

Before the student comes to the study of constitutional and legal history, it is very desirable for him to have some knowledge of English history in general. The ordinary Englishman is supposed to acquire this at school, but for the overseas student, and for anyone who wants to brush up his school learning, Trevelyan's *History of England* may be strongly recommended. Another work of general interest, which contains much material in concise form, is the *Dictionary of English History*, originally compiled by Low and Pulling, new edition 1928. The student will have to rely upon a library copy, for at the moment it is out of print.

I suppose that most English students know the order and the dates of the kings and queens of England. They will find such knowledge necessary in the study not only of constitutional but of purely legal history, for regnal years are the foundation of legal chronology. Overseas students, and others whose historical knowledge is shaky, may possibly be glad of the following mnemonic rhyme, which was once learnt by little Victorian boys and girls. I set it out with the corresponding regnal years at the side:—

First William the Norman,	1066—1087.
Then William his son;	1087—1100.
Henry, Stephen, and Henry,	1100—1135, 1135—1154, 1154—1189.
Then Richard and John;	1189—1199, 1199—1216.
Next Henry the third,	1216—1272.
Edwards, one, two and three,	1272—1307, 1307—1327, 1327—1377.
And again after Richard	1377—1399.
Three Henrys we see.	1399—1413, 1413—1422, 1422—1461.
Two Edwards, third Richard,	1461—1483, 1483, 1483—1485.
If rightly I guess;	
Two Henrys, sixth Edward,	1485—1509, 1509—1547, 1547—1553.
Queen Mary, Queen Bess.	1553—1558, 1558—1603.
Then Jamie the Scotchman,	1603—1625.
Then Charles whom they slew,	1625—1649.
Yet received after Cromwell	[1649—1660].
Another Charles too.	1649 <sup>5</sup> (1660)—1685.
Next James the second	
Ascended the throne;	1685—1688
Then good William and Mary	
Together came on.	1689—1702.
Till, Anne, Georges four,	1702—1714, 1714—1727, 1727—1760, 1760—1820, 1820—1830.
	1830—1837.
And fourth William all past,	1837—1901.
God sent Queen Victoria:	
May she long be the last!	

<sup>5</sup> Although Charles did not become king *de facto* until 1660, his regnal years were computed from the death of his father in 1649.