

The royal declaration in the same pontifical of Egbert differs very markedly from the declaration of our days, as the following extract will amply demonstrate :

"It is the duty of a King newly ordained and enthroned to enjoin on the Christian people subject to him these three precepts: First, that the Church of God and all the Christian people preserve true peace at all times. Amen. Secondly, that he forbid rapacity and all iniquities to all degrees. Amen. Thirdly, that in all judgments he enjoin equity and mercy, that therefore the clement and merciful God, may grant us His mercy. Amen."

When William the Conqueror was crowned in 1066 A. D., by the Archbishop of York, the king standing before the altar in the presence of the whole people

"promised with an oath that he would, moreover, rule the whole people subject to him with righteousness and royal providence, would enact and hold fast right law, utterly forbid rapine and unrighteous judgments."

The oath taken by Edward II. in 1308, was in the form of question and answer :

"Sire, says the Archbishop, will you grant and keep, and by your oath confirm to the people of England, the laws and customs to them granted by the ancient kings of England, your righteous and godly predecessors; and especially the laws, customs and privileges granted to the clergy and people by the glorious king St. Edward your predecessor? The king replies: I grant them and promise. Sire, will you keep towards God and Holy Church, and to the clergy and people, peace and accord in God, entirely after your power? I will keep them. Sire, will you cause to be done in all your judgments equal and right justice and discretion in mercy and truth, to your power? I will do so. Sire, do you grant to hold and to keep the laws and righteous customs which the community of your realm shall have chosen, and will you defend and strengthen them to the honor of God and to the utmost of your power? I grant and promise."

In the troublesome times that fell upon England after the so-called Reformation, it was inevitable that changes should occur in the coronation oath. Through the series of British monarchs from Henry VIII., in 1509, until after the revolution in 1688, when William and Mary replaced the dethroned and exiled King James II., constant efforts were not wanting to bring into accord the political and religious principles that prevailed in the kingdom.