

*A.* Nicholas Breakspear, or Adrian IV., A. D. 1154.

*Q.* What great conflict took place in the reign of Henry II?

*A.* That between the King and Thomas-a-Becket.

*Q.* Who was Becket?

*A.* A native of London, educated in France and at Oxford, and rewarded for important diplomatic services by Church preferments. In 1158 he became Chancellor of England; in 1162 he was made Archbishop of Canterbury. From the latter date the Primate and the King were at constant variance chiefly respecting ecclesiastical tribunals for the punishment of offending clergy.

*Q.* What were the Constitutions of Clarendon?

*A.* Laws passed by a council of Bishops and Barons at Clarendon, near Salisbury, in 1164. They provided that all ecclesiastics should be tried by the civil courts and not by ecclesiastical tribunals, and if found guilty, should be punished by the State; that no one should leave the country without permission, and that all appeals should be made to the King alone. To these laws Becket would not agree, as the system aimed at personal tyranny and gave the Crown too much authority.

*Q.* What was Becket's wish in the matter?

*A.* That not the clergy only but every class should be tried by its peers; that all the people should be fairly taxed and allowed to pass freely from land to land, save in times of war. This demand gave an impulse to the cause of civil liberty, and made Becket the people's idol.

*Q.* What happened to him?

*A.* He was obliged to fly to France, where he remained six years, but in 1170 he became reconciled to the King and returned. Subsequently a hasty speech of Henry's, made at Bayeux, led to his brutal murder at Canterbury Cathedral December 29, 1170.

*Q.* How did the Constitutions of Clarendon effect the welfare of the Church?

*A.* After Becket's death the King did penance for his complicity in the murder and repented of his treatment of the Archbishops. He also promised that no clergyman should be presented in a secular court for any crime, and with drew his former objections, but this only served to make the Pope's power firmer.

*Q.* What monuments remain of the Norman Conquest?

*A.* The churches and cathedrals which they erected. They found log chapels and miserable buildings; they replaced them with magnificent structures of stone. Among others Canterbury Cathedral was built and completed in seven years. So, too, churches were erected at York, Durham, Ely, Norwich, London and Chester.

*Q.* What do we learn from the history of the Church during this period?

*A.* That it was strongly independent and opposed to Roman pretensions. The Normans, as conquerers who set out with the Pope's Sanction, sought to compel obedience to Rome. But this was refused again and again with varying success.