

entered the service of Honorius (419), who in return allowed him to found a Visigothic realm on Gallic soil, the kingdom of Tolosa (Toulouse).

Honorius died childless in 423. With the aid of the Eastern Emperor *Theodosius II.* (408-450) an infant son of Placidia, who a few years before had married the usurper Constantius, was raised to the throne.

This was the Emperor *Valentinianus III.* (423-455). His mother, who was appointed Augusta, was to hold rule in his stead as guardian. At once a quarrel for dominant influence at the court broke out between two vigorous generals, Bonifacius the governor of Africa and Aëtius. During its course (428) the Vandals under Geiserich, summoned to his aid by Bonifacius, crossed from Spain, where they were hard pressed, into Africa, captured this province for themselves, and set up in place of Old Carthage a Vandal kingdom which after prolonged struggles was perforce acknowledged by Valentinianus. Another important province was lost to the Western realm during the reign of Valentinianus. In Britain Saxon tribes under Hengist and Horsa, who through their piracies had long been the terror of those regions, established an Anglo-Saxon kingdom, the power of which gradually extended over the whole island (449). It was only in Gaul that the energetic Aëtius, who guided the government, could maintain in some degree the credit of the empire amid constant combats with Franks, Burgundians, and Goths. To his generalship also it was due that a great danger to the empire from the side of the Hunnish king Attila was warded off. This mighty ruler, to whom all Slav and German races from South Russia to the Alps were subject, burst in the year 451 into Gaul; but by the battle on the Catalaunian Plains between Châlons and Troyes, where Aëtius in league with German allied tribes valiantly opposed him, he was checked from further advance. Aëtius could not indeed prevent Attila from making an irruption in the next year into Upper Italy, in which Aquileia and great stretches of the country were devastated. But the Hun