

ment of this age." Both Normans and Englishmen "found enough to occupy their energies at home without turning their attention elsewhere." Richard who did take part in them was "little more than a great adventurer": for England and her development he cared nothing.

PARLIAMENTARY ORGANISATION.

The political work of the twelfth century had united the king and the local organisations; "the political work of the thirteenth century would lie in surrounding the king with a general representative organisation, which would bring before him the needs and desires of the nation as a whole." The movement began from the misconduct of *John*, whose objects were merely selfish. His reign was occupied with three quarrels.

1. Owing to his quarrel with the King of France most of John's continental possessions fell away from him. The Aquitanian lands still remained, but England was practically cut loose from the continent, and "*the loss of Normandy* was a distinct step in the direction of the formation of an English nationality."

2. Even John's quarrel with the Pope served to bind all classes of Englishmen more closely together than before. Pope *Innocent III*, whose vassal he was forced to become, aimed at carrying on the ideas of Hildebrand by establishing a fatherly control over the kings of the earth: all men might hold their lands from kings, but they were to hold their crowns from the pope.

3. The quarrel with the Baronage led to the *Great Charter*, in which "for the first time the English people appeared as a united whole." The centralised despotism of the Norman and Angevin kings had resulted in the birth of the English nation. New institutions would now be needed to give effect to the change in the forces of politics, to the expression of the popular will. These the Great Charter did not promote; it merely fettered the king. But the germs of the representative system lay in the local custom of electing persons to assess taxation in concert with the judges.

The growth of national feeling continued in the reign of *Henry III*. On the one hand, the extravagance of the king made the consent of the Council to taxation still more necessary. On the other hand, the exorbitant demands of the Popes alienated the people from the Papacy. Meanwhile the spiritual life of England was quickened by a new impulse, imparted by the *Friars*.