

Henry II & Thomas Becket: Friends or Foes?

<p>Thomas accepted the post as Archbishop, but Thomas angered Henry by resigning as Lord Chancellor so he could focus on the Church instead.</p>	<p>In 1164, Henry put Thomas on trial, claiming he had challenged the king's authority. After the trial, Thomas ran away to France. The Pope threatened to expel Henry II from the Church if he didn't let Thomas return to England.</p>
<p>Hearing that Thomas had banished the bishops of London and York, Henry was furious with Thomas and exclaimed: "Will no one rid of this troublesome priest?" (‘priest’ = Thomas Becket)</p>	<p>In 1162, Henry appointed Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as Lord Chancellor. Henry thought he'd have greater control over the Church with his friend in its highest-ranking office.</p>
<p>START: Thomas Becket was a clever and energetic man, who had a job working as a clerk for Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury.</p>	<p>Seeing Henry's anger, four of his knights went to Canterbury on 29th December 1170 to arrest Thomas. However, Thomas refused and insulted the knights. As a result, the knights murdered Thomas in the Cathedral.</p>
<p>After Thomas resigned as Lord Chancellor, tension increased between him and Henry when he resisted Henry's attempts to hold power over the Church.</p>	<p>Thomas returned to England in early December 1170, but he excommunicated (banished from the church) the bishops of London and York for performing his duties as archbishop without his permission.</p>
<p>After Thomas became Lord Chancellor, he and Henry soon became firm friends, and Thomas lived extravagantly.</p>	<p>Thomas impressed during his time as a clerk for the Archbishop. In 1155, on Archbishop Theobald's recommendation, King Henry II made Thomas Lord Chancellor.</p>