

to Valentinian I to rule in the empire. Well you know Valentinian I¹ couldn't do much ruling but his mother did it for him. So for a good many years, she in his name and then he when he was older, controlled Italy. But Gratian took France and the area to the north there and ruled and held the title in the name of emperor of the West. So 3 years after he became emperor, when he was only about 20, Gratian was faced with this crisis in the East. Now Gratian was the third most important. Gratian is of some importance for two or three reasons. So his name is worthy to be remembered although not as great as Valens for history. Gratian perhaps, the wisest thing he ever did, was what he did at this crisis. At this crisis Gratian recalled the fact that only a few years before when Gratian was in his early teens, his father had brutally murdered a very great general. Now I don't mean directly murdered him but either his father or Valens was responsible, we don't know who, but there was a man named Theodotius who had done great work for the empire in his fighting driving back the wild scots who had been descending on British (Roman Britain) which is now England and had driven them back and had done such fine work as a soldier, that there was some idea that the soldiers might rise up and make him emperor. Valentinian had had him killed. Whether it was actually Valentinian or Valens we don't know but his son, another Theodotius had gone back to his ancestral home in Spain and had lived there for a few years now, quietly, in retirement, hoping to escape notice. He knew what had happened to his father and he didn't want to have any collisions with the imperial power. Gratian knew of the great ability of the old Theodotias, he had heard about his son who was already nearly 40 years of age and had reason to think he was a very able man. Despite the fact that Theodotius might conceivably have hate for him on account of the way his father had been treated, he sent a messenger to Spain to Theodotius saying "my uncle Valens has been killed - I am left with his whole empire to try to handle. It has been a great crisis. If you will come help me, I will turn over to you the rulership of the whole Eastern half and make you emperor along with myself." So Theodotius became emperor Theodotius I² of the Eastern Empire. This Theodotius I is one of the great names in Church History.