



**Danes, Saxons and Normans or, Stories of our
ancestors BY John G. Edgar : (full image
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John G. Edgar

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In the following pages I have endeavoured to tell in a popular way the story of the Norman Conquest, and to give an idea of the principal personages who figured in England at the period when that memorable event took place; and I have endeavoured, I hope not without some degree of success, to treat the subject in a popular and picturesque style, without any sacrifice of historic truth.

With a view of rendering the important event which I have attempted to illustrate, more intelligible to the reader, I have commenced by showing how the Normans under Rolfanger forced a settlement in the dominions of Charles the Simple, whilst Alfred the Great was struggling with the Danes in England, and have recounted the events which led to a connexion between the courts of Rouen and Westminster, and to the invasion of England by William the Norman.

It has been truly observed that the history of the Conquest is at once so familiar at first sight, that it appears superfluous to multiply details, so difficult to realize on examination, that a writer feels himself under the necessity of investing with importance many particulars previously regarded as uninteresting, and that the defeat at Hastings was not the catastrophe over which the curtain drops to close the Saxon tragedy, but "the first scene in a new act of the continuous drama." I have therefore continued my narrative for many years after the fall of Harold and the building of Battle Abbey, and have traced the Conqueror's career from the coast of Sussex to the banks of the Humber and the borders of the Tweed.

For the same reason I have narrated the quarrels which convulsed the Conqueror's own family—have related how son fought against father, and brother against brother—and have indicated the circumstances which, after a fierce war of succession in England, resulted in the peaceful coronation of Henry Plantagenet, and the establishment of that great house whose chiefs were so long the pride of England and the terror of her foes.

J. G. E.

CONTENTS

Rolfanger and his Comrades

William the Conqueror

The Danes in England

Earl Godwin

Edward the Confessor

The King and the King-maker

Matilda of Flanders

Siward the Dane

Harold, the Saxon King

Duke William and his Difficulties

Tostig, son of Godwin

Harold Hardrada

The Alarm in England

The Battle of Stamford Bridge

Philip of France

The Norman Armament

Harold's Host

The Battle of Hastings

The Body of Harold
The Conqueror and the Kentishmen
Edgar Atheling
Coronation of the Conqueror
The Siege of Exeter
Matilda and Brihtrik
The Normans in Northumberland
Cospatrick and the Conqueror
Saxon Saints and Norman Soldiers
The Reduction of Chester
Lanfranc of Pavia
Edwin and Morkar
Ivo Taille-Bois
Hereward the Saxon
Building of Battle Abbey
Malcolm Canmore
The Death of Cospatrick
Atheling and His Allies
Fitzosborne and de Gael
Waltheof, Son of Siward
Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester
Robert Curthose
The Conqueror and his Heir
Odo, Bishop of Bayeux
Doomsday Book
The Conqueror's Death
The Burial at Caen
The Red King
Rufus and the Jews
Rufus and the Scots
Robert de Moubray
Henry Beauclerc
The Death of Rufus
A Change of Fortune
Curthose at the Crusade
Beauclerc and Curthose
After Tinchebray
ILLUSTRATIONS
ALTAR
ANDIRON
APPEAL TO HAROLD HARFAGHER, HILDA'S
ARCHERS, ENGLISH
ARMS
BARBACAN
BATTLE ABBEY, HASTINGS
BATTLE-FIELD, THE
BAYEUX TAPESTRY, FROM THE
BODY OF RUFUS, BRINGING HOME THE
BONDMAN, SAXON (FROM STRUTT)

BOOKS, THE DOOM'S-DAY
BOSS
BOSTON, FEN COUNTRY NEAR
BOUILLON, GODFREY DE, ELECTED KING OF JERUSALEM
BOWS
BRACKET
BRINGING HOME THE BODY OF RUFUS
BROTHER HAROLD, TOSTIG'S PARTING SPEECH TO HIS
BRUGES, BELFRY AT
BUTTRESS
CHARLES THE SIMPLE, ROLFGANGER PAYING HOMAGE TO,
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, JERUSALEM
CHURCH PORCH
CLOISTERS
COMMOTION DURING THE CROWNING OF WILLIAM
CONQUEROR, EDWIN, EARL OF MERCIA, AND THE DAUGHTERS OF THE
COOKS—FROM BAYEUX TAPESTRY
CROSSBOW
CROZIER
C

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