

FOUNDERS OF THE EMPIRE.

I.

ALFRED.

THE MODEL OF ENGLISH KINGS.

"I do not know if there has ever been on earth a man more worthy of the admiration of posterity than Alfred the Great."—Voltaire.

ANYONE who reads the pages of English history will find many characters worthy of his admiration and reverence. He will read the story of great kings and queens, wise statesmen, brave warriors and honest citizens. The greatness of the British Empire has been built up by the wisdom, the courage, and the industry of these men and women, and every citizen of the Empire, worthy of the name, will always remember and be proud of them. But it is often disappointing to find that, in spite of the great qualities of these people, most of them also possessed the faults common to mankind. Many great kings and queens have been cruel or unjust, many great statesmen have been greedy for wealth or power, and brave warriors have often been proud and overbearing. The farther back one reads in English history the more is this apparent. In the early ages the world was like a