

bearded the king, and in a manly way upheld the rights of the people, with the result that the unscrupulous king took the oath, to be kept or not at his convenience. Henceforth the archbishop was found on the side of the English clergy, as against the king and the pope, and more than once he was called upon to assert his position clearly. He even called a meeting of the bishops of England to devise means for resisting the attacks made upon the liberties and property of the Church of England by the pope at Rome and the English king.

The country, at this time, was in a wretched condition. The queen, in many respects an estimable woman, the mother of the future Edward I., hated the English, and was hated by them in return. The king was so weak as to incur contempt. To make matters worse, famine set in, in the year 1257, and the distress became so great that horseflesh and the bark of trees were eagerly purchased for food. During these sufferings of the people, the king acted with such cold selfishness and indifference that they were incensed against him.

Yet during the reign of Henry III. considerable advance was made in the erection of churches, among which may be mentioned the partial rebuilding of Westminster Abbey and the completion of Salisbury Cathedral, which was consecrated by the archbishop on September 30th, 1258, in the presence of the king and queen.

The feeling against the king culminated in a rebellion of the barons. The bishops, with Boniface at their head, sided with the baron, but in time the archbishop fell away from them, and was found with Prince Edward on the king's side. In point of fact, his real feelings were those of a foreigner, and he found no difficulty in coming back to the support of the king.

The king fled to the continent, where Boniface joined him and there these two, aided by the queen, plotted against their own country, and even raised an army to invade it. But, owing to adverse winds, the invasion came to nothing. In the meantime a governing body in England demanded of the archbishop that he should return to his diocese on pain of the confiscation of his property. In the meantime, at the battle of Evesham, which was fought on the 4th of August, 1265, the barons were defeated and the king restored to power. Boniface then returned to England, and seems to have been, in his old age, of a more peaceful character than formerly. He seems to have had enough of war and fighting of all kinds. The pope sent a legate to England, whose powers exceeded those of the Archbishop of Canterbury, but Boniface made no resistance. Prince Edward, having taken the cross, went, in 1268, upon the crusade, and Boniface is said to have accompanied him. But the old archbishop did not stay long with the fiery young prince. He withdrew to his native Savoy, where, on the 18th of June, 1270, he died.

The crown nominated for the vacant position Robert Burnell a distinguished politician and chancellor to Prince Edward; but the monks of Canterbury declined to confirm the appointment. When Prince Edward heard this, he was full of wrath, and went at once to Canterbury to force the monks into submission. They bolted the doors against him, but the furious prince burst them open and stood among the somewhat terrified monks. To his demand that they should elect his chancellor, they replied, with dignity, that their proceedings should be guided by the Holy Ghost. When the prince withdrew they elected their prior, Adam de Chillendene, to be archbishop. From this of course the royal assent was withheld, whereupon the prior of Canterbury went to Rome and laid the case before the pope, Gregory X. The pope declined to favor either of the two nominees, but suggested an entirely new name, that of Robert Kilwardby, an English Dominican friar. In this the crown and the monks of Canterbury at once concurred, and thus a humble friar, most unexpectedly, found himself Archbishop-elect of Canterbury. His first public act, after his consecration, was to crown Prince Edward, Edward I. of England, a man of heroic mien and many inches and every inch a king. The coronation festivities lasted for two weeks, during which gold and silver were freely scattered among the people by the retainers of king and archbishop alike, and 380 head of cattle, 430 sheep, 450 pigs, 18 wild boars, 27⁹ fitches of bacon, and about 20,000 fowls were consumed. So much for the hospitality of the thirteenth century—rather a contrast to the modern reception or garden party, of coffee, cake, and ice cream!

After a few years of a somewhat uneventful career, Archbishop Kilwardby, always peaceful in character and always popular, was made a cardinal, and resigned his archbishopric to take up his residence in Rome. A few months afterwards, in 1279, he died, not without suspicion on the part of his friends that he had been poisoned. He had taken with him from England a very large sum of money, which he had amassed at Canterbury, and some historians have thought that the cupidity excited among foreigners by this may have proved the cause of his death.

On the death of Kilwardby, the pope took the bold step of nominating his successor. There was at Rome, at the time, one John Peckham, a leading Franciscan friar of England, who had journeyed to that imperial city for the purpose of increasing his knowledge of Roman canon law. Him the pope nominated to be Archbishop of Canterbury. The monks of Canterbury, in order to conciliate the king, had elected Burnell, whom they had formerly rejected; but Edward, for reasons of policy, thought it best to be friendly with the pope, and therefore accepted Peckham's nomination, especially as his favorite, Bur-