

to a standstill by the death of the king. As his army, in its career of murder and plunder, was crossing the Wash, the tide suddenly rose and carried away his baggage, including his jewels and a large amount of money. His rage at this misfortune made him ill, and a few days later he died.

SUMMARY

John's supposed murder of his nephew brought about the loss of the French lands, a loss that was a gain, for the interest of the Norman barons became more fully centred in England, and they began to see that what was to the advantage of the English was also to their advantage. John's tyranny and injustice led to revolt on the part of the barons, and his quarrel with the church gave to the barons a fearless leader in Archbishop Langton. The result of the struggle was that John was forced to sign Magna Carta or the Great Charter. John broke his promises, and, with hired troops, waged war on the barons; in the midst of the struggle he died.

4. HENRY III. 1216-1272

65. The child king.—The only member of the royal family left to inherit the crown was a boy named Henry, who was but nine years old. Before this time it had never occurred to any one that it would answer at all to choose a child for king; but now the English must either choose him, or else take some one not a member of the family that had ruled them so long. It was necessary to come to a decision quickly, as Louis with a French army was still in England, and expecting to secure the throne. Both the barons and the clergy rallied around the youthful prince, who was at once crowned king. There was no special trouble in driving out the French, and matters in general went on very well under the rule of the Great Council until Henry came of age in 1227 and took charge of the government.

66. Henry's government.—As soon as Henry had full power in his own hands, he began the old practice of taxing the people without consulting their willingness in the matter. He had married a French princess, and partly for this reason, and partly because of his mother's influence, he