

# WILLIAM "THE CONQUEROR."

## FIRST OF THE NORMAN LINE.

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BORN 1025.

MARRIED to Matilda of Flanders, a descendant of Alfred the Great, 1052.

CROWNED December 25th, 1066. Instituted the Curfew bell, and made severe game laws. It was death to kill a stag in the royal forests.

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FIERCE William, who came in blood, storm and rough weather,

And loved the tall red deer better than men,  
Was the first king who ruled all England together,  
And made his power felt in hamlet and glen.

"Conqueror" we call him ; he ruled in a passion,  
Planting great forests and burning down towns ;  
When the king's curfew rang out in rude fashion,  
The clergy and people shook under their gowns.

Pop out the candle, and cover the ember,  
For Old England quaked at her liege and lord ;  
And gentle and simple had wrongs to remember,  
And grudges against him for fire and for sword.