

ment. Louis' first great blunder was his expedition to the Second Crusade, undertaken in penitence for the burning by his orders of a church at Vitry in which the inhabitants had taken refuge during the siege. The expedition was a dismal failure, and on his return Louis made the serious political mistake of divorcing his wife Eleanor. Not only did the king lose her vast possessions, but soon he had the mortification of seeing them united by her second marriage to the vast dominions which the young Henry of Anjou was building up in France. Normandy and Maine, with a claim to the suzerainty over Brittany, he inherited from his mother Matilda, the heiress of Henry I. of England: Anjou and Touraine came to him from his father. Now by his marriage he obtained the whole of the inheritance of the dukes of Aquitaine, and thus became the ruler of more than half of France, with claims to overlordship over Brittany¹ and Toulouse. Louis could do little to weaken Henry till the last part of his reign when he was able to encourage the rebellions of his sons.

PHILIP II.
1180-1223

The policy of hostility to the house of Anjou was carried on with greater success by his famous son Philip Augustus. Great had been the rejoicings at the birth of this prince, for although Louis VII. had been married three times, his children had all been daughters. The lack of an heir was felt to be a serious misfortune, and we are told that when the rumour of Philip's birth "was bruited through the city" it was received with inexpressible delight. "Dieudonné" was the name which the people bestowed on him. Philip was only fifteen years of age when his father died, but

¹ Later on he increased his power over Brittany by marrying his son Geoffrey to its heiress.