A Short History of England from ye Earliest times to ye accession of ye present Royal Family, with remarks on ye Govern. Laws & Constitution, with ye various alterations they have gone thro', during this long Period.

Chap. 1. The History of Britain before the time of Julius Cæsar.

ye first settlement of this Country is extremely uncertain, both as to time & manner. We know in gen. yt. ye Celtæ overrun Gaul, & from ye sea coast of yt. Country, extended themselves into Britain, & ye very name of Britain, seems to denote, ye particular Nation yt. first venturd over, for ye Britanni, were a Celtick Nation situated on ye banks of ye Lone, & yt. Abeville formerly a good port was their Capital; as some think

ye Belgæ about 150 years before Christ drove by ye Cimbri out of Germany overrun ye Maritime provinces of Gaul, & from thence transported forces to Britain, reducing ye southern parts of ye Country from Kent to ye Land's end under their obedience, & likewise extended themselves into ye Maritime Counties of Munster & Leinster in Ireland.

About 50 years after this, another Army of ye Belgæ under Divitiacus invaded England, & conquer'd ye Counties of Berks, Hants, Wilts, Oxford, & parts of Somerset & Devon.

ye form of Govern. of each particular people in Gaul, was yt. of a Senate of ye principal Nobility, in which presided an annual Magistrate, who had power of life & Death. & for maintaining a Union among these different Nations, a gen. Council like yt. of ye Amphictyons was held annually at Dreux ye Chief Seat of ye Druids; hither came Deputies from every State, who made regulations for ye common safety of Gaul: in time of danger or approaching war, they held extraordinary Councils of this Nature where

they chose a Gen. in Chief, sometimes a K. whose power continued only for ye. Occasion. Each particular Nation in certain exigences chose sometimes one, & sometimes tho' seldom two Leaders, not unlike ye. Roman Dictator, but with less power, & yt. ending with their lives. Such a Leader or K. was Divitiacus, whose ambition alone prevented his Belga from uniting cordialy with ye. Britons, to whom they bore a great resemblance, in temper, customs, & language, & above all in their Religion, both Nations being under ye. direction of ye. Druids who besides a great influence in civil affairs, were absolute in Religious matters.

Many affirm these Druids were men of great Learning; Pezeron makes them descended from ye. Curetes, ye. Ministers of Heaven among ye. Greeks they are said like them to be skill'd in all ye. Arts particularly Astronomy; & yt. they pretended to familiar intercourses with ye. Gods; long treatises have been writ describing ye. Customs, manners, Religious Rights &c. of these British Priests, but as they are founded upon no proofs, & almost entirely conjecture 'tis sufficient here, to have just mention'd them.

~~of ye. Invasion of Cesar~~

Chap. II. From ye. Invasion of Cesar till ye. Romans quitted Britain

We have seen how ye. Celta overrun this Country from ye. Coast of Gaul, how they were [redacted] dispossess'd of many prov-s by ye. Belga, & how another migration of this last People under Divitiacus forc'd ye. old settlers their countrymen to abandon part of their conquest to them.

Of these Gauls at ye. time of Cesar's invasion, there were upwards of 400. Clans; but many of these uniting under one Chief for their common safety, made about 64 distinct Nations, call'd by ye. Romans Civitates. These great divisions produced eternal factions & Cabals, to which was owing Cesar's great success.

As to ye old Britons they had also many small Sovereignty's by no means united together in a common cause, for tho' those whom Cæsar attack'd defended themselves, ye remoter parts remain'd quiet till ye Conqueror approach'd; besides ye Southern parts of ye Island next to ye Continent was in ye hands of another People, whom tho' at first they receiv'd as friends, at last became their bitterest Enemies.

There was a great difference in ye ways of life of these two people, ye antient Britons liv'd like ye Nomades upon milk & roots, their sole employment was keeping ye Cattle without Towns or Cities, on ye contrary ye Gauls liv'd in a more civiliz'd manner they were both Husbandmen & Merchants, & associated together in Towns & Villages; both Nations had warlike dispositions, great intrepidity in ye midst of dangers.

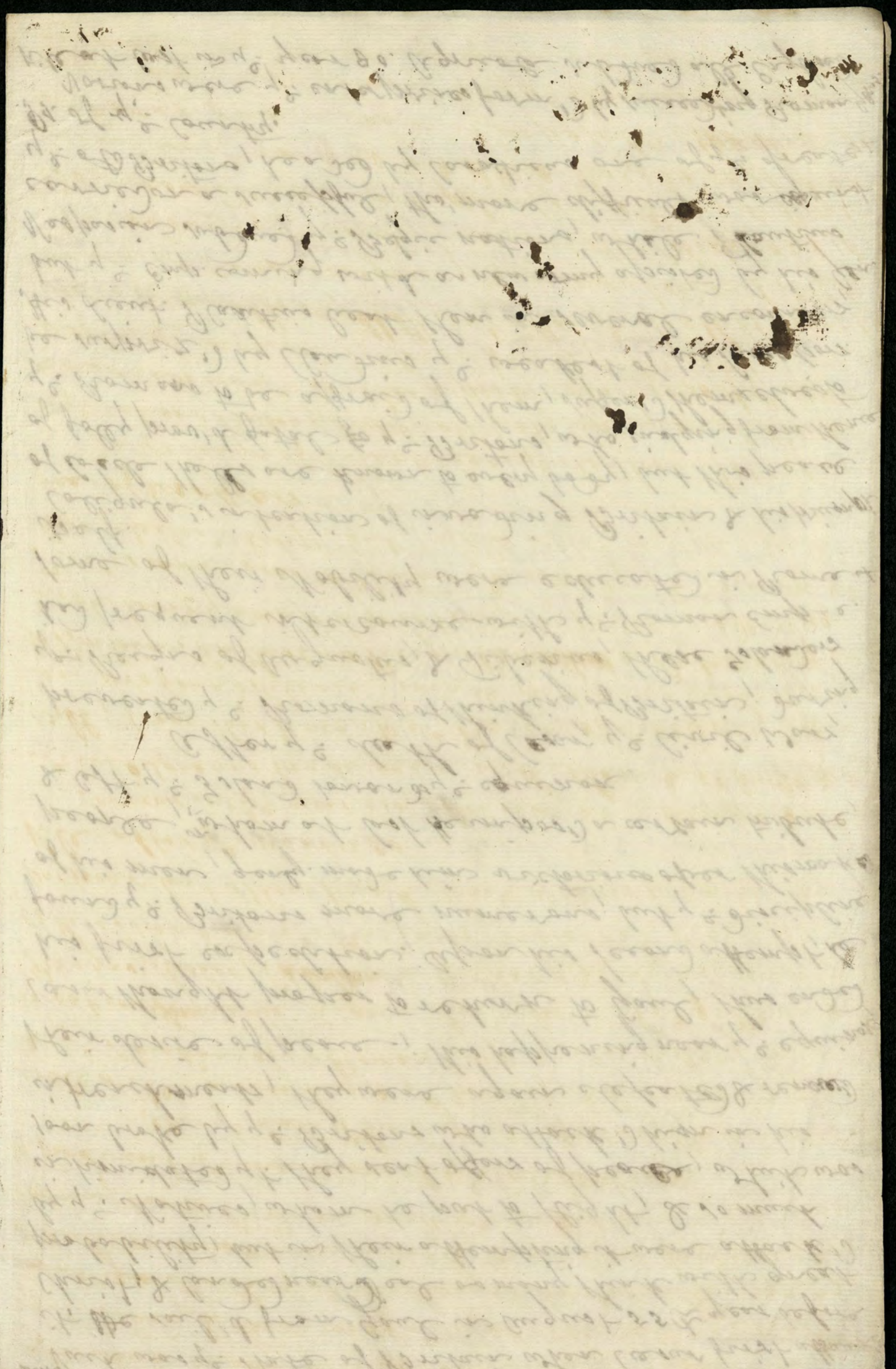
ye strip'd Plaid belted about their loins & trowsers of various colours, was ye common dress of all, tho' ye poorer sort frequently went naked; ye greatest magnificence shewn by ye Britons, was in their chariots for war, of which they had great numbers arming ye wheels with sharp scythes; they had among them the Broad sword, dagger, & javelin, with little round shields cover'd with leather & brass nails; ye common People could not afford ye use of iron, so made use of darts of Wood, burnt & made sharp at ye ends, with long staves edg'd with Flint, ~~[illegible]~~; but ye Gauls had coats of Mail, javelins battle-axes &c. Both Nations charg'd in battle with an impetuosity hardly to be resisted; but if baffl'd in their first onset, they were soon put into confusion, & totally ignorant of discipline, & unprovided with warlike stores, they had no other defence, but what their love of Liberty exp[illegible] them with.

with. Such was ye. State of Britain when Cæsar first attack'd it. He sail'd from Gaul in August 55th year before Christ, & landed near Deal as many think with great probability; but in their attempting it were attack'd by ye. Natives, whom he put to flight, & so much intimidated yt. they sent offers of peace, which was soon broke by ye. Britons who attack'd him in his intrenchments; they were again defeated & renew'd their desire of peace; this happening near ye. equinox Cæsar thought proper to return to Gaul, thus ended his first expedition. Upon his second attempt, he found ye. Britons more numerous, but ye. discipline of his men, gently made him victorious over this naked people, on whom at last he impos'd a certain tribute, & left ye. Island towards ye. equinox.

After ye. death of Cæsar, ye. Civil Wars prevented ye. Romans of thinking of Britain; during ye. Reigns of Augustus, & Tiberius, these Islanders had frequent intercourse with ye. Roman Emp-e. some of their Nobility were educated in Rome itself.

Caligula's intention of invading Britain & his triumph of Cockle shells are known to every body, but this peace of folly prov'd fatal to ye. Britons, who judging from thence ye. Romans to be afraid of them, suffer'd themselves to be surpriz'd by Claudius ye. weakest of his successors. His Lieut. Plautius beat them in several encounters, but ye. Emp. coming with a new army assisted by his Gen. Vespasian subdued ye. Belgic nations, while Plautius carried on a successful, tho' more difficult war against ye. old Britons, head'd by Caractacus one of ye. greatest Ps. of ye. Country.

Various were ye. enterprises form'd by succeeding Roman Emp-rs. till at last in ye. year 80. Agricola subdued all England



after which he attempted ye reduction of ye Northern part of ye Island, & tho' successful yet abandon'd again all ye Country North of ye Friths of Clide & Forth, leaving ye Calidonians to their liberty, & ye Emp. Hadrian coming soon after to Britain built ye wall yt carries his name to prevent ye incursions of ye Calidonians.

After ye death of this Emp. ye affairs of Britain went well or ill according to ye turn of ye succeeding Emp. & ye situation of ye Roman Emp-e. Nor did any thing of great consequence happen during some of ye following Reigns; Usher, Cambden & Gildas plac'd ye conversion of this Island in ye Reign of Constantius, Diocleslan's partner, but others think there was no form'd Church till after ye year 250.

Severus in ye year 210. after several attempts to subdue ye Calidonians made peace with them, & rebuilt Hadrian's Wall; from this time to ye Reign of Diocleslan there is a profound silence in all Historians with regard to Britain. In this Emp. Reign Carausius a Batavian of mean birth having amass'd great sums by prizes made upon Pirates came over to Britain, & was by ye Roman soldiers there, declar'd Emp.; but 7 years after, was murder'd by one of his officers.

In ye Reign of Valentinian ye Northern Nations consisting of ye Antient Britons, Picts & Scots, broke in upon ye Roman settlements in ye Southern parts; Swarms also of ye same people yt were in Ireland infested ye Sea coast; these were frequently repulsed, but after ye death of Constantius in 414. ye Romans despairing of succour abandon'd ye Isle; this producing ye usual incursions of ye Calidonians, ye Britains made their last application to Aetius ye Roman Consul in ye year 448. but Attila threatning at yt time ye Roman Emp-e. made it impossible for him to assist them. Thus abandon'd by ye Romans they had no resource but in their own courage, & by yt supported themselves

long after ye rest of ye Roman Empe. in Europe was totally overrun by inundations of barbarous Nations; after many battles with various fortune, they made a peace with their Norman Neighbours, this they enjoy'd for some time, but allarm'd on a sudden with a report yt their old enemies were preparing for another invasion, they resolv'd with an imprudence unparallel'd in History, to call ye Saxons to their assistance.

There was at this time but one considerable Kdm in Britain call'd Strathclud, yt took in Wales, Cumberland, & ye rest of ye Country to Galloway, ye other parts of Britain were divided into as many Kdms as Shires; ye D-m of Cornwol excepted yt taking in Devon, & part of Somerset, remain'd almost entire to ye Norman conquest.

The Saxons had for 150 Years past, frequently infested the British Coasts, the Name of these people conveys along with it their original descent, springing from the Saca a tribe of the Cimerii or Cimbri of the Cimbric Chersonese a Country since known by the Name of Jutland, Angeln & Holstein, which last was the peculiar Seat of the Saxons the others of the Jutes & Angles, who come over with them & settl'd as we shall see hereafter, over all this Country.

As the Northern Nations quitted their Seats about the middle of the 3d Century to invade the Roman Empire, the Saxons extended their Settlements along the Coast, from the Mouth of Elbe & Weser to the Ems; among these were the Frisians commanded by Hengist & Horsa, from whom the English Saxons discended.

The Saxons were at this time on good terms with the Franks whose Customs & Language nearly resembl'd their.

They had also frequently the assistance of the Picts in the diversions they made on the southern provinces of Britain; they had been long in possession of the Orkneys where Claudian Mentions them in the Reign of Honorius; but this Colony on their Countrymen being invited over, came further South to seek their fortune.

There are many various opinions with regard to the Year when the Saxons first Came over, the most probable Era is about A. 54. which is the Year Fisher approves of; the first body of them came under the Command of Hengist & Horsa Sons of Wictgilsus great Grandson to Woden from whom all the Saxon Princes that compos'd the Heptarchy were descended; their number could not well exceed 1500. as they were transported in three flat bottom'd Vessels only; they first Landed at Hypwinsfleet now Ebsfleet in the Isle of Thanet; they soon routed the Picts beyond the Humber which made the Natives very desirous to give them Settlements. these observing their indolence & dispertions of the Britons soon got over 5000. more of their Countrymen with their Wives & Children, which were follow'd from time to time by others, began to allarm the Inhabitants when too late; for the Saxons now strong enough pick'd a quarrel with the Britons & attack'd the Provinces adjoining to their settlements with Fire & Sword, who assembling their forces fought several Battles with various success, in one of which Horsa was kill'd; two Years after a decisive one happen'd near Darford, which gave Hengist the possession of Kent.

The Inhabitants of that province migrating into Gaul, to supply their place, Hengist brought over great numbers of his Countrymen; while he pursued his conquests there, Ella another Saxon Chief landed in Sussex, afterwards took the name of King, & was the founder of the South Saxon Royalty.

*477. Next to him Cerdick landed in Norfolk, He stretch'd his conquests over Dorset & Hants, & began the West Saxon Kingdom.

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In the Year 527. more Saxons come over, who rais'd the Kingdoms of Mercia & the East Angles, which last was under the Command of Uffa, the former of Linda a descendant of Woden.

More of these invadors come over about the same time, who seiz'd by degrees, Essex, Middlesex & part of Hertfordshire, which became the East Saxon Kingdom.

The remaining part of the Kingdom East of the Severn, & South of Lincolnshire & Yorkshire, belong'd to Mercia, except Norfolk, Suffolk, & Cambridgeshire which was under the East Angles.

The last of the Heptarchy was the Kingdom of Northumberland, whose Leaders tho' they came over as soon as the rest, did not take the title of King till long after

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About 669. many of the Romish Doctrines were brought into this Country, such as Monkish Institutions, Relicks, Purgatory &c. by two of the Bishops that had been bred abroad Theodore, & Winfred, & this in opposition to the Christian Religion propagated by the Britons, & Scotch Doctrines who as we have observ'd before had had Christianity among them from an early date.

We shall pass over the History of the different Kingdoms of the Heptarchy & only observe that the Royal Line failing in most of them they run into Faction & disorder, when Egbert succeeding to the West Saxon Throne, united the whole Heptarchy
823. under his Government.
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The next Prince we think worthy of notice was the Great Alfred Grandson to Egbert; this was one of the best Princes of the Saxon Line, he was perpetually attack'd by the Danes, with whom he at last made Peace, bestowing on them the Kingdom of the East Angles & Essex in fee; this done he applyed himself to regulating the various parts of the Government of the Country.

As to regards His political labours we have treated of elsewhere, so that we shall confine ourselves here to those branches that more particularly regard our present design;

He was possess'd of a great part of England, South Wales had submitted to him before; North Wales, Mercia & Northumberland paid Him homage, so that having no Enemy to disturb Him. He was at leisure to improve his Country, & cultivate the peaceful Arts.

He first begun with repairing & adorning the Towns & Citys, many of which had been demolish'd by the incursions of the Danes; London was entirely rain'd which Ethelred Earl of Mercia by the King's Orders rebuilt, & re peopled; for this purpose He gave great encouragement to all Foreign Artificers, which made a great resort of them from the Continent; Many Learned Men were also invited over some of whom He settl'd at Oxford, & laid the foundation of that famous Semenary of Learning; not but what we read of Schools there before.

When Alfred came to the Crown the English had entirely neglected Fortresses & Wall'd Towns; many of these He surrounded with good Fortifications & He is reckon'd to have built 50. Castles, besides those created by His orders in Mercia

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The Belgæ about 150. Years before Christ, drove the Cimbri out of Germany, overrun the Maritime provinces of Gaul, & from thence transported forces to Britain, reducing the southern parts of the Country from Kent to the Lands end under their obedience, & likewise extended themselves into the Maritime Countys of Munster & Leinster in Ireland.

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Various were the enterprises form'd by succeeding Roman Generals, till at last in the Year 60. Agricola subdu'd all Eng land, after which He attempted the reduction of the Northern part of the Island, & tho' successful, yet abandoned again all the Country North of the Friths of Clide & Forth, leaving the Calidonians to their liberty; & the Emperor Adrian

coming soon after to Britain built the Wall that carrys his name, to prevent the incursions of the Caledonians.

After the death of this Emperor the Affairs of Britain went well or ill according to the turn of the succeeding Emperors, & the Situation of the Roman Empire; nor did any thing of great consequence happen during some of the following Reigns. Usher, Camden & Gildas, placed the Conversion of this Island in the Reign of Constantius, Dioclesian's partner; but others think there was no form'd Church till after the Year 250.

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Chap. III. From the arrival of the Saxons to the invasion of the Danes.

There was at this time but one considerable Kingdom in Britain call'd Strath cluid, that took in Wales, Cumberland, & the rest of the Country to Galloway, the other parts of Britain were divided into as many Kingdoms as Shires, the Dukedom of Cornwal excepted, that taking in Devon, & part of Somerset, remain'd almost entire to the Norman Conquest.

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when Egbert succeeding to the West Saxon Throne, united the whole Heptarchy in 827. under his Government.

In 835. or the 32d Year of His Reign, the Danes first invaded England in numbers; for we heard before of some few of them being here in 787. He repulsd them, but returning again they met with a great defeat.

The next Prince we think worthy of notice was the Great Alfred Grandson to Egbert; this was one of the best Princes of the Saxon Line, He was perpetually attackd by the Danes, with whom He at last made Peace, bestowing on them the Kingdom of the East Angles & Essex in fee; this done He applyd himself to regulating the various parts of the Government of the Country.

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When Alfred came to the Crown, the English had entirely neglected Fortresses & Wall'd Towns; many of these He surrounded with good Fortifications, & is reckon'd to have built 50. Castles, besides those erected by his orders in Mercia.

Notwithstanding the Continual Wars the English had to sustain, they were little better than Militia

compar'd with the Danes; to remedy which, Alfred divided all the Military part of them into two Corps, to one He allotted Constant Garison Duty, whilst the other remain'd at home to follow their Country business, exercising only on Festivals, & thus releaving one another by turns, all grew us'd to arms.

He appointed Governors or Lord Lieutenants of each Province fixing the different boundarys of them, through all these He had Beacons plac'd at proper distances on the firing of which the neighbouring Militia were to march immediately to a place of rendezvous, where the Lord Lieutenant was ready to lead them to that part of the Country committed to his care; thus every Man had his post assign'd for the Common Security, & as a further provision, He kept a chosen number of West Saxons & Britons near His person.

To raise higher the Martial Spirit of the People, He revivd an antient Saxon Custom of girding Young Gentlemen of a proper age with a Sword, which was done with great Solemnity; thus far from apprehending any danger

in arming His Subjects, He did His utmost to make them a Nation of Warriors, proud at being the King of a free People, His whole care was employ'd to keep them so; for fond of Liberty He wish'd to have all free as their own thoughts, an expression He himself makes use of in His last Will.

In 893. He was interrupted in these Wise institutions by a sudden invasion of the Danes assisted by the Northumbreans; these were entirely defeated & drove back to their Country in three Years time, which left the King once more at liberty to recede these Schemes.

He at this time divided England into Counties, Hundreds, & Tythings, & this division introduc'd a new method of Justice; the English had hitherto administer'd Justice amongst their Vasals & Tenants; the Bishops &c. had done the same on their Lands; but now ten Freeholders with their families were form'd into a body call'd a Tything, & were pledges to the King for the behaviour of one another;

one of these presided over the others by the name of Headborough or Tythingman; in cases of greater consequence the Headboroughs of the nearest Tythings were to assemble & give judgement assisted by a Lawyer appointed by the King's Council call'd Dean.

The ordinary Courts of the Hundreds were held once a month for determining appeals from the Tythings, for which purpose six days before they met the Hundreder summon'd all the Tythings or as it is sometimes call'd Friborghs within the Hundred, & twelve of the most considerable Freeholders were sworn with him to judge uprightly in all causes coming before them, & their sentence was generaly call'd the Judgement of the Country.

Besides this there was generaly held once a Year an extraordinary meeting of the Hundred call'd Frankpledge or Court leet to which all above twelve Years old, Nobility & Clergy excepted, whether Denizen or Stranger,

were oblig'd to come & there to take an oath of fealty to the King, to show in what Friborgh they were enter'd.

Here all misdemeanors were examin'd, the Conduct of the different Tythings, & there was always a Justice present appointed by the King to take care of the rights of the Crown, of the King's Revenue, great part of which arose from Escheats.

Much more of this kind was enacted, which we have more particularly specify'd in the Constitutional History.

The Great Alfred died in 900. after a Reign of 29½ Years; few men ever possess'd a Crown with Greater & more amiable qualitys, an Elivated mind, superior Courage, excellent parts, & unweary'd application; forc'd to make his way to the Crown by the Sword; He had the happiness of being bred up in the School of adversity, Learning & Arts flourish'd under him; excellent were His Laws, & Vigorously kept up to, for He examin'd into every thing

himself; impenetrable in His Secrets, Cautious in resolving, but never to be shaken in a resolution once taken, Zealous in Religion without Bigotry; happy in the Choice of able Ministers.

In private Life He appears the most amiable of Men, with a fine Person, & graceful deportment, He had an even Chearful temper; knew how to be affable to all without letting down His dignity, & how to gain the people's affections without losing their respect; temperate in His diet, moderate in His desires, oeconomical for the State, yet supporting His dignity with great magnificence, & generous on all proper occasions; from all which this Prince's Character must appear the most perfect, the Annals of History can produce; no wonder all Writers have given him the name of Great; & from His whole Reign, we learn one great truth, viz. that if a

Prince is not well serv'd 'tis chiefly owing to himself; that a Great & Good Prince will in the worst of times have able & upright Ministers; for when Alfred Mounted the Throne, there was scarce a Man in office that was not totally unfit for it, & generaly extrem'ly corrupt in the execution of it; but by His strict attention to their conduct, & examination into their talents, by his continual attention to the affairs of Government & administration of Justice, He got rid of the incorrigible, reclaim'd others, & form'd new subjects for to raise his own Glory, & with it the Glory & happiness of His Country.

From all this it will appear, that whether we consider the effeminate, dispirited & Corrupted State of the Country when Alfred began His Reign, the many Cruel Enemys that surrounded Him, that were carrying fire & sword into the heart of His Dominions, when we consider the Spirits of the People broke, their Courage inervated,

the administration of Justice prostituted, & all the different parts of Government full of faction & anarchy; I say when all this is carefaly examin'd, we may safely affirm that no good & Great Prince born in a free Country, & like Alfred fond of the cause of Liberty, will ever despair of restoring this Country to Virtue, Freedom, Glory, even tho' He mounts the Throne in the worst corrupted times, in storms of inward Faction, & the most threatening circumstances without; let him be but true to himself, true to Religion, Virtue, Honour Freedom; such a Prince has a right to expect, & will most certainly have the support of that Almighty Power that decides the fate of Kingdoms, & baffles all the black designs, & reached cunning of proud, Ambitious & Deceitful Men.

Alfred was succeeded by Edward inferior to His Father in Learning, but with equal talents in Military affairs, in so much that He is said in His long Wars with the Danes

never to have lost a battle where He fought in Person.

Athelstan His second Son follow'd the example of Alfred, was like Him Generous, Wise, & Great, fond of Peace, yet always Victorious in War, & died in 941. without issue to the Great regret of the People, who idolis'd him.

Edmund succeeded, Edred follow'd, both Brothers of the late King; the first of these was murder'd by a Common Thief; Edred appears to have been a mild yet active Prince, but too much bigoted, He dying in 955. left the Crown to Edwy Son of His Brother Edmund.

He seems to have been a great Enemy of the Monks, who blacken His Character without proper foundation; for some of our best Writers make him an excellent Prince.

His Reign was full of tumults & faction that at last fomented by the Clergy broke out into open Rebellion, in which Edwy was strip'd of the greatest part of His Dominions, which were given to His Younger Brother Edgar, who soon after in 959. got the rest by His death.

Edgar was totaly devoted to the Monks, tho He led a very profligate life, not that He entir'ly neglected the safety of the Kingdom; for He maintain'd a greater Fleet than ever

had been seen before.
He left the Crown in 975. to His Son Edward, under him the Nation continu'd in peace at least with regard to Foreigners, for the Monks were ever busy in disturbing the Country.

He was treacherously murder'd by His Mother in Law, whose Son Ethelred, Edward's half Brother succeeded to the Crown.

This Prince had a good disposition, but coming too Young to Empire, was a prey to the flattery of Courtiers, who for their own sakes carefuly encourag'd Him in the fatal habits of love of ease & pleasure, that made him totaly unfit to struggle with the many storms that threaten'd Him; tho' brave He knew not who to trust, which naturaly brought on a Conduct full of diffidence, with fluctuating & uncertain counsels.

As this Reign paw'd the way to a Danish Septer, it will be necessary to examin into the state of the Country.

During the Heptarchy the Civil & Military power were lody'd in the Aldermen or Earls, who by their

great authority were perpetualy raising Commotions; Alfred seperated these Offices, leaving as we have seen the Civil part to the Aldermen & Sheriffs, & putting the Military under the command of a Lord Lieutenant.

These regulations continued till Edred was weak enough to make these great Offices of Lord Lieutenants Hereditary in the persons of several of the most powerful among the Nobility; the title of Duke was generaly applyd to these Hereditary Governors who became not only overgrown Subjects, but almost independant Princes; for from time during all the Danish Wars tho' obligd to perform troops on certain occasions, they still were under their orders, & the service done, returnd home with absolute power over their respective Governments.

Edred & his Successors gave another Mortal blow to their Country, by neglecting the excellent Militia established by Alfred, & keeping in their stead a number of Mercenary foreign Soldiers, consisting chiefly of Danes, who had been conquerd & drove out of their

settlements by Edmund.

This fatal custom was immitated by the different Hereditary Governors, & were in such numbers when Ethelred came to the Crown, that He durst not punish them tho guilty of many disorders, & well known to be in continual correspondence with their Pyratical Countrymen.

In this dreadful situation, when the English by long Peace had lost the Art of War, & Military Sword in the hands of Seditious Governors & Mercenary Soldiers, the Danes landed in 991. with an Army in Essex, who after defeating several different bodys of Men, were got rid of by a Shameful treaty wherein Ethelred consented to pay them £10,000.

This only encouraged others to come in greater bodys the following Year, who were however at last defeated & drove back; these Invadors had hitherto consisted only of Pyrates, & private Adventurers; but in 993. Swein King of Denmark, & Anlaf of Norway came up the Humber with a Great Fleet, wintered in Yorkshire

besieg'd London, & ravag'd the Neighbouring Counties; on which it was agreed by the King in a Convention of the Nobility to give them 16,000 £ provisions, provided they abstain'd from plunder.

This Treaty Made, great Civilitys pass'd between the King & Anlaf, who solemnly promis'd that He would never invade England again & accordingly departed the following Spring, which measure produc'd a mortal enmity between Him & the Danes, whose King soon found himself oblig'd to make a treaty with Ethelred who had left his Sister Gunnild marry'd in England to a Count Paling as a Hostage for his performance of his part of it.

Ethelred finding himself unable to cope either with the Danes, or his own overgrown Subjects, endeavour'd to strengthen himself by a foreign alliance, & accordingly marry'd Emma Sister of the Duke of Normandy; but soon after by an Action unparallel'd in

the English History, He lost His new Friends, & pav'd the way for the destruction of His family, & the ruin of the Nation; for on the People's complaining of the intolerable insolence of the Danish Mercenarys, He consented to a general Massacre of them throughout the Kingdom; this happen'd in 1002. in November & on a Saturday, the day the Danes were accustom'd to bathe, & consequently helpless & unarm'd; & to compleat this Wicke deed, Edric Duke of Mercia the bosom Friend to the King, & marry'd to His sister, but a most wicked & abandon'd Villain, who never fail'd to betray the confidence repos'd in him, to make matters still more desperate with the Danes, took the advantage of the People's fury to put both Swein's Daughter Gunnild, & Her Husband to death, who declar'd in Her last minutes that Her blood would be fatal to the Nation.

This prediction was too soon fulfill'd, for Swein invaded England the following Spring with a formidable

Army; the King foresaw the Storm & had prepar'd the greatest fleet ever known in this Country; every 310. Hides of Land to furnish a Ship; all which came to nothing by the feuds & Factions of the Nobility; & in like manner a great Army became useless by the treachery of Edric whom He had made Lieutenant General of the Kingdom.

When betray'd & deserted on all hands, He fled to His Brother the Duke of Normandy, who generously receiv'd Him tho' He had treated His Sister with great indignity; Six Weeks after His flight Swein in 1014. died; upon which He was recall'd & Canute the Danes Son went back to take possession of His Father's Kingdom; but returning the next Year, waste'd many parts of the Country with fire & Sword, which would have been reduc'd without an Enemy to the last extremity by the Continual factions of the Nobility.

Ethelred dying in 1016. left by his first marriage three Sons, Edmund who succeeded Him, Edwin, murder'd afterwards by Canute; & Athelstan that died Young; He had Alfred & Edward by Emma, who went with their Mother directly into Normandy.

Edmund surnam'd Ironside was soon after Crown'd, tho' the Clergy & great part of the Nobility offer'd the Crown to Canute; the King to stop the defection that began to be general, march'd His Army directly against the Danes, whom He fought on the borders of Gloucestershire, & tho' by the treachery of Edric He had almost lost the day, Yet with the greatest intrepidity He protracted the Battle till night, & Canute afraid to risk the event of the morning, retreated with His forces to London that He had block'd up; thither Edmund follow'd Him & routed him in three different battles the last of which would have been decisive

against the Danes if Edric's accustom'd treachery had not prevented it; the fate of War after this turn'd against the King; but He collecting another Army was just on the point of engaging Canute, when a Treaty was agreed upon by which the Dane remain'd in possession of Northumberland & Mercia; this Peace was in a few weeks follow'd by the inhuman murther of this great & gallant King; this happen'd at Oxford by the Agents of Edric, who persuaded Canute to send Edmund's two Sons Edwin & Edward to the King of the Suevi with letters desiring him to put them to death, not caring to take the Odium upon himself; this Prince however mov'd with compassion treated them kindly, Edwin died in his Court, & Edward marry'd Agatha the Queen's Sister, & Daughter of the Emperor Henry II. by whom He had Christian a Nun, Margaret afterwards Queen of Scotland, & Edgar Athelin, who will appear hereafter upon the Scene.

Chap. IV. The Government of the Danes.

Upon this unhappy event Canute was proclaim'd King, who making use of the old maxim that Traitors are never to be depended upon, put most of those who had betray'd his predecessor to death, & among the rest Edric, his Sons, & great numbers of the first Nobility related to him; & to break still more the power of the English Nobility, he gave many of their Estates to the Danes, & wink'd at their plundering whatever they pleas'd.

In this terrible manner did Canute lay the foundation of his Government, which producing a general discontent, made it necessary for him to take every precaution to secure his possession; he had most to fear from Ethelred's two Sons in Normandy; to avert that Storm, he propos'd to the Duke to marry Emma Ethelred's Widdow, which he barely consented to;

The following Year He very wisely at a great Council Held at Oxford, reestablish'd the antient Saxons Laws, to these He adher'd pretty strictly the rest of His Reign that pass'd for the most part in Peace. He died in 1036. without naming His Successor.

He seems to have been a Valiant Man, & a Wise Prince; He at first treated His English Subjects with great cruelty, but when the barbarous Customs of these times are consider'd, & the great injurys He had receiv'd from Ethelred, & the Manner the Danes had been treated in that Reign, He will appear in a less cruel light; He lower'd indeed the power of the Nobility, & left few of them remaining; but to their faction & treachery were in great measures owing all the evils this Country had suffer'd for fifty Years before.

After Canute's death His two Sons Harold & Hardicnute divided the Kingdom, the last of these remain'd in Denmark most of the time that Harold liv'd; this last Prince's short Reign furnishes us with nothing remarkable except the

Murther of Ethelred's Son Alfred; He dying in 1040. Hardicnute succeeded to the whole Kingdom; He was Alfred's half Brother being Son to Emma, who in revenge of His Brother's death, order'd Harold's body to be digg'd up & cast into the Thames.

We have nothing further to say of this Prince who died in 1042. except the tenderness He show'd His Mother & His half Brother Edward whom He invited over, & kept with Him.

Chap. V. From the restoration of the Saxon Race to the arrival of the Normans.

The English tir'd of the Foreign Yoke; rose in all parts, & massacr'd the Danes, & gave the Crown to Edward, from His gentle behaviour call'd the Confessor, who preferring a private life, was with great difficulty brought to accept it, & the more so as one of the conditions was His marrying the Daughter of Earl Godwin a very amiable Princess Herself, but sprung from a very turbulent family; Her Father having with His Sons the Hereditary Governments of half the Kingdom, by which means He govern'd

England despotically & was the occasion of all the Misfortunes of this Reign.

The first step Edward took by the advice of Godwin was to seize His Mother's Treasures at Winchester, for so far was the King from being rapacious, that He took off the Heavy tax of Danegeld; tho this gain'd him the affection of the People, yet His great partiality for the Normans with whom He passed his early life, lost Him the hearts of the Nobility; of them He invited over several, to some He gave Bishoprieks; He bestow'd the Archbishoprick of Canterbury on one Robert a Norman Monk, on whose Counsels He greatly depended & thus by degrees introduc'd the Norman language & Customs into England.

Earl Godwin highly exasperated at the Archbishop's favour, began to sow sedition amongst the Nobility, when an Accident happen'd that produc'd an open revolt; Eustace Count of Bologne marry'd to a sister of

Edward's came in 1051. to make Him a Visit, when part of His attendants committing some outrage in their journey from Dover, the People assembl'd in great Numbers, & a bloody Fray ensu'd, from which He escap'd with difficulty, & made His complaint to the King at Glocester; as this happen'd in Godwin's Government, the King order'd him to march directly & punish those found Guilty; instead of obeying, He & His Sons rais'd Great Armys, & the King perceiving their design, sent orders to the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland to repair to Him with their forces, which at last oblig'd them to fly the Kingdom & they were banish'd by a Solemn Act of the Nobility & Council at London; but coming back again with a new Army, they march'd towards London, when all the first people of the Kingdom forc'd Edward to come to an accommodation that put this turbulent Family in possession of their Government again, & also invested them with some power they had not before.

During these transactions Emma died at Winchester, & Godwin the Year after; Harold his Son succeed in most of his Governments, & by his insinuating temper soon got all his Father's power.

About this time the King sent Siward into Scotland with an Army to restore Malcolm Canmore to the Throne, that Macbeth had seiz'd after the Murther of his Father.

Edward now grown old began to think of a Successor, & accordingly sent for his Nephew Edward, Son of his Brother Edmund Ironside from Hungary, who dying soon after He came over, the Young Edgar Athelin remain'd alone of the whole Saxon line; the King thinking his Years unfit for those turbulent times, got William Duke of Normandy appointed his Successor, & sent Harold to acquaint him of it.

The Duke treated Harold with the utmost distinction, endeavour'd all He could to gain Him to his side, & upon promising to marry his Daughter to him, got him to swear He would support his title: but He no sooner

returned to England than he forgot his oaths & by marrying a sister of the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland, he secur'd all the North & Middle of England to his interest while he himself had possession of the West.

Edward dying in 1066. Harold got himself Crown'd the same day, tho' manifestly against the Consent of the Nobility; when King he chang'd his conduct, restor'd many Estates he had taken by force, & endeavour'd to gain the affections of the People.

The first attack he met with was from the Norwegians who invited by his own Brother Tosty & the Norman, invaded England; Harold defeated them entir'ly at Battle Bridge, where both the King of Norwey & Tosty were kill'd.

This Victory proved his ruin, for now grown elated & secure he sate no bounds to his avaricious temper, & treated his army with great neglect; but mortification soon follow'd, for in a few days accounts came that 60,000. Normans had landed at Pevensey in Sussex at Michaelmas &

this in spight of a Fleet by some said to consist of 700. sail Stationd to oppose them.

Harold lost in the ~~Battle~~ Battle a great many Good troops. the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland were not come up to him, notwithstanding which, He went on impetuously with one third of His Army that might have assembld in two or three days, to meet the Normans, who in a little time must in that season of the Year have been drove to great streights for want of Provisions; indeed He was deceivd by the Count of Flanders, who had describ'd William's Army as very inconsiderable. He came within sight of the Enemy at Battle, where He soon found His Mistake, & that William's Army greatly surpassd His own; upon which He meditated a retreat; but oposd by some, & reproach'd by others, He drew out His troops the next day being the 14th of October, & gave the Enemy Battle, rejecting the offers made Him by Duke William either to accept

of near half the Kingdom, or end the dispute by single combat; the Battle of Hastings ensu'd, wherein Harold after showing the greatest intrepidity lost both his life & Crown.

William march'd directly towards London, where the Citizens were for settling the Crown on Edgar Athelin; but the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland finding their own views defeated, retir'd, which struck such a damp in all Edgar's adherents, that every one submitted at William's approach, & even courted him to take the Scepter; who would not however venture himself in London, till he had erected a Fortress in it, & garrison'd it with Normans.

This done he was Crown'd at Westminster on Christmas Day 1066.

Having thus seen the end of the Saxon Line, it will be proper to give some account of the Norman Race that now acceeded to the Throne.

Notwithstanding the Continual Wars the English had to sustain, they were little better than Militia compar'd with the Danes, to remedy which, Alfred divided all the Military part of them into two Corps, to one he allotted constant Garison Duty, whilst the other remain'd at Home to follow their Country business, exercising only on Festivals, & thus leaving one another by turns, all grew inur'd to Arms.

He appointed Governors or Lord Lieutenants of each Province fixing the different boundarys of them, throughout all these he had Beacons plac'd at proper distances on the firing of which the Neighbouring Militia were to March immediately to a place of rendez vous, where the Lord Lieutenant was ready to lead them to that

part of the Country committed to his care, thus every Man had his post assign'd for the Common Security, & as a further provision, he kept a chosen number of West Saxons & Britons near his person.

To raise higher the Martial spirit of the People he revi'd an ancient Saxon Custom of girding Young Gentlemen of a proper Age with a Sword which was done with great Solemnity; thus far from apprehending any danger in Arming his Subjects, he did his utmost to make them a Nation of Warriors, proud of being the King of a free People, this he took care to have employ'd to keep them so; for fond of Liberty, he wish'd to have all free as their own thoughts, an Expression he himself makes use of

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generously receiv'd Him tho' He had treated
His Sister with great indignity; six Weeks
after His flight Swein in 1014 died; upon which
He was recall'd & Canute the Dane's Son
went back to take possession of his
father's King dom; but returning the next
Year, wasted many parts of the Country with
fire & sword, which would have been reduc'd

without an Enemy to the last Extremity by the Continual factions of the Nobility.

Ethelred dying in 1016. left by his first marriage three Sons, Edmund who succeeded him, Edwin Murder'd afterwards by Canute & Athelstan that died Young; He had Alfred & Edward by Emma, who went with their Mother directly to Normandy;

Edmund surnam'd Ironside was soon after Crown'd, tho' the Clergy & Great part of the Nobility offer'd the Crown to Canute; the King to stop the defection that began to be general, march'd his army directly against the Danes, whom He fought on the borders of Glocestershire, & tho' by the treachery of Edrick He had almost lost the day, yet with the greatest intrepidity He protracted the Battle till night, &

19. Canute afraid to risk the event of the morning, retreated with his forces to London that he had block'd up; thither Edmund follow'd him & routed him in three different battles the last of which would have been decisive against the Danes if Edrick's accustom'd treachery had not prevented it; the fate of war after this turn'd against the King, but he collecting another army was just on the point of engaging Canute, when a Treaty was agreed upon by which the Dane remain'd in possession of Northumberland & Mercia; this Peace was in a few weeks follow'd by the inhuman murther of this great & gallant King; this happen'd at Oxford by the agents of Edrick who persuaded Canute to send Edmund's two Sons Edwin & Edward to the King of the Suevi with letters desiring him to put them to death, not caring to take

+ This Prince however moved with compassion treated them kindly, Edwin died in his Court, & Edward married Agatha the Queen's sister, & Daughter of the Emperor Henry II. by whom he had Christian a Nun, Margaret afterwards Queen of Scotland, & Edgar Athelin, who will appear hereafter upon the Scene

the odium upon himself. †

Chap. IV. The government of the Danes

Upon this unhappy event Canute was proclaim'd King, who making use of the old maxim that traitors are never to be depended upon, put most of those who had betray'd his predecessor to death, & among the rest Edrick, his son, & great numbers of the first Nobility related to him, & to break still more the power of the English Nobility, he gave many of their Estates to the Danes, & wink'd at their plundering whatever they pleas'd.

In this terrible manner did Canute lay the foundation of his government, which producing a general discontent, made it necessary for him to take every precaution to secure his possession; he had most to fear from Ethelred's two sons in Normandy, to avert that storm, he propos'd to the Duke to marry Emma

Ethelred's Widdow, which He basely consented to, the following Year He very wisely at a great Council held at Oxford reestablish'd the antient Saxon Laws, to these He adher'd pretty strictly the rest of His Reign that pass'd in peace. for the most part.

~~He died in 1016~~ without naming His Successor; He seems to have been a Valiant Man, & a Wise Prince; He at first treated his English Subjects with great cruelty; but when the barbarous customs of these times are consider'd, & the great injuries He had receiv'd from Ethelred, & the manner the Danes had been treated in that Reign, He will appear in a less cruel light; He lower'd indeed the power of the Nobility, & left few of them remaining, but to their faction & treachery were in great measures owing all the evils this Country had suffer'd for fifty Years before

After Canute's death His two Sons Harold & Hardicnute divided the Kingdom, the last of these remain'd in Denmark most of the time that Harold liv'd; ~~His~~ This last Prince's short Reign furnishes us with nothing remarkable except the murther of Ethered's Son Alfred; ~~upon~~ He dying in 1040. Hardicnute succeeded to the whole Kingdom, He was Alfred's half Brother being Son to Emma, who in revenge of His Brother's death order'd Harold's body to be dugg up & cast into the Thames; We have nothing further to say of this Prince who died in 1042. except the tenderness He show'd His Mother & His Half Brother Edward whom He Invited over & kept with Him.

The English tir'd of the Foreign Yoke rose in all parts & massacr'd the Danes, & gave the Crown to Edward from His Gentle behaviour

call'd the Confessor, who preferring a private life was with great difficulty brought to accept it, & the more so as one of the conditions was His marrying the Daughter of Earl Godwin a very amiable Princess Herself but springing from a very turbulent family; Her Father having with His Sons the Hereditary Governments of Half the Kingdom, by which means He govern'd England Despotically & was the occasion of all the Misfortunes of this Reign.

The first step Edward took by the advice of Godwin was to seize His Mother's Treasures at Winchester, for so far was the King from being rapacious, that He took off the heavy tax of Danegeld; tho this gain'd Him the affections of the People, yet His great partiality for the Normans with whom He pass'd His Early life, lost him the hearts

of the Nobility; of these He invited over several, to some He gave Bishoprick, He bestow'd the Archbishoprick of Canterbury on one Robert a Norman Monk, on whose Counsels He greatly depended, & thus by degrees introduced the Norman language & Customs into England.

Earl Godwin highly exasperated at the Archbishop's favour, begun to sow sedition amongst the Nobility, when an accident happen'd that produc'd an open revolt, Eustace Count of Bologne married to a Sister of Edward's came in 1051. to make Him a Visit when ~~some~~ part of his attendants committing some outrage in their journey from Dover, the People assembl'd in great numbers & a bloody fray insu'd from which He escap'd with difficulty, & made his complaint to the King at Glocester; as this happen'd in Godwin's Government, the King

25. order'd him to march directly, & punish those found guilty; instead of obeying, He & His Sons rais'd great Armys, & the King perceiving their design sent orders to the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland to repair to him with their forces, which at last oblig'd them to fly the Kingdom, & they were banish'd by a solemn Act of the Nobility & Council at London; but coming back again with a new Army, they march'd towards London, when all the first people of the Kingdom forc'd Edward to come to an accommodation that put this turbulent family in possession of their Governments again, & ~~with them~~ alledged them with the same power they had before; during these transactions Emma died at Winchester, & Godwin the

Year after; Harold his Son succeeded in most of his Governments, & by his insinuating temper soon got all his Fathers power.

About this time the King sent Seyward into Scotland with an Army to restore Malcolm Kenmure to the Throne, that Macbeth had seiz'd after the Murther of his Father.

Edward now grown old begun to think of a Successor, & accordingly sent for his Nephew Edward Son of his Brother Edmund Ironside from Hungary, who dying soon after he came over, the Young Edgar Athelin remain'd alone of the whole Saxon Line; the King thinking his Years unfit for those turbulent times, got William Duke of Normandy appointed his Successor, & sent Harold to acquaint him of it; the Duke treated Harold with the utmost distinction, endeavour'd all he could to gain him to his side, & upon promising to marry

His Daughter to him, got him to swear that He would support His title; but He no sooner return'd to England than He forgot His oaths, & by marrying a Sister of ~~E~~ the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland, He secur'd all the North & Middle of England to His interest, while He himself had possession of the West.

Edward dying in 1066. Harold got himself Crown'd the same day tho' manifestly against the Consent of the Nobility, when King He chang'd His conduct, restor'd many Estates He had taken by force, & endeavour'd to gain the affections of the People.

The first attack He met with was from the Norweygians who invited by His own Brother Tosty & the Normans invaded England; Harold defeated them entirly at Stamford Bridge, where both the King of Norwey & Tosty were killd

This Victory proved his ruin; for now grown elated & secure he set no bounds to his avaricious temper, & treated his Army with great neglect; but mortification soon followed, for in a few days accounts came that 60,000. Normans had landed at Pevensee in Sussex at Michaelmas, & this in spight of a fleet by some said to consist of 700, sail stationed to oppose them; Harold had lost in the last battle a great many good troops; the Earls of Northumberland & Mercia were not come up to him, notwithstanding which, he went on impetuously with one third of the Army that might have assembled in two or three days, to meet the Normans who in a little time must in that season of the Year have been drove to great straights for want of provisions; indeed he was deceived by the Court of Flanders who had described William's army as very

29. inconsiderable; He came with sight of the Enemy at Battle, where He soon found His mistake, & that William's Army greatly surpass'd His own; upon which He meditated a retreat; but opos'd by some, & reproach'd by others, He drew out His troops the next day being the 14th. of October, & gave the Enemy Battle, rejecting the offers made Him by Duke William either to accept of near half the Kingdom, or end their dispute by single combat; the Battle of Hastings ensu'd wherein Harold after showing the greatest intripidity lost both His life & Crown.

William march'd directly towards London where the Citizens were for settling the Crown on Edgar Athelin; but the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland finding their own views defeated retir'd, which struck such a damp in all Edgar's adherents, that every one submitted at William's approach, & even courted Him to take the

Sceptre, who would not however venture himself in London, till he had erected a Fortress in it & Garrison'd it with Normans.

This done he was crowned at Westminster on Christmas day.

+1066.

Having thus seen the end of the Saxon Line, it will be proper to give some account of the Norman Race that now acceded to the Throne

Chap. VI. From the Accession of the Normans to Henry II.

The Normans a mixture of the Saxons, Danes, Norwegians, began to infest the German & Western Oceans about the ninth Century, & tho they often made descents on the Coasts yet did not settle till the time of Rollone of their Danish Chieftains who join'd with several other Norman Commanders laid great part of France waste, & in the Year 911. forc'd Charles the simple to a treaty by which he gave him the Country since call'd Normandy, & his Daughter in marriage; He was succeeded by his Son William, whose Son & Grandson reign'd after him; the last of these Nam'd Richard left two Sons, the Elder dying, Robert the second his Brother setting out for the Holy Land made all his Barons take an oath of fealty to his Son William then 9. Years old; this precaution

appear'd necessary as his Mother was the Daughter of one Fourbert the Duke's Valet de Chambre son of a Tanner.

Robert died in his Pilgrimage, & during the Minority of William, Normandy was one continued scene of War & discord between the Barons &c.

William at the tender age of 17. commanded his own Armys, & by his prudence & valour not only preserv'd his own Country, but made good as we have seen his claim to the Crown of England.

Soon after his Coronation most of the Great Nobility made their submissions & were confirm'd in their Estates; those belonging to the Barons that fell at Hastings, he divided among his Normans; he treated in the same manner all those that had been in arms against him; but confirm'd the Estates of all others, & granted the City of London a new Charter with all the privileges

they had enjoyd under William the Confessor, but obligd to go back for the defence of Normandy, he dispersd his troops in Castles & Garrisons all over the Country, taking away from the People the Arms that by the Saxon Law each Householder was obligd to keep by him.

He committed the Government of the Kingdom to his half Brother Odo, & carryd away with him as Hostages most of the principal Nobility.

During his absence many insurrections happen'd in different parts of England, & many of the Nobility who had been stripped of their Estates, retir'd into Scotland to Edgar Athelin, whose sister was Marryd to King Malcolm.

He join'd by these march'd into England at the Head of a Scotch Army, & join'd a great body of the Danes sent by Swein King of that Country with his two Sons Harold & Canute; they took York & put all the Normans to the Sword

William who after His return had been quelling insurrections in different parts of the Country march'd to the North; upon His approach the Danes retir'd to their Fleet, He immediately besieg'd the Town which He turn'd into a blockhead & took it by famine, had the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland join'd the malcontents at this time, the Normans would probably have been destroyed, but they either out of fear of William, or out of hatred for Edgar remain'd quiet; as for the Danes it is affirm'd by most Writers they were bought off by the King, which Edgar & the English Barons perceiving, they left the Danish fleet & retir'd to Scotland.

As nothing could establish William so much as these unsuccessful attempts against Him, He accordingly found His crown settl'd on a much solider basis than He could have expected, He had

entirely desolated the Country, erected strong Castles in every part of it, He had broke the power of the Nobility, bestow'd their Estates & Honours on the Norman Barons, so much that there no longer remain'd any to oppose him or to Hinder His being absolute Master of the Kingdom.

The Clergy had been hitherto left untouch'd, but now in quiet possession of the Throne, He made use of the Popes Legate to deprive the Bishops of their Sees, & among the rest Stigand Archbishop of Canterbury, & fill'd them up with Normans; his it is remarkable that at this time there were only four Bishops Natives of the Country, the rest all Foreigners; therefore it is no wonder that William met of such Friends among them from the beginning, & that the Popal power was so easily introduc'd;

But however He made use of the Popes name to serve His own purposes, no King ever defended

His rights more warmly against the Papal encroachments, for he would not permit His Subjects to acknowledge any Pope without His orders, nor any of His Clergy to resort to Rome upon a Papal summons without having leave from Him; the Archbishop of Canterbury was not permitted to passany constitutions nor any of His Bishops an Ecclesiastical Censure without a warrant signed by Him, & to keep the Clergy still more in order, He altered their Tenures from Frank Almoine to Common Knight's Service & Barony as we mention elsewhere.

With regard to the Laity almost all the Baronys in England after the forfeitures of the Earls of Mercia & Northumberland were given to Normans, who holding them by the Tenure of that Country introduced the Feudal Law with all its servitude.

As to the Changes made in the Laws & Revenue that belongs to other Works

Besides ~~[illegible]~~ an Income of £500,000.
William kept up a great Army of 60,000. Knights
without any expence; notwithstanding which
the English in 1071. & 1072. attempted to fling off
the Yoke by the help of Malcolm King of
Scotland; but they lost all hopes by a Peace
being concluded between the two Kingdoms;
this was followed soon after by a conspiracy of
the Normans among whom were several of
the King's best Friends, & Waltheof who was the
last Englishman that retain'd any considerable
interest in the Nation, & ~~it was for~~ this he lost his
Head, for when acquainted with the Plot he
would not join the others, & was the first
Person that reveal'd it.

In 1081. a Survey was made of all England
known by the Name of the Doomsday book.

In 1083. William's Queen Matilda died,
~~he had~~ by her four Sons, Robert William

& Henry, who each succeeded to the Crown in his turn, & Richard who was kill'd in a Hunting match besides several Daughters, one of which was marry'd to Stephen Count of Blois.

We pass over many little Rebellions in the King's French Dominions, nothing happening of consequence to this Country.

In 1066. Edgar Athelin who had long liv'd a quiet, private life, tir'd out with the ill usage of the Norman, procur'd his permission to go to the Holy Land.

The following Year, the King's health declining, found himself imbark'd in a War with France, occasion'd by a silly quarrel at Chess between one of his Sons & the Dauphin. William enter'd the Isle of France putting every thing to fire & sword, investing Mantes which he took by Storm, & entering the Town, his Horse tripp'd, & flung him on

the pommel of his Saddles which brought on his last illness; He was carry'd in a Litter to the Priory of Saint Gervay, where He died the 9th of Sept. having a few days before set at liberty the English Hostages, bequeath'd Normandy & le Maine to His Eldest Son Robert. as to England, He did not pretend to dispose of that Crown, but sent His favourite Son William, with Letters to Archbishop Langfranck praying him to Crown Him; to Henry the Youngest He left 5,000. £ & His Mother's Jointure.

This Prince's Character seems to have been drawn with harsher lines that it deserves, for He had certainly great tallents for a General, great Capacity, Prudence, Steadiness, Vigour, & Expedition, with sound Judgement & good Natural parts, but all this was clogg'd with boundless ambition, & frequent instances of cruelty; He was esteem'd one of the

first Politicion of the Age, well versd. in the Arts of Government, able in the choise of measures, & knowing wele how to time them; but there appears more little art than true Greatness in His Politicks; He is said to have been Religious, Affable, & Gentle, to the Clergy, & to those who submitted entirly to Him; part of this can hardly be reconcil'd with the Ocean of blood spilt in His Reign; He certainly paid no manner of regard to His Coronation Oath, exercising the greatest despotism on the Persons & fortunes of His subjects, particularly of the English.

From all this we must infer this Prince was not without great & shining qualities, & of the kind necessary for Government in those days; but bred up amidst the sound of Faction & of Arms, forcing His way to His own Hereditary Dukedom by the Sword, & after getting the Crown of England, perhaly surrounded by

Insurrections, Plots & Rebellions, His Temper naturaly rough & haughty, appears to have been sower'd & exasperated to the utmost, He treated England like a conquer'd Country with all the barbarity of an Eastern Tyrant, & seem'd to think that the most certain way to secure the Crown, was to put His Normans in possession not only of the Honours, but of the whole property of the Country.

This He in great measure effected, & from a King invited over by part of the Nation, became a cruel, sanguinary Tyrant; the Execration of His new Subjects, the Terror & Hatred of His old one's, leaving no one example Worthy of a King to follow, but His firm resistance to the Papal encroachments.

Thus besides the Change of property brought in by the Norman Race, the change of language, Laws, & Customs, the very hearts & tempers of the People were alter'd; the barbarity, Luxury, falshood

rapaciousness, & turbulence of the Normans succeeded to the open, honest, simple, quiet, & frugal temper of the Saxon Race, a dreadful change, & yet when we consider that all this was owing to the abandon'd profligacy of the better sort, our pity becomes almost confin'd to the Middle Ranks & lower People, who having had no share in the enormitys of the Patrons, yet fell a sacrifice to their Factious Views, & were plung'd in the same Calamitys with their ambitious Lords.

William Rufus

William met with no great difficulty in mounting the Throne, the greatest part of the Nobility & Clergy were gain'd by Lanfranc who crown'd him at Westminster

1087. the 27th of Sept.

He immediately took possession of his Father's Treasure, which of immense Value, in Gold, Jewels &c

besides 60,000. pound Weight of Silver, most of this after paying His Father's Legacys, He distributed amongst the Soldiers, whose assistance He had great Occasion for, as His Brother from being Eldest drew many of the Nobility &c. to His side;

Robert on His Father's death went from Abbeville to Rouen to take possession of Normandy; this Prince was like His Father bold, Vigorous, with great Capacity & Judgement, great Skill & experience in War, but these were attended with defects that kept his Friends from depending, & expos'd him to the contempt of His Enemys; In dolent neglecting His proper business, for play, Wine & Women, to all which He was extremely addicted, by this inattention His People were much oppress'd with remedy; He was immensely good Natur'd, obliging, & compassionate to the distress'd; Mild in punishing, patient under

injurys, easy of access, fond of Conversation, but without any distinction of persons, willing to please every body, He easily made promises, & perform'd them with a lavish hand; the consequence of all which was that the people suffer'd extremely under a gentle Prince; the unsteadiness of His temper prevented attachments; His favours, His Company even was neglected because both one & the other were made equaly cheap to all.

Thus circumstanc'd, this Prince hardly ever refus'd any Man an Office He ask'd, & hardly granted a considerable one, such as a Governor of a Town or Province, but He met with the greatest ingratitude, & His whole Dutchy became a Scene of faction & Rebellion.

Odo Bishop of Bayeux & Earl of Kent was His first Counsellor, He went over to England & form'd a Conspiracy for him against His Brother which was entirly baffl'd by Lanfrancks

vigilence, & ended in the ruin of the conspirators.

Soon after this necessary service Lanfrac died when the King no longer aw'd by His advice, gave loose to His haughty, cruel, & avaricious temper of which the rest of His Reign was one continu'd proof, but Rapin & Violence are not the objects of this compend, we confine ourselves as much as possible to the sources of great Events, the remarkable instances of Magnanimity & Virtue, the consequences of Vice & Depravity. We mean to chaunck out the strong features that History has handed down to us, of those then only on whose actions the great events of this Country have depended; it will be sufficient therefore just to mention that William invaded Normandy, & that His Brother mortgag'd that Dutchy to Him & went to the Holy Land,

The Noblest Action of His life was the permitting Edgar Athelin to raise an Army in His Country

with which He restor'd His Nephew Malcolm's son to the Throne of Scotland usurp'd by His that King's Brother.

He had great disputes in the latter part of His Reign with Anselm Archbishop of Canterbury, who arm'd with the Papal Authority, forc'd the King to a shameful submission.

In 1100. William lost His life hunting in the new Forest for one of His Company shooting at a Stag, lodg'd the Arrow in His Breast.

This Prince was Bold & Warlike, fond of great Armys, to whom He gave great sums at the Expence of His other Subjects, He was extrem'ly passionate, proud & talkative without the least tincture of Literature, but yet had a vein of Wit & Humour; He affected great State, He detested the English tho' He ow'd His Crown to them, faithless in all treatys, & irreconcilable when offended; He had a mortal

aversion to marriage, & does not seem to have possess'd any thoughts of Religion; the death of such a Prince, could not be very afflicting to the Nation.

He was succeeded by His Brother Henry who apprehensive of His Brother Robert's coming, was Crown'd in sixty hours after the death of Rufus; besides His Coronation Oath, He swore to a Charter which He pass'd that day, wherein He redress'd many of the grievances the people had suffer'd under in the two last Reigns, by this Vacant Bishoprick & Benefices were no longer to be sold.

The Exorbitant sums levy'd on the ~~the~~ death of the immediate tenants of the Crown for liveries, licenses for marrying, Wardships &c. were to be limited, Widdows were allow'd to marry who

who they pleas'd, & the Crown Vassals were allow'd to dispose of their Doughters as they thought fit; many unjust exactions were abolish'd.

Barons & Vassals were impower'd to dispose of their personal Estates by Will, & dying intestate they were to be divided amongst their nearest Relations, lastly they re-establish'd the Law of St. Edward as amended by William I.

By the different Articles of this Charter many of which were not kept to, & were force'd to be redress'd in Magna Charta, we may judge of the horrid despotism prevailing at this time in England; but Henry to secure himself the better, promis'd liberally on all hands; He granted another Charter to the City of London, with many priviledges & immunitys, & to indear himself with the People, he put Flambard Bishop

of Burhow (the Author of all the exactions in the last Reign) in the Tower.

The next political Step taken by this Prince was His Marrying Maud Alice to Edgar Athelin a thing highly agreable to the People as it brought back again the Saxon Line; These precautions were all necessary, for His Brother Robert the following Year invaded

1101. England with a great Army; Henry took the field against Him, & the two Corps remain'd in presence of one another for some days, when Anselm Archbishop of Canterbury mediated a Peace between the two Brothers, by which Robert quited His Claim to England, on Henrys paying Him 3000. Marks a Year, & giving up to Him every thing He possess'd in Normandy, with a particular clause that the adherents of both partys should be restor'd to their Estates & honours.

But this Treaty was shamefully kept by Henry, who confiscated the Estates of all persons He suspected of being in the interest of His Brother, & endeavoured during His whole Reign to ruin the Nobility, & three Years after He invaded Normandy, took His Brother Prisoner, & carrying Him over to England shut Him up in a Dungeon in Wales, where He lived till 1134. most barbarous treatment of a Brother who was by His temper incapable of treating any one with the smallest severity.

As it is not our purpose to enter into every minute or foreign transaction, we shall pass over the rest of Henry's Reign, taking notice of one shameful concession to the See of Rome.

Anselm during this whole Reign had been a Zealous partizan of the Papal power; amongst the many disputes He fomented on this account, He held a slavish Doctrine that no Royal investure

was valid, & absolutely refus'd to acknowledge any Bishops made by the Crown; Henry after a long resistance permitted the Popes Legate in an assembly of the Nobility & Prelates, that neither the King nor any Layman should for the future give the investure of the Ring & Pastoral staff; Henry dyed in Normandy in 1135. leaving only one Daughter, who had been first marry'd to the Emperor Henry V. when but eight Years old; after the Death of the Emperor by whom she had no Children, the King gave her to Geofry Martel son to Fulk Count of Anjou, & got all the Nobility & Prelates to take an oath of fealty to Her, & to Her Issue; Henry being born as well as Geofry Her second son before the King's death.

This Prince had great natural parts,

attended with great Learning, & was reckon'd the most political Monarch of His age; He had great courage & valour, yet avoided War as much as possible, but when absolutely necessary, He prosecuted it with the greatest resolution, severe in the execution of Justice, & most assiduous in searching out Offenders whom He never pardon'd; thus far is the favourable part of His Character, where there appears some Virtues, but greatly over ballance'd by Vice; for we find Him painted Cruel, Wanton, & Avaricious to great excesses, impatient of Injurys, immoderate in retalliating them, while on the other side He carry'd His Friendship so high, that to support any one person He took a liking to, He ruin'd thousands; fond of Hunting to a Crime, for He made no distinction between killing a Man or a Deer, tho' born in England He still inherited the hatred & contempt of His Predecessors against

the English, & yet by the great depression of the People, & the Court He paid the Clergy, His Government at home was quiet during His whole Reign; to support the many foreign Wars He was engag'd in, He loaded His Subjects with innumerable taxes.

He was for the most part successful in all His enterprizes, & notwithstanding the immense sums they cost Him is reckon'd to have left more treasure than any Prince in Europe in His time.

Henry had no Children by His Second Wife, by His first He had a Son nam'd William that was drown'd in the age of Manhood & the Empress Maud; His illegitimate Children were very numerous, but they are not at present within our plan

Stephen.

We have seen in the former Reign the care Henry took to have His Daughter acknowledg'd as His Successor, but His lavish profusion to His favourites counteracted His own plan; Stephen of Blois, Son to His Sister Adela was one ~~of the Most powerful in this Reign~~ whom He had rais'd to so great a height that at the King's death he saw the Crown within His reach, Marry'd to the Heiress of Boulogne, by whom he had also a great Estate in England, added to Coutance in Normandy, & the great possessions given Him by Henry, he found himself in a Situation to lay claim to the Diadem, & accordingly repairing to England, he no sooner came to London, than he was saluted King by the People; William Archbishop of Canterbury made indeed some scruple of Crowning Him, but that was soon

remov'd, by Hugh Bigigot Steward to the late King taking a Solemn Oath that Henry had on his deathbed disinherited his Daughter & made Stephen his Heir. The poor Old Primate acted Honestly in this, for when he came to discover the imposition he died of a broken heart. no sooner was Stephen seated on the throne, than he took every method of securing possession, by granting honours, lands &c. & even weakly permitted all the Nobility & Military tenants to fortify their castles, he employ'd the late King's Treasures to raise an Army of Flemings, not chusing to trust his Cause to the English.

His first troubles began in Normandy, where he prov'd unsuccessful against Maud's party; this follow'd by many insurrections all over England, & now the fatal consequences appear'd of his having permitted to build Castles

for wherever any of these were refus'd any favour they ask'd, they immediately repair'd to their forts, plunder'd the Country round about, & bid defiance to the King; this oblig'd Stephen to be forever marching from one Castle to another, & often for want of power to reduce them, he was force'd to grant such terms, that remedy often prov'd worse than the remedy itself.

This force'd him at last to the most arbitrary proceedings, for wherever he suspected any person, he seiz'd them even at his own Table, & so oblig'd them to redeem their liberty by delivering up their Forts; these

These Acts of power banish'd every one from Court & so alienated the Mind of the People, that the generality of them were inclin'd to Maud, & accordingly Robert Earl of Gloucester, the Empress's bastard bro. & Ralph Earl of Chester gathering

together an Army, attack'd the King when He was besieging Lincoln Castle, defeated & took Him prisoner in 1141. upon this Maud made Her public Entry into Winchester, & afterwards in London where She was receiv'd with great acclamations; but She soon lost the City by great imprudence, for upon their petitioning to be eas'd of some taxes, She treated them with great harshness mix'd with threatenings for their having favour'd Stephen; this & compassion for the Prisoner, revolted numbers, & kept up the Spirit of Stephen's party; & soon after Robert Earl of Glocester being taken Prisoner, He was chang'd with the King.

The War was carry'd on with great argour on both sides with various success; tho' Stephen still continu'd seizing of Castles either by force or treachery, & by this means alienated the chief

of the Nobility at a time when He stood in the greatest need of their assistance against a powerful competitor; what considerably added to the strength of Maud's party, was the arrival of Her Son Henry, who remain'd four Years in England under the tutelage of the Earl of Glocester; Stephen allarm'd at the reputation of this Young Prince, attempted to have His Son Eustace declar'd His Successor, to this the Lay Nobility consented, but the Bishops absolutely refus'd to Crown Him.

+1153. The following Spring Prince Henry after having being put in possession of Normandy by His Father Geoffry, repair'd to England with a small force, but was soon join'd by most of the Nobility; Stephen with a superior army advanced to meet Him, but by the intercession of William Earl of Arundel & others a Treaty was agreed upon & afterwards

ratify'd in a great Assembly of the Prelates & Nobility summon'd to Winchester by Stephen & Henry; Here it was settl'd that Stephen should possess the Crown during life, but after his demise Henry was to succeed, & Stephen's Sons retain the patrimony of their Father before He mounted the Throne; to this were added two very necessary Articles, the first that all Lands usurp'd in the time of troubles should be restor'd to their owners, the other that the Castles erected during the Reign of Stephen amounting to 126. were to be demolish'd; Stephen

Stephen dy'd the end of the following Year, soon after He had form'd a Conspiracy to destroy Henry that miscarry'd, by his Son William's falling from his Horse when it was on the point of execution.

This Prince was brave & active, but weak, rash, & suspicious, tho' He lov'd War

He appears to have had no military skill, nor patience to persevere in what He had begun, He had neither the Virtues of a King, nor the parts proper for executing that Office; fond of power, with immense ambition, He shuck at nothing to gain His ends, false promises, perjury treachery, & such little Arts were the principal engines He made use of; He seems to have been Void of Magnanimity, Honour, Justice, Oeconomy, Religion, His spent His time in low & mean Company, the Continual Wars prevented Him from laying regular taxes but wherever He had power He rais'd Danegeld contrary to His Coronation Oath, besides immence contributions, that like most Men in His situation He lavish'd with great prodigality on His troops & partizans.

Henry II.

Henry came to the Crown with all the advantages of birth & Character, his two first Actions rais'd him immensely with the people, the first was dismissing all Foreigners, the second was the Choise of his Council that he compos'd of Men of Experience, Wisdom & Virtue, the next thing he did was to appoint Justices all over the Kingdom whose conduct he examin'd himself in the various progresses he made through the Country; this produced a total change, repeopl'd the Villages, & restor'd the face of Plenty in every County.

Henry summon'd a Council upon the birth of his second son Henry, by his Wife Eleanor Heiress of Guienne & Poitou, to whom he had been married just before he came to England notwithstanding she was divorced from Lewis VII. of France; the Prelates & Nobility assembl'd in Council, took an Oath of allegiance to him, his Eldest son

William who died the following Year, & the Young Prince Henry, after which the King confirm'd the Laws of Edward the Confessor & all the Customs, priviledges, &c to the Church & Barons, they had enjoy'd in the time of His Grandfather, He having before resum'd all the Grants made by Stephen with all the dignitys annex'd to them; this done He paid a Visit to His Foreign Dominions, but the events there not being to our present purpose, we find nothing of moment till the famous Becket came upon the Scene

This ambitious Prelate persecuted Henry the greatest part of His Reign, it is quite foreign to our purpose to enter into this well known dispute, it will be sufficient to mark that it produc'd some salutary effects at first, in particular the famous Constitution
1164. of Clarendon that vindicated the Rights of

the Crown & People against the power of the Clergy.

These were the antient Customs handed down by tradition, & constant usage, for the first time put into writing; the assassination of this Proud Ecclesiastick was attended however with great infamy to the King & People; the Papal power got great accessions, & the thunder of excommunication forc'd the King to the most shameful penance, part of which was receiving stripes from the Monks his own subjects, at the Tomb of the Canonized Rebel.

~~[illegible]~~

Becket's death did not restore tranquility to Henry of long duration His own Children prov'd the bane of the remainder of His life; He had caus'd His eldest Son Henry to be Crown'd & yet He with
+1170. of His Brothers form'd in concert with the Queen a Conspiracy against His Father on account of

His love for the fair Rosamond; this Young
1182. Prince died in 20th Year of his age, & was
succeeded in his rebellion by Richard his next
Brother, who join'd the King of France to attack
Henry in his Foreign Dominions; the ill success the
King met with in this War force'd him to accept
the terms of Peace offer'd him ~~then~~ by his
son Richard & Philip King of France; by
this Peace Henry's Vassals were to swear
allegiance to Richard as the Successor to the
Throne; He sign'd this treaty when very ill
1189. & died soon after, broken with Years &
family misfortunes; but the thing above
all others that is said to have hasten'd
his death, was the discovering his favourite
son John's name in the list of those that
had associated themselves with Philip &
Richard & this notwithstanding the innumerable
favours he had heap'd upon him, creating

Him the Lord of Ireland, the conquest of which Country He would have compleated, had it not been for His domestick troubles, He afterwards procur'd the Popes consent to appoint His Successor; preferr'd His interest in every thing to his own, in return for all which John abandon'd Him in His greatest necessity.

Thus perish'd the broken heart of the Greatest Prince England had seen since the Conquest; He had a great sweetness & compassion in His temper, good Nature, Polite, & Affable, great natural parts improv'd by an unusual share of learning, delighting in the Company of learned Men, & prosecuting His studys through His whole Reign; He exercis'd great Charity to the Poor, assigning the tenth part of His Household provisions for them, He had great natural Courage & intrepidity with great Military

skill yet fond of Peace, He never entered into a War but out of real necessity, detesting bloodshed, He lamented every private Soldier's fall & was most humane & merciful where He conquer'd.

As to Government He was reckon'd the greatest Politician of the Age ever firm in adversity, moderate in prosperity, constant in His friendships, & too much so in His aversions, extremly easy & familiar with the low & humble Man, but high & stately with the proud; an excellent economist in his private affairs but liberal on all public occasions; His people's good was His Reigning passion, the great principal of every action, He is said never to have omitted a day from going to Divine service & to Council; He kept a strict eye over the administration of justice, & chose men for

that purpose of the greatest probity & Capacity, continually making progresses through some part or other of His Dominions when

The Poor & oppressed had on any ocasion to Him, at these times He punish'd severely any of His Officers who had abusd their power, & the care of Widdows, Orphans, the Poor & Oppressd made a constant part in His instructions to them.

He was fond of Hunting, yet changd the punishments of the Forest laws from death, to a Short imprisonment.

It is very remarkable that after having got the better of the Rebellion raisd by His Sons, He did not put one Man to death, nay He restord all the Rebels to their Estates that had been confiscated during the troubles.

His reason was so frequent, He never inflicted a great punishment than banishment, & frequently remitd that; the odious tax of

Danegeld was left off in this great Reign, & notwithstanding the long wars he was engag'd in, we don't find he laid a single tax on his people for the support of them, for the only two extant that were levy'd in the tenth & last Year of this King, were given to the Holy War; Scutages indeed He took, tho' sparingly, but they cannot be look'd upon as taxes, but commutations only of personal service into Money, it was therefore owing undoubtedly to the King's great oeconomy & prudent management of His ordinary Revenue, that He was enabled to carry on such Wars, live with so much magnificence, lay out so much money on Castles, Houses, Parks &c. & yet have wherewith all left, to assist the poor man, & to reward Merit.

This King ever appear'd serious on Religion, & yet many antient writers attack him with

regard to incontinency, the affair of Rosamond is in every book of this Reign, & yet the giving that for a reason for Eleanor to encourage Her Sons to rebel against their Father appears extremely trifling, & founded on no better authority than an old ballad. that King Henry had two Sons by Rosamond is certain, but his first acquaintance with Her was at Sixteen, & it does not appear that Henry had nothing to do with Her after His marriage, which did not happen till thirteen Years had elapsed from that time, & it is remarkable that the whole Clergy of England during the dispute with Becket praised Henry strongly for His Conjugal affection in a letter to the Pope.

The most infamous attack against this great Character, is the love Henry

is said to have had for Adelais of France designd for His Son Richard, which Marriage as some authors tell us He would not suffer to be consummated out of fondness for the Lady, this they say was the reason of Richard's demanding Her so eagerly a little before His Father's death, & of His refusing Her afterwards as being with Child to the late King; but in truth the Princess was not marriageable till after the rebellion of Richard, & then He did not care to strengthen that unnatural Son with so great an alliance that seems rather to have wisht Her married to John, & Richards demanding Her was only to raise difficultys to prevent His Younger brothers success.

Upon the whole this King's greatest failing was excess of fondness to His Children, but the fondness of a great Man that consulted