

Heavy taxes were imposed, for the benefit, not of England, but of his Danish dominions. His death caused all England to give forth a sigh of relief.

CHAPTER VIII.

RESTORATION OF THE ENGLISH LINE. THE NORMAN CONQUEST.—1042 to 1066 A.D.

1. The nation, by this time tired of Danish rule, gladly recalled the English line in the person of Edward, second son of **Edward the Confessor.** Ethelred the Unready, by Emma, afterwards the wife and then the widow of Canute. Strictly, the right of succession belonged to the children of Edmund Ironside; but the influence of Godwin secured the crown for Edward, who was acknowledged by the Witan and crowned at Winchester. Edward at once married Godwin's daughter Edith, and proceeded to deal sternly with all who had favored the Danes, confiscating the treasures of his mother Emma, and placing herself in a state of mild confinement for life. He abolished the Danegeld; and having revised the old English laws, he published them in a collected form, so that afterwards, in times of oppression, the people sighed for "the good old laws of Edward the Confessor." The title "Confessor," by which Edward is known in history, evinces his piety and the strictness with which his religious duties were performed.

2. Brought up as an exile in Normandy, Edward the Confessor was in tastes and language a Frenchman. Hence it was **Norman influence.** natural that his Court should gradually become filled with Norman knights, and that his favors, both political and ecclesiastical, should be somewhat liberally showered upon Frenchmen. This state of things led to serious differences between the King and his father-in-law, Godwin, who stoutly espoused the cause of his own countrymen.

3. At length Godwin flew into open rebellion when ordered by the **Banishment of Godwin.** King to punish the people of one of his towns for some alleged insults to the train of a Norman baron. Other English nobles interposed; and the matter having been referred to the Witan, that body banished Godwin and his sons, and confiscated their estates. The next year, however, saw Godwin sailing up the Thames with a large fleet, and meeting with such a welcome from the English nobility that the King was forced to accept terms of reconciliation. Godwin's estates were restored, and the English ascendancy was re-established, many of the Norman barons and prelates leaving the kingdom. Godwin died in 1053, and was succeeded in his vast possessions by his son Harold.