

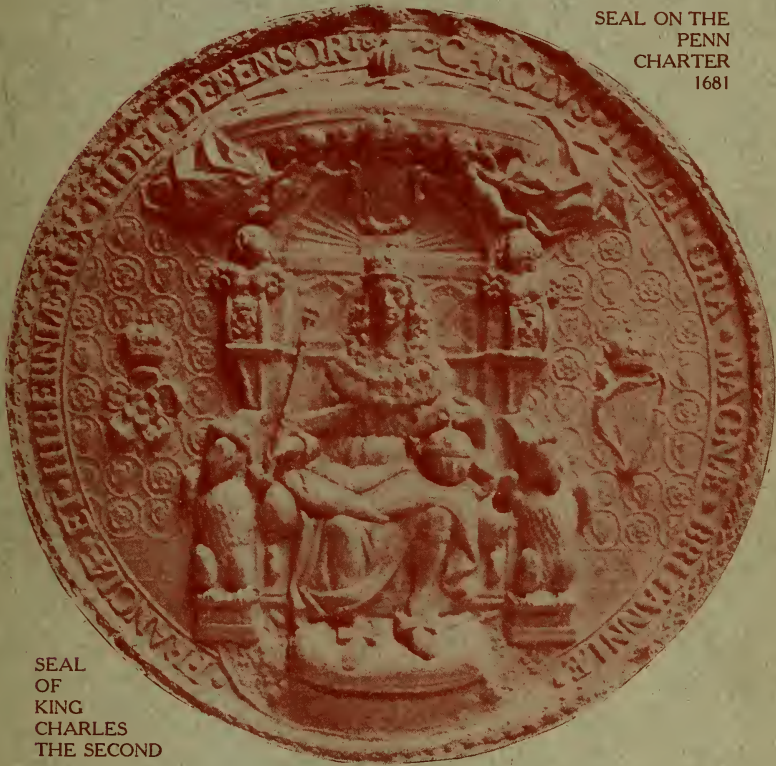
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HANDBOOK
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM AND SCHOOL
OF INDUSTRIAL ART

SEAL ON THE
PENN
CHARTER
1681



SEAL
OF
KING
CHARLES
THE SECOND

THE GREAT
SEALS OF ENGLAND
AND SOME OTHERS

FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

By CHARLES E. DANA



ART HANDBOOK
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM AND SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL ART

THE GREAT SEALS OF
ENGLAND
AND SOME OTHERS.

BY
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BOOK PLATES AND HISTORIC SEALS.

ILLUSTRATED.



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PREFACE.

All the Seals exhibited in the Museum of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art having a glazed surface, which is produced by a sulphur solution, were obtained by the writer from the French Government, and are copies of those in the National Archives, in Paris. That collection, numbering more than fifty thousand specimens, is unique; no other is so systematically arranged, thereby enabling the student to devote his time solely to the class he is most interested in for the moment, be it Royal Seals, French or foreign, those of the great Feudatories, Ecclesiastical, Municipal or other, each class being displayed by itself and fairly well labeled.

The "Archives Nationales" are housed in the superb palace of the Princes of Rohan-Soubise, in the "Marais," once the aristocratic quarter of Paris, even yet the most interesting to the historian and the antiquary. There is no other "Hôtel" in Paris comparable to it. The great entrance court forms a statelier approach than that of any royal palace in this city of palaces. The grand stairway and state apartments, practically intact, give one a very fair idea of the regal splendor formerly existing in the homes of the great French nobles.

The limited size of this Hand-Book forced me to omit many interesting and amusing adventures of the English Great Seals. The names of some of the many authorities to whom I am indebted will be found at the end of the volume.

C. E. D.

PHILADELPHIA, September 1st, 1904.



SEALS.

We have a right to assume that a Seal is, in all probability, as accurate a representation of the owner as the art of his day was capable of. It was seen and approved by him before being used. It was unquestionably contemporaneous and was executed, no doubt, by the best available artist. It must therefore be, what was considered by those best able to judge, a good likeness; it represents, in addition, the correct costume and the art of the period; this cannot be said of anything else until about the middle of the XV Century.

Painted portraits, of most dubious authenticity, begin, say, about the middle of the XIV Century. To one familiar with the dazzling Henry V. (died 1423); with that hero of song and romance, "the young and brave Dunois" (died 1468); with John "the Good" (died 1364), it is an utter impossibility to believe that the unpleasant suggestions of humanity bequeathed to us by the much belauded "Primitives" (early painters), are portraits, in our sense of the word, of those heroes.

The miniatures in the old missals were done in the dreamy quiet of the Scriptorium by monks, at best from vague descriptions of the originals, or were mere conventional semblances of what the old monks thought a warrior or a king ought to look like. Sculpture is better, for here we have the work of the same artist who made the Seal; unfortunately, many of the portrait statues, effigies on tombs, were from memory, done long after the death of the persons represented,—while, as I said before, the Seal was, with the rarest possible exceptions, contemporaneous.

It was, and in many cases still is, of vast importance. The Great Seal of England was supposed to be endowed with magic power; with it the King could do anything; with-

out it, nothing; he could not even govern. To counterfeit it was treason; the punishment, to be "hanged, drawn and quartered."

Those hazy great ones of yore, like William the Conqueror, Richard of the Lion Heart, and others, to whom distance lends such a glow of enchantment, were veritable savages; to them the laborious scrawling of their names, as a five-year old child of today might do, was an unknown accomplishment, so they fell back on Seals, and by the middle of the XII Century Seals were the universal means of authenticating documents. The wicked John of England *sealed, not signed*, on June 15th, 1215, the Magna Charta. The earliest *signed* English document is that of the unfortunate Richard II. (murdered 1400), though his father, Edward the Black Prince, knight "without fear and without reproach," has left us a warrant (1370) upon which he has written, "de par Homent Ich Dien," given by Homent, Ich Dien (his two mottoes). What does Homent (usually "Houmont") mean, and what Ich Dien (I serve)? That alas, the Prince has not told us.

The Great Seal of England was originally about three inches in diameter; today its size is doubled. It started archaic but sincere; in the XIV and XV Centuries it became rich and artistic; it is now wanting in relief and weakly decadent. The wax is contained in a box, called a "skippet" or "fender," to better preserve the precious but fragile Seal, which is attached to its parchment document by cords woven through holes therein, the ends of which cords pass through the waxen Seal, so that either parchment, Seal or cords must be mutilated to separate them. It is said that the color of the wax betokens the permanent or temporary character of the document; be that as it may, red is the color most commonly used.

The Seal must be attached to all documents to which His Majesty, as Sovereign, gives his royal assent;—these are, treaties with foreign powers, charters of towns or institu-

tions, appointments of colonial governors, "congés d'élire," etc., etc. The congé d'élire is one of those funny fictions England so abounds in. When a new bishop is appointed by the Government and the matter is absolutely settled, his name, and a congé d'élire (permission to elect the bishop) is sent to the Chapter of the Cathedral over which he is to preside, so that the assembled Dean and Canons may enact the innocent comedy of an election, if it gives them any pleasure.

The Penn Charter is the royal document with which we are most familiar. Such were executed in triplicate. The one which belonged to Penn is preserved in Harrisburg, lacking, by some mischance, the all important Seal. That colossal bronze disc, supposed to represent the Seal, which dangles from the Charter beside the gigantic bronze William Penn on the top of the City Hall, Philadelphia, combines two most important errors: The sculptor made a Seal which in no wise resembles any Great Seal ever used in England, and then, to add to the absurdity, put upon this Charter of 1681 the coat-of-arms of *Queen Victoria*, absolutely unknown before the year 1837. The true Seal, that of Charles II., is represented on the cover of this handbook.

The Penn Charter when it left the Privy Council, was folded in a peculiar manner and encircled by a ribbon of parchment, which passed through a slit cut in the document; the ends of this ribbon were sealed together as well as to the Charter itself by the "Privy Seal." Thus it went to the Lord Chancellor. His voucher was the Privy Seal, which he was forced to destroy in order to open the document; as this Seal always had to be broken, not a single example of it can be found. The Lord Chancellor wrote at the foot of the Charter, "Recepi, 4 March, 1680," (sometimes he added his signature) and this was the authority to the Clerk of the Patents for making the very handsome, engrossed copy now at Harrisburg, and suspending therefrom the Great Seal of England.

This mode of attaching Seals, by a cord or ribbon of

leather, silk or parchment, came in a little before A.D. 1100. Documents exist from which 39 and even 59 seals dangle. The earlier way of attaching the Seal was to make two cuts, crosswise, in the document. The corners thus formed were turned back; a sheet of soft wax was applied on the face side, a smaller sheet on the back. The two matrices were then pressed against the two sheets of wax and this, meeting through the space formed by the turned down corners, made a sort of rivet of wax. The smaller matrix was called the *Secretum*. Such Seals are sometimes found in the very middle of a document, but are usually on the lower edge, which is doubled back to make it stronger.

Until the XI or XII Century pure wax was used, then coloring matter was added, white, red, green, black or blue. In the accounts of the Archbishop of Rouen we find the proportions for wax for the official Seal,—50 lbs. of bees-wax, 2 lbs. of coloring matter, 16 lbs. of rosin; the last makes the mixture very brittle. Some twenty years ago the English Parliament passed an Act permitting, from motives of economy, the use of a wafer.

The matrices of the Great Seal of England look very much like a pair of waffle-irons. They were formerly made of copper, but, since 1818, have been of silver; weight about 185 ozs., value, of the metal, say, \$150. Gold, silver, bronze, copper, iron, pewter, ivory, jet, etc., have been used for matrices. Those for the leaden Seals or bullæ, attached to Papal documents (from whence "Papal Bulls" or edicts) were of tempered steel, as, in this case, the impression was made on cold metal. Gold and silver Seals were sometimes used.

In England the first act of a new sovereign is to order a new Seal. When this is finished the old one undergoes a process called "damasking"; it is supposed to be broken; in reality it receives but a gentle tap from a hammer wielded by the sovereign, in the presence of the Privy Council, after which it becomes the perquisite of the Lord Chancellor.

Except during the Commonwealth, there has been, since the days of William the Conqueror, an unbroken series of Great Seals, each with the Sovereign enthroned on the "obverse," or principal side, and on horse-back, in full armor, on the "reverse." All national or knightly Seals were round; ecclesiastical and some queenly seals were elliptical, though usually pointed; a few Seals are square.

The very early Seals are interesting but less instructive than the ones we are studying. William of Champagne, Archbishop of Sens (XII Century), sealed with a most beautiful bust of Venus. A head of Caracalla was christianized by the words "O Petros." Charlemagne (died 815) is said to have sealed treaties with the pommel of his sword, adding the remark, "and with the point I will maintain it."

The most beautiful Seals, artistically, are those of the Queens of France. The richest, heraldically, those of the Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire (of Germany). One of the most elaborate known (not in the collection) is that of Boxgrove Priory, Sussex. It is of the "vesica" shape (pointed at top and bottom like two gothic arches united at their springing line). Vesica Piscis means fish's bladder. The term may possibly have been employed because the fish was a symbol of our Lord. On the obverse is the Virgin enthroned. Reverse, the west front of the church with all its minute richness of gothic tracery, while through the windows is seen the interior, with its shrines. Four matrices were required, the first for the obverse; the second for the interior of the church; the third for the west front, which when cool was fitted to the second; the fourth for the legend.

In early times the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal was an ecclesiastic of high rank. On receiving office the Seal was hung about his neck and he was enjoined to "use it to the honor of God and his Sovereign," upon which he sallied forth and used it energetically for his own benefit, since no document "passed the Great Seal" until a big fee was paid

the Lord Keeper. By Act of Elizabeth the offices of Lord Keeper and Lord Chancellor were united.

The ceremony of the delivery of the Great Seal to-day, though not impressive is most important. The lucky lawyer selected is called into the royal presence; on a table near the King is a morocco covered box containing the Great Seal. His Majesty waves one royal hand toward this, intimating that the lawyer is to take possession of it; this done, the lawyer kisses one of the royal hands and retires, backwards of course, from the royal presence, bearing the Great Seal and the title of Lord High Chancellor, with the right to a salary of \$50,000 a year. In addition, he is Speaker of the House of Lords, has an enormous patronage in Church and State, is the keeper of the royal conscience and second subject in the realm, the Archbishop of Canterbury being the first. The Lord Chancellor is supposed, another pleasing fiction, to carry the Seal about with him wherever he goes; in reality he locks it up in a specially secure safe, and the beautifully embroidered purse with the royal arms upon it, a unique piece of art-needlework, made to carry the Seal—is empty. For each session of Parliament there is a new purse. Lord Thurlow, Chancellor from 1778 to 1792, a period of stormy days and frequent sessions, received so many purses that it is said Lady Thurlow was able to make several magnificent counterpanes, as well as bed-hangings, from these rare works of art.

When the Chancellor enters the House of Lords, he is followed by his Purse Bearer in full court costume. The empty bag is solemnly placed behind him, so that all the world may see that he still has the Great Seal,—though not with him. The Great Seal must never leave the country, and as it must never leave the Lord Chancellor, it follows that that officer, while Lord Chancellor, is a prisoner, sealed to the United Kingdom.

Among the many comfortable sinecures of England is the office of "Clerk of the Chafe Wax," whose important duty

it is to soften the wax needed for the Great Seal, over a charcoal fire in a chafing brazier.

OFFA. The earliest impression of a Seal used by a Sovereign in England, is that of Offa (reigned 757 to 796) King of Mercia. Very roughly, Mercia extended from a little North of Liverpool to a little South of the River Severn; from the Welsh border eastward, one-third across England. The Seal is from the King's signet ring, and is attached to a charter dated 790, confirming a grant of land in Sussex to the abbey of St. Denis, France. The word "Rex," king, can be made out in front of the profile. Offa was the first British Sovereign to make yearly payments to Rome, and Pope Hadrian I. described him as "King of the English," probably the first use of that title. He drove the Britons back into Wales and built a line of fortresses, which was known as "Offa's Dike," along the Eastern frontier of that turbulent principality. He braved the anger of the great Emperor Charlemagne and his treaty for the protection of English merchants and pilgrims is the first monument of English foreign diplomacy. His laws were so just (he disregarded them himself and gained his throne by murder) that they were adopted by Alfred the Great.

EDGAR "The Peaceable," "King of the English" (944 to 975). This seal is a Roman gem bearing a bust in profile; it is from another charter in favor of the abbey of St. Denis, date 960. Edgar became king about 958. He was crowned at Bath, 973, and later eight vassal British princes rowed his barge on the River Dee. His Archbishop of Canterbury was the celebrated St. Dunstan, who was fortunate enough to catch the devil by the nose with a pair of red-hot pincers. The devil in olden times was easily put to shame, but has developed very considerably since then.

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR. Born about 1004, died 1066. A "Confessor" is one who confesses Christianity in times of danger but escapes martyrdom. This is the first *pendant*, English, royal Seal and consequently has two sides,

though there is but slight difference between them. On both sides the King is enthroned; on the obverse he holds in his right hand a sceptre terminating in a trefoil, in his left hand an orb. On the reverse he bears in his right hand the "sceptre of mercy," terminating in a dove, and in his left hand a sword, an implement he never used. The throne is a cushioned stool. The features are tolerably well marked, especially the long thin moustaches and pointed beard. There seems some reason to believe that Edward was an albino. Device on both sides, "Sigillum Edwardie Anglorum Basilei" (Seal of Edward King of the English). Note the Latinized Greek word *Basilei*; the Anglo-Saxons had a great fondness for such, so that their writings were often unintelligible to one not acquainted with Greek.

Edward married, 1044, the "Lady" Editha, daughter of Earl Godwine. The word *Queen*, which meant originally *woman* or *wife*, was not used till the reign of William the Conqueror. Edward was almost a monk and left no heirs, his senseless vow bringing untold misery upon his country. His principal monument is St. Peter's Church, better known to us as Westminster Abbey.

There is no Seal of Harold, brother to Lady Editha, the last English king for many a year to come. He reigned from the beginning of January, 1066, till an arrow pierced his brain just as the evening was closing in, on the heights above Senlac (battle of Hastings, October 14, 1066). He fell at the foot of the Dragon Standard, and the English army slowly and sullenly went out into the night,—and England became Norman.

WILLIAM I., or the Conqueror, or the Bastard. (Born 1027. Died 1087.) His father was called Robert the Magnificent (sometimes, but erroneously, "Robert the Devil") on account of his very extravagant habits, shoeing his mule with golden shoes when he entered Byzantium, and such like vagaries. Walking one day near the town of Falaise (Normandy) he was so much struck by the beauty of Arlotta,

daughter of a tanner of the town, as she, at a little rivulet, attended to the family wash, that she became the mother of William the Conqueror.

This is the first typical English seal. On the obverse William is seated on a stool-like throne. In his right hand he holds a sword, which he rarely laid aside. In his left, an orb surmounted by a cross. Legend, "Hoc Normanorum Willel-mum nosce Patronum si" (By this sign know that William of the Normans is [your] master). Reverse, mounted on a most woodeny horse. In his right hand the short Norman lance (frequently used as a javelin), with a striped pennon. Left hand, the long, pear-shaped, pointed, Norman shield. As heraldic devices did not appear for another 100 years, William shows only the *inside* of his shield. He wears the pointed helmet of his race and the hauberk, or long shirt, made of several thicknesses of linen, on which steel rings, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, were sewn; a far from bad substitute for chain-mail. For some reason William is the only Norman who wears hose made of similar mail. There is considerable doubt as to the cut of this "hauberk" (see the Bayeux Tapestry, of which the Museum possesses a very fine fac-simile), whether it ended in short breeches, a most awkward garment to get in or out of, or whether it was a shirt, slit up in front and behind for convenience in riding. Legend, "Hoc Anglis regem signo fatearis eundem," (By this Seal know the real King of England (?)). Notice that priority is given to "Patron" or "Protector" of Normandy over "Rex" or King of England. The difference, which occurs here for the first time between ruler of the people and ruler of the country, counts for much amongst sovereigns; see Napoleon, Louis Philippe, etc. Notice also, on the obverse, that William is far from thin (see Plate I).

WILLIAM II. Born 1056-1060. King 1087. Died 1100. Called "Rufus" or the Red, on account of his ruddy complexion. Son of the Conqueror and Matilda his "Queen." Seal much like his father's. Obverse, on each side of the

Plate I.



William the Conqueror, p. 12.
Canterbury Cathedral,
murder of à Becket, p. 48.

William Rufus, p. 13.
City of Dunwich, p. 48.

Henry II, p. 16.
City of Southampton, p. 48.

head an ornament known as a "six-leaved, encircled." Legend same on either side, "Willelmus Dei Gratia Rex Angloru" (William, by the Grace of God King of the English). A good soldier, but a bad king. Brutal, profligate, extravagant; "loathsome to well nigh all his people" (English Chronicles). One cannot help admiring his arrogant courage; hearing of a rebellion in Normandy, despite a fierce gale, with a few companions he sprang into a slight skiff and ordered them to cross the English Channel. To their plaintive remonstrances he contemptuously replied, "Kings never drown."

He was intensely hated and one August morning (1100) his body was found in a glade in the New Forest (northwest of Southampton), pierced by a cross-bow bolt. Walter Tyrrel, it was said, fired at a buck, the bolt struck a tree, glanced and killed the King. Was there really that helpful tree? Tyrrel left for parts unknown while England rejoiced. The body "dripping gore" was brought to Winchester "in a crazy two wheeled cart of a charcoal burner, drawn by a sorry nag." . . . "He was buried with scant honors and dry eyes." His tomb is as inconvenient an obstacle in the choir of Winchester Cathedral today as he himself was to all good works when living. Those who are interested in Rufus can see assorted bits of him in the delightfully quaint old Cathedral library (see Plate I).

HENRY I. Born 1068. King 1100. Died 1135. Henry, the younger brother of Rufus, was hunting that same day in the New Forest. When the news of the King's death was brought him he did not waste any unnecessary tears, but galloped to Winchester, seized the treasury and had himself proclaimed King. He was called "Beauclerc" (Good Scholar), because he could actually read and write! Born at Selby in Yorkshire, he was English. His first wife, Matilda or Maud, was a direct descendant of the Saxon king Edgar (see p. 11), so that in the veins of her two children, William and Matilda, ran the blood of Alfred the Great (901).

Henry's Seal differs little from that of his brother Rufus, save in the legend, where "Henricus" replaces "Willelmus." Henry introduced a number of reforms in the government, so that, as kings went in those days, he was not a bad one. His life was cruelly crushed by a great sorrow; his only son, together with his natural daughter Margaret, were both lost in the sinking of the ship "Blanch Nef" (White Ship). When Henry heard the news he fell into a swoon and never smiled again. The word *nave* as applied to that portion of a church west of the transepts comes from the same root as "Nef" (Latin *navis*, a ship).

MAUD, Henry's only surviving child, married the German Emperor Henry V. (son of the Henry who paid the unpleasant visit to Canossa). The Emperor died childless and Maud married Geoffry, son of Fulk d'Anjou, the one enemy Beauclerc really feared. The Anjou family badge was the *broom plant*, so common throughout all France. *Planta genista*, from whence Plantagenet.

STEPHEN OF BLOIS. Born 1105. King 1135. Died 1154. Adela, a daughter of the Conqueror, married a Count of Blois (on the river Loire, in France); Stephen was their son. Except the substitution of the name "Stephanus" for "Henricus" there is little difference in the new Seal. On the reverse, for some unknown reason, Stephen turns his shield so that one sees half the front; as there is nothing on it one wonders why he does this.

Maud claimed the throne for her infant son Henry, grandson of Henry Beauclerc. He is known as "Henry Fitz (son of) Empress" and later as Henry II. Until 1152 England was a prey to warring factions, then a treaty was made by which Stephen kept the throne during his lifetime but recognized Henry as his heir.

HENRY II., of Anjou. The first of the Plantagenets. Born 1133. King 1154. Died 1189. Known as "Curt Mantel" (short mantle) because he introduced the short Angevin cloak in place of the long one worn by the Normans.

Seal same as that of Henry I., except, on reverse; legend reads, "Henricus Dei Gra Dux Normanorum et Aquit et Com Andeg" (Henry by the grace of God Duke of the Normans and Aquitanians and Count of the Angevins). Henry called himself English and was even known as "Ætheling," the Saxon for eldest son, or "Prince of Wales." He married Eleanor of Aquitaine, the divorced wife of Louis VII. of France; she was the greatest heiress in Europe, though she had her disadvantages, so that the King of France, her former husband, when deprived of her rich dower, found himself ruler over only a little land crowded in between Normandy and the river Somme on the north, the Loire on the south, Brittany on the west and the Meuse on the east (see Plate I).

RICHARD I., "Cœur de Lion"; why? nobody seems to know. Third son of Henry II. Born 1157. King 1189. Died 1199. First Seal; Obverse, King wears a close fitting tunic, loose surcoat embroidered at the neck and arms; over all a cloak. Crown with three points "fleury" (flowered), without arches. Holds sword and orb. Throne more elaborate than those of his predecessors. Either side of the head a crescent enclosing a star; this is a knightly emblem of purity (*crescent*, attribute of the Virgin and of Diana), and lofty desires (*star*). It has nothing to do with the Turks, who were then but wild savage troops of irregulars fighting in the Saracen armies, and did not adopt the crescent till after the capture of Constantinople (1453), the crescent having been the emblem of that city. On either side of the throne is a sprig of broom, the *planta genista*. Legend, translated,— "Richard by the grace of God King of the English." Reverse, the usual mounted figure; he wears a hauberk of real chain mail. Whether such was introduced at this time, or was known to the Greeks and Romans, is disputed. No *plate* armor of any kind whatever was then worn. The pointed helm with the *nazai* (nose guard) is as in the time of the Conqueror. Note the surcoat hanging below the hauberk (see Plate II).

Richard shows half of his shield, and on this is plainly visible a *lion rampant* ("contourné," i. e. looking toward the heraldic left). Unquestionably there was a corresponding lion on the invisible side of the shield, heraldically described as "two lions combatant" (fighting). This is the first appearance of English *royal heraldry*. The first heraldic device at present known is on a charter (dated 1170) of Philip I., count of Flanders. Legend (translated),—"Richard Duke of the Normans and Aquitanians (?), Count of the Angevins."

Second Seal. In 1190 Richard went Crusading (Third Crusade), a popular amusement in those days. He took with him his Vice-Chancellor Malchien, who carried the first Seal in a bag suspended from his neck. During a violent storm off Cyprus, Malchien and the seal went to the bottom. Richard, the knight errant, was the hero of many romantic adventures, such as capturing Cyprus and its Sovereign, marrying the beautiful Berengaria, fighting that most knightly of Saracens, Saladin; not capturing Jerusalem, but riding to the "Mount Joy," from whence his followers could see the Holy City, while he drew his cloak over his eyes, refusing to look upon what he could not redeem. Shipwrecked in the Adriatic, made prisoner near Vienna, confined in the dreary dungeons of Dürrenstein, said to have been discovered by the troubadour Blondel, ransomed for about half a million of our money of today. His amiable brother John had ruled England in such a way that when he received from his royal "pal" of France, a curt note, "Beware, the Devil's unchained," and knew that Richard was coming, his sensations were the very reverse of pleasant. John's "pal," Philip Augustus, became later, his implacable foe.

Richard arrived in London March 16, 1194, and ordered a new Seal immediately. Obverse; slight difference in the drapery; fleur-de-lis on the sides of the throne. Crescent on the right; a sun of 16 rays on the left; no *planta genista*. Reverse, horse more spirited. The full shield is displayed and on it, plain to be seen by all, *three lions* ("passant, gardant,

in pale”), the first appearance of the *Royal Arms of England*; and so they have remained until this day. The helmet is of the keg-like description, called a “heaume”; this was thickly padded in the top, the whole weight resting on the crown of the head. Small slits or holes in front (“ocularia”) enabled the wearer to see. This cumbersome defence was carried at the saddle-bow and only put on, with regret, in time of danger. The top is flat and spanned by what seems an arch of feathers; under this appears for the first time, the *Royal Crest of England*, the Crowned Lion.

Most of the words in heraldry are either French or a mongrel of old French and English, frequently modified by ignorance. In French Heraldry a “lion” was the animal of that name, walking, with all four feet on the ground, his face in profile. If he happened to look at you he became a “leopard” (in English Heraldry, “passant gardant”); why, is unknown, as he remains unspotted. This gives rise to considerable confusion because the English lions, described by a Frenchman, are always “leopards.”

JOHN. Born 1167. King 1199. Died 1216. “Lackland,” a name given him by his father,—“Johans Sanz Terre,” John Lackland, because Henry had portioned out his broad domains to his four sons before John, his fifth son, was born. The worst king we have met. His Seal does not differ materially from his brother Richard’s, only he becomes ruler of the land and not of the people; “Johannes Dei Gracia Rex Anglie et Dominus Hibernie” (John by the grace of God King of England and Lord of Ireland). Reverse, translation, “John Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, Count of Anjou.” This Seal is particularly interesting because it was attached to the Magna Charta, upon which the liberties of our race are founded, June 15th, 1215.

HENRY III. Son of John. Born 1207. King 1216. Died 1272. This Seal is from a charter dated 1219, Henry being then only 12 years old. It is but a fragment though far better artistically than any other we have met. It gives,



Edward I. p. 21.

Henry III. p. 19.

Knights Templars. p. 51.

Richard I. p. 17.

Henry VIII. p. 25.

no doubt, a very fair idea of the appearance of the author of so much trouble to his country (see Plate II).

EDWARD I. Called "Longshanks" on account of his size; "Hammer of the Scots," on account of the way he smashed that unfortunate people. Eldest son of the preceding. Born 1239. King 1272. Died 1307. He gave his baby son, born in Cænarvon, a Welsh castle, to the Welsh as their prince. Since then the eldest son of the King has always been "created Prince of Wales." Edward was a good soldier and by his recognition of the capabilities of the *long-bow* founded the Archers of England, sturdy yeomen who made English armies invincible for three hundred years. His motto was "Pactum Serva," (keep thy promise). Seal does not differ much from that of Henry III. Note the crowned helmet. This same Seal was used by his son Edward II., who was so fearfully beaten at Bannockburn (1314, by Robert Bruce, King of Scotland) and was, in 1327, brutally murdered in Berkley Castle. Edward II.'s mother was a daughter of Ferdinand III., King of Castile; for that reason he added the two castles (arms of Castile) on the obverse. Edward II. married Isabella, daughter of Philip IV., King of France. Her three brothers died without male heirs. The "Salic Law," which prevails in France, forbids a woman to reign, nor can the right to reign be transmitted through a woman. In spite of this law Edward III. (Isabella's son) claimed the throne of France, knowing perfectly that he had no right to it. This trumped-up claim brought on the "Hundred Years War," in which those tremendous victories of the English long-bow, Crécy, Poitiers, Agincourt, were episodes. The English sovereigns bore the arms of France and the title of "King of France," until January 1st, 1801, the year of the union with Ireland (see Plate II).

EDWARD III. Born 1312. King 1327. Died 1377. First used his father's Seal, but indulged later in seven others. That exhibited is one of the most beautiful Gothic Seals of England. I quote from a description by Allan Wyon,

F.S.A., Chief Engraver of "Her Majesty's Seals:" "You see the King enthroned, crowned, holding in his right hand a sceptre terminating in a reliquary, and in his left an orb, on which is a cross crosslet at the end of a long stem. In the central niche of the canopy of the throne is a half figure . . . holding up the hand in benediction. In the side niches are oak trees, in the leaves of which is a bird, and on the ground at the base is a greyhound. From the upper part of each tree is suspended a shield, charged with the arms of France and England quarterly. Two lions séjant are beside the King . . . above . . . on the right the Blessed Virgin with the Holy Child; on the left . . . St. George. Further from the centre are men-at-arms. Reverse (or "Counter Seal") . . . Attention is called to the elegant fan-crest—to the inner border enriched with a series of 24 cusps, the spandrils filled with tracery, the whole forming a beautiful rose. In place of a cross to mark the commencement of the legend is the hand blessing. This seal with altered legends continued to be one of the Great Seals of England for 111 years . . . "

RICHARD II. ("Of Bordeaux," younger son of Edward the Black Prince, grandson of Edward III. Born 1367. King 1377. Murdered at Pontefract Castle 1400). "In 1377 Richard II. altered the letters EDW. to RIC., thus altering the name Edwardus to Ricardus, and continued the use of the seal throughout his reign."

HENRY IV. ("Bolingbroke," because born at that place 1367). King 1400. Died of that loathsome disease leprosy 1413. Was doubly a usurper. Richard was rightful king but left no heirs. Henry IV. was son of that evil politician, John of Gaunt, *fourth* son of Edward III. But the Duke of Clarence, *third* son, left heirs who had a prior claim. "Henry IV. having altered RICARDUS to HENRICUS used this Seal (Richard II.'s) for about nine years. In 1408 he had a new Seal made." Mr. Wyon then gives a very long description of what he considers the symbolism of this Seal; I

shall not quote further than to say that a steady improvement in the workmanship may be noted. In a sharp impression the resemblance to the effigy on Henry's tomb in Canterbury Cathedral is said to be striking.

Obverse, above the King is the figure of the Virgin and Child, a king and a martyr on either side. Lower down, St. Michael and St. George. Below these, St. Edward the Confessor and St. Edmund the Martyr, angels holding their (purely imaginary) coats of arms. Arms of Wales, Cornwall and Chester on base of throne. Legend, translation: "Henry by the Grace of God King of England and France, Duke of Ireland." Henry, according to Mr. Wyon, hoped this distinguished collection of saints would, in return for the honor thus done them, forget their principles and support the usurper. The matrices were of gold. Seal about 5 inches in diameter.

HENRY V. Born 1387. King 1413. Died 1422. Used the same Seal as his father. Probably the noblest king England ever had. Shakspeare's account of his youthful escapades is amusing but untrue. He adopted, and was confirmed by the King of France in, the title, "Henricus Rex Angliæ et Hæres Franciæ" (Henry King of England and Heir of France).

HENRY VI. Born 1421. King 1422. Murdered 1471. Became King at the age of one year. Crowned a second time, in Paris, 1430. It was during this reign that Joan of Arc, "Maid of Orleans," the sweetest and most pathetic character of the middle ages appeared. At the head of the armies of France, which up to that time actually cowered before the English, she gained those brilliant victories which now seem little short of miraculous. Charles the Dauphin, "King of Bourges" his enemies called him in derision, was dragged, trembling, by Joan to Rheims and there crowned King of France. Charles VII., the "Victorious," the French call him; few indeed would have been his victories had it not been for the skill and the courage of the

Maid of Orleans; yet when she was captured, probably through French treachery, he let her be burned for what she had done for him and made not a single effort to save her,—nor did any other of the so-called “Chivalry of France.”

EDWARD IV. Born at Rouen, 1441. King 1461. Died 1481. And called, he was so handsome, “The Rose of Rouen.” Edward was Earl of March, son of Richard, Duke of York and true heir to the throne, the usurping House of Lancaster retiring for the moment. Those were stirring times; the “Wars of the Roses,” York white, Lancaster red, were depopulating England. Edward’s brother Clarence was much addicted to Malmsey wine; he was found drowned in a butt of it. Such a pleasantly original murder (?). Warwick, “the King Maker,” lived a strenuous life and gave it up on the field of Barnet. Caxton introduced printing into England. Verily there were giants in those days; unfortunately there were tyrants. England was, according to one of the shrewdest of observers, Philippe de Commines, the best ordered monarchy in Europe. Edward IV. changed all that, and the limited monarchy became a very absolute one.

Seal. Obverse, Edward enthroned with a mace-shaped sceptre in the right hand. On each side the arms of England and France quarterly. Below, two lions or lions’ faces. In the outer niches two men-at-arms. On either side, below the King’s feet, a “rose en soleil” (rose with rays, like the sun), King Edward’s badge. Legend as usual. Reverse, King on horse-back in full *plate armor*, the Lion of England for crest. The sur-coat of the rider and the drapery of the horse richly embroidered with the fleurs-de-lis (lilies) of France and the lions of England. Three ostrich feathers surmount the *champfrein* (horse’s face-guard). A mound of broken ground with a rabbit warren, at his feet. Back-ground “diapered” (patterned, richly ornamented) with lilies, lions’ heads, roses. Legend the same. Armor by this time had reached its perfection; it was made throughout of steel plates deftly fitted to the figure or limb; light (war armor 50 lbs. and up-

wards), flexible and resisting. The champfrein was the piece upon which the owner lavished his finest jewels. Cost of a suit, from about \$200 of our money up to thousands. The sword is always a clumsy weapon, in the nature of a club, for breaking armor.

RICHARD III. Born 1452. King 1483. Killed at the Battle of Bosworth 1485, where his very corpse was insulted by his cold-blooded rival Henry VII. Seal, same as the second (1478) of Edward IV., with the change of "RICAR" for "EDWAR," making the legend read "Ricardus," etc. Richard was the last Yorkist to mount the throne and all of us, unintentionally no doubt, form our ideas of him from Shakspeare, forgetting that he wrote in Elizabeth's time; she, a violent Lancastrian, his object was to curry favor with that masterful lady by any and all means. Richard is painted for us as a hideous, deformed monster of iniquity. Lady Desmond, who in her youth had danced with Richard, states "that with the exception of his brother the King, acknowledged to be very handsome, there was no better looking gentleman in the whole court"; this is further strengthened by the existing portraits, which, though far from flattering, are, at least, not deformed. While the murder of the two young Princes in the Tower is in the first rank for cold-blooded cruelty, Henry VII., Richard's successor, was quite his equal for ordinary treachery, murder and brutality. Whatever his reasons may have been, Richard's short rule was most liberal. Parliament resumed its important place and some of his laws might be imitated by us with very great advantage, such as the admission, free of duty, of all books and other things of an educational nature.

The next Seal which need detain us is that of HENRY VIII., "Bluff King Hal," the much married one, whom Charles Dickens describes as a "blot of blood and grease on the history of England." Born 1491. King 1509. Died 1547. These Seals of Henry VIII. tell a most important and most interesting story. Henry married (1509) Catherine of

Aragon, his brother's widow (illegal, but the Pope gave him a dispensation). His early seals bear the usual legend, with the additional two words, which remain to this day part of the title of British sovereigns, "Fidei Defensor," Defender of the Faith (the Roman Catholic Faith, of course). This was given by Pope Leo X. as a reward for Henry's book, controverting Luther. As this Seal is of gold it is not, strictly speaking, a seal at all. It is attached to a treaty made with Francis I. at the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," 1520, and is preserved in the Rolls Office, London. In this we first meet the art of the Re-naissance (new-birth), the classic revival, which began in Italy a little before 1500 and reached England a little after 1500. Note for the first time a number after the Sovereign's name, "Henric 8." On Henry's third Seal, 1542, appear the words ". . . et in Terra Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ et Hibernæ Supremum Caput" (and in the land of the Church of England and of Ireland Supreme Head). The Pope is now no longer supreme in England and Ireland, though Henry is still "Fidei Defensor," but of the *Protestant* Faith. This phrase was the cause of the death of Sir Thomas More, Cardinal Fisher and many others, as they refused to acknowledge Henry supreme head of the Church (see Plate II).

EDWARD VI. Son of Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour, Henry's third wife, who was fortunate enough to die in giving birth to Edward. Born 1537. King 1547. Died 1553. The Seal is strikingly renaissance in design; the Gothic is past and forgotten. Obverse, on either side of the King's head are the letters "E" "R," Edwardus Rex (Edward the King). At the sides of the throne are the arms of England surrounded by the Garter, on which is the motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense" (Evil be to him who evil thinks). Legend; "Edwardus Sextus Di. Gr. Angle. Franc. et Hibnie. rex fidi. defs. et tra. ecclesie. Anglicane et Hibernie sumv. caput." Reverse, the poor little consumptive boy is represented in full armor on a richly caparisoned horse, a greyhound, one of the badges of the House of York (Wyon), running be-

neath. Behind him the crowned rose of England. In front the crowned lily of France. A mass of ostrich plumes descend from the lion-crested helmet and others surmount the horse's head. The background is richly diapered, the rose and the lily frequently appearing. Legend repeated.

MARY I. Called "Bloody Mary," but she should be judged by what was "bloody" in her own time and not by our ideas. Most certainly she did not deserve the name as much as did that coarse, selfish tyrant, her father (Henry VIII.). Obverse. Her first Seal. Underneath the seated figure, "Temporis filia veritas," (Truth the daughter of time). Legend, "Mary by the Grace of God of England, of France, and of Ireland Queen. First of her name. Defender of the Faith." Reverse, Mary on horseback in royal robes, with royal crown. Long open sleeves. The saddle has a high pommel on which rests the queen's right hand. Wide reins. Foot rest. The hanging drapery on which she is seated seems to be embroidered with the Spanish arms (of her mother, Catherine of Aragon), and the rose of England. Behind her is the lily of France crowned and in front of her horse a rosebush. Legend repeated.

PHILIP AND MARY. Philip is the merciless bigot who ruled Spain and inflicted such hideous cruelty on the Netherlands. They were an ill-assorted pair, yet Mary seems to have loved her heartless partner, to whom she was married in Winchester Cathedral, on St. James' day, 1554. It took from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. to do the deed, and for the Heralds to proclaim the royal "styles," that is, what their proper titles were. The chair in which Mary sat during the tedious ceremony is still to be seen at Winchester Cathedral. Philip soon deserted his childless Queen, and she died 1558. Seal a little over 4 inches in diameter. Obverse, King and Queen enthroned. Each with a hand on the gigantic orb between them, which rests on a pedestal, on the front of which are the letters "P. M.," Philip, Mary, bound together by a true-lovers' knot and surmounted by a crown. Above the orb,

surrounded with the Garter, are the arms of the many states they ruled over. Both personages are in full coronation robes and crowned. The King holds a sword and wears the collar of the Golden Fleece. The Queen bears a sceptre and has on the collar of the Order of the Garter. Legend, "Philip and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France, and of the two Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith." Reverse. This is exceptionally fine, the cutting amongst the best in the entire collection of the English Seals. The portrait of the Queen is very good and gives an excellent idea of her hard, coarse features. The background is richly diapered, containing the rose of England, the castle of Castile, the Lion of Leon, the lily of France and the Pomegranate of Granada. The King is in full plate armor except that he wears the flat cap of the day. Note the huge bits of the horses. Legend, "Archdukes of Austria, Burgundy, Milan, and Brabant. Counts of Hapsburg, Flanders and the Tyrol."

ELIZABETH. Born 1533. Queen 1558. Died 1603. Daughter of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, second wife. This reign forms the most brilliant epoch in English history, as Elizabeth was one of the greatest sovereigns who ever ruled England. Her Seal (the second) is about $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter. Obverse: A rather confused composition, but a most interesting study of costume. Note that Her Majesty wears the huge farthingale of that day. The figure is stiff, and were it not for the throne, which is suggested by the two ornamental knobs and the slight bulging out of the skirt at the knees, intended to indicate a sitting posture, one would think the Queen was standing. Hands celestial, emerging from clouds, hold back the royal mantle, and surrounding all is a rich riot of ornament. Reverse: The queen ambling along on her palfrey, seated upon the chair-like side-saddle which had come into fashion a century earlier, the feet resting upon a little plank ("planchette"), a most insecure seat of course. The modern form of side-saddle with the pommels

for the knees, is said to have been first used by that very disagreeable and dangerous lady, Catherine de Medicis, Queen of France (died 1589).* A very interesting point in Elizabeth's Seal is the Irish Harp above the horse's croup. This is the first appearance of the emblem of Ireland. It is said to have been adopted heraldically by Henry VIII. in place of the former device, the three crowns of de Vere, Henry thinking that the triple crowns smacked of the papacy. The Earl of Northampton, then Deputy Earl Marshal, observed that he had no affection for the change, as the best reason he could assign for it was, that "it resembled Ireland in being such an instrument that it required more cost to keep it in tune than it was worth." In front of the Harp is the French emblem, also crowned. In front of the Queen is the English Rose. Rays of light stream upon her sacred head from the clouds above. Legend, "Elizabetha Dei Gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Regina, Fidei Defensor" (see Plate III).

The STUARTS. Queen Elizabeth's aunt Margaret married James IV. of Scotland; their granddaughter was the fascinating, and probably bad, Mary Stuart. Her son, by Darnley, her second husband, whom she *blew up*, not metaphorically, was:—

JAMES I. Born 1566. King 1603. Died 1625. He can in all probability claim to be the most contemptible king who ever misgoverned England. The famous Gunpowder Plot took place in this reign. Its defeat is celebrated even yet, on the 5th of November, a sort of English Fourth of July. James accomplished one great reform, the union of the Crowns, Arms and Flags of England and Scotland, though no special credit is due him. The legal or Parliamentary union took place in 1707. Seal. Obverse: James in full

* A seal (A.D. 1260) of Alix, Duchess of Brabant, represents her hawking, on horseback, seated on a saddle, seemingly, exactly like the side-saddle of today. Another seal, that of Adele, Countess of Soissons (1186), who is also hawking, shows her riding like a man.

coronation robes; rich canopy over his head. On either side, for the first time, appear the arms of the (more or less) united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In the first quarter are the arms of France and England quarterly, used since the time of Edward III. (died 1377), and now called the "Tudor Arms," last used by Queen Elizabeth Tudor. In the second "grand quarter" the rampant lion of Scotland inside a "double tressure fleury." Third "grand quarter," the golden harp of Ireland on a blue ground, for the first time. Last, a repetition of the Tudor arms in the fourth grand quarter. On the right, a lion holding a banner blazoned with the purely imaginary arms of that semi-mythical British King, Cadwalader. The unicorn on the left bears the equally authentic arms of Edward the Confessor; "by these James intimated his sovereignty over the peoples of the ancient British and Saxon Kings who had formerly reigned in his new kingdom of England and Wales." Legend, "James by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, Ireland, Defender of the Faith." Reverse: James in full armor rushing toward his foes. He was such an admitted coward that he would not even touch a sword, so this ferocious warrior must have caused many a laugh—behind his back.

CHARLES I. Born 1600. King 1625. Died, rather suddenly, 1649. Morally much like his father; physically a great improvement, with the enormous advantage of Van Dyke for his portrait painter. "Charles the Martyr"; others think that he got just what he deserved. The portrait on the Seal is quite good, though an unfortunate pressure on Charles' nose has somewhat modified its form. Remainder of the Seal much like his father's.

In 1642, Charles moved his court to York (war practically declared August 22, 1642). Shortly after his arrival, to his joy, Littleton, the Lord Keeper, arrived with the Great Seal. The Parliamentary party were dismayed, for there was hardly a man on either side who was not convinced that he was fighting for Constitutional Monarchy, and the policy of the Round-



House of Commons. 1651. p. 32.

Oliver Cromwell. p. 33.

Queen Elizabeth. p. 28.

Heads was to carry on the government in the King's name, but without the Great Seal they were powerless. Hallam in his Constitutional History, says:—"It must surely excite a smile that men who had raised armies and fought battles against the King, should be perplexed how to get over so technical a difficulty. But the Great Seal of England, in the eyes of English lawyers, has a sort of mysterious efficacy, and passed for the depository of royal authority in a higher degree than the person of the King."

OLIVER CROMWELL. It was high-treason to counterfeit the Great Seal, but a Seal must be had; so the Commons, despite the dire threats of Charles, passed the requisite Resolution, 86 votes to 74, and Thomas Simonds, for £100 supplied them with a rather crude imitation of the old Great Seal (1643). Oxford surrendered in 1646, when the Commons, much to their delight, got possession of the real Seal.

Now, a new design fitted to the changed condition was sought. That selected is original and interesting. Obverse: The map of England, Ireland and Wales, with the arms of the same. In the "Narrow Seas" is England's fleet, which under Blake, Monk and Penn made all Europe fear. There were 550 names engraved on this map, so fine was the work. Note the accessories. Legend. "The Great Seale of England 1651." Reverse: Still more interesting. A view of Parliament in session. The member sitting in front, without his hat, is supposed to be Sir James Harrington; the one addressing the House, Cromwell's brother-in-law, Thomas Harrison, the regicide. Legend. "In. the. third. Yeare, of. Freedome. by. God's. Blessing Restored. 1651." Simonds received £200 for this Seal, and certainly earned it (see Plate III).

August 11th, 1646, in the presence of Parliament, a brawny blacksmith literally *smashed* the real Great Seal, the one captured at Oxford. When that of 1651 was finished the Seal made by order of Parliament was also smashed.

Many things happened; the head of Charles I. fell 30 January, 1649. Battle of Worcester, Charles II.'s abortive at-

tempt to regain the Crown, September 3, 1651. Cromwell made Protector, 1653. His Seal is large, as it ought to be, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Obverse: The Protector on horse-back, a stately figure with his right hand resting on his staff of office. Floating over his horse's crupper is his new-made coat-of-arms, from which all the royal lions have been driven; instead we have, for England, the red cross of St. George. For Scotland, the white cross of St. Andrew (a "saltire"). Ireland retains her Harp. In the middle (on an "inescutcheon") a golden shield on which ramps the lion of Cromwell, lord of all he surveys. Legend. "Olivarius Dei Gra Reip Angliæ, Scotiæ et Hiberniæ, etc., Protector" (Oliver, by the Grace of God, of the Republic of England, Scotland, and Ireland, Protector). Reverse: The same coat-of-arms with Cromwell's motto, "Pax quæritur Bello" (Peace is sought in War). The Supporters, for some unknown reason, are those of Henry VIII., the lion of England and the red gryphon of Wales. Legend. "Great Seal of the Republic of England, of Scotland, and of Ireland."

CROMWELL. Great Seal for Ireland. Obverse, the same arms "ensigned" with the royal helm and crest. Legend, "Great Seal of Ireland, 1655." Reverse, same as preceding, except that the harp takes the place of the saltire of St. Andrew, while beneath the horse is a distant view of Dublin and its port.

CROMWELL, RICHARD. Third son of the Protector. His Seal, with the change of Richard for Oliver, a terrible change for the worse, the same as his father's. Cromwell had named no successor, but the Council of State selected Richard; he was an easy going country gentleman, fit, as he remarked, for nothing higher than a chief constable. Practically deposed by the army May, 1659; fled to Paris on account of his debts. Died 1712, at his country seat, Hursley, not far from Winchester.

CHARLES II. Son of Charles I. Born 1630. King, de facto, 1660. Died 1685. September 3rd, 1658, a fearful tem-

pest swept over London. Trees were uprooted, the rain came down in sheets, terrified birds flew about bewildered. Cromwell lay ill unto death, on this the anniversary of his victories of Dunbar, over the Scotch and of Worcester, over Charles II. His servants offered him a cooling draught. He put it away, saying, "It is not my design to drink or sleep, my desire is to make what haste I may to begone,"—and out into the welcoming war of the elements went that mighty soul, fearing naught . . . in a year or more his place was taken by Charles Stuart, the profligate, the cruel, the ungrateful. "And in an instant the whole face of England was changed. All that was noblest and best in Puritanism was whirled away." (Green, page 589). Lord Rochester, the fashionable poet, the very titles of whose poems no pen of today dare copy, wrote on the door of Charles' bedroom:—

"Here rests our sovereign lord the king,
Whose word no man relies on.
He never said a foolish thing,
And never did a wise one."

This Charles Stuart was guilty even of the almost incredible meanness of revenging himself on the dead bodies of the mighty foes he was incapable of meeting in life. He had the bodies of Cromwell, Bradshaw and Ireton disinterred and gibbeted. Their heads were then cut off and exposed on the top of Westminster Hall. Twenty-five years afterwards, on a stormy night Cromwell's blew down. A sentinel picked it up and secreted it till search was over. It found rest in a museum for a time and is now owned by a Mr. Wilkinson, in Kent, who keeps it, in his drawing-room, in a velvet lined box (Truth, May 19, 1904).

Charles left no legitimate children, but many others; among them the handsome but unpleasant Duke of Monmouth. Charles is the ancestor of the Dukes of Buccleugh, of Southampton, of Grafton, of St. Albans, of Richmond.

These all bear, or bore, the royal arms of England with the "bar-sinister" upon them.

Charles was called the "Merry Monarch," and his sense of humor was so abnormal, that, lingering somewhat, before breathing his last, he managed to whisper to the surrounding courtiers his extreme regret for inconveniencing them by such a protracted departure.

Obverse: Dated 1660. Singularly fine, very deep cut and artistic. It is, probably, copied from the one made in Paris in 1653, to replace that lost at the battle of Worcester, 1651. The likeness of the king is excellent. The legend is as on his father's, except that the more modern "Great Britain, France and Ireland" now appears (see Cover).

Reverse (first Seal): Charles in profile, a good likeness. On horseback in classic costume. Under the horse is a view of London before the fire; London Bridge to the right.

Reverse (second Seal): Same as first, except less good. Full face, with the wig of the period. Rather an absurd adjunct to the Roman costume. Legend, same except "secundus" replaces "II."

Reverse (third Seal): Same as second, except the king has donned the "half-armor" of his day, with a helmet over the huge wig. Is now galloping in the opposite direction. Behind him the Irish harp, crowned. Below the horse, a greyhound, running. Several boats have been added to the view of London. This is the Seal on the Penn Charter (see page 7).

JAMES II. Third son of Charles I. Born 1633. King 1685. Duke of York. Married 1. Ann Hyde. 2. Mary of Modena. Fled from England 1688, on the approach of William of Orange. Died in exile at St. Germain, near Paris, 1701, a pensioner on the bounty of the French King, Louis XIV. As James fled he dropped the Great Seal into the River Thames, well knowing what the want of it meant to his rival. By a chance almost miraculous, some fishermen drew it up in their nets, knew what it was, hurried with it to the palace,

so that in less than three days after James' departure it was in the hands of the new Lord Chancellor.

In 1690, in Ireland, the Battle of the Boyne was fought, both James and William being present. This battle ended James' last hope of regaining the crown he had abandoned in so cowardly a manner.

Obverse, James enthroned. A lion on a bracket to the right holding the flag of St. George. A unicorn to the left that of St. Andrew. Legend, as in preceding, except "Jacobus" substituted for "Carolus."

Reverse, same as that of Charles' first, except that James has added stirrups to the Roman horse trappings, an absurd anachronism, as they were quite unknown to the Romans.

WILLIAM III. AND MARY II. William was the son of the eldest daughter of Charles I., who married the Prince of Orange. Born 1650. King 1688. Died of fever brought on by a broken collar bone, caused by a fall from his horse, 1702. Mary, whom he married in 1677, was his cousin. She was the eldest daughter of James II. by his first wife, Anne Hyde. Born 1662. Died of small-pox 1694. They were proclaimed King and Queen 1689. The celebrated siege of Derry (North of Ireland) was in this reign. There was continuous war with France till the Peace of Ryswick, 1697.

The great peculiarity of this Seal is that Scotland is absolutely ignored. Allan Wyon, the great English authority, thus explains the omission: "The seal must have been begun immediately after the entry of William into London, in December, 1688, for it was in use by the 11th of March, 1689. It was not, however, until the 14th March that the estates of Scotland resolved that William and Mary, King and Queen of England, France and Ireland, should be declared King and Queen of Scotland, and it was not until the 11th of May that they assumed the crown of Scotland."

Obverse: The general design is much like that of Philip and Mary. The arms of Nassau (William was prince of Nassau) on an inescutcheon, in the middle of the shield of arms

between the royal heads, is the only token of a foreign prince ruling. Legend, "William III. and Mary II. by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King and Queen. Defenders of the Faith."

Reverse: Much like that of James II. Legend repeated. The Seal is in very bad preservation and the workmanship seems poor.

ANNE. Second daughter of James II. by Anne Hyde. Born 1664. Married George, Prince of Denmark, 1683. Had thirteen children, all of whom died young. Queen 1702. Died 1714. The last of the Stuarts. A rather silly woman but a most important reign. John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, the greatest of English generals, with an Anglo-Dutch army, and aided by Prince Eugene of Savoy, who was quite Marlborough's equal, won from the French the victories of Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, Malplaquet. Gibraltar, also, was captured. 1707, the legislative union between Scotland and England took effect.

Obverse: This Seal is at least large. Largeness seems its only recommendation. The allegorical mob about the Queen is painfully characteristic of the art of the time. Anne is being crowned by a winged genius. She is trampling on Discord. Peace, Commerce and Justice surround her. England, Scotland and Ireland are shaking hands on the left. The seated figure on the right holding a trophy, the left arm resting on a shield bearing the crosses of Sts. George and Andrew, is probably Britannia. In the exergue* is a river god holding a harp.

Reverse: This with Queen Anne's second Seal, are the only royal exceptions in the long list of seals in which allegorical figures take the place of the equestrian effigy. Note also that everything possible is done to mark the union with Scotland: the arms of the two countries are *impaled*, as are

*The space beneath the base line of the subject; on a coin, usually occupied by the date.

those of *husband and wife*; the national emblems, the rose and thistle, grow on the same stem; Sts. George and Andrew are shaking hands above. The arms of Great Britain rest against a monument; in the first and last quarterings are the impaled arms referred to. In the exergue is a flying figure pointing to a star.

GEORGE (Lewis) I. House of Brunswick. This is an ancient princely family of Germany descended from the Italian family of Esté. Ernest of Brunswick, the "Confessor," born 1497, a zealous Protestant, founded the House of Brunswick-Luneburg, died 1546. A descendant, Ernest Augustus (born 1629, died 1698), Duke of Brunswick-Luneburg, became Elector of Hanover in 1692. He married Sophia, daughter of Elizabeth, the unfortunate Queen of Bohemia, who was a daughter of James I. of England. George I. was their son.*

The English "Legitimists" claim that the crown belongs to Mary III. She is married to Prince Louis of Bavaria, and descended from James II.'s youngest sister Henrietta Anne, who married the Duke of Orleans, brother of Louis XIV., of France, and died 1670, many thought of poison. Mary III. is thus one generation nearer the direct line than the present king, Edward VII.

George I. was born 1660. Married his cousin, Sophia Dorothea, daughter of the Duke of Zell, 1682. Elector of Hanover 1698. King of England 1714. Died, 1727. The sovereigns of Great Britain continued to be Electors of Hanover, until the accession of Victoria, 1837, when, the "Salic Law" prevailing in Hanover, by which no woman can reign, Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, a younger son of George III., then became *King* of Hanover, much to the regret of his subjects. George could not speak English when he began to reign.

Obverse: The King with the usual accessories. To his

* George was thus great-grandson of James I.

right Britannia with a shield bearing the arms of England and Scotland. Behind her a lion crowned, holding the banner of Great Britain. To the left Justice, and a unicorn bearing the, then, "union flag," which was used during our Revolution. Legend, "Georgius Dei Gratia, etc."

Reverse, first Seal: King on horseback in half armor. Amid the horse's heels and legs a distant view of London. Legend, "Brunswicen et Luneburgen Dux Sacri Romanii Imperii Archithesaurarius et Princeps elect, etc." (Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg. Of the Holy Roman Empire Arch-Treasurer and Prince Elector, etc.)

Reverse, second Seal: Same figure with a little additional floating drapery. Distant view of Edinburgh this time. Over the horse's crupper the symbolic rose of England and thistle of Scotland growing on one stem. Legend with same meaning as preceding. Date "1717."

GEORGE (Augustus) II. Born 1683, in Hanover. 1705 married Caroline, a princess of Brandenburg-Anspach. King 1727. Died 1760. During this reign there was almost ceaseless war. Dettingen, 1743, was a French defeat. Fontenoy, 1745, a French victory. At Preston-Pans, 1745, Charles-Edward, the "Pretender" ("The Young Pretender," grandson of James II.) was victorious. At Culloden, 1746 (both in Scotland), the Duke of Cumberland, called the "Butcher Duke," he was such a monster, completely crushed the insurgents. He is said to have written his savage order to give no quarter, on a nine of diamonds playing-card that he happened to have in his pocket; that card has ever since been called the "Curse of Scotland." Quebec was captured in 1757. In India the death of 146 English in the famous "Black Hole of Calcutta" was fully revenged by Clive.

Obverse: The King apparently seated upon a writhing figure of Discord or Envy. He wears under his robes the dress of his day. On the right is Hercules, a crowned lion peeping from behind him. Britannia (?) with a shield bearing the arms of England and Scotland on the left. Three alle-

gorical figures in the background. Legend, same as preceding, except the words "Georgius II."

Reverse, almost exactly same as the first of George I.

GEORGE III. (William Frederick). Grandson of George II. Son of Prince Frederick and Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, who died 1751. Born 1738. King 1760. Died 1820. When George was crowned a large diamond fell from out its setting in the crown and was with difficulty recovered. The omen came true, for the American Colonies, the brightest jewel of the crown, were lost.

Obverse: This Seal is very modern. Britannia, Hercules, Plenty, Mars, Religion, Justice and the British lion grouped about George. The portrait is fairly good. Above the king's head the arms of Great Britain and Hanover; the rose and the thistle on one stem, on the heraldic right; the harp of Ireland, crowned, on the other side. Legend, same as preceding, except the king's number. See Plate IV.

Reverse, rearing horse. King in half armor. Holster with pistol. Royal harp over the crupper. Distant view of London. Legend, as preceding, except date "1761."

GEORGE IV. (Augustus Frederick). Born 1762. Married in 1786, Mrs. Fitzherbert, a Roman Catholic lady. The marriage was held to be illegal but was recognized by the Roman Church. 1795 George married Caroline of Brunswick, whom he treated abominably. She died 1821. He came to the throne in 1820, and died 1830, fortunately leaving no direct heirs, as the question of bigamy might be awkward even in a king. His pleasant manner gained him the title of the "First Gentleman of Europe," but he was a mean and a weak character.

Obverse: The King in St. Edward's Chair surrounded by Ireland, Scotland, Britain, Justice, Religion, Minerva; if they hoped to be of use they were disappointed. The arms of Great Britain and the now *Kingdom* of Hanover (it was promoted to a kingdom in 1814). The British lion



George III. p. 40.
William IV. p. 42.

in the exergue. A wreath of oak and laurel replaces the inscription.

Reverse: King on horse. Date MDCCCXX, in exergue. Note that he is no longer "King of France"; that absurdity was given up when the flag was changed in 1801 by the addition of St. Patrick's cross (!); St. Patrick never had a cross. See p. 21.

WILLIAM IV. The last King of Great Britain and Hanover. Third son of George III. Born 1765. King 1830. Died 1837. Married Adelaide, daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen. They had two children, both of whom died in infancy.

Obverse: Much like that of George IV. In the exergue, the rose, thistle and caduceus. Wears the collars of three orders, the Garter, the Bath, the Guelphs of Hanover. The cloak is of ermine embroidered along the lower edge with the rose, the shamrock and the thistle.

Reverse: King mounted riding along a quay, with some of the stately men of war of the day, huge three deckers carrying over one hundred guns; William was a sailor. Saddle cloth a lion's skin. Long cloak with a star on the shoulder, and, for the first time on English Seals, *trousers*. A trident and laurel wreath in exergue. Legend, "William IV. by the grace of God of Great Britain King. Defender of the Faith." The likeness is good (see Plate IV).



Queen Victoria. 1837 to 1901.

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A FEW AMERICAN SEALS.

MARYLAND. Obverse, the full coat of arms of Lord Baltimore. In the first and fourth quarters, the arms of Calvert (Lord Baltimore's family name); second and third, the arms of Crossland. Above the shield is an Earl's coronet, and above that a helmet, full face, signifying sovereignty (?). From a crest-coronet spring two small pennons, one yellow, one black, the crest of Calvert. Supporters, a fisherman and a plowman. Motto; "Fatti Maschi parole femine" (manly deeds, womanly words). Legend; "Voluntatis tuæ coronasti nos scuto bonæ" (with the shield of Thy good will Thou hast covered us). Reverse. The usual mounted figure in armor, rather hobbyhorse-like as if he knew he was an anachronism. Horse-trappings bear the family arms as above. Legend; "Carolus, absolv. Dms. Terræ Mariæ et Avaloniæ Baro. de Baltemore" (sic) (Charles, absolute lord of the land of Mary and of Avalon, Baron of Baltimore). Avalon is the name he gave his unsuccessful colony in Newfoundland, 1621-3.

This seal dates from 1648. The matrices were of silver. There was an earlier one of the same precious metal but it was stolen in 1644. That of 1648 was used till 1692; from then until the Revolution the Province was under royal governors. The Calvert family became extinct in 1771.

By law of 1874 the obverse of this Seal was readopted, merely adding the date, "1632," the year in which the charter of Maryland was signed. As the reverse signified the personal authority of the Proprietor it was no longer appropriate and was discarded (see Plate VI).

PENNSYLVANIA. The Penn Charter (see page 7) instructed William Penn to use his paternal arms (Plate VII) as the State Seal of Pennsylvania; to it he added, as a sort of motto, "Mercy," "Justice." On the reverse, three ears of corn, forming a trefoil, and from the same centre, alternating,



Confederate States. p. 46.
Lord Baltimore. p. 44.

three sticks entwined with grapevines. Legend; "Truth, Peace. Love. and Plenty. 1699."

The original arms of the city of Philadelphia (1701) were heraldically, quarterly; first, azure, on a fess argent two clasped hands proper. Second, argent, a garb proper (wheat sheaf). Third, argent, the scales of Justice proper. Fourth, azure, a ship in full sail, proper. Legend; "Seal of the City of Philadelphia, 1701." Proper, means in the natural colors.

September 28th, 1776, Messrs. Rittenhouse, Jacobs and Clymer were appointed a committee to prepare a Seal. From the arms of Philadelphia, they selected the ship and the wheat sheaf, adding the plough in the middle on a horizontal band ("fess"), the whole symbolizing commerce, husbandry, agriculture. This, with trifling changes, has remained ever since the Seal of the Commonwealth, and is one of the very best in the somewhat absurd collection of State Seals with their crude attempts at symbolism.

GEORGIA. The impression is so poor that it is almost impossible to see the device. On one side are some silkworms feeding on a leaf, with the motto, "Non sibi, sed aliis" (not for himself, but for others). On the opposite side "an elegant house and other buildings, with sheep and cattle; a river running through the same, with a ship under full sail and the motto, 'Deus nobis hæc otia fecit'" (God has given us this repose). (Flag of the U. S. Preble, p. 631.)

CONFEDERATE STATES SEAL.

An equestrian figure of Washington surrounded by a wreath of cotton, tobacco, sugar-cane, wheat and rice. Legend;—"The Confederate States of America." Motto;—"Deo Vindice," which they understood to mean, "with God for our leader we will conquer" ("The News," Richmond, April 23rd, 1863, Wm. T. Thompson, Editor). Date, Feb. 22nd, 1862.



Great Seal of the Province of Pennsylvania.
Arms of William Penn. 1699.

A FEW CHARACTERISTIC SEALS.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL. XIII Century. Represents the interior of the same, with the murder of Thomas à Becket, 1170. Legend, much abbreviated, "Ictibus immens Thomas qui corruat ens Tutor ab offens urbis sit Canturien" (Thomas who may fall by the heavy blow of a sword, may be patron of defence to the city of Canterbury). A not unnatural, but rash remark of King Henry II., who was rendered furious by the incessant opposition of the cantankerous à Becket to his attempts at reform, incited four knights, Reginald Fitzurse, Hugh de Morville, William de Tracy and Richard le Breton, to remove the cause of Henry's rage. The martyr kneels in front of the altar; beside it stands, though he did not stay long, as the martyr spirit was not strongly developed in him, John of Salisbury (?), later Bishop of Chartres, France. At Chartres John erected a window in commemoration of his patron's death, so that we have two, almost contemporaneous representations of the celebrated event. The two royal figures at the sides, are probably, statues of St. Edward and St. Edmund (see Plate I).

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON, 1495. A ship of about the year 1300, the "castles" fore (from whence "forecastle") and aft, seem to have platforms with crenelated bulwarks. The captain (?) is in front giving an order to the two men out on the yard furling the sail. On the poop stand two men with trumpets, possibly signalling the captain's orders. A crescent moon is seen through the rigging (see Plate I).

DUNWICH. The square Seal of that mysterious city of Dunwich on the coast of Suffolk, is especially noteworthy on account of its very rare shape. Dunwich was one of the

oldest seaport cities of England. Today nothing of it remains save the ruins of one lonely church, All Saints, just tottering to its fall into the maw of that insatiable ocean that has devoured the homes of the generations that once worshipped in it (see Plate I).

TEMPLARS. The great Religious Military Order of the Temple was founded, 1118, for the defence of pilgrims to the Holy Land. These military monks first lodged near Solomon's Temple (in Jerusalem), whence their name, "Poor United Champions of Christ and the Temple." They soon moved to other quarters near the *round* Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in memory of which their own churches were ever built of similar shape. Their badge was a red cross on a white cloak. Their flag, black and white, was called "Beauseant," why, we know not.

In 1307, Philip IV., one of the very worst of the evil kings of France, supported by his tool, Pope Clement V., determined to get possession of the much coveted wealth of the Order, over which he had gloated when the Templars had generously protected him from the fury of his ill-treated subjects. The Order had reached a perilous pinnacle of power, and the "Temple," later the prison of the unhappy Louis XVI. and his family, then a great fortress outside the walls of Paris, was regarded as a sort of safe-deposit vault. In the London "Temple" the Crown itself and other Regalia were for a time kept.

Philip trumped up a lot of what were then considered hideous charges against the Order, and in 1307, all over France, the rack, the stake and other tortures provided witnesses more dead than alive, ready in their torment, to say anything desired and retract it all when restored to reason, though well knowing that the punishment therefor was death. Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Order, by a refinement of cruelty, was imprisoned for seven years. An eye witness of his terrible death, by fire, tells the following tale (Godfrey of Paris); "the day was rainy, the wood



Louis XVI. p. 52.

Napoleon I. p. 52.

Blanche de Navarre. p. 51.

Baldwin, of Trèves. p. 51.

Charles V. p. 52.

Pius VII. p. 53.

was wet, so that the victim was soon enveloped in dense clouds of smoke; suddenly a solemn voice issued therefrom; 'I call upon thee, Clement, Pope of Rome; I call upon thee, Philip King of France, to appear, the one within forty days, the other in less than a year before the Judgement Seat of God, to answer for your crimes done to me and my Brethren.' This was on March 20th. On April 20th Clement died in torment of a loathsome disease. On November 4th Philip was killed by a fall from his horse." The papal edict put an end to the Order throughout Europe, but, except in cruel France, this was done with little or no suffering.

The large Seal represents two knights mounted on one horse, symbol of the early poverty of the Order. Those who have attended service in that most impressive of London churches, "The Temple," have surely noticed, stamped on Prayer Books or gleaming in the stained windows, the effigy of a Pegasus, and may have wondered thereat. Thus it came about; the early engraver saw the two excrescences over the horse's back and jumped at the conclusion that they were the tips of wings; so a Pegasus it became, and a Pegasus it has remained down through the centuries. The other two seals represent the *round* Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and are from charters, the one of 1214, the other of 1255 (see Plate II).

The upright, elliptical, pointed Seals are always either ecclesiastical or belong to a woman. This shape is known as the "vesica," from "vesica piscis," fish-bladder; it is the aureole or glory within which the "Primitives" (early painters) placed the Trinity, Christ, the Virgin, or an Apostle (see page 9).

Blanche de Navarre, Queen of France, second wife of Philip VI. (died 1350). Note the lace-like richness of the Gothic tracery; the shields of arms, one France, the other Navarre and Evreux. At the Queen's feet is a dog, the usual symbol of fidelity (see Plate VIII).

The other Seal (with one of the matrices) of the same

shape, is that of Baldwin, Elector and Archbishop of Trèves, on the Moselle. About 1342 (see Plate VIII).

LOUIS XVI. Unfortunate victim of the sins of his predecessors, grandson of the profligate Louis XV. Born 1754. King 1774. Guillotined 1793. He it was who so effectually aided us in our Revolution.

Obverse: This is the last Seal of a French King "in Majesty" for many years. He is seated on a throne, under a canopy supported by two angels. In his right hand he holds the royal sceptre of France, tipped with the fleur-de-lis; in his left the "Hand of Justice." At his feet, on either side, are lions' heads. Date "1790." About his neck are the collars of the royal orders of St. Michael and the Holy Spirit. As a portrait this is poor. The legend tells the ominous story of the downfall of the Monarchy; "Louis XVI. by the Grace of God and by the Constitutional Law of the State, King of the French," a king but in name. His predecessors were "Kings of France" (see Plate VIII).

NAPOLEON I. (Bonaparte). Born 1769. Consul 1799. Emperor 1804. Died in exile at St. Helena, 1821. The design for this Seal was made by Denon, celebrated author and artist, in 1808. The background is intended to recall the tent or "pavilion" of the Kings of France; it rather suggests a photographer's screen. Overhead is the huge, new crown of the Empire. Everything is classic, from the new sceptre, the throne, the pose, drapery, to the short Roman sword. Legend; "Napoleon, Emperor of the French" (see Plate VIII).

CHARLES V., Emperor of Germany. Born 1500. Emp. 1519. Died 1558. Most powerful of modern German Emperors. He ruled all Europe, except the present Great Britain, France, the extreme North and East; in addition he ruled the Americas and the Indies. His heraldic arms contained those of all Europe, with the exceptions mentioned, supported on the "Pillars of Hercules," which today are said to typify the two mountains on either side the Strait

of Gibraltar. His proud motto was, "Plus Ultra," *More Beyond*,—meaning North and South America, the Indies, etc.

These pillars are probably the oldest symbol known to the human race. According to tradition, Melcarthus, a Tyrian navigator and explorer, sailed in search of fabled Atlantis or dimly rumored Britain. He founded a town which he called *Gades* and in it set up two pillars as a memorial, building over them the Temple of Hercules. The town grew to importance, the rough memorial pillars were replaced by others of precious metal, and the name, in Spanish, became *Cadiz*. Charles V. adopted these pillars for his supporters. At Seville there was a mint in which a standard dollar was coined, called in the Mediterranean Coasts, "col-lonato," because of the two columns upon it. In accounts two vertical strokes of the pen stood for this coin, as they stand, with the addition of the "S," for our own dollars.

The arms to the Emperor's right hand, are those of the Empire; to the left are those of Spain, Naples, Burgundy, Austria, etc. Both are encircled with the collar of the Golden Fleece. Legend, in much abbreviated Latin:—"KAROLUS ROMANOR IMPERATOR REX HISPA VTRIUSQ̄ CICIL ARCHA DVX BVRG" (Charles Emperor of the Romans. King of Spain and of the Two Sicilies, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy).

PIUS VII. Pope. Born 1742. Pope 1799. Died 1823. His Great Seal bears his family arms. Above it is the papal Tiara with its three crowns. Behind the shield are the crossed keys, one gold, one silver. Beneath are branches of palm and olive. Legend, "Pius VII. Pont. Max." Supreme Pontiff.

It was this unfortunate pope who was forced by Napoleon to go to Paris, not to crown the Emperor, for Napoleon placed the simple circlet of golden laurel leaves on his own head, but to be a witness and add dignity to the occasion. Pius VII. signed the "Concordat," which surrendered the supremacy of Rome in France.

Some of the several authorities freely used:

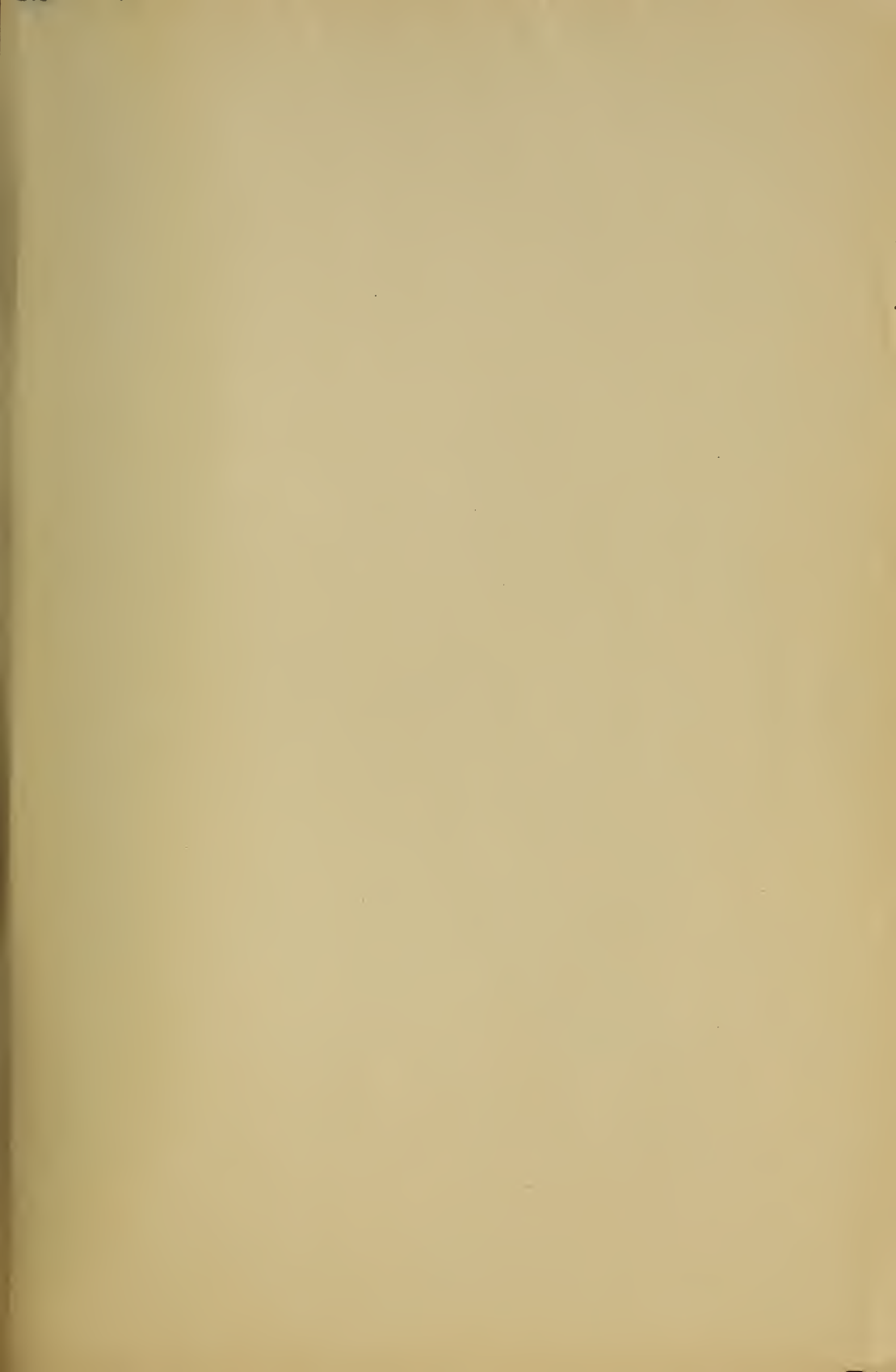
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