

When Lanfranc died, William left the archbishopric vacant, so that he might enjoy the rich revenues of the see. It happened, however, that he was taken seriously ill, and, in the fear of death, he appointed Anselm, a learned and pious monk, to the vacant office. When he recovered, he was so angry to think that he had given up the great revenues of Canterbury, that he opposed the new archbishop in almost everything he undertook. Anselm finally withdrew from England and did not return until the king was dead.

The money wrung from the kingdom by extortion and injustice was used in large part by William to maintain a small army of mercenary soldiers, who were ready to obey his commands, however ruthless these might be. It is probable that there would have been an attempt to dethrone him, but that the barons felt that they would not have the support of the English. The English, on their part, were afraid that if William were driven out of the country, the barons would be strong enough to place Robert on the throne. They preferred William as the lesser of two evils. "The land could only suffer and wait, and at last rejoice that the reign was no longer."

William had never given up the idea of possessing Normandy. Robert was careless and lavish, and once, when he wanted money, he had willingly sold a strip of Norman territory to his brother. Finally, Robert wished to go on a crusade. The sale of a part of his land would not suffice, and, in order to procure the ten thousand pounds that was needed, he promised William all the revenues of Normandy for the next five years.

36. The crusades.—The crusades were expeditions undertaken by various Christian nations against the Saracens, who ruled in the Holy Land. It had long been regarded as a deed of great merit to go on a pilgrimage to Rome, and of even greater to press on to Jerusalem. Aside from the religious benefits that people who became pilgrims thought they would obtain, there was a great fascination about such a journey. The travellers would see strange countries and meet with strange people. There would be many