

CHAPTER XIV

PAPACY AND EMPIRE AFTER 1250

1. *The Papacy after 1250*

BONIFACE
VIII.
1294-1303

THE great struggle between the Papacy and the Empire had ended in the downfall of the Empire. But from the moment of the papal triumph the decay of the Papacy began. Innocent IV. was followed by a series of insignificant popes. At last, in 1294, Boniface VIII. ascended the papal throne, full of ambitious plans for restoring the power of the Papacy in Europe. He soon became involved in quarrels with Edward I. of England and Philip the Fair of France, through his attempt in the bull *Clericis Laicos* to prevent the taxation of the clergy by temporal rulers. Boniface was obliged to yield and explain away his words. In 1300 the Pope called on the Christians of all countries to celebrate the opening of the new century by a great religious festival at Rome, and it is said that two millions of pilgrims flocked to Rome, bringing so many offerings that two priests had to be appointed to stand by the altar of one church and rake together the contributions. Elated by the success of the Jubilee, Boniface once more presumed to interfere in international affairs, claiming Scotland as a fief of the Papacy, and ordering Philip to release his prisoner the Count of Flanders. The English Parliament pro-