



The Oriel Historical Reader, Book Four Norman and Plantagenet Periods, 1066-1485

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1894 Excerpt: ...from the King, after a great deal of resistance on his part, the Confirmation of the Charters, and also this important concession--that the King should not impose taxes without the consent of Parliament. This forms such a great step in the progress of the people, that it stands second only to Magna Charta. 6. These are four of the greatest constitutional changes in this reign but there were many other ways in which Edward benefitted the country. He followed the example of Henry II., in causing the freemen to be provided with arms for the defence of the land. 7. Thus we see that Edward's reign was a time for great laws, and people had begun to study law in the whole of Europe at this time. Edward was a great and wise king. He had a true love for his people, and was much beloved by them. We are told how, in one of his campaigns, he lay on the bare ground with his soldiers, and at another time he would not drink from a cask of wine, because it was the only one left, and he would not fare any better than his men. His boast was that he always kept his word yet his chief fault was that he was apt to try and avoid keeping promises that he made, if he could do so without exactly breaking his word. Although he often held out for a long time against the reforms which were demanded by the people, he knew when to yield, and was always ready to own himself in the wrong. 8. The Jews had long been hated by the people, and had often been harshly treated, and even massacred. All sorts of crimes were laid to their charge. They gained wealth by lending money out at interest. This was forbidden to them they were also prohibited from eating with Christians, and from building synagogues. The hatred felt towards the Jews grew more and more bitter, till at last Edward banished...

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