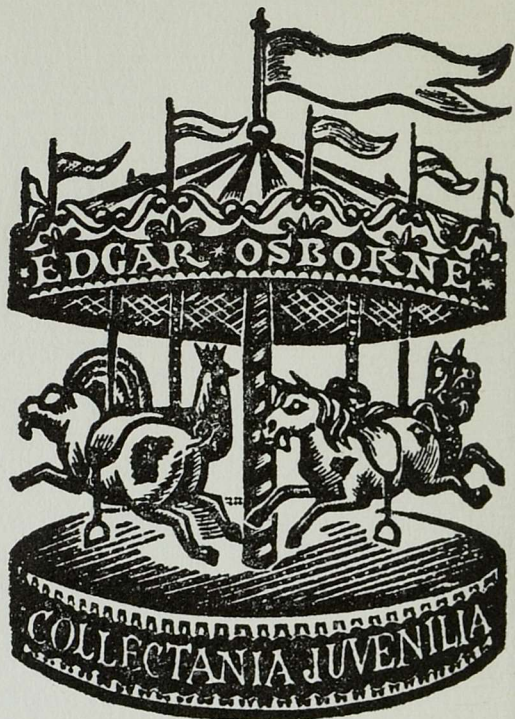


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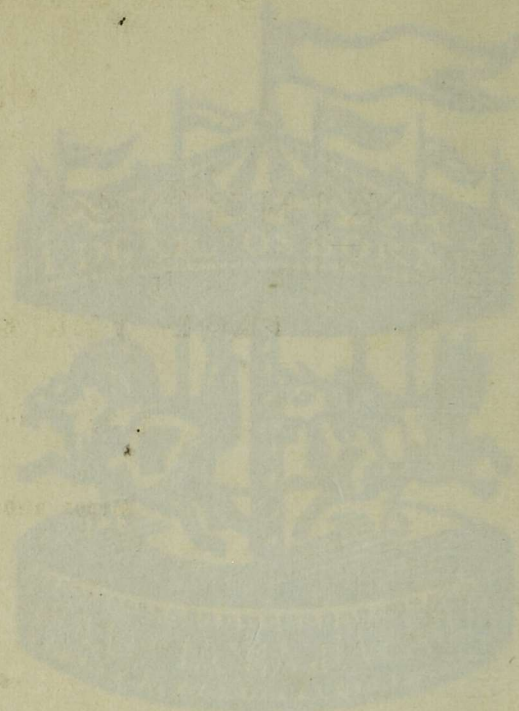
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CHRONOLOGY
OF
KINGS OF ENGLAND,
FROM THE CONQUEST:

IN

Prose and Verse.

LONDON:
WILLIAM DARTON AND SON, HOLBORN HILL.

1834.

Chronological Table

OF

KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND,

FROM THE CONQUEST.

NORMAN LINE.

	reigned from
William I.	1066 to 1087
William II.	1087..1100
Henry I.	1100..1135

HOUSE OF BLOIS.

Stephen1135..1154

PLANTAGENETS.

Henry II.	1154..1189
Richard I.	1189..1199
John	1199..1216
Henry III.	1216..1272
Edward I.	1272..1307
—— II.	1307..1327
—— III.	1327..1377
Richard II.	1377..1399

HOUSE OF LANCASTER, OR RED ROSE.

Henry IV.	1399..1413
—— V.	1413..1422
—— VI.	1422..1461

HOUSE OF YORK, OR WHITE ROSE.

Edward IV.	1461..1483
—— V.	1483
Richard III.	1483..1485

HOUSE OF TUDOR.

	reigned from
Henry VII.	1485 to 1509
—— VIII.	1509..1547
Edward VI.	1547..1553
Mary	1553..1558
Elizabeth.	1558..1603

HOUSE OF STUART.

James I.	1603..1625
Charles I.	1625..1649

THE COMMONWEALTH.

Cromwell.....1648..1658

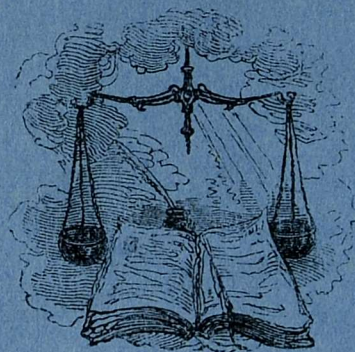
Charles II.	1660..1685
James II.	1685..1688

HOUSE OF ORANGE.

William III.	1689..1702
Ann	1702..1714

HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK, OR HANOVER.

George I.	1714..1727
—— II.	1727..1760
—— III.	1760..1820
—— IV.	1820..1830
William IV.	1830



WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

William, on the defeat and death of Harold, took and fortified Dover as a place of retreat. He then hastened to London, where the clergy, partly through fear, offered him the crown; and he was crowned at Westminster, on the 25th December, 1066, by Aldred, then Archbishop of York. He built a convent at Hastings, which he called Battle Abbey. He also built castles all over England, which he filled with Norman soldiers, to awe the natives. He married Matilda, daughter of the Earl of Flanders. In his reign the curfew was instituted, by which all persons were forbidden to have a light in their houses after sun-set. He confirmed Harold's son, Edgar, in the Earldom of Oxford, which had been conferred on him by his father. His son Robert revolted, and had nearly made himself master of Normandy, but William arriving, soon suppressed it. In this action, Robert wounded his father, without knowing him. Robert, while in an expedition against the Scots, founded the city of Newcastle. The Welsh having made some incursions into England, William march-



NORMAN LINE.

First King.

ed an army against them, and punished them. He after this built the Tower of London, to keep the city in awe. Pope Gregory VII. required William to do homage for his kingdom, but he refused, and forbade his subjects to acknowledge any Pope till he had approved him. His kingdom being established in peace, he ordered a correct account to be taken of what every one was worth, which was entered into a book, called Domesday Book. This king was very fond of hunting, and he formed the New Forest, in Hampshire, which is above thirty-six miles in compass. About this time, 1079, his queen, Matilda, died. Though grown very corpulent and unwieldy, he carried on a cruel war against the king of France, for a jest, which that monarch had made upon his corpulence. In this expedition, however, he was taken ill of a fever, and died at Rouen, in France, the 9th of September, 1087. He had four sons. To Robert he left Normandy. Richard was killed by a stag in the New Forest. William succeeded to the throne, and to Henry he left a small sum of money.

THE YEAR 1066.

In one thousand and sixty-six we date,
The battle of Hastings, when Harold's fate
Placed the British crown on a Norman's head,
And William the Conqueror reigned in his stead.

WILLIAM RUFUS.

William II. third son of William the Conqueror, whilst his father was expiring, set off for England (his brother Robert being in Germany), and having got possession of the royal treasures, by the assistance of Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, caused himself to be elected king, and was crowned on the 27th September, 1087, a few days after his father's death. A conspiracy was soon after formed against him, which he speedily crushed, by the assistance of Norman friends. He was, if possible, still more covetous than his father, and his exactions on the English people were truly insupportable. He invaded Normandy, which had been bequeathed to Robert, but the two brothers came to terms, and they agreed, that if either should die without heirs the other should succeed to his dominions. In 1093, Malcolm, king of Scotland, invaded England, and was killed in battle: after which, Donald, his brother, seized upon the throne, to the prejudice of Malcolm's sons, who were minors. There was one Walter, grand steward of the



NORMAN LINE.

Second King.

household, attended Malcolm in his invasion, and from this man sprung the race of Stuarts, who so long reigned in Scotland, and finally succeeded to the English throne. In 1094, William again quarrelled with Robert, and induced all his barons, and also the king of France, to declare against him, but he was compelled to return home to quell an insurrection and a conspiracy set on foot to dethrone him. In 1096, all Europe seemed frantic with the Crusade to the Holy Land, which was set on foot by Pope Urban II., to recover Jerusalem out of the hands of the Mahometans. In this war, forty thousand Saracens were killed. He re-built London Bridge, surrounded the Tower with a massive wall, and built Westminster Hall. He fortified Carlisle to curb the incursions of the Scots. William is said to have been shot by Walter Tyrrel, while hunting in the New Forest, in the year 1100, and was buried at Winchester. He was unmarried. He was courageous, and greatly distinguished for his strength, but intemperate, and covetous.

THE YEAR 1087.

Next, in one thousand and eighty seven,
Came William-Rufus, to whom was given
The title of Red, from his hair's bright hue.
He was killed by an arrow, which Tyrrel threw.

HENRY THE FIRST.

Henry, fourth son of William I., taking advantage of Robert's absence (who was at the Holy Land), ascended the throne in 1100. He began his reign in a very promising manner, by reforming the abuses of the court, abolishing the *curfew*, and confirming many of the Saxon laws. He likewise fixed a standard for weights and measures. He gave great satisfaction to the people, by his marriage with Matilda (daughter of Malcolm, king of Scotland), who was a descendant from the Saxon kings. Robert returned to Normandy in 1101, and, having learned what had happened, invaded England; but without success, and finally made the same agreement as he had done with William, that the survivor should succeed to the other's dominions. In 1105, the brothers again quarrelled, and Henry conquered all Normandy, and confined Robert in Cardiff Castle for life. Henry restored learning to its former state at Cambridge, where it had been much neglected since the time of its founder, Edward the Confessor. In 1115, Ma-



NORMAN LINE.

Third King.

tilda, Henry's queen, died. In 1119, Henry carried on a vigorous war against Louis le Gros, king of France, and entirely defeated him; after which a peace was agreed to, and Henry and his son set sail for England, but in different ships, and the ship with the young prince, and most of the young nobility on board, struck upon a rock, and they were all drowned. In 1121, Henry married a second wife, Adelais, daughter of the duke of Louvaine, but by this marriage he had no issue. In 1133, Robert, the king's brother, died in Cardiff Castle, after a confinement of twenty-six years. In August, 1135, Henry, while in the castle at Lyons, near Rouen, was seized with a violent illness, which carried him off in seven days. His body, after being embalmed, was brought over to England, and buried at Reading. He was handsome, brave, accomplished, and fond of literature, but avaricious, cruel, and violent. He acquired the name of Beauclerc, not from his actual learning, but rather as compared with the kings of those times.

THE YEAR 1100.

One thousand one hundred placed Henry the First,
On a throne he purchased by means unjust;
His talents were good, but in him we trace
Not that brotherly love, which is nature's grace.

STEPHEN.

Stephen (the son of the Earl of Blois, who had married Adela, daughter of William the Conqueror), resolved upon obtaining the crown; he, therefore, upon the death of Henry, hastened to England, and, by the assistance of the clergy ascended the throne, and was crowned in 1135. To ingratiate himself with the people, he granted a charter, containing many privileges, which, however, were little attended to afterwards. In 1137 the English were entirely defeated by the Welsh, near Cardigan, and a general revolt took place of most of the barons of England, against Stephen, at the head of which was Robert, Earl of Gloucester, natural son of Henry I. Whilst Stephen was engaged against his barons in the heart of England, David, king of Scotland, invaded the northern part, but a powerful army being raised by Thurstan, Archbishop of York, he was defeated near North Alerton. This was called the war of the standard, from a high crucifix, which the English placed in a waggon. In 1139, Matilda, daughter of



NORMAN LINE.

Fourth King.

Henry I., was invited over by the malcontents, who acknowledged her as their queen, and a most sanguinary war was carried on for a long time, in which Stephen showed great bravery and abilities. At a battle fought near Lincoln, Stephen's army was entirely defeated, and himself made prisoner, and being sent to Bristol, was ignominiously put in chains. Matilda gained over to her party the bishop of Winchester, but her conduct was so haughty, that they soon quarrelled, and he entered into a conspiracy to seize her person; on which she fled, first to Oxford, and thence to Winchester; and in her retreat from thence, the earl of Gloucester was taken prisoner, and afterwards exchanged for Stephen, which increased the fury of the war. Matilda was at length completely harrassed out, and she left England, with her son, for Normandy. In the year 1153, it was agreed that Henry, the son of the Earl of Anjou, should succeed to the throne on the death of Stephen, which took place the following year, 1154, after a short illness.

THE YEAR 1135.

In one thousand one hundred and thirty-five,
We find Stephen of Blois, Henry's heir deprive
Of his legal right; and by valorous strife,
Retain the crown for the term of his life.

HENRY THE SECOND.

Henry, after the death of Stephen, continued some time in Normandy, not hearing of the smallest commotion in England to cause any apprehension for the crown; and when he did go over to England, he was joyfully received by all ranks, and immediately crowned, the beginning of January 1155. The first use he made of his power was to destroy the amazing number of castles which had been erected during the troubles of the former reign, and which were now receptacles for bands of robbers, and other infamous people. He likewise sent away Stephen's foreign troops, who were hateful to the nation and to their general. He recalled all the grants that had been wantonly bestowed by Stephen and Matilda. In 1156, he made a very advantageous treaty with Malcolm, king of Scotland. In 1157 the Welsh, invading England, Henry completely humbled them. Thomas à Becket was created Archbishop of Canterbury, but after a short time, he so insulted and tyrannized over the king, that he could not endure it; and upon the



PLANTAGENET RACE.

Fifth King.

king complaining of it, four of his domestics went to Canterbury, and assassinated Becket at the altar, 1171. In 1176, Henry confirmed the laws of Edward the Confessor, and divided England into circuits, for the judges to go at stated times to administer justice. In 1188, Henry's sons revolted and joined Philip of France against their father. Henry offered terms of accommodation, but Philip's proposals were too exorbitant to be complied with. 1189.---The king's affairs growing worse and worse, he was forced to agree to Philip's terms: during the negotiation he found out, that his beloved son, John, had been privy to all Philip's and Richard's plots for dethroning him. In the agony of his mind he cursed both his sons, which he would never revoke. He died in August, at the castle of Chinon, near Saumur, of a broken heart, in the fifty-eighth year of his age, and the thirty-fifth of his reign: he displayed all the abilities of a politician, all the sagacity of a legislator, and all the magnanimity of a hero.

THE YEAR 1154.

Henry the Second, to Britain long peace did restore,
In the year eleven hundred and fifty-four;
The barons were humbled, the turbulent quell'd,
But the king's own sons against him rebelled.

RICHARD THE FIRST.

Richard, son of Henry II., surnamed Cœur de Lion, from his great bravery, was, soon after his father's death, crowned at Westminster. He immediately released his mother, who had been long in confinement, and placed her at the head of his affairs. He gave up the sovereignty over Scotland for a large sum of money, alienated the crown lands, and exerted every means in his power to raise money for a crusade to Palestine, which he undertook in conjunction with Philip of France. In 1192, however, Philip returned to France owing to his jealousy of Richard's great fame, who had performed acts of unexampled bravery. In 1193, Richard, having defeated Saladin, concluded a truce with him for three years, and then embarked for Europe, but being shipwrecked on his way he was made prisoner by the Duke of Austria, and detained until a ransom of one hundred and fifty thousand marks was paid for his release. News having arrived of his being taken prisoner, his brother John tried every means to supplant him in the



PLANTAGENET RACE.

Sixth King.

kingdom, by spreading reports of his dying in prison. All his schemes, however, were frustrated by the arrival of Richard, amid the congratulations of his subjects, in 1194. Soon after this he carried on a war against Philip of France, which continued, with various success, for upwards of four years, when both parties being tired out, entered into a truce. In 1199, Richard besieged the castle of Chalus, the refuge of a person who was disputing with him the possession of a treasure which he had found concealed. While reconnoitering the castle to find out the best place for a successful assault, he received an arrow in his neck which brought on a fever, of which he died. By his own desire he was buried at Fontevault at his father's feet. Richard was a bold and valiant king, but strongly imbued with the superstition of his age. In this reign the city of London was first divided into Companies of Trades called Corporations. Richard was the first who bore the three lions passant, which are quartered upon the English coat of arms.

THE YEAR 1189.

One thousand one hundred and eighty-nine,
Led Richard the First to Palestine,
This valorous Prince, who danger defied,
In France, by the wound of an arrow died.

JOHN.

On the death of Richard, John, in pursuance of his brother's will, but more particularly by the assistance of his treasures, ascended the throne, and was crowned in London by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The English provinces in France, however, declared for John's nephew, Arthur, and applied to Philip, who readily promised them assistance. Finding that Philip was attending more to his own ambitious projects than their advantage, Arthur and his mother went over to John; but being alarmed for their safety, by John's diabolical practices, they soon returned to the king of France, who, watching every opportunity to take advantage of John's imbecility, instigated the Earl of Marche, assisted by Arthur, to invade his provinces. John, however, going over, defeated them both and made them prisoners. Arthur was supposed to have been murdered by John's own hands and thrown into the Seine, for which he was sentenced to forfeit all his possessions in France. In 1215, the barons prayed to be restored to their



PLANTAGENET RACE.

Seventh King.

rights as in the time of Edward the Confessor and John rejecting their petition, they chose the Earl Fitzwalter for their general, took London, and besieged the king in the Tower. John, finding himself deserted on all sides, sent word by the Earl of Pembroke that he granted their demands. Accordingly both parties met on the 15th of June, at Runnymede, when John signed two charters, one called Magna Charta, the other the Charter of the forests; but not intending to abide by them, he hired foreign troops, and having got the pope to absolve him from his oath, the barons were totally repulsed. Upon this they sent a deputation to Philip of France to send them over his son Louis, whom they would acknowledge as their king, John being too infamous to be trusted. In 1216, Louis arrived with a few troops, and, on his coming, all John's foreign soldiers forsook him, and being pursued from place to place, was at length thrown, by the distressed state of his affairs, into a fever, of which he died, Oct. 28, and was buried at Worcester.

THE YEAR 1199.

John—in whom vices conspicuous shine,
Reigned, one thousand one hundred and ninety nine;
He murdered Prince Arthur, and impelled by fear,
Signed Magna Charta—to Englishmen dear.

HENRY THE THIRD.

The Earl of Pembroke resolved upon placing John's son, Henry, upon the throne, though only ten years of age, and surrounded as he was by enemies; he, therefore, carried the young prince to Gloucester, where he was crowned in the presence of the bishops of Winchester and Bath, and a few noblemen; after which, an assembly being convoked at Bristol, the Earl was declared protector of the kingdom. He immediately renewed the charters granted by John, and being well known as a man of the strictest honour, prevailed on the barons to return to their allegiance, which forced Louis to quit the kingdom. Soon after this, to the great loss of the nation, the Earl of Pembroke died, and was succeeded by Peter des Roches, bishop of Winchester, and Hubert de Burgh, as regents. The king soon showed a very weak disposition, and, in a fit of caprice, dismissed his minister, Hubert, then Earl of Kent, to the great joy of some of the turbulent barons, who could not bear to see a worthy man at the head of affairs. Finding his resources utterly

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PLANTAGENET RACE.

Eighth King.

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drained, he called a parliament to grant him aid; but instead of assisting him they reproached him with his violation of the charter. On his swearing to be more just in future, money was granted him. In 1258, the barons, seeing Henry regardless of his oath to the charter, declared that they would grant no more supplies till the government was reformed; and a parliament was assembled at Oxford, where the king signed certain articles called the Provisions of Oxford; but he was absolved by the pope from his observance of these provisions, and he endeavoured to out-brave the Earl of Leicester and the barons; but in a contest with them Henry and his brother were taken, and Leicester having got all the royal family in his favour, became the tyrant of England; and to preserve his popularity, first instituted, in 1265, what is now the House of Commons, by ordering knights and burgesses to be sent from all the counties and boroughs. But in 1265, Leicester was defeated by prince Edward, at Evetham; when the king was restored.

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THE YEAR 1216.

In one thousand two hundred and sixteen,
Irresolute Henry the Third is seen,
Who, through a factious and turbulent reign,
Could never the love of his subjects obtain.

EDWARD THE FIRST.

On the death of Henry III. Edward being absent, it was to be feared that commotions would arise. But the nobles, remembering his able conduct and humane behaviour before his departure for Palestine, readily took the oath of allegiance, at a parliament assembled in London, on the demise of the king. The archbishop of York and Earl of Cornwall were appointed regents till his return. In 1276, Edward, remembering the assistance the Welsh had given the Earl of Leicester in the former reign, took the opportunity of Lewellyn, their prince, refusing to do homage, to go to war with them; and, in the course of a few years, he entirely conquered the country. Wales was on this annexed to the crown of England. In 1290, disputes concerning the succession to the crown of Scotland began. Both the claimants being men of great power, it was at last determined to desire Edward to be umpire in the dispute. In 1291, the states of Scotland met Edward, on the 12th of May, at Norham, when he desired them to acknowledge



PLANTAGENET RACE.

Fifth King.

his sovereignty over Scotland; which astonished them so much that they were silent, and he chose to construe that silence into an acknowledgment. In 1292, all the claimants dropped their pretensions, except Baliol and Bruce; and on the 14th of October, Edward declared Baliol king of Scotland, and delivered him up the fortresses, he having done fealty on the 10th of November. In 1298, the treatment of the Scotch as a conquered people, obliged them to revolt, under the conduct of William Wallace. An army was marched into Scotland to subdue them, but was entirely defeated by Wallace at Cambruskenneth, on the Forth. Edward soon after advanced into Scotland, and totally defeated the Scots at Falkirk. In 1305 Wallace was betrayed into Edward's hands by Sir John Monteith, and was executed on Tower-hill, as a rebel. After this, Robert Bruce escaped from England, on which the Scottish nobles flew to arms. Edward set out with an intention of destroying Scotland, but died on his way, at Carlisle, July 7, 1307.

THE YEAR 1272.

In the year twelve hundred and seventy-two,
To Edward the First, allegiance was due.
He to Palestine went — made a conquest of Wales;
And o'er Scotland at last his prowess prevails.

EDWARD THE SECOND.

Edward II. ascended the throne without his people's regretting the loss they had sustained, prognosticating a quiet reign, as this prince had always showed a mild and gentle disposition, free from vice; but he soon convinced them of their mistake. In 1308 he went to France to consummate his marriage with Isabella, daughter of Philip the Fair, and he left Gaveston regent, with unlimited authority, which so exasperated the nobility that they entered into a combination, and obliged the king to consent to several articles for the better government of the kingdom, one of which was the perpetual banishment of Gaveston. In 1313, during the various contests in England, Robert Bruce had left his fastnesses, and had daily reconciled the nobility to his dominion, by which means he had recovered all Scotland except Stirling. In 1314, England being now free from domestic quarrels, Edward thought seriously of reducing Scotland; for which purpose he raised an army of 100,000 men, with which he entered



PLANTAGENET RACE.

Tenth King.

Scotland, and was met by Bruce with an army of 30,000 men, which entirely defeated the English. In 1315 England was visited with a severe famine for upwards of three years; but the king did not abate his extravagance and prodigality on that account. In 1325, Edward, having suspicions of a conspiracy against him, desired Isabella, his queen, who was in France, to return to England: her answer was, that she would never set foot in England till the Spencers were removed from his councils. All things now bore the aspect of a civil war, and every body appeared to be in the conspiracy against the king. In the year 1326, Isabella sailed from the harbour of Dort with a large number of troops, as was given out, to remove the Spencers, but in fact to dethrone her husband. She landed without opposition on the coast of Suffolk, and was immediately joined by vast numbers, and many of the principal nobility. The king was deposed, and afterwards confined in Berkeley castle, where he was murdered in 1327.

THE YEAR 1307.

In one thousand three hundred and seven, 'tis known,
That Edward the Second, ascended the throne;
Bruce fought him for Scotland, and gain'd the day—
This king by murder was hurried away.

EDWARD THE THIRD.

Upon the deposition of the late king, his son, only fifteen years of age, was crowned Edward III.; but, though there was a regency appointed, the queen mother, and her paramour, Mortimer, in fact, engrossed the government to themselves. In 1328, Mortimer, finding he was very much hated by the English, contrived to have a peace concluded with the Scots. In 1329, Robert Bruce died, and was succeeded by his son David, only eight years of age. In 1330, on the death of Charles the Fair, king of France, without sons, Edward laid claim to that crown in right of Isabella, his mother; but the peers of France adjudged it to Philip of Valois. The king though not yet of age, took the reins of government into his own hands, by the consent of parliament; and, never relishing the peace Mortimer had made with Scotland, during his minority, formed a project in his own mind for conquering that country. In 1337, Edward having formed several alliances with German princes, particularly the Flemings,



PLANTAGENET RACE.

Eleventh King.

went over to Antwerp to begin his operations against Philip. He assumed the title of king of France, and quartered their arms with the English, and likewise the motto of *Dieu et mon droit*; all which laid the foundation of that animosity that has subsisted betwixt the English and French ever since. In 1346, whilst Edward was employed in France, the Scots, commanded by their king, David, (who was returned from France, at the instigation of Philip) invaded England, but without success. The plague made dreadful havoc in England this year, (1349) particularly in London. In 1354, the Scots surprised Berwick: on which Edward marched to the north, retook it, and ravaged Scotland as far as Edinburgh. In 1376, Edward the Black Prince died, universally regretted, as the most illustrious prince England ever produced. Edward made the nobility take an oath of fidelity to the son of the Prince of Wales, as their apparent of the crown: soon after which Edward died at Shene now Richmond. Edward III. built Windsor Castle,

THE YEAR 1327.

Edward the Third, highly favoured by Heaven,
Reigned, one thousand three hundred and twenty-seven.
Success crowned his arms, but the death of his son,
The Black Prince, threw a cloud on this king's setting sun.

RICHARD THE SECOND.

On the death of Edward, his grandson, Richard, was crowned, without any opposition, though only eleven years of age. His three uncles, the dukes of Lancaster, York, and Gloucester, were appointed regents. The House of Commons, which was now growing into great consequence, for the first time chose a Speaker. In 1331, to assist the government to carry on the war with France, the parliament ordered a poll-tax to be levied, which produced a very serious rebellion, headed by an obscure person who took the name of Wat Tyler. The king held a conference with him in Smithfield, where he behaved so insolently, that Walworth, the mayor of London, put him to death. In 1335, Richard, as he advanced towards manhood, showed his want of capacity in every enterprise he undertook. In 1392, England was greatly afflicted with the plague, and a famine. The Scots made an irruption into England, when a battle was fought near Otterborne in which the Earl of Northumberland's son, Hotspur, was



PLANTAGENET RACE.

Twelfth King.

taken prisoner, and Douglas, the leader of the Scots, was killed. In 1394, Anne, Richard's queen, died; she was a great favourite of the followers of Wickliffe, or Lollards. This sect had been founded for some time, and was gaining ground very fast. Wickliffe, the leader, was a powerful and zealous opponent of many doctrines of the Romish church, and is justly styled the first English Reformer. Pope Gregory sent orders to seize and bring him to trial, but owing to his great popularity no sentence was passed. He was educated at the college of Oxford. In 1398, the parliament formally deposed the king as unworthy to reign. Henry, Duke of Lancaster, laid claim to the crown, as being descended by his mother from Edmund Earl of Lancaster, the pretended elder brother of Edward I. but who had been laid aside on account of some deformity in his person. The parliament, on the 30th of September, 1399, declared Henry of Lancaster king of England and France. Richard was starved to death, in the castle of Pomfret.

THE YEAR 1377.

In one thousand three hundred and seventy-seven, stands Richard the Second, whose subjects once ris'n
Their monarch deposed, ranged on Lancaster's side,
And Richard of hunger at Pomfret died.

HENRY THE FOURTH.

Henry IV., on the deposition of Richard, mounted the throne, in 1399. He was grandson to John of Gaunt, third son of Edward III. Upon his ascending the throne, the Earl of March, who was the real heir to the crown, finding the torrent against him, retired to his estate at Wigmore on the borders of Wales. The parliament were not content with giving the throne of Richard to Henry, but they likewise settled the succession on the House of Lancaster. In 1400, a conspiracy was entered into to assassinate Henry, which was discovered to him by the Duke of Albemarle. The conspirators were soon afterwards taken and beheaded. Maudlin, their leader, was taken and hanged. Robert III., king of Scotland, refusing to do homage, Henry marched to the north, and ravaged all Scotland; but finding he could make nothing of them, he in a few weeks returned to the south. Whilst Henry was in the north, the Welsh revolted, and chose Owen Glendowr, a private gentleman, for their prince; and in their incursions they took the Earl

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LANCASTER RACE.

Thirteenth King.

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of March prisoner; which Henry was not sorry for, as he heartily hated all that house, well knowing they had a better title to the crown than he had. In 1401, Henry marched into Wales, but was obliged to content himself with destroying the country, as Glendowr retired into the mountains. In 1403, the Earl of Northumberland, who had been very serviceable in placing Henry on the throne, quarrelled with him concerning some Scotch prisoners, and entered into a league with Owen Glendowr; but falling sick, his troops were commanded by his son, Piercy, who was encountered by the king (before Glendowr could join him), entirely defeated near Shrewsbury, and himself slain. Old Northumberland came to the king at York, endeavoured to excuse his conduct, and was pardoned. In 1407, Henry might truly be said to be at peace with all the world. But he was greatly vexed by the wicked conduct of the prince of Wales; who kept company with the most dissolute companions. Henry died in 1413.

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THE YEAR 1399.

One thousand three hundred and ninety-nine,
Reigned Henry the Fourth, of the Lancaster line,
The means by which Henry his power attained,
Fixed remorse in his bosom, which ever remained.

HENRY THE FIFTH.

In 1413, Henry V. ascended the throne, and by his subsequent acts confirmed all the prepossessions entertained in his favour. He called together his former abandoned companions, and told them of his intended reformation; and at the same time exhorted them to follow his example. The faithful ministers of his father began to tremble for their safety, apprehensive that the king would now visit them with punishment for their impartial administration of justice to all classes, but he soon calmed their fears by taking them into his confidence and friendship. In the beginning of this reign the country was much agitated by the religious opinions promulgated by John Wickliffe, whose followers got the name of Lollards, and who seemed every day to increase in numbers. Amongst those who imbibed the doctrines of Wickliffe, was Sir John Oldcastle, a gentleman of learning and property, who was most barbarously roasted alive for being a heretic, as he was called by the Romish clergy, and the ignorant and superstitious multitude. The king, to



LANCASTER RACE.

Fourteenth King.

turn the minds of the people from such horrid scenes, declared war against France, which was much disturbed by internal strife. His army, however, suffered severely by a contagious dysentery, which carried off three-fourths of its numbers. Upon this, Henry resolved to retire into Calais, but the French intercepted his retreat, and when he thought his way secure he was surprised to behold the whole French army drawn up on the plains of Agincourt. Seeing no alternative but an engagement, he cheered up his diseased troops to the charge, and though the enemy was ten times their superiors in numbers, their valour was such as to make the French speedily give way, and a decisive victory crowned the arms of the English. The result of this battle was, that Henry caused himself to be elected heir to the crown of France as well as of England, but it was determined that each kingdom should retain its respective laws and privileges. In 1421, when both crowns had devolved upon Henry he died, in the thirty-fourth year of his age.

THE YEAR 1413.

Brave Henry the Fifth, who on Agincourt's plain,
Added splendour to arms, that had ne'er known a stain,
Reigned, one thousand one hundred and thirteen,
In the midst of his victories quitted life's scene.

HENRY THE SIXTH.

During the minority of the young prince, Henry VI., the Duke of Bedford, a nobleman of great talents, was appointed Protector of the kingdom. His first efforts were directed against France, where a revolution had broken out, instigated by the celebrated Joan of Arc, a country girl, who fancied herself inspired of Heaven to restore her fallen country. The French court were sensible of the weakness of her pretensions, but they were willing to seize every opportunity to retrieve their declining fortunes; and she was accordingly sent against the enemy. A tale of successes followed her efforts, but she was at length taken prisoner, and the duke of Bedford being informed of this fact, purchased her, and had her tried for witchcraft. She was found guilty, and was sentenced to be burnt alive, which was executed with the most barbarous malignity. In 1443, Calais alone remained to the English of all the conquests that had been made in France. The people were now called to see not only affairs getting worse and worse on the continent,

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LANCASTER RACE.

Fifteenth King.

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but also to endure the horrors of intestine strife through the struggles between the Houses of York and Lancaster, which continued for many years to deluge the kingdom with blood. Margaret of Anjou, Henry's queen, while he was prisoner, sustained the cause of her husband in twelve battles, and being at length taken prisoner, she was brought with her son before Edward, duke of York, afterwards Edward IV., and the young prince showing rather more spirit than pleased Edward, he struck him on the mouth with his gauntlet, which was a signal for those around to despatch him. The king, his father, was soon after murdered in cold blood by the duke of Gloucester, who was afterwards Richard the Third.

During this and several previous reigns, a most absurd fashion was followed by the people. It was customary to wear the beaks or points of their shoes so long, that it was necessary to tie them up to their knees with laces or chains, to enable them to walk without stumbling; but in 1467 this custom was prohibited on the forfeiture of 20s.

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THE YEAR 1422.

One thousand four hundred and twenty-two, brought Henry the Sixth, when those battles were fought, Called the Lancastrian wars, — a murderer's blow, In the Tower, ended Henry's life and woe.

EDWARD THE FOURTH.

Edward IV. having succeeded both by conquest in battle and by murder, in ridding himself of his great enemies, now turned his thoughts upon punishing those of lesser note. The gibbets were daily filled with such of the king's adversaries as came under his notice, and their estates were freely confiscated to his use. At length, lulled by the power he had acquired, he abandoned himself to the most licentious pleasures. Being by nature handsome, he suffered himself to be flattered by his courtiers who were partakers in his vices. Crimes of all sorts were so common, that people could not consider their lives or property for any length of time safe. The clergy, too, who ought to have been examples to others, were equally abandoned; insomuch that they freely granted absolution to all such as had rendered themselves amenable to the laws. One crime alone of this king is sufficient to render his name odious—his cruelty to his brother, the duke of Clarence. While the king was hunting in the park of Thomas Burdet's, a friend of the duke's,

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HOUSE OF YORK.

Sixteenth King.

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he shot a white buck, which was a great favourite of the owner's. Burdet having ventured to censure this conduct was tried for his life, and publicly executed at Tyburn. The duke of Clarence, upon the death of his friend, vented his grief in reproaches against his brother, for which he was arraigned before the House of Peers, and Edward appeared as his accuser. The most powerful of course succeeded, and the only favour granted to the duke was a choice how he would die; upon which he selected drowning in a butt of malmsey. While this wicked and tyrannical monarch was directing his attention in preparations for a war with France, he died of a distemper, in the forty-second year of his age, and (reckoning from the death of the late king) the twenty-third of his reign. Edward IV. was a vain and licentious prince, and his horrid cruelties will disgrace his name to the latest posterity. In this reign lived the celebrated William Caxton, the first printer, who practised his art in Westminster Abbey in 1471.

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THE YEAR 1461.

One thousand four hundred and sixty one
Placed Edward the Fourth on the British throne,
Though brave, he was cruel—and murder's foul stain,
In the death of his brother—dishonours this reign.

EDWARD THE FIFTH.

Upon the death of Edward the Fourth, Richard, duke of Gloucester, was appointed protector of the realm. On pretence of guarding the persons of the late king's children, he had them both conveyed to the Tower. Having thus secured them, he next spread a report of their illegitimacy, and by pretended obstacles he put off the coronation of young Edward. His next aim was to put to death all whom he thought likely to frustrate his plans. With this view he first singled out Lord Hastings, who was warmly in the young king's interest, and had him executed at a moment's notice, without a trial or even a hearing. Jane Shore, the late king's mistress, was the next that felt his indignation. She had formerly been deluded from her husband, who was a goldsmith in Lombard-street, and continued to live with Edward IV. at his court. When brought to trial she pleaded guilty to the charge brought against her, and was condemned to walk bare-foot through the city, and to do penance in St. Paul's church in a white sheet, with a wax

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HOUSE OF YORK.

Seventeenth King.

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taper in her hand, before thousands of spectators. She lived above forty years after this, and was reduced to great distress. Gloucester next began to throw off the mask, and to deny his pretended regard for the sons of the late king; and finally, thinking himself secure, he openly aspired to the throne. He had gained over the duke of Buckingham, a man of great talents and power, by bribes and promises of future favour. This nobleman, therefore, at a meeting of the populace and citizens of London used all his influence to gain them over to Richard's interest; and the people being silent, he construed their silence into consent, and his followers cried out, "Long live king Richard." Soon after which the mayor and aldermen of London waited upon Richard with an offer of the crown, which he accepted with seeming reluctance. This reign is one of the most disgraceful in the annals of England; the rightful heir to the crown shut up in the Tower, and an odious tyrant, under the name of a Protector, permitted to rule the kingdom.

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THE YEAR 1483.

In one thousand four hundred and eighty three,
Was acted vile Gloucester's dire tragedy;
When Edward the Fifth, and his young brother bled,
Both murdered, alas! as they slumbered in bed.

RICHARD THE THIRD.

Richard, as soon as seated on the throne, resolved to remove all obstacles to the stability of his throne. Not considering himself secure in his usurped power while the young princes were alive, he accordingly sent orders to the governor of the Tower to put them to death; but this honest man, whose name was Brackenbury, had the courage to refuse to imbrue his hands in innocent blood. A fit instrument, however, was not long wanting. Sir James Tyrell undertook the office, and having procured three associates, he caused the young princes to be suffocated while in bed, and then buried their bodies deep under a heap of stones at the stair's-foot. But while he thus basely and wickedly endeavoured to establish his power, he found it attacked in a quarter where he least expected it. The duke of Buckingham, who had been instrumental in placing him on the throne, now took disgust at being refused some confiscated lands, and levied a body of men for the purpose of dethroning Richard, but his schemes failed, and he was



HOUSE OF YORK.

Eighteenth King.

taken, tried, condemned and executed. His next enemy was the Earl of Richmond, a descendant of John of Gaunt. The Earl being obnoxious to the house of York, had been obliged to leave the kingdom, but now knowing how odious Richard was, he resolved to assert his claim to the crown. He accordingly set out from Harfleur, in Normandy, with a retinue of about two thousand persons, and, after a voyage of six days, arrived at Milford Haven, in Wales, where he landed without opposition. Upon the news of this descent, Richard instantly resolved to give him battle. Richmond, on the other hand, whose forces were now increased to six thousand, boldly advanced with the same intention; and in a few days both armies met near Bosworth-field, where the contest that had for more than forty years filled the kingdom with civil commotions, was decided by the death of Richard, who was slain in battle; and Richmond was saluted king, by the title of Henry VII. The character of Richard is held in execration for his vices and cruelties.

THE YEAR 1433.

Then Richard the Third a throne ascends,
Stained by the blood of his dearest friends ;
He was valiant—but Richard his title opposed,
And the battle of Bosworth his wicked life closed.

HENRY THE SEVENTH.

Henry, on his accession, wisely united the interests of the Houses of York and Lancaster, by marrying the princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. Notwithstanding this wise policy, a series of rebellions took place, owing to the long course of civil war which had pervaded the kingdom. These rebellions it was impossible for any king to prevent, the people having become so turbulent and factious. Several conspiracies were formed, and impostors were set up, to represent the son of the duke of Clarence; also young Edward, who was supposed to have been murdered in the Tower. These plots, however, were soon detected, and their originators were either executed or sought refuge by flight. Though such was the disturbed state of the kingdom, it is said that no prince ever loved peace more than Henry, and much of the ill-will of his subjects arose from his attempts to repress their inclination to war. He endeavoured to teach the people frugality, and a just payment of their debts, by his own example; and his greatest



THE TUDOR RACE.

Nineteenth King.

efforts were directed to promote trade and commerce, because they produced a spirit of liberty among the people, and freed them from dependence upon the nobles. Previous to this great era, all our towns owed their origin to some nobleman's castle, in the neighbourhood of which artificers, victuallers, and shopkeepers used to settle, to furnish the lord and his attendants with all the necessaries they wanted; and on whom they were dependent for protection against the numerous gangs of robbers, called Robertsmen, that hid themselves in the woods by day, and infested the open country by night. Henry also strove to abridge the power of the pope and his clergy in England, and to increase the privileges of the people. Having seen England in a great measure civilized by his endeavours, the laws alone inflicting punishment, the towns beginning to live independent of the powerful barons, commerce every day increasing, the spirit of faction extinguished, he died of the gout in the stomach, in the year 1509.

THE YEAR 1485.

One thousand four hundred and eighty-five,
Saw a new world discovered, and commerce revive;
Then flourished Columbus, that wonderful man;
And with Henry the Seventh the Tudor's began.

HENRY THE EIGHTH.

Henry the Eighth ascended the throne under the most favourable circumstances; his father had greatly promoted the prosperity of the nation, by his wise and beneficial measures, and collected immense riches by his prudent frugality. But Henry did not improve these great advantages. Finding himself at the head of a numerous army, with a well supplied treasury, he engaged in the popular project of a war with France, with a view of conquering that kingdom. This scheme, however, failed; for after an ostentatious and unsuccessful campaign, a truce was concluded between the two nations. He now gave himself up to his pleasures, in the most sumptuous banquets, and all kind of voluptuousness; and soon squandered away the immense sums which had been amassed by his father for far different purposes. He discarded the old ministers of his father, and put his confidence in Thomas, afterwards Cardinal Wolsey, a clergyman, who had been introduced to Henry by the Bishop of Winchester. This man meanly flattered Henry, and



THE TUDOR RACE.

Twentieth King.

complied with all his wishes; and became at length the sole administrator of the affairs of the kingdom. But about 1530 a great change began to take place, which terminated in the overthrow of Wolsey, and the establishment of the Reformation in England. The minds of the people were greatly enlightened by means of the art of printing, which extensively diffused the Scriptures and the principles of Wickliffe, Martin Luther, Calvin, and other Reformers. The people began to inveigh against the vices of the clergy, and to resist their arbitrary power. Henry at first violently opposed the Reformation, and wrote a book against Luther, but at length took an active part against the pope, though no doubt from unworthy motives, because the pope would not grant him a divorce from Catherine, or sanction his marriage with Anna Bullen. Henry withdrew his allegiance from the pope, proclaimed himself head of the church, and cruelly beheaded or burnt alive those who refused to conform to his tenets, both Catholics and Protestants. He died in 1547.

THE YEAR 1509.

Henry the Eighth, with parts fitted to shine,
Swayed the sceptre, one thousand five hundred and nine,
But was capricious and cruel—he married six wives,
Two of whom, on the scaffold, lost their lives.

EDWARD THE SIXTH.

Edward was only nine years of age when he succeeded to the throne. The Earl of Hertford, his maternal uncle, was declared protector, and created Duke of Somerset; he encouraged very much the Reformation, and allowed nobody to be about the young king who was not of that persuasion. Bishop Gardener opposed with all his might the progress of the Reformation, but to very little purpose. Lord Seymour, the protector's brother, being of a violent ambitious temper, and having married Henry VIII.'s widow, formed many projects against the duke. There being no end to his seditious schemes, he was attainted before the parliament, condemned, and beheaded on Tower-hill. In 1549, an act was passed forbidding images in churches; to perform the service in English; and to allow priests to marry. Almost every one now conformed to the Protestant religion except the princess Mary. Several insurrections took place in England, owing to a great scarcity of provisions; which were soon quelled. In 1550,



TUDOR RACE.

Twenty-first King.

peace was concluded with France, in which Scotland was comprehended. Boulogne was restored for four hundred thousand crowns. In 1551, Gardener, and some other prelates, were deprived of their benefices, for not conforming to the Protestant religion. The Earl of Warwick, who was extremely ambitious, got himself created Duke of Northumberland; and, finding Somerset still popular, arrested him, and tried him for treason and felony, for intending to assault him, being a privy counsellor. He was acquitted of the treason, but condemned for the felony, and was beheaded on Tower-hill, in January 1552, to the extreme regret of the people. In 1553, the young king visibly declined in health. A patent was drawn up settling the succession on the Duchess of Suffolk; which Northumberland forced the counsellors to sign by menaces and threats. On the 6th of July the king died of a consumption, occasioned by a violent cold. He was much regretted, as a youth of very promising hopes.

THE YEAR 1547.

In one thousand five hundred and forty-seven,
Reigned Edward the Sixth, to whom wisdom was given;
Pure religion with him bore unlimited sway;
He settled the crown on his cousin Jane Grey.

MARY.

Mary, daughter of Catharine of Arragon and Henry VIII. succeeded her brother in the throne, by the will of her father. When Edward died, Northumberland kept it secret for some time, in hopes of getting the princesses into his power. He ordered Lady Jane to be proclaimed, much to her dissatisfaction. Mary, however, raised troops in Suffolk, which the Duke went to oppose; but, being deserted by them, he was taken; and, on Mary's arrival in London, condemned. Thus ended Lady Jane's reign of ten days. Mary released from the Tower the Duke of Norfolk, who had been condemned in the end of Henry the VIIIth's reign; also many prelates, confined there on account of religion. In 1554, the mass was every where performed, and the established religion totally reversed. Mary married by proxy Philip II. of Spain, who, to the fraud and ambition of his father, added tyranny, sullenness, pride, and barbarity. The queen treated her sister Elizabeth, with great harshness and severity:



THE TUDOR RACE.

Twenty-second Sovereign.

and, on her refusing a marriage with the Duke of Savoy, she was confined under a strong guard at Woodstock. In February 1554, Mary ordered the execution of Lady Jane Grey; her father, the Duke of Suffolk; and her husband, Lord Guildford Dudley. Violent persecutions and cruelties were practised on the Protestants by Philip and Mary, and Bishop Gardener. In 1556, Mary completed her cruelty by ordering Archbishop Cranmer to be burnt; which was executed at Oxford, on the 21st of March. The Emperor, Charles, resigned all his dominions to his son Philip, and retired to the monastery of St. Just, in Estremadura; where he died, two years afterwards. In 1558, the French connexions with Scotland were strengthened by the completion of the marriage of their queen, Mary, with the Dauphin, afterwards Francis II. Princess Elizabeth lived a retired life in the country. She refused the king of Sweden in marriage. Queen Mary died of a lingering fever, on the 17th of November.

THE YEAR 1553.

One thousand five hundred and fifty-three,
 Stands Mary, that bigot to popery;
 She beheaded the humble and innocent Jane,
 And married a Romanist, Philip of Spain.

ELIZABETH.

Upon Mary's death, the Parliament ordered Elizabeth to be proclaimed queen, to the great joy of all ranks; for people even laid aside their theological disputes to rejoice in the event. Elizabeth immediately repaired to London, being at that time in Hatfield, where she lived a quiet retired life, at a distance from her sister; who had taken every opportunity of using her with harshness and severity. Being resolved to re-establish the Protestant religion, she added eight persons of that persuasion to the council, with whom she held frequent conferences concerning the readiest means to bring it about. In 1559, a parliament being assembled, by gradual degrees they passed such acts as entirely re-established the Protestant religion, without any of the cruelties committed in the former reign. Violent troubles now began to rage in Scotland, fomented by the Duke of Guise and Cardinal Lorrain, the Queen of Scot's uncles; whose intentions were to subdue Scotland by means of a French army, and then enter England



THE TUDOR RACE.

Twenty-third Sovereign.

through that country. In 1561, Mary arrived safely in Scotland, which gave hopes to the popish nobles of restoring that religion. On the 8th of February 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots, was beheaded; which Elizabeth being informed of, pretended to be in a most violent passion, sent Davison to prison, and declared she had never meant to put the sentence into execution. In 1588, Philip of Spain, extremely exasperated at Elizabeth's assisting the Low Countries, determined on making a furious attack on England; for which purpose the Invincible Armada, an immense fleet, under the command of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, appeared off the English coast; but what with storms and the naval conduct of Lord Howard, it was destroyed. In 1602, to keep the Spaniards employed at home, Elizabeth sent a fleet on their coast, under Levison and Monson, who made some rich captures. The queen fell ill, and died on the twenty fourth of March, 1603, in the 70th year of her age and the 45th of her reign.

THE YEAR 1553.

Next Elizabeth, skilled to adorn her high state,
In one thousand five hundred and fifty-eight,
Raised England's glory; yet one tragic scene
Dimm'd her fame, in the murder of Scotland's queen.

JAMES THE FIRST.

James VI. king of Scotland, succeeded to the throne, as nearest male heir, by the title of James I. He was great grandson of James IV. of Scotland, and Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. On his arrival in England, his subjects were dubious whether they should be pleased or sorry at his obtaining the crown; for they soon found him very vain, and susceptible of flattery: and, though he had been bred to the Presbyterian religion, he seemed to have a partiality for the Romish church. In 1604, great disputes arose between the Episcopalians and Puritans; but as James looked on the latter as too near republican principles, for his high-flown notions of kingly power, he ordered them all to adhere to episcopacy. In 1605, the Catholics, disappointed of their hopes of seeing their religion restored by James, entered into the diabolical plan, headed by Catesby, of blowing up the whole parliament, when the king was present; for which purpose they conveyed near forty barrels of gunpowder into a cell-



THE STUART RACE.

Twenty-fourth King.

lar under the parliament-house; but, providentially, one of the conspirators, wishing to save Lord Mounteagle, wrote to him not to go to the parliament, which caused a very strict search to be made on the night of Nov. 4, when the whole plot was discovered, and Guy Fawkes was found with a dark lantern in a corner of the cellar, as the scheme was to have been executed next day. In 1610, James created his son Henry Prince of Wales, who was very much esteemed by the English; but in 1613, Henry was seized with a fever, which carried him off, to the great regret of the whole nation. In 1617, James made a visit to Scotland, where he endeavoured to introduce the Episcopalian form of worship; but he did not find his Scottish subjects at all inclined to agree with him in that respect; on which he returned to England. In 1625, the king was seized with a tertian fever, which carried him off on the 27th of March. In this reign lived the celebrated Lord Bacon, who was for a short time Lord Chancellor.

THE YEAR 1603.

James the First, one thousand six hundred and three,
Brought an epoch of little novelty;
In his reign was detected the gunpowder plot,
And the Stuart line came in with this Scot.

CHARLES THE FIRST.

Charles succeeded his father in the throne 1625; on his accession he was strongly tinctured with the principles of regal authority and arbitrary power. He stretched his prerogative to a very high degree, to the great discontent of the people, by forced loans from his subjects, levying ship-money without consent of parliament, and other unjustifiable means. In 1628, the king, finding money come in very slowly by his forced loan, called a third parliament; who having assembled in March, voted five subsidies, but did not pass it into a law, being determined the redress of grievances and supplies should go hand in hand; so that Charles found himself at length obliged to consent to their petition of right, by which the subject's privileges were clearly explained. In 1626, Charles, having no resources to prosecute his wars, concluded a peace both with France and Spain. In 1640, the king, from absolute necessity, found himself obliged to call a parliament; who, instead of attending to his wants, began to inquire



THE STUART RACE.

Twenty-fifth King.

into grievances. In 1644, the king constituted a parliament of his adherents at Oxford, and ordered the one assembled at Westminster not to be obeyed as such. Fairfax advanced to besiege Oxford, where the king had shut himself up during the winter. In 1647, the king being delivered to the Earl of Pembroke, he was removed to Holdenby in Northamptonshire. After this the Scots became dissatisfied, and entering England under the Duke of Hamilton, joined the Royalists; but Oliver Cromwell defeated their united forces. Cromwell then, at the head of the army marched to London, purged, as he called it, the House of Commons, who soon after voted to bring the king to trial; and instituted a high Court of Justice. In 1649, Colonel Harrison was sent to bring the king to London; and, being brought, before their court in Westminster Hall, they sentenced him, on the 27th of January, to be beheaded; which was accordingly executed, on the 30th, on a scaffold erected in the street before the palace of Whitehall.

THE YEAR 1625.

In one thousand six hundred and twenty five,
Reigned Charles the First, whose parliament strive,
To abridge his power;—civil wars ensued,
And the nation their hands in his blood imbrued.

OLIVER CROMWELL.

After the tragical death of the king, the Commons proceeded to vote that the House of Peers should be abolished. Scotland, now in the hands of the rigid Presbyterians, under Argyle, proclaimed Charles II., but with such restrictions as confined the royal authority in narrow bounds. Cromwell being appointed Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, had been so very successful against the earl of Ormond, as to oblige him to quit Ireland. In 1650, Charles having appointed Breda for a treaty with the Scots' commissioners, found himself obliged to accept of the kingdom on their own conditions, which were in the highest degree degrading and humiliating to him. The parliament having resolved on war with Scotland, Cromwell was recalled from Ireland, and appointed captain general in place of Fairfax, who resigned. The Scots army was entirely defeated on the 3rd of September, near Dunbar. This loss, however, gained Charles a little better treatment and more liberty from his rigid keepers. He was



COMMONWEALTH.

The Protector.

crowned at Secone, on the 1st of January 1651, and in June took the command of the Scotch army. In 1655, a conspiracy, in concert with the king, was entered into by the Royalists; but Cromwell soon suppressed it, owing to the goodness of his intelligence. In 1656, Admirals Blake and Montague having taken some of the Spanish galleons, Cromwell, out of ostentation, ordered the treasure to be paraded in waggons through London. In 1658, the parliament assembled; but the Protector having formed what was called the Other House, or House of Peers, out of his creatures, none of the ancient peers would sit with them. He found the House of Commons going so strongly against him, that, in a violent passion, he dissolved them. At last, being seized with a fever, at Hampton Court, he was removed to Whitehall; where he died, Sept. 3rd. He named his son Richard as his successor. Cromwell was an able general and a skilful politician; he was very successful in his foreign wars both on land and sea.

THE YEAR 1643.

Next Oliver Cromwell seized the helm,
And by specious policy ruled the realm ;
The Commonwealth lasted, through Cromwell's life,
Though marked by commotion and frequent strife.

CHARLES THE SECOND.

Richard Cromwell, on the death of his father, was immediately proclaimed by the council, protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland. In 1659, Richard summoned a parliament of both houses; and, after violent debates for two days, the Commons acknowledged the other branch of the legislature, and it was now called the Upper House. After this, General Monk, governor of Scotland, proceeded with an army of 6,000 men through England, and took possession of Westminster, Feb. 3, 1660. He then wrote a letter to the parliament, and required them, in the name of the Commonwealth, to dissolve themselves, and issue new writs, and on the 1st of May, the new parliament being assembled, and General Monk having sounded their inclinations, acquainted them that a servant of king Charles was without, with a letter for them. He was soon after called in, and the letter read. The peers immediately reinstated themselves in their ancient authority; and, on the 8th of May, Charles was

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THE STUART RACE.

Twenty-sixth King.

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proclaimed, and entered London on his birthday, May 29. He immediately created Monk Duke of Albemarle, and Admiral Montague Earl of Sandwich, as likewise Chancellor Hyde Earl of Clarendon. The parliament, not having been summoned by Charles's order, was only called a convention, till he established it a parliament by his authority. In 1661, a new parliament being called, it was found that very few of the Presbyterians got seats in it. In 1665, Charles declared war against Holland; and on the 3rd of June, the Duke of York defeated the Dutch fleet. In 1683, the king, under a pretence of the city of London having deviated from their charter, got the judges unfairly to declare it forfeited, and, before he restored it, altered many parts of it materially. In 1685, it was supposed that Charles had serious thoughts of throwing himself entirely on the affection of his subjects and parliament, when he died, on the 6th of February, of a few days illness. He was a deceitful and dissolute prince; and violently persecuted the Nonconformists.

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THE YEAR 1660.

Sixteen hundred and sixty restored
Charles the Second, whose sufferings the nation deplored.
But Charles proved untrue, yet reigned with great sway;
And the blood of a Russel, was spilt in his day.

JAMES THE SECOND.

On the death of Charles, his brother, the Duke of York, was proclaimed, by the name of James II. On assembling the council, he made great professions of attachment to liberty: but he soon showed his arbitrary principles, by levying taxes without sufficient authority. In 1686, James, finding the parliament not altogether subservient to his will, prorogued them, and issued, by what he called his royal prerogative, a declaration for liberty of conscience. In 1687, not daring to meet the parliament, he prorogued it to a longer time. In 1688, he issued a second declaration for liberty of conscience, and ordered the bishops to see it published in their several dioceses. Several of the bishops petitioned against it, and were sent to the Tower; but on being brought to a trial, were acquitted by the jury, to the great joy of the populace. A number of noblemen and gentlemen, both Tories and Whigs, sent privately to William, Prince of Orange, to come to England. William consented, and arrived in England, at Torbay, Nov. 5; from whence

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THE STUART RACE.

Twenty-seventh King.

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he proceeded to Exeter, where he was joined by a great many of the gentry. James being as desponding in adversity as he was elated in prosperity, assembled all the peers and counsellors in London, and, by their advice, issued writs for a free parliament. But instead of meeting the parliament, he hastened to get to a ship at the mouth of the river, but was seized at Feversham, whilst endeavouring to escape. He at length embarked on board a small frigate, which landed him at Ambleuse, in Picardy, from whence he set out immediately for St. Germain. On the 22nd of January 1689, the convention met, when great debates took place between the Whigs and Tories, the former being for electing a king, the latter for a regent. The parliament at last declared, that James having abdicated the crown, the throne was thereby become vacant; and, the princess of Orange arriving in London, February the 12th, the crown was offered to prince William and her, and they were proclaimed next day, by the name of William and Mary.

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THE YEAR 1685.

In one thousand six hundred and eighty-five, James the Second, a bigot, with zeal did contrive
The religion to change, from the throne was removed,
Sought a refuge in France, whose firm friendship he proved.

WILLIAM III. AND MARY II.

William, on his advancement to the throne, gained great credit by forming a proper council and ministry, and by appointing learned and honest judges. He likewise changed the convention into a parliament. He endeavoured to abolish the sacramental test, but in vain, that he might make use of the abilities of all denominations of protestants. The parliament settled the succession to the crown to be in the issue of William and Mary, and next in her sister Anne and her issue, and then in the princess Sophia, duchess of Hanover, and her issue. A convention, assembled in Scotland, approved of this act, but lord Dundee, being disaffected, stirred up a rebellion, which was quelled by his being defeated and killed, and William was left in quiet possession of the kingdom. In a short time, however, he was informed that king James had procured 5000 men from France, and had landed in Ireland, where he was received by the Earl of Tyrconnel. William proceeded to Ireland, and on the 1st July, 1690, the battle of the Boyne took place,

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NASSAU & STUART.

Twenty-eighth Sovereign.

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in which James and his army were totally defeated, with very little loss on king William's side. In 1694 the parliament granted the first Charter to the Bank of England; and, passed a Bill for triennial parliaments. On the 28th December, this year, Queen Mary died of the small pox, universally regretted. In 1697 a peace was agreed to by all the powers at war, and after various delays, was signed by England, France, Spain, and Holland. In 1698 parliament established a New East India Company. The Earl of Marlborough was taken into favour, and appointed governor to the Princess of Denmark's son. On the 16th Sept., 1701, James II. died in France, and his son was acknowledged king of England by the Pope, and by the kings of France and Spain. William was so angry at this conduct, that he ordered his ambassador to leave the French court without taking leave. In 1702, William formed great projects against France, and he was likewise much bent on an union with Scotland, all which was put an end to by his death, on the 8th March.

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THE YEAR 1688

In one thousand six hundred and eighty-eight,
Reigned William of Orange and Mary his mate;
Though ambitious, King William was just and sincere,
And the famed Revolution took place in this year.

ANNE.

Anne, second daughter of James II. by the Earl of Clarendon's daughter, on the death of William III. ascended the throne in 1702; she was married to Prince George of Denmark, who had nothing to do with the crown, whom she appointed Lord High Admiral, though he knew very little of maritime affairs. In selecting her ministry she showed a partiality for the Tories, regarding the principles of the Whigs as too republican. The Dutch took alarm on the death of William, but the queen soon eased their fears, by sending the Earl of Marlborough to declare her intention of abiding by the alliance. The queen seemed very anxious for an union with Scotland, and parliament appointed commissioners for that purpose. The Earl of Marlborough being sent ambassador to Holland, was appointed to the command of the confederate army of Flanders, and was very successful; on his return to England, in 1705, he was created a duke, and the manor of Woodstock, and the magnificent seat of Blenheim, built by Sir John Vanbrugh, was

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HOUSE OF STUART.

Twenty-ninth Sovereign.

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granted to him and his heirs for ever. In 1707 the union of Scotland took place, by which the two kingdoms were to be called Great Britain. In 1711 the queen was prevailed on to dismiss the Duke of Marlborough from all his employments, on a ridiculous notion of bribery: and, harassed by continued ill-usage in England, he retired to Aix-la-Chapelle, where he was received with the greatest honours. On the 1st of August, 1714, the queen died of a lethargy, brought on by the gout and ague, leaving the kingdom in great confusion, owing to the opposition of Whigs and Tories, and the jealousy of the high Church party, together with the schemes of the pretender. She was succeeded by the Elector of Hanover, who was proclaimed king, by the name of George I. In this reign, the battles of Blenheim and Ramilies were fought, together with seven or eight other celebrated battles, and Gibraltar was taken from the Spaniards. In 1703, Eddystone light-house was destroyed, together with the ingenious person who had suggested it.

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THE YEAR 1702.

Next queen Anne, in one thousand seven hundred and two,
Under whom England many victories knew;
Erudition in this reign diffused its bright grace,
And th' Union 'tween England and Scotland took place.

GEORGE THE FIRST.

Pursuant to the act of succession, George I., son of the First Elector of Brunswick, ascended the British throne, on the 1st of August, 1714. His abilities, though not shining, were solid, and to these he added great application to business. The commencement of this reign was distinguished by the most violent conduct on the part of the Whigs, who had the ascendancy. An immediate change was made in all the offices of trust, honour, or advantage, and all persons who ventured to speak against this conduct were accused of designing to bring in the Pretender, and as even discontent seemed to amount to high treason, the people could only look upon the violence of their conduct in silent consternation. The Earl of Oxford, the Duke of Ormond, Lord Bolingbroke, and some other peers, were impeached of high treason, together with many eminent members of the House of Commons; some lost their lives, others their titles and estates. This state of things gave encouragement to the friends of the Pretender, and accordingly the Earl of Mar



HOUSE OF HANOVER.

Thirtieth King.

mustered ten thousand men, well armed, and provided; which body, however, was checked by the Duke of Argyle; and though repeated attempts were made to establish the Pretender's claims, they all ended in total failure. In 1721, an unexampled instance of the credulity of the people took place in their encouragement of the South Sea scheme, by which thousands suffered total ruin. In 1726 the Earl of Macclesfield, as Lord Chancellor, was impeached, for selling places in Chancery, and after a twenty days' trial, the Earl was fined thirty thousand pounds, which sum was immediately paid. In June, 1727, the king, while paying a visit to his continental dominions, was taken suddenly ill, and died at Osnaburgh, in Germany; he was buried at Hanover. Unlike the Stuart family, whom he succeeded, who were proverbial for leaving their friends in extremity, he was hard to say, soon after his arrival, "My maxim is, never to abandon my friends; to do justice to all the world, and to fear no man."

THE YEAR 1714.

In one thousand seven hundred and fourteen,
Reigned George the First, in whom prudence is seen;
The Pretender's views proved futile and vain,
And the Brunswick line came in with this reign.

GEORGE THE SECOND.

Upon the death of George the First, his son, George the Second, came to the throne, on the 11th June, 1727; he was a man of inferior abilities to the late king, and strongly biased with a partiality to his dominions on the Continent. The chief person, and he who shortly after engrossed the greatest share of power under him, was Sir Robert Walpole, who had risen from low beginnings, through two successive reigns, into great estimation. In 1731, a society of men had united themselves into a company, by the name of the Charitable Corporation, by which the most extensive frauds were practised on the public; their professed intention was to lend money at legal interest to the poor, upon small pledges, and to persons of higher rank upon proper security. In 1738, Admiral Vernon, with six ships only, attacked and demolished all the fortifications of Porto-Bello, and came away victorious, with scarce the loss of a man. This victory was magnified at home in all the strains of panegyric, and the triumph was far superior to



HOUSE OF HANOVER.

Thirty-first King.

the value of the conquest. In 1739, a squadron of ships was equipped for distressing the French and Spaniards in the South Seas, the command of which was given to Commodore Anson. This fleet was destined to sail through the Straits of Magellan, and, steering northwards along the coasts of Chili and Peru, to co-operate occasionally with Admiral Vernon across the Isthmus of Darien. In 1746, the son of the old Pretender resolved to make an effort for gaining the British crown. Being furnished with some money, and with still larger promises from France, he embarked for Scotland, on board a small frigate, accompanied by the Marquis of Tullibardine, Sir Thomas Sheridan, and a few other desperate adventurers; after various manœuvres, however, his fate was decided at the battle of Culloden, in which he was entirely defeated; and the most outrageous cruelties were practised by the conquerors. George the Second died October 25, 1760, lamented by his subjects, and in the midst of victory.

THE YEAR 1727.

One thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven, reigned George the Second, when rebellion gained An alarming height; but once subdued, The Stuarts no more their claims renewed.

GEORGE THE THIRD.

In 1760, George the Second was succeeded by his grandson, king George the Third, whose father never ascended the throne. As he could not espouse a Roman Catholic, he was precluded from intermarrying into any of the great families of Europe; he, therefore, chose a wife from the house of Mecklenburgh StrELITZ. In 1773, Captain Phipps and Captain Lutwidge were sent out by the government, in order to examine whether there was a possibility of discovering either a north-east or a north-west passage to the East Indies; but they returned home without being able to accomplish their purpose. Captain Cook performed a second voyage round the world; and was actually engaged in sailing round it a third time, when, to the infinite regret of all lovers of real merit, he was cut off in a scuffle with the inhabitants of one of the new-discovered islands in the South Sea, called O-why-hee. The parliament of Great Britain insisted upon its right of taxing the Americans by its own proper authority; but the colonies denied this right; and,

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HOUSE OF HANOVER.

Thirty-second King.

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rather than submit, they seemed willing to encounter every danger. To try their temper, some tea was sent out to America, loaded with a certain duty. This tea was not only not suffered to be landed, but was sent back to England with the utmost contempt and indignation. The fire, therefore, which had been so long smouldering between Great Britain and her colonies, now broke out into an open flame. The Americans, after various successful engagements, began to think, that matters had been carried to too great an extremity between them and the mother-country, ever to admit of any sincere or lasting reconciliation. In 1776, they accordingly published their famous declaration of independence, by which they disclaimed all allegiance to the crown of Great Britain, and erected themselves into free and sovereign states. In 1782, the American war was put an end to, virtually, if not actually, by the capture of Earl Cornwallis, with his whole army, by General Washington. George the Third died on January 29, 1820.

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THE YEAR 1760.

In one thousand sev'n hundred and sixty was crown'd,
Our George the Third, for prudence renown'd;
Full sixty years he ruled the state,
And though cruel war raged, our trade was great.

GEORGE THE FOURTH.

George IV. having acted as Regent during his father's indisposition, ascended the throne, January 29th, 1820. The beginning of his reign was disturbed by a process against his consort, who died a few days after his coronation; and his favourite minister, Lord Castlereagh, destroyed himself. The king afterwards visited Dublin, Hanover, and Edinburgh. About the same time, died, an exile in the island of St. Helena, Napoleon Buonaparte, who, for many years, had kept all the powers of Europe, Great Britain only excepted, under his controul. In 1817 the Princess Charlotte died, to the great grief of all the nation. At the end of this reign, the remaining restrictions upon Roman Catholics and Protestant Dissenters were removed. George IV. died in the eleventh year of his reign, and sixty-eighth of his age; and was buried at Windsor. In this reign, Captain Parry was sent out, by the government, to explore the Arctic regions; as was Captain Franklin, to ascertain the northern limits of the American continent; --- expeditions which



HOUSE OF HANOVER.

Thirty-third King.

proved very beneficial to geography. The foundations of the New London Bridge were laid in this reign; and the metropolis received considerable improvements and embellishments, particularly at the West end. In 1820, a conspiracy was formed to murder the cabinet ministers; the conspirators assembled in Cato-street, but were detected, and Thistlewood, their leader, and four others were executed. In this reign, the punishment of sending criminals to the treadmill was first adopted, and cabriolets, similar to those used in Paris, were introduced into this country. In 1828, York Cathedral was burned by Martin, a religious fanatic; steam-carriages, for the conveyance of passengers, were invented; and a regular organized body of police was established in the metropolis. The royal palaces engaged much of the king's attention. Carlton-house was pulled down to make room for improvements; St. James's was occasionally used; Buckingham-house was taken down, and chosen for the site of a new and splendid palace.

THE YEAR 1820.

Far-famed for his splendour and pompous display,
George the Fourth held ten years an eventful sway;
And peace was restor'd throughout the world wide;
And in eighteen hundred and thirty he died.

WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

On the 28th of June, 1830, William Henry, Duke of Clarence, third son of George the Third, ascended the throne in consequence of the death of his brother, George IV., and he was crowned on the 8th of September, 1831. He espoused Adelaide, daughter of the Duke of Saxe Cobourg Meningen. The commencement of this reign was distinguished by a general spirit of insubordination both on the Continent and in England. By a revolution which took place in France, in July, 1830, Charles X. was dethroned, and the Duke of Orleans was proclaimed king, by the title of Louis Philip I. On the 9th of November, in the same year, His Majesty, William IV., had accepted an invitation from the Lord Mayor, to dine at the annual civic feast, but in consequence of a great degree of excitement, occasioned by the unpopularity of the Duke of Wellington, his prime minister, he was dissuaded from it. The Duke of Wellington soon after resigned, and Earl Grey succeeded him. A Bill for reforming the House of Commons, was brought into par-



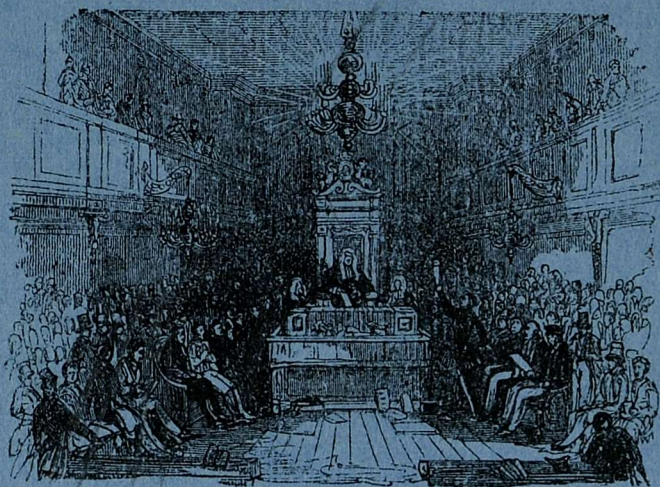
HOUSE OF HANOVER.

Thirty-fourth King.

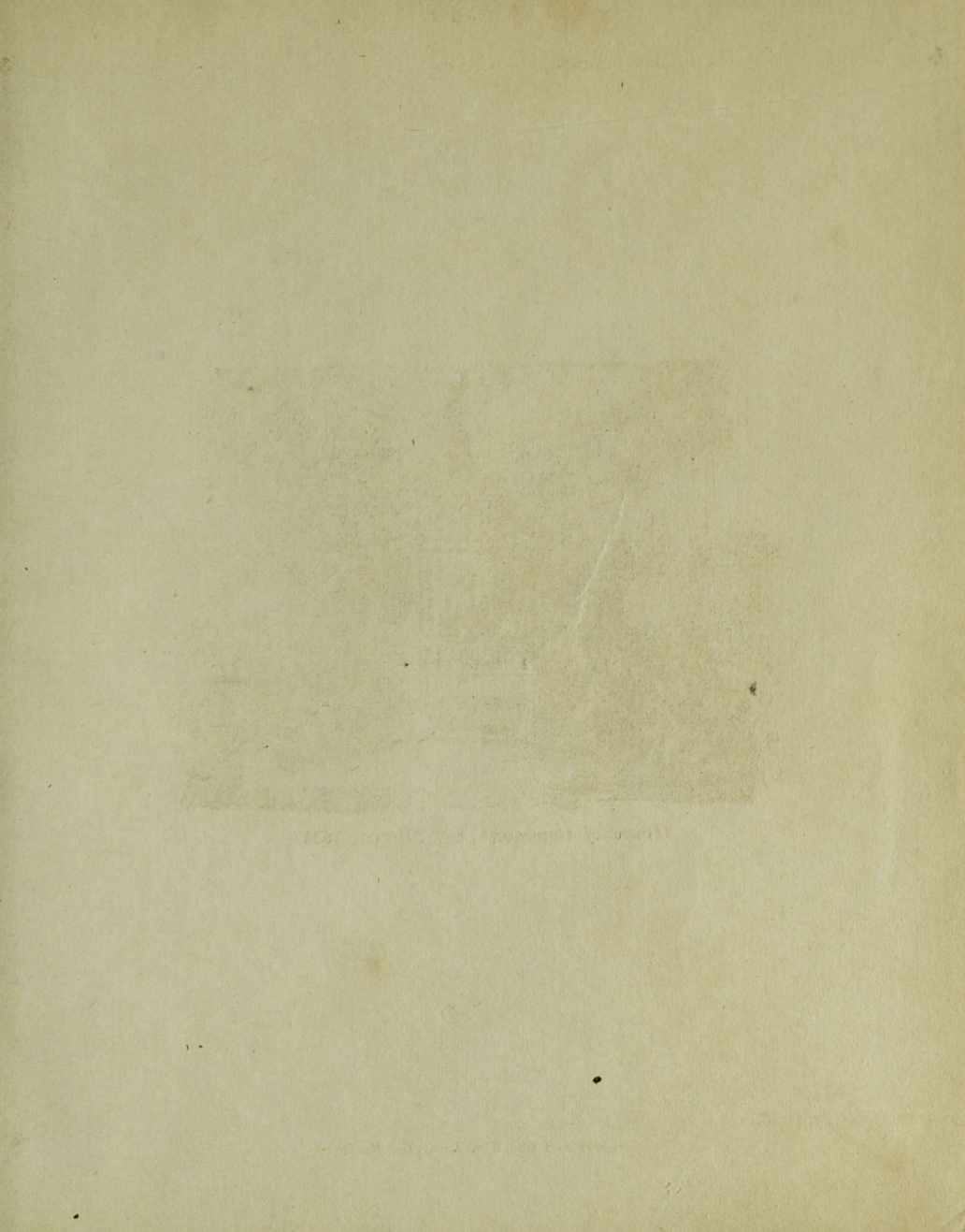
liament by the ministry, and after considerable opposition and agitation in the country, it was rejected by the House of Lords, but finally passed into a law. Prince Saxe-Cobourg, who had married the Princess Charlotte, was chosen King of Belgium, on the 21st of July, 1831. On the 1st of August, 1832, the New London Bridge was opened, with great pomp, by their Majesties in person, on which occasion a grand entertainment was given on the bridge. In 1833, Captain Ross returned from his voyage of discovery in the Arctic regions, having been absent nearly four years. The object of his expedition was to ascertain the possibility of sailing to Asia by any sea which might be found in the northern parts of America; it was, however, found impracticable. The fleet of Donna Maria, conducted by Admiral Napier, captured Lisbon, by which Don Miguel was deposed, and the young Queen was proclaimed as Donna Maria. In 1834 the enterprising Lander died, while engaged in discovering the interior of Africa.

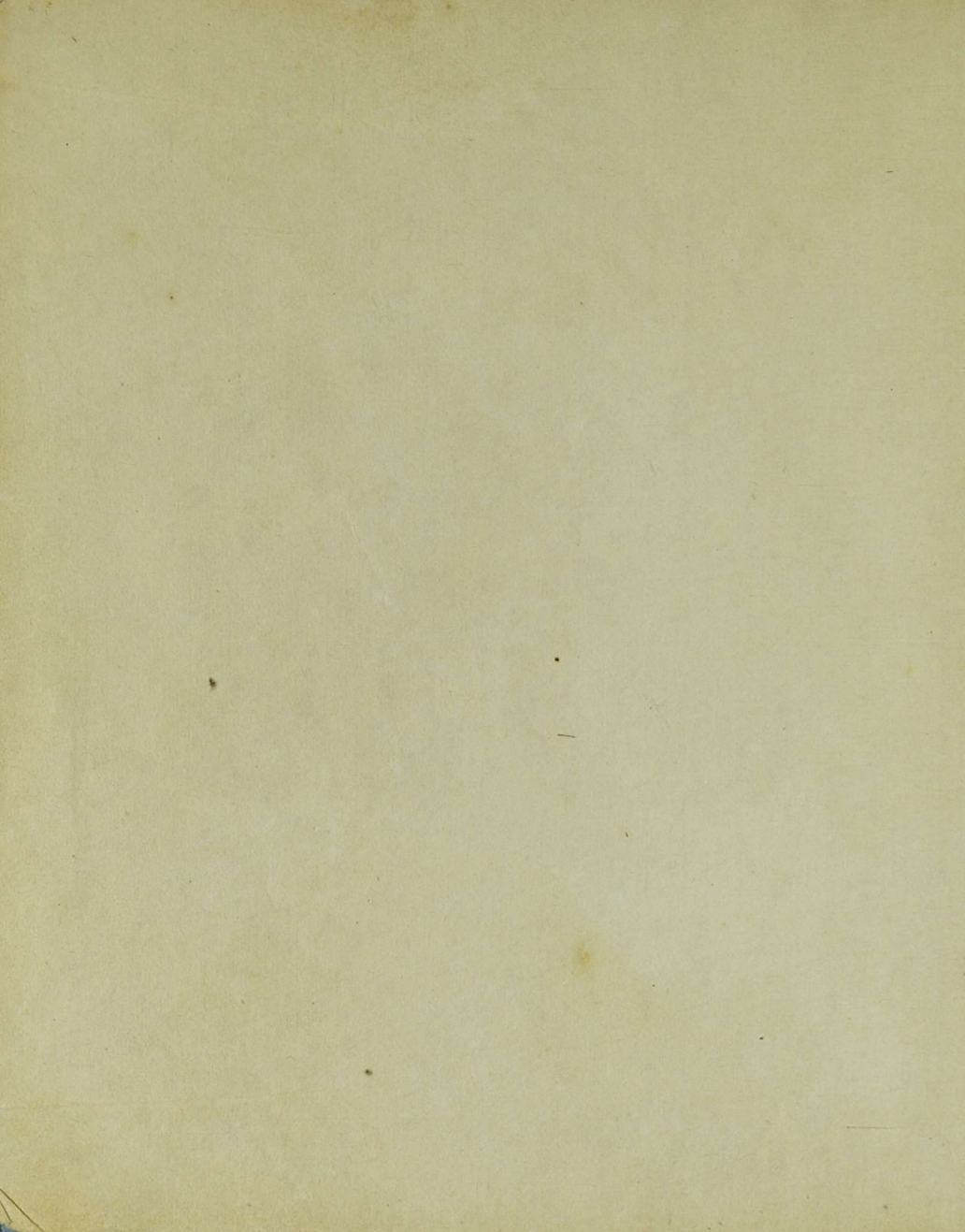
THE YEAR 1830.

William the Fourth, who was Clarence before,
Succeeding his brother the sceptre bore,
The friend of Reform and of Justice as well,
But future rhymes his fame shall tell.



House of Commons, 1st March, 1831.





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