

17. Despite the numerous troubles of his reign, Henry did much to advance the progress of his people. To provide for the proper dispensing of justice, the country was divided into six circuits, through which judges travelled at stated periods. Trial by ordeal and wager of battle were discouraged, and a method involving the principle of our modern jury system came into use. Cases were submitted to the decision of four knights and twelve freemen; who, however, unlike *our* jurymen, decided according to their own knowledge, rather than on the testimony of others. In general, it may be said that Henry's administration of affairs was in the interest of the common people, as distinguished from that of the barons.

**Social
progress.**

CHAPTER XVI.

PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF ANJOU.—RICHARD I. 1189 to 1199 A.D.

1. Richard, the eldest surviving son of Henry I., was crowned at Westminster in September 1189. The new King was a bold feudal soldier, whose whole nature was inflamed with the love of military glory. Hence he was called *Cœur de Lion*, "the lion-hearted." His passion for war kept him continually abroad, and his subjects knew little of him save through his repeated demands for money to support his military enterprises.

**Cœur
de Lion.**

2. A terrible massacre of the Jews marred the occasion of Richard's coronation. Anxious to secure the King's protection for their persons and property, a number of those unfortunate people presented themselves to give assurance of their loyalty. A wild rumor, from some uncertain source, spread abroad that the King had ordered the destruction of Jews wherever found, and before the fury of the populace could be restrained, many were actually slain. A still more melancholy tragedy occurred in the burning of York Castle, when nearly five hundred Jews who had fled thither for refuge perished in the flames.

The Jews.

3. Before his father's death, Richard had planned to accompany Philip Augustus of France on the Third Crusade. On his accession, he at once proceeded to raise the necessary funds for the expedition. His father had left a well-filled treasury, and he obtained further sums by the sale of lands in possession of the Crown. The King of Scotland paid a handsome price for release from vassalage; while the Jews, then as now the bankers of Europe, were glad to buy for themselves freedom from further trouble. Richard sailed from Southampton late in 1189, leaving the bishops of Durham and Ely guardians of the kingdom. He met his ally Philip

**The Third
Crusade.**