

however, were rather works of peace than of war, since he secured by treaty the possession of Jerusalem and Bethany, 1229, in exchange for his alliance with the Sultan of Egypt against the Sultan of Damascus.

The seventh Crusade was undertaken by Louis IX. of France, to recover the Holy City, which had again fallen into the hands of the Mohammedans. He invaded Egypt, captured Damietta, was defeated at Mansurah, and obliged to purchase his retreat by a ransom of 400,000 livres and the restoration of Damietta.

The eighth and last Crusade, 1270, was also undertaken by Louis IX., who was cut off by pestilence, and Prince Edward of England, after Edward I., led his Crusaders to the Holy Land, but achieved nothing of consequence. He was the last among Christian princes who dreamt of recovering the Holy Land.

(Q.) 26. Explain the term "Investiture."

(A.) Gregory VII., Hildebrand, desired to free the Church from the temporal authority of laymen; that is, to deprive all princes of the power of investing bishops with the ring and crosier, the symbols by which the Pope and himself conferred the spiritual authority. At a Council held in the Lateran Palace, it was declared that no laics should confer ecclesiastical benefices, or clerks receive them from a layman, under pain of excommunication. This was finally settled at the Concordant of Worms, 1122, when Henry V. of Germany renounced the right which he had hitherto claimed, but retained his authority over the temporalities of the several dioceses.

(Q.) 27. By whom was the Society of the Assassins founded? and by what name was he and his successors known?

(A.) By Hassan Sebek, a Mohammedan enthusiast, about the year 1090, among the hills south of the Caspian Sea. Their motto was, "To the faithful nothing is forbidden." Hassan and his successors were known by the name of "The Old Man of the Mountain." The daggers of the assassins were felt in the East and the West; and by them perished Conrad, Marquis of Montferrat, in the streets of Tyre, 1192. Prince Edward of England nearly lost his life also, but throwing himself on the assassin, he killed him with his own weapon. The sect lasted 172 years, and was finally destroyed by the Mongols. The Druses are said to have sprung from the Assassins.

(Q.) 28. Give an account of the Moorish Domination in Spain from its establishment to its final extinction in the Peninsula.

(A.) Tarik, the lieutenant of Emir Musa, crossed the straits of Hercules with an army, and, on the Field of Xeres, defeated Roderick, "the last of the Goths." Musa secured the conquest, and the Moslems established themselves in Cordova, and from that centre Spain, which had resisted the Roman arms two hundred years, was reduced by the Saracens in fifteen months. It obtained the name of the Moorish Kingdom, because the Saracens embarked for the Peninsula from Mauritanian (Morocco).

Abdalahman extended the Moslem power in Spain and consolidated the throne. The Great Mosque at Cordova was begun by him. Its length was 600 feet, and its width 250 feet; 100 columns of marble or of jasper formed the interior enclosure of the cupola; by means of 993 others it was divided into 19 naves, all closed by gates of bronze

with sculptures in bas-relief, those of the great gate alone being in massive gold; 4,700 lamps illuminated the interior during the night, and consumed annually 120,000 lbs. of oil.

Abdalahman III., 912, established the first medical school in Europe, and under his wise rule agriculture, manufactures and commerce flourished. The glorious reign of this Caliph was closely followed by the decay of the Mohammedan power. In the year 960 the Christian, Ferdinand Gonzales, founded the Kingdom of Castile, which was united to Leon in 1037, under the sovereignty of Ferdinand I. of Navarre. The Moors at this time still possessed Andalusia, Granada, Murcia, part of New Castile, and all the sea-coast from Barcelona to the mouth of the Tagus. Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, known as the Cid, conquered Valencia and governed it with the authority of an independent sovereign. Alphonso VI., of Castile, and Alphonso I., of Arragon, succeeded in all their undertakings against the Moors, and Arragon, New Castile and Extremadura were possessed by the Christians.

Cordova fell in 1236, and in 1250 the Moorish dominions had sunk to the single province of Granada. On the accession of Ferdinand and Isabella the long meditated plan of expelling the Moors from Spain was put in execution. Ten years were spent in sanguinary contests before they were enabled to besiege Granada, which they invested with an army of 50,000 men, and after a blockade of nine months, the inhabitants were compelled to surrender, 1492. The Saracens were not, however, finally expelled from Spain till the reign of Philip III., 1610.

(Q.) 29. By whom was the Caliphate overthrown? Mention some of the celebrated Chiefs, and the empires founded by them, with dates.

(A.) By the Turks, a Tartar race. Asia, from the China Sea to the Euxine, was conquered by Genghis Khan, at the head of the Mongol Tartars, 1206. Bagdad was taken 1258, by the Mongols under Hulaku. The conquest of China was completed by Kublai Khan, in 1279. Othman founded the Turkish or Ottoman Empire 1326. The Mogul Empire in Hindostan was established by Tamerlane, in 1398, and consolidated by Baber, in 1525.

(Q.) 30. Give brief particulars of the founder of the House of Hapsburgh, and mention some celebrated traveller who was contemporaneous. Give the dates.

(A.) From 1250 to 1272 Germany was in effect without any ruler, for though there were several, none exercised any real authority. In the midst of the petty wars that ensued between the nominal rulers, the power and influence of the great commercial cities were slowly increasing, and from their alliances for mutual defence arose three confederations, viz., The Hanseatic League, 1241; The Confederation of the Cities of the Rhine, about 1255; and The Gauerhinites, or Treaties of Succession and Mutual Defence. At length all parties being wearied by the long continued anarchy, it was determined to elect an Emperor. The choice fell upon Rodolph of Hapsburg in Switzerland, 1273, who proved himself a wise and just monarch, and he devoted his attention to the internal affairs of Germany. Such was the rise of the House of Austria. It was about this time, 1275, that Marco Polo, a great Venetian traveller, crossed Asia, visiting Kublai Khan in Chinese Tartary, and having passed through China to the Pacific, sailed by Ceylon to the Persian Gulf.