three thousand pounds of his bequest, and received, as security for the loan, possession of the district of Cotentin which was more than a third of the entire duchy. Well did Henry know the prodigality and indolence of the borrower, and he took careful steps to hold fast the security pledged to him. And here we have the first remarkable instance of Henry's cold-blooded cruelty, and of his determination never to be contented with half measures. A burgess of Rouen, named Conan, had treacherously engaged to deliver the city to the authority of William; the intention was discovered, but the powerful citizen offered an effectual resistance to Robert. At this juncture Henry joined his brother, and Conan was taken prisoner. The affair was Robert's and that merciful prince was contented to punish the refractory citizen by imprisonment only; but the far-seeing and calculating Henry, looking to distant results, and determined to be rid of all who should be at once turbulent and influential, had decided that Conan should not escape. He summoned the prisoner into his presence and pretended to remonstrate mildly with him on the folly and criminality of his late conduct.

"How couldst thou hope, man, to make good thy treachery against thy master?—Hast thou considered the position of this city, knowest thou not that it is encompassed far and wide by barons and by vassals devoted to thy liege lord? Conan, I have long heard of thee, and I esteemed thee wise, but here thou hast acted foolishly as well as deceitfully.—Thou wouldst be great, perhaps; vassal, it is thy sovereign only that can raise thee. I would have thee loyal, and reward thy desert; come with me therefore, I will show thee first the folly of thy undertaking, and then point out the means to secure thy future fidelity.—Do thou follow me, Conan."

The prince led the way, and was followed by the prisoner, the guards, and attendants, and they ascended to the roof of the loftiest tower of the castle. He then pointed out to the prisoner the plains on every side, dotted with the castles of the Norman nobility, each with his force of men-at-arms, harnessed and in readiness at the shortest warning to speed to the succour or to the service of their valiant duke.

"Thinkest thou now, good fellow, that thy mischievous plan would have availed thee aught? I understand thy looks; we have not turned towards the river's mouth. Come hither then, and view attentively all that is to be seen near the foot of the castle on this northern side; what seest thou there?"

The prisoner stepped into an embrazure and cast his eyes immediately below. At the instant that he did so the prince stepped up to him and hurled him into the paved court below, where he was dashed to pieces. A cry of horror was uttered simultaneously by all present, but Henry waving his hand commanded silence, adding only,—"the punishment of a traitor."

But the schemes and the ambition of the wily prince had nearly suffered shipwreck in this adventure. He had trusted too much, and had feared too little. Robert failed, his brother the King of England invaded Normandy, a peace was patched up between the belligerents, and both of these now turned their arms against Henry, whose craft they dreaded, and against which they employed every precaution that mutual policy could devise. Now it was that the two elder princes stipulated with each other that the survivor of the two should be the inheritor of both England and Normandy, and that in the meantime neither should molest the other in his present possessions. The flood rolled in upon Henry, threatening to overwhelm him; the territorial security which had been delivered to him was unscrupulously wrested from him; he became a fugitive and took refuge on the top of Mount St. Michael where he was closely besieged, and obliged to capitulate. Here might have terminated his career, had his antagonist been Rufus only: but Robert had a large portion of the milk of human kindness in his bosom, and by his interposition Henry, deprived of everything, was permitted to remain in Bretagne. But "Cedant arma togae;" the talents and wisdom of Henry gained him friends in his obscurity and ere long he was invited to become governor of the city of Damfront. This he administered so wisely that he rapidly extended his authority and shortly he was again virtually in possession of the greater portion of that which had been wrested from him by force of arms.

But the important crisis was at hand which, at the expense of every moral, every social, every political right, was to make him a potent monarch, and to be the means of destroying his peace for ever. A reconciliation, such as the world calls it, took place between Henry and William, and the prince was on a visit to the Red King when the latter received the mortal stroke. It is not given to man to look into the deep and hidden recesses of the heart of his fellow-man, but reason compels us to