

CHAPTER VI

GERMANY, ITALY, AND THE RESTORATION OF THE EMPIRE

IN Germany Feudalism was thoroughly established in the time of great disorder which followed the death of Arnulf, the conqueror of the Northmen. In the minority of his son, Lewis the Child, the central authority was reduced to a shadow in spite of the efforts of his minister, Bishop Hatto, of the mouse-tower legend. There was no unity in the German kingdom. The "five nations" which had been united under the rule of Arnulf had gained their practical independence as the duchies of Franconia, Saxony, Suabia, Bavaria and Lorraine. Lorraine indeed threw off even the nominal yoke of the German king and its duke gave his allegiance to the king of the West Franks. With the death of Lewis the male line of the eastern branch of the Carolingians came to an end, and Conrad of Franconia, a descendant of Charles the Great through the female line, was elected king. Conrad was able to make little headway against the power of the dukes, and on his death-bed urged that the most powerful of these dukes, Henry of Saxony, should be elected as his successor, as the only man strong enough to perform the duties of king.

THE
"FIVE
NATIONS"

END
OF THE
CARO-
LINGIANS
IN
GERMANY
911

CONRAD I.
(OF FRAN-
CONIA)
911-918