

**ROYAL SCHOOL SERIES.
THE ROYAL HISTORY
READERS. NO. II. ENGLAND,
1154 TO 1603 A. D.**

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THE ROYAL
HISTORY READERS.

No. II.

ENGLAND, 1154 to 1603 A.D.



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* The outline of English History contained in these three Readers is also issued separately, under the title "A Simple History of England," to suit those who wish to have the leading facts in the history of our country presented *briefly in one book.*

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No. XI.—ENGLAND FROM 1154 TO 1603.

THE PLANTAGENETS—HOUSE OF ANJOU.

1.—HENRY II.—CURTMANTLE.

1154 to 1189 A. D.—35 years.

1. Henry the Second, the first Plantagenet King, was the son of Geoffrey,¹ Count of Anjou, and Maud, daughter of Henry the First. He was the most powerful King of his time—ruling not only England, but also the greater part of France. He also subdued Wales and Ireland.

2. His first care was to lessen the power of the barons; and this he did by causing many of their castles to be destroyed. Then, wishing to rule the clergy, he took into his favour a priest named Thomas Becket—a Norman by birth, and son of a wealthy London merchant—gave him great wealth and power, and made him Archbishop of Canterbury.

3. But Becket, when he had got this great power,