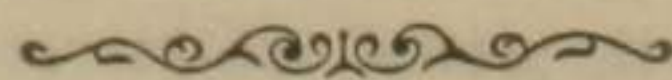


A
COMPENDIUM
OF
UNIVERSAL HISTORY ;
MODERN .

PART I.

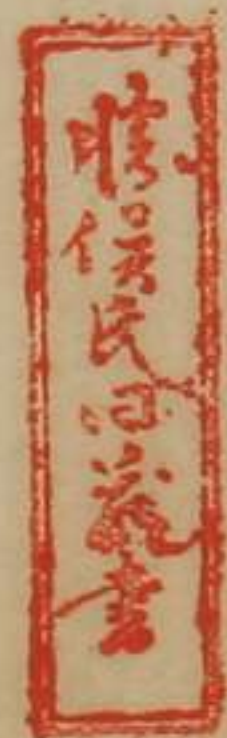
THE MIDDLE AGES.



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INTRODUCTION.

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574. MODERN History, as *distinguished* from ANCIENT, commences with the fall of the Roman Empire, A.D. 476. This event chiefly affected the European nations; but, for convenience, is made the point of division for the history of the world in general.

575. We no longer trace one great empire after another,—as the Assyrian, Persian, Grecian, and Roman. On the dissolution of the last of these, numerous kingdoms arose, separate, and independent; influencing each other in their political relations; but none of them of such extent as to combine the rest under its supremacy.

576. Modern History, as *connected with* Ancient, is but the continuation of the same general narrative. There is a transition, but no interval, separating the ancients from the moderns, as though they were beings of a different race. The facts of Ancient History must therefore be borne in mind, in order to a proper comprehension of those which belong to later times.

577. A devout recognition of the overruling Providence of God is necessary to a proper apprehension of these grand divisions of human history, and of their relation to each other. Under all varieties of subordinate agency, we are thus enabled to recognize the same *Supreme control* throughout; and, by the aid

of Scripture, to perceive the tendency of all events to one final and beneficent purpose.

578. The history of the world, from the fall of the Roman Empire to the present time, though described by the general term, "Modern History," is properly divided into two parts:—I. The History of the *Middle Ages*; II. *Modern History*.

579. The *MIDDLE AGES* comprehend the space of a *Thousand years*,—from the fall of the Roman Empire in the *Fifth* century, to the revival of learning at the end of the *Fifteenth* century. This period is sometimes described, according to its character, by the term, "*The Dark Ages*." From the close of the *Fifteenth* century, a gradual improvement ensued. *MODERN HISTORY*, in its proper acceptation, applies only to the *last four hundred years*.

CHAPTER I.

FROM THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE END OF THE SIXTH CENTURY.

580. The two grand divisions of the Roman Empire, as *Eastern*, and *Western*, varied, in some measure, from time to time; but, in general, may be thus distinguished:

The *Western* empire included Italy, Illyria (now Albania, &c.). Spain, Gaul, Britain, and part of the North of Africa.

The *Eastern* empire comprehended Asia Minor, Thrace (now Rumlia), Dacia (now Servia and Moldavia), Macedonia, Syria, and Egypt.

581. The general designation of *Barbarians*, which is applied to the invaders of the Empire, includes many nations,—some from the North of Europe, of *Celtic*, or *Scandinavian* origin,—others, who had emigrated from the neighbourhood of the Black Sea, known by the name of *Goths*. These, becoming the most numerous and powerful, are referred to, as comprehending the various tribes who subverted the Western empire,

582. The manners and institutions of the *Gothic nations* were those of an uncivilized and warlike People, and their incursions were marked by rapine and cruelty. But they superseded a feeble and despotic go-

vernment; and, ultimately, were the means of introducing a change of laws and manners, more favourable than those of the ancient nations to the liberty and happiness of mankind.

585. On the dissolution of the *Western empire*, after many sanguinary wars, ITALY was ably governed from A.D. 495 to A.D. 526, by *Theodoric*, a Gothic prince, The *Lombards* took possession of the country, A.D. 568. At the commencement of the Sixth century, GAUL was occupied by the *Franks*, under *Clovis*, whence originated the modern kingdom of *France*. SPAIN at the same period, was a *Gothic* kingdom, BRITAIN, on the retirement of the Romans, was gradually reduced under the dominion of the *Saxons*.

584. The *Eastern empire* continued to exist for Ten centuries after the extinction of that of the *West*,—but, in a state of extreme decay. It is designated the *Byzantine* empire,—from *Byzantium*, the ancient name of its capital, afterwards *Constantinople*.

585. The reign of the emperor *Justinian*, A.D. 527, was distinguished by the achievements of his general, *Belisarius*; who recovered part of Italy from the Goths, and the North coast of Africa from the Vandals; but was treated with ingratitude by the Emperor.

586. *Justin II.* succeeded *Justinian*. His general, *Narses*, was the rival of *Belisarius*; and was equally renowned. The Persians, under their kings, *Cabades* and *Chosroes*, maintained continual war with the Eastern empire during the Sixth century.

THE STATE OF CHRISTIANITY, FROM THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE END OF THE SIXTH CENTURY.

587. Christianity had been introduced to all the countries under the Roman power; and the Barbarous tribes, as they took possession of the several provinces, gradually adopted the religion which prevailed there. This, in great measure, resulted from the fact, that Christianity was, at that period, so corrupted as to admit of the retention of many of their idolatrous customs. (See Sec. 569, 571.)

588. A prevailing error of the age was that of the *Arians*, (from *Arius*, a presbyter of Alexandria, in the Fourth century) who denied the Scripture doctrine of the Divine nature of the Son of God. The Goths, and other tribes of Barbarians, during the Fifth century, in their ignorance, embraced this opinion.

589. *Clovis*, king of the Franks, (see Sec. 585), a man of perfidious and cruel character, married *Clotilda*, a Christian princess, and embraced the profession of her religion. A.D. 500. The *political* character of such profession, at that period, is exemplified by the fact that *Three thousand* of his soldiers were baptized at the same time; and, that a succession of sanguinary wars ensued, on the plea of zeal for the orthodox faith.

590. The ignorance and superstition of the Gothic nations favoured the claims of the Priesthood; and, as the efficacy of gifts, for the expiation of offences, was a principle generally admitted in the dark ages,

liberal donations of land, and other property, augmented their power and influence. The assumptions of the Bishop of Rome, as the authorized successor of the Apostle Peter, were admitted, with blind credulity; and this was repaid by the *religious* sanction given to purposes of fraud or ambition.

591. The precepts of Christianity, even at the period of its grossest corruption, continued to exert some influence on society. The cruelty and licentiousness of the Barbarians were, in some measure, restrained by religious discipline; the little knowledge which remained, amidst the general ignorance, was preserved among the clergy; their influence mitigated the oppressive slavery which then prevailed; and the extreme poverty of the lower orders was relieved by almsgiving.

CHAPTER II.

FROM A.D. 600 TO A.D. 800.

592. During these two centuries, the advance of civilization was checked by a stern military government; ignorance prevailed; society was disorganized; and Europe was desolated by continual wars.

592. The *Lombards* took possession of the North of ITALY,—whence, its present designation of Lombardy. Ravenna, and part of the Eastern coast, belonged to the

Byzantine empire, under the name of *Exarchates*; and Rome was under the dominion of its Bishop, who now exercised the supreme ecclesiastical power, as pope.

594. FRANCE was governed by the descendants of Clovis (see Sec. 585), called the *Merovingian* dynasty. On the death of Dagobert 3rd, A.D. 645, the kingdom was, for some years, divided into two parts, *Austrasia* and *Neustria*. The feebleness of successive monarchs permitted their officers, called “Mayors of the Palace,” to usurp the government. Such was the conduct of *Pepin Heristel*, A.D. 690, who transmitted his power to his son *Charles Martel*, A.D. 715. He is celebrated as having defeated the Saracens who invaded France. (See Sec. 599, Note.)

595. *Pepin le Bref*, son of Charles Martel, under the sanction of pope Zachary, assumed the title, as well as the power of king; and, with him originated the second dynasty, called *Carlovingian*, A.D. 751.

596. Pepin was succeeded by his son Charles, called, from the extent of his conquests, “*Charlemagne*;” or, Charles the Great. His territories included the greater part of the Western Roman Empire; and he assumed the title of Emperor of the Romans, A.D. 800.

597. In SPAIN, the Gothic kingdom had declined; the throne was usurped by Roderic, A.D. 708; in opposition to whom, Count Julian, Governor of Andalusia, invited the Arabs or Moors, to invade the kingdom.

598. The battle of Xeres, in which the Moors were victorious, A.D. 711, brought all Spain in subjection to

them, except the mountainous province of Asturias. Their power was maintained during two centuries. Cordova was their capital; and the arts and sciences were cultivated there, more than in any other European kingdom of that period.

399. The Moors attempted to extend their conquests in Europe, and advanced into France, but were repulsed by *Charles Martel* in the battle of Tours, A.D. 732 (see Sec. 394).

Martel, "The Hammer," was a surname derived from this exploit; the result of which materially affected the general state of Europe. Had the Saracens been victorious, their power might have been as firmly established in France as it was in Spain; and might, thence, have extended to Germany and even to Britain.

400. BRITAIN, on the decline of the Roman power, was invaded by three German tribes, the *Jutes*, *Saxons*, and *Angles*; who gradually subdued the country, and established the *Heptarchy*, or seven kingdoms, of Kent, Sussex, Essex, Wessex, Northumberland, East Anglia, and Mercia. The Britons took refuge in Wales, and Cornwall; and the northern part of the Island was occupied by the Scots and Picts.

401. The manners, laws, and customs of the European nations were gradually assimilated to those which had prevailed among their Gothic conquerors. Hence arose the mode of government designated the *Feudal system*.

402. It was customary, among barbarous nations, to recompense the perils of war by a distribution of the spoil. As the power of the chief increased, in the progress of conquest, the territory which he acquired was

divided among his followers, on the condition of military service. They were hence called his *vassals*.

403. The vassals, in turn, divided their lands among their dependents, on similar conditions. Lands thus held were called *fiefs*. The husbandmen who tilled the soil, and who were in a manner part of the property, were designated *serfs*.

The *serfs* or *villeins* were regarded as belonging to the estate, were incapable of acquiring property, and, under any injury, were without redress. The clergy used their influence for the amelioration of such slavery, and the progress of events tended to its ultimate abolition; but, for several centuries, the feudal system rendered the condition of the lower orders in England very miserable.

THE EASTERN OR BYZANTINE EMPIRE.

404. *Maurice*, the Eastern Emperor, was dethroned and murdered by *Phocas*, one of his officers, A.D. 602. The usurper was a cruel tyrant, and was defeated, and put to death, by *Heraclius*, A.D. 610. The reign of *Heraclius* was occupied in war with the Persians, under Chosroes II.

405. From his time, till the end of the Eighth century, the Empire declined, under a succession of feeble monarchs. The dependencies in Africa, Syria, and Asia Minor, were lost; and the reigns of the Byzantine monarchs are chiefly distinguished by acts of revenge and cruelty.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY,
FROM A.D. 600 TO A.D. 800.

406. The *Greek* (or Eastern), and the *Latin* (or Western) churches, were divided, at this period. The Patriarch of Constantinople and the Bishop of Rome had long been rivals; and successive controversies kept alive their animosity. So frivolous a question as that of the time for keeping Easter, had, at an early period, been agitated with great warmth; but in the Eighth century a matter of more importance brought the dispute to a crisis.

407. The *worship of images* had become so prevalent, that the Greek emperor, Leo, the Isaurian, attempted their forcible removal from the churches. The parties engaged in the execution of this edict, were called *Iconoclasts* or "image breakers." The Bishop of Rome, Gregory II., strenuously supported the idolatrous practice; and withdrew his allegiance from the emperor, A.D. 750.

408. The political power, thus claimed by the Bishop of Rome, was soon endangered by the Lombards, who occupied the North of Italy (see Sec. 395); and *Stephen the Third* sought the aid of *Pepin*, who had usurped the throne of France. (See Sec. 395.) Each agreed to support the other's usurpation; the Pope lending the sanction of religion, and Pepin, in turn, rendering service in war.

409. The Lombards were defeated; and their territory was assigned to the Roman See. This gave rise to the *temporal power* of the Popes and afforded faci-

lities for the gradual extension of their *spiritual* jurisdiction over all the kingdoms of Europe.

410. CHRISTIANITY IN BRITAIN Britain was brought under the Roman power in the age of the Apostles, and their immediate successors: and Christianity was introduced, by the instrumentality of soldiers and citizens, who had enjoyed the benefit of their instructions.

411. Corruptions of faith and practice were less prevalent in the early British Churches than in those of the continent; and several eminent missionaries, as *Scotus* or *Patrick*, A.D. 450, and *Columba*, A.D. 565, were zealous in the dissemination of the Gospel. The Saxon invasions compelled the British Christians to Wales and Scotland; but their religious principles were maintained, in opposition to the corruptions of the time; and, especially, to that of the Papal supremacy.

412 The Saxons, who had established themselves in Britain, were idolaters. *Pope Gregory*, A.D. 597, sent *Austin*, with a company of monks, to attempt their conversion. The several kingdoms of the Heptarchy (see Sec. 400.) were gradually induced to adopt the form of Christianity which was then prevalent; and which allowed many of their heathen customs to be retained. England, under the Papacy, was thus involved in moral darkness during the ensuing ages.

415. THE MOHAMMEDAN RELIGION dates from the commencement of the *Seventh century*. It arose in Arabia, among a people whose religion was a compound of Judaism and Idolatry. Mohammed pretended to a Divine com-

mission; but was at first rejected, and compelled to flee. This event, designated the "Hegira," or *flight*, A.D. 622, is the era from which all Mohammedan nations reckon their years.

The Mohammedans allow only 354 days to the year, which involves an error of more than three years in every century.

414. Mohammed afterwards proceeded to enforce his religion by the sword. He took the city of Mecca, and, in a few years, subdued all Arabia. His followers, the *Saracens*, in less than a century after his death, extended their conquests over Persia, Syria, Egypt, the North of Africa, and Spain, (see Sec. 598), and became masters of the Mediterranean.

415. The sacred book of the Mohammedans is called the *Korán*. Its two principal tenets are, the unity of God, and the prophetic mission of Mohammed. Some of the most important doctrines of Christianity are denied; and practices are inculcated which are quite at variance with true religion.

CHAPTER III.

FROM A.D. 800 TO A.D. 1000.

416. *Charlemagne*, son of *Pepin*, king of France, enlarged his dominions by conquest, till they nearly equalled the Western Empire of the Romans in extent.

He was crowned at Rome, by Pope Leo III, with the title of Emperor of the West, A.D. 800.

417. The reign of Charlemagne was distinguished by political ability, by the promotion of commerce and the patronage of learning; but the superstition of that period engaged him in sanguinary wars, on the plea of extending Christianity among the idolatrous nations of Europe.

418. Charlemagne was succeeded in the title of Emperor of the West, by his son *Louis le Debonnaire*, or "Goodnatured;" but his extensive empire was again dismembered, by the rebellion of the sons of Louis, (*Louis*, *Lothaire*, and *Charles*), and by their subsequent wars with each other.

419. FRANCE came under the government of *Charles*, surnamed *the Bald*, A.D. 840. A succession of feeble monarchs, among whom were *Charles the Fat*, *Charles the Simple*, and *Louis the 5th*, the *Slothful*, (*le Fainéant*), gave the nobles an opportunity of asserting their independence, and controlling the government. On the death of *Louis V*, the *Carlovingian* race of French kings terminated; and the crown was seized by *Hugh Capet*, with whom commenced the *Capetian line*, A.D. 987.

420. GERMANY had been united with France, under the government of Charlemagne. The battle of *Fontenoy*, between his grandsons, (see Sec. 418) led to the *treaty of Verdun*, A.D. 843, by which France, Germany, and Italy, were shared between the three brothers,—*Charles the Bald* obtained France, *Louis* became first king of

the Germans, and *Lothaire*, with Italy, claimed the title of Emperor of the West,—but possessed a very limited dominion.

421. While the Empire of Charlemagne was thus reduced, by division, among his successors,—the nobles of Germany, like those of France, claimed the chief power; and, in their continual wars with each other, reduced the kingdom to a state of barbarism. Germany, at that time, included Holland and Belgium, with some parts of France and Italy, in addition to what is comprehended in modern Germany.

422. In an assembly of the nobles, *Conrad of Franconia*, was elected Emperor, A.D. 911:—who was succeeded by *Henry the Fowler*, Duke of Saxony, A.D. 919. *Otho the Great*, son of Henry, A.D. 936, enjoyed a long and eventful reign; during which, he enlarged his German territory,—made Denmark tributary,—subdued Italy,—and exercised his sovereignty in the election of the Pope. He was succeeded by his son, *Otho II*, A.D. 974; on whose death, *Otho III* became Emperor, A.D. 985.

423. In ITALY, as in other parts of Europe, during the reigns of feeble monarchs, the great vassals gradually asserted their independence. The dukes of *Spoleto* and of *Friuli* were the most powerful; and maintained a contest for the kingdom. *Berenger II* (of Friuli) was deposed by *Otho the Great*, A.D. 965; and the German emperors, from that time, claimed dominion in Italy.

424. In SPAIN, one district, *Asturias*, under its prince, *Palago*, (or *Pelagius*), had remained unsubdued by the

Saracens, at the close of the 8th century. (See Sec. 598). This was gradually enlarged, by the expulsion of the Moors, or Saracens, from Leon and Castile, A.D. 842;—and, in course of the ensuing century, Navarre and Aragon also effected their independence. The Moors maintained their warlike character, but were weakened by internal divisions.

425. ENGLAND. The kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy, after a succession of wars during 150 years, were gradually united, under one government; and *Egbert*, king of the West Saxons, became king of all England, A.D. 827. The most distinguished of his successors was *Alfred*, who ascended the throne, A.D. 871. He bravely defended his country against the Danish invaders,—and greatly improved the mode of government. He also favoured commercial enterprise, and promoted the diffusion of knowledge.

426. During the century which ensued, after the death of Alfred, *Eight* Saxon kings of his race reigned in succession; the most distinguished of whom were *Athelstan*, A.D. 925, and *Edgar*, A.D. 959. *Ethelred*, “the Unready,” ascended the throne, A.D. 978.

427. THE NORTHMEN, OR DANES. *Scandinavia*, (now *Denmark*, *Norway*, and *Sweden*), was inhabited by a hardy and adventurous race, who lived by piracy. Their incursions, on the coasts of France and England, were frequent, and formidable, during the *Ninth century*.

428. In France, *Rollo*, the Norman chief, compelled *Charles the Simple* (see Sec. 419.) to yield a considerable

territory, A.D. 912; which, from that time, was named *Normandy*. In *England*, the depredations of the Danes were continued, throughout the period of the Saxon government. They were often defeated, but renewed their attacks, and gradually obtained possession of the Eastern coasts. At the close of the *Ninth* century, they were in a condition to dispute the succession to the throne of England.

429. The *EASTERN, Byzantine, or Greek Empire*, was still maintained; but most of the princes in succession acquired the throne by usurpation and murder, and their reigns are chiefly remarkable for perfidy and cruelty.

450. The empress *Irene*, who occupied the throne at the commencement of the *Ninth* century, had obtained it by the murder of ~~of~~ her own son. *Nicephorus*, her successor, was a cruel tyrant. The Bulgarians crossed the Danube, and invaded the empire,—and *Nicephorus* was killed in battle, A.D. 810.

451. *Basil* obtained the throne by usurpation and murder, A.D. 867. His government was vigorous; and his family maintained the succession for *Two hundred years*, during which time, the limits of the empire were gradually reduced, by the encroachments of the Saracens.

452. *Leo the Sixth*, “the philosopher,” A.D. 889. A race of adventurers from Tartary, named Magyars, occupied *Hungary*, and ravaged great part of Europe. They were only induced by bribes to withdraw from Constantinople.

455. *Constantine X.*, surnamed *Porphyrogenitus* (A.D. 911), was a patron of science. In the reign of *Nicephorus II.* A.D. 965, the Russians invaded the empire. They were defeated by the next emperor, *John Zemisces*, A.D. 969. *Basil II.*, A.D. 975, subdued the Bulgarians.

454. THE MOHAMMEDAN POWER. The Saracens continued to extend their conquests, till great part of Asia, and the whole of the north coast of Africa, were subdued. The followers of Mohammed adopted the Koran as the basis of their laws, as well as of their religion; but were divided into different dynasties, under their respective *Caliphs*.

455. The *Ommiades* claimed descent from *Omar*, the second in succession from Mohammed, A.D. 654. The *Abassydae*, from *Abbas*, the uncle of Mohammed, supplanted the *Ommiades*, A.D. 750, and established their seat of empire at *Bagdad*.

When the Caliph was deposed, his family were murdered, except *Abderrhaman*, who fled into Spain, A.D. 755; and there his descendants maintained their claim for two centuries, at *Cordova*.

456. The *Fatimites*, or Mohammedans of Africa, claimed descent from *Ali*, the cousin, and *Fatima*, the daughter, of Mohammed. They founded *Algiers*, *Tunis*, and *Tripoli*; and subsequently obtained possession of *Egypt*; where they made *Cairo* their capital, A.D. 969. These divisions weakened the power of the Saracens, notwithstanding

ing the extent of their conquests.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY
FROM A.D. 800 TO A.D. 1000.

437 The *temporal* dominion which the popes had acquired (see Sec. 409), favoured their claims to *spiritual supremacy*; and forgeries, of the grossest character, were fabricated, in support of their extravagant pretensions. Ignorance generally prevailed. Ecclesiastics were employed, as the only educated class, in the highest secular offices; and such influence greatly favoured the advance of the Papacy.

438. The Patriarch of Constantinople continued to be a formidable rival of the Bishop of Rome. Photius, an eminent scholar, was nominated to that office by the Greek emperor. The Pope claimed the right of appointment, and a violent dispute ensued, A.D. 865. Nicholas I excommunicated Photius; who, in return, pronounced the same sentence on his rival. The violence of the controversy abated in the following century, but never entirely ceased.

439 The wealth derived from the donations of Charlemagne, and other princes, had made ecclesiastical offices objects of gain and ambition,—and the highest stations were often filled by men of the worst character; many such are found in the list of *Twenty-eight Popes*, who occupied the pretended chair of St. Peter, during the Tenth century.

440. Sometimes two, and even three persons, at once, would claim the title; all of whom manifested, by their vindictive conduct, the absence of every Christian quality. In these disputes Otho, Emperor of Germany interfered, A.D. 965; he not only deposed Pope John XII. and substituted Benedict V.,—but asserted the right of the Emperors of Germany to nominate to the Popedom.

441. Attempts were made to revive the doctrine and practice of the New Testament; but the prevalence of error, both in the Eastern and Western churches, induced continual opposition. In the East, the *Paulicians* were thus made the victims of unrelenting cruelty. The survivors emigrated Westward, and their descendants afterwards became the victims of Popish persecution, under the name of *Cathari*, or *Puritans*.

442. In the West, a considerable body of Christians, who had, from the earliest age, retained the simplicity of the Gospel,—in opposition to the superstitions of the church of Rome,—dwelt in the valleys of Piedmont; and were hence called *Vaudois* or *Waldenses*, “men of the valleys.”

443. The only account of these “witnesses for the truth,” is conveyed in history by their enemies; who charge them with precisely the same crimes, as were brought against the primitive Christians, by their heathen persecutors. But it is remarkable, that, in connection with such accusations, and the quotations from their writings, sufficiently prove that their opinions and practices were, mainly, those which distinguished the Prote

stant reformation, at a later period.

444. THE STATE OF CHRISTIANITY IN BRITAIN, at this period, corresponded with that which prevailed on the continent. The Scriptures were withholden from the people; and the grossest fables supplied the place of religious instruction. Superstitious ceremonies, many of them of pagan origin, were substituted for the ordinances of the Gospel; and, such was the prevailing ignorance, as to justify a statement of king Alfred, that, at his accession to the throne, very few south of the Humber, and none south of the Thames, could understand their prayers in English, or could translate a letter from Latin.

445. Some of Alfred's successors are chiefly remarkable as the victims of ecclesiastical tyranny. *Dunstan*, a monk of great reputed sanctity, gained great influence in that credulous age, by pretended miracles. He was made Archbishop of Canterbury, A.D. 960: and, during several reigns, exercised the chief authority in the State. The power of the clergy, in general, was advanced, by their being the sole interpreters of the laws.

446. MOHAMMEDANISM. The title of *Caliph* was given to the vicar, or successor, of Mohammed. Before the close of the Tenth century there were Three rival Caliphs, —at *Cordova*, *Bagdad*, and *Cairo*; (See Secs. 455, 456,) and the contests between their respective followers were frequent.

447. Some of the Caliphs were eminent patrons of learning; among whom, *Harun-al-Rasched*, the contemporary of Charlemagne, (see Sec. 416. &c.) was especially

distinguished. The modern nations of Europe are indebted to the Saracens for the preservation of many scientific works of the ancients.

At the earlier period of the Mohammedan power, it was far otherwise. It is related that when Amru, the general of the caliph Omar, took Alexandria, A.D. 641, and enquired his pleasure, as to the disposal of its famous library, the caliph ordered its entire destruction, on the ground that, "If the books agreed with the Koran they were superfluous, and if they differed from it they were pernicious."

CHAPTER IV.

THE ELEVENTH CENTURY.

448. GERMANY. The Saxon line of Emperors ended with *Henry II.*, A.D. 1024. *Conrad II.* was elected his successor. His son, *Henry III.*, A.D. 1059, exercised absolute power in the empire, and, not only resisted the Papal claims of supremacy, but appointed Three Popes in succession.

449. He was succeeded by *Henry IV.*, A.D. 1056, whose reign presents a history quite the reverse of his father's. Though possessed of ability, as a monarch, he was opposed by the nobles, and, at the same time, maintained a fruitless contest with the Popes, *Nicolas II.* and *Gregory VII.* (*Hildebrand*), and died, the victim of ecclesiastical usurpation.

The most powerful of the feudal nobles of Germany, at this period, were the Dukes of Saxony, Bavaria, Swabia, and Franconia; and the three Archbishops of Mentz, Treves, and Cologne.

450. FRANCE. *Hugh Capet*, a powerful noble, had usurped the crown (see Sec. 419), which he transmitted to his son, *Robert*, A.D. 996. His reign was disturbed by the interference of the Papal authority.—*Henry I.*, son of *Robert* succeeded, A.D. 1051. The territory of the kings of France was very limited, at this period; and their power was restrained by a formidable aristocracy. *Philip I.* ascended the throne, A.D. 1060. His reign is chiefly remarkable as the era of the *Crusades*.

451. ITALY. The *North of Italy* was divided into numerous principalities, and was the scene of continual war. The territory claimed by the *Popes* was limited; but the spiritual power which they asserted gave them unbounded political influence.

452. *Venice* and *Genoa* had each an independent government, and were actively engaged in commerce. The *South of Italy* was occupied by Norman adventurers, who, under *Roger Guiscard*, A.D. 1060, recovered Sicily from the Saracens; and after having made the Pope a prisoner, were confirmed in their possessions, by his authority.

453. SPAIN. The contest between the Christians and the Moors continued. Both nations suffered from internal divisions; and their history is equally marked by a series of plots and assassinations.

454 Some of the Spanish chiefs, who made war their profession, engaged as champions on the part of the

Christian princes, and were called "knights-errant." The most celebrated of these was *Roderic*, "the *Cid*," or chief, who reduced several of the petty kingdoms of the Moors under subjection to *Alphonso* of Castile; recovered Toledo, A.D. 1084; and established his own government in *Valentia*.

455. ENGLAND. In the reign of *Ethelred*, the "Unready," (see Sec. 426), the Danes had established themselves on the coast of England. Their countrymen continued their encroachments, and were bribed to retire by a tribute, thence called "*dane-gelt*." As their demands became more exorbitant, *Ethelred* gave secret orders for the murder of all those who had settled in England.

456. *Sweyn*, king of Denmark, immediately invaded the country, with a great force, A.D. 1005; and *Ethelred* fled to Normandy. On the death of *Sweyn*, *Canute* his son, became king of England, A.D. 1016, in connection with *Edmund "Ironside"* and, as the latter was murdered, in the ensuing year, the Danish power was fully established.

457. *Canute* governed England with ability; and was succeeded by his sons, *Harold*, A.D. 1056, and *Hardicanute*, A.D. 1040; both of whom were so tyrannical as to induce the English to restore the Saxon line of kings, in the person of *Ecdward*, surnamad "*the Confessor*," who was a feeble and superstitious prince.

458. On the death of *Edward the Confessor*, *Harold*, son of *Earl Godwin*, seized the throne; but was opposed by *Willam, Duke of Normandy*. The contest was decided by the battle of *Hastings*; in which *Harold* was killed, and

William the Conqueror became king of England, A.D. 1066.

459. William maintained a vigorous government, according to the feudal law (see Secs. 401—405). He was succeeded by his son, *William Rufus*, A.D. 1087, who reigned despotically, till A.D. 1100, when he was accidentally killed, in hunting.

460. From the *Saxons* we derive our language, and many laws and institutions favourable to popular freedom. The *Norman conquest* established a military despotism; but ultimately promoted civilization, by the encouragement of literature, arts, and commerce. The qualities of each race of people are combined in the national character; and may be traced throughout the history of the British Constitution.

461. THE EASTERN, OR GREEK EMPIRE. The reigns of successive monarchs, in the Eleventh century, are marked by treachery, revolution, and murder. The Empress *Zoe* maintained a profligate reign of thirty years, with several successive husbands; and was followed, A.D. 1056, by her sister *Theodora*, the last of the descendants of Basil (see Sec. 451). In the year 1081, *Alexis Comnenus* founded a new dynasty, the *Comneni*. His reign of Thirty-seven years, is chiefly remarkable in connection with the history of the *First Crusade*.

462. THE MOHAMMEDAN POWER. The Caliphs of Egypt

and Bagdad were engaged in frequent contests, and their power was impaired by the establishment of independent governments by their officers. *Mahmood of Ghizni* having thus rendered himself powerful in his own country, Afghanistan, proceeded to invade Hindo tan.

465. The incursions of Mahmood, during successive years, extended over the north of India, and constituted the first Mohammedan conquest of that country. In his zeal against idolatry, Mahmood of Ghizni destroyed the Hindoo temples, and appropriated their wealth, after committing great cruelties. He died A.D. 1028.

464. THE TURKS. The Caliphs of Bagdad had engaged in their military service a Tartar tribe, named *Turcomans*, or Turks. They took advantage of the declining power of the Caliphs, to seize the government. *Toghrul-Beg*, A.D. 1055, assumed the title of *Sultan*.

465. The dominion founded by Toghrul-Beg, was extended by his successors, *Alp-Arsan*, A.D. 1065, and *Malek Shah*, A.D. 1074, over Egypt, Syria, Asia Minor. They are called *Seljukian Turks*, from the name of their ancestor, Seljuk. Their occupation of Jerusalem at this period, gave occasion to the *First Crusade*.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE

ELEVENTH CENTURY.

466. The contest for supremacy, between the *Greek* and *Roman* churches, (see Sec. 406), was renewed with

increased violence. *Michael Cerularius* was Patriarch of Constantinople, and *Leo the Ninth* was Pope, A.D. 1054.

467. After much angry controversy, the points in dispute serving only to exemplify the want of genuine Christianity, on both sides, the *Pope* and the *Patriarch* excommunicated each other; and the separation of the two bodies, which they respectively represented, became permanent.

468. Another contest, in which the Popes were engaged, during this century, was that with the Emperors of Germany. The object was, to free the Papacy from the Imperial control. (See Sec. 422 and 440.)

469. *Greg. VII.* (Hildebrand), A.D. 1075, took advantage of the disturbed state of Germany to require the Emperor, *Henry IV.*, to surrender the *investiture*, (or appointment to ecclesiastical offices, by conferring the ring and crosier), which his predecessors had exercised.

470. Henry refused to make the concession, and was excommunicated:—nor could he gain absolution, till he had crossed the Alps, in the depth of winter, and, by way of penance, stood three days, with his head and feet bare, at the Pope's gate.

471. The "Witnesses for the Truth" maintained their opposition to the errors both of the Eastern, and Western churches, From the former the *Paulicians* (see Sec. 441) suffered severe persecution, and a *Hundred Thousand* were put to death during the reign of *Theodora* (see Sec. 461).

472. In the *West*, the followers of the *Paulicians*, driven hither by persecution, aided the testimony of the *Waldenses* and *Albigenses*, in France, Flanders, and Italy, in maintenance of the truth of the Gospel. Many of these early reformers suffered martyrdom, but their opinions survived them.

473 ENGLAND. William the Conqueror obtained the sanction of Gregory VII., for his invasion of England; but, on completing his conquest, refused to do homage, as the Pope's vassal. The Saxon prelates were deposed;—*Lanfranc*, an Italian, was made Archbishop of Canterbury;—and the tax of a penny on every house, which the Saxons had formerly sent to Rome, was confirmed, under the name of "Peterpence." In the reign of William II., *Anselm*, Archbishop of Canterbury, zealously maintained the Papal claims.

The tax of Peterpence was not finally abolished till the Reformation, at which time it exceeded the royal revenue,

474. THE EAST. The conquests of the Mohammedans diffused their religion. They were divided into many sects; but the grand distinction, which commenced at this period, and has continued ever since, was that of "Soonees," and "Sheahs." The former acknowledge the authority of the first three Caliphs, which the latter reject. The most eminent saints of one party are, therefore, execrated by the other; and a determined hostility has been maintained, which finds expression at their annual festivals. The *Turks*, were Soonees, the *Persians*, Sheahs; and their respective conquests, *Westward*, and *Eastward*.

have been marked by this distinction.

475. THE CRUSADES. The *First* of these enterprises marks the close of the *Eleventh* century. The Turks, in the progress of their conquests (see Sec. 465), had obtained possession of Jerusalem. As the practice of pilgrimage was deemed meritorious, in the Romish church, multitudes of devotees resorted thither; and, on their return, described the oppression and insult with which they had been treated.

476. A council was called, at *Clermont*, by *Pope Urban II.*, A.D. 1095, with a view to the recovery of the Holy Land; and the princes of Europe eagerly undertook the enterprise. A French monk, named *Peter the Hermit*, excited the people of different countries, by his preaching; and set out, A.D. 1096, with an undisciplined multitude, of *Eighty Thousand*,—the greater part of whom, perished on the way.

477. An armed force of *Six Hundred Thousand*, commanded by *Godfrey of Bouillon*, was reduced, to a tenth part of its number, before reaching Jerusalem; but succeeded in taking the city, A.D. 1099. Palestine was afterwards subdued; but the conquest was not permanent.

The siege of Jerusalem lasted five weeks, under circumstances of extreme suffering to both parties. The city was at length taken by storm, and a barbarous massacre of the inhabitants ensued, in which *Twenty Thousand* are said to have perished. William, Duke of Normandy, son of William the Conqueror, took part in this crusade. The poem of Tasso, "*Jerusalem Delivered*," is founded on the events of this period.

CHAPTER V.

THE TWELFTH CENTURY.

478. GERMANY. Henry V., the last of the house of *Franconia*, succeeded his father, Henry IV. in 1106. The contest with Rome on the subject of "*Investitures*," (see Sec. 469.) disturbed his reign; but was at last settled by a compromise. *Lothaire*, Duke of Saxony, was elected Emperor, A.D. 1025; and, after him, Conrad III., the first of the House of *Swabia*.

479. Frederick "*Barbarossa*" (red beard), his successor, A.D. 1152, was a prince of great ability, but failed in a contest with the Pope, Alexander III.,—and was compelled to kiss his feet, and hold his stirrup, A.D. 1177. Frederick died in Asia, while engaged in the crusade, and was succeeded by his son, Henry VI., A.D. 1190; in whose reign Richard I., of England, was a prisoner in Germany.

480. In the reign of Conrad III. originated the distinction of parties, under the name of *Guelphs* and *Ghibelins*. The election of Conrad was opposed by Henry, Duke of Bavaria. Henry was of the house of Saxony, whose family name was *Welf*, or *Guelph*: Conrad represented the house of Swabia, who derived their name of *Ghibelins*, from *Wilbeling*, a town in their territory.

481. The designation, *Ghibelins*, at first indicated the

adherents of the Emperor, and *Guelfs*, the princes who opposed him;—but their application, during the following century, became more extended.

In the contest between Conrad and Guelf, brother of Henry of Bavaria, occurred the siege of the castle of *Weinsberg*; celebrated, in story, for the conjugal fidelity of the ladies; who, being permitted to leave their place with whatever they could carry, marched out, each with the husband on her back.

482. FRANCE. *Louis VI.*, “the Fat,” succeeded his father, *Philip I.*, A.D. 1108. The Duchy of Normandy, and other provinces in France, being possessed by the kings of England, rendered them formidable; and, in this reign, a war with *Henry I.*, son of the Conqueror, commenced the contest which was maintained for several successive generations.

483. *Louis VII.*, A.D. 1157, engaged in the *Second Crusade*, in alliance with *Conrad III.*, Emperor of Germany (see Sec. 478). This enterprise is said to have been prompted by motives of compunction, for an act of cruelty, and indicates the erroneous religious notions, which were then prevalent. *Eleanor*, the divorced wife of *Louis VII.*, afterwards married *Henry II.* of England.

While engaged in a contest with the clergy and nobles, *Louis* had sacked the town of *Vitri*, and set fire to a church, in which more than 1300 persons perished: remorse induced him to attempt the expiation of his crime, by an expedition to the Holy Land.

484. *Philip Augustus*, A.D. 1180, was an able monarch, and succeeded in extending the power of the crown. At the beginning of his reign, the king of England claimed

nearly half of France; and, in the other half, the power of the nobles had hitherto reduced that of the monarch to very narrow limits. *Philip Augustus* was associated with *Richard III.*, of England, and *Frederick Barbarossa*, Emperor of Germany, in the *Third Crusade*.

485. ITALY. Several cities in the North of Italy,—*Milan*, *Pavia*, *Verona*, *Padua*, and others, had established a republican government; they formed a league, to resist the Emperor *Frederick Barbrossa*, whom they defeated, in the battle of *Legnano*, A.D. 1176. By the peace of *Constance*, A.D. 1183, the independence of the Italian cities was secured.

486. The Commercial cities, *Venice*, *Genoa*, and *Pisa*, derived advantage from the employment of their shipping, during the Crusades. The Norman dynasty (see Sec. 452) governed *Naples* and *Sicily*, till A.D. 1194. The temporal dominions of the Popedom had been augmented by a large donation of territory, from *Matilda*, Countess of *Tuscany*; but the Emperor of Germany asserted a prior claim,—and the dispute between the Papal and Imperial power (see Sec. 468) was thus augmented.

487. The Italian republics entered warmly into these disputes—and the distinctive terms *Guelf*, and *Ghibeline*, (see Sec. 481) were applied, accordingly,—the former, as generally descriptive of the opponents of the reigning Emperor, was henceforth applied to the Pope's party.

488. SPAIN. The Christians gradually gained increased territory from the Moors,—and, if united among

themselves, might have recovered the entire country. Alphonso VIII., king of Castile and Leon, was the most distinguished of the Christian princes. A.D. 1150. PORTUGAL was rescued from the Moors, by the battle of Ourique, A.D. 1139—and became independent of Spain, under Alphonso I., who made Lisbon his capital.

489. THE NORTH of EUROPE was still in a state of comparative barbarity. The Russians, by their intercourse with the Greek empire, had obtained a partial knowledge of Christianity, and made some advance in the arts. Denmark and Norway were subject to Canute at the time of his invasion of England; but it was not till some centuries afterwards, that they occupied a place in history.

490. ENGLAND. Henry I., A.D. 1100, succeeded his brother, William II. His elder brother Robert, had a prior claim, but was defeated in the battle of *Tenchebrai*, and imprisoned for life. Henry I. married Matilda, a descendant of the Saxon kings; and, on his death, his daughter Maud or Matilda, claimed the crown; but was deprived, by Stephen, her cousin, a grandson of William I.

491. The reign of Stephen, A.D. 1155, was disturbed by continual civil war; which terminated by securing the succession to Henry, son of Maud. His father was named *Plantagenet*; and, with Henry II., commences the line of English Kings distinguished by that designation. A.D. 1154.

462. Henry II. was the most powerful monarch of

Europe. His marriage with Eleanor (see Sec. 483,) enlarged his continental dominions,—and the invasion of Ireland was the means of establishing the English power in that country.

495. The power of the clergy having become exorbitant, Henry attempted to restrain, it by a law, called the “Constitutions of Clarendon,”—and then was engaged in a long contest with Thomas-a-Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury;—but the murder of that prelate, by some of the king’s attendants, compelled him to make concessions, in order to obtain the Pope’s absolution. Henry’s last days were embittered by the rebellion of his sons, Richard, Geoffrey, and John.

494. Richard I. surnamed “Coeur de Lion,” succeeded his father in 1189. He joined Philip Augustus, of France, in the *Third crusade* (see Sec. 484), and, on his return, was taken prisoner by Leopold, Duke of Austria, (see Sec. 479). In course of a reign of Ten years, he spent only Ten months in England.

495. On the death of Richard I., Arthur, son of Geoffrey, (see Sec. 495) became heir to the crown; but was murdered by his uncle, John, who became king of England A.D. 1199.

496. THE EASTERN OR GREEK EMPIRE. The crusades had the effect of delaying the downfall of the Greek empire,—which had become enfeebled by continual revolutions.

Alexis Comnenus (see Sec. 461) defended himself against the Russians, and the Turks, who assailed the empire on opposite sides. His successors were John, A.D. 1118, and Manuel, A.D. 1143 to 1180. The succeeding reigns, to the end of that century, were shortened by assassinations.

497. THE MOHAMMEDAN POWER. While Mahmood of Ghizni (see Sec. 462) was prosecuting his conquests in Hindustan, the Seljukian Turks (see Sec. 465) had extended their power in Persia, and ultimately dispossessed Manood, the son of Mahmood, who retired to Lahore, (in the North-west of Hindustan) where he established his government.

498. Mohammed Ghorî (*i. e.* of Gaur, in Khorassan,) took Lahore, A.D. 1184, and subsequently extended his conquests Eastward. One of his slaves, *Quttub-ad-din*, took Delhi A.D. 1193, and subsequently established an independent government.

499. In AFRICA and SPAIN, the *Almoravides*, a Mohammedan sect, had formed an extensive empire; but were subdued, in the Twelfth century, by the *Almohades*, another powerful sect, pretending to a purer faith. They took Morocco, after a sanguinary war, A.D. 1148.

500. In SYRIA, *Noor-ed-deen* commenced a war with the Christians, during the First and Second Crusades (see Sec. 475) His nephew, *Saladin*, gained possession of Egypt; and afterwards succeeded to the government of Syria, where he became celebrated, in connection with

the Third crusade. He died A.D. 1192.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY
OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY.

501. Paschal II. was Pope A.D. 1100; and, from his reign, to that of Adrian IV. A.D. 1154, no less than *Nine* persons successively held the office. Adrian IV. was the only Englishman who ever occupied the Papal chair. Toward the close of the century, Alexander III. A.D. 1181, and Innocent III. A.D. 1199, were distinguished.

502. The state of Christianity, at this period, in the West, was such as resulted from a perversion of its doctrines and institutions to the sole purpose of extending the Papal dominions.

503. The MONASTIC orders multiplied,—enormous wealth was acquired, by means of indulgences, and other frauds,—the credulity of the multitude reduced them to a state of servile fear,—the higher orders were influenced by the enthusiasm of the crusades,—and every monarch in Europe was, in turn, compelled to yield to the exorbitant claims of the Papacy.

504. THE CRUSADES. About fifty years after the First Crusade (see Sec. 475), a *Second* enterprise of the same kind, was undertaken, by *Louis VII.*, king of France, (see Sec. 485), and *Conrad III.*, Emperor of Germany (see Sec. 478). *Bernard*, Abbot of Clair-Vaux, was employed, by Pope *Eugenius III.*, to excite the people by his enthusiastic preaching, and his appeals were aided by pretensions to

miracles and prophecy. The two armies, amounting to Three Hundred Thousand men, were defeated, and the kings, who commanded them, returned home with shame.

Godfrey of Poillon was elected king of Jerusalem at the close of the First Crusade (see Sec. 477). An attempt was made to establish a mode of government on the *feudal* principle. Seven Frank kings reigned in succession,—but with continual disturbance from the Saracens. It was in the reign of Baldwin III. king of Jerusalem, A.D. 1148, that the Second Crusade was undertaken, for the purpose of meeting this emergency.

505. Jerusalem was taken by Saladin (see Sec. 500) A.D. 1187,—and the *Third Crusade* was undertaken for its recovery, at the instigation of Pope Clement III. Philip Augustus, of France (see Sec. 484), Richard I., of England (see Sec. 494), and Frederick Barbarossa, of Germany (see Sec. 479), commanded their respective armies.

506. Frederick was accidentally drowned,—Philip returned to France,—and Richard, having made a truce with Saladin, was arrested in Germany, on his way home, and released, only on payment of a heavy ransom.

507. The Crusades gave rise to Three *Military Orders*,—in which the character of the Ecclesiastic and the Soldier were combined.

I.—The *Knights of St John of Jerusalem*, founded A.D. 1124, who were also called *Hospitallers*, from their original connection with an hospital in that city, for the relief of pilgrims.

II.—The *Knights Templars*, from their residence near

the site of the Temple, were more entirely military, and were employed in the protection of pilgrims.

III. The *Teutonic Order* originated with the German princes, at the siege of Acre, A.D. 1191, and was designed for charitable offices,—but, like the others, became, at last, a military institution.

508. These Military Orders acquired great wealth and power; and from them sprung others, of a kindred character, which exerted a considerable influence during the middle ages,

509. REFORMERS IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY. The historians of the period describe as *Heretics*, all who opposed the Church of Rome; but many of these, even on the testimony of their enemies, maintained the essential truths of the Gospel; and all agreed in making their appeal to Scripture.

510. Such were the *Cathari*, of Germany (see Sec. 441), the *Waldenses*, of Piedmont, and the *Albigenses*, in the South of France. They were cruelly persecuted on the continent,—and a few, who sought refuge in England, perished, under similar treatment, in the reign of Henry II.

Among the most eminent witnesses for the truth, in this century, were Peter de Bruys, and his followers, called, from him, *Petrobussians*; they were numerous in France. Peter de Bruys suffered martyrdom, A.D. 1150.

511. The *Henricans* were the followers of Henry, an Italian, who earnestly opposed the superstitions of the

times. He died in prison. A.D. 1148. Arnold, of Brescia, a zealous reformer, gathered many disciples in Italy and Switzerland; but was at last given up to the Pope, Adrian, by the Emperor, Frederick, and burned at Rome, A.D. 1155.

512. Peter Waldo, a merchant of Lyons, A.D. 1180, promoted the translation and circulation of the Scriptures. His followers were numerous.

513. THE PROPAGATION OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE NORTH OF EUROPE. The Northern nations were still in a barbarous state; and the religious notions which they adopted under the name of Christianity, were blended with their former paganism.

514. *Vladimir*, who ruled in Russia, in the beginning of the Eleventh century, had married the sister of the Greek Emperor; missionaries were subsequently sent from Constantinople for the instruction of his subjects; and Russia became connected with the Greek church, in preference to the Romish.

515. *Anglo-Saxon Missionaries* had communicated some knowledge of Christianity to the idolaters of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway; but its dissemination usually took place in the way of conquest,—and the baptism of thousands became a mark of mere political subjection.

CHAPTER VI.

THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

516. GERMANY. On the death of *Henry VI.* the succession was disputed. *Otho IV.* obtained the crown, A.D. 1208, and on his death, 1218, *Frederick II.*, son of Henry VI., recovered the throne. His reign was occupied in a continual contest with four successive Popes.

517. The Free Cities of Italy attached themselves to the respective parties. Those who favoured the Pope, were distinguished by the names of *Guelphs*, while the party who sided with the Emperor, were called *Ghibellines*. (See sec. 487.)

518. During 25 years, from the death of Frederick II., Germany was without any recognized monarch. Among the competitors for the crown, was Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III., of England.

519. In 1272, *Rodolph, of Hapsburgh*, a Swiss noble, was chosen Emperor. He conferred on his son, Albert, the province of Austria, which he had taken from the king of Bohemia. The rise of the House of Austria, dates from this period.

520. The *Hanseatic League*. The cities of Hamburg, Lubec, and Bremen, were early engaged in commerce; and, in the Thirteenth century, found it necessary to com-

bine for mutual defence, against the exactions of the feudal lords, as well as against robbers and pirates; many other cities joined the league, and rendered it important, not only for commerce, but for political objects. They had factories in different countries,—and in the reign of Henry III., A.D. 1266, formed an establishment in London, called the “Steelyard.”

521. FRANCE. *Philip Augustus*, on his return from the Third Crusade (see Sec. 506), engaged in war with Richard I., of England, and afterwards deprived King John of his territories in France. The power of the French crown was greatly increased during this reign.

522. *Louis VIII.*, A.D. 1225, aided the Pope in the crusade against the Albigenses. (see Sec. 542.) *Louis IX.*, called “St. Louis,” A.D. 1226, engaged in two successive crusades: the first against Egypt, A.D. 1248, in which he was unsuccessful; the second, against Tunis, A.D. 1269, in which he died.

523. *Philip III.*, “The Bold,” A.D. 1270. In his reign a revolution occurred in Sicily, in consequence of the cruelty of his uncle, Charles, of Anjou, who was king of Sicily and Naples. The King of Aragon aided the revolt; and, a war ensued, in which Philip was unsuccessful.

524. *Philip IV.*, “The Fair,” A.D. 1285, reduced the power of the nobles; introduced representatives of the towns in the “Third estate,” to the legislative assembly; maintained a contest with the Pope (Boniface VIII.); and suppressed the order of the Knights Templars, (see Sec.

507,) under circumstances of great cruelty and injustice.

525. ITALY. The Italian Republics (see Sec. 485,) were very numerous and powerful, but suffered from continual discord. They entered warmly into the contests between the Emperors and the Popes, and the Guelph and Ghibelline factions (see sec. 487), inflicted the most cruel injuries on each other.

526. The small independent states were gradually brought into combination, and the most distinguished of the feudal nobility assumed the sovereign power: thus the *Visconti* ruled in Milan, and the family of *Este* in Modena and Ferrara.

527. Venice and Genoa advanced in wealth and power, by the employment of their shipping, in the time of the Crusades. The productions of the East were brought into Europe through Venice. The events of this century were favourable to the increase of the Papal territory, which was enlarged nearly to its present boundaries.

528. The kingdom of Naples and Sicily was conferred by the Pope, on *Charles, of Anjou*, brother of Louis IX. He deposed Manfred, who had usurped the throne, A.D. 1266; but had to maintain a contest with *Peter, of Aragon*, (who had married the daughter of Manfred,) in which he was defeated. It was on this occasion, A.D. 1282, that the French, to the number of 4000, were murdered, by a sudden insurrection of the Sicilians; an event designated the “*Sicilian Vespers.*” (See Sec. 525, Philip III.)

529. SPAIN. The Moors of Spain, having been reinfor-

eed by the Almohades, from Morocco, (see Sec. 499,) the Christian princes united against them, and gained the victory of *Tolosa*, A.D. 1212. Grenada was the only kingdom remaining to the Moors, in the middle of the Thirteenth century. The Christian kingdoms of the peninsula were Castile, Aragon, Navarre, and Portugal. Ferdinand III., called "Ferdinand of Castile and Leon," was the most distinguished of the Spanish monarchs, at this period.

550. ENGLAND. *John* succeeded to the throne, on the death of his brother, *Richard I.* Arthur, son of his elder brother, *Geoffrey*, had a prior claim, but was put to death. *Philip IV.* of France, (see Sec. 524,) who had espoused the cause of Arthur, deprived *John* of his continental dominions.

551. In a contest with the Pope, *Innocent III.*, he was excommunicated, and compelled to surrender his kingdom to the Pope's legate, *Pandulph*, as the condition of absolution. The barons took up arms against him, and, with the advice of *Langton*, Archbishop of Canterbury, compelled him to sign the "Great Charter," A.D. 1215; by which the rights of the people were secured against despotic government.

552. *Henry III.*, son of king *John*, reigned 56 years, from A.D. 1216 to 1272. His submission to the exactions of the Pope, and his partiality to foreigners, occasioned the withdrawal of wealth from the kingdom, and induced his subjects to rebel. *Simon de Montfort*, Earl of *Leicester*, commanded the army against the king. By the "pro-

visions of Oxford," twenty-four prelates and barons, were empowered to reform the government, A.D. 1258.

553. Prince *Edward* raised an army in his father's behalf, but was defeated and taken prisoner, together with the king, at the battle of *Lewes*, 1264. In the following year, *Simon de Montfort*, who had usurped the supreme power, summoned a Parliament; and required the sheriffs to return two knights for each county, and deputies for the principal towns. From this circumstance the regular constitution of the House of Commons is dated. Prince *Edward*, having obtained his liberty, renewed the war; and by the battle of *Evesham*. A.D. 1265, in which *Montfort* was slain, the king's government was restored.

554. *Edward I.*, A.D. 1272, administered the government with great ability. He subdued *Wales*, which, from his time, has been annexed to the crown of England. He also attempted the subjugation of *Scotland*. The right to the throne of that kingdom was disputed; and *Edward*, being called in, to decide between the competitors, *Bruce* and *Baliol*, endeavoured to obtain the crown himself. He was resisted by *William Wallace*, and afterwards, by *Robert Bruce*, grandson of the opponent of *Baliol*. *Edward* died, whilst engaged in war with *Scotland*, 1307.

555. THE EAST. The *Byzantine* Empire was weakened by continual disputes for the sovereignty. By the aid of *Baldwin*, Count of *Flanders*, and the Doge of *Venice*, (*Dandolo*), the commanders in the Fourth Crusade, *Alexis IV.* was raised to the throne. He was afterwards murdered; and, on the pretext of avenging his death, the crusaders

attacked and plundered Constantinople with great barbarity, A.D. 1205.

Henry Dandolo, Doge of Venice, was one of the most remarkable characters of that period. He was of great age, and had lost his sight, but entered with zeal into the enterprise of the French adventurers. At the taking of Constantinople, "in the midst of the conflict, the Doge, a venerable and conspicuous form, stood aloft in complete armour, on the prow of his galley, and was the first warrior on the shore." *Gibbon.*

536. Baldwin was raised to the throne, and from that time till A.D. 1261, two *Latin Emperors* reigned in succession, at Constantinople. During this period, Alexis Comnenius, one of the expelled Greek princes, established an independent sovereignty at Trebisond, on the East coast of the Black Sea; another, Theodore Lascaris, founded the government of Niocea, in Asia Minor.

537. Michael Palaeologus, who afterwards occupied the government, restored the Greek power at Constantinople; and was succeeded, as Emperor of the East, by his son, Andronicus II., A.D. 1285.

538. *Gengis Khna.* Among the Tartar tribes, the Mongols were the most warlike. During the Thirteenth century, they extended their conquests, under Gengis Khan and his successors. Great part of India was subdued,—their armies overran Persia and Asia Minor,—the Russians were made tributary,—and, after conquering Poland and Hungary, the Tartar race were advancing towards the West of Europe.

539. Frederick II. (see Sec. 479) called on the Princes of Germany to resist the invader; the battle of Woolstadt

was fought A.D. 1241; and the Tartars, though victorious, retreated. Since the invasion of the Saracens, in the Eighth century (see Sec. 599), Europe had not been exposed to a similar calamity.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

540. At the commencement of the Thirteenth century, the Papal power had reached its greatest height. *Innocent III.* carried out the principle which Gregory VII. (see Sec. 449,) had asserted,—the pre-eminence of the Papal over Royal authority.—The events of the hundred years which intervened, had been favourable to such assumption. In proof of the right to dispose of kingdoms, Innocent III. excommunicated Otho, Emperor of Germany,—Philip Augustus, King of France,—and John, King of England.

541. The *Fourth Crusade*, which was promoted by Innocent III., instead of being directed against the Saracens, had subverted the Eastern Empire. (see Sec. 535.) Other enterprises of the same kind were proposed by successive Popes, but the calamities attending former expeditions, abated the zeal of the Princes of Europe; and the last, which also ended disastrously, was undertaken, by Louis IX.—hence called *St. Louis*.

The fanaticism, unmixed with purposes of gain, which had prompted the first Crusade, no longer prevailed. It was now a marauding expedition;—and as Constantinople offered a rich booty, the destruction of that city, though the inhabitants were Christians, was deemed

preferable to the prosecution of the enterprise against infidels. The finest works of art then existing were destroyed on this occasion.

542. Another sort of enterprise, though under the same name of *Crusade*, or *Holy war*, was set on foot by Innocent III. for the advancement of the Papal power, A.D. 1208. Under the plea of extirpating *heresy*, the Albigenses, in the south of France, were subjected to a series of the most cruel persecutions.

543. Their religious opinions were similar to those, which in a later age, were distinguished by the term *Protestant*. An army was raised for their extermination, commanded by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, whose son afterwards became conspicuous in the History of England. (See Sec. 552.)

544. The *Inquisition*, established for the suppression of "heresy," was designed to check the progress of religious enquiry, and to maintain spiritual despotism. Its victims were very numerous among the Albigenses; and, from that time, it became a powerful engine of the Papacy.

The inquisition was established in *France*, in the reign of *St. Louis*, (see Sec. 541), a monarch distinguished for mildness and benevolence of character. The fact exemplifies the subjection of the best kings of those days to the false maxims which represented the maintenance of ecclesiastical power, as constituting the essence of religion.

545. The *Mendicant Friars* constituted a powerful agency of the popedom, at this period; they were distinguished from the *Monastic* orders, which had existed

during many preceding centuries, by their vow of poverty, and by their itinerant preaching.

546. The most celebrated of these orders were the Dominicans, and the Franciscans; the former of whom derived their name from *Dominic*, the leader of the Inquisition against the Albigenses. During several centuries they were spread over Europe, and exerted great influence.

547. The *Scholastic philosophy*, which prevailed in this century, restrained free enquiry, both in science and religion. It placed the authority of *Aristotle* (see *Ancient History*, Sec. 246) above that of the Holy Scriptures; and encouraged the discussion of abstract questions, tending to no practical result.

548. But there were some distinguished individuals, whose views were in advance of their age. Such were *Roger Bacon*, a Franciscan friar, the father of experimental philosophy; and *Robert Grosstete*, or Greathead, Bishop of Lincoln, whose learning was applied to the exposition of the Scriptures, and who had courage to reprove the avarice and tyranny of the Court of Rome, A.D. 1255.

CHAPTER VII.

THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

549. GERMANY. The contention between the Popes and Emperors, continued during the reigns of *Henry VII.* (of

Luxemburg), A.D. 1308, and *Louis IV.* (of Bavaria), 1313. With a view to its termination, the Diet of the Empire assembled at Frankfort A.D. 1358, published a *Pragmatic Sanction*, or decree, declaring that the Pope had no temporal power within the Empire.

550. The reign of *Charles IV.* (of Luxemburg), A.D. 1347, is chiefly distinguished by an edict, called "the Golden Bull," regulating the mode of election to the throne, and limiting the number of electors to seven, A.D. 1356. He was succeeded by his son, *Wenceslaus*, A.D. 1378, who was deposed A.D. 1400.

551. FRANCE. From the time of *Hugh Capet*, (see Sec. 450),—a period of more than Three centuries,—the crown of France had been transmitted from father to son, without intermission. *Philip IV.*, "The Fair," died A.D. 1314. His three sons, *Louis X.* (Hutin), *Philip V.* (The Long), and *Charles V.* (The Fair), who reigned in succession, all died and left no son. By the Salic law (so called from the Sali, a tribe of Franks, with whom it originated), females were declared incapable of succeeding to the throne.

552. The next heir was *Philip of Valois*, descended from a younger son of Philip III. He ascended the throne 1328, but was opposed by Edward III. of England, who founded his claim in the right of his mother, Isabella, daughter of Philip IV. By the Salic law, she was deprived of any right to the succession; but the claim was enforced by war, and the result was disastrous to both kingdoms.

555. Philip of Valois, died A.D. 1350, and was succeed-

ed by his son *John*, who was long a prisoner in England. The war was concluded by the peace of *Bretigny*, A.D. 1360. *Charles V.* (the Wise), A.D. 1364, was an able monarch. His son *Charles VI.*, A.D. 1380, became insane; and the kingdom suffered much, from the contentions between the Dukes of Burgundy and Orleans, and the invasion of Henry V., of England.

554. ITALY. The seat of the Papacy was removed from Rome to Avignon, in France, by Clement V., A.D. 1305; and six of his successors, all Frenchmen, resided there, till A.D. 1376, when *Gregory XI.* returned to Rome. On his death, a division occurred, distinguished as the "Great Schism of the West," which affected all the States of Europe; as they respectively attached themselves to the rival Pontiffs, Urban VI. at Rome, or Clement VII. at Avignon.

555. During the absence of the Popes from Rome, a revolution occurred in that city, headed by *Riënzi*, who assumed the title of Tribune, and proposed a revival of a form of government like that of the ancient Roman republic; but the attempt failed.

556. The history of the Italian Republics, at this period, presents a series of conspiracies and civil wars; but Florence increased in wealth and importance, by her manufactures and commercial enterprise. Genoa and Venice were the great marts for the commodities of the East; which were brought by way of the Red Sea, to Egypt, or, by caravans, to Syria; whence they were conveyed to Italy. Commercial rivalry induced frequent wars

between these republics; in which Venice was ultimately victorious, A.D. 1378.

557. The kingdom of Naples was governed by foreigners; and was involved in continual war. Joanna, Queen of Naples, reigned from A.D. 1343 to A.D. 1382; when she was deposed and murdered, by Charles Durazzo.

558. In the Italian wars of this period, mercenary troops were often employed, under the name of *Condottieri*. They were very numerous in France, after the war with Edward III.; consisting of disbanded soldiers, and other adventurers, under the command of experienced generals; and were there called "The Free Companies." Their exactions were very oppressive, and, as they made a trade of war, their services were purchased by princes and governments.

One of the most celebrated of these military adventurers was Sir John Hawkwood, an Englishman, who gained great renown as a general, in the service of Florence.

559. SWITZERLAND consisted of a number of petty states, some of which were governed by Counts, while others were independent cantons, having their own magistrates. When Rodolph of Hapsburg (see Sec. 519), became Emperor, his power in Switzerland brought that country into political connection with Germany; but the independence of the free Cantons was preserved.

560. Albert, son of Rodolph, appointed an Austrian governor, (Gessler,) whose tyranny induced the people of *Three Cantons* to take up arms, A.D. 1508. Gessler was slain, by William Tell; and the other officers of the

Austrian government were expelled.

561. Leopold, Duke of Austria, invaded Switzerland, with an army of 20,000 cavalry; but was defeated by 1500 Swiss infantry, in the pass of Morgarten, A.D. 1315. The independence of Switzerland was secured. Several other Cantons were subsequently united, under the general name of the "Helvetic Confederacy."

562. SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. Spain was still divided into several kingdoms; the most powerful of which was Castile. *Alonzo XI.* was engaged in war with Alonzo IV., King of Portugal; but, peace being restored, by the intervention of the Pope, they united in defeating the Mohammedans, (who had received aid from the Moors of Africa,) in the battle of Tarifa, A.D. 1340.

563. *Peter*, "The Cruel," king of Castile, was supported by Edward, "The Black Prince," (son of Edward III., king of England,) in a war with Henry of Transtamare; the latter of whom ultimately prevailed, by the aid of the French mercenaries, (see Sec. 558,) commanded by Bertrand du Guesclin, the greatest general of the age, A.D. 1368. The wars of Castile and Portugal were renewed, and continued to the end of the century.

564. THE NORTH OF EUROPE. The most important event in the history of *Denmark*, *Norway*, and *Sweden*, was their union under one government. Margaret (who is sometimes called the Semiramis of the North,) the daughter of Waldemar III., king of Denmark, and the widow of Haquin, king of Norway, was made queen; and the three kingdoms were declared indissolubly united, under one head, by a

treaty, called, "The Union of Calmar," A.D. 1397. But this arrangement ultimately gave rise to much dissension. *Russia* continued subject to the Tartars; (see Sec. 538,) and the efforts made to recover national independence failed of success.

565. ENGLAND. *Edward II.*, A.D. 1307, attempted to carry out the invasion of Scotland, which his father had undertaken, (see Sec. 554,) but was defeated by *Robert Bruce*, at *Bannockburn*, A.D. 1314. He was incompetent to govern; and having offended the nobles, by the promotion of unworthy favourites, was deposed and murdered.

566. *Edward III.*, A.D. 1327. His reign is chiefly distinguished by the war with France, which was undertaken without justice (see Sec. 552), and, though celebrated for the victories of Cressy, and Poitiers, and the taking of Calais,—brought no real advantage. But the events of this reign favoured the advance of the Constitution, as the money raised by taxation, to meet the expenses of the war, could only be obtained by consent of Parliament; and thus their Power in the legislature was confirmed.

English commerce and manufactures also advanced during the reign of *Edward III.* As early as the reign of *Henry II.*, a colony of Flemings had settled at *Worsted*, in Norfolk, and introduced the manufacture, which derives its name from that locality. *Edward III.* invited a considerable number more from Flanders,—and granted them such privileges as induced their permanent settlement. From this reign, the regulation of commerce by Acts of Parliament may be noticed.

567. *Richard II.*, A.D. 1377, was son of *Edward*, Prince of Wales, called the "Black Prince." In the early part of his reign, an insurrection was headed by *Wat Tyler*, in

consequence of excessive taxation, but was suppressed. *Richard* became proud and indolent,—and his cousin, *Henry of Lancaster*, promoted a rebellion,—the result of which was the deposition and murder of the king. *Henry IV.* ascended the throne, A.D. 1399.

568. SCOTLAND. The victory of *Bannockburn*, secured the independence of the country. *Edward III.* invaded Scotland, and gained a victory, at *Halidon Hill*, near *Berwick*, A.D. 1333; but, during his absence in France, *David II.*, son of *Robert Bruce*, (see Sec. 565,) invaded England. *Queen Philippa*, at the head of the English army, defeated and took him prisoner, in the battle of *Neville's Cross*, near *Durham*, A.D. 1346: but Scotland was not subdued. *Richard II.* attempted an invasion, but was unsuccessful.

569. THE EAST. The Greek Empire, after its recovery from the Latins, (see Sec. 555), languished, under a succession of feeble monarchs, and continual civil wars. The *Seljukian Turks*, who had been repelled by the crusaders, and afterwards by the Tartars, (see Sec. 558,) now returned to Asia Minor, and erected a government in *Bythynia*, under *Othman*, from whom the *Ottoman power* derives its name.

570. His son, *Orchan*, enlarged this territory, and originated a formidable body of troops, called *Janissaries*. His successor, *Amurath*, took *Adrianople*, the second city of the Greek Empire, A.D. 1361. *Bajazet*, his son, was

victorious in the battle of *Nicopolis*, on the Danube, over a combined army of French, German, and other Western nations, whom he defeated with terrible slaughter, A.D. 1596.

571. The Emperor, *Manuel II.*, saved Constantinople from an attack, by consenting to pay tribute; and the final overthrow of the Greek empire, by the Turks, was only delayed by their conflict with the *Tartars*, who were now extending their conquests, under *Tamerlane* or *Timour Reg.*

572. The Mongol Tartars, under Genghis Khan, had extended their conquests from the Volga to the frontiers of China, (see Sec. 558,) but their empire was weakened by division, and *Timour*, a Tartar chief, of great activity and courage, and a descendant of *Genghis*, established himself at *Samarcand*, and rapidly spread his conquests as widely as those of his predecessor.

573. He invaded India, and took the city of *Delhi*; his progress was marked by such cruelties, as are without parallel in history. After laying waste Persia, Syria, and Asia Minor, he approached the Turkish territory, and prepared for conflict with Bajazet.

During a reign of 36 years, Timour so far accomplished his purpose of universal dominion, as to spread devastation through the various countries, from the great wall of China to the centre of Russia, in the North, and from the Ganges to the Mediterranean. His sanguinary cruelty was exemplified at the capture of *Ispahan*, where he ordered a general massacre; and *Seventy thousand* heads of the slain were piled up in a pyramid. On his march to *Delhi*, he put a *Hundred thousand* persons to the sword; and while in possession of the city, ordered a general massacre of the inhabitants.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

574. The Papal power declined, during this century. The progress of civilization, and of religious enquiry, favoured resistance to ecclesiastical tyranny. This was exemplified in a successful contest of Philip, "The Fair," (see Sec. 524), with Pope Boniface VIII., in which the king was cordially supported by his people.

575. The removal of the seat of the Papacy from Rome to Avignon (see Sec. 554), tended to impair its influence; and the rapacity of Pope John XXII., who amassed prodigious wealth, by the sale of indulgences, provoked general indignation. This Pope was charged with heresy,— and was compelled, notwithstanding his claim to infallibility, to retract the opinions he had avowed.

576. But the event most fatal to the Papal power, was the *Great Schism of the West*, (see Sec. 554.) A succession of rival Popes, at Rome, and at Avignon, obstinately maintained their respective claims, during more than half a century.

577. PROGRESS OF RELIGIOUS OPINION. The terrors of the Inquisition (see Sec. 544,) did not suffice to repress free enquiry. The *Waldenses* and *Albigenses*, who fled from persecution, disseminated their doctrines. The "Lollards" religious societies, in Flanders, and Germany, were distinguished by the simplicity of their worship, and

by their opposition to the doctrinal errors of Popery.

The word *Lollard* means a singer; and indicates that these early reformers made Psalmody a prominent part of public worship.

578. In England, during the reign of Edward III., the Papal claims were discussed in Parliament, and statutes were made for their limitation. In this reign *Thomas Bradwardine* was distinguished as a scholar and divine,—far in advance of his contemporaries.

579. But the most celebrated character, as a reformer, was *Wycliffe*. He boldly opposed the prevailing superstition, by an appeal to the Scriptures; which he translated, and circulated among his countrymen; and is frequently distinguished as the “Morning Star of the Reformation.”

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

580. GERMANY. Sigismund, King of Hungary, was elected Emperor, A.D. 1410. The schism in the Papacy, afforded an opportunity of asserting his power. A council was assembled at *Constance*, which deposed the Three Popes who were then contending for supremacy; and terminated the schism, by the appointment of a fourth, *Martyn V.*, A.D. 1417.

581. The execution of the reformers, *John Huss* and *Jerome of Prague*, in violation of Sigismund's promise,

involved him in a long war with their followers, in Bohemia, under *Johu Zisca*, by whom he was often defeated.

582. *Albert II.*, duke of *Austria*, succeeded to the throne, A.D. 1437; and thenceforth the Emperors of Germany were chosen from that family.

Frederick III. reigned 53 years, but without distinction. His son, *Maximilian*, obtained the sovereignty of the Netherlands, by marriage with the Duchess of Burgundy. In his reign, the Empire was divided into Ten Circles, each of which sent representatives to the Imperial Chamber, for the administration of justice, and the prevention of domestic wars.

585. FRANCE. The reign of *Charles VI.* was disturbed throughout, by the ambitious designs of the Duke of Burgundy, and other nobles. Henry V., of England, took advantage of the distressed state of the kingdom, to renew the claim to the Crown of France. His victory at *Agincourt*, A.D. 1415. and subsequent advantages, brought about the treaty of *Troyes*, A.D. 1420, by which his pretensions were acknowledged.

584. But in the reign of the succeeding monarch, *Charles VII.*, the English were compelled to retire from France, A.D. 1455. During this war *Joan of Arc*, the Maid of Orleans, pretending to a Divine commission, revived the courage of the French, by her enthusiasm. The Feudal mode of warfare was superseded in this reign, by the formation of the first standing army.

Joan of Arc was a peasant girl, who, under the enthusiastic persuasion of being called to deliver her country—on occasion of the siege of

Orleans, by the English,—offered her services, in a military capacity. The prevalent superstition of the times was in her favour, and she fulfilled her promise, to defeat the English, and to conduct the King to Rheims, to be crowned. She was afterwards taken prisoner by the English, and sentenced to the flames, on a charge of sorcery, A.D. 1431.

585. *Louis XI.*, A.D. 1461, was of a tyrannical disposition, and has been designated “the Tiberius of France.” He was the first French King who bore the title of “*Most Christian.*” A contest with Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, ended in his adding that territory to the crown of France.

586. *Charles VIII.*, A.D. 1483, acquired the dukedom of Brittany, by marriage; and thus united the last of the feudal territories to his kingdom. Under the sanction of Pope Alexander VI., he invaded Italy, A.D. 1494, and conquered Naples, but lost it soon afterwards, in consequence of the Pope joining the other powers in a league against him.

As Charles VIII. left no children, the succession passed of the house of Orleans, in the person of *Louis XII.*, A.D. 1498.

587. ITALY. In the republic of Milan, the family of the *Visconti* became extinct, A.D. 1447; and were succeeded in the dukedom, by the family of *Sforza*, A.D. 1450. *Florence* had increased in importance, by the acquisition of Pisa and other cities. A.D. 1450, *Cosmo de Medici*, a princely merchant, became head of the republic. He was succeeded by his grandson, *Lorenzo*, surnamed “the Magnificent,” A.D. 1469. The wealth which the

family of Medici had acquired in commerce, was devoted to the benefit of the state, and the advancement of science and literature.

588. *Genoa* and *Venice* maintained their commercial character; the latter rose in political importance, by the acquisition of the adjoining territory. The Morea and the islands of Cyprus and Candia were also under her government.

589. The temporal power of the Popes had been impaired, by their absence from Italy, and their claims were disputed by the feudal aristocracy; but Alexander VI. reduced that source of opposition, by the aid of his son, Caesar Borgia.

590. NAPLES AND SICILY. The successor of Charles III., (*Durazzo*, see Sec. 557), was feeble. The house of Aragon succeeded that of Anjou. Charles VIII., of France, with the sanction of Pope Alexander VI., invaded Italy, A.D. 1494, for the purpose of asserting his claim to the throne of Naples, by right of descent from Charles of Anjou, (see Sec. 528. and 586.)

591. Charles was at first successful; but was compelled to retreat, in consequence of a formidable league formed against him by the Pope, the Venetians, and other Italian States. The enterprise was resumed by his successor, Louis XII., but with no better success.

592. SWITZERLAND. Several successive invasions of the Cantons were not only repelled, but occasioned a considerable accession of territory. The most formidable enemy whom the Swiss had to encounter, was Charles the

Bold, Duke of Burgundy, one of the most powerful princes of the age. He was defeated in the battles of *Gransou* and *Morat*, A.D. 1476; which ultimately led to the loss of his own territory, (see Sec. 585.)

595. The fame of the Swiss infantry, in the courageous defence of their national independence, induced many of the princes of Europe to engage their services in the wars of this period.

594. SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. The several kingdoms of Spain were gradually brought into union. *Castile* and *Leon* were governed by one monarch; *Aragon* had gained the greater part of *Navarre*. *Henry IV. of Castile* was deposed, and the crown was conferred on his sister *Isabella*. By her marriage to *Ferdinand II. of Aragon*, the two monarchies were united, A.D. 1479.

595. The kingdom of *Grenada* was all that now remained to the Moors in Spain. After a war of ten years it was subdued,—and the Mohammedan power, after an existence of Eight centuries, was entirely subverted, A.D. 1492.

596. The great event of this period was the discovery of *America*, by *Columbus*, a Genoese; whose enterprise was aided by the court of Spain, A.D. 1492.

597. PORTUGAL. The reign of *John I.* is distinguished by the maritime discoveries, which his son *Henry* promoted; and which were extended, during the succeeding reigns, of *Alphonso V.* and *John II.*, till the discovery of the *Cape of Good Hope*, by *Bartholomew Diaz*, A.D. 1487,—and the accomplishment of the passage to *India*, by *Vasco*

de Gama, in the reign of *Manuel*, A.D. 1497.

The celebrity of prince *Henry of Portugal*, as the promoter of naval enterprise at that early period, renders his connection with the royal family of England interesting. His mother was *Philippa*, daughter of *John of Gaunt*, Duke of Lancaster, and sister to *Henry IV.*, King of England.

598. THE NORTH OF EUROPE. *Russia*. During two centuries, the native chiefs had been tributary to the *Tartars*, and had failed in every attempt to recover their independence; but A.D. 1477, *Ivan*, or *John Basilowitz*, succeeded in throwing off the Tartar yoke, and became the founder of the *Russian Empire*. He married the daughter of *Constantine Palaeologus*, the Greek Emperor, and was the first who assumed the title of *Czar*.

599. Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, continued united in one government, (see Sec. 564,) under *Christopher III.*, A.D. 1448. But in the reign of *Christian I.*, A.D. 1448, the union was broken by the *Swedes*, who chose a king of their own. It was afterwards renewed,—but national antipathies occasioned frequent insurrections.

600. POLAND AND HUNGARY had been united in the Fourteenth century, under *Louis*, whose kingdom extended from the Baltic to the Adriatic; but they afterwards became separate states, and suffered much in the reign of *Sigismund*, (see Sec. 580,) from the incursions of the *Turks*,

601. *Ladislaus*, king of Poland, was chosen by the Hungarians, to be their king, A.D. 1437; and was successful in resisting the *Turks*, A.D. 1445; but, in violation of a treaty with that people, (in which he was encouraged

by a promise of the Pope's absolution,) he renewed the war,—and was defeated and killed in the battle of *Varna*, A.D. 1444.

602. *John Hunniades*, a distinguished Hungarian general, defeated the Turks at Belgrade, A.D. 1456. His son *Matthias* was elected king, A.D. 1458, and became one of the most powerful monarchs of the age; but, on his death, A.D. 1490, the kingdom declined.

603. In Poland, *Cassimir IV.* reigned from A.D. 1441 to 1492,—and on his death, the two kingdoms were again united, under his son *Ladislaus VI.* Contemporary with John Hunniades was *George Castriot*, surnamed *Scanderbeg*, Prince of Albania, who rescued his country from the Turks, A.D. 1443.

604. ENGLAND. *Henry IV.*, son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, usurped the crown. A rebellion, headed by the Earl of Northumberland, was suppressed, by the battle of Shrewsbury, A.D. 1403. James I., king of Scotland, was a prisoner in England, during this reign. The first statute authorizing religious persecution, was now enacted; the application of which, subsequently brought many martyrs to the stake.

605. *Henry I.* succeeded his father, A.D. 1413. He took advantage of the distracted state of France, under Charles VI., (see Sec. 583,) to invade that kingdom; and gained a victory at *Azincourt*, A.D. 1415. A treaty was afterwards concluded at *Troyes*, A.D. 1420, declaring Henry heir to the crown of France,—but he died, A.D. 1422.

606. *Henry VI.* was proclaimed king at London, and at Paris. His reign of 40 years, was marked by a succession of calamities. The English were expelled from France, (see Sec. 584). Several of the nobility took advantage of Henry's weakness, and contended for power; and a rival claim to the throne, was made by the House of *York*, which led to a calamitous civil war, of Thirty years' duration. The Queen, Margaret of Anjou, manifested great determination in the maintenance of her husband's claims. After several sanguinary battles at St. Alban's, Wakefield, Towton, Barnet, and Tewkesbury, Henry was deposed; and the crown passed from the House of *Lancaster* to that of *York*, by the accession of *Edward VI.*, A.D. 1483.

607. *Edward V.*, a child, son of Edward IV., was murdered, together with his brother, by their uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester,—who usurped the throne, as *Richard III.*, A.D. 1483. He was killed in the battle of *Bosworth*, where Henry, Earl of Richmond, of the house of Lancaster, was victorious, and ascended the throne, as *Henry VII.*, A.D. 1485. By marriage with *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Edward VI.*, he united the two rival houses. With this reign commences the *House of Tudor*.

608. SCOTLAND. *Robert III.* was son of Robert II., High Steward of Scotland,—the first of the *Stuart* family who ascended the throne. The Duke of Albany, brother of Robert III., with a view to usurp the throne, murdered the king's eldest son. *James*, the second son, was sent to France, for safety; but, on his voyage, was taken prisoner

by the English, and detained in captivity 18 years, (see Sec. 604.)

609. On his liberation, A.D. 1425. James I. governed Scotland with great ability; but was murdered by his turbulent nobles, whose power he had endeavoured to restrain. His son, *James II.*, A.D. 1457, pursued a similar policy. He was accidentally killed by the bursting of a cannon.

610. *James III.*, A.D. 1460, offended the nobility, by the assertion of his authority, and lost his life in a rebellion. *James IV.*, A.D. 1488, married *Margaret*, daughter of Henry VII. From this union was derived the subsequent claim of the *Stuarts* to the crown of England.

611. THE EAST. *Subversion of the Greek empire.* Constantinople had been threatened by *Bajazet*, the Turkish Sultan, (see Sec. 471); but the invasion of Asia Minor by the Tartars, under Timour or Tamerlane, (see Sec. 572,) compelled him to turn his arms in that direction. The battle of *Angora*, in Phrygia, A.D. 1402, decided the contest; and Bajazet became the prisoner of Timour.

612. After devastating the Turkish provinces, the Tartars turned Eastward,—and extended their conquests as far as China. The Turks now resumed the purpose of obtaining possession of Constantinople, A.D. 1425,—but were again prevented, by a war in Hungary, in which they were defeated. A treaty of peace was made,—but, being violated by Ladislaus, king of Poland,

(see Sec. 601,) Amurath. or Murad II., grandson of Bajazet, took up arms, and was victorious in the battle of *Varna*, A.D. 1444.

613. Mohammed II., son of Amurath II., became Sultan, at the age of 21, A.D. 1451; and immediately proceeded to lay siege to Constantinople, which he took, A.D. 1453. after a brave defence. The emperor, *Constantine XI.* was slain,—and, with him terminated the EASTERN EMPIRE, *Eleven hundred-and-twenty-three* years after the building of the capital by Constantine.

614. The Turks rapidly extended their conquests,—and alarm was excited throughout Europe; but the Venetians and the Knights of Rhodes maintained a brave resistance,—and the Turks were obliged to raise the siege of *Belgrade*, which was defended by John Hunniades, A.D. 1456, (see Sec. 602.) Mohammed the Great died A.D. 1481, leaving *Constantinople* in the hands of his successor, Bajazet II, as the capital of the *Turkish Empire*.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE
FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

615. The *Schism in the Papacy* (see Sec. 554) continued,—and the scandal resulting from the contention of the rival Popes, at Rome. and at Avignon, induced the Cardinals to call a Council at *Pisa*, A.D. 1409; at which, both were condemned, on the ground of heresy and perjury, and a third was elected in their stead. But, as each

persisted in retaining his office, the evil was now aggravated, by the existence of *Three* different factions.

616. Another Council was therefore convened at the suggestion of Sigismund, (see Sec. 580), at *Constance*, A.D. 1414. It declared the authority of the Pope to be inferior to that of a Council. The three Popes, then reigning, were all deposed,—and a fourth, (Martin V.,) was appointed, A.D. 1417.

617. The abuses of the Roman Catholic church had now become so flagrant as to induce many of its members, (either from a sense of shame, or of danger,) to demand a *reformation*. This had been one object of the Council of *Constance*. The Council of *Basle* was called for the same purpose, A.D. 1431; but, as the work of reformation was assigned to those who derived advantage from existing corruptions, the measures proposed were adapted rather to maintain the system of error, than to aid the restoration of true religion.

618. The Council of *Constance* is rendered memorable by its cruel treatment of *John Huss*, and *Jerome of Prague*. Huss had embraced the opinions of *Wycliffe*, the English reformer, (see Sec. 579,) and being summoned to appear before the Council, on a charge of heresy, was condemned to the flames; in violation of the Emperor's promise of protection. In the following year, A.D. 1416, his disciple, *Jerome of Prague*, suffered, in like manner. By a decree of the same council, the opinions of *Wycliffe* were condemned; and, as his death had placed him beyond the reach of persecution, it was ordered, that his bones should

be disinterred and burned.

619. The successors of Martin V. (see Sec. 617), *Nicholas V.* and *Sixtus IV.* founded and augmented, the Vatican-Library. The most infamous of the number were *Paul II.*, *Innocent VIII.*, and *Alexander VI.*; the last of whom, noted for his avarice and perfidy, assumed, as the "vicar of Christ," to dispose of the new regions of the earth, discovered by the Spaniards and Portuguese.

The Portuguese had obtained a Bull from Pope Eugenius IV., A.D. 1448, granting them an exclusive right to all the countries they should discover, from Cape Bon to the Coast of India. On occasion of the voyage of Columbus, Ferdinand and Isabella applied to Pope Alexander VI, for a similar grant to Spain "By an act of liberality which cost him nothing, and which served to establish the jurisdiction and pretensions of the Papal See, he granted, in full right, to Ferdinand and Isabella, all the countries inhabited by infidels, which they had discovered or should discover. As it was necessary to prevent this grant from interfering with that formerly made to the crown of Portugal, he appointed that a line, supposed to be drawn from pole to pole, a hundred leagues to the westward of the Azores, should serve as a limit between them; and, in the plenitude of his power, bestowed all to the East of this imaginary line on the Portuguese; and all to the west of it on the Spaniards."—*Robertson*.

620. The *Inquisition*, or "Holy Office," (see Sec. 544), was established in Spain, by Ferdinand and Isabella, A.D. 1484. (see Sec. 564). A similar institution, had existed in the Thirteenth century, for the suppression of heresy; but that of Spain was long distinguished by sanguinary cruelty. The *Jews* and the *Moors*, were the first objects of persecution; but it soon extended to *heretics*: including under that name, all who were suspected of doubting the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.

621. PROGRESS OF RELIGIOUS OPINION. In *France*, the encroachments of the Papacy were repressed by an Ordinance, in the reign of Charles VII. (see Sec. 549,) called the *Pragmatic sanction*, A.D. 1458. But it extended only to questions of patronage and taxation, and left doctrinal errors, and superstitious practices undisputed.

622. In *England* the progress of the Reformation extended further. The fruit of Wycliffe's labours (see Sec. 579,) appeared, in the extensive prevalence of his opinions among all orders of society, and a long succession of martyrs proved the sincerity with which those opinions were maintained. In the reign of Henry IV., *William Sawtree*. A.D. 1400, was the first victim of the sanguinary statute then passed. (See Sec. 604.) Under Henry V., *Sir John Oldecastle*, *Lord Cobham*, suffered.

625. In the following reigns the attempt to exterminate the Lollards (see Sec. 577,) was prosecuted with unrelenting cruelty, but without success. The invention of printing, towards the end of the century, secured the diffusion of Scripture knowledge, and prepared the way for the *Protestant Reformation*.

CHAPTER IX.

THE ASPECT OF THE WORLD, AT THE CLOSE OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

624. THE EUROPEAN NATIONS. The progress of events, during the "dark ages," terminated in the establishment of a political system, which placed the various states in the relation they have, in general, retained to the present day. "*The Balance of Power*," is an implied compact, founded on the equality of the rights of nations; and designed to prevent the undue aggrandisement of any one, by the subversion of those which are less powerful.

625. The principal nations of Europe had gradually exchanged the military despotism of the *Feudal* system for *Constitutional* government; in which law prevailed over brute force. In *England* and *France*, the Sovereign had acquired the power which formerly was shared with him by the nobles; and, for the sake of maintaining it the aid of the middle classes was purchased, by such concessions as tended to give them political influence.

626. *Spain*, under the monarchy of *Ferdinand* and *Isabella*, was in a more prosperous condition than at any former period. *Germany*, under *Maximilian*, (see Sec. 582,) was free from the internal discord which the contests of the nobles had formerly occasioned. The *Turkish*

government was now firmly established in Europe, and was sustained by the most powerful and best disciplined army of the period.

627. ASIA AND AFRICA. At the close of the Fifteenth century, the Turks possessed *Asia Minor*; *Syria* was subject to the Mamelukes of Egypt. In *Persia* the Turkoman race prevailed. The Empire which had been founded in the north of India, by *Mohammed*, with Delhi for its capital, (see Sec. 498,) after having been subverted, first by *Genghis Khan*, (see Sec. 572,) and then by *Timour*, (see Sec. 575,) was now occupied by princes of the *Affghan* race. Several extensive provinces were under the dominion of other Mohammedan rulers; but the greater part of the country was governed by independent princes, of the Hindoo race, called Rajahs.

628. *China*. The Mongol Tartars, who conquered *China* in the *Thirteenth* century, (see Sec. 612,) having degenerated, were defeated by the native population; who restored the princes of their own race, under the name of the *Ming* dynasty. They reigned in succession for three centuries.

629. AFRICA was only known, during the middle ages, as in ancient history, so far as it bordered on the Mediterranean, till the Portuguese ventured to explore the Western coast, (see Sec. 597). The Moors who occupied *Egypt*, under the *Fatimite* Caliphs, (see Sec. 456,) were subdued by the Turks in the Twelfth century. The *Mamelukes* maintained possession of the country for

several centuries. From the frontiers of Egypt to the Atlantic, under the general designation of *Barbary*, were included Four principal states, Morocco, Tunis, Algiers, and Tripoli, which were governed by independent chiefs, designated "Beys."

630. GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERIES. AMERICA. In the reign of *John I.*, of Portugal, (see Sec. 597,) the coast of Africa was explored as far as Sierra Leone: *Alphonso V.*, his grandson, promoted other voyages of discovery; and, under *John II.*, his successor, *Bartholomew Diaz*, A.D. 1486, reached the Southern Cape of Africa, which was designated the "Cape of Good Hope," as affording the expectation of a passage to the East Indies in that direction.

The reports of travellers, who had visited the East, during the preceding century, had awakened general curiosity. *Marco Polo*, a Venetian, was the first European who visited *China*, A.D. 1291. On his return he wrote an account of his travels. Subsequent observation has confirmed the veracity of his statements, in regard to what he himself saw, but many incredible things are related, on the report of others. The same remark applies to the travels of *Sir John de Mandeville*, an Englishman, who, in the reign of *Edward III.*, visited different parts of Asia, and has blended with his narrative much that is fabulous.

The application of the property of the magnet to the purpose of navigation, in the construction of the *mariners' compass*, is attributed to a citizen of *Amalfi*, near *Naples*, A.D. 1361; but the Portuguese were the first to make it available for geographical discovery.

631. In the year 1497, *Vasco de Gama*, reached *India*, by the new route of the Cape of Good Hope. A powerful fleet was afterwards despatched; and the Portuguese succeeded in establishing the first European settlement

in that country. A.D. 1500.

652. The success of the Portuguese stimulated others to naval enterprise. *Christopher Columbus*, a native of Genoa, supposing that a passage to the Eastern shores of India, might be found, by sailing Westward, across the Atlantic, sought aid from his countrymen; and afterwards applied to the King of Portugal, and to Henry VII. of England, but in vain; at length, having been furnished with ships, by Ferdinand and Isabella, of Spain, in his third voyage he discovered the CONTINENT OF AMERICA. A.D. 1498. In the following year, *Sebastian Cabot*, a British merchant, explored part of the coast of North America.

The name of that quarter of the world was derived from the navigator, *Amerigo Vespucci*, who followed the track of Columbus, and to whom the original discovery was attributed, by mistake. Columbus died poor and neglected, at Valladolid, A.D. 1506, where monument was erected to his memory.

655. HISTORY OF THE JEWS DURING THE MIDDLE AGES. This "peculiar people," scattered over the whole face of the earth, and yet remaining a distinct race, afford, in all their history, a manifest fulfilment of Scripture prophecy. At the period of the decline of the Roman empire, they were found in the remotest provinces.

654. The irruption of the Barbarians did not inflict the same calamities on them as on the settled inhabitants. Having no local attachments, beyond the bounds of Palestine, and no affinity with other nations, they could easily

change their place of abode, according to circumstances.

655. They then became the medium of traffic among the Gothic nations. The chiefs disposed of their captives in the slave market; and afforded the Jews protection in carrying on that trade. This source of wealth was so extensive, as to occasion several edicts of Councils and Popes for its regulation.

656. The Jews were numerous in Arabia at the time when Mohammed asserted his claims, and were solicited to join him. Their refusal subjected them to persecution. At a later period, they were protected by the Caliphs, (see Sec. 446,) on the condition of paying tribute for the right to trade; and they followed the course of the Arabian conquests in Africa and Spain. At Cordova, (see Sec. 455,) many Jews became distinguished in science and literature.

657. *Charlemagne* (see Sec. 416,) protected the Jews, and even employed one of that nation as his ambassador to Haroun-al-Raschid. They continued to amass great wealth, in the infancy of commerce, but were often stripped of their property, and cruelly treated, by the avarice of monarchs, and the fanaticism of the people.

658. The Crusades (see Sec. 475,) were the occasion of much suffering to the Jews, especially in Germany. Many thousands of them were massacred; those who escaped found an asylum in Poland. Philip Augustus, A.D. 1180, expelled them from France; they returned,—but only to suffer the most cruel oppression,—and were finally driven out, by an edict of Charles VI., A.D. 1594.

659. The Jews of Spain were long distinguished,

not only for wealth, but for scientific attainments. The most eminent physicians in the nation were Jews. They also acquired considerable landed possessions. This long continued prosperity was at length disturbed, at the commencement of the Fifteenth century, by the bigotry of the Popish clergy, who brought the most absurd and ungrounded charges against them.

640. On the accession of Ferdinand and Isabella, (see Sec. 594,) and the subversion of the Moorish power, a most cruel persecution of the Jews commenced, which was aided by the inquisition; and an edict was at length issued, A.D. 1492, commanding them to quit the realm. They were at a loss for a refuge,—and multitudes perished, under the most painful circumstances. Spain was thus deprived of more than half a million of her most industrious subjects,—and the loss has affected the national prosperity ever since.

641. The Jews had found their way to England, in the time of the *Saxons*. They were unmolested by the earlier *Norman* kings; but in the reign of Henry II., large sums were extorted from them. Under Richard I., they suffered here, as on the continent, from the fanaticism of the Crusades. King John shewed them favour, but only that he might avail himself of their wealth, which he extorted by the most cruel means. During the long reign of Henry III., they suffered much from merchants, who were jealous of their gains.—and from the clergy, who instigated the populace to acts of violence. Edward I. expelled them from the kingdom, A.D. 1290. They are said then to have

been 15,000 in number.

642. The Northern coast of *Africa*, and the district of *Abyssinia*, afforded a refuge to many of the Jews who fled from persecution. In the *East*, they were widely dispersed, at a very early period; and the remote regions of *India* and *China* continued to afford them an abode, where they were found in considerable numbers, by travellers during the middle ages.

643. *Palestine*, with its capital, *Jerusalem*, was, involved in the general condition of the Eastern Empire during its decline,—and fell under the power of the Mohammedans, A.D. 1453; in which state it has continued ever since; in fulfilment of our Saviour's prophecy, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

THE PROGRESS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE TO
THE CLOSE OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

644. During the "dark ages," the knowledge of letters was confined to the clergy. The inmates of the monasteries were employed in transcribing manuscripts,—but their literature consisted chiefly of the legends of the "saints," which had superseded the inspired Scriptures. There were few writers of authentic history, in England. During the Eighth century, "*the Venerable Bede*," a monk in Northumberland, compiled his *Ecclesiastical History*;

he also translated the Gospel of John into Saxon.

645. The writings of the ancients were introduced to Europe, by means of the *Arabians*, (see Sec. 598.) and the establishment of Universities, by Charlemagne, on the continent, and by Alfred, in England, promoted learning. On the conquest of England by the Normans, intercourse with the continent had a favourable influence; *Lanfranc*, (see Sec. 475,) and *Anselm*, with other foreign ecclesiastics, were distinguished scholars. In the reign of Stephen, *Geoffrey of Monmouth* wrote a history of Britain; which was followed by other works of the same character,—but the monkish writers blend with historical facts much superstitious fiction.

646. Though the progress of *Philosophy* was impeded by the prevalence of the scholastic system, (see Sec. 547,) there were men of vigorous mind, engaged in such investigations, whose labours were not entirely fruitless; while some, like *Roger Bacon*, (see Sec. 548,) ventured to extend their enquiries: and, at the risk of persecution, as magicians, announced discoveries of great importance.

647. *Poetry* was cultivated in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth centuries, by the *Troubadours*, in France, Spain, and Italy. They were minstrels, who sang their own compositions. Many of the princes who engaged in the crusades, among whom was *Richard I.* of England, cultivated this art. In the Fourteenth century flourished *Dante*, the first Italian poet of eminence,—and *Chaucer*, the father of English poetry.

The species of literature known by the designation, "*Romance*," originated in the ideas that prevailed during the age of chivalry (see Sec. 507). The term is derived from the *Romaic language*, a corruption of Latin, in which these compositions were written. The *Adventures of Prince Arthur*, and the *Knights of the Round Table*,—with those of Charlemagne and his Twelve Peers, were the most popular; and from these were borrowed many works of fiction of a later period. —

648. The *Historians* or "*Chroniclers*" were numerous in the monasteries,—of whom *Matthew of Westminster*, and *Thomas of Walsingham*, contribute most to English history. The events of the period demanded the service of another class of writers,—such were *Froissart* and *Montrellet*, two French gentlemen, who obtained their information from personal intercourse with the different courts of Europe; and who have thus transmitted a lively representation of the manners of their time, in connection with the facts which they relate.

649. The spirit of *religious enquiry* which prevailed at this period, excited a powerful influence. Among scholars, the Scriptures were read in the ancient languages; but in England, the benefit was greatly extended, by *Wycliffe's* translation of the Bible, and by the labours of itinerant preachers. Copies of the Scriptures were multiplied, and were eagerly read,—but there needed a facility for their increase, beyond that which the slow process of *transcription* admitted, and this was providentially afforded by the invention of *Printing*.

650. PRINTING. The first and rudest attempts were made, at the beginning of the Fifteenth century, by means of impressions from engraved wooden blocks, or stamps.

The substitution of *types*, containing each a single letter, for blocks containing an entire page, is an invention attributed to *Laurence Coster*, of *Hæerlem*, or to *John Guttenberg*, A.D. 1445.

651. The art was rapidly improved by Guttenberg, Faust, and Schoeffer; and, was brought to such completion, A.D. 1455, as to enable them to print the entire Bible in Latin. Faust's press was established in the city of Mentz, and the persons employed were bound by an engagement of secrecy; but, in the wars of that period, the city was stormed. A.D. 1462; and the workmen, being dispersed, carried the invention with them to different parts of Europe.

Within *Thirty eight* years from the capture of Mentz, and the dispersion of the printers, the press was busy in at least *Two Hundred and Twenty* different places throughout Europe, and the number of printing presses was far above a thousand

652. The first printing press in England was established by *William Caxton*, in the reign of Edward IV., A.D. 1474. The works which he published were chiefly his own translations from the French, on general subjects, suited to the taste of the period. Wycliffe's translation of the Bible was extensively circulated, and eagerly read; but the prohibition of it by the clergy, prevented its being printed. The progress of religious enquiry, ultimately secured the application of the press to this purpose; and its effects mark the transition from MIDDLE, TO MODERN HISTORY.

