

he was only a boy, and the old Saxon custom of electing from the royal family a man who could lead in battle, prevailed. John was so thoroughly hated in France that the people refused to acknowledge him and supported the claim of Arthur. As a vassal of the king of France, Arthur called upon his lord to protect his rights in the French provinces, and King Philip placed an army at his disposal. In the war that followed, Arthur was captured, and is said to have been murdered by his uncle. Certain it is that he disappeared and was not heard of afterwards.

Whether John committed the murder or not, Philip accused him of it and summoned him to Paris to answer for the death of Arthur. According to the feudal law, as John and Arthur were both his vassals, so far as their French provinces were concerned, Philip had a right to try John in his own court. As John refused to appear, Philip declared his estates forfeited, and immediately took possession of Anjou, Normandy, and the other provinces north of the Loire which had belonged to the English king. When the news was brought to John that Philip was taking one castle after another, and that the people were accepting his rule, he said, "Let Philip go on; whatever he takes, I shall retake in a single day." By and by he tried, but his army was defeated in 1214 at the battle of Bouvines in Flanders. By this battle England and Normandy became separated.

Since the Norman conquest, there had been two races in England, Normans and English; henceforth there was to be but one. There had been two languages, but from this time they gradually began to blend. The proud Norman could no longer point to the despised English as a conquered race, for his own country had now been conquered, and he must call himself an Englishman. "Thus the two races, so long hostile, found at last that they had common interests and common enemies."

61. **John's quarrel with the church.**—John's second trouble was with the church. The Archbishop of Canterbury had died, and the king and the clergy disagreed as to who should be his successor. The Pope suggested Stephen