immediately afterwards he crossed the sea to Normandy, and when he arrived there, a general belief of the death of Arthur gained ground throughout the whole kingdom of France, and throughout all the countries beyond the sea, to such an extent, that king John was looked at with suspicion by all men, as if he had slain him with his own hand. On which account, many people from that time forth were wholly alienated from the king, and pursued him to the death with implacable hatred. And the king of France himself summoned king John before him on a charge of treason, and as he refused to appear to answer this charge after many citations, he was deprived of all his possessions, according to the decision of his peers, by the barons of the court of the king of France, whose vassal he was, and the king accused him openly, and branded him with infamy. The same year, William de Stutevil, and William of Oxford, prior of Southwark, died, and he was succeeded by Richard of Saint Etheldred.

The king of France took the noble castles of Normandy, king John being inactive.

A.D. 1203. John, king of England, kept the feast of the Nativity of the Lord at Caen, in Normandy, where, putting aside his warlike cares, he devoted the hours of the night to drinking; and, protracting his morning slumbers till dinner-time, he replied, with a laugh, to all who brought him news that the king of France was displaying great activity, and daily subduing one castle after another, so that, in one day, as it were, he recovered all that he had lost. Hugh de Gournay, seeing the incorrigible torpor of the inactivity of the king, surrendered to the king of France the castle of Montfort, and at last, as all had forsaken the spiritless king, even Rouen was lost. At length, king John, effeminate and dissolved in luxury as he was, seeing his losses, and that he was deprived of all military reinforcements, and of all refuge in Normandy, embarked in haste on board his ships, and landed at Portsmouth,
in England, where he treated his subjects with furious rage, inventing all kinds of fictitious causes of provocation against them, such as that they had left him destitute of all military force in the countries beyond the sea, and thus he extracted from them immense sums of money.

The same year, the Master William de Blois, precentor of the church of Lincoln, and canon of the said church, was, on the day of Saint Bartholomew, consecrated bishop, at Westminster, by William, bishop of London, as the archbishop of Canterbury was detained by severe infirmities. About the same time, oil began to flow in a miraculous manner from a certain image of the blessed Mary of Sardanai, which is not far from the city of Damascus, a miracle which brought over many even of the Saracens to the Catholic faith, and restored health to many who were sick. And even the sultan of Damascus, who had become entirely blind, having invoked the aid of the blessed Virgin Mary, received his sight as clear as before, by the infusion of some of that oil. And so he granted sixty measures of oil every year to maintain a light before the altar of the Virgin, so as to give light for light, and because at first, on the recovery of his sight, he saw a lamp glittering in the light, and from that time forth, namely, to the feast of the Nativity next ensuing, the oil began to drop from the before-mentioned image in more abundant drops, and the next year the oil became solidified into flesh.

The miracle of the oil of the image of Saint Mary of Sardanai becomes famous.

A.D. 1204. King John celebrated the nativity of the Lord at Canterbury, Hubert, the archbishop, administering the necessary services. Then, on the day after the circumeision, the king and nobles of England met in a conference at Oxford, where military reinforcements were granted to the king, and two marks and a half on each knight's fee, nor did even bishops or abbots, or any persons connected with the church, depart without making him some promise. The same year, the miracles increased which were wrought by the oil which flowed from the image of the blessed Mary of Sardanai; which I have already said became solidified into flesh, and by which afterwards the soldan of Damascus was cured, and in consequence its fame becoming illustrious, gave consistency to the Catholic faith in the east. In those days, the castle of Roch-Audley was besieged for nearly a year, and as, though the besiegers repeatedly requested aid from king John, none came to them, Roger, the constable of Chester, who was accounted the chief of the besieged garrison, a most gallant and warlike man, with many other illustrious knights, began, their victuals failing, to waste away with hunger. And when those princes, becoming enfeebled, had become sure of the treacherous inactivity of John, they preferred being slain in their armour to perishing shamefully by famine. They sallied out of the castle, and dashed into the midst of the enemy, slaying the finest of their horses, and slaughtering the enemy on every side with their flashing swords, and shedding much French blood. At last, when the multitude of their enemies collected in close order and attacked them, they were taken prisoners, reeking with the blood of many of their enemies; and in this way, the castle of Roch Audley fell into the power of the French king, on the fifth of March. And when the garrisons of other cities and castles in Normandy on the side of king John saw this, they informed him in what a strait they were placed; and that, unless they received more prompt and effectual assistance, they must go over to the French king, whether they would or no. To which he replied, that each of them must provide for himself as appeared to him to be most for his advantage. In the mean time, king John went on, wretched indeed, but undeserving of any one's pity, indulging his gluttony and luxury with his wanton queen, while lying in whose bosom he thought that he was in possession of every joy, relying on the money which he had sworn to extort from England. The same year, on the first of April, in the first watch of the night, such a great redness was seen in the heaven towards the east and north, that the firmament seemed on fire, in which excessive redness, however, brilliant stars appeared, which was a terrible and marvellous thing. And this appearance lasted till midnight. At the same time, Godfrey, bishop of Winchester, died, and was succeeded by Peter de Rocha, who, at the instigation of king John, went to Rome, where by the distribution of liberal hospitality he deserved to be promoted to the supreme pontificate of the church of Winchester, and to be consecrated in that city. The same year, Easter day fell on the day of the feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist. This year also an eclipse of the moon took
place at midnight, which lasted a long time, on the sixteenth of April.

Having made himself master of the castle of Roch Audley, the king of France soon afterwards took the valley of Rothe, and many other fortresses; and Rouen, which was still in suspense, a truce having been granted to that city by the king of France for a large sum of money, although a little before this some persons had engaged most positively for the loyalty of that city, submitted entirely to the power of the king of France about the time of the feast of All Saints; and when king John heard of this, he laughed and threatened, swearing by the feet of God, that the sterling money of England should restore everything. Simon de Welles was made bishop of Chester, Baldwin, count of Flanders, was made emperor of Constantinople; Eleanor, queen of England, died; the abbey of Battle, a royal palace, was founded by king John.

Of the error of the monks of Canterbury in the matter of the election of an archbishop.

A.D. 1205. Peter de Roches returned from the countries beyond the sea; he was a native of Poitou, of more experience in warlike than in scholastic affairs; he was consecrated by the lord the pope Innocent, on the twenty-fifth of September. Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, died, on the twenty-ninth of June; and Savaric, bishop of Bath, on the twenty-seventh of July. But the monks of Canterbury, fearing lest the king should, after his usual fashion, hinder their election, without inquiring the king's pleasure, elected Reginald, their subprior, archbishop, and having sung the hymn "Te deum Laudamus" at midnight, they placed him first of all on the greater altar, and after that in the archiepiscopal throne, which was done secretly, because the monks were afraid that if the election which had thus been made without the king's consent became known to the king, he in his anger would hinder the further progress of the matter. On which account, the very same night, the same subprior, having first made a declaration upon oath that he would not consider himself as elected without the license and special letters of the convent, and that he would not promulgate to any one the letters of the convent about what had been done, which he had in his possession, took with him some monks of the convent, and set out for the court of Rome, which was done, that the election might not reach the king's ears till they ascertained whether they could carry on the matter they had taken in hand to its accomplishment, fearing the cavilling objections of the king above everything. But this same archbishop elect, forgetting the oath that he had taken, the moment that he arrived in Flanders, loudly declared himself the archbishop elect of Canterbury, and said that, on that account, he was on his way to the court of Rome to have his election confirmed in that city, and that he was doing so by the advice of those who were with him, who believed that that was for the advantage of his cause. And moreover, he showed everywhere, without disguise, the letters which he had in his possession. At last, when he reached Rome, he immediately declared his election to the lord the pope and his cardinals, displaying his letters about what had been done publicly to everybody, and pressing the lord the pope constantly for his consecration. But the pope replied, and said, that he wished to deliberate, and that he should wait till he was more fully informed of the matter. But when the monks, who remained at Canterbury, heard of the conduct of the subprior, and how he had shamelessly violated his oath and revealed their secrets, they were exceedingly angry, and immediately sent some monks of the convent to the king, requiring from him permission to proceed to an election. And the king assented to their request, and secretly addressing them, pointed out to them that the bishop of Norwich was one who was united to him by ties of great intimacy, and he combined commands, promises, and entreaties together to persuade them to elect him archbishop. When, therefore they met in chapter, they chose John de Grey, bishop of Norwich, for their archbishop, who, at that time, was at York on the king's business. Accordingly, he being summoned, came in haste to the king, and with him the king entered Canterbury with exceeding pomp. And the prior of Canterbury, in the presence of the king, and the whole multitude of the people in the metropolitanchurch itself, openly pronounced the election of John de Grey to have taken place with all due form and regularity, and then the monks chanting the hymn "Te deum Laudamus," took him, and conducted him to the greater altar, and at length placed him in the archiepiscopal throne. And when this had been done, then the king, in the sight of all the people, invested the archbishop elect with the possession of all things belonging to his archiepiscopate. And so in this
double election, a second error was committed worse than the first, which was the seed of many tribulations and scandals in England, which were never afterwards completely quieted and extirpated. This year the order of preachers was firmly established.

The noble castle of Mount Alban is taken by king John.

A.D. 1206. King John celebrated the day of the Lord's Nativity at Oxford; on which occasion he also sent some monks of the church of Canterbury to the Roman court, the chief of whom was the Master Elias de Brandefeld, whom the king supplied with ample resources from his own treasury, that they might procure from the pope a confirmation of the election of the bishop of Norwich. Likewise, at the same time, the suffragan bishops of the church of Canterbury sent agents to the court of Rome, conveying grave complaints on their part to the pope, that the monks of Canterbury had rashly presumed to hold an election to the archbishopric without consulting them, when they had, both by common law and ancient custom, a right to be present with them, and to join in the election. Their deputies also alleged many decrees and precedents to establish these arguments, and produced witnesses, and exhibited letters of evidence, by which they endeavoured to show that the suffragan bishops, in union with the monks, had elected three metropolitan bishops. But the monks, on the contrary, asserted that, by a special privilege granted to them by the Roman pontiffs, and by approved and ancient custom, they had been used to elect the archbishops without the concurrence of the suffragans, and they undertook to establish this point by competent witnesses. The allegations having been heard, and witnesses produced on both sides, and the question having been diligently examined, a day was appointed by the lord the pope, being the twenty-first of December, for him to pronounce sentence, and the deputies were ordered to attend and to receive the pope's decision on the law. At last, definitive sentence was delivered by the lord the pope innocent on this point, in favour of the monks, and the privileges which they claimed were established for ever.

The same year, king John crossed the sea, taking with him a large army, and on the tenth of July he landed at Rupel, and the inhabitants of that part of the country came to meet him, and gladly adhered to him. From thence he proceeded with more security, and arrived before Montauban, a most noble castle, in which the whole military nobility of the province, and especially of the king of France, was shut up. And immediately he surrounded it with his battalions, and began to attack it with vigorous and frequent assaults. And, at last, by the unceasing prowess of the English, that impregnable castle was taken, which Charlemagne had not been able to reduce in a seven years' siege, as those who have written an account of his exploits assert. And the castle was taken on the day of the feast of Saint Peter and Vincent, on the fifteenth day of the arrival of king John before it.

The same year, John of Ferentum, legate of the Apostolic See, came into England, and traversed it, extorting a vast sum of money, and, at last, that he might not seem to have done nothing else, he held a council at Reading, on the day after the feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist. And when he had done this, having filled and carefully carried off all his baggage, he returned to his own country. The same year, some discreet, and religious, and dignified men from the countries beyond the sea, going between the two kings, with great anxiety for the establishment of peace, on the day of the feast of All Saints, established a truce between them for two years. King John returned to England, and landed at Portsmouth, on the twelfth of December. This year also, William, bishop of Lincoln, went the way of all flesh. Jocelin of Wells was made bishop of Bath, and received consecration at the hands of William, bishop of London. Henry Marischal, bishop of Exeter, died, and was succeeded by Simon of Apulia, dean of York. This year, the queen of the French, the mother of king Philip, died. The same year, a simple and upright man, living in the bishopric of Lincoln, being conducted by Saint Julian, saw some wonderful visions, which would require a special treatise.

The Emperor Otto comes to England. The order of Minors begins.

A.D. 1207. King John celebrated the nativity of the Lord at Winchester, in the presence of the nobles of the kingdom. After that, on the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, thinking only of rapine, and placing his hope and strength in treasures of money, he seized, throughout all England, a third part of all the royal domains. Minors was a name assumed by the Franciscans, to show their humility.
The twentieth part of all moveables and other property, whether belonging to the laity or to other men, ecclesiastics and prelates, all murmuring, though they did not venture to resist him, but still cursing him, and hoping that such plunder would not have a happy result. And that prayer was heard by the Lord, as the following narration will show: Godfrey, archbishop of York, alone refused to submit, and firmly resisting, secretly retired from England, and in his retreat involved in one sentence of anathema all those, especially in his own diocese, who committed this plunder, and generally all invaders of the church, or of ecclesiastical property. At the same season, about midnight, on the twenty-seventh of January, a sudden and violent storm of wind coming, threw down buildings, uprooted trees, and destroyed thousands of sheep and cattle.

The same year, the emperor Otho came into England, at whose arrival the whole city of London put on a joyful appearance, the citizens adorning themselves with cloaks and other ornaments. And having had a conference with his uncle, he returned to his own country, having replenished his coffers with five thousand marks of silver. This year, the preachers who were called Minors arose under the favour of pope Innocent, and filled the earth, dwelling in towns and cities, in bodies of ten or seven, possessing nothing whatever, living on the Gospel, displaying a true and voluntary poverty in their clothes and food, walking barefoot, girded with knotted ropes, and showing a noble example of humility to all men. But they caused great alarm to many of the prelates, because they began to weaken their authority, first of all by their preaching, and secret confessions of penitents, and afterwards, by their open receptions. About the same time, as the two parties were still carrying on their contest about the double election of the monks of Canterbury, the lord the pope, seeing that they could not agree in either one or the other of the elected archbishops, annulled both the elections, earnestly advising and persuading them to elect Master Stephen Langton, an Englishman by birth, a man of deep wisdom, elegant person, faultless morals, a fit and sufficient person, as far as man can be, to govern the universal church, assuring that his promotion would be very advantageous both to the king himself and to the universal Anglican church. But the monks replied to this, and asserted that it was not lawful for them to proceed to a canonical election without the royal consent, and that of their own convent. And the pope, as if taking their words out of their mouth, said: "Know ye that ye have plenary power in the church of Canterbury, inasmuch as ye are selected as the first men in your convent; nor is it customary to wait for the consent of princes to elections which are celebrated at the Apostolic See. On which account, we do command ye, being of such a number and character as ye are, inasmuch as ye are amply sufficient for the election, by virtue of your obedience, and under the penalty of anathema, to elect him archbishop, whom we give you to be the shepherd of your souls." The monks then, being in a strait, fearing the sentence of excommunication, although unwillingly and grumblingly, nevertheless gave a consent, such as it was. Alone of all of them, Master Elias de Brantefield, who had come on the part of the king and the bishop of Norwich, refused his consent. All the rest chanting the hymn, "Te Deum Laudamus," conducted the archbishop elect to the altar, who, on the seventeenth of June, received consecration in the city of Viterbo, at the hands of the pope himself. After these events, the pope, as he had promised the monks, sent a most elegant letter to John, king of England, to desire him to receive, as archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, who had been regularly elected and consecrated, a native of England, an incomparable master in learning and morals. But when these circumstances came to the knowledge of king John, he ordered all the monks to be expelled from the monastery of Canterbury, and having been expelled, to be forcibly banished from the kingdom as guilty of lèse majesté. About this time died Simon, bishop of Chichester. The monks of Canterbury were expelled on the day of Saint Swithin, and their goods were confiscated. The same year, on the day of Saint Remigius, Isabella, queen of England, bore to king John his first born son, and he was called Henry, after the name of his grandfather.

A.D. 1208. England and Wales are laid under an interdict.

A.D. 1208. King John celebrated the feast of the nativity at Windsor. At the beginning of March, in this year, there was an eclipse of the sun. All England and Wales were subjected to an interdict, without any exemption whatever being allowed, on the vigil of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary; and the execution of the decree was committed to William, bishop of London, Edward, bishop of Ely, and Mauger, bishop
of Worcester. This year, Philip, bishop of Durham, and Geoffrey de Musclamp, Bishop of Chester, and William de Warenee, died. The same year, queen Isabella bore king John a son, who was called Richard; so that when the time of her child-bearing was accomplished, the child was born on the vigil of the Epiphany, in the year next following, and this circumstance gives rise to many contradictions in history. The bishop of Chester was succeeded by William de Corneshull, archdeacon of Huntingdon, and the bishop of Durham by Richard de Marisco.

This year, Philip, duke of Swabia, who had been a competitor, with Otto, for the empire, was murdered. The king ordered all the property of the monks to be confiscated, because of the interdict. At the beginning of the interdict the white monks desisted from the performance of their duties, but afterwards, at the command of their abbot, they ventured to celebrate divine service. But when this boldness of theirs had come to the ears of the supreme pontiff, they, to their greater confusion, were suspended anew by a fresh sentence. About the same time, king John, fearing lest the pope should become more violent, so as to excommunicate him himself by name, and absolve all who held under him from their loyalty and fealty to him, caused all those who at all suspected, to swear fealty to him, and took special hostages from them. But the more powerful nobles, when the king demanded hostages from them, refused them to his face, saying, "How can we expect him to preserve our sons and dear relations, who are not at all akin to him, unhurt, when he wickedly slew with his own hand his own nephew, by that kind of death which is called murder?"

In the meantime the king kept on oppressing one or other of the nobles of the kingdom, either by extorting money from them unjustly, or by stripping them of their privileges or properties; of some he seduced the wives, or deflowered the daughters, so that he became manifestly and notoriously odious and detestable both to God and man. Moreover, that his insatiable avarice and unappeasable gluttony and licentiousness might be concealed from no one, he prohibited all fowling and taking of winged game, and prevented the nobles from hunting, by which measures he not only lost the affections of all men, but incurred their unextinguishable hatred; so that even his own wife detested and loathed him; whom he, though an adulterer himself, accused of adultery, and he put to an ignominious death those whom he suspected of familiarities with her; and he ordered the queen herself to be kept in close custody. And, among other flagitious crimes, he, like a second Herod, ordered a great many innocent boys, who were hostages at Nottingham, to be hanged on a gallows; on which account all his subjects, both English and foreigners, wishing to shake off the intolerable yoke of such a tyrant, began seriously to consider what prince there was in whose bosom they might find a refuge.

War being imminent, William, king of Scotland, made a treaty with king John.

A.D. 1209. The king removed his exchequer from Westminster to London till Christmas time, out of hatred for the city of London; and because it was about the days of the nativity, which writers place on the confines of the old year and the new, that a son was born to king John, whom he called Richard, some assert that he was born in this, and others in the preceding year. But the time that his mother was confined to her room because of her delivery, lasted till the vigil of the Epiphany. In this year, also, Hugh de Welles, archdeacon of Wells, and chancellor of the king, was elected bishop of Lincoln. About this time, king John, having collected a numerous army of English, directed his standards and array towards Scotland. But coming into the province of Northumberland, to the castle which is called Northam, he then marshalled his army in battle array against the king of Scotland. And when the news of this was brought to William, king of Scotland, he greatly feared the violence of John, whom he knew to be prone to every kind of wickedness and barbarity. Accordingly, coming to meet him, like a pious man, he proposed to treat of peace on equitable terms. But the king of England, giving vent to his fury, spoke imperiously to him, and reproached him bitterly for having received his fugitives and the public enemies of England into his kingdom, and for having given them assistance, and showed them favour, to his prejudice. But when the king of England had invented this and many other reproaches upon the before-mentioned king of Scotland, at last, after great exertions on the part of the ministers of the two sovereigns, they made peace, on condition of the king of Scotland paying to the king of England,
for the benefit of peace, eleven thousand marks of silver. And, moreover, for greater security, he gave him his two daughters as hostages, that in this way the peace between them might be rendered firmer.

The same year, Henry, duke of Saxony, and brother of the emperor Otho, came into England. Likewise in this same year, Otho, son of the duke of Saxony, and nephew of the king of England, was consecrated emperor of the Romans, by pope Innocent the Third, on the fourth of October. In this year, too, the king, disregarding the respect due to the schools of the University of Oxford, caused two of the scholars to be hung at Oxford, by which proceeding the whole body of scholars was dispersed and thrown into confusion. About the same time king John was excommunicated by name, on account of the illegal oppression which he had now for two years incessantly exercised against both the army and the church. This year, also, Master Alexander, a man of the greatest personal beauty, and most reverend countenance, deeply imbued with the fulness of learning, so as to be accounted a celebrated master and teacher, and reader in theology at Paris, being nevertheless led away by ambition, dared to uphold and support king John in his error, owing to which conduct he was at last precipitated with disgrace from the highest honour to the lowest depth of confusion. About the same time, Hugh, bishop elect of Lincoln, received consecration and institution to his diocese in the countries beyond the sea, at the hands of the archbishop of Rouen. The king's seal was entrusted to Walter de Grey, and he was appointed chancellor. The Jews, too, were this year compelled to pay a very heavy ransom.

Otho, the new emperor, is excommunicated.

A.D. 1210. King John was at the feast of the Nativity at Windsor; all the nobles of England being present, and communicating with him, notwithstanding the sentence which had been proclaimed against him. After this, by command of the king, the Jews of both sexes were arrested throughout all England, and thrown into prison, and subjected to the most severe punishment, to compel them to gratify the king's desires with their money.

About the same time, pope Innocent excommunicated and denounced the emperor Otho, and absolved many nobles both of Germany and of the Roman empire, from their fealty to him. On which account the pope was by many persons considered a whimsical and changeable person, because he had, at the same time, raised him up and overthrown him. The peace which had been announced between the kings of England and Scotland was confirmed, and formal copies of the treaty interchanged. The king crossed the sea to Ireland, with a very numerous army, about the time of the feast of Saint John the Baptist, from which country he expelled Hugo de Lacy, and received the submission of the whole of Ireland. But on his return, being ungrateful to God and man, he imposed a very heavy tax on all abbeys, and most especially he oppressed the houses of the Cistercian order. And William de Brewer, Robert de Tunham, Reginald de Corshulle, and Richard de Marisco, of the convent of Saint Bridget, in London, were his counsellors, and showed favour to this most wicked proceeding, and received the money which was extorted. Walter de Grey was appointed to the bishopric of Chester, and Henry, archdeacon of Stafford, to that of Exeter. Many of the Jews, because of the terrible oppression, fled from England. The same year, Matilda, a woman of the noblest birth, the wife of William de Brause, and William her son, and the heir of her husband, at the command of John, king of England, were miserably put to death by famine. But William de Brause himself, her husband, fled to Scorham, and having changed his garments there, crossed the sea clandestinely in the disguise of a beggar, and not long afterwards died at Paris.

Pandulph, the sub-deacon of the pope, and Durand, return without hope of peace. All the subjects of the crown of England are absolved from their fealty to king John.

A.D. 1211. William de Brause was expelled from England as a banished man, and having suffered great distress, and being wasted away, as it were, with grief, died at Paris, and was buried in the church of Saint Victor, on the vigil of Saint Laurence. Pandulph, the sub-deacon of the lord the pope, and Durand, the hospitaler, came to England for the purpose of bringing about a peace between the king and the priesthood. But they returned without effecting anything. King John going on an expedition into Wales, compelled Llewellyn, prince

1 Usually called Llewellyn.
of North Wales, to submit to him, violently forcing an entrance into the district called Snowden, a place abundantly fortified by its natural situation, on the Sabbath before the feast of Saint Laurence. The same year, the two gallant knights, Robert de Tunham, and Roger, constable of Chester, died. The king of France too expelled and banished from his kingdom Reginald, count of Boulogne, who, on this, coming into England was honourably received by the king of England, from whom he received a gift of land of the value of three hundred pounds yearly, and to whom he did homage, and swore fealty. Likewise, at this time, pope Innocent, as John, king of England, disdained to listen to his ambassadors, who gave him wholesome advice, and who brought back no replies except derisive laughter; marvelling at his obstinacy, and detesting his stubbornness, absolved universally all kings, and all other persons, both poor and rich, natives of his kingdom, or neighbours who had any connection with the crown of England, from all fealty to king John; and he sequestered the whole realm, and declared it in a state of subjection, strictly, and under penalty of excommunication, forbidding all bodies and all individuals to avoid his society at table, at the council-board, and in conversation. But king John had for his principal partisans and advisers in this error and obstinacy his own brother William, earl of Salisbury, Alberic de Vere, earl of Oxford, Geoffrey, son of Peter, the justiciary of England, three bishops of the court, namely, Philip of Durham, Peter of Winchester, and John of Norwich; Richard of Marisco, the king’s chancellor, Hugo de Neville, the chief forester, William of Wrotham, the guardian of the ports, Robert of Old Bridge and Hun, his brother, Brian of the Isle, Geoffrey de Lacey, Hugo de Balliol, and Bernard his brother; William of Cantelen, and William his son, Fulk de Cantelen, Reginald de Cornhull, Viscount of Kent, Robert de Braybrooke, and Henry his son; Philip de Hulecotes, John de Bassignborne, Philip Mark, chatelain of Nottingham, Peter of Badlake, Robert de Gangu, Girard de Athis, and Engelram his nephew, Fulk and William Brrier, Peter the son of Hubert, Thomas Basset, Fulk de Brenace, a native of Normandy, and a great many others, whom it would take a long time to enumerate. And these men, wishing to please the king in everything, gave him pernicious counsel, not according to reason, but guided by mere impetuosity of will.

A.D. 1212. King John was at Windsor, at the feast of the Nativity of the Lord; and in the ensuing Lent, on the Sunday in which “Rejoice, O Jerusalem,” is sung, the king invested Alexander, the son of king William, the legitimate heir of Scotland, with a knight’s belt. The same year, Manger, bishop of Worcester, who had been banished from England, on account of his stand in behalf of the liberty of the Anglican church and the due execution of justice, died at Pontigny. Likewise, Geoffrey, archbishop of York, and Baldwin, earl of Albemarle, and Bon, the abbot of Saint Edmund’s, paid the debt of nature the same year. This year, the church of Saint Mary of Southwark was burnt between three of the columns of the church, and the chapel which was on London Bridge was burnt, with all the houses which stood on the bridge; and the bridge itself was greatly injured, and a great part of Southwark was burnt down, and, as the flames crossed the Thames, the greatest part of London was burnt down too, both city and suburbs; and men, women, and children, to the number of three thousand, without counting those who were so completely destroyed that no remains of them were found; and this fire took place on the night of the translation of the abbot Saint Benedict, that is to say, on the tenth of July.

The same year, when the king was preparing to go on a military expedition, and to invade the Welch, a report was suddenly spread abroad that the earls and barons at Chester had conspired against him; on which account he returned, as if thunderstruck, and as he was greatly agitated at the circumstance, some of them excused themselves, and denied it. But Robert, the son of Walter, and Eustace de Vesci, and Godfrey Ridel, yielding to the misery of the times, were sent into banishment, with several others, and fled, some to France and some to Scotland. Also, William of Necton, one of the clergy, was banished, and Godfrey of Norwich was thrown into prison at Nottingham, and at length was put to death miserably at Bristol, by a new contrivance and kind of punishment. And the before-mentioned Robert and Eustace, and several other barons and knights, and even some of the bishops and clergy, had their possessions confiscated, their houses taken possession of, their fortifications thrown down, and, after that, the king
ordered them to be put to death. And from that time forth, inviting foreigners into his kingdom, and keeping them about him, he incurred deservedly the implacable hatred of his natural-born subjects.

The same year, king John extorted writings from all the religious houses, and from all the secular clergy, in which they were compelled to bear witness that they had of their own accord given him everything which he had forcibly and wickedly extorted from them. But, in the course of those days, sentence was given against king John, that he should be deprived of his kingdom, and the name was verified which was given to him out of insult, when he was called John Lackland. About the same time, a certain simple and upright man, touched with the spirit of prophecy, declared before all men what he knew concerning this same king John. This man was a hermit, and was named Peter, and because he had forewarned many persons of what would happen, he was called the Wise. Among other things which this man predicted, he openly asserted that, on the day of the Ascension next ensuing, John would not be king; nor after that time, but that on that day the crown of England would be transferred to another. The hearts of many wavered, but, on the day thus predicted, when the king was declared a tributary to the Roman pontiff, the word of the prophet was proved to be true. Accordingly, in these days, pope Innocent sent as his legate a latere Pandulph, his subdeacon, into the countries on this side of the Alps, to bring to England mournful conditions of peace, to which, if the king consented, he might find the favour of the Apostolic See, because forfeiture of his kingdom had been pronounced against him, and danger was threatening him on all sides, as his conduct well deserved. For his own bowels were fighting against him, and being spiritless and rebellious against himself, and sleepless and wasting away, he could not contain himself, wretched as he was, but no proper object of pity to any one. The same year died Henry, son of Alwyn, mayor of London.


A.D. 1213. King John held his court at the feast of the Nativity at Westminster, which was attended by only a very small body of knights; at which season also, Godfrey, archbishop of York, died, after having passed seven years in banishment for his defence of the liberties of the church and the execution of justice. King John, being in great straits, wished to turn the miseries which he had incurred by his own guilt on those who had sought to restrain his madness; and began to accuse first one and then the other of his nobles of treason, calling them jealous, miserable wittols, whose wives, as he used to boast, he had violated, and whose daughters he had disfigured. Among others, he began to insult beyond measure Robert Fitz-Walter with reproaches and threats; and he endeavoured to destroy his castle which he had in London, namely, Castle Baynard, on the Monday which was the day after the feast of Saint Hilary, by stirring up enemies against him in London. The same year, in the month of January, Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, William, bishop of London, and Eustace, bishop of Ely, returned from the court of Rome, and having held a conference in the countries beyond the sea, they formally laid before the king of France, Gallican bishops and clergy, and all the people, the sentence which had been passed at Rome against the king of England for his contumacy. After which, they, on the part of the lord the pope, laid an injunction on the king of France, and on all the rest then present, that, for the remission of their sins, they should all march in a hostile manner against England, depose king John from the throne of the kingdom, and elect in his stead some one else who might be worthy, in obedience to the Apostolic authority. Then, the king of France perceiving that matters had come to the point which had been long desired, girded himself manfully for the war, and commanded all the men in his dominions, dukes, earls, and barons, knights and esquires, to assemble in strength at Rouen in Easter week, on pain of being accounted base, and as they wished to avoid appearing guilty of the crime of lese majeste. He also caused all the ships that belonged to him, and all that he could collect from all quarters, to be furnished to the best of his power with corn, and wine, and meat, and all kinds of arms, in order that his large army might have abundance of all necessary supplies. But when king John received information of all this, he, in the month of March, caused all the most strongly-built ships to assemble from all the harbours of England, that he might be able to make a gallant and effectual resistance to those who were endeavouring to invade England. In
like manner, he collected a most numerous army from England and Ireland, and all the neighbouring places. And while he was on the coast, expecting the arrival of the king of France, Pandulph came to king John himself from the countries across the sea, announcing to him the dangers that were impending over him, and assuring him that unless he was protected under the wings of the lord the pope, and by his power, he would lose everything. And when the king had learnt from this same Pandulph the manner in which he might procure this protection, he swore, touching the Holy Gospels, in the presence of Pandulph, that he would submit himself to the judgment of the church. And sixteen earls and many of the more powerful barons swore with him to the same effect as the king himself, promising that if he repented, he should be compelled by the king to observe his oath. Accordingly, he resigned his crown to pope Innocent, and did homage to him, and of a country of the most perfect freedom he made a slave, in such a way that the prince of many provinces became subject to tribute, drawing up a deed with reference to it, which was a mournful and hateful one to those who heard it.

"We make it known to your university that as we have in many things offended the Lord, and the holy mother church, and as an account of such conduct we are well known to stand in need of divine mercy, and cannot worthily offer anything which will be a proper satisfaction for it, to God and to the church, unless we are willing to humble ourselves and our kingdoms for his sake, who for our sakes humbled himself to death. Therefore we, holy grace itself inspiring us, in accordance with the excellent counsel of our barons, do offer and freely grant to God, and to his holy apostles Peter and Paul, and to the holy Roman church, our mother, and to our lord the pope, Innocent the Third, and his successors, all the right of patronage which we have in the Anglican churches, and the whole kingdom of England, and the kingdom of Ireland, with all their rights and belongings, for the remission of our sins, and those of our whole race, both living and dead. And receiving them back again, as it were, from God and the Roman Catholic church, as their feudatory, and holding them so, with the presence of the wise Pandulph, the sub-deacon and friend of our lord the pope, we, from this time forward doing liege homage to our lord, pope Innocent and his Catholic successors, and to the Roman church, ac-

cording to the form set down below, would do the same in the presence of our lord the pope, if it were possible for us to be in his presence. Obliging our successors, and our heirs by our wife for ever, that they in the same manner show loyalty and fidelity, without any contradiction, to the supreme pontiff who shall for the time be the president of the church, and to do him homage; and, moreover, we and our successors do resign for ever the guardianship of the vacant churches. And in proof of this our perpetual offering and concession, we do will and establish that, from our own proper and especial revenues, which proceed from our kingoms before-mentioned, the Roman church shall, in lieu of all the customs which we are bound to pay for those things, (besides in all cases the penny of Saint Peter,) receive a thousand marks sterling every year; that is to say, five hundred marks at the feast of Saint Michael, and five hundred marks at Easter, of which thousand marks, seven hundred shall be for the kingdom of England, and three hundred for the kingdom of Ireland; and this shall be done without injury to ourselves, our heirs, our laws, liberties, and royal privileges. And we, willing that all these things shall be ratified and perpetual, and lasting as they have been above set down, do bind ourselves and our successors not to contravene them. And if we or any one of our successors shall presume to attempt any such thing, whoever he may be, he shall be declared an outlaw, unless on being admonished he come to his senses. And that this charter of our obligation and concession may remain unalterable, I swear that for the future, from this hour forth, I will be faithful to God, and to the blessed Peter, and the Roman church, and our lord the pope Innocent, and to all his successors who become so in accordance with the Catholic faith. Moreover, I will be a helper in upholding and defending the patrimony of the blessed Peter, and especially of the kingdom of England and kingdom of Ireland, against all men, as far as my power extends. So help me God and these holy gospels, I myself being the witness, in the house of the military order of the temple."

Accordingly, the king of France having been enjoined by many speeches of various kinds from the messengers of the pope, now that John, the king of England, was sheltered under the shield of the Roman court, desisted from his enterprise, having lost about forty thousand pounds of silver, and covered himself with great shame. But on the Thursday next
following after the feast of Saint Michael, Nicolas, bishop of Tusculum, came into England, to Westminster, as a legate, and remained there eighteen days, where he held frequent debates with the brotherhood of the church, concerning the reformation of temporal and spiritual matters. After that, he went to Evesham, on the festival of Saint Edmund, and deposed Roger, the abbot of that church, for manifest reasons, and appointed Radulph, prior of Worcester, to be abbot in his room. Geoffrey, the son of Peter, justiciary of England, died on the fourteenth of October. Henry of London, archdeacon of Stafford, was made bishop of Dublin. Robert of Shrewsbury, bishop of Bangor, died, and was buried in the middle of the market-place of Shrewsbury, in compliance with his own wish to that effect. About the same time a great persecution was set on foot against the Albigensian heretics, under duke Simon de Montfort, in which war the king of Aragon was slain. But king John, who instead of a king had now become a viceroy, ay, and even a tributary or feudatory of the pope, not understanding the prophecy of Peter, of which mention has already been made, most unjustly ordered the said Peter and his son to be hung on a gallows.

King John having become a tributary of Rome, the general interdict is relaxed.

A.D. 1214. John, king of England, held his court at the feast of the Nativity of our Lord, at Windsor, where he distributed festival garments in numbers, to a multitude of nobles. At the same time, the legate before-mentioned deposed Pandulph, the abbot of Westminster, by the agency of Nicholas, abbot of Waltham, who was sent on the part of the legate to Westminster, to put the deposition in execution, which took place on the morrow of the feast of Saint Vincent, by breaking his seal in the chapter house; and William de Humie, prior of Frontigny, a monk of Caen, was elected in his place, and on the Sunday of the Holy Trinity he received the blessing from William, bishop of London. On the day of Saint Urban, being the twenty-fifth of May, peace was established, though not yet settled in all its details, between our lord the pope Innocent and king John, and was sworn to by many earls and barons of the kingdom, on condition that the king should restore to them all the abbeys, and should satisfy the holy church in all things, and that the king and his heirs should every year give to the Roman church a thousand marks sterling, namely, seven hundred for the kingdom of England, and three hundred marks for the kingdom of Ireland. The same year, Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, landed at Dover, and with him came William, bishop of London, Eustace, bishop of Ely, and Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, and on the Thursday, which was the day following the festival of Saint Processus and Saint Martinianus, the general interdict of the Anglican church was taken off, there being present on the part of the lord the pope, the before-mentioned legate, Nicholas, and Pandulph, the pope's sub-deacon, with the archbishop himself, and the other bishops, and the counts and barons before-mentioned, who took the oaths on the part of the king and the kingdom, at Saint Paul's, in London.

The same year, on the vigil of the Purification, king John took a journey into Poitou, and, on the Thursday next after the feast of the apostles Simon and Judas, on his return from thence he went to Westminster, and was honourably received by the clergy and people there present, and by the legate Nicolas and the archbishop Stephen, and by nearly all the bishops of England. About the same time, died John, abbot of Saint Alban's, on the day of Saint Kenelm, king and martyr.

It should likewise be known, that the interdict, of which such ample mention has been made, lasted six years, fourteen weeks, and two days. On the fourth of October, Simon, dean of York, was consecrated at Canterbury, bishop of Exeter, and Walter de Grey, bishop of Worcester. This year too, there died Gilbert de Glenville, bishop of Rochester, on the twenty-fourth of June, and likewise John de Grey, bishop of Norwich. Also, in the same year, before the Purification of the blessed Virgin Mary, the count of Flanders, accompanied by several foreign nobles, landed in England, to take the oaths of allegiance, and to do homage to king John in the city of Canterbury. Afterwards, returning with William, earl of Salisbury, by making a prodigal distribution of the king's treasures, they collected a numerous army of hired mercenaries, having formed a design of suddenly attacking Philip, king of France, on a Sunday, as he was not accustomed to bear arms on that day, and of overthrowing him in this way.
They had also great hope from, and great reliance in the wisdom and assistance of the emperor Othe, who was, as it were, with a drawn sword, watching for a struggle. Accordingly, the war cry being shouted, "The king's men! the king's men!" on one side, and "Montjoie! Montjoie!" on the other, the battle of Bovines, in Flanders, was fought, and great bravery was shown on both sides. In this battle, the king of France was thrown from his horse, and, being attacked by the enemy on all sides, would have been cut to pieces, if a certain Norman knight had not sheltered him with his own body, who at last fell, for him and upon him, pierced with several spears. On this day, three fine horses were stabbed and slain under the same king; nevertheless, by the assistance of God, he that day gained an incautiously important triumph over his enemies. On which account, the pious monarch, writing about his victory to the university of Paris, said, "Praise God, my dearest friends, for we have never before come forth safe from so great a struggle." In this battle, the first person who set the example of flight was Hugh de Bovines, who seemed to be the leader of them all, and after that many nobles, both of the empire and of the kingdom of England, were taken prisoners. But the emperor escaped with a few of his men who were at hand, in such a way that his fame was never afterwards restored.

To the greater confusion of king John, he was repulsed from the castle which is called Monk's Rock (which he had besieged with a numerous army on the side towards Poitou), in consequence of the arrival of Louis, son of the king of France; so that, hearing the news of the taking of his nobles at Bovines, and ascertaining that he had no power to resist on any other side, he felt that both God and man were offended with and hostile to him. Accordingly, he fled disgracefully and ignominiously from the siege before-mentioned; and if he had not given eleven thousand marks of silver for a truce for three years, and then retreated into England with all speed by the management of Robert de Courcy, who was at that time legate in France, he would no doubt have been taken prisoner to his great disgrace. On which account, the French rose up against the said Robert, the legate, with reproaches and insults, as if he, being an Englishman, had been glad to deliver an Englishman. Accordingly, the king returned into England, in disorder and disgrace, on the nineteenth of October. The same year, William of Trumpton, a monk who was taken out of the bosom of the same church, and was a man eminent for every kind of virtue, succeeded John, as abbot of the church of St. Alban's; and on Saint Andrew's day, received the pontifical benediction from Eustace, bishop of Ely, in the church of Saint Alban's.

King John coming again to himself, on account of his perplexity, assumes the sign of the cross, and many of his nobles with him.

A.D. 1215. King John, at the feast of the Nativity of the Lord, held his court at Worcester, but kept the feast for scarcely one day. After that, he came in haste to London, when the nobles of England earnestly requested him to confirm the promises which he had made to them humbly and in good faith. But the king, seeking for grounds of objection, and asserting that it was a hard thing that they asked, and one that required great deliberation, cunningly asked for a truce till the close of Easter, and obtained it. In the mean time, that he might be the more surely protected under the wings of his lord the pope, and be more completely armed against his subjects, he took upon himself the sign of the cross, and many of the nobles with him did the same, on the fourth of March. The same year, Eustace, bishop of Ely, went the way of all flesh at Reading.

This year a great discussion on the question of the peace of the kingdom took place between the king and the barons, between Staines and Windsor, in a meadow which is called Runnymede; which means the meadow of counsel, because from old time councils about the peace of the kingdom were frequently held there; the lord Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, being the mediator between them, and some other bishops. And the first day of this discussion was the day of March before the feast of Saint John the Baptist. And it was protracted and spun out till the Wednesday after the feast of Saint Bartholomew, the king, however, being absent. And when the barons demanded the fulfillment of the promises that had been made to them, the king, with a laugh of derision, replied, "Why do not these men demand the kingdom?"

The same year, on St. Martin's day, a general council was held at Rome, under pope Innocent the Third, consisting of sixty-one private archbishops, four hundred and twelve bishops, and eight hundred abbots and priors, in which council the
leader and general was Faleas de Breauté, a man of ignoble birth and a bastard, and carried away by his fury, began to lay waste the northern parts of England, to destroy the castles of the barons, or compel them to submit to his own order, to burn without mercy all the palaces and towns which belonged to the barons, to oppress the inhabitants of the country by carefully devised tortures, in order to extort money from them, so that the lord of the country seemed in his madness to be angry with his people, and to hate his own inheritance. Everywhere there was grief and misery. The priest became as the people, and the sceptre of the church was profaned. The bishops were proscribed, and the flock was scattered as the shepherds fled. At the same time, Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury, because he had always been a reprover, and, as far as he was able, a corrector of king John, who, however, always resisted him, was suspended from his offices, on the ground of his being a favourer of the enemies of king John, the vassal of his lord the pope, who was acting foolishly in every thing. And the lord the pope confirmed this suspension in a general council. At last, the archbishop, with great difficulty, though many persons exerted themselves in his behalf, prevailed so far as to obtain the grace of abdication. In these days the castle of Bedford was taken and given to Faleos, on whom the king also bestowed a wife of noble birth, namely, Margaret de Riparie, with all the estates that belonged to her. Moreover, this same Faleos took the town belonging to William Manduyt de Hammechnape. Also the town of Tynbridge was taken. The same year, on the day of the conversion of Saint Paul, William de Cornewalle was consecrated bishop of Chester, and on the twenty-second of February, Master Benedict, the precentor of Saint Paul’s in London, was consecrated bishop of Rochester, and Master Richard, dean of Sherborne, bishop of Chichester. In the meantime, Master Simon de Langton was elected archbishop of York, a man who had but little of the favour of the people; I wish that he may have had the grace of God. But by the influence of the king, his election was soon annulled; for the king, now that he had become a tributary of the pope, could obtain very important favours from him. And the king was afraid that if Stephen, being archbishop of Canterbury, bore rule in the southern provinces, and his brother Simon, being made archbishop of York, governed the northern districts, as they would then be
the two chief prelates in England, everything would be regulated by their will, and one would be supported by the assistance of the other.

About the same time, a certain portion of the barons who had remained in London, issued forth with a body of cavalry, and laid waste the province of Cambridge, and, without any difficulty, reduced the fortress under their power, and took prisoners twenty-five esquires, whom they found in it, and whom they bound with chains, and carried off with them to London. From thence they traversed the adjacent counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, plundered the farmers and the citizens of the cities, scarcely sparing the churches, and making themselves masters of everything. They also compelled the towns of Yarmouth, Wich, and Ipswich, and the neighbouring districts, to pay a very heavy ransom. And then returning through Colchester, they raged against the inhabitants of that district with similar fury. The same force also besieged and took the castles of Hertford and Berkhamsted, and forcibly seized many others which lay in their way. About the same time, in consequence of the exertions of his friends, and even of some foreigners who feared that they might be imprisoned in a similar manner, that noble man, William de Albiney, was released from prison, having first been compelled to pay a fine for his redemption of six thousand marks, which were to be paid within a short time. In the carrying out of which business, his wife, Agatha, labouring beyond what could have been expected of the female sex, raised the money demanded, though with great difficulty; and so, in a most praiseworthy manner, effected the release of her husband.

*A.D. 1216.* Which is the eighteenth year of king John's reign, the same king John was, on the day of the Nativity of our Lord, at Nottingham Castle. But, on the morrow, he sent messengers to Belvoir Castle, requiring that it should be immediately surrendered to him; and threatening that, if any delay took place, William de Albiney, to whom the castle belonged, and who was detained in the king's prison, should never dine again, but should be put to death by famine. And when this was known, immediately the governors of the castle, going to meet him, gave up the keys of the castle to him, sub-
the French king, whom they had elected their sovereign. And they had sent him hostages, and written letters, and other kinds of bonds and engagements of fealty and allegiance, conveyed by formal embassies, and he now, having made all the necessary preparations, was hastening his arrival. But king John, hearing of the arrival of Louis in England, flew to Canterbury. In the meantime, Guado, the legate, landed, who had been sent by the lord pope Innocent the Third for the protection of king John, who, having visited Philip, king of France, on his journey towards England, had, on the part of the lord the pope, dissuaded him, by all the means he could think of, not to send his son Louis to the succour of men who were excommunicated, lest the Roman church should be deprived of its patrimony. And when king Philip had understood that this was said of the kingdom of England, he presently answered in this manner: “The kingdom of England never was the patrimony of Peter, or of the Roman church, nor is it now, nor will it ever be so; for king John, a long time ago, wishing unjustly to deprive his brother, king Richard, of the kingdom of England, and being on that account accused of treason, and convicted before him, was condemned by a formal trial in the court of the king himself, and the sentence was pronounced by Hugo de Pusatz, bishop of Durham; and so he has never been the true king of England. Again, even if he ever was a king, and the true king of England, still he subsequently forfeited the kingdom by the murder of Arthur, for which action he was condemned in our court. Again, no king or prince can give away his kingdom without the consent of his barons, who are bound to defend that kingdom. And if the pope, being led away by a lust of new dominion, has ultimately determined to uphold this error, he will give a very mischievous example to all kingdoms.” And at these words, all the nobles of France who were standing by, began to cry out, as it were, with one voice, that they would stand to the death in defence of that article, namely, that no king or prince could, by the impulse of his own private will, give away his kingdom, or make it tributary, by which conduct the nobles of his kingdom would be rendered slaves. These events took place at Lyons, on the fifteenth day after Easter. But the next day Louis came to the conference, and, in the presence of his father, and Guado, the legate, and all the rest who were standing by, said: “My lord the king, if I am your liegeman for the tenement which you have given me, I am so far bound to you; but with respect to the kingdom of England, what right have you to determine anything at all? I submit myself to the judgment of my peers, as to whether you have any power to compel me not to follow up my rights, especially such as do in nowise concern you, or whether you are not, on the contrary, bound to do me justice, because I am prepared, if need be, to fight even to the death for the inheritance of my wife, the niece of king John.” And when the legate heard this, he requested the king to grant him a safe conduct through his territories, which the king kindly did grant. Accordingly, king Philip still dissembling, Louis hastened his march to the sea-coast, in order to cross over to England, and arrive there before the legate. And when he was on the point of embarking on board ship, he found in the harbour of Calais a most gallant and numerous fleet, amounting to six hundred and eighty transports, well equipped, which Eustace the monk, who has been mentioned above, had collected there against his arrival. Then Louis and all his followers embarked on board the ships, and came with a fair wind to the isle of Thanet, and anchored in the place which is called Stanfort, on the twenty-first of May. King John was at that time with his army at Dover, but as he was surrounded by a band of foreign mercenaries, who loved Louis more than John, king of England, he did not dare to encounter Louis in a hostile manner, lest his troops might per chance desert king John himself in his necessity, and transfer themselves to Louis. From which considerations he preferred retreating at the time to engaging in a doubtful battle. Therefore, he retreated, and withdrew to Canterbury, and left and entrusted the castle of Dover to the custody and good faith of Hubert de Burgh. And soon afterwards, Guado, the legate, landed in England, for the protection of king John and the kingdom against Louis and his partisans. But king John fled as far as Winchester, and Louis, when he found that no one offered to resist him, disembarked from his ships, and landing at Sandwich, subdued immediately the whole of that district, with the exception of the town of Dover, and hastening towards London, he made himself master of the castle of Rochester, and on the second of June he arrived in London, where first of all he offered up prayers at Saint Paul’s, and was afterwards publicly received by the clergy and laity with
great joy, and received the fealty and homage of all the barons. And shortly afterwards, namely, on the fourteenth of June, the city of Winchester was surrendered to him; and on the day after the feast of Saint John, he took the castle of the city, and the bishop's castle also; and on the ninth of July, he received the submission of the castles of Odiham, Farnham, Guildford, and Reigate. The castle of Windsor was besieged by the earls and barons of both France and England, but they were forced to retreat from before it without succeeding in their object. But the castle of Cambridge was taken by the barons, with twenty esquires which were found in it.

The same year, Gualdo, the legate, exacted visitation feesthroughout all England, from all the cathedral churches and houses of religious brotherhoods, fixing each visitation fee at fifty shillings. He also seized all the benefices of the clergy, and men of religious orders who adhered to Louis and the barons, and converted them to the use of his own clergy. In the meantime, king John, inflamed with the madness of passion, oppressed and grievously afflicted the provinces of Suffolk and Norfolk. Then, continuing his march towards the north, he irrecoverably lost his carriage, and much of his baggage, at Wellestrem, where they were swallowed up by a quicksand. And when he heard the news he grieved inexpressibly, and redoubling deep sighs, he passed the night at Swineshead abbey, belonging to the Carthusian order, where, according to his custom, he gorged himself with peaches soaked in new wine and cider, and being greatly absorbed in grief for his recent loss, he became attacked with a severe illness. But the next day, concealing his illness lest the enemy should triumph over him, he, though with difficulty, mounted his horse; and soon after, having had a litter drawn by horses made for him, he dismounted from his palfrey and entered it, and in this way he came to the castle of Lendford, where he spent the night, and found his disease increase greatly. But the next day he was carried forwards, and arrived at the castle of Newark, where he took to his bed, and his sickness assumed a fatal appearance; and summoning the abbot of Croydon, who was skilful in the art of medicine, to his side, he confessed himself to him, and received the eucharist from him. And he appointed Henry, his eldest son, the heir of his kingdom, bequeathing his body to the church of Worcester, under the protection of Saint Wolstan. After this, with the greatest bitterness of spirit, he cursed all his barons, instead of bidding them farewell; and in this manner, poor, and deprived of all his treasures, and never retaining the smallest portion of land in peace, so that he was truly called Lackland, he most miserably departed from this life on the night following the next after the day of Saint Luke the Evangelist. And because this John made himself detestable to many persons, not only on account of the death of his nephew, Arthur, but also on account of his incontinence, by which he violated the treaty of the marriage bed, and of his tyrannical conduct, and of the tribute with which he bound the kingdom of England under perpetual slavery, and of the war which his misdeeds provoked, he scarcely deserved to be mourned by the lamentations of any one.

The following are the territories which John lost, by his cruelties and oppressions, and various fornications and injuries, which he did not desist from doing to every one. First of all, the duchy of Normandy, the county of Blois, the county of Maine, Anjou, Poitou, the Limoisin, Auvergne, and Angoulême. And all these districts at one time belonged to king John. Besides this, he subjected England and Ireland to the payment of tribute, and never recovered any of his losses to the day of his death.

This John had the sons and daughters whose names are mentioned below.

Henry, Richard, earl of Cornwall; Edmund, Isabella, Eleanor, and Joanna.

CH. VIII.—From A.D. 1216 to A.D. 1225.

Henry the Third succeeds to the throne—The English defeat the French who support the claim of Louis—Peace is made—Louis leaves the kingdom—Pope Innocent dies—The siege of Damietta—Persecution of the Albigenses—The princess Johanna marries Alexander, king of Scotland—Quarrels break out again between the king and the barons—Death of Baldwin, emperor of Constantinople.

The coronation of king Henry the Third.

But when John, king of England, was dead, the legate Gualdo and many of the nobles of England met at Gloucester. And as Westminster, which, according to the custom of the king,
dom, is the place set apart for the consecration of the king, was at that time besieged by his enemies, under the compulsion of necessity, Henry, the eldest son of John, was anointed king, and solemnly crowned at Gloucester, before the larger altar, in the church of the Convent. And because Louis had already displayed great arrogance to, and made himself detested by, all the English, and despising the English and the treaty that he had made with them, had bestowed their fortresses and estates upon others, all the nobles of the land in a short time returned and adhered to the young king Henry, who had merited no reproaches from them. Accordingly, the castles of Hereford and Berkhamstead, and many others, submitted to his authority, and the barons, behaving like gallant men, deserved absolution from the legate, and affection from the new king.

About the same time, while pope Innocent was celebrating a solemn procession at Rome, and when that image of our Lord’s countenance which is called the Veronica had been borne along reverently to be gazed upon by the people, the pope himself replaced it in its accustomed place; but on the morrow it was found turned round, standing in an improper manner, in such a way that the face was bent downwards, and the beard turned down to the ground. And when the lord pope heard this, he greatly feared that this was an evil omen, and, accordingly, he composed a collect, and appointed it to be said in honour of the Veronica; and he granted to all who should repeat it a pardon for ten days. In those days the truce expired which had been entered into in the Holy Land between the Christians and the infidels.

A battle having been first fought at Lincoln, and the French having been subsequently defeated by sea, the English triumphed gloriously. Pope Innocent the Third dies.

A.D. 1217. King Henry, the son of king John, celebrated the solemn festival of the Nativity of our Lord, at Christmas, at Bristol. But the remnant of the barons who remained in London gradually returned to him. And an iniquitous design of the French was revealed by one of them who was at the point of death, namely, the viscount Melun; for, when he found that death was close at hand, and that there was no remedy, then, fearing for the safety of his soul, he confessed that it was the intention of Louis and his Frenchmen, which had been confirmed by an oath which they had all taken, and pledges of faith that they had mutually interchanged, as soon as they had subdued England, to expel all the English and condemn them to irrevocable exile. Besides this, the sentence of excommunication, which the English dread above all other nations, was day by day bringing back the barons to their natural lord, and causing them to forsake Louis. Louis, abandoning the siege of Dover Castle, crossed the sea in order to reinforce his array from France by the assistance of his father, and soon after, returning again, he besieged the same castle a second time: and a very great multitude of foreigners prepared to hasten to the assistance of Louis. About the same time, Falcas, having plundered the town of Saint Alban’s, violently dragged even from the church some nobles who had occupied it as a safe place of refuge, and polluted the church itself with bloodshed. But presently the martyr himself, the blessed Alban, looked upon Falcas himself with a stern eye so fiercely, and reproved him so bitterly, that he was almost bereft of his senses; and, moreover, the very same night the legate beheld the same thing in a vision, and related it to Falcas. On which account the same Falcas returned in the greatest humility and alarm to the church of the blessed martyr, barefooted, and stripped of his upper garment, and entered the chapterhouse, with tears entreat- ing pardon for his transgression of the abbot and each of the brethren; and he related to them plainly how he had been severely reproved by the martyr Alban himself, and how he had also been knocked down by a certain vast stone which fell from the tower of the church like lightning, so that he fell to the ground almost lifeless, and, as it appeared to him, was thrust down to the gates of hell. And so he submitted to corporal chastisement at the hands of each individual among them, and thus he properly obtained from the abbot and the brethren the indulgence which he had entreated.

The same year, the remainder of the barons who still adhered to Louis came in haste with a great number of Frenchmen to Lincoln on the twentieth of May, being the Saturday, the vigil of the Sabbath of the Holy Trinity, for the purpose of occupying the city and the castle, but they were taken prisoners by the citizens who were faithful to the king, and the earl of Pérche was slain. And when Louis heard this, he departed from the siege of Dover Castle, and came to London.

1 Called Fawkes by Hume.
and waited there for the expected succour and arrival of the French. But as the Lord was propitious to, and fought for, the innocent king Henry, in a naval battle on the sea, not far from Dover, the French, though an immense multitude, were defeated, routed, wounded, taken prisoners, drowned, and some of them slain by the sword, and Eustace the Pirate, surnamed the Monk, was also slain. And when Louis heard this, he was grieved at the double disaster, and could not be comforted; and because his steps were weakened, he humbly entreated conditions of peace. Accordingly, when Gualo, the legate, and the bishops, and clergy, and laity were met together, with William de Marischal, who was at that time the protector of the king and kingdom, they held an earnest conference on the subject of peace, on an island pretty near the town of Kingston, and peace was made and confirmed between the king and Louis, on the vigil of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Louis having been first of all solemnly absolved from the sentence of excommunication, which, as has been fully related above, had been pronounced against him.

The same year, pope Innocent paid the debt of human nature, after he had filled the papal chair eighteen years, five months, and fourteen days, dying on the sixteenth day of July. He was succeeded by Honorius the Third, who was previously called Cintius, and who ruled the church ten years, seven months, and nineteen days, as this History, as it proceeds, will show. By him also the design of the business of the cross was approved, confirmed, and diligently prosecuted, in accordance with the resolutions which had been taken in the council of pope Innocent. But when the conditions of peace were sent to Louis to be read over to him, and examined by him, he was pleased, as he had feared much harder terms. Accordingly, all the nobles of both sides being summoned together, first of all Louis and all his partisans swore, laying their hands on the Holy Gospels, that they would stand by the judgment of the church, and that he, Louis, would depart with all his friends from the realm of England, and would never return, and would never utter any false accusations against the barons of England, whom he had deceived by falsehood and lies; Louis also swore that he would persuade his father, according to the best of his power and ability, with-

1 This was the earl of Pembroke, who, at the time of John's death, was marshal of England.