

**A
CHRONOLOGICAL
SKETCH**

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A chronological sketch by Hill Mussenden Leathes

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HILL MUSSENDEN LEATHES

**A
CHRONOLOGICAL
SKETCH**

Dedicated

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

LADY HOWARD OF GLOSSOP.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages were the production of a boy of twelve years of age, and were originally published some years ago.

The proceeds of the sale, when the *Chronological Sketches* first appeared, were dedicated to the Restoration of an Anglican Church.

Since attaining to man's estate, the Author has had the happiness of becoming a Catholic.

The present Edition of this little work has therefore been amended and corrected, so as to adapt it for circulation in Catholic schools and families.

Copies for distribution, as Prizes for Schools, &c., &c., may be had by application to H. M. L.

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N.B.—The names of those Children of the Kings and Queens who died in their father's lifetime, are printed in Italics.

A
CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH,
ETC.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

NORMAN.

Character—Ambitious, bold, enterprising, vindictive, and stern; a haughty monarch, and able statesman; feared by his subjects, and hated by his enemies.

Born 1023.

Ascended the throne—October 14, 1066.

Principal events—Introduction of the curfew-bell and doomsday-book; the foundation of the New Forest; the war with France; the introduction of instrumental music into England; the custom of beheading first resorted to; and the insurrection of Prince Robert.

Possessions—England and Normandy.

Married—Matilda of Flanders.

Children—Robert Duke of Normandy, *Richard*, WILLIAM, Henry, Cecilia, *Adelaide*, *Matilda*,* Constance, Adela, *Gundred*.†

Death of William—September 9, 1087.

Death of Matilda—November 2, 1083.

Parents { Robert, Duke of Normandy;
{ Harlotta, daughter of a tanner of Falaise.

Age when he died—64.

THE RESULTS OF EVIL COUNSEL.

PRINCE ROBERT, the King's eldest son, who was of a fiery and hasty temper, was one day engaged in conversation with Alberic de Grentmesnil (a young nobleman who had been deprived of all his estates by William, and who, therefore, bore an inveterate enmity against the Conqueror) when his younger brothers, William and Henry, called to him from a window of the Château d'Aigle (where the Royal Family were then residing) to come upstairs, and amuse himself with them: Robert joyfully obeyed the call; and, after a few hours merriment, was returning with Alberic to the Court, when William and Henry took it into their heads to throw some water over him as he passed under the archway below their window. For a moment Robert stopped, and coloured with vexation; but immediately recovering himself, was about to continue without taking any notice of it, when Alberic stepped before him, and exclaimed: "My lord, you will surely not submit to such a bold insult, or else you have not the courageous disposition for which I have hitherto given you credit." Stung by the reproach, and irritated, Robert instantly drew his sword, and vowing vengeance against his brothers, rushed upstairs. A tumult and confusion ensued, which even the King himself could not quell; and Robert, angrily leaving the Castle, assembled an army and openly revolted against his father.

* By some called Agatha.

† Sandford, in his Genealogical History of the Kings of England, gives Gundred as fifth daughter of William the First. It is supposed by some, however, that she was only his step-daughter, the child of Queen Matilda, by a former marriage.