

**The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle**

**Part 7: A.D. 1102 - 1154**

**Online Medieval and Classical Library Release #17**



A.D. 1102. In this year at the Nativity was the King Henry at

Westminster, and at Easter in Winchester. And soon thereafter

arose a dissention between the king and the Earl Robert of

Belesme, who held in this land the earldom of Shrewsbury, that

his father, Earl Roger, had before, and much territory therewith

both on this side and beyond the sea. And the king went and

beset the castle at Arundel; but when he could not easily win it,

he allowed men to make castles before it, and filled them with

his men; and afterwards with all his army he went to Bridgenorth,

and there continued until he had the castle, and deprived the

Earl Robert of his land, and stripped him of all that he had in

England. And the earl accordingly went over sea, and the army

afterwards returned home. Then was the king thereafter by

Michaelmas at Westminster; and all the principal men in this

land, clerk, and laity. And the Archbishop Anselm held a synod

of clergy; and there they established many canons that belong to

Christianity. And many, both French and English, were there

deprived of their staves and dignity, which they either obtained

with injustice, or enjoyed with dishonour. And in this same

year, in the week of the feast of Pentecost, there came thieves,

some from Auvergne, (133) some from France, and some from

Flanders, and broke into the minster of Peterborough, and therein

seized much property in gold and in silver; namely, roods, and

chalices, and candlesticks.

A.D. 1103. In this year, at midwinter, was the King Henry at

Westminster. And soon afterwards departed the Bishop William

Giffard out of this land; because he would not against right

accept his hood at the hands of the Archbishop Gerard of York.

And then at Easter held the king his court at Winchester, and

afterwards went the Archbishop Anselm from Canterbury to Rome, as

was agreed between him and the king. This year also came the

Earl Robert of Normandy to speak with the king in this land; and

ere he departed hence he forgave the King Henry the three

thousand marks that he was bound by treaty to give him each year.

In this year also at Hamstead in Berkshire was seen blood [to

rise] from the earth. This was a very calamitous year in this

land, through manifold impositions, and through murrain of

cattle, and deficiency of produce, not only in corn, but in every

kind of fruit. Also in the morning, upon the mass day of St.

Laurence, the wind did so much harm here on land to all fruits,

as no man remembered that ever any did before. In this same year

died Matthias, Abbot of Peterborough, who lived no longer than

one year after he was abbot. After Michaelmas, on the twelfth

day before the calends of November, he was in full procession

received as abbot; and on the same day of the next year he was

dead at Glocester, and there buried.

A.D. 1104. In this year at Christmas held the King Henry his

court at Westminster, and at Easter in Winchester, and at

Pentecost again at Westminster. This year was the first day of

Pentecost on the nones of June; and on the Tuesday following were

seen four circles at mid-day about the sun, of a white hue, each

described under the other as if they were measured. All that saw

it wondered; for they never remembered such before. Afterwards

were reconciled the Earl Robert of Normandy and Robert de

Belesme, whom the King Henry had before deprived of his lands,

and driven from England; and through their reconciliation the

King of England and the Earl of Normandy became adversaries. And

the king sent his folk over sea into Normandy; and the head-men

in that land received them, and with treachery to their lord, the

earl, lodged them in their castles, whence they committed many

outrages on the earl in plundering and burning. This year also

William, Earl of Moreton (134) went from this land into Normandy;

but after he was gone he acted against the king; because the king

stripped and deprived him of all that he had here in this land.

It is not easy to describe the misery of this land, which it was

suffering through various and manifold wrongs and impositions,

that never failed nor ceased; and wheresoever the king went,

there was full licence given to his company to harrow and oppress

his wretched people; and in the midst thereof happened oftentimes

burnings and manslaughter. All this was done to the displeasure

of God, and to the vexation of this unhappy people.

A.D. 1105. In this year, on the Nativity, held the King Henry

his court at Windsor; and afterwards in Lent he went over sea

into Normandy against his brother Earl Robert. And whilst he

remained there he won of his brother Caen and Baieux; and almost

all the castles and the chief men in that land were subdued. And

afterwards by harvest he returned hither again; and that which he

had won in Normandy remained afterwards in peace and subjection

to him; except that which was anywhere near the Earl William of

Moretaine. This he often demanded as strongly as he could for

the loss of his land in this country. And then before Christmas

came Robert de Belesme hither to the king. This was a very

calamitous year in this land, through loss of fruits, and through

the manifold contributions, that never ceased before the king

went over [to Normandy], or while he was there, or after he came

back again.

A.D. 1106. In this year was the King Henry on the Nativity at

Westminster, and there held his court; and at that season Robert

de Belesme went unreconciled from the king out of his land into

Normandy. Hereafter before Lent was the king at Northampton; and

the Earl Robert his brother came thither from Normandy to him;

and because the king would not give him back that which he had

taken from him in Normandy, they parted in hostility; and the

earl soon went over sea back again. In the first week of Lent,

on the Friday, which was the fourteenth before the calends of

March, in the evening appeared an unusual star; and a long time

afterwards was seen every evening shining awhile. The star

appeared in the south-west; it was thought little and dark; but

the train of light which stood from it was very bright, and

appeared like an immense beam shining north-east; and some

evening this beam was seen as if it were moving itself forwards

against the star. Some said that they saw more of such unusual

stars at this time; but we do not write more fully about it,

because we saw it not ourselves. On the night preceding the

Lord's Supper, (135) that is, the Thursday before Easter, were

seen two moons in the heavens before day, the one in the east,

and the other in the west, both full; and it was the fourteenth

day of the moon. At Easter was the king at Bath, and at

Pentecost at Salisbury; because he would not hold his court when

he was beyond the sea. After this, and before August, went the

king over sea into Normandy; and almost all that were in that

land submitted to his will, except Robert de Belesme and the Earl

of Moretaine, and a few others of the principal persons who yet

held with the Earl of Normandy. For this reason the king

afterwards advanced with an army, and beset a castle of the Earl

of Moretaine, called Tenerchebrai. (136) Whilst the king beset

the castle, came the Earl Robert of Normandy on Michaelmas eve

against the king with his army, and with him Robert of Belesme,

and William, Earl of Moretaine, and all that would be with them;

but the strength and the victory were the king's. There was the

Earl of Normandy taken, and the Earl of Moretaine, and Robert of

Stutteville, and afterwards sent to England, and put into

custody. Robert of Belesme was there put to flight, and William

Crispin was taken, and many others forthwith. Edgar Etheling,

who a little before had gone over from the king to the earl, was

also there taken, whom the king afterwards let go unpunished.

Then went the king over all that was in Normandy, and settled it

according to his will and discretion. This year also were heavy

and sinful conflicts between the Emperor of Saxony and his son,

and in the midst of these conflicts the father fell, and the son

succeeded to the empire.

A.D. 1107. In this year at Christmas was the King Henry in

Normandy; and, having disposed and settled that land to his will,

he afterwards came hither in Lent, and at Easter held his court

at Windsor, and at Pentecost in Westminster. And afterwards in

the beginning of August he was again at Westminster, and there

gave away and settled the bishoprics and abbacies that either in

England or in Normandy were without elders and pastors. Of these

there were so many, that there was no man who remembered that

ever so many together were given away before. And on this same

occasion, among the others who accepted abbacies, Ernulf, who

before was prior at Canterbury, succeeded to the abbacy in

Peterborough. This was nearly about seven years after the King

Henry undertook the kingdom, and the one and fortieth year since

the Franks governed this land. Many said that they saw sundry

tokens in the moon this year, and its orb increasing and

decreasing contrary to nature. This year died Maurice, Bishop of

London, and Robert, Abbot of St. Edmund's bury, and Richard,

Abbot of Ely. This year also died the King Edgar in Scotland, on

the ides of January, and Alexander his brother succeeded to the

kingdom, as the King Henry granted him.

A.D. 1108. In this year was the King Henry on the Nativity at

Westminster, and at Easter at Winchester, and by Pentecost at

Westminster again. After this, before August, he went into

Normandy. And Philip, the King of France, died on the nones of

August, and his son Louis succeeded to the kingdom. And there

were afterwards many struggles between the King of France and the

King of England, while the latter remained in Normandy. In this

year also died the Archbishop Girard of York, before Pentecost,

and Thomas was afterwards appointed thereto.

A.D. 1109. In this year was the King Henry at Christmas and at

Easter in Normandy; and before Pentecost he came to this land,

and held his court at Westminster. There were the conditions

fully settled, and the oaths sworn, for giving his daughter (137)

to the emperor. (138) This year were very frequent storms of

thunder, and very tremendous; and the Archbishop Anselm of

Canterbury died on the eleventh day before the calends of April;

and the first day of Easter was on "Litania major".

A.D. 1110. In this year held the King Henry his court at

Christmas in Westminster, and at Easter he was at Marlborough,

and at Pentecost he held his court for the first time in New

Windsor. This year before Lent the king sent his daughter with

manifold treasures over sea, and gave her to the emperor. On the

fifth night in the month of May appeared the moon shining bright

in the evening, and afterwards by little and little its light

diminished, so that, as soon as night came, (139) it was so

completely extinguished withal, that neither light, nor orb, nor

anything at all of it was seen. And so it continued nearly until

day, and then appeared shining full and bright. It was this same

day a fortnight old. All the night was the firmament very clear,

and the stars over all the heavens shining very bright. And the

fruits of the trees were this night sorely nipt by frost.

Afterwards, in the month of June, appeared a star north-east, and

its train stood before it towards the south-west. Thus was it

seen many nights; and as the night advanced, when it rose higher,

it was seen going backward toward the north-west. This year were

deprived of their lands Philip of Braiose, and William Mallet,

and William Bainard. This year also died Earl Elias, who held

Maine in fee-tail (140) of King Henry; and after his death the

Earl of Anjou succeeded to it, and held it against the king.

This was a very calamitous year in this land, through the

contributions which the king received for his daughter's portion,

and through the badness of the weather, by which the fruits of

the earth were very much marred, and the produce of the trees

over all this land almost entirely perished. This year men began

first to work at the new minster at Chertsey.

A.D. 1111. This year the King Henry bare not his crown at

Christmas, nor at Easter, nor at Pentecost. And in August he

went over sea into Normandy, on account of the broils that some

had with him by the confines of France, and chiefly on account of

the Earl of Anjou, who held Maine against him. And after he came

over thither, many conspiracies, and burnings, and harrowings,

did they between them. In this year died the Earl Robert of

Flanders, and his son Baldwin succeeded thereto. (141) This year

was the winter very long, and the season heavy and severe; and

through that were the fruits of the earth sorely marred, and

there was the greatest murrain of cattle that any man could

remember.

A.D. 1112. All this year remained the King Henry in Normandy on

account of the broils that he had with France, and with the Earl

of Anjou, who held Maine against him. And whilst he was there,

he deprived of their lands the Earl of Evreux, and William

Crispin, and drove them out of Normandy. To Philip of Braiose he

restored his land, who had been before deprived of it; and Robert

of Belesme he suffered to be seized, and put into prison. This

was a very good year, and very fruitful, in wood and in field;

but it was a very heavy time and sorrowful, through a severe

mortality amongst men.

A.D. 1113. In this year was the King Henry on the Nativity and

at Easter and at Pentecost in Normandy. And after that, in the

summer, he sent hither Robert of Belesme into the castle at

Wareham, and himself soon (142) afterwards came hither to this

land.

A.D. 1114. In this year held the King Henry his court on the

Nativity at Windsor, and held no other court afterwards during

the year. And at midsummer he went with an army into Wales; and

the Welsh came and made peace with the king. And he let men

build castles therein. And thereafter, in September, he went

over sea into Normandy. This year, in the latter end of May, was

seen an uncommon star with a long train, shining many nights. In

this year also was so great an ebb of the tide everywhere in one

day, as no man remembered before; so that men went riding and

walking over the Thames eastward of London bridge. This year

were very violent winds in the month of October; but it was

immoderately rough in the night of the octave of St. Martin; and

that was everywhere manifest both in town and country. In this

year also the king gave the archbishopric of Canterbury to Ralph,

who was before Bishop of Rochester; and Thomas, Archbishop of

York, died; and Turstein succeeded thereto, who was before the

king's chaplain. About this same time went the king toward the

sea, and was desirous of going over, but the weather prevented

him; then meanwhile sent he his writ after the Abbot Ernulf of

Peterborough, and bade that he should come to him quickly, for

that he wished to speak with him on an interesting subject. When

he came to him, he appointed him to the bishopric of Rochester;

and the archbishops and bishops and all the nobility that were in

England coincided with the king. And he long withstood, but it

availed nothing. And the king bade the archbishop that he should

lead him to Canterbury, and consecrate him bishop whether he

would or not. (143) This was done in the town called Bourne

(144) on the seventeenth day before the calends of October. When

the monks of Peterborough heard of this, they felt greater sorrow

than they had ever experienced before; because he was a very good

and amiable man, and did much good within and without whilst he

abode there. God Almighty abide ever with him. Soon after this

gave the king the abbacy to a monk of Sieyes, whose name was

John, through the intreaty of the Archbishop of Canterbury. And

soon after this the king and the Archbishop of Canterbury sent

him to Rome after the archbishop's pall; and a monk also with

him, whose name was Warner, and the Archdeacon John, the nephew

of the archbishop. And they sped well there. This was done on

the seventh day before the calends Of October, in the town that

is yclept Rowner. And this same day went the king on board ship

at Portsmouth.

A.D. 1115. This year was the King Henry on the Nativity in

Normandy. And whilst he was there, he contrived that all the

head men in Normandy did homage and fealty to his son William,

whom he had by his queen. And after this, in the month of July,

he returned to this land. This year was the winter so severe,

with snow and with frost, that no man who was then living ever

remembered one more severe; in consequence of which there was

great destruction of cattle. During this year the Pope Paschalis

sent the pall into this land to Ralph, Archbishop of Canterbury;

and he received it with great worship at his archiepiscopal stall

in Canterbury. It was brought hither from Rome by Abbot Anselm,

who was the nephew of Archbishop Anselm, and the Abbot John of

Peterborough.

A.D. 1116. In this year was the King Henry on the Nativity at

St. Alban's, where he permitted the consecration of that

monastery; and at Easter he was at Odiham. And there was also

this year a very heavy-timed winter, strong and long, for cattle

and for all things. And the king soon after Easter went over sea

into Normandy. And there were many conspiracies and robberies,

and castles taken betwixt France and Normandy. Most of this

disturbance was because the King Henry assisted his nephew,

Theobald de Blois, who was engaged in a war against his lord,

Louis, the King of France. This was a very vexatious and

destructive year with respect to the fruits of the earth, through

the immoderate rains that fell soon after the beginning of

August, harassing and perplexing men till Candlemas-day. This

year also was so deficient in mast, that there was never heard

such in all this land or in Wales. This land and nation were

also this year oft and sorely swincked by the guilds which the

king took both within the boroughs and without. In this same

year was consumed by fire the whole monastery of Peterborough,

and all the buildings, except the chapter-house and the

dormitory, and therewith also all the greater part of the town.

All this happened on a Friday, which was the second day before

the nones of August.

A.D. 1117. All this year remained the King Henry, in Normandy,

on account of the hostility of the King of France and his other

neighbours. And in the summer came the King of France and the

Earl of Flanders with him with an army into Normandy. And having

stayed therein one night, they returned again in the morning

without fighting. But Normandy was very much afflicted both by

the exactions and by the armies which the King Henry collected

against them. This nation also was severely oppressed through

the same means, namely, through manifold exactions. This year

also, in the night of the calends of December, were immoderate

storms with thunder, and lightning, and rain, and hail. And in

the night of the third day before the ides of December was the

moon, during a long time of the night, as if covered with blood,

and afterwards eclipsed. Also in the night of the seventeenth

day before the calends of January, was the heaven seen very red,

as if it were burning. And on the octave of St. John the

Evangelist was the great earthquake in Lombardy; from the shock

of which many minsters, and towers, and houses fell, and did much

harm to men. This was a very blighted year in corn, through the

rains that scarcely ceased for nearly all the year. And the

Abbot Gilbert of Westminster died on the eighth day before the

ides of December; and Faritz, Abbot of Abingdon, on the seventh

day before the calends of March. And in this same year....

A.D. 1118. All this year abode the King Henry in Normandy on

account of the war of the King of France and the Earl of Anjou,

and the Earl of Flanders. And the Earl of Flanders was wounded

in Normandy, and went so wounded into Flanders. By this war was

the king much exhausted, and he was a great loser both in land

and money. And his own men grieved him most, who often from him

turned, and betrayed him; and going over to his foes surrendered

to them their castles, to the injury and disappointment of the

king. All this England dearly bought through the manifold guilds

that all this year abated not. This year, in the week of the

Epiphany, there was one evening a great deal of lightning, and

thereafter unusual thunder. And the Queen Matilda died at

Westminster on the calends of May; and there was buried. And the

Earl Robert of Mellent died also this year. In this year also,

on the feast of St. Thomas, was so very immoderately violent a

wind, that no man who was then living ever remembered any

greater; and that was everywhere seen both in houses and also in

trees. This year also died Pope Paschalis; and John of Gaeta

succeeded to the popedom, whose other name was Gelasius.

A.D. 1119. All this year continued the King Henry in Normandy;

and he was greatly perplexed by the hostility of the King of

France, and also of his own men, who with treachery deserted from

him, and oft readily betrayed him; until the two kings came

together in Normandy with their forces. There was the King of

France put to flight, and all his best men taken. And afterwards

many of King Henry's men returned to him, and accorded with him,

who were before, with their castellans, against him. And some of

the castles he took by main strength. This year went William,

the son of King Henry and Queen Matilda, into Normandy to his

father, and there was given to him, and wedded to wife, the

daughter of the Earl of Anjou. On the eve of the mass of St.

Michael was much earth-heaving in some places in this land;

though most of all in Glocestershire and in Worcestershire. In

this same year died the Pope Gelasius, on this side of the Alps,

and was buried at Clugny. And after him the Archbishop of Vienna

was chosen pope, whose name was Calixtus. He afterwards, on the

festival of St. Luke the Evangelist, came into France to Rheims,

and there held a council. And the Archbishop Turstin of York

went thither; and, because that he against right, and against the

archiepiscopal stall in Canterbury, and against the king's will,

received his hood at the hands of the pope, the king interdicted

him from all return to England. And thus he lost his

archbishopric, and with the pope went towards Rome. In this year

also died the Earl Baldwin of Flanders of the wounds that he

received in Normandy. And after him succeeded to the earldom

Charles, the son of his uncle by the father's side, who was son

of Cnute, the holy King of Denmark.

A.D. 1120. This year were reconciled the King of England and the

King of France; and after their reconciliation all the King

Henry's own men accorded with him in Normandy, as well as the

Earl of Flanders and the Earl of Ponthieu. From this time

forward the King Henry settled his castles and his land in

Normandy after his will; and so before Advent came to this land.

And in this expedition were drowned the king's two sons, William

and Richard, and Richard, Earl of Chester, and Ottuel his

brother, and very many of the king's household, stewards, and

chamberlains, and butlers. and men of various abodes; and with

them a countless multidude of very incomparable folk besides.

Sore was their death to their friends in a twofold respect: one,

that they so suddenly lost this life; the other, that few of

their bodies were found anywhere afterwards. This year came that

light to the sepulchre of the Lord in Jerusalem twice; once at

Easter, and the other on the assumption of St. Mary, as credible

persons said who came thence. And the Archbishop Turstin of York

was through the pope reconciled with the king, and came to this

land, and recovered his bishopric, though it was very undesirable

to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A.D. 1121. This year was the King Henry at Christmas at Bramton,

and afterwards, before Candlemas, at Windsor was given him to

wife Athelis; soon afterwards consecrated queen, who was daughter

of the Duke of Louvain. And the moon was eclipsed in the night

of the nones of April, being a fortnight old. And the king was

at Easter at Berkley; and after that at Pentecost he held a full

court at Westminster; and afterwards in the summer went with an

army into Wales. And the Welsh came against him; and after the

king's will they accorded with him. This year came the Earl of

Anjou from Jerusalem into his land; and soon after sent hither to

fetch his daughter, who had been given to wife to William, the

king's son. And in the night of the eve of "Natalis Domini" was

a very violent wind over all this land, and that was in many

things evidently seen.

A.D. 1122. In this year was the King Henry at Christmas in

Norwich, and at Easter in Northampton. And in the Lent-tide

before that, the town of Glocester was on fire: the while that

the monks were singing their mass, and the deacon had begun the

gospel, "Praeteriens Jesus", at that very moment came the fire

from the upper part of the steeple, and burned all the minster,

and all the treasures that were there within; except a few books,

and three mass-hackles. That was on the eighth day before the

ides of Marcia. And thereafter, the Tuesday after Palm-Sunday,

was a very violent wind on the eleventh day before the calends of

April; after which came many tokens far and wide in England, and

many spectres were both seen and heard. And the eighth night

before the calends of August was a very violent earthquake over

all Somersetshire, and in Glocestershire. Soon after, on the

sixth day before the ides of September, which was on the festival

of St. Mary, (145) there was a very violent wind from the fore

part of the day to the depth of the night. This same year died

Ralph, the Archbishop of Canterbury; that was on the thirteenth

day before the calends of November. After this there were many

shipmen on the sea, and on fresh water, who said, that they saw

on the north-east, level with the earth, a fire huge and broad,

which anon waxed in length up to the welkin; and the welkin undid

itself in four parts, and fought against it, as if it would

quench it; and the fire waxed nevertheless up to the heaven. The

fire they saw in the day-dawn; and it lasted until it was light

over all. That was on the seventh day before the ides of

December.

A.D. 1123. In this year was the King Henry, at Christmastide at

Dunstable, and there came to him the ambassadors of the Earl of

Anjou. And thence he went to Woodstock; and his bishops and his

whole court with him. Then did it betide on a Wednesday, which

was on the fourth day before the ides of January, that the king

rode in his deer-fold; (146) the Bishop Roger of Salisbury (147)

on one side of him, and the Bishop Robert Bloet of Lincoln on the

other side of him. And they rode there talking together. Then

sank down the Bishop of Lincoln, and said to the king, "Lord

king, I die." And the king alighted down from his horse, and

lifted him betwixt his arms, and let men bear him home to his

inn. There he was soon dead; and they carried him to Lincoln

with great worship, and buried him before the altar of St. Mary.

And the Bishop of Chester, whose name was Robert Pecceth, buried

him. Soon after this sent the king his writ over all England,

and bade all his bishops and his abbots and his thanes, that they

should come to his wittenmoot on Candlemas day at Glocester to

meet him: and they did so. When they were there gathered

together, then the king bade them, that they should choose for

themselves an Archbishop of Canterbury, whomsoever they would,

and he would confirm it. Then spoke the bishops among

themselves, and said that they never more would have a man of the

monastic order as archbishop over them. And they went all in a

body to the king, and earnestly requested that they might choose

from the clerical order whomsoever they would for archbishop.

And the king granted it to them. This was all concerted before,

through the Bishop of Salisbury, and through the Bishop of

Lincoln ere he was dead; for that they never loved the rule of

monks, but were ever against monks and their rule. And the prior

and the monks of Canterbury, and all the other persons of the

monastic order that were there, withstood it full two days; but

it availed nought: for the Bishop of Salisbury was strong, and

wielded all England, and opposed them with all his power and

might. Then chose they a clerk, named William of Curboil. He

was canon of a monastery called Chiche. (148) And they brought

him before the king; and the king gave him the archbishopric.

And all the bishops received him: but almost all the monks, and

the earls, and the thanes that were there, protested against him.

About the same time departed the earl's messengers (149) in

hostility from the king, reckless of his favour. During the same

time came a legate from Rome, whose name was Henry. He was abbot

of the monastery of St. John of Angeli; and he came after the

Rome-scot. And he said to the king, that it was against right

that men should set a clerk over monks; and therefore they had

chosen an archbishop before in their chapter after right. But

the king would not undo it, for the love of the Bishop of

Salisbury. Then went the archbishop, soon after this, to

Canterbury; and was there received, though it was against their

will; and he was there soon blessed to bishop by the Bishop of

London, and the Bishop Ernulf of Rochester, and the Bishop

William Girard of Winchester, and the Bishop Bernard of Wales,

and the Bishop Roger of Salisbury. Then, early in Lent, went

the archbishop to Rome, after his pall; and with him went the

Bishop Bernard of Wales; and Sefred, Abbot of Glastonbury; and

Anselm, Abbot of St. Edmund's bury; and John, Archdeacon of

Canterbury; and Gifard, who was the king's court-chaplain. At

the same time went the Archbishop Thurstan of York to Rome,

through the behest of the pope, and came thither three days ere

the Archbishop of Canterbury came, and was there received with

much worship. Then came the Archbishop of Canterbury, and was

there full seven nights ere they could come to a conference with

the pope. That was, because the pope was made to understand that

he had obtained the archbishopric against the monks of the

minster, and against right. But that overcame Rome, which

overcometh all the world; that is, gold and silver. And the pope

softened, and gave him his pall. And the archbishop (of York)

swore him subjection, in all those things, which the pope

enjoined him, by the heads of St. Peter and St. Paul; and the

pope then sent him home with his blessing. The while that the

archbishop was out of the land, the king gave the bishopric of

Bath to the Queen's chancellor, whose name was Godfrey. He was

born in Louvain. That was on the Annunciation of St. Mary, at

Woodstock. Soon after this went the king to Winchester, and was

all Easter-tide there. And the while that he was there, gave he

the bishopric of Lincoln to a clerk hight Alexander. He was

nephew of the Bishop of Salisbury. This he did all for the love

of the bishop. Then went the king thence to Portsmouth, and lay

there all over Pentecost week. Then, as soon as he had a fair

wind, he went over into Normandy; and meanwhile committed all

England to the guidance and government of the Bishop Roger of

Salisbury. Then was the king all this year (150) in Normandy.

And much hostility arose betwixt him and his thanes; so that the

Earl Waleram of Mellent, and Hamalric, and Hugh of Montfort, and

William of Romare, and many others, went from him, and held their

castles against him. And the king strongly opposed them: and

this same year he won of Waleram his castle of Pont-Audemer, and

of Hugh that of Montfort; and ever after, the longer he stayed,

the better he sped. This same year, ere the Bishop of Lincoln

came to his bishopric, almost all the borough of Lincoln was

burned, and numberless folks, men and women, were consumed: and

so much harm was there done as no man could describe to another.

That was on the fourteenth day before the calends of June.

A.D. 1124. All this year was the King Henry in Normandy. That

was for the great hostility that he had with the King Louis of

France, and with the Earl of Anjou, and most of all with his own

men. Then it happened, on the day of the Annunciation of St.

Mary, that the Earl Waleram of Mellent went from one of his

castles called Belmont to another called Watteville. With him

went the steward of the King of France, Amalric, and Hugh the son

of Gervase, and Hugh of Montfort, and many other good knights.

Then came against them the king's knights from all the castles

that were thereabout, and fought with them, and put them to

flight, and took the Earl Waleram, and Hugh, the son of Gervase,

and Hugh of Montfort, and five and twenty other knights, and

brought them to the king. And the king committed the Earl

Waleram, and Hugh, the son of Gervase, to close custody in the

castle at Rouen; but Hugh of Montfort he sent to England, and

ordered him to be secured with strong bonds in the castle at

Glocester. And of the others as many as he chose he sent north

and south to his castles in captivity. After this went the king,

and won all the castles of the Earl Waleram that were in

Normandy, and all the others that his enemies held against him.

All this hostility was on account of the son of the Earl Robert

of Normandy, named William. This same William had taken to wife

the younger daughter of Fulke, Earl of Anjou: and for this reason

the King of France and all the earls held with him, and all the

rich men; and said that the king held his brother Robert

wrongfully in captivity, and drove his son William unjustly out

of Normandy. This same year were the seasons very unfavourable

in England for corn and all fruits; so that between Christmas and

Candlemas men sold the acre-seed of wheat, that is two seedlips,

for six shillings; and the barley, that is three seedlips, for

six shillings also; and the acre-seed of oats, that is four

seedlips, for four shillings. That was because that corn was

scarce; and the penny was so adulterated, (151) that a man who

had a pound at a market could not exchange twelve pence thereof

for anything. In this same year died the blessed Bishop Ernulf

of Rochester, who before was Abbot of Peterborough. That was on

the ides of March. And after this died the King Alexander of

Scotland, on the ninth day before the calends of May. And David

his brother, who was Earl of Northamptonshire, succeeded to the

kingdom; and had both together, the kingdom of Scotland and the

earldom in England. And on the nineteenth day before the calends

of January died the Pope of Rome, whose name was Calixtus, and

Honorius succeeded to the popedom. This same year, after St.

Andrew's mass, and before Christmas, held Ralph Basset and the

king's thanes a wittenmoot in Leicestershire, at Huncothoe, and

there hanged more thieves than ever were known before; that is,

in a little while, four and forty men altogether; and despoiled

six men of their eyes and of their testicles. Many true men said

that there were several who suffered very unjustly; but our Lord

God Almighty, who seeth and knoweth every secret, seeth also that

the wretched people are oppressed with all unrighteousness.

First they are bereaved of their property, and then they are

slain. Full heavy year was this. The man that had any property,

was bereaved of it by violent guilds and violent moots. The man

that had not, was starved with hunger.

A.D. 1125. In this year sent the King Henry, before Christmas,

from Normandy to England, and bade that all the mint-men that

were in England should be mutilated in their limbs; that was,

that they should lose each of them the right hand, and their

testicles beneath. This was because the man that had a pound

could not lay out a penny at a market. And the Bishop Roger of

Salisbury sent over all England, and bade them all that they

should come to Winchester at Christmas. When they came thither,

then were they taken one by one, and deprived each of the right

hand and the testicles beneath. All this was done within the

twelfth-night. And that was all in perfect justice, because that

they had undone all the land with the great quantity of base coin

that they all bought. In this same year sent the Pope of Rome to

this land a cardinal, named John of Crema. He came first to the

king in Normandy, and the king received him with much worship.

He betook himself then to the Archbishop William of Canterbury;

and he led him to Canterbury; and he was there received with

great veneration, and in solemn procession. And he sang the high

mass on Easter day at the altar of Christ. Afterwards he went

over all England, to all the bishoprics and abbacies that were in

this land; and in all he was received with respect. And all gave

him many and rich gifts. And afterwards he held his council in

London full three days, on the Nativity of St. Mary in September,

with archbishops, and diocesan bishops, and abbots, the learned

and the lewd; (152) and enjoined there the same laws that

Archbishop Anselm had formerly enjoined, and many more, though it

availed little. Thence he went over sea soon after Michaelmas,

and so to Rome; and (with him) the Archbishop William of

Canterbury, and the Archbishop Thurstan of York, and the Bishop

Alexander of Lincoln, and the Bishop J. of Lothian, and the Abbot

G. of St. Alban's; and were there received by the Pope Honorius

with great respect; and continued there all the winter. In this

same year was so great a flood on St. Laurence's day, that many

towns and men were overwhelmed, and bridges broken down, and corn

and meadows spoiled withal; and hunger and qualm (153) in men and

in cattle; and in all fruits such unseasonableness as was not

known for many years before. And this same year died the Abbot

John of Peterborough, on the second day before the ides of

October.

A.D. 1126. All this year was the King Henry in Normandy -- all

till after harvest. Then came he to this land, betwixt the

Nativity of St. Mary and Michaelmas. With him came the queen,

and his daughter, whom he had formerly given to the Emperor Henry

of Lorrain to wife. And he brought with him the Earl Waleram,

and Hugh, the son of Gervase. And the earl he sent to

Bridgenorth in captivity: and thence he sent him afterwards to

Wallingford; and Hugh to Windsor, whom he ordered to be kept in

strong bonds. Then after Michaelmas came David, the king of the

Scots, from Scotland to this land; and the King Henry received

him with great worship; and he continued all that year in this

land. In this year the king had his brother Robert taken from

the Bishop Roger of Salisbury, and committed him to his son

Robert, Earl of Glocester, and had him led to Bristol, and there

put into the castle. That was all done through his daughter's

counsel, and through David, the king of the Scots, her uncle.

A.D. 1127. This year held the King Henry his court at Christmas

in Windsor. There was David the king of the Scots, and all the

head men that were in England, learned and lewd. And there he

engaged the archbishops, and bishops, and abbots, and earls, and

all the thanes that were there, to swear England and Normandy

after his day into the hands of his daughter Athelicia, who was

formerly the wife of the Emperor of Saxony. Afterwards he sent

her to Normandy; and with her went her brother Robert, Earl of

Glocester, and Brian, son of the Earl Alan Fergan; (154) and he

let her wed the son of the Earl of Anjou, whose name was Geoffry

Martel. All the French and English, however, disapproved of

this; but the king did it for to have the alliance of the Earl

of Anjou, and for to have help against his nephew William. In

the Lent-tide of this same year was the Earl Charles of Flanders

slain in a church, as he lay there and prayed to God, before the

altar, in the midst of the mass, by his own men. And the King of

France brought William, the son of the Earl of Normandy, and gave

him the earldom; and the people of that land accepted him. This

same William had before taken to wife the daughter of the Earl of

Anjou; but they were afterwards divorced on the plea of

consanguinity. This was all through the King Henry of England.

Afterwards took he to wife the sister of the king's wife of

France; and for this reason the king gave him the earldom of

Flanders. This same year he (155) gave the abbacy of

Peterborough to an abbot named Henry of Poitou, who retained in

hand his abbacy of St. John of Angeli; but all the archbishops

and bishops said that it was against right, and that he could not

have two abbacies on hand. But the same Henry gave the king to

understand, that he had relinquished his abbacy on account of the

great hostility that was in the land; and that he did through the

counsel and leave of the Pope of Rome, and through that of the

Abbot of Clugny, and because he was legate of the Rome-scot.

But, nevertheless, it was not so; for he would retain both in

hand; and did so as long as God's will was. He was in his

clerical state Bishop of Soissons; afterwards monk of Clugny; and

then prior in the same monastery. Afterwards he became prior of

Sevigny; and then, because he was a relation of the King of

England, and of the Earl of Poitou, the earl gave him the abbacy

of St. John's minster of Angeli. Afterwards, through his great

craft, he obtained the archbishopric of Besancon; and had it in

hand three days; after which he justly lost it, because he had

before unjustly obtained it. Afterwards he procured the

bishopric of Saintes; which was five miles from his abbey. That

he had full-nigh a week (156) in hand; but the Abbot of Clugny

brought him thence, as he before did from Besancon. Then he

bethought him, that, if he could be fast-rooted in England, he

might have all his will. Wherefore he besought the king, and

said unto him, that he was an old man -- a man completely broken

-- that he could not brook the great injustice and the great

hostility that were in their land: and then, by his own

endearours, and by those of all his friends, he earnestly and

expressly entreated for the abbacy of Peterborough. And the king

procured it for him, because he was his relation, and because he

was the principal person to make oath and bear witness when the

son of the Earl of Normandy and the daughter of the Earl of Anjou

were divorced on the plea of consanguinity. Thus wretchedly was

the abbacy given away, betwixt Christmas and Candlemas, at

London; and so he went with the King to Winchester, and thence he

came to Peterborough, and there he dwelt (157) right so as a

drone doth in a hive. For as the drone fretteth and draggeth

fromward all that the bees drag toward [the hive], so did he. --

All that he might take, within and without, of learned and lewd,

so sent he over sea; and no good did there -- no good left there.

Think no man unworthily that we say not the truth; for it was

fully known over all the land: that, as soon as he came thither,

which was on the Sunday when men sing "Exurge quare o D-- etc."

immediately after, several persons saw and heard many huntsmen

hunting. The hunters were swarthy, and huge, and ugly; and their

hounds were all swarthy, and broad-eyed, and ugly. And they rode

on swarthy horses, and swarthy bucks. This was seen in the very

deer-fold in the town of Peterborough, and in all the woods from

that same town to Stamford. And the monks heard the horn blow

that they blew in the night. Credible men, who watched them in

the night, said that they thought there might well be about

twenty or thirty horn-blowers. This was seen and heard from the

time that he (158) came thither, all the Lent-tide onward to

Easter. This was his entry; of his exit we can as yet say

nought. God provide.

A.D. 1128. All this year was the King Henry in Normandy, on

account of the hostility that was between him and his nephew, the

Earl of Flanders. But the earl was wounded in a fight by a

swain; and so wounded he went to the monastery of St. Bertin;

where he soon became a monk, lived five days afterwards, then

died, and was there buried. God honour his soul. That was on

the sixth day before the calends of August. This same year died

the Bishop Randulph Passeflambard of Durham; and was there buried

on the nones of September. And this same year went the aforesaid

Abbot Henry home to his own minster at Poitou by the king's

leave. He gave the king to understand, that he would withal

forgo that minster, and that land, and dwell with him in England,

and in the monastery of Peterborough. But it was not so

nevertheless. He did this because he would be there, through his

crafty wiles, were it a twelvemonth or more, and come again

afterwards. May God Almighty extend his mercy over that wretched

place. This same year came from Jerusalem Hugh of the Temple to

the king in Normandy; and the king received him with much honour,

and gave him rich presents in gold and in silver. And afterwards

he sent him into England; and there he was received by all good

men, who all gave him presents, and in Scotland also: and by him

they sent to Jerusalem much wealth withal in gold and in silver.

And he invited folk out to Jerusalem; and there went with him and

after him more people than ever did before, since that the first

expedition was in the day of Pope Urban. Though it availed

little; for he said, that a mighty war was begun between the

Christians and the heathens; but when they came thither, then was

it nought but leasing. (159) Thus pitifully was all that people

swinked. (160)

A.D. 1129. In this year sent the King to England after the Earl

Waleram, and after Hugh, the son of Gervase. And they gave

hostages for them. And Hugh went home to his own land in France;

but Waleram was left with the king: and the king gave him all his

land except his castle alone. Afterwards came the king to

England within the harvest: and the earl came with him: and they

became as good friends as they were foes before. Soon after, by

the king's counsel, and by his leave, sent the Archbishop William

of Canterbury over all England, and bade bishops, and abbots, and

archdeacons, and all the priors, monks, and canons, that were in

all the cells in England, and all who had the care and

superintendence of christianity, that they should all come to

London at Michaelmas, and there should speak of all God's rights.

When they came thither, then began the moot on Monday, and

continued without intermission to the Friday. When it all came

forth, then was it all found to be about archdeacons' wives, and

about priests' wives; that they should forgo them by St. Andrew's

mass; and he who would not do that, should forgo his church, and

his house, and his home, and never more have any calling thereto.

This bade the Archbishop William of Canterbury, and all the

diocesan bishops that were then in England, but the king gave

them all leave to go home. And so they went home; and all the

ordinances amounted to nothing. All held their wives by the

king's leave as they did before. This same year died the Bishop

William Giffard of Winchester; and was there buried, on the

eighth day before the calends of February. And the King Henry

gave the bishopric after Michaelmas to the Abbot Henry of

Glastonbury, his nephew, and he was consecrated bishop by the

Archbishop William of Canterbury on the fifteenth day before the

calends of December. This same year died Pope Honorius. Ere he

was well dead, there were chosen two popes. The one was named

Peter, who was monk of Clugny, and was born of the richest men of

Rome; and with him held those of Rome, and the Duke of Sicily.

The other was Gregory: he was a clerk, and was driven out of Rome

by the other pope, and by his kinsmen. With him held the Emperor

of Saxony, and the King of France, and the King Henry of England,

and all those on this side of the Alps. Now was there such

division in Christendom as never was before. May Christ consult

for his wretched folk. This same year, on the night of the mass

of St. Nicholas, a little before day, there was a great

earthquake.

A.D. 1130. This year was the monastery of Canterbury consecrated

by the Archbishop William, on the fourth day before the nones of

May. There were the Bishops John of Rochester, Gilbert Universal

of London, Henry of Winchester, Alexander of Lincoln, Roger of

Salisbury, Simon of Worcester, Roger of Coventry, Geoffry of

Bath, Evrard of Norwich, Sigefrith of Chichester, Bernard of St.

David's, Owen of Evreux in Normandy, John of Sieyes. On the

fourth day after this was the King Henry in Rochester, when the

town was almost consumed by fire; and the Archbishop William

consecrated the monastery of St. Andrew, and the aforesaid

bishops with him. And the King Henry went over sea into Normandy

in harvest. This same year came the Abbot Henry of Angeli after

Easter to Peterborough, and said that he had relinquished that

monastery (161) withal. After him came the Abbot of Clugny,

Peter by name, to England by the king's leave; and was received

by all, whithersoever he came, with much respect. To

Peterborough he came; and there the Abbot Henry promised him that

he would procure him the minster of Peterborough, that it might

be subject to Clugny. But it is said in the proverb,

 "The hedge abideth,

 that acres divideth."

May God Almighty frustrate evil designs. Soon after this, went

the Abbot of Clugny home to his country. This year was Angus

slain by the army of the Scots, and there was a great multitude

slain with him. There was God's fight sought upon him, for that

he was all forsworn.

A.D. 1131. This year, after Christmas, on a Monday night, at the

first sleep, was the heaven on the northern hemisphere (162) all

as if it were burning fire; so that all who saw it were so

dismayed as they never were before. That was on the third day

before the ides of January. This same year was so great a

murrain of cattle as never was before in the memory of man over

all England. That was in neat cattle and in swine; so that in a

town where there were ten ploughs going, or twelve, there was not

left one: and the man that had two hundred or three hundred

swine, had not one left. Afterwards perished the hen fowls; then

shortened the fleshmeat, and the cheese, and the butter. May God

better it when it shall be his will. And the King Henry came

home to England before harvest, after the mass of St. Peter "ad

vincula". This same year went the Abbot Henry, before Easter,

from Peterborough over sea to Normandy, and there spoke with the

king, and told him that the Abbot of Clugny had desired him to

come to him, and resign to him the abbacy of Angeli, after which

he would go home by his leave. And so he went home to his own

minster, and there remained even to midsummer day. And the next

day after the festival of St. John chose the monks an abbot of

themselves, brought him into the church in procession, sang "Te

Deum laudamus", rang the bells, set him on the abbot's throne,

did him all homage, as they should do their abbot: and the earl,

and all the head men, and the monks of the minster, drove the

other Abbot Henry out of the monastery. And they had need; for

in five-and-twenty winters had they never hailed one good day.

Here failed him all his mighty crafts. Now it behoved him, that

he crope in his skin into every corner, if peradventure there

were any unresty wrench, (163) whereby he might yet once more

betray Christ and all Christian people. Then retired he into

Clugny, where he was held so fast, that he could not move east or

west. The Abbot of Clugny said that they had lost St. John's

minster through him, and through his great sottishness. Then

could he not better recompense them; but he promised them, and

swore oaths on the holy cross, that if he might go to England he

should get them the minster of Peterborough; so that he should

set there the prior of Clugny, with a churchwarden, a treasurer,

and a sacristan: and all the things that were within the minster

and without, he should procure for them. Thus he departed into

France; and there remained all that year. Christ provide for the

wretched monks of Peterborough, and for that wretched place. Now

do they need the help of Christ and of all Christian folk.

A.D. 1132. This year came King Henry to this land. Then came

Abbot Henry, and betrayed the monks of Peterborough to the king,

because he would subject that minster to Clugny; so that the king

was well nigh entrapped, and sent after the monks. But through

the grace of God, and through the Bishop of Salisbury, and the

Bishop of Lincoln, and the other rich men that were there, the

king knew that he proceeded with treachery. When he no more

could do, then would he that his nephew should be Abbot of

Peterborough. But Christ forbade. Not very long after this was

it that the king sent after him, and made him give up the Abbey

of Peterborough, and go out of the land. And the king gave the

abbacy to a prior of St. Neot's, called Martin, who came on St.

Peter's mass-day with great pomp into the minster.

A.D. 1135. In this year went the King Henry over sea at the

Lammas; and the next day, as he lay asleep on ship, the day

darkened over all lands, and the sun was all as it were a three

night old moon, and the stars about him at midday. Men were very

much astonished and terrified, and said that a great event should

come hereafter. So it did; for that same year was the king dead,

the next day after St. Andrew's mass-day, in Normandy. Then was

there soon tribulation in the land; for every man that might,

soon robbed another. Then his sons and his friends took his

body, and brought it to England, and buried it at Reading. A

good man he was; and there was great dread of him. No man durst

do wrong with another in his time. Peace he made for man and

beast. Whoso bare his burthen of gold and silver, durst no man

say ought to him but good. Meanwhile was his nephew come to

England, Stephen de Blois. He came to London, and the people of

London received him, and sent after the Archbishop William

Curboil, and hallowed him to king on midwinter day. In this

king's time was all dissention, and evil, and rapine; for against

him rose soon the rich men who were traitors; and first of all

Baldwin de Redvers, who held Exeter against him. But the king

beset it; and afterwards Baldwin accorded. Then took the others,

and held their castles against him; and David, King of Scotland,

took to Wessington against him. Nevertheless their messengers

passed between them; and they came together, and were settled,

but it availed little.

A.D. 1137. This year went the King Stephen over sea to Normandy,

and there was received; for that they concluded that he should be

all such as the uncle was; and because he had got his treasure:

but he dealed it out, and scattered it foolishly. Much had King

Henry gathered, gold and silver, but no good did men for his soul

thereof. When the King Stephen came to England, he held his

council at Oxford; where he seized the Bishop Roger of Sarum, and

Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, and the chancellor Roger, his

nephew; and threw all into prison till they gave up their

castles. When the traitors understood that he was a mild man,

and soft, and good, and no justice executed, then did they all

wonder. They had done him homage, and sworn oaths, but they no

truth maintained. They were all forsworn, and forgetful of their

troth; for every rich man built his castles, which they held

against him: and they filled the land full of castles. They

cruelly oppressed the wretched men of the land with castle-works;

and when the castles were made, they filled them with devils and

evil men. Then took they those whom they supposed to have any

goods, both by night and by day, labouring men and women, and

threw them into prison for their gold and silver, and inflicted

on them unutterable tortures; for never were any martyrs so

tortured as they were. Some they hanged up by the feet, and

smoked them with foul smoke; and some by the thumbs, or by the

head, and hung coats of mail on their feet. They tied knotted

strings about their heads, and twisted them till the pain went to

the brains. They put them into dungeons, wherein were adders,

and snakes, and toads; and so destroyed them. Some they placed

in a crucet-house; that is, in a chest that was short and narrow,

and not deep; wherein they put sharp stones, and so thrust the

man therein, that they broke all the limbs. In many of the

castles were things loathsome and grim, called "Sachenteges", of

which two or three men had enough to bear one. It was thus made:

that is, fastened to a beam; and they placed a sharp iron

[collar] about the man's throat and neck, so that he could in no

direction either sit, or lie, or sleep, but bear all that iron.

Many thousands they wore out with hunger. I neither can, nor may

I tell all the wounds and all the pains which they inflicted on

wretched men in this land. This lasted the nineteen winters

while Stephen was king; and it grew continually worse and worse.

They constantly laid guilds on the towns, and called it

"tenserie"; and when the wretched men had no more to give, then

they plundered and burned all the towns; that well thou mightest

go a whole day's journey and never shouldest thou find a man

sitting in a town, nor the land tilled. Then was corn dear, and

flesh, and cheese, and butter; for none was there in the land.

Wretched men starved of hunger. Some had recourse to alms, who

were for a while rich men, and some fled out of the land. Never

yet was there more wretchedness in the land; nor ever did heathen

men worse than they did: for, after a time, they spared neither

church nor churchyard, but took all the goods that were therein,

and then burned the church and all together. Neither did they

spare a bishop's land, or an abbot's, or a priest's, but

plundered both monks and clerks; and every man robbed another who

could. If two men, or three, came riding to a town, all the

township fled for them, concluding them to be robbers. The

bishops and learned men cursed them continually, but the effect

thereof was nothing to them; for they were all accursed, and

forsworn, and abandoned. To till the ground was to plough the

sea: the earth bare no corn, for the land was all laid waste by

such deeds; and they said openly, that Christ slept, and his

saints. Such things, and more than we can say, suffered we

nineteen winters for our sins. In all this evil time held Abbot

Martin his abbacy twenty years and a half, and eight days, with

much tribulation; and found the monks and the guests everything

that behoved them; and held much charity in the house; and,

notwithstanding all this, wrought on the church, and set thereto

lands and rents, and enriched it very much, and bestowed

vestments upon it. And he brought them into the new minster on

St. Peter's mass-day with much pomp; which was in the year, from

the incarnation of our Lord, 1140, and in the twenty-third from

the destruction of the place by fire. And he went to Rome, and

there was well received by the Pope Eugenius; from whom he

obtained their privileges: -- one for all the lands of the abbey,

and another for the lands that adjoin to the churchyard; and, if

he might have lived longer, so he meant to do concerning the

treasury. And he got in the lands that rich men retained by main

strength. Of William Malduit, who held the castle of Rockingham,

he won Cotingham and Easton; and of Hugh de Walteville, he won

Hirtlingbury and Stanwick, and sixty shillings from Oldwinkle

each year. And he made many monks, and planted a vine-yard, and

constructed many works, and made the town better than it was

before. He was a good monk, and a good man; and for this reason

God and good men loved him. Now we will relate in part what

happened in King Stephen's time. In his reign the Jews of

Norwich bought a Christian child before Easter, and tortured him

after the same manner as our Lord was tortured; and on Long-

Friday (164) hanged him on a rood, in mockery of our Lord, and

afterwards buried him. They supposed that it would be concealed,

but our Lord showed that he was a holy martyr. And the monks

took him, and buried him with high honour in the minster. And

through our Lord he worketh wonderful and manifold miracles, and

is called St. William.

A.D. 1138. In this year came David, King of Scotland, with an

immense army to this land. He was ambitious to win this land;

but against him came William, Earl of Albemarle, to whom the king

had committed York, and other borderers, with few men, and fought

against them, and routed the king at the Standard, and slew very

many of his gang.

A.D. 1140. In this year wished the King Stephen to take Robert,

Earl of Gloucester, the son of King Henry; but he could not, for

he was aware of it. After this, in the Lent, the sun and the day

darkened about the noon-tide of the day, when men were eating;

and they lighted candles to eat by. That was the thirteenth day

before the kalends of April. Men were very much struck with

wonder. Thereafter died William, Archbishop of Canterbury; and

the king made Theobald archbishop, who was Abbot of Bec. After

this waxed a very great war betwixt the king and Randolph, Earl

of Chester; not because he did not give him all that he could ask

him, as he did to all others; but ever the more he gave them, the

worse they were to him. The Earl held Lincoln against the king,

and took away from him all that he ought to have. And the king

went thither, and beset him and his brother William de Romare in

the castle. And the earl stole out, and went after Robert, Earl

of Glocester, and brought him thither with a large army. And

they fought strenuously on Candlemas day against their lord, and

took him; for his men forsook him and fled. And they led him to

Bristol, and there put him into prison in close quarters. Then

was all England stirred more than ere was, and all evil was in

the land. Afterwards came the daughter of King Henry, who had

been Empress of Germany, and now was Countess of Anjou. She came

to London; but the people of London attempted to take her, and

she fled, losing many of her followers. After this the Bishop of

Winchester, Henry, the brother of King Stephen, spake with Earl

Robert, and with the empress, and swore them oaths, "that he

never more would hold with the king, his brother," and cursed all

the men that held with him, and told them, that he would give

them up Winchester; and he caused them to come thither. When

they were therein, then came the king's queen with all her

strength, and beset them, so that there was great hunger therein.

When they could no longer hold out, then stole they out, and

fled; but those without were aware, and followed them, and took

Robert, Earl of Glocester, and led him to Rochester, and put him

there into prison; but the empress fled into a monastery. Then

went the wise men between the king's friends and the earl's

friends; and settled so that they should let the king out of

prison for the earl, and the earl for the king; and so they did.

After this settled the king and Earl Randolph at Stamford, and

swore oaths, and plighted their troth, that neither should betray

the other. But it availed nothing. For the king afterwards took

him at Northampton, through wicked counsel, and put him into

prison; and soon after he let him out again, through worse

counsel, on the condition that he swore by the crucifix, and

found hostages, that he would give up all his castles. Some he

gave up, and some gave he not up; and did then worse than he

otherwise would. Then was England very much divided. Some held

with the king, and some with the empress; for when the king was

in prison, the earls and the rich men supposed that he never more

would come out: and they settled with the empress, and brought

her into Oxford, and gave her the borough. When the king was

out, he heard of this, and took his force, and beset her in the

tower. (165) And they let her down in the night from the tower

by ropes. And she stole out, and fled, and went on foot to

Wallingford. Afterwards she went over sea; and those of Normandy

turned all from the king to the Earl of Anjou; some willingly,

and some against their will; for he beset them till they gave up

their castles, and they had no help of the king. Then went

Eustace, the king's son, to France, and took to wife the sister

of the King of France. He thought to obtain Normandy thereby;

but he sped little, and by good right; for he was an evil man.

Wherever he was, he did more evil than good; he robbed the lands,

and levied heavy guilds upon them. He brought his wife to

England, and put her into the castle at... (166) Good woman she

was; but she had little bliss with him; and Christ would not that

he should long reign. He therefore soon died, and his mother

also. And the Earl of Anjou died; and his son Henry took to the

earldom. And the Queen of France parted from the king; and she

came to the young Earl Henry; and he took her to wife, and all

Poitou with her. Then went he with a large force into England,

and won some castles; and the king went against him with a much

larger force. Nevertheless, fought they not; but the archbishop

and the wise men went between them, and made this settlement:

That the king should be lord and king while he lived, and after

his day Henry should be king: that Henry should take him for a

father; and he him for a son: that peace and union should be

betwixt them, and in all England. This and the other provisions

that they made, swore the king and the earl to observe; and all

the bishops, and the earls, and the rich men. Then was the earl

received at Winchester, and at London, with great worship; and

all did him homage, and swore to keep the peace. And there was

soon so good a peace as never was there before. Then was the

king stronger than he ever was before. And the earl went over

sea; and all people loved him; for he did good justice, and made

peace.

A.D. 1154. In this year died the King Stephen; and he was buried

where his wife and his son were buried, at Faversham; which

monastery they founded. When the king died, then was the earl

beyond sea; but no man durst do other than good for the great

fear of him. When he came to England, then was he received with

great worship, and blessed to king in London on the Sunday before

midwinter day. And there held he a full court. The same day

that Martin, Abbot of Peterborough, should have gone thither,

then sickened he, and died on the fourth day before the nones of

January; and the monks, within the day, chose another of

themselves, whose name was William de Walteville, (167) a good

clerk, and good man, and well beloved of the king, and of all

good men. And all the monks buried the abbot with high honours.

And soon the newly chosen abbot, and the monks with him, went to

Oxford to the king. And the king gave him the abbacy; and he

proceeded soon afterwards to Peterborough; where he remained with

the abbot, ere he came home. And the king was received with

great worship at Peterborough, in full procession. And so he was

also at Ramsey, and at Thorney, and at.... and at Spalding, and

at....

**ENDNOTES:**

(133) "Auvergne" at that time was an independent province, and

 formed no part of France. About the middle of the

 fourteenth century we find Jane, Countess of Auvergne and

 Boulogne, and Queen of France, assisting in the dedication

 of the church of the Carmelites at Paris, together with

 Queen Jeanne d'Evreux, third wife and widow of Charles IV.,

 Blanche of Navarre, widow of Philip VI., and Jeanne de

 France, Queen of Navarre. -- Felib. "Histoire de Paris",

 vol. I, p. 356.

(134) A title taken from a town in Normandy, now generally

 written Moretaine, or Moretagne; de Moreteon, de Moritonio,

 Flor.

(135) "cena Domini" -- commonly called Maundy Thursday.

(136) Now Tinchebrai.

(137) Matilda, Mathilde, or Maud.

(138) Henry V. of Germany, the son of Henry IV.

(139) Or, "in the early part of the night," etc.

(140) That is, the territory was not a "fee simple", but subject

 to "taillage" or taxation; and that particular species is

 probably here intended which is called in old French "en

 queuage", an expression not very different from that in the

 text above.

(141) i.e. to the earldom of Flanders.

(142) "Mense Julio". -- Flor.

(143) We have still the form of saying "Nolo episcopari", when a

 see is offered to a bishop.

(144) i.e. East Bourne in Sussex; where the king was waiting for

 a fair wind to carry him over sea.

(145) The Nativity of the Virgin Mary.

(146) i.e. an inclosure or park for deer. This is now called

 Blenheim Park, and is one of the few old parks which still

 remain in this country.

(147) This may appear rather an anticipation of the modern see of

 Salisbury, which was not then in existence; the borough of

 Old Saturn, or "Saresberie", being then the episcopal seat.

(148) St. Osythe, in Essex; a priory rebuilt A. 1118, for canons

of the Augustine order, of which there are considerable remains.

(149) i.e. Of the Earl of Anjou.

(150) The writer means, "the remainder of this year"; for the

 feast of Pentecost was already past, before the king left

 England.

(151) The pennies, or pence, it must be remembered, were of

 silver at this time.

(152) i.e. Clergy and laity.

(153) This word is still in use, but in a sense somewhat

 different; as qualms of conscience, etc.

(154) See an account of him in "Ord. Vit." 544. Conan, another

 son of this Alan, Earl of Brittany, married a daughter of

 Henry I.

(155) i.e. Henry, King of England.

(156) "A se'nnight", the space of seven nights; as we still say,

 "a fortnight", i.e. the space of fourteen nights. The

 French express the space of one week by "huit jours", the

 origin of the "octave" in English law; of two by "quinte

 jours". So "septimana" signifies "seven mornings"; whence

 the French word "semaine".

(157) Literally, "woned". Vid Chaucer, "Canterbury Tales", v.

 7745. In Scotland, a lazy indolent manner of doing anything

 is called "droning".

(158) The Abbot Henry of Angeli.

(159) "Thou shalt destroy them that speak `leasing,'" etc.

 "Psalms".

(160) i.e. Vexed, harassed, fatigued, etc. Milton has used the

 word in the last sense.

(161) The monastery of Angeli.

(162) Aurora Borealis, or the northern lights.

(163) "Any restless manoeuvre or stratagem." Both words occur in

 Chaucer. See "Troilus and Criseyde", v. 1355, and

 "Canterbury Tales", v. 16549. The idea seems to be taken

 from the habits of destructive and undermining vermin.

(164) Now called "Good-Friday".

(165) The tower of the castle at Oxford, built by D'Oyley, which

 still remains.

(166) The MS. is here deficient.

(167) Or Vaudeville.

[End of "The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle"]



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