

Lecture 10th

Spain.

The empire of Charlemagne in Spain comprised but a small part of that country. All that the Christians possessed, constituted only about a 4th of the kingdom. Asturias, part of Castile and Catalonia, & Navarre & Arragon. All the remainder of the Peninsula, including the Algarve, was occupied by the Moors. Cordova, was the Moorish capital. Taste and the Sciences flourished in Cordova, and the South of Spain, when the rest of Europe had become involved in barbarism and ignorance. Cordova, enjoyed a splendid period of 200 years, from the middle of the 8th to the middle of the 10th century. After the Moorish princes became luxurious and effeminate the nation was divided into a number

of petty States, such as, Toledo, Cordova, Valencia and Seville.

Both among the Moors and the Christians, the country abounded with independent lords, who were warriors and champions by profession, and who made it their business to decide the quarrels of princes, or volunteered their service, and that of their vassals and attendants. They were termed knights-errant. The most distinguished was Rodrigo the Cid, who undertook to conquer the kingdom of New Castile for his sovereign Alphonso, king of Old Castile.

Germany.

The Emperor of Germany, is to this day, nominally at least, regarded as successor to the Emperors of Rome.

Germany is said to be compounded

of the Celtic word Ger, brave, and man.

The successor of Charles the Bald, was Charles 3^d the Fat, 881. France was also under his sway.

In 887 Arnold, a son of Carloman, and nephew of Charles 3^d was elected Emperor of Germany.

In the course of his reign, he defeated the Normans, took Rome, and was crowned there by the Pope.

His son Louis 3^d became his successor 899, when only 7 years of age. He was the last emperor descended in a male line from Charlemagne. His reign is said to have been so much agitated by divisions between the lords and bishops that the young king died of grief. From the death of Louis the empire became strictly elective.

Courad, duke of Franconia, was elected to fill the vacant throne, 912. He reigned 7 years. The German grandees who had attempted at Worms, first offered the imperial crown to Otho, duke of Saxony; but he declined it on account of his advanced age, and persuaded them to apply to Courad, who was of imperial descent by his mother who was a daughter of Arnold. Upon the death of Courad, the imperial dignity was bestowed on Henry 1st the Fowler. He possessed great abilities, and introduced order and good government among his people. He conquered several tribes, as the Hungarians, Danes, Slavonians, Bohemians. He added Lorraine to his dominions. He maintained no corres-

pondence with the See of Rome; he was consecrated by his own bishop. Otho 1st the Great, his son was elected Emperor, 936. He carried on the system of his father in repressing the usurpation of the Lords. He began the conquest of Bohemia in 938, and finished it 950. In 961, he expelled Berenger 2^d, and his son, Rodalbert, from Italy, and caused himself to be crowned at Milan. The next year he was crowned by Pope John 12th and from that time he may be justly styled Emperor of the Romans. He died 972.

Otho 2^d the Sanguinary, succeeded his father in 973. The names of the sovereigns who followed down to Henry 4th, are Otho 3^d, St. Henry, Courad 2^d & Henry 3^d. They occupied

a period of about 83 years.

Henry 4th the Great, succeeded his father in 1056. He maintained a perpetual struggle with the Popes, who insisted, that only the Cardinals should elect the Bishop of Rome. After a spirited contest with Pope Gregory 7th during which, the Pope was twice his prisoner, and the emperor as often excommunicated and deposed, Henry fell, at last, the victim of ecclesiastical vengeance. At the instigation of Pope Urban 2^d, the two sons of the Emperor, Conrad & Henry, rebelled against their father, and to such an extremity was he reduced, thro' their barbarity, and the Pope's acts of excommunication, that he could scarcely obtain the means of subsistence.

His sufferings were terminated by death 1106.

England.

Saxon Kings. Norman Family. England became one entire kingdom in 927. This change was effected by Egbert, prince of the West Saxons who inhabited that part of the Heptarchy, called Wessex and Suttel. The English, so happily united under Egbert, enjoyed their prosperity but a short period. The piratical Danes or Normans, who had molested the English coasts for 50 years, now became still more troublesome. During the life of Egbert, they twice attempted an invasion, but were repulsed with much slaughter.

Under Ethelwolf the successor of Egbert, a prince of a very generous disposition, they repeated their de-

predations. Ethelwolf divided Eng-
land between his two eldest sons
Ethelbald and Ethelbert. Alfred,
afterwards so illustrious was a
younger son. The reign of Ethelbald
and Ethelbert was short, commen-
cing 857 ending 866; to Ethelred
a third son, the sceptre was bequeathed
He died in battle against the Danes,
and Alfred succeeded 872.

The reign of Alfred was signalised by
his contest with the Danes. He died
901.

Edward, the Elder, succeeded his father
in 901. He lived in a stormy period,
being continually molested by the Danes
He died 925.

Athelstan, his son, succeeded him in
925. He was an able sovereign, and
opposed with success the northum-
brian Danes, Welsh, Scots &c. He en-
couraged navigation, by conferring

the rank of Thane or gentleman, on
every merchant who had made 3
voyages to the Mediterranean on
his own account. He caused the
Scriptures to be translated into
the Saxon tongue, which appears
to be the earliest version into the
language of Britain. He died 941
Edmund, his brother, then ascended
the throne. He reigned 5 years; he
perished by the hand of Leolf, a
notorious robber.

Edred, a brother of Edmund, was
his successor, 946.

Edwy, a nephew of Edred, succeed
955. By marrying within the degrees
of affinity prohibited by the canon
law, he & his beautiful princess
Elgiva, become became objects of mon-
kish superstition.

Edgar, the younger brother of Edwy,
succeeded 959. His private charac-

ter was detestable on account of his licentiousness, but energy & success distinguished his public administrations. He promoted Æthelstan to the archbishopric of Canterbury, and paying that prelate a forced homage, he was able to carry into effect his various plans of government.

The reign of Edward, son of Edgar by his first wife, was short & uninteresting. He perished by assassination, which was instigated by his step mother Elfrida. 978.

Æthelred 2^d son of Edgar, by Elfrida, was placed on the throne at the age of 11. His surname was Unready. His hatred of the Danes, caused him to order a massacre of all those of that people who had been retained as mercenaries in his army.

The Danes at home, resolved on vengeance and under Sweyn, their

king, invaded and ravaged the country. Æthelred fled to Normandy, and the English nobility in despair offered the kingdom to Sweyn.

He died however soon afterwards, & Æthelred was restored; but Canute, the son of Sweyn, asserted his claim to the throne, by force of arms.

In the mean time Æthelred died, & Edmund his son, ^(Ironside) succeeded 1016. He was at last obliged to divide his kingdom with Canute; he lived only a month after.

Upon the death of Edmund, Canute became sole monarch, 1017.

He left three sons; two of these ruled in succession over England, Harold borned Harefoot, from his speed in running; he reigned only 4 years, and Hardicnutte who reigned but a few months.

After his death, the English freed

themselves from the Danish yoke, and restored the Saxon line in Edward, a younger son of Ethelred 1041. He was entitled the Confessor, he reigned 23 years without merit of any kind unless it were his ability to conciliate the esteem of the monks. Having no children, he appointed his kinsman, William, Duke of Normandy, his successor. Edward was the last of the Saxon kings.

He was the 1st king of England who attempted to cure the King's evil by the touch.

On the death of Edward, the throne was taken possession of, by Harold, son of Godwin, but William determined to leave it as his right inheritance; with an army of 60,000 men he set sail for the English Coast. Harold met him, and was defeated by

him in the battle of Hastings. The prince of the Norman family, called Henry 2^d.

William alienated the minds of the conquered by conferring on his Norman subjects all the important places in the government; he caused the Norman language to be the vehicle of the church service, and all judicial proceedings. he reserved to himself the exclusive privilege of killing game throughout the kingdom, and he depopulated a tract of country 30 miles round, in order to form a forest. He introduced the feudal system; substituted the practice of single combat for the trial by jury; he compelled the people to rake up their fires, and put out their lights at the sound of the curfew. One useful act of his reign, was a survey of all the

lands and estates of the kingdom, with an estimate of their value, an enumeration of every class of inhabitants who lived on them, and other important particulars. This record is called the Domesday book, which is still in being.

The eldest son of William, Robert, attempted to wrest from him the sovereignty of Maine. Soon after while waging war against Philip 1st of France, he was killed by a fall from his horse 1007.

William 2^d. Rufus from his red hair, ascended the throne. He was destitute of the few virtues of his father and inherited all his vices. After a reign of 13 years he was accidentally shot by Sir William Tyrril, with an arrow, while hunting in the New Forest.

Eastern Empire.

The Eastern or Greek Empire during the present period was ruled by 39 Emperors.

In the 10th century, the provinces that still acknowledged the authority of the successors of Constantine, had been cast into a new form by the institution of the Themes or military governments. Of these, there were 29, twelve in Europe, and 17 in Asia.

The relics of Italy however had been swept away by the Norman adventurers, and the Turks had removed many of the Asiatic provinces of the Empire. Still the spacious provinces of Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece, were obedient to their sceptre, and they possessed Cyprus

Rhodes, and Crete, with the 50 islands of the Egean Sea.

Of the numerous emperors of this period, we notice only the following,

Basil 1st 867. He defeated the Saracens in the East, and in Italy.

Nicephorus Phocas, invaded Asia, and overran Mesopotamia.

Basil 2^d destroyed the kingdom of Bavaria.

Saracens.

At the commencement of the present period, the Saracens were flourishing in science and the arts.

Nearly 400 years had elapsed since the seat of their empire was transferred to Bagdad, and Arabia, in consequence had lost much of its importance. Many of the chiefs of the interior provinces

became independent, and withdrew themselves from the civil jurisdiction of the Caliph. After the extinction of their conquests, they were broken up into separate states. Egypt, Morocco, Spain & India, had their own sovereigns who, though they paid a religious respect to the Caliph of Bagdad awarded him no temporal submission.

In this period the Saracens invaded Italy, Sicily, and prosecuted the conquest of Italy. They laid siege to Rome, which was defended by Pope Leo 4th. They were repulsed and their ships dispersed by a storm. 848.

The house of Abbas, furnished 22 Caliphs during this period. Bagdad continued to be the seat of their

power. In the year 1055, Bagdad was taken by the Turks, and the Caliphs from that time, became only the Supreme Pontiffs of the Mahometan faith.

At the time of the 1st crusade, Arabia was governed by a Turkish Sultan, as were Persia, and the greater portion of Lesser Asia.

The period of the Crusades, extending from the 1st Crusade, 1095 to the founding of the Turkish Empire 1299.

The Crusades.

These were wars undertaken principally during the 12th & 13th centuries, by the Christian nations of Europe, on account of religion. They were termed Crusades from the Cross, which was the badge of the com-

battants. The object of these wars was the deliverance of Palestine, and particularly the tomb of Jesus Christ from the dominion of the Turks or Mahometans.

The Turks or Turcomans, a race of Tartars having in 1055 taken Bagdad, and overturned the empire of the Caliphs, Palestine, & particularly Jerusalem, were of course under their sway, and became the seat of their religion.

In this situation of things

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