

**THE LIFE AND MARTYRDOM OF  
SAINT THOMAS BECKET,  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.  
PART II, PP. 309-632**

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The Life and Martyrdom of Saint Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Part II, pp. 309-632 by John Morris

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**JOHN MORRIS**

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THE  
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SAINT THOMAS BECKET,  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

*SECOND AND ENLARGED EDITION.*

BY  
JOHN MORRIS,  
PRIEST OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS.

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## CHAPTER XXVI.

### CLAIRVAUX.

1169.

At Clairvaux on Palm Sunday St. Thomas excommunicates the Bishop of London and others—these sentences generally disregarded at Court—publication of the Bishop's excommunication in St. Paul's on Ascension Day—the danger run by the Archbishop's messengers—the King's violence when angry—Gilbert Foliot's appeal in Lent—meeting of Bishops at Northampton on Trinity Sunday—King Henry's letter to Foliot—farther excommunications on Ascension Day—courageous conduct of the Bishop of Worcester—the Pope requests St. Thomas to suspend the censures for a time.

ST. THOMAS was now in a better position than he had yet been. King Louis was more firmly his friend than ever, and his powers were now fully restored to him, both by the lapse of the term for which they had been suspended, and by the publication of the Pope's second letter to the King.

At last the blow, long merited and long delayed, fell on the head of Gilbert Foliot, Bishop of London. The Bishop knew perfectly well that the sentence was pending, although the citations could not, in consequence of the severity of the watch that was kept, be legally and formally delivered. He wrote to Jocelin of Salisbury, to warn him that he was to be included in the coming

censure; and at the beginning of Lent they both appealed to the Pope, naming as the term of the appeal the 9th of February, 1170. This they certified to St. Thomas.<sup>1</sup> It was, however, the opinion of the canonists who advised the Saint that the appeal was invalid, as being captiously made in order to avoid justice: on Palm Sunday,<sup>2</sup> therefore, April 13, 1169, at Clairvaux, he excommunicated Gilbert Foliot; and in the document<sup>3</sup> which announced it to the Dean and clergy of London he threatened, unless satisfaction was made by them in the interval, on Ascension Day to excommunicate also Geoffrey Ridel, the Archdeacon of Canterbury, and Robert his vicar, Richard of Ilchester, Richard de Luci, William Giffard, Adam of Charing, and all who should have either usurped Church property or urged the King to injure the Church or banish the innocent, and all who should have injured the Pope's messengers or his own. The names were added of all who were excommunicated at the same time with the Bishop of London: they were, the Bishop of Salisbury; Hugh Earl of Norfolk; Randulf de Broc; Thomas Fitz-Bernard; Robert de Broc, a cleric; Hugh of St. Clair; Letard of Northfleet, a cleric; Nigel de Sackville; and Richard the brother of William of Hastings, a cleric, who had usurped the Church of Monkton. There are several names found here which are amongst the excommunicates of Vezelay, which is accounted for by the

<sup>1</sup> *Materials*, vi. pp. 534, 539, 540.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 451.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 558.