

Gradually, methods of trial more akin to justice and reason were introduced.

7. The Normans brought into England a style of architecture much superior to that which had previously prevailed.

**Architect-  
ecture.**

From this period many splendid cathedrals and abbeys date their origin. The castles, too, of the nobles were elaborate structures—strong, massive, and imposing. They were at once fortresses and houses. Between the upper court and the lower was the *keep*, where the baron and his family lived in lordly style: below all was the *donjon* or prison. The houses of the common people showed little improvement over those of the preceding period.

8. The Normans ("Northmen") were closely allied in race to the English whom they had conquered. They were descend-

**Norman  
refinement.**

ants of a band of northern sea-rovers, who at an early period subdued and colonized the north-western part of France. These fierce freebooters, when brought into contact with Roman civilization in their new home, laid aside their own national speech and customs, and adopted the language, laws, and religion of the people whom they had subjugated. Thus in process of time they became one of the most refined and cultured races in Europe. In matters of dress and diet, they introduced into England new and greatly improved standards of taste and delicacy.

9. As rulers of England, the Normans naturally brought their language, the so-called Norman-French, into use in the schools, the courts, the church, as well as in their own palaces.

**Language.**

Though unable permanently to supplant the Anglo-Saxon tongue spoken by the English people, Norman-French has left its mark on our national speech. This is seen particularly in words connected with field-sports, legal matters, and military affairs.

10. For a considerable time the two races in England remained essentially distinct. The first signs of intermixture ap-

**Mingling  
of races.**

peared in the towns and among the middle-class folk generally. To this day, the nobleman boasts of his Norman blood, while the peasantry are regarded as purely English.

## CHAPTER XV.

### PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF ANJOU.—HENRY II. 1154 to 1189 A.D.

1. The accession of Henry of Anjou was welcomed by the entire nation, with the exception of a few personal adherents of the late monarch. Even these gave no outward signs of dissatisfaction.