

and in the following year that province, which had belonged to Scotland for more than a century, was made an English county.

5. The year 1096 is memorable as the date of the first of the *Crusades*. The Crusades were expeditions from Europe to Palestine for the purpose of recovering Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre from the dominion of the Saracens, or Mohammedan infidels. A zealous monk, named *Peter the Hermit*, travelled through Europe and aroused great enthusiasm by his preaching on behalf of the Crusades. Among those who listened to Peter and were moved to join the Crusade was Robert, Duke of Normandy.

**The  
Crusades.**

6. Money was needed that Robert might take his proper place in the great expedition. Recourse was had to Rufus, who offered to advance 10,000 marks\* on the security of the duchies of Normandy and Maine, Robert's possessions. These territories were therefore mortgaged to William, who proved by no means a mild creditor. He virtually became master of Normandy and Maine.

**Mortgage of  
Normandy.**

32 lbs.

7. William spent the 2nd of August, 1100, hunting in the New Forest. At nightfall, his body was found cold and dead upon the sward, pierced to the heart by an arrow. The common tradition is that the King was accidentally shot by a French gentleman named *Walter Tyrrel*. A horrible rumor prevailed that William's youngest brother, who was hunting in the forest that day, had something to do with the event. There is, however, no evidence to fasten on Prince Henry the guilt of his brother's murder. The corpse of Rufus was carried in a charcoal-burner's cart to Winchester, and was interred there without any religious ceremonies. A love of architecture was one of William's few redeeming traits, and England owes to him the magnificent Hall at Westminster, which now forms the grand entrance-way to the House of Commons.

**Death of  
William  
Rufus.**

CHAPTER XII.

THE NORMAN LINE CONTINUED.—HENRY I.

1100 to 1135 A.D.

1. By natural right, as well as by the agreement mentioned in the last chapter, William Rufus's successor should have been Robert, Duke of Normandy. The Duke, however, was far off on the crusade, while his youngest brother Henry, a most ambitious and determined prince, was on the spot ready to prosecute his claims in person. Within three days after William's death the royal treasures had been seized, and Henry crowned at Westminster as King of England, August, 1100.

**Accession  
of Henry I.**

\* A mark was = 13s. 4d. English currency.