

Schools were established. A scholar himself, Alfred translated from the Latin for the benefit of his subjects the History of Bede and other valuable books. He also commenced an English version of the Bible. These good works have reared an imperishable monument to the great King's memory, and his fame does not require us to pay him fictitious honors, such as that of instituting trial by jury, or that of founding the University of Oxford.

8. In 893 the Danes renewed their attacks; but the masterly preparations of Alfred enabled him to meet them successfully both on land and on sea. He reigned eight years longer, dying in 901 at the age of fifty-two, after a reign of thirty years. He was buried at Winchester, the ancient capital of England.

Alfred's  
death.

## CHAPTER VI.

### EARLY ENGLISH KINGS FROM ALFRED TO THE DANISH CONQUEST.—901 to 1017 A.D.

1. Alfred the Great was succeeded by his son Edward, who was the first to assume the title of "King of England," his predecessors having styled themselves simply "Kings of Wessex," or "of the West Saxons." A cousin, Ethelwald, disputed Edward's claim to the throne, though that claim was sanctioned both by his father's will and by the decision of the Witenagemôt, or great National Council. Edward defeated the army of Ethelwald, composed in good part of Danes from the Danelagh, and reigned thereafter in peace until his death in 925.

Kings of  
England.

2. Brief mention will suffice for the Kings of the succeeding century. Their names and order of succession will be found in the genealogical table on page 27.—Athelstan, the second from Alfred, took a great interest in commerce, and showed his regard for religion by having the Bible translated into English and a copy placed in every church.—His successor, Edmund, experienced much trouble from the Danes of the Danelagh, more particularly from those of a certain district called the *Five Burghs*. He drove the Welsh from Cumberland, and died by the hands of an assassin in 946.—Edred, who succeeded, was largely under the influence of Dunstan, Abbot of Glastonbury, a famous ecclesiastic, who labored zealously to restore monastic institutions, and promote what he conceived to be the true welfare of the clergy.—The reign of Edred's nephew and successor Edwy was brief and troubled. Edwy married his cousin Elgiva, contrary to ecclesiastical law, and thus incurred the displeasure of Dunstan, whom he proceeded to banish from the kingdom. A general revolt of the northern part of the

Brief  
sketch of  
reigns.