

## STEPHEN, THE USURPER.

HOUSE OF BLOIS.

*Son of Adela, daughter of William the Conqueror.*

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BORN 1105.

MARRIED to Matilda of Bologne, 1114.

USURPED THE CROWN December 11th, 1135, the true heiress  
being Matilda, or Maud, only daughter of Henry the  
First.

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KING HENRY died, Stephen usurped the throne,  
And spite of battles, curses, frowns and tears,  
Sturdily held that which was not his own,  
And ruled Old England nearly twenty years.

Wearing the crown with gallantry and grace,  
Lawless, but courteous, in his strength and might,  
And seeming most in place when out of place,  
In keeping poor Matilda from her right.

Sole king of all his race, he stands alone ;  
And when his stormy life was almost done,  
Consented at the last to leave the throne,  
Not to King Henry's daughter, but her son.