





SUCCESSION
OF THE
MONARCHS OF ENGLAND;
IN VERSE,
FROM THE CONQUEST;
WITH A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF EACH REIGN.
AND THE CHRONOLOGY.
WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES.

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS.

LONDON:

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1809.

SUCCESSION

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BY JOHN

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AND THE CHRONOLOGICAL

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ADVERTISEMENT.

IN a work of this kind, chiefly intended for the use of schools, nothing more could be done than to give a short description, with the leading features of each reign, and the chronology; which by this means may be very easily retained by youthful minds.

It is to be lamented that, amidst the various traits of character, there are so few amiable ones to be found in the monarchs of England; but such is the lot of humanity! At the same time it affords the most pleasing reflection, that the virtues of the Brunswick line have consolidated that freedom which was so often encroached on by their predecessors.

To trace the history of a great nation, is like sailing through an extensive sea, on which some have been successful in making discoveries, while others have been shipwrecked, or brought home but very partial and imperfect journals.—Without pretending to rival any of the *first-rates*, or even the stately *frigates* which have sailed majestically in the same track, the captain of the little *cutter* now launching into the historic deep, humbly hopes to bring home, for the information of his readers, many of the most prominent and important facts observable on the ocean over which he sails.

Geo. Pitt.



INTRODUCTION.

THE dark details of ancient days combine
(Except the SACRED BOOK OF TRUTH DIVINE)
Fiction and Folly in their misty shade,
While Truth and Wisdom seldom are display'd :
Thus England's annals are encrusted o'er
With pagan rites, and superstitious lore ;
Mysterious mistletoe, the Druid's grove,
And barb'rous chieftains, who for empire strove.

¹ The Roman legions, whose victorious band,
Awhile had rear'd their standard o'er the land.

² I slightly pass the Heptarchy, whose name
To seven rich crowns in Albion bore its claim,
Till one by valour had the rest enchain'd,
And o'er its prostrate foes in triumph reign'd.

Succeeding monarchs rul'd with various skill,
And various attributes of good and ill,

³ Till Alfred came, by virtuous acts alone,
And deeds heroic, worthy of a throne ;
New laws and acts revolving in his breast,
And by the nation's approbation blest,
He bade for Science rise the splendid dome,
And woo'd Religion to her sacred home.
From him I hasten to the Norman race,
And from the Conqueror my subject trace.

NOTES.

- ¹ Julius Cæsar invaded England about 55 years before the birth of Christ; and the Romans remained in possession of

the best part of the island about 400 years; when, on account of the internal commotions in Rome, they drew off their force, and entirely relinquished it.

- ² The Saxon Heptarchy consisted of the kingdoms of Northumberland, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex, and Kent. It began about A. D. 547, and was dissolved about A. D. 723, by Egbert, King of Wessex, who subdued the rest, and became sole monarch of England.
- ³ Alfred the Great began his reign A. D. 871. He was a most valiant, wise, and beneficent monarch. After various contests, he expelled the Danes from his dominions. He encouraged learning, with religion, and the arts and sciences; he framed a new code of laws, with the trial by jury, established schools, protected navigation and commerce, and founded or revived the university of Oxford. In short, he was regarded as one of the greatest princes the world had ever produced.

Norman Race.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR



Began his Reign October 14, 1066. Reigned 20 Years,
10 Months, and 26 Days.

Buried at Caen, in Normandy.

WHEN the First William led his daring bands,
With victory flush'd, across Britannia's lands,
The laws of conquest wide he spread around,
And to his fav'rites parcell'd out the ground ;

While, fated to endure a master's scorn,
The wretched owners were to exile borne :
Still harder on his people's rights he trod,
¹ Unpeopled cities, for the deer's abode ;
Vast forests planted, joy'd but in the chace,
And for his sports despoil'd the human race ;
² Yet from this stock did future heroes rise,
To lift their country's glory to the skies.

NOTES.

- ¹ William the Conqueror depopulated the country for 30 miles round, destroying cities, towns, churches, and convents, to make the New Forest in Hampshire. The little confidence he had in the nation is sufficiently displayed by the Curfew (or Couvre-feu) Bell ; at the ringing of which, every night at eight o'clock, all persons were obliged to put out their fires and candles.
- ² From the families of the Norman race, engrafted with those of England.

WILLIAM THE SECOND



Began his Reign September 9th, 1087. Reigned 12 Years,
10 Months, and 24 Days.

Buried at Winchester.

HIS son, the second William, Rufus nam'd,
The English crown, and all its honours, claim'd.

¹ Some privilege his subjects first he gave,
But straight resum'd the grant. To gold a slave,

No bounds to his exactions he allow'd:
Ambitious, fierce, perfidious, mean and proud ;
To hunting, like his sire, too much inclin'd,
Unmindful how his wretched subjects pin'd ;
² But by mistake, or happier aim, a dart
Ended his life, and miss'd the running hart.

NOTES.

¹ William the Second, on his accession to the throne, made a grant to his subjects of hunting in the royal forests, with other privileges, but afterwards broke his word, and oppressed them in the most arbitrary manner.

² He was killed whilst hunting in the New Forest, by Walter Tyrrel, who, as history relates, let fly an arrow at a stag which suddenly started before him, whilst the king was dismounted; and the arrow, glancing from a tree, struck him in the breast, and occasioned his immediate death.

HENRY THE FIRST



Began his Reign August 2, 1100. Reigned 35 Years, 3 Months,
and 29 Days.

Buried at Reading.

HENRY the First, though not by legal claim,
Succeeded, and usurp'd the honour'd name
Of king, while Robert, in a distant clime,
¹ In love and luxury consum'd his time.

- By fair professions Henry kept his place,
And sooth'd his subjects with new terms of grace ;
² The famous charter to their view display'd,
Yet that redress he promis'd, never made :
Though blest with talents equal to his state,
³ He's justly censur'd for his brother's fate.

NOTES.

- ¹ Robert, elder brother to Henry the First, returning from the conquest of Jerusalem, fell in love with the daughter of an Italian count ; and while he indulged his passion abroad, Henry usurped the crown. Robert afterwards endeavoured to obtain his right, but was taken prisoner by the king.
- ² The first charter granted, which laid the foundation for the Magna Charta of Great Britain.
- ³ Robert was confined, during his life, in the castle of Cardiff, Glamorganshire.

STEPHEN



Began his Reign December 1, 1135. Reigned 18 years,
10 Months, and 24 Days.

Buried at Feversham.

ANOTHER bold usurper seiz'd the crown :
Matilda's rights by Stephen were o'erthrown.
With mercenaries soon the realm he fill'd,
And to their dictates made his subjects yield ;

Himself their only guide ; the land, oppress,
From civil wars was never long at rest ;
² Appeals from all sides wait the Papal doom,
And give fresh sanction to the pow'r of Rome.

NOTES.

- ¹ Matilda, daughter of Henry the First, was betrothed, when very young, to Henry the Fifth, Emperor of Germany, and after his death, married Geoffry, son to the Count of Anjou.
- ² During this reign, applications to the court of Rome became general on any ecclesiastical controversy, though prohibited by the law ; which tended more than any thing else to establish the ascendancy of the Papal see over the church of England.

Saxon Line restored.

HENRY THE SECOND



Began his Reign October 25, 1154. Reigned 34 Years,
8 Months, and 11 Days.

Buried at Fontevrault.

HENRY the Second next ascends the throne,
A gallant prince, to warlike actions prone ;
But Woodstock bow'r diverts his mind from arms ;
And Ros'mond fair, by her attractive charms,

Enslaves the warlike monarch, and he soon
Forgets his queen, his subjects, and his crown.
His jealous queen her beauteous rival slew;
Yet from her offspring more delight he drew
Than from his legal sons, whose constant strife
Disturb'd his mind in the decline of life ;
² But Ireland's conquest gain'd him great renown,
And adds a kingdom to the English crown.

NOTES.

¹ He made the bower of Woodstock, and surrounded it with a park (which appears to be the first that ever was inclosed in England) to conceal fair Rosamond; but Eleanor, his queen, penetrated into the retreat, and, it is said, destroyed her by poison.

² He conquered Ireland in 1172, and annexed its dominion to the English crown.

1 2/50
X

RICHARD THE FIRST



Began his Reign July 6, 1199. Reigned 9 Years and 9 Months.

Buried at Fontevrault.

¹ RICHARD, the *Lion-hearted*, now appears,
And 'gainst the Saracens his standard rears ;
Careless of ev'ry thing but war's renown,
For this he sold the manors of his crown ;
With impious pride, deem'd holy zeal, he flew,
And forty thousand, in his madness, slew.

- 2 Shipwreck'd, and captur'd, on an hostile strand,
He waits till ransom'd to his native land.
Oppressive claims on Vindomar he made,
And strictly under siege his castle laid;
The fort surrender'd, thus encompass'd round,
3 But not before the king receiv'd a wound.

NOTES.

- ¹ In conjunction with the French king Philip, he proceeded to the holy land, where he besieged Acre, starved out the garrison, and took it, when Philip returned home, but left him 10,000 of his troops. He defeated Saladin, with the loss of 40,000 men; but was at last obliged, by fatigue, to relinquish his conquests.
- ² The king, on his return, was shipwrecked, and, endeavouring to pass through Germany in disguise, was arrested by the Duke of Austria, who sold him to the emperor, Henry the Sixth, who treated him with great indignity, but afterwards consented to take 300,000*l.* for his ransom.
- ³ In besieging the castle of Shalos, belonging to Vindomar, viscount of Limoges, the king was wounded in the shoulder by an arrow from the bow of Bertrand de Gourdon, whom he rewarded for his bravery, while he hanged all the rest of the garrison.

JOHN



Began his Reign April 6, 1199. Reigned 17 Years, 6 Months,
and 13 Days.

Buried at Worcester.

NEXT comes the dastard and usurper John :
Some small advantages in France he won.
His crown supported Arthur's claim, but made
A league with Philip, who those rights betray'd.
Licentious, and oppressive to the land,
Against his pow'r the barons made a stand,

- Till, by confederate forces, in the field,
² To Magna Charta he was forc'd to yield.
 A while he quarrell'd with the holy see,
 Then to the pope his kingdom gave in fee.
³ His nephew's murder, and his people's right,
 At length th' unwilling nobles rous'd to fight,
 Who, by a league with France, invited o'er
 The Dauphin's troops, to crush their monarch's pow'r:
 Yet, though he trampled on the nation's laws,
⁴ Not long would they desert their country's cause;
 But join'd harmoniously the realm to save,
 While John with grief is hasten'd to the grave.

NOTES.

- ¹ Arthur, Duke of Britany, was son to Geoffrey, elder brother of John.
² This famous charter was signed by John at Runnymede, near Windsor, after some days debate with the confederate barons.
³ Historians disagree in their accounts of the murder of Arthur; but the fact is not disputed.
⁴ The barons, being informed that it was the Dauphin's intention to destroy them and their families, if he succeeded in his plan, returned again to John's party; but the king was so dispirited by the loss of his carriages and treasure in passing the Lincolnshire wastes, that he expired before he could avail himself of their restored allegiance.

HENRY THE THIRD



Began his Reign October 19, 1266. Reigned 56 years, and
28 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

THEIR hate subsiding with the monarch's knell,
The nation soon their foreign foes expel.
Henry the Third, his son, of wav'ring mind,
Timid and rash by turns, alike inclin'd

To avarice and waste, the sceptre sway'd,
And bold extortions on his subjects made ;
Who soon with civil wars embroil'd the land,
And with success alternate bore command ;
Till, worn and harass'd out with care and pain,
Age put an end to his inglorious reign.

NOTE.

¹This is the longest reign hitherto recorded in the English history, and one of the most inglorious. The sceptre appears to have been alternately swayed by the king and his nobles, during a succession of civil wars ; and Edward, the heir apparent, endeavouring to restore his father's rights was himself taken prisoner ; towards the end of his reign, however, the different factions were nearly abolished ; and the king, on all occasions, shewed the greatest clemency to his enemies.

EDWARD THE FIRST



Began his Reign November 16, 1272. Reigned 34 Years,
7 Months, and 21 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

EDWARD the First, an active prince, succeeds,
In foreign climates train'd to martial deeds ;
¹ The Welsh subdu'd, by cruelty his reign
Was mark'd ; their native prince Llewellyn slain,

~~~~~

He wreak'd his vengeance on the tuneful bards ;  
<sup>2</sup> Unhappy minstrels ! who, for their awards,  
Immortal wreaths might claim : their country's praise,  
And ancient glories, warbled in their lays ;  
Recorded shall their virtues live, whilst Fame  
To just abhorrence gives the tyrant's name.

## NOTES.

- <sup>1</sup> After the death of their prince Llewellyn, and the execution of David his brother by the king's command (whom he brought to a formal trial before the English peers for defending his native land) the Welsh nobility submitted to Edward, who invested his eldest son Edward (an infant) in the principality, by the title of Prince of Wales ; which the eldest sons of the kings of England have borne ever since.
- <sup>2</sup> He committed another act of the most savage barbarity, by the destruction of the Welsh bards, for no other cause but to suppress those high notions of military virtue, and national glory, displayed in their songs.

## EDWARD THE SECOND



Began his Reign July 7, 1307. Reigned 19 Years, 6 Months,  
and 18 Days.

Buried at Gloucester.

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EDWARD his son, the second of the name,  
Follows his sire, of weak but gentle fame ;  
Unskill'd to chuse his ministers, nor bold  
Himself the reins of government to hold ;

Entrusting to his fav'rites all the care,  
In which it was his duty still to share ;  
At length the barons urgently complain,  
And, finding all their legal efforts vain,  
<sup>1</sup> With Isabel, his queen, their power combine,  
And force the wretched monarch to resign.  
To Berkley castle, doom'd to be confin'd,  
The king retir'd ; his faithless queen combin'd  
With Mortimer, her false, intriguing friend,  
To bring the monarch to a barb'rous end.

## NOTE.

- <sup>1</sup> He married Isabel of France, a woman of a violent, intriguing spirit, who, with Mortimer, her paramour, got the king imprisoned in Berkley castle, where he was put to the most excruciating death, by a red-hot iron being thrust up his body.

## EDWARD THE THIRD



Began his Reign January 25, 1327. Reigned 50 Years,  
4 Months, and 27 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

A MIGHTY warrior now begins his reign,  
And gains rich laurels on the Gallic plain;  
Prefers his claim against the Salique laws,  
And numerous legions to his int'rest draws.  
<sup>1</sup> The Prince of Wales with equal ardour glows,  
And joins his father, to subdue his foes;

Renown and honour both the heroes claim,  
And Cressy and Poictiers record their fame ;  
Nor were they less admir'd for honours done  
<sup>2</sup> To John, their captive, than for vict'ries won.  
His son, the sable warrior, first expir'd ;  
A year he mourn'd ; then to his grave retir'd.

## NOTES.

<sup>1</sup> Usually called Edward the Black Prince.

<sup>2</sup> At the battle of Poictiers, John, king of France, was taken prisoner by the Prince of Wales, who treated him with the utmost attention and ceremony, stood behind his chair, and waited on him himself at table, and, after the truce, when he conducted him to England, rode by his side in meaner attire, whilst the captive king, in royal robes, passed through the streets of London. The prince presented him to his father, who received him with the greatest courtesy ; and both the king and his son seemed to vie in paying those honours to their prisoner which they refused him when a king. Edward had two captive kings (John of France, and David of Scotland) in his possession at the same time.

## RICHARD THE SECOND



Began his Reign June 21, 1377. Reigned 22 Years, 3 Months,  
and 8 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

- 
- <sup>1</sup> RICHARD the Second, whilst but yet a boy,  
Ascended to the throne. The nation's joy  
Was great indeed, expecting that his fame  
Would match his grandsire's or his father's name,  
When they beheld him, still in early days,  
<sup>2</sup> Disperse the rebel mob; but soon his ways

Inclin'd to evil, by his fav'rites led,  
And by mean sycophants with flatt'ry fed ;  
Profuse in his expences, careless how  
His subjects were oppress'd ; and, to bestow  
His lavish gifts, on Hereford's domains  
He seiz'd, while exil'd from his native plains.  
With bolder views than to reclaim his own,  
Ambitious Hereford ascends the throne ;  
The wretched king was in a dungeon left,  
<sup>3</sup> And there of life and crown at once bereft.

## NOTES.

- <sup>1</sup> He was son to Edward the Black Prince.
- <sup>2</sup> He suppressed the sedition of Wat Tyler's followers, at a time when the most serious consequences were to be apprehended from their rage at the death of their leader. The king, ordering his attendants to stop, advanced by himself, and, with affability but firmness, accosted them thus—  
“ Why this disorder, my friends? Are you angry at the loss of your leader? I myself, your king, will be your leader.”—Awed by his presence, they followed him; and, after leading them into the fields, to prevent farther confusion, he peaceably dismissed them.
- <sup>3</sup> Supposed to have been starved to death.

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*House of Lancaster.*

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## HENRY THE FOURTH



Began his Reign September 29, 1399. Reigned 13 Years,  
5 Months, and 20 Days.

Buried at Canterbury.

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HENRY the Fourth, of Lancaster, succeeds,  
Whose doubtful claim from John of Gaunt proceeds.  
Though skilful his pretensions to defend,  
He had with num'rous factions to contend;

~~~~~  
And so undaunted were the nobles grown,

¹ They threw their gauntlets oft before his throne.

² The prince, his eldest son, to mirth inclin'd,

A while indulg'd the follies of his mind ;

But when to serious wars the nation rose,

He left his vices, to engage his foes ;

His father's rival he proceeds to meet,

³ And laid the vanquish'd warrior at his feet.

The prince reform'd, and his proud rival slain,

Are happy preludes to a glorious reign.

NOTES.

¹ The gauntlet was a strong iron glove, with the finger holes lined, and part of the armour of the knights, who, in times of chivalry, used to throw it on the ground by way of challenge.

² The Prince of Wales, in his youth, associated with Sir John Falstaff, and other eccentric characters ; but on coming to the throne, he abandoned their society, advising them to amend their lives, and liberally providing for their wants.

³ Percy, son of the Duke of Northumberland, was defeated and slain by the forces under the command of the Prince of Wales.

HENRY THE FIFTH



Began his Reign March 20th, 1413. Reigned 9 Years,
5 Months, and 11 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

AND see, he comes, Britannia's hopes to crown !
How just and how extensive his renown,
¹ Let Agincourt declare, and Crispin's day,
When with a slender band, he forc'd his way ;

O'er prostrate princes, and o'er nobles strode,
And through the Gallic host triumphant rode ;
² At Paris soon, in regal pomp array'd,
With love and empire all his toils were paid.
His throne was in his subjects' bosoms rear'd,
Abroad respected, and at home rever'd.
Immortal chief! through every age, to fame,
Thy country's annals shall record thy name.

NOTES.

¹ At the battle of Agincourt, fought on St. Crispin's Day, the French army was four times as numerous as the English ; but being defeated by Henry, they lost several of their princes, and nobles of the first rank, with 10,000 of their followers, killed ; and several persons of distinction, with 14,000 of inferior rank, prisoners ; while, on the king's side, the Duke of York was the only person of distinction slain ; and his entire loss did not exceed 40 men.

² Henry married the Princess Catharine, daughter of Charles, King of France. The conditions were, that Charles should retain the title of king during his life, and that Henry should be declared his heir to the crown of France.

HENRY THE SIXTH



Began his Reign August 31, 1422. Reigned 38 Years, 6 Months,
and 4 Days.

Buried at Windsor.

HENRY the Sixth, his infant son, succeeds,
But never imitates his father's deeds :
At London, and at Paris, he was crown'd ;
But straight the Gallic peers his cause disown'd ;

His troops before the Dauphin soon retir'd,
¹ By the bold Joan of Arc to glory fir'd.
When grown to full estate, his rights he wav'd,
While diff'rent councils his weak mind enslav'd:
At home, his kindred, with intestine broils,
Disturb'd the realm, contending for its spoils ;
Their furious claims the rival factions spread,
Distinguish'd by the Roses, White and Red.
Ambitious York aspir'd to shake the crown ;
And Warwick put, by turns, each party down.
The dauntless Margaret a while upheld
Her husband's throne ; from whence at last expell'd,
And forc'd into the tow'r, bold Glo'ster hied,
And plung'd his dagger in the monarch's side.

NOTES.

- ¹ Joan of Arc, of mean extraction, but of an enterprising spirit, persuaded Charles, King of France, that she was ordained by Heaven to save his kingdom from the yoke of the English.— Supposed miracles were performed ; and such were the effects of enthusiasm, that the troops fought under her with the utmost intrepidity, and defeated the English ; but she was afterwards taken prisoner, and put to death as a witch.

House of York.

EDWARD THE FOURTH



Began his Reign March 4, 1461. Reigned 22 Years, 1 Month,
and 5 Days.

Buried at Windsor.

THE race of York succeeds, with Edward's claim,
Acknowledg'd by his peers, the Fourth in name :
The king selects, in France, a princess fair,
And Warwick goes to make a contract there ;

Meanwhile the king, to wav'ring passions prone,
Exalts a widow'd beauty to his throne :
From hence fresh wars ensu'd ; and though, at last,
He conquers all his foes, the evils past
Were long remember'd, to the just disgrace
Of Edward's name, and his succeeding race.

NOTE.

- ¹ The Earl of Warwick was sent over to Paris, to conclude a marriage contract between Edward and the Lady Bona, sister to the Queen of France ; but Edward, in the mean time, was attracted by the charms of Lady Elizabeth Grey, widow of Sir John Grey, and was privately married to her.— Warwick was so incensed, that he assisted the French in promoting fresh wars in England, after his return.

EDWARD THE FIFTH



Began his Reign April 9, 1483. Reigned 2 Months, and
13 Days.

Burial-place unknown.

EDWARD the Fifth was sent, in youthful bloom,
With York, his brother, to an unknown tomb ;
Thus Glo'ster plann'd his nephew to succeed ;
¹ And Tyrrel's hands perform'd the cruel deed.

NOTE.

¹ The two princes were smothered in the tower, by Sir James Tyrrel and others, by order of the Duke of Gloucester.

RICHARD THE THIRD



Began his Reign June 22, 1483. Reigned 2 Years, and
2 Months.

Buried at Leicester.

RICHARD the Third, by murder now succeeds,
And stains the crown by sanguinary deeds,
Till forc'd, at last, to Henry's arms to yield,
He lost his life and crown in Bosworth field.

NOTE.

¹ Duke of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh.

Tudor Race—Families united.

HENRY THE SEVENTH



Began his Reign August 22, 1485. Reigned '23 Years, and
8 Months.

FOR our Seventh Henry, of the Tudor line,
¹ The rival Roses on one wreath entwine ;
Yet, by his frequent variance with his queen,
His hatred to the house of York was seen.

- ~~~~~
- ² Two false pretenders boldly claim'd the crown ;
But these impostors made their exit soon.
By plunder, Henry's av'rice was display'd ;
- ³ But, in his will, he restitution made.
- ⁴ Distant discov'ries now prepar'd the way
For trade and commerce to extend their sway ;
- ⁵ And printing, like a brilliant morning star,
Shines forth, while powder chang'd the art of war.

NOTES.

- ¹ Henry was of the lineage of John of Gaunt, of the house of Lancaster, and married the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Edward the Fourth.
- ² Two boys, at the instigation of the Duchess of Burgundy, pretended to be the Earl of Warwick, and the Duke of York, supposed to have escaped from the tower.
- ³ The king, on his death-bed, ordered restitution to be made to many who had been unjustly oppressed.
- ⁴ Columbus discovered the South, and Cabot the Northern coast of America.
- ⁵ Printing, and gunpowder, introduced.
- 22/11

HENRY THE EIGHTH



Began his Reign April 22, 1509. Reigned 37 Years, 9 Months,
and 6 Days.

Buried at Windsor.

HENRY the Eighth behold, of stubborn mind,
Fickle, and to the female sex unkind;
Six queens, and some of regal race, he gain'd;
But none the monarch's favour long retain'd.

2 Defender of the Faith though first decreed,
At length he shook off Superstition's creed ;
And Wolsey, his prime minister and friend,
Soon made the Popish usurpations bend.
Whate'er the monarch's motives may have been,
The glorious Reformation soon was seen.

NOTES.

- 1 The names of the queens were, 1, Catherine of Arragon ;
2, Anne Boleyn ; 3, Jane Seymour ; 4, Anne of Cleves ;
5, Catherine Howard ; 6, Catherine Par.
- 2 Henry was named Defender of the Faith by Leo the Tenth,
on account of a Latin book which he published against
Luther ; but afterwards, in revenge for the Papal interdic-
tions, the king declared himself head of the church, de-
stroyed all the monasteries, and entirely shook off the yoke
of Rome.

30/11

EDWARD THE SIXTH



Began his Reign January 28, 1547. Reigned 6 Years,
5 Months, and 8 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

His youthful son succeeds ; but soon the day
Appear'd, that snatch'd Britannia's hopes away :
Enduring monuments record the name
Of our Sixth Edward, of immortal fame.

~~~~~

With num'rous arts he soon adorn'd the land,  
And various structures rose at his command,  
Of pious use, to rear the infant race  
In walks of knowledge, and in paths of grace.  
O ! hadst thou liv'd to wear the earthly crown,  
To spread thy charities and just renown,  
With wisdom's laws, enforc'd at thy decree,  
Another Alfred had appear'd in thee.

## NOTE.

- <sup>1</sup> Edward the Sixth was a pious, learned and wise prince ; he was never crowned ; but, had he lived, he bid fair to honour the English history with a character which has seldom, if ever, been surpassed in the annals of royalty. He was mild in disposition, of great capacity for business, and always inclined to equity and justice. He founded the Blue Coat School, and endowed St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and other public institutions.

## MARY



Began her Reign July 6, 1553. Reigned 5 Years, 4 Months,  
and 11 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

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Now bloody times come on, while o'er the land  
Blind Superstition waves her cruel wand ;  
Axes and tort'ring wheels are with her led,  
And Inquisition lifts its baneful head ;

Whilst Mary, nurs'd in bigotry, once more,  
<sup>1</sup> Subjects the kingdom to the Papal pow'r.  
Cranmer, the boast of two preceding reigns,  
A martyr to religion burns ; whole trains  
<sup>2</sup> At Smithfield flame, while popish fiends surround  
The zealous protestants, to torture bound.  
But Heav'n with pity such a scene survey'd,  
And from the world the wicked queen convey'd.

## NOTES.

- <sup>1</sup> She procured an Address from both Houses of Parliament, acknowledging their sin in quitting the tenets of the church of Rome, and requesting her, with her husband Philip of Spain, to intercede with the Pope for absolution and forgiveness.
- <sup>2</sup> Soon afterwards, she let loose her rage against the Protestants; and Smithfield was constantly in a blaze. It is computed that 277 persons were brought to the stake in the space of three years.

## ELIZABETH



Began her Reign November 17, 1558. Reigned 44 years,  
4 Months, and 7 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

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A sudden blaze of glory darts around !  
What form is this with true religion crown'd ?—  
Another stem of Tudor's race, but bred  
With Heaven's redundant blessings on her head ;

In maiden majesty she moves serene,  
And in her subjects' hearts prevails as queen.

<sup>1</sup> Hark how the nation shouts ! Prosp'rous in war,  
She drags the haughty Spaniard at her car.

<sup>2</sup> But hapless Mary makes the fact appear,  
That virtue cannot reach perfection here.

<sup>1</sup> The Spaniards had collected a most formidable fleet, which they called the Invincible Armada, for the invasion of England ; but the Lord Howard of Effington, assisted by Sir Francis Drake and other commanders, fell in with them, and took 12 of their ships ; and the Spanish admiral, in endeavouring to conduct the remainder of his shattered fleet by the way of Scotland and Ireland, met with a most furious tempest off the Orkneys, which dashed many of them on the coasts ; and not one half of them ever returned to their native ports.

<sup>2</sup> Mary, Queen of Scots, was detained in prison 18 years, and afterwards beheaded. This act would have better become the general character of the late Queen Mary, than that of the admired Elizabeth.

*Stuart Race.—Union of the Two Crowns.*

JAMES THE FIRST



Began his Reign March 24, 1603. Reigned 22 Years  
and 3 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

To rule the land with Caledonian sway,

<sup>1</sup> Next James the First to Albion takes his way.

The sister kingdoms now their strength combine,

Beneath a monarch of the Stuart line ;

A learned prince, had he but wisely gain'd  
His people's love, and in their favour reign'd;  
But regal rights, and arbitrary laws,  
Engag'd his thoughts against his subjects' cause;  
To love of peace too timidly inclin'd,  
While craft, not wisdom, actuates his mind,  
To schemes pedantic he was often led,  
And dying, left no better in his stead.

## NOTE.

- <sup>1</sup> James the First of England, and the Sixth of Scotland, in whose person the two crowns were united, was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, who was beheaded in England, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

## CHARLES THE FIRST



Began his Reign March 27, 1625.    Reigned 23 Years,  
10 Months, and 27 Days.

Buried at Windsor.

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CHARLES the First, in superstition bred,  
And vainly told a king might rear his head  
Above all human laws—(Delusive theme!)  
Too late he found the folly of his dream.

For undue subsidies he often press'd,  
No rights acknowledg'd—nor one wrong redress'd—  
Prompted by sycophants from bad to worse,  
By force he strove to seize the public purse.  
Remonstrance tried in vain, the nation rose,  
By force of arms the monarch to oppose.  
<sup>1</sup> Urg'd on by those who wish'd to gain the throne,  
Their rage demanded not redress alone,  
But just infliction of a traitor's doom,  
Extending to the scaffold and the tomb.

## NOTE.

- <sup>1</sup> Oliver Cromwell, Ireton, and their accomplices, having remodelled the army, and, as they called it, purged the House of Commons, brought the king to trial, and had him condemned to be beheaded as a traitor to his country; which sentence was executed on the 30th of January, 1648. Charles, in his private character, was very amiable; he was a kind husband, a tender father, and a firm friend.

## INTERREGNUM,

(Which lasted about Ten Years.)

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<sup>1</sup> DURING the Interregnum, truth must own,  
Abroad, the nation rose to great renown;  
Her rights acknowledg'd, and her pow'r confess'd,  
And opposition ev'ry where suppress'd.

<sup>2</sup> Charles, the legal heir, attempts in vain  
By force of arms the British crown to gain.  
Cromwell's despotic sway excited dread,  
Brought num'rous execrations on his head,  
And caus'd a gen'ral murmur in the land,  
Though not an inclination to withstand

His usurpation. But when he expires,  
His son, rejected, from the state retires.

## NOTES.

- <sup>1</sup> Oliver Cromwell usurped the government, under the title of Protector.
- <sup>2</sup> Charles the Second attempted to gain the throne during the Protector's life, and was proclaimed by Argyle, in Scotland. He arrived under convoy of seven Dutch men of war, in the frith of Cromarty; but, on his landing, he was not treated with so much homage as he expected, and being closely pursued by Cromwell, he resolved to march into England with about 14,000 men, but was quickly followed by the Protector, who, supported by a newly-raised militia, met with the King at Worcester, and totally defeated him. Charles was compelled to retreat; and, after various escapes, during a concealment of 41 days (particularly among the leaves of a large oak) he embarked at Shoreham in Sussex, and escaped to Normandy.

## CHARLES THE SECOND



Began his Reign January 30, 1649. Reigned 36 Years,  
and 7 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

To stop the current of a nation's tears,  
The Second Charles on the throne appears,  
By Monk restor'd; the nation gladly join  
To welcome home again the Stuart line;

<sup>3</sup> But he, to various foreign lux'ries bred,  
Too soon the land with wretchedness o'erspread;  
With mistresses and minstrels pass'd his days,  
And from court minions only sought for praise.  
Regardless of the nation's just complaint,  
His passions he indulg'd, without restraint;  
To feed his vices, often he applies  
To his indulgent Commons, for supplies.  
Peace is maintain'd, though secret plots abound  
Against a king for levity renown'd.

## NOTES.

<sup>1</sup> General Monk, who was created Duke of Albemarle, on the Restoration.

<sup>2</sup> Charles the Second was bred up at the court of France.

## JAMES THE SECOND



Began his Reign February 6, 1685. Reigned 4 Years, and  
7 Days.

Buried at St. Germain.

THE Duke of York ascended to the throne,

<sup>1</sup> Our Second James, by warlike actions known ;  
But, nurs'd on Flatt'ry's knee, in monkish lore,  
A settled rancour he to Freedom bore ;

And, to the church of Rome a bigot bred,  
By force its doctrines would in England spread ;  
Would closer than the Pope its precepts urge,  
<sup>2</sup> While cruel Jefferies exercis'd the scourge ;  
With force inhuman did the nation awe,  
And his own savage dictates made the law.  
The king, in universal hatred held,  
Was, by his subjects, from the throne expell'd.

## NOTES.

- <sup>1</sup> The Duke of York, in the former reign, exhibited great marks of courage, particularly in an engagement with De Ruyter, when he engaged the Dutch Admiral upwards of two hours ; and his ship was so shattered, that he was obliged to shift his flag.
- <sup>2</sup> Jefferies was the most infamous and arbitrary judge that ever sat on the bench ; he convicted men on the slightest evidence, or on that of suborned witnesses, and spread terror over the kingdom, by the number of his executions. He fell a victim, at last, to the rage of the populace.

## WILLIAM AND MARY



Began their Reign February 13, 1689. Reigned 13 Years,  
and 23 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

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WILLIAM and Mary next, by double choice,  
By marriage-contract, and the nation's voice,  
Ascend the throne; and happy was the hour  
When such a pair receiv'd the sov'reign pow'r.

The Revolution soon appears in view,  
Which former tyrants had made needful now.  
But first in vict'ry must their forces join :  
<sup>2</sup> Witness La Hogue, and battle of the Boyne.  
At length, with gen'ral approbation blest,  
In peace they die, and from their labours rest.  
The funding system now began its sway,  
And pay'd for Luxury the dang'rous way.

## NOTES.

- <sup>1</sup> William, Prince of Orange, married Mary, daughter of James the First, and was invited over by the people to accept of the throne.
- <sup>2</sup> James made two attempts to recover his throne ; first, by the invasion of Ireland, but was defeated by William, at the memorable battle of the Boyne ; and afterwards, by the assistance of the French fleet, attempted a descent on England, but was driven back by the English, with the loss of 15 ships of the line.

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*Union of the Two Kingdoms.*

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ANNE



Began her Reign March 8, 1702. Reigned 12 Years, 4 Months,  
and 24 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

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The reign of Anne succeeds, whose honour'd name  
Her country's annals bear aloft to fame.  
When Louis had his daring legions spread,  
(By thirst of universal empire led)

O'er Belgia's plains, the warlike Marlborough rose,  
With brave Eugene, to crush their Gallic foes.  
Let Ramillies and Blenheim's field relate  
The conquests they obtain'd, and own the fate  
Of the French despot, who was forc'd to yield,  
And over France alone his sceptre wield.

<sup>1</sup> The Senate hail'd th' illustrious chieftain home  
With loud applause, decreed the splendid dome,  
And vast domains, adapted to his fame,  
While the glad Queen adds honour to his name.

<sup>2</sup> The Union, in this reign, with Scotland made,  
To both the kingdoms peace and strength convey'd.

## NOTES.

<sup>1</sup> The manor of Woodstock was granted to him, and half a million voted to build the palace of Blenheim, in commemoration of his victory there.

<sup>2</sup> The Union with Scotland took place in the year 1707.

*Brunswick Race.*

GEORGE THE FIRST



Began his Reign August 1, 1714.    Reigned 12 Years,  
10 Months, and 10 Days.

Buried at Hanover.

THE freedom which in two preceding reigns  
Was granted, now the Brunswick race maintains ;  
And our First George, for prudent councils known,  
Restor'd the old supporters of the throne ;

1 Faction, with wild Rebellion, vainly strove  
At first to counteract the nation's love ;  
But his opposer found his prospects o'er,  
And sought protection on the Gallic shore.  
The monarch, to his foreign realms inclin'd,  
By partial conduct hurt the public mind ;  
But truth must still the pleasing fact declare,  
He always made the nation's rights his care.  
With schemes of bold finance the land was fed,  
And nearly to its own destruction led.  
The South Sea bubble caught the eager mind,  
Prompted by fraud and avarice combin'd ;  
Nor was the senate able to abate  
Its rage, till thousands fell beneath the weight.

## NOTE.

1 The son of James the Second, assisted by France, landed in Scotland, and was proclaimed king ; but, being defeated by the Duke of Argyle, he was forced to leave the kingdom.

## GEORGE THE SECOND



Began his Reign June 11, 1727. Reigned 33 Years, 4 Months,  
and 14 Days.

Buried at Westminster.

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HEIR to his father's virtues and his crown,  
With pride their Second George the people own ;  
Though party clamour, on the British shore,  
† Again invited a pretender o'er,

~~~~~  
2 Brave William, hast'ning to the martial field,
Made the pretender and his forces yield.
The King not only his own land defends,
But valiantly with France and Spain contends.
With vict'ry crown'd, he courted Peace and Trade,
But died before the wish'd-for peace was made.

NOTES.

- 1 The second rebellion was led by the late pretender's son, but was rashly conducted, and soon brought to an end.
- 2 William, Duke of Cumberland, the King's son, gained a complete victory over the rebels at the battle of Culloden; and Charles, the pretender, after wandering a long time in disguise, at length found means to escape in a small vessel to France.

GEORGE THE THIRD



(Whom God preserve)

Began his Reign October 25, 1760.

A Briton born, and glorying in the name,
Now George the Third ascends, with loud acclaim,
The British throne. Long may we hail the day
That blest the nation with a Brunswick's sway!

Freedom, which other lands in vain demand,
More firmly spreads her barrier round the land,
While justice, sooth'd by mercy, George imparts,
Nor strives to reign but in his people's hearts.
While spreading revolutions, in their course,
Have crush'd more abject realms with rapid force,
Britannia still her dignity maintains,
And o'er the sea, unrivall'd, mistress reigns ;
While voluntary armies take the field,
And learn their country and their king to shield :
Thus Freedom, arm'd, with martial ardour glows,
And boldly waits to meet her threat'ning foes.

THE END.

H. Bryer, Printer,
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