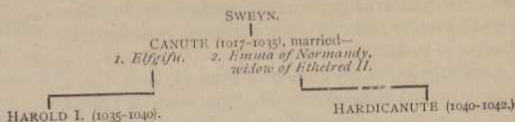
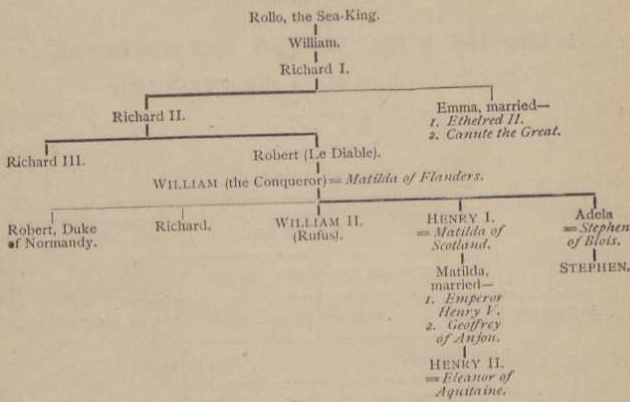


## 3. DANISH KINGS OF ENGLAND.



## 4. NORMAN LINE.



## CHAPTER IX.

## EARLY ENGLISH INSTITUTIONS AND CUSTOMS.

1. Succession to the kingly office was regulated, partly by descent, partly by election. There was a recognized royal family professing to trace its origin from the god Woden, but the nation, through its chief council, held itself free to choose from among the near male relatives of the deceased monarch the most suitable successor. Generally, a preference was admitted in favor of the eldest son. The sons and brothers of the King were called *Æthelings*, a title which originally was not restricted to members of the royal family.

2. There were two grand divisions of the people, freemen and slaves. The latter, who were called *theowas*, were in some parts of the country quite numerous. Those who were slaves by birth were descendants of the conquered Celts, and were found in the greatest numbers in the districts adjacent to Wales and Cornwall. Freeborn Englishmen might incur slavery as a penalty