

sent over his son Louis, with the promise of the English crown, could he win it.

12. John was in Lincolnshire when he heard that Louis had landed in England. Marching southward, he had to pass the sea coast of the Wash. A sudden rising of the tide swept away his baggage and royal treasures. Wasted by passion and trouble, his frame could not stand the shock of this disaster. He was thrown into a fever, from which he died on the 19th of October 1216.

John's death.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PLANTAGENET LINE: HOUSE OF ANJOU.—HENRY III. 1216 to 1272 A.D.

1. The death of John was followed by an outburst of national feeling, which led all classes to rally round his young son Henry. The Prince's claim to the throne was supported even by the barons who had been fighting under the banner of Louis of France. Henry was but nine years old, and the kingdom was placed under the regency of the Earl of Pembroke, who was a wise and energetic ruler. At the Battle of Lincoln, in May 1217, he utterly broke the power of Louis and drove him from the kingdom. About the same time, Hubert de Burgh annihilated a French fleet near Dover. Louis then made peace and went home.

2. After Pembroke's death in 1219, De Burgh acted as Regent, till 1223, when Henry at the age of eighteen assumed the reins of government in person. De Burgh continued to act as his chief adviser, though his mind was much under the influence of Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, a native of Poitou. As Henry grew to manhood, he developed a character of great weakness. Mild in manners and amiable in disposition, he allowed himself to be swayed by unworthy favorites, who had their own selfish ends to serve. The first forty years of his reign have been pronounced the dreariest period in all English history.

3. In 1230, Henry was induced to engage in a war with France for the recovery of the Norman provinces lost through the cowardice of his father. The attempt was vain. Normandy was not reconquered, while the English hold on Poitou and Guienne was very much weakened.

4. The unsuccessful war with France brought about the fall and disgrace of De Burgh. Des Roches then became chief favorite and counsellor. His career was brief. His policy of filling all possible offices with his fellow-country-

Outburst of national feeling.

Character of Henry.

War with France.

Peter des Roches.