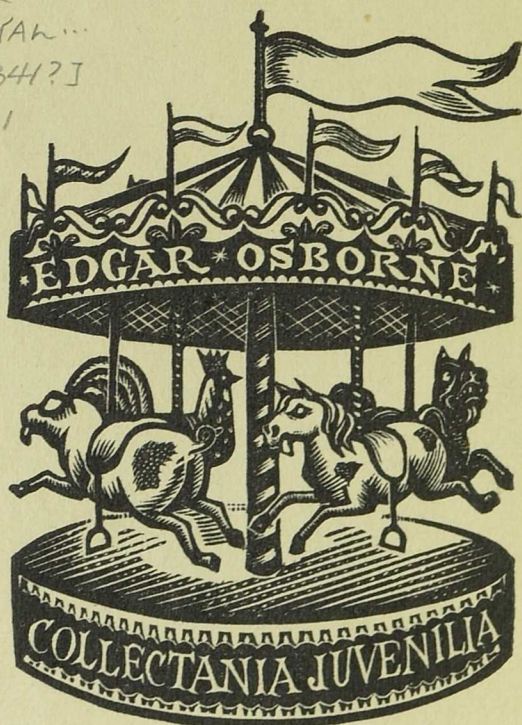




THE ROYAL ALPHABET

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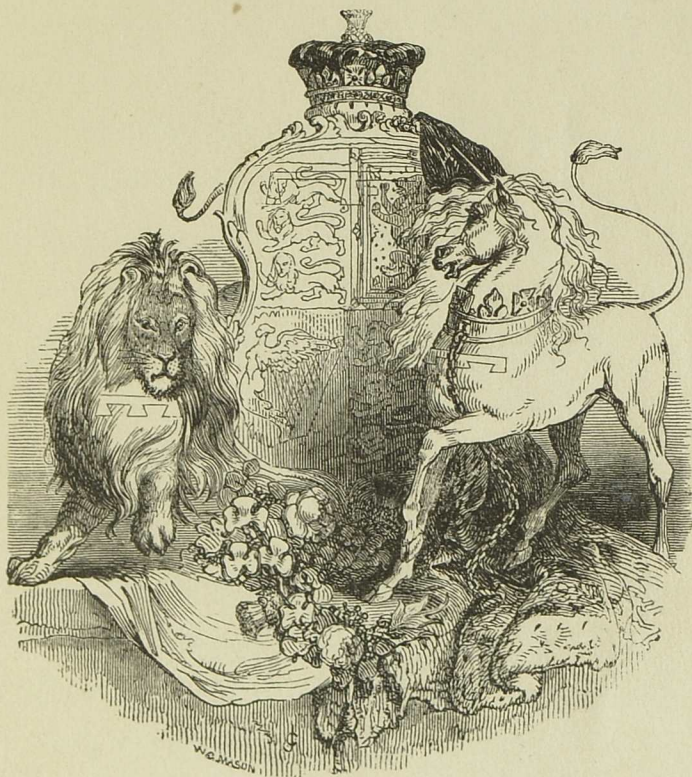
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THE
ROYAL ALPHABET
OF
KINGS AND QUEENS;

FOR
The Prince of Wales

AND
The Princess Royal.

THE
ROYAL ALPHABET
OF
KINGS AND QUEENS.



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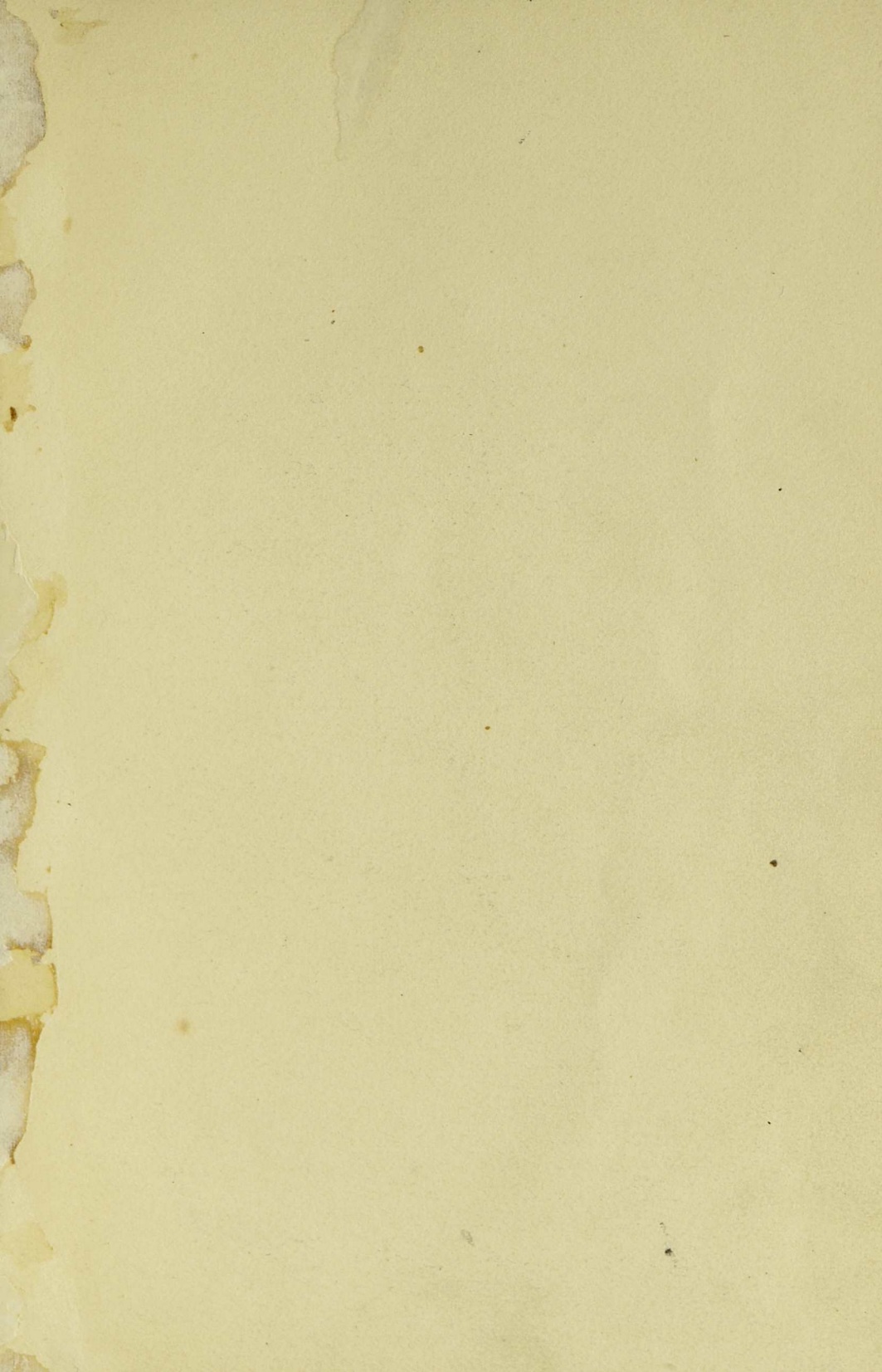
TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

The Prince of Wales.

CHILD of a nation's hope! how fair appears
The sun-lit prospect of thy coming years.
Oh! may no clouds of sorrow intervene,
To shadow o'er the brightness of the scene;
Thy days be passed in glory and in power,
And happiness still gild thy latest hour!

Should now thine infant eye, well-pleased, survey
The pictured greatness that hath passed away,
Thy youthful mind, perchance, may catch the flame,
And far-excelling deeds adorn thy name;—
Then Britain's sons, in each succeeding age,
Shall read thy actions in historic page;
And, while their Prince's memory they admire,
By his example taught, to virtuous deeds aspire.





A L F R E D T H E G R E A T .

K I N G O F E N G L A N D .



ALFRED THE GREAT.

Born 849. Began to reign 871. Died 900.

SURNAMED "the Great,"—a title often given
To kings who were, in truth, the scourge of Heaven.
Not so this prince, whose truly noble mind
Was stored with learning, polished and refined.
The Danes, who long had harassed our fair land,
Were conquered by this royal warrior's hand.
'Tis to this king that far-famed Oxford owes
Her university, which then arose.
England and Wales were both, by his command,
Divided into counties. To his hand
We owe a celebrated code of laws,
Which, to this day, are honored with applause.



BRUCE.

Born 1274. Began to reign 1306. Died 1329.

WITH patriot zeal for liberty he fought,
And valiant deeds in many a battle wrought.
Six times defeated, weary and forlorn,
His friends dispersed, his kingdom from him torn,
Stretched in his tent, "'Tis vain," he cried, "to stand
'Gainst fate's decree. — Farewell, my native land!"
He saw a spider six times bravely strain
To fix its web,—the seventh time not in vain.
"Mine be the omen!" cried the Bruce, his eye
Kindling with ardour,— "Let me win or die!"
From that hour forth the fate of war did turn,
And Scotland's crown he gained at Bannockburn.



B R U C E .

K I N G O F S C O T L A N D .



CHARLES I.

KING OF ENGLAND.



CHARLES THE FIRST.

Born 1600. Began to reign 1625. Beheaded 1649.

SAD was this monarch's fate ! He lived to prove
That sternness alienates a nation's love.
He thought despotic power adorned a throne ; —
His people no despotic prince would own.
Persisting still, he roused a fearful flame, —
One that the source of misery became.
A frightful and inhuman war now raged,
Brother 'gainst brother often was engaged ;
At length subdued, the helpless captive king,
His ruthless foes to sudden trial bring ;
Stain with the royal blood their guilty hands,
And Cromwell the new Commonwealth commands.



DAVID I.

Began to reign 1124. Died 1153.

“ THE perfect model of a noble king ; ”
This monarch’s praise so Scotch historians sing.
Firm, yet humane, he, with impartial hand,
Justice administered throughout the land.
Oft in his eye compassion’s tear would start ; —
While he condemned, he pardoned in his heart. —
In vain the injured never sought redress,
Nor did the poor e’er find him pitiless.



D A V I D I.

K I N G O F S C O T L A N D.



E L I Z A B E T H .

Q U E E N O F E N G L A N D .



ELIZABETH.

Born 1533. Began to reign 1558. Died 1602.

POETS once wanted numbers to express
The glory of the days of "good Queen Bess;"
But writers of a later age have seen
Less to admire in England's "virgin queen."
In mind a man, yet still a woman vain,
No constancy of purpose marked her reign.
Impetuous and fickle as her sire,
Woe to the hapless object of her ire:
Proud Essex' earl and luckless Mary felt
A heart like hers no tenderness could melt.
Yet learning and religion, by her care,
Were fostered, and sprung up in beauty rare.
Shakspeare, Locke, Raleigh, and a numerous host
Of noble spirits, too, her reign can boast.



FREDERICK THE GREAT.

Born 1712. Began to reign 1740. Died 1786.

BESET with foes this valiant king maintained
His royal seat, and long o'er Prussia reigned.
The Austrians oft he checked; at length his foes
Combined their forces, and a war arose
That lasted seven years.— Now Sweden, France,
Russia, and Germany, 'gainst him all advance;
But still he conquered, until lovely peace
Sheathed every sword, and bade the contest cease.



FREDERICK THE GREAT.

KING OF PRUSSIA.



GEORGE IV.

KING OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



GEORGE IV.

Born 1762. Began to reign 1820. Died 1830.

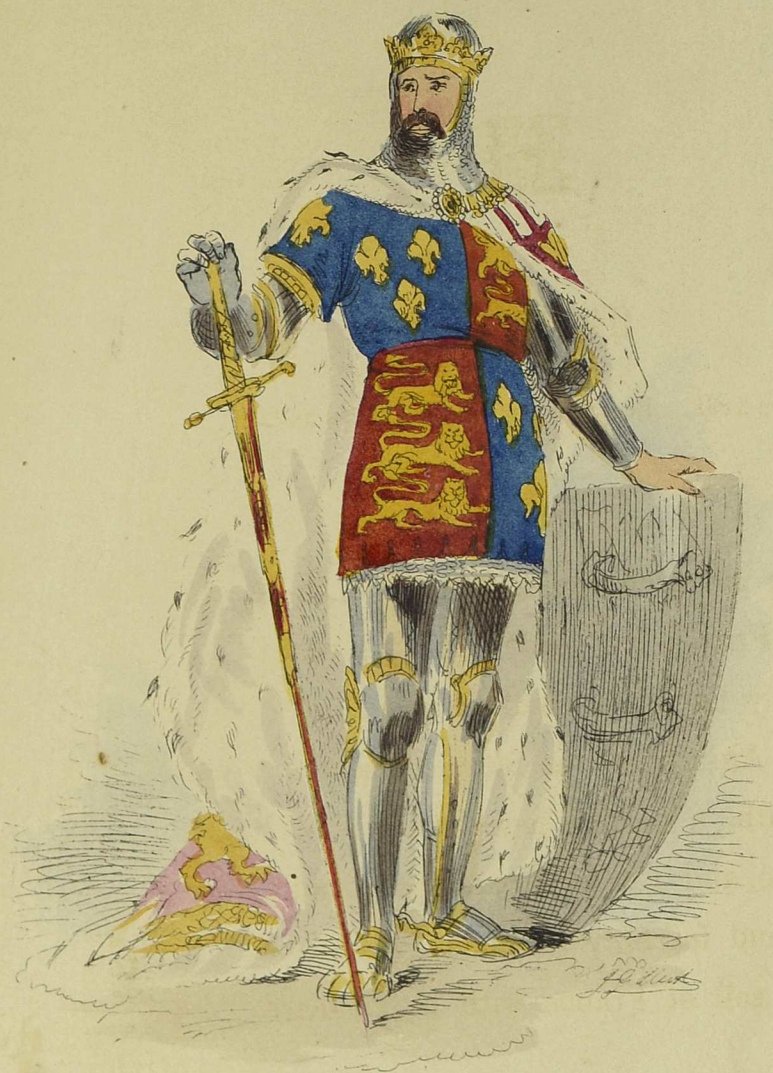
As Regent, first, he reigned o'er Britain's land;
Then, for ten years, the sceptre graced his hand.
Long had the awful scourge of war prevailed,
But now, with joy, the approach of peace was hailed.
The victory which humbled France's pride,
Restored the precious boon, so long denied.
Long may that chief of blessings be our own—
A peaceful monarch on a peaceful throne.



HENRY V.

Born 1388. Began to reign 1413. Died 1422.

THIS warlike monarch sought a hostile shore,
And to fair France his hardy veterans bore;
On Normandy he seized, and in the field
Of well-won Agincourt, his fame he sealed.
After his death, a contest fierce ensued
'Twixt France and England; and the deadly feud
Raged wild and fearfully for many years,
Steeping the soil of France with bitter tears.



HENRY V, OF MONMOUTH.

KING OF ENGLAND.



ISABELLA OF CASTILE.

QUEEN OF SPAIN.



ISABELLA.

Born 1451. Began to reign 1474. Died 1504.

THIS queen Castile's inhabitants obeyed,
While Arragon's fair sceptre Ferdinand swayed.
United by their marriage, since this reign,
The monarchs are entitled kings of Spain.
The great Columbus now at length prevailed,
And, under her protection, boldly sailed
In search of unknown lands; and, once unfurl'd,
His sail he lowered not, till a "new world"
Burst on his view, and with immortal fame
Invested this great navigator's name.



JAMES I.

Born 1566. Began to reign 1603. Died 1625.

ENGLAND and Scotland centuries had been
Of ill-kept peace, or mutual war, the scene;
But, to Elizabeth succeeding, now
James wears the double crown upon his brow;
And since, though governed still by different laws,
One king hath ruled them in a common cause.
Learned, but pedantic, — clever, yet a fool,
This king became his artful minions' tool.
And generous Raleigh's death will prove a stain
For ever on the annals of his reign.



J A M E S I .

K I N G O F E N G L A N D .



K E N N E T H I I I .

K I N G O F S C O T L A N D .



KENNETH MACALPINE.

Began to reign 843. Died 859.

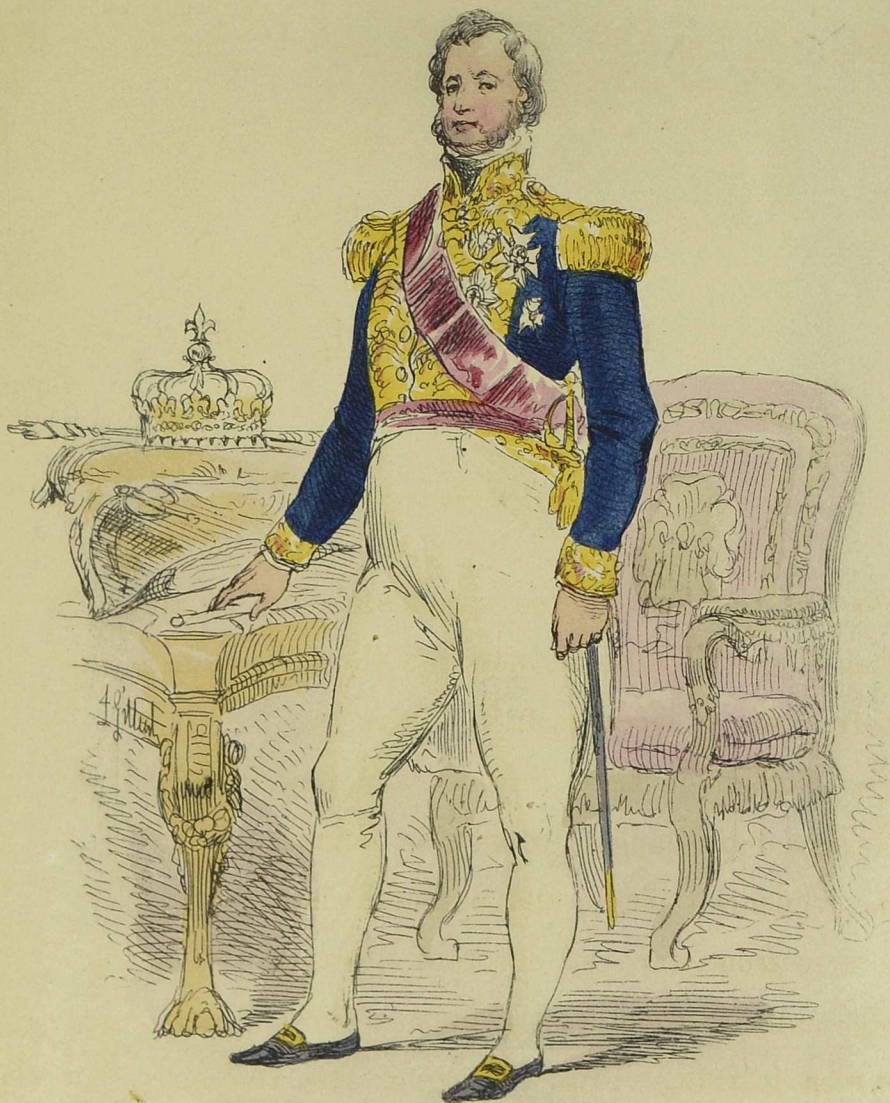
BEFORE this reign a fearful warfare raged
Between the Picts and Scots, who oft engaged
In contest fierce, causing their land to mourn—
Wasted, despoiled, and by dissension torn ;
But, by this valiant king, o'erpowered or slain,
The Picts ne'er rose against the Scots again.
Some tell that *all* were killed, while others say
The king pursued a milder, better way—
Winning them over to their victor's cause
By kindness, gentleness, and wholesome laws—
'Till discord ceased, and Scots and Picts became
One nation, both in spirit and in name.



LOUIS PHILIPPE.

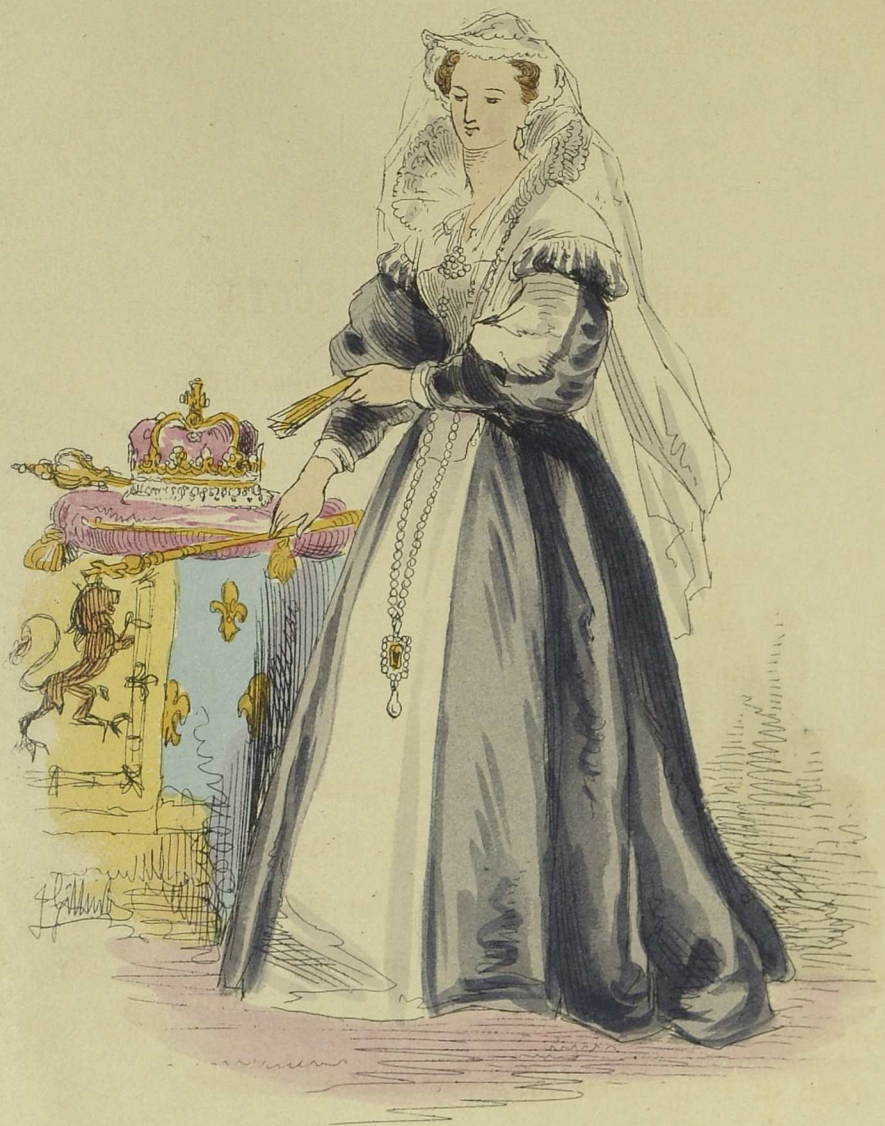
Began to reign 1830.

KING of the French, the nation's choice, he reigns !
The House of Orleans now the throne obtains.
A revolution placed upon his brow
The diadem of fickle France ; and now,
Unmoved by danger, calmly he pursues
His beneficial plans, and peaceful views.
Averse from war, — a lover of the arts,
His smile to them new energy imparts ;
Whilst learning opens her exhaustless stores,
And o'er the land her richest treasures pours.



LOUIS PHILIPPE.

KING OF THE FRENCH.



M A R Y.

QUEEN OF SCOTS.



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.

Born 1542. Began to reign 1542. Beheaded 1587.

YOUNG, beautiful, she mounted Scotland's throne ;
But soon Misfortune "marked her for her own."
Hurled from her state by stern rebellion's power,
See her a prisoner in Lochleven's tower.
Escaping thence, by faithful Douglas' aid,
Once more the royal banner was displayed.
Again defeated, shrinking from the scene,
She fled for refuge to a sister queen.
Sad page in history ! — that sister gave,
Instead of refuge, an untimely grave !
O'er Mary's faults we draw a tender veil,
So great her sorrows, and so sad her tale.



NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE.

Born 1769. Began to reign 1804. Died 1821.

LED by this wond'rous man, we see advance
The conquering eagle of republic France.
As Consul next he gains increased renown;
And finally, as Emperor, wears the crown.
His meteor course extending every hour,
Italy, Egypt, Syria, felt his power.
'Gainst Austria, Russia, Prussia, next his arms
Were turned, and Europe filled with war's alarms.
At length, in strictest league these powers unite,
To crush his hitherto resistless might.
The conqueror's course was run—his sun was set:
At Waterloo the hostile armies met.
Defeated! exiled! now he crossed the wave,
To find in St. Helena's isle—a grave!



NAPOLÉON BUONAPARTE.

EMPEROR OF FRANCE.



OLIVER CROMWELL.

PROTECTOR OF ENGLAND.



OLIVER CROMWELL.

Born 1599. Made Protector 1649. Died 1658.

As soldier first, we find him raise his hand
Against his king. Then rising to command,
He still advances, till we see him fill
The office of Protector. / None his will
Dare to dispute, much less to disobey;
So stern his temper, and so firm his sway.
But yet the "small still voice" within his breast
Was an unwelcome and much dreaded guest;
Ever upbraiding for the blood he spilt,
Until he died—o'erpressed with conscious guilt.



PETER THE GREAT.

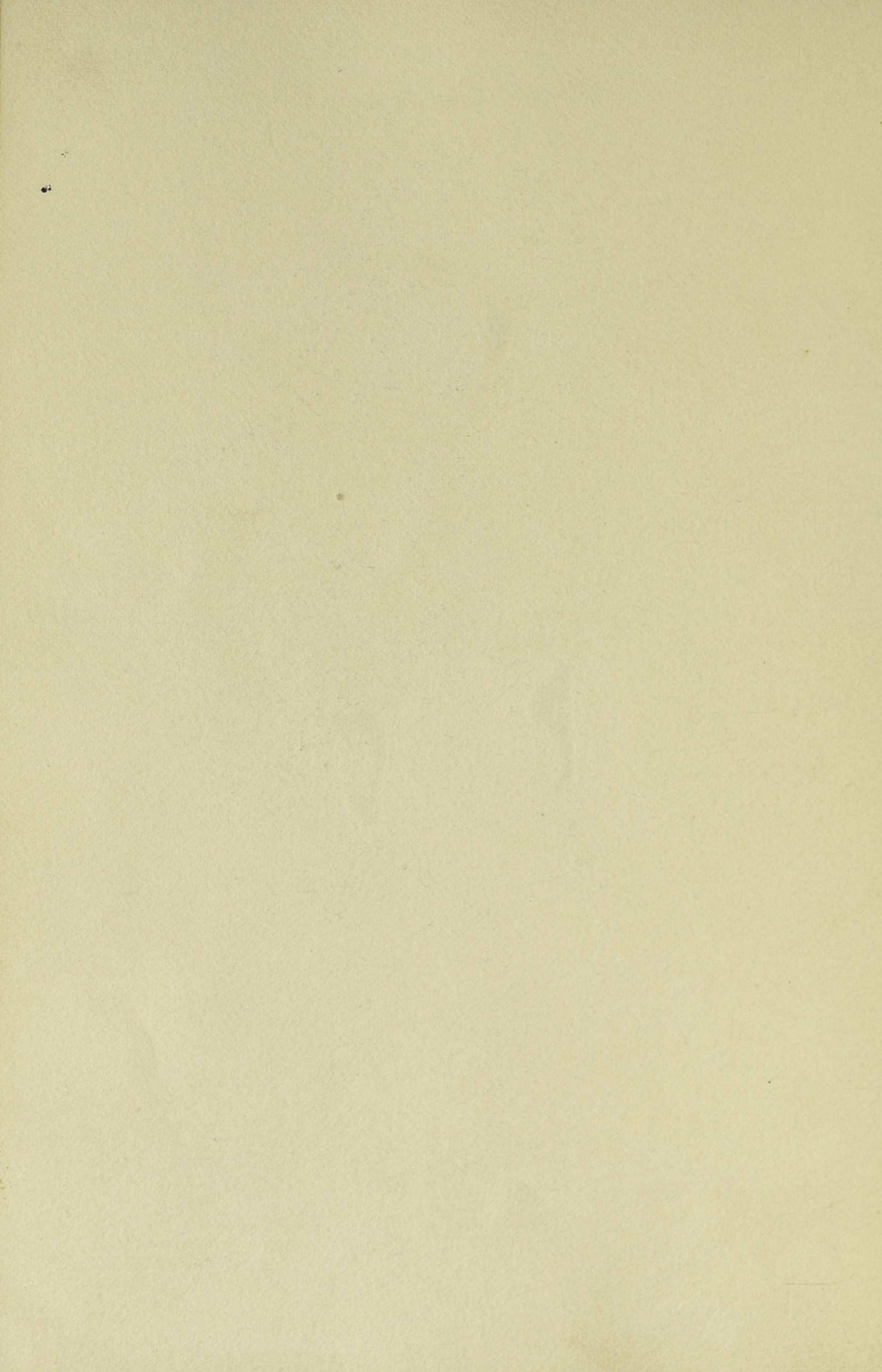
Born 1672. Began to reign 1696. Died 1725.

A SEMI-BARBAROUS people to control,
In a vast kingdom stretching to the Pole,
Was Peter's mighty task ; yet Russia rose,
Through him, in triumph over all her foes.
Pultowa's field, where Charles of Sweden found
A conqueror first, his brow with glory crowned.
All foreign and domestic foes subdued,
A peaceful course this wond'rous man pursued ;
And, where a swamp extended many miles,
Built his new capital on driven piles.
His ardent mind still on improvement bent,
Through various countries in disguise he went ;
Wrought as a carpenter, and learned to build
The floating castles of the deep. Then skilled
In naval art, to Russia he returned,
And taught the useful lessons he had learned.



P E T E R T H E G R E A T .

C Z A R O F R U S S I A .





RICHARD CŒUR DE LION.

KING OF ENGLAND.



RICHARD CŒUR DE LION.

Born 1157. Began to reign 1189. Died 1199.

THIS monarch's surname tells that he was brave —
That he deserved it, many a proof he gave.
Joining with eagerness the third crusade,
He left his kingdom, Syria to invade.
His single arm was reckon'd as a host,
His valour spread dismay along the coast.
Returning homewards, he was captive made
By Austria's Duke ; and, far from any aid,
The royal prisoner languished for two years ;
While his fond subjects, filled with hopes and fears
(Unknown his prison), sighed for his return,
But yet no tidings of their king could learn.
At length discovered, they his ransom paid,
And home in triumph Richard was convey'd.



SALADIN.

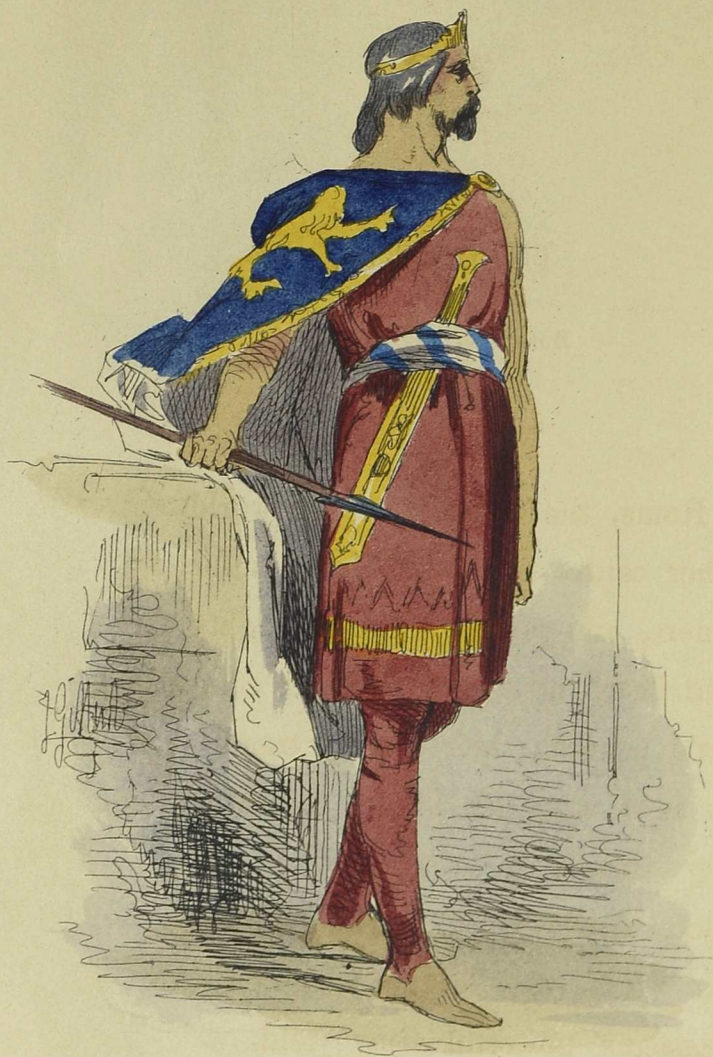
Born 1137. Died 1193.

THIS was the Sultan, who, when Richard's band
Were gaining laurels in the Holy Land,
Led forth his host of infidels, and stood,
With giant strength, against th' invading flood.
Nor vainly did he strive; his countless host
Of valour, as of multitude, could boast.
Once more Jerusalem he gained, and fought
In many battles; glorious deeds he wrought.
But Ascalon beheld his sore defeat,
While Victory laid her crown at Richard's feet.



S A L A D I N .

SULTAN OF EGYPT.



THEODORIC THE GREAT.

KING OF THE OSTROGOTHS.



THEODORIC.

Born 458. Died 526.

IMPERIAL Rome, the mistress of the world,
Shook to her centre when the Goths unfurl'd
Their banners, and poured down a mighty force,
Dismay and death attending on their course.
Italy groan'd beneath their mighty tread,
When this fierce king his hordes to victory led.
Dethroning Odoacer, he obtained
The kingdom of the Heruli. He gained
The Isle of Sicily, and in the field
Made Anastasius' powerful army yield.
To other conquests soon he led the way;
Rhætia and Noricum confessed his sway;
Pannonia trembled at the warrior's name,
So far this Gothic monarch spread his fame.



URBAN VIII.

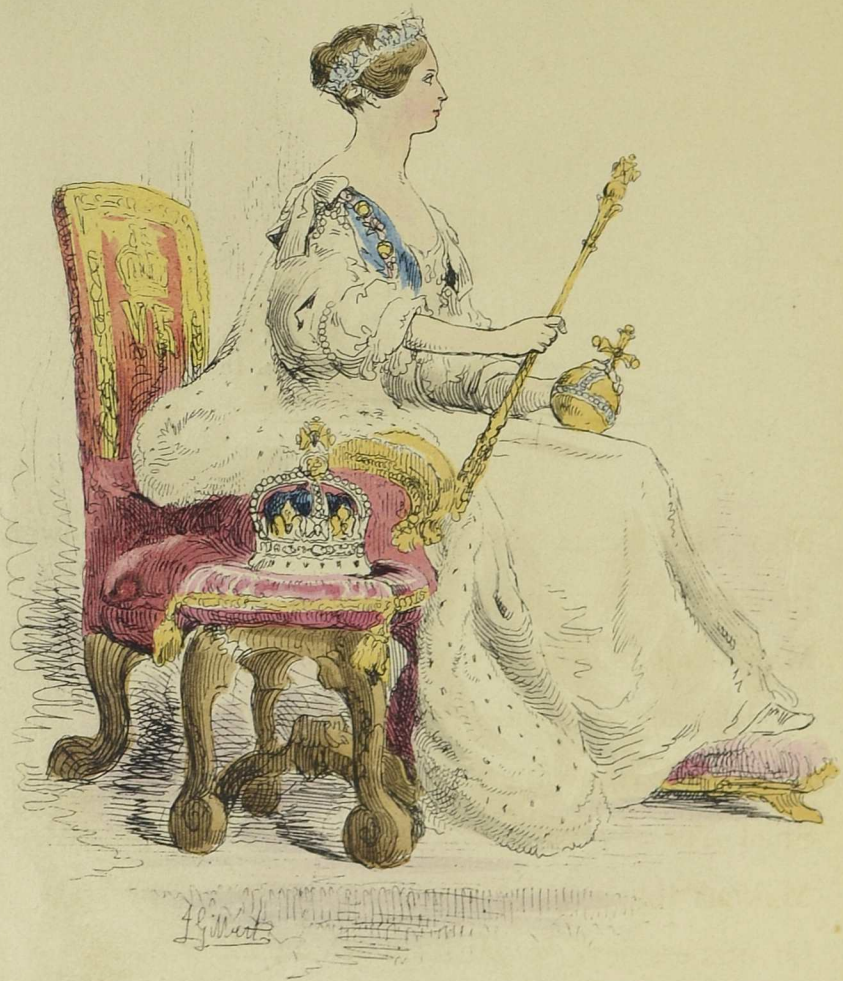
Born 1568. Elected Pope, 1623. Died 1644.

GENIUS and varied talents did adorn
The triple crown, when by this pontiff worn.
A son of Florence, he to Pisa went,
And many years in legal studies spent;
Promotion met him, and through each degree
He pass'd, until he reach'd the Holy See.
To learning then he lent a fost'ring hand,
And built a college in his native land.



U R B A N V I I I .

P O P E O F R O M E .



V I C T O R I A .

QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



VICTORIA.

Born 1819. Began to reign 1837.

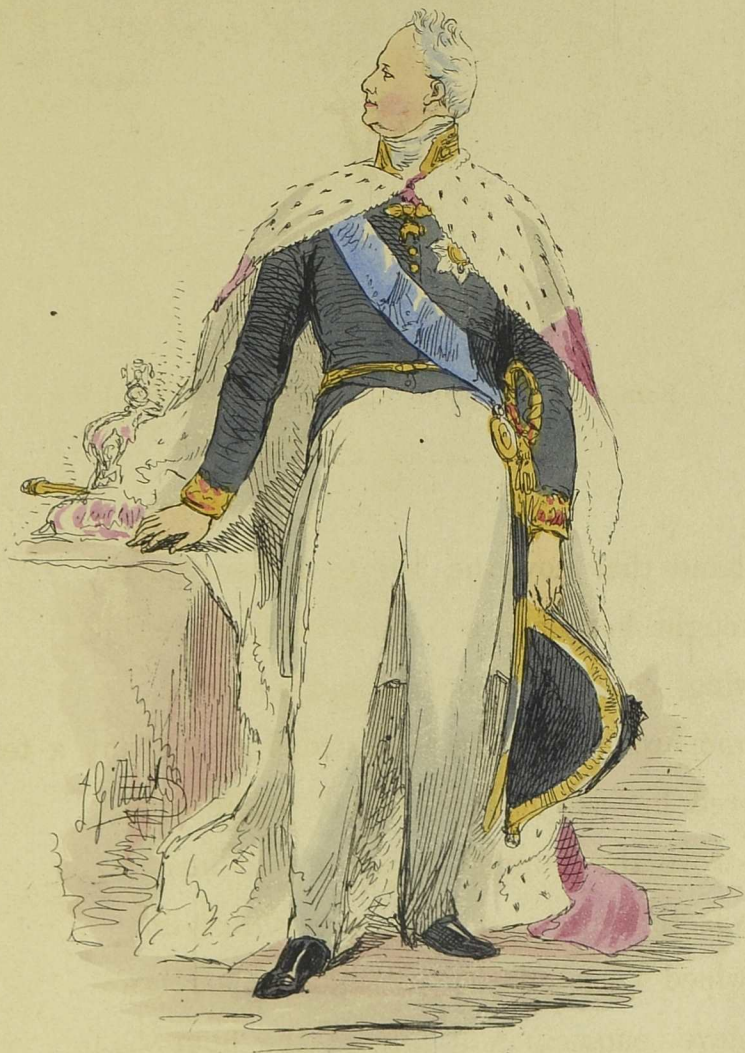
MAY Heaven its choicest blessings on thee shower, —
Increase of happiness, increase of power !
May wisdom from above descend on thee,
Direct each counsel—dictate each decree.
May each revolving year, each passing day,
Shed o'er thy path a brighter, sunnier ray ;
Making this fleeting scene an emblem bright,
Of endless joys in Heaven, where all is light.



WILLIAM IV.

Born 1765. Began to reign 1830. Died 1837.

THE hand that now the law to Britain gave,
Had fought her battles on the briny wave;
Forgiving, candid, generous, and sincere,
This monarch's death was mourned with many a tear. /
He loved his people, sought the public weal,
And strove the wounds of poverty to heal.
Nor was this all; — a deep, a fearful stain,
Was wiped from off the nation in this reign; /
The slave, emancipated, blessed the hour
That witnessed the defeat of lawless power;
And Christian England hailed the sun which rose,
With healing ray, upon the captive's woes. /



W I L L I A M I V .

K I N G O F G R E A T B R I T A I N A N D I R E L A N D .



X E R X E S .

K I N G O F P E R S I A .



XERXES.

Died B.C. 465.

VAIN monarch ! richly didst thou earn thy fate,
When, Greece invading, all thy pomp and state
Were scattered to the winds, or 'neath the wave
Found an abiding home, — a ready grave !
Lashing the sea that checked thy onward path,
And threatening lofty Athos with thy wrath.
Thou thought'st to chase thy hapless foes with ease,
Like insects borne before the rising breeze.
But freedom's spirit lent thy foes a power
Beyond thine own ; and glorious was the hour
Which sent thee back — a solitary thing, —
A boasting, cowardly, self-deluded king.



ZENOBIA.

Died A.D. 300.

BEHOLD her, standing in her royal state,
Swaying the sceptre which commands the fate
Of countless thousands. Egypt she subdued,
And still the course of victory pursued,
'Till Roman valour changed the scene; and now
Behold her to the imperial victor bow.
Aurelian robs her of her fair domains,
And she adorns his triumph — in her chains!
Sad lesson to the proud on earth. The sun
That rises on our glory, ere it run
Its daily course, may see that glory fade,
And all our hopes within the dark tomb laid.

THE END.



Z E N O B I A .

QUEEN OF PALMYRA.

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