

Knights of St John, which had originally been a brotherhood connected with the Hospital of St John the Baptist, at Jerusalem, for sick pilgrims. This was reorganised on the same lines as the Order of the Templars, and soon rivalled the older Order in wealth and influence. Its headquarters were afterwards removed to Rhodes, and still later to Malta.

A third Order, that of the Teutonic Knights, afterwards diverted its energy against the heathen Prussians, and founded a new Christian State on the shores of the Baltic.

THE
TEUTONIC
KNIGHTS

The successes of the Christians in the First Crusade had been largely due to the dissensions among the Mohammedans and the break up of the great Turkish Empire. In the beginning of the twelfth century a powerful Mohammedan State was built up in Syria, and in 1144 Edessa, the Christian outpost to the north-east, was captured.

FALL OF
EDESSA

The news of its fall caused dismay in Christian Europe, and a new Crusade was preached by the famous St Bernard with most persuasive eloquence.

THE
SECOND
CRUSADE
1147

Louis VII. of France and the Emperor Conrad III. were the leaders of this Second Crusade of 1147, but of the vast hosts which followed them, by far the greater number perished in Asia Minor, and the Crusade was a complete failure.

In the forty years which followed, the rivalries and dissensions among the Christians of Palestine increased, while the Mohammedan power was becoming consolidated, until at last the renowned Saladin established his power over Egypt and Syria.

In 1187 the Christians were defeated by him in a