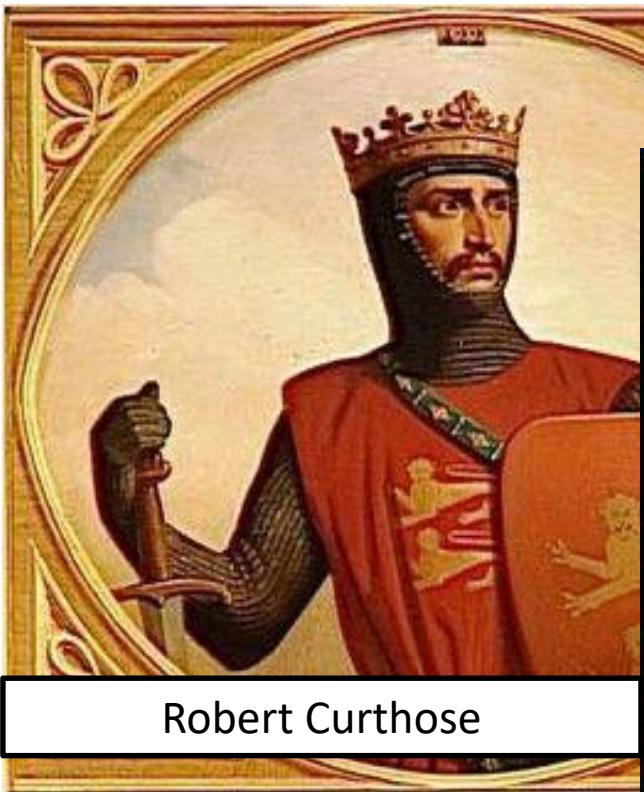


Which of William's son do you think would make the most worthy heir to his lands?

Use what you learnt last lesson to explain your answer.



Robert Curthose



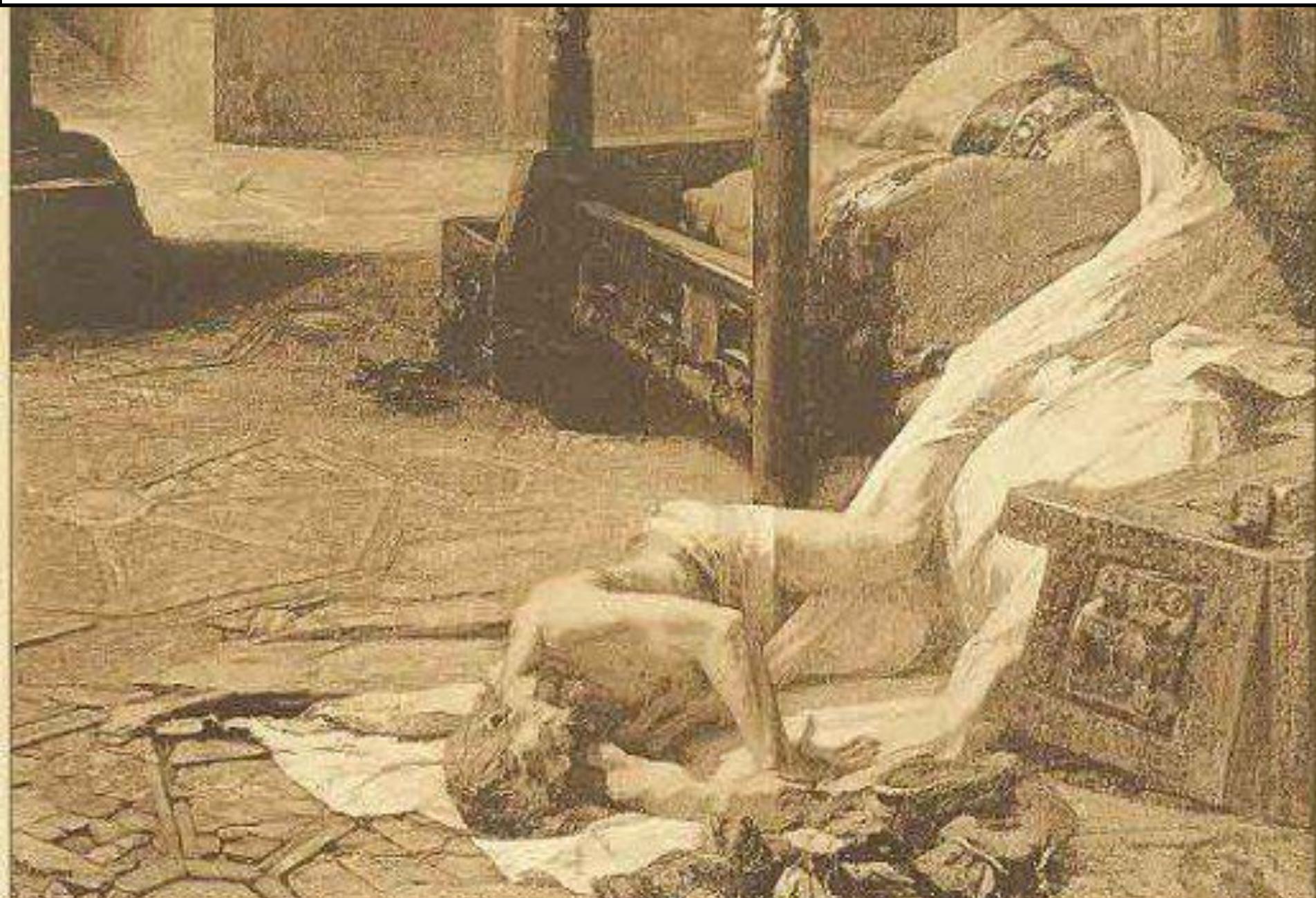
William Rufus

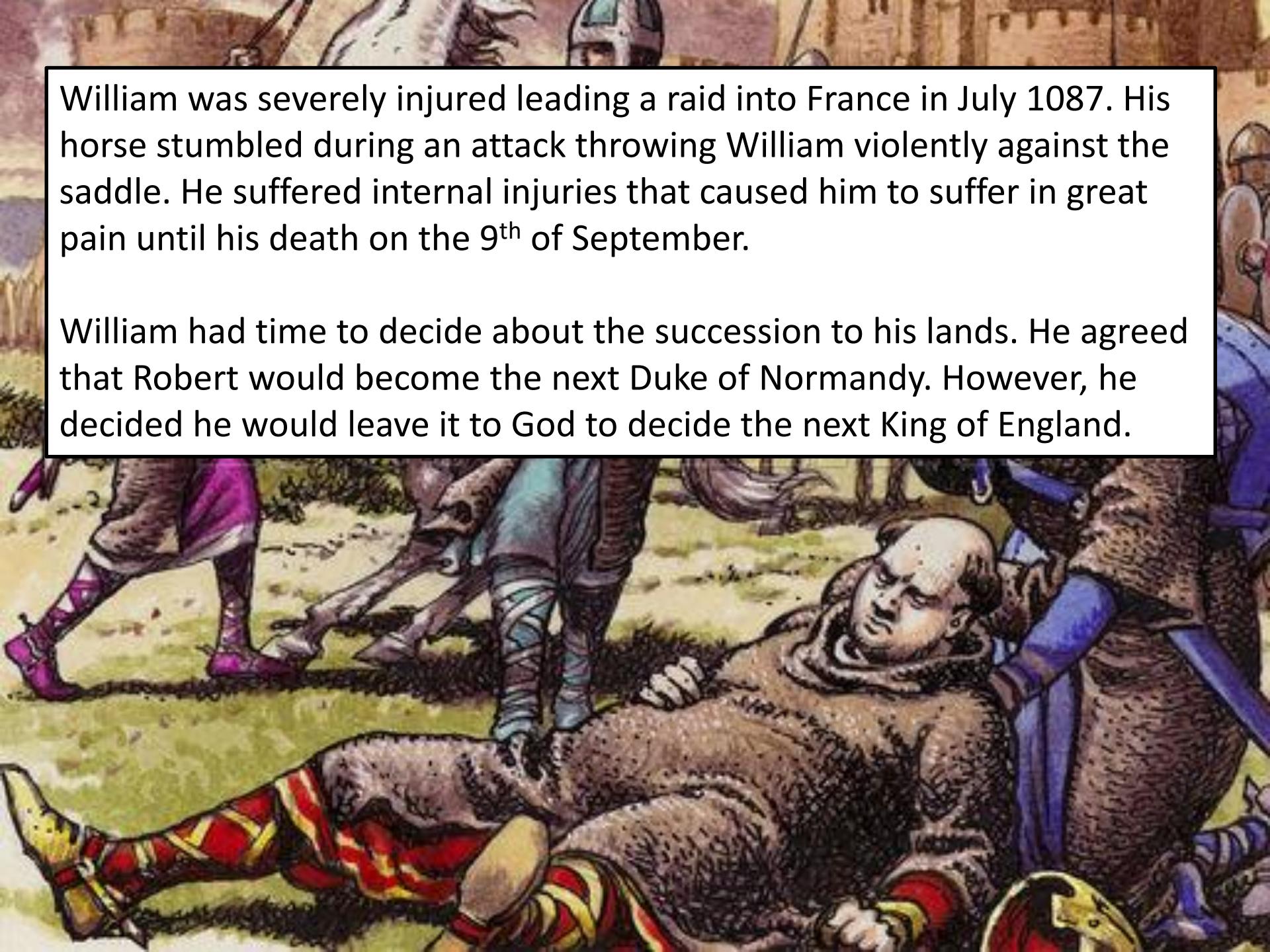


HOTOGRAPHERS

Henry Beauclerc

Who became William's true heir?





William was severely injured leading a raid into France in July 1087. His horse stumbled during an attack throwing William violently against the saddle. He suffered internal injuries that caused him to suffer in great pain until his death on the 9th of September.

William had time to decide about the succession to his lands. He agreed that Robert would become the next Duke of Normandy. However, he decided he would leave it to God to decide the next King of England.



Read up on the story of William's successful bid to become King of England. Colour-code it into two factors to help explain William's success:

- William's smart decisions.
- The support of others.

Before his father had even died, William had set sail for England in order to get a head-start on any of his brothers. His father, wrote him a letter of recommendation that he took with him. When Lanfranc saw this he threw his support behind William who was crowned in September 1087 in Westminster Abbey. Clearly by this stage Lanfranc's power was such that no other council was needed to authorise the decision.

In 1088, Bishop Odo (their uncle), led a rebellion against William on behalf of Robert, who wanted to be Duke of Normandy and King of England. Odo's rebellion led to revolts all across the south and west of England.

Fortunately for William, most of the nobility and Saxon people were loyal to him. Bishop Wulfstan put down the rebellion in the West, whilst William besieged and captured his uncles. William eventually stripped Odo of his titles and lands and exiled him from England.

William realised that his brother's weak rule in Normandy allowed the barons there too much independence. He used the feudal system to raise an army, but instead of sending them to fight in Normandy he asked them to give him the money and then sent them home. William used this money to bribe Robert's nobles until Robert was forced to accept that he shared the Dukedom of Normandy with his brother William.

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“William’s campaign to become King of England was successful largely down to his excellent decision making.”

How far do you agree with this view?

(16 Marks)



Were both Williams' tactics of retaining control similar or different?

Give examples to support your view in your explanation.

HW –

**Research into Henry
Beauclerc.**

**What was his inheritance
from William?**

**What was the pinnacle
position reached
by Henry in his political
career?**

