

PORTRAITS
AND
Characters
OF THE
KINGS OF ENGLAND.

FROM WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR
TO GEORGE THE THIRD.



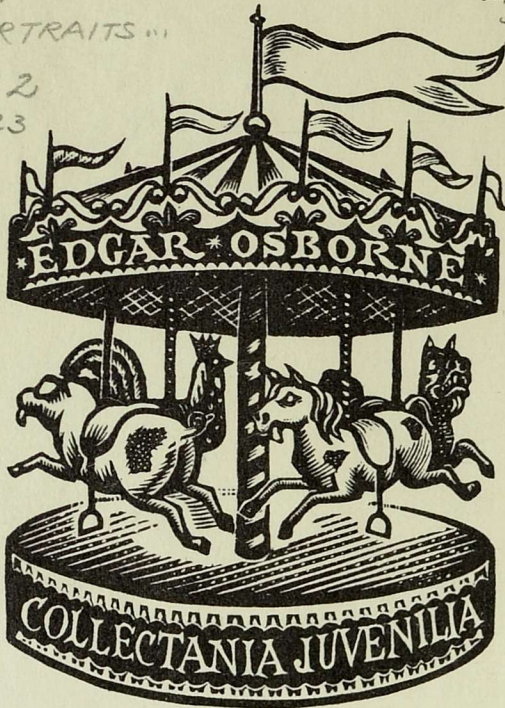
PART II.

LONDON:
J. HARRIS AND SON,
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

Elmira Fiske

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PORTRAITS ...
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1823

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EDWARD THE FIFTH.

BORN, 1470. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1483. SMOTHERED, 1483.

Young EDWARD the FIFTH was a king but in name,
 As Richard, regardless of sin and of shame,
 Both him and his brother depriv'd of their right,
 And caus'd the poor boys to be smother'd one night.
 In a chest, at the foot of a staircase, they lay,
 Till a hundred and ninety-one years roll'd away;
 Then to Westminster Abbey their bones were remov'd,
 As the lines on their monument clearly have prov'd.



RICHARD THE THIRD.

BORN, 1450. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1483. SLAIN, 1485.

Dark, silent, reserv'd, cruel, treach'rous, and base,
 To England a scourge, and a stain to her race ;
 This prince, surnam'd *Crookback*, is RICHARD the
 THIRD,

Of whom many tragical stories you've heard.
 Detested he liv'd, and detested he died,
 For though brave, he possess'd not a virtue beside ;
 By Richmond, at Bosworth, the tyrant was slain,
 In his thirty-fourth year, and the third of his reign.



HENRY THE SEVENTH.

BORN, 1457. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1485. DIED, 1509.

In HENRY THE SEVENTH and his consort we find,
 The houses of York and of Lancaster join'd ;
 And though two Pretenders laid claim to the crown,
 Both Simnel and Warbeck were shortly put down.
 Though the king lov'd his money, he rear'd, for his
 fame,
 The beautiful chapel which still bears his name ;
 In his reign the West Indies were likewise found out ;
 But, at Richmond, in Surrey, he died of the gout.



HENRY THE EIGHTH.

BORN, 1492. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1509. DIED, 1547.

Now comes the Eighth HENRY in royal array,
 The blue-beard of England, historians say ;
 Who by passion incited, or jealousy led,
 Thought nothing of short'ning his wives by a head.
 Divorces and murders astonish'd the nation ;
 The monks lost their cash in the new Reformation ;
 Great Cardinal Wolsey was left in the lurch,
 And the king liv'd and died "supreme head of the
 church."



EDWARD THE SIXTH.

BORN, 1537. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1547. DIED, 1553.

King EDWARD THE SIXTH, when but nine years of age,
Ascended the throne with the mind of a sage ;
The Latin and French he could fluently speak,
And understood Spanish, Italian and Greek.
He founded Christ's hospital ;—crowns he first coin'd,
And half-crowns beside, as in hist'ry we find.
He favour'd the cause of the great Reformation,
But died at sixteen, to the grief of the nation.



MARY.

BORN, 1516. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1553. DIED, 1558.

In MARY, the consort of Philip, are seen
 A furious bigot, a merciless queen ;
 The Duke of Northumberland, Lady Jane Grey,
 With her lord, to the scaffold were all led away ;
 And Ridley, and Cranmer, and Latimer died,
 As martyrs, with hundreds of subjects beside.
 But Heav'n interfer'd bleeding England to save,
 And Mary, detested, sunk into her grave.



ELIZABETH.

BORN, 1533. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1558. DIED, 1603.

ELIZABETH next had a glorious reign,
She aided the Protestants, humbled proud Spain,
The boasted *armada* her warriors o'erthrew,
And its spoils in the Tower our readers may view :
But Scotia's unfortunate queen claims a sigh,
And Essex, the fav'rite, was sentenc'd to die.
The Royal Exchange was now built, it is said ;
And gunpowder first by the English was made.



JAMES THE FIRST.

BORN, 1556. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1603. DIED, 1625.

JAMES THE FIRST, who in learning and hunting
delighted,
The crowns of old England and Scotland united ;
And though in the air he was doom'd to be blown,
He found out the plot, and remain'd on the throne.
In this reign a translation of Scripture was made ;
His foes the great Raleigh to ruin betray'd ;
The New River to Town was from Hertfordshire
brought,
And whales were, near Greenland, by Englishmen
caught.



CHARLES THE FIRST.

BORN, 1600. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1625. BEHEADED, 1649.

CHARLES THE FIRST, to prerogative strongly inclin'd,
Involv'd in a civil commotion we find.

He fought and he struggled, but all prov'd in vain,
He soon was made pris'ner, his forces were slain ;
The parliament triumph'd, the king was depos'd,
And a scaffold the scene of his sufferings clos'd ;
Though Lyttelton says, who his hist'ry has penn'd,
He excell'd as a husband, a father, and friend.



OLIVER CROMWELL.

Insidious and crafty, though brave, without doubt,
 Here's Cromwell, who turn'd the Long Parliament out,
 Who the government into a *Commonwealth* fram'd,
 And *Protector* of England was solemnly nam'd.
 But, though his ambition was crown'd with success,
 His life was embitter'd by anxious distress ;
 And, when he expir'd, such a hurricane blew,
 As was never yet witness'd by me or by you.



CHARLES THE SECOND.

BORN, 1630. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1660. DIED, 1685.

Whilst Cromwell was stil'd Lord Protector at home,
 CHARLES THE SECOND was doom'd as an exile to
 roam ;

But when Oliver died, by consent of the nation,
 Gen'ral Monk soon effected the king's restoration.
 In this reign the great fire of London occur'd,
 And Blood stole the crown from the Tower, I've heard ;
 The Thames was so frozen that coaches plied there,
 And booths were erected resembling a fair.



JAMES THE SECOND.

BORN, 1633. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1685. DIED, 1701.

JAMES THE SECOND had scarcely ascended the throne,
 When his folly and bigotry both were made known.
 The Protestant faith he resolv'd to o'erthrow,
 And did, by degrees, all a tyrant could do.
 The brave Duke of Monmouth attempted in vain
 The nation to rouse, and their rights to regain ;
 But William of Orange more fortunate prov'd,
 And the bigoted prince from his kingdom remov'd.



WILLIAM THE THIRD.

BORN, 1651. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1689. DIED, 1702.

Judicious, retentive, sagacious and brave,
 This hero stepp'd forward, Great Britain to save ;
 And Britons, by feelings of gratitude led,
 Plac'd the Crown on their gallant deliverer's head :
 In spite of his foes, he the sceptre maintain'd,
 And in battle fresh laurels he constantly gain'd.
 The fam'd Bank of England now first claim'd attention,
 And historians now the first bayonets mention.



ANNE.

BORN, 1664. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1702. DIED, 1714.

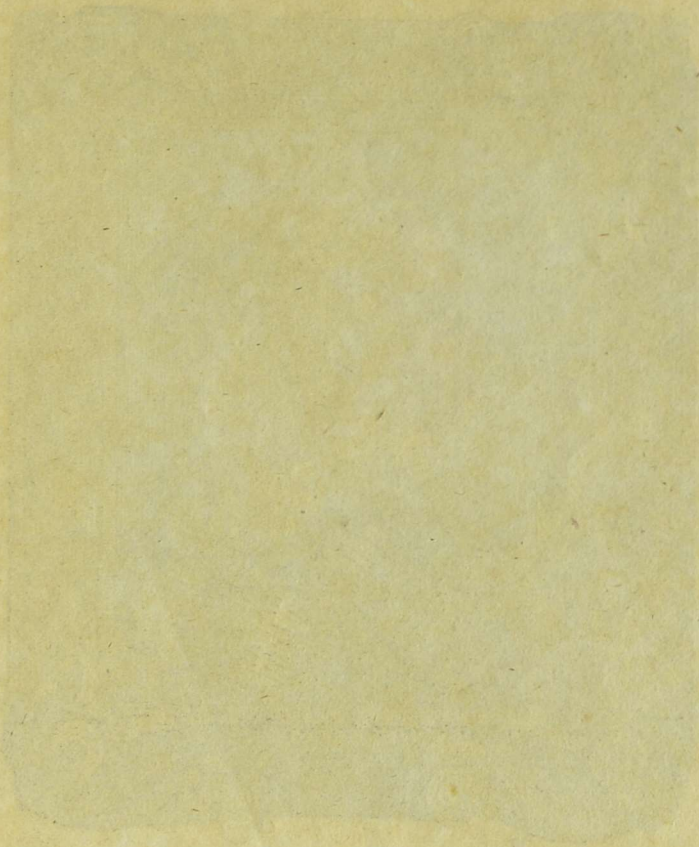
Great ANNE, who commanders of merit employ'd,
 A series of glorious successes enjoy'd ;
 And, spite of all foes, and all factions beside,
 Truly honour'd she liv'd, and lamented she died.
 In this reign the fine mansion of Blenheim was rais'd
 For Marlborough's Duke, so deservedly prais'd ;
 And now flourish'd Swift, Pope, Arbuthnot, and Rowe ;
 With Bolingbroke, Congreve, and more than you know.



GEORGE THE FIRST.

BORN, 1660. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1714. DIED, 1727.

GEORGE THE FIRST, as elector of Hanover known,
Succeeded illustrious Anne on the throne ;
And acted so prudently in his new station,
As to gain the respect and esteem of the nation.
Now parliament men were for seven years elected ;
The South Sea delusion was form'd and detected ;
To prevent the small pox a new method was tried ;
And the King, on a journey, at Osnaburg died.



GEORGE WASHINGTON
The first President of the United States
was born on February 22, 1732, in
Westmoreland County, Virginia.
He served as the first President
of the United States from 1789
to 1797. He was a member of
the Continental Congress and
signed the Declaration of Independence.
He was also a general in the
American Revolutionary War.
Washington is remembered for
his leadership and his role in
the founding of the United States.



GEORGE THE SECOND.

BORN, 1683. BEGAN TO REIGN, 1727. DIED, 1760.

GEORGE THE SECOND, though plain in his mode of address,

Sway'd the sceptre of Britain with brilliant success;
 His virtues more useful than splendid appear'd,
 But his justice was spotless, his name was rever'd ;
 Rebellion was crush'd, and good order maintain'd,
 Whilst by sea and by land many vict'ries were gain'd.
 The British Museum now open'd to view,
 And the old style was chang'd, in this reign, for the
 new.

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