

## UNDER THE ENGLISH CROWN

ready to defend themselves, they were quite incapable of settled order, and as a self-governing country Wales soon ceased to exist. Her national independence, nevertheless, remained untouched. Personality seemed the one thing she was able to safeguard through every kind of vicissitude.

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Then came the Norman Conquest. The army which had conquered the Anglo-Saxons was not likely to stop at the Dyke of Offa. William and his successors subsidised the leaders of bands established in the Western provinces with "license to conquer Wales." Towards 1070, also, a Norman chief, Baldwin, erected the first of the fortresses with which the new masters of England were to strew the soil of Cambria. It was the primary link in a chain forged to bind the country to the rule of the Lord Marchers. A new period was beginning in the history of Wales—a period destined to last for over two centuries. The Anglo-Norman authority bit every day deeper into the territory from which it snatched such magnificent slices—Brecknock, Glamorgan, Pembroke. The conquering nobles were, besides, sovereigns within their own territory. If nominally representatives only of the king of England,