their good more than their inclinations which brought on him the greatest misfortunes of his life, for as to Becket's affair, he was opposed & insulted by a proud, ambitious, Rebellious subject, whom he ought to have punish'd if the times had permitted without the help of an Assassin & that black action cannot properly be laid to his account, as it seems only to have been the unfortunate consequence of some hasty words let fall in anger.

Henry had five sons by Eleanor, William, Henry, Richard, Geoffroy, & John, of whom only Richard & John survived him, & three daughters. He had two sons by Rosamond, William & Geoffroy, to the first of whom his Brother Richard gave the Earldom of Salisbury with the Daughter of William Longespee.

Richard II.

Richard Coeur de Lion succeeded to
1189. His Father's throne without any opposition;
we shall have little work relating to his
Reign, for Richard seized with the same
epidemick illness that prevail'd over all
Europe of taking the Cross, prepar'd for the
expedition to the Holy Land, from the
Minute His Coronation was over; His exploits
in that Country & his being taken Prisoner
near Vienna on his return by Leopold
Duke of Austria, are events so foreign
to the English History, that we shall avoid
dwelling on them.

Upon His leaving England He had committed
the principal Government of the Kingdom
to His favourite William Bishop of Ely & had
procur'd him the Legatine power

This Man was of a proud, imperious, oppressive temper, harass'd the people, provoked the Nobility, & even offer'd indignitys to Prince John the King's Brother behaving in the most Tyrannical manner, till at last the Nobility & Citizens headed by John, force'd him at last to resign his office.

Richard having obtain'd his freedom on paying a heavy ransome of 100,000. Marks, return'd to England where he was crown'd a second time, to remove as some Authors tell us the disgrace of his Captivity; but the King seem'd to have other Views, for under Colour of this new Coronation, he resum'd all Grants made after his first.

The next thing he did was to pass over to France where the War was carry'd on with great vigour, & Philip totaley defeated

at Vendome, which brought on a Truce, in this interval Richard still sighing for another Crusade restor'd the Custom of Tournaments by way of exercising his Knights for the Wars, Hostilitys begun again with France, which ended in a Peace, but of no long duration, for Philip had taken advantage of the King's Captivity to seize many places in Normandy which he was afterwards very unwilling to restore.

1199. A Plan of Peace was however at last settl'd between the two King's, by which Richard was to give his Niece Blanche of Castille to Philip's Son Lewis with the Country of Gisors & 20,000. Marks, Philip on his side was to resign to Richard all the places taken from him, but this was prevented by Richard's death which happen'd soon after by a Shot of an Arrow from a little

Town in Limoges belonging to one of his Vassals that he had besieg'd, the wound turning to a Mortification, the King made his Will, leaving England & most of treasure to his Brother John, the Town being taken before his death, he pardon'd Gourdon who had shot the fatal Arrow; but his Officers unknown to him flead him alive.

Thus fell Richard in his 42d. Year leaving no issue, one natural Son excepted nam'd Philip to whom he had given an Estate in Gienne; this King had good parts & clear judgement, but an impetuosity of Temper that frequently gave not sufficient time for reflection.

He had a great deal of natural eloquence, chearful enough in private conversation, but having a grave & serious turn wore in public an air

of reserve & moroseness, passionate, haughty & obstinate He never could bend to circumstances, impatient with the slightest injury, He followed it with the keenest passions of revenge, but the offender penitent, He quickly forgave, not but this passion frequently carry'd Him to Acts of cruelty; in short He was of an open generous disposition, true to His word & in all respects a man of honour. His whole life was a scene of adversity He bore up against it with undaunted firmness; we have few examples in History of greater personal Courage & Heroism with great military Skill; the love of glory seems to have been His strongest passion & the reigning principle of His whole life; His most remarkable defect was His inordinate passion for the Fair Sex, tho' a severe illness four Years

before His death made a total alteration in this particular.

John.

We observed in the end of the last Reign that Richard was said to have made a Will in favour of His Brother John Hooden is the only cotemporary Historian that mentions it, John never pretended to produce it, tho' of the greatest consequence to Him but it is worth observing that Richard had declard Arthur Duke of Bretany Son of Geoffroy His eldest Brother Heir to all His Dominions at Messina, & that upon this declaration a treaty of Marriage had been set on foot by Richard between the Young Prince & the Daughter of Tancred King of Sicilly, & the whole Nobility that attended the King to the Crusade had bound themselves by an Oath to keep the succession in that line; however setting aside this

dispute; John on His Brother's death sent over Hubert Archbishop of Canterbury from Normandy with full powers to act in conjunction with His friends for securing Him the Crown, this was no difficult task, for His competitor was but twelve years old, almost unknown in England, had His title been supported by a friend of virtue & dignity, such as Hound had in Robert Earl of Glocester, John's accession would not have been so easy a matter, & as it was abroad Anjou, Touraine & Main declar'd for Arthur, whom His Mother Constance deliver'd to the French King Philip, who immediately garrison'd the Towns of all these Countrys, overrun most of Normandy, & by His conquests procur'd the title of August which had Richard liv'd had never been His lot, & which He by no means deserv'd, for soon after this He made a treaty with John at Arthur's expence

by which He was forc'd to do homage to John for Britany who perform'd the same ceremony to Philip for Normandy besides 20,000. Marks Sterling that He engag'd to pay, giving up His Nephew Otho & all His French Allys; besides this John gave His Niece Blanche of Castille to the French King's Son Lewis, & a clause was inserted in the Marriage Contract that incase John died without lawful issue, all His Foreign Dominions were to go to Lewis; these Matters settl'd John came over into England to raise the money He had promis'd ~~Philip~~ Philip & now secure in the possession of the Throne He follow'd nobodys opinion & the rest of His Reign becomes one scene of folly & imprudence, He had been marry'd ten Years to Isabel Daughter of Robert Earl of Glocester, but got Himself divorc'd from Her by the Archbishop of Bourdaux, who marry'd Him directly to Isabel daughter of Count

Angoulesme who had been contracted to Count le Marche & with whom She actually liv'd, when John falling in love with Her prevail'd on the Father to steal Her away.

1202. The next impious action was the murther of his Nephew Arthur whom He had taken Prisoner in a Battle in Poitou nay some Writers affirm He did this inhuman Act with his own hand the consequence of which was the revolt of all His Foreign Subjects, which enabl'd Philip to conquer most part of His Foreign dominions & united to the Crown of France, Anjou, Maine, Touraine & Normandy, these losses furnish'd John with a pretext to load His people with Taxes, otherwise spending his whole time in feasting & Jollity & insensible to the Calamitys that came thick upon Him, despis'd by every one, the Pope join'd in the

common contempt & nam'd an Italian one
Langton to fill the See of Canterbury; this
the King highly resented, which brought on a
Papal interdict upon the Kingdom, & four Years
1212. after this haughty Priest presum'd to excommunicate
Him, & absolve His Subjects from their oath
of Allegiance, & this was followed by his declaring
the Crown vacant & an invitation to all
the Princes &c. of Europe to March under
the Banner of Philip to destroy the Enemy
of the Church, for which Service the
same indulgences were granted as for the
whole War; Such an example as this
makes it doubtful whether our indignation
is more rais'd
at the insolence & cruelty of this meek
& humble Successor of St. Peter, or at the
abject conduct of the European Princes
who thus stoop'd to be trodden upon by a
Man sprung from the Scum of the people

but to return to John frightened at the french preparations & knowing himself abhorrd & despis'd by his subjects he meanly accepted the infamous offers made him by the Pope whereby besides many of the most mortifying Articles, he solemnly resign'd his crown to the Pope, holding the Crown for himself & his Successors as Vassals, in consequence of which an annual tribute was to be paid; this done the wretched King had his crown restor'd to him, & Philip in his turn was threatend with the thunder of Rome if he presum'd to attack the Popes Vassal; soon after this John thinking himself now sure of his subjects obedience after he had recei'd the Pope's forgiveness, propos'd invading France, & set out accordingly for Jersey, when all his Barons & Knights declard that their forty days being expir'd the usual time of service, they would not attend him longer at their own expence which

forc'd them to return, this soon followed by the insurrection of the Barons, who coming to London
1215. boldly demanded of John the Confirmation of the Charter of Henry I. which he absolutely refus'd, but finding himself deserted on all hands, he was oblig'd on June the 15th. to sign the two famous Charters we have elsewhere taken notice of Magna Charta & the Charta de Foresta besides which he was oblig'd to consent that the Barons should chuse 25. of their Number to see the Charters were observ'd, & incase they were broke, they were with the Nation to compel obedience, & Royal Writs were issu'd obliging the Sheriffs to swear to the execution of them, the Barons were likewise to keep possession of London till every thing was settl'd according to the orders of the twenty five.

This was no sooner over than the King began to repent extremely & immediately began to fortify his Castles, & got the Pope to annull the

agreement, & as to the Barons they as is usual in such cases begun to cool, for where numbers of People unite in one common cause till they have carry'd their point, but when once Success has attended it many private differences that the Common view kept dormant begin to show themselves & a relaxation in their endeavours constantly insue; accordingly John getting together a great army of Foreigners join'd with several who renounc'd the association form'd two great Armys, & drove the Barons to the infamous step of calling over Lewis Philip's Son to the Succession; Lewis accepted the invitation & coming over with an Army was join'd by the Barons, this prov'd fatal to the King, for most of His French foreigners deserted Him, which forc'd Him upon the defensive War whilst His Enemy got possession of many Castles, & march'd to London, & had He acted with prudence would in all probability have conquer'd the Kingdom

but fortunately for England He showed His sentiments too soon dismissing the English from His Counsels, confiding only in the French, committing in their hands all the Castles He took determining as the Viscount de Melleune declared on His death bed to exterminate all the families that had invited Him over as Traitors to their King & Country; in this situation of things

1216. John died at Newark.

His Person is represented of a light & trifling disposition, indolent, effeminate, & much given to Vice; of an Arrogant, imperious temper, & insupportably haughty to all around Him; He had very mean parts with a great deal of little cunning, consequently very false; Tyrannical to a great degree, & His Character was so bad, that the Nobility durst not trust Him even when they saw the fatal consequences of inviting over the French; He was greedy & rapacious to a great

degree, so that all were impoveris'd in this bad Reign, & none so much as the Clergy, it is therefore no wonder that this Prince should die unpitied, & that his memory should be in detestation.