

the boy king soon showed himself an able politician; and the determined foe of the great feudatories. His hostility to the Angevins was ceaseless: he intrigued with Henry's sons against their father, with John against his brother Richard, with Arthur against John, until at last by the slothfulness of John, Philip was able to wrest from him all the Angevin possessions in the north of France,—Normandy, Maine, Anjou and Touraine; together with part of Poitou—the northernmost portion of Aquitaine. These possessions were added to the royal domain and ruled directly by the king, who thus became the largest landholder in France, possessed for the first time of a strip of sea coast. For the management of this increased domain the king appointed new officials called bailiffs, who held courts of justice and collected the royal revenues.

CON-
QUEST
OF NOR-
MANDY

The growth of Philip's power raised up many enemies, and in 1214 a great league was formed against him by John of England, the Emperor Otto, the Count of Flanders, and most of the lords of the Netherlands.

While John landed in Aquitaine in the hope of recovering Poitou, the army of the confederacy entered France from the north, and was defeated by Philip in the brilliant victory of Bouvines, a battle with far-reaching results. Otto lost the Empire which he was claiming, John's schemes were shattered, and he returned to England humiliated and forced to submit to the baron's demand for the Great Charter: Philip's possession of the fiefs won from John was secured: the Count of Flanders was imprisoned, and the Flemish towns which had fought for Philip triumphed over the feudal

BATTLE
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