

the name of Prince John. "Let things go as they will," said the broken-hearted king. "I have nothing more to care for." Two days later he died.

53. **The Holy Grail.**—In the time of Henry a new writer appeared, one Walter Map, who wrote on the same subject that was chosen by Geoffrey of Monmouth, but Map made poems of the old crude legends. One of his stories, that of the Holy Grail, came from the continent. The Grail was the cup used by Christ at the Last Supper. The legend is that it was carried by Joseph of Arimathea to Glastonbury in England, and there it was to remain as long as its guardians were pure and good. At last the time came when one was unworthy of his trust, and the cup vanished, though it might sometimes be seen by those who were holy in thought and deed. In the stories of King Arthur it was a favourite quest of the knights to ride the world over and meet all hardship and all adventure in the hope of once having a glimpse of the sacred vision. The story is a very beautiful one, and it had a strong influence on the people of the time.

SUMMARY

Henry II ruled his dominions well. He tore down the castles of the tyrannous barons, instituted shield-money, armed the people, and reformed the courts of justice. In his reign he instituted what developed into trial by jury, and strove to treat all men as equal before the law. At this time the English conquest of Ireland began.

2. RICHARD I. 1189-1199

54. **Richard ascends the throne.**—Richard, the third son of Henry, came to the throne without opposition, although his elder brother Geoffrey had left an infant son. He was not a good king, and his only notion of ruling a country was to extort as much money from it as possible; yet, because he was a brave knight, the people could not praise him enough. They called him "Cœur de Lion," or the "Lion-Hearted," and were never tired of singing