

Thurstan, the redoubtable Archbishop of York, did not recognize any superiority in his brother of Canterbury, even though advanced to the high position of the pope's representative. And thus it is that we continually trace a feeling in England, even in the darkest days, against the interference of Rome or any foreign power in the affairs of the Church.

Though nothing of merit seems to attach itself to the history of William of Corbeil, yet his sway is noted for the completion and consecration of Canterbury Cathedral. It was consecrated by him on the 4th of May, 1130, and was an event much to be remembered. The Kings of England and Scotland, with many of their nobles and all the bishops of England, were present, and many costly offerings were made.

The next event of note was the death of the king, which took place in 1135. Archbishop William has been much blamed for siding with Stephen instead of Matilda in the matter of succession to the throne. He officiated at the coronation of Stephen on the 26th of December, 1135. In the following year he died, some say of a guilty conscience, but whether or not his name does not seem to have won much commendation from those who undertook at any time to speak of him.

King Stephen, though kind, courteous, and good-natured in disposition, was not suited to rule in the troublesome times in which he was called upon to live. They were times of the iron rule of the barons, who built castles in all directions throughout England, coined their own money, and oppressed everywhere the people within their reach. Themselves petty kings, they resented interference on the part of Stephen. The consequence was great misery in England; so much so that the fields lay uncultivated, and famine worked its deadly havoc. Christianity was gradually dying out. The bishops were themselves barons, as hard and warlike often as the rudest and most severe. The monasteries alone, in an age like that, saved religion. If the castle was the stronghold of the baron, the monastery was the fortress of the devout. "Thither the miserable could fly for comfort, the timid for protection, and the learned for leisure." For three years no attempt was made to appoint a primate.

At this time the Bishop of Winchester was Henry of Blois, the grandson of William the Conqueror, and brother of King Stephen. Himself, in his own right, a powerful baron, it was natural that he should aspire to be Archbishop of Canterbury; but whether it was that Stephen and his Queen Matilda dreaded to make a powerful man still more powerful, or for whatever reason, his natural claim was passed over, and Theobald, Abbot of Bec (an institution which twice before had given an archbishop to Canterbury), was nominated by the king for the primacy, and duly elected. He was con-

secrated on the 8th of January, 1139. Henry of Blois showed no resentment, but quietly set to work to undermine the new archbishop. This he did by securing for himself, through his influence with the pope, the appointment of legate or vicar of His Holiness in England, and this, he claimed, gave him precedence over the Primate of all England. Was Theobald equal to this trying occasion?

He was a man of great patience and forbearance. He saw that to oppose the powerful Bishop of Winchester was to run counter to the pope, whose power had grown almost beyond resistance. He, therefore, quietly bowed before the storm and awaited calmer weather, while in the meantime he attracted to himself, from time to time, men of learning, until Canterbury became the headquarters of men of great and cultured minds. Among these was a young man of striking mien and handsome appearance, known as Thomas of London, the son of Gilbert Becket, the portreeve of the city. By quiet and patient work, chiefly through the agency of this young man, who was of courtly manners and brilliant address, Theobald secured the appointment of papal legate for himself; and thus his powerful opponent sank to the position of a mere diocesan, and troubled him no longer. There are indications, however, that Henry of Blois himself, chiefly through the diplomacy of Becket, consented to this arrangement, which gave to the Archbishop of Canterbury that influence to which, as Primate of all England, he was entitled. If so, Theobald is an example of the saying that "All things come to the man who waits," for this arrangement does not seem to have been consummated till the year 1150.

(To be continued.)

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—II. Cor. v. 14.

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WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, DIOCESE OF HURON: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Huron held its annual meeting in London, March 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th. The president, Mrs. Baldwin, after welcoming the delegates—some 150 in number—said: "As the number seven is the perfect number in Scripture, so may this gathering be one so full of spiritual blessing that we may all, in separating, be able to say that this has been one of our most successful annual meetings, because the power of the Holy Spirit has been felt to be with us as never before." After dwelling on the incidents of her absence abroad, the work of the W.A. during the past year, and that awaiting it in the future, Mrs. Baldwin