

EARLY NORMAN KINGS.

From 1066 A.D. to 1154 A.D.—88 years.—4 Kings.

	A. D.
WILLIAM I. (The Conqueror),.....began to reign	1066.
WILLIAM II. (Rufus), Son,.....	1087.
HENRY I. (Beauclerk), Brother,.....	1100.
STEPHEN (Count of Blois), Nephew,.....	1135 to 1154.

Leading Feature: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEUDAL SYSTEM.

CHAPTER I.

WILLIAM I. THE CONQUEROR.

Born 1027 A.D.—Began to reign 1066 A.D.—Died 1087 A.D.

Edgar elected King.	Visits Normandy.	Domesday-Book, curfew,		
William's coronation.			Revolt in west and north.	forest-laws.
He secures his conquest.			Treatment of Saxons.	Death. [qualities.
			Troubles of latter life.	Character and personal

THE Conqueror was the illegitimate son of Robert, fifth Duke of Normandy. His wife was Matilda, daughter of Baldwin V., Earl of Flanders.

After the battle of Hastings he pushed on to Dover, which surrendered. Here he stayed eight days, until reinforced from Normandy; and then he marched towards London. There the Witan had appointed Edgar Atheling King; his chief ministers being Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, and two Saxon Earls, Edwin and Morcar. William fixed his camp at Berkhamstead, to cut off communication with the north. But disunion crept in among the adherents of the Saxon. Stigand was among the first to desert, and Edgar's hopes of a throne faded fast. Soon a message reached William, offering the crown; which he accepted amid the applause of the Normans.

He was crowned at Westminster on Christmas-day; but not without tumult. Aldred, Archbishop of York, during the ceremony, asked the Saxons if they received William as their King. They assented with shouts. At once, as if on