

## CHAPTER III.

1567 - 1569.

Regency of the Earl of Murray.

## CONTEMPORARY PRINCES.

<i>England.</i>	<i>France.</i>	<i>Germany.</i>	<i>Spain.</i>	<i>Portugal.</i>	<i>Pope.</i>
Elizabeth	Charles IX.	Maximilian II.	Philip II.	Sebastian.	Pius VI.

IMMEDIATELY after his acceptance of the government, Murray invited Throkmorton to a conference. He obeyed, and found the regent and secretary Lettington sitting together, upon which he conveyed to them “in as earnest and vehement a form as he could set it forth,” the queen his mistress’ severe disapproval of their recent conduct. To this remonstrance, Maitland made a bold reply. He renounced for himself and his colleagues, all intention of harm to the person and honour of his royal mistress in their late proceedings. “So far from it,” said he, “Mr. Ambassador, that we wish her to be queen of all the world; but now she is in the state of a person in the delirium of a fever, who refuses every thing which may do her good, and requires all that may work her harm. Be assured nothing will be more pre-

judicial to her interest, than for your mistress to precipitate matters. It may drive us to a strait, and compel us to measures we would gladly avoid. Hitherto have we been content to be charged with grievous and infamous titles, we have quietly suffered ourselves to be condemned as perjured rebels and unnatural traitors, rather than proceed to anything that might touch our sovereign's honour. But beware we beseech you, that your mistress, by her continual threats and defamations, by hostility, or by soliciting other princes to attack us, do not push us beyond endurance. Think not we will lose our lives, forfeit our lands, and be challenged as rebels throughout the world, when we have the means to justify ourselves. And if there be no remedy, but your mistress will have war, sorry though we be, far rather will we take our fortune, than put our queen to liberty in her present mood, resolved as she is to retain and defend Bothwell, to hazard the life of her son, to peril the realm, and to overthrow her nobility."<sup>1</sup>

"For your wars," he continued, "we know them well. You will burn our borders, and we shall burn yours; if you invade us, we do not dread it, and are sure of France; for your practices to nourish dissension amongst us, we have an eye upon them all. The Hamiltons will take your money, laugh you to scorn, and side with us. At this moment we have the offer of an agreement with them in

<sup>1</sup> Throkmorton to Elizabeth, Aug. 22, 1567. Keith, p. 448.

our hands. The queen, your mistress, declares she wishes not only for our sovereign's liberty, and her restoration to her dignity, but is equally zealous for the preservation of the king, the punishment of the murder, and the safety of the lords. To accomplish the first, our queen's liberty, much has been done, for the rest, absolutely nothing. Why does not her majesty fit out some ships of war, to apprehend Bothwell, and pay a thousand soldiers to reduce the forts and protect the king. When this is in hand, we shall think her sincere, but for her charge to set our sovereign forthwith at liberty, and restore her to her dignity, it is enough to reply to such strange language, that we are the subjects of another prince, and know not the queen's majesty for our sovereign."<sup>1</sup>

As soon as Lethington had concluded, Throkmorton turning to Murray, expressed a hope that such sentiments would at least not meet his approval. He was not "banded" with these lords, he had committed none of their excesses. But Murray was now secure, he had little to fear from Elizabeth, nothing from France, and his answer was as decided, though more laconic than the secretary's. "Truly, my lord ambassador," said he, "methinks you have had reason at the Laird of Lethington's hands. It is true, that I have not been at the past doings of these lords, yet I must commend what they have done; and seeing the

<sup>1</sup> Throkmorton to Elizabeth, Aug. 22, 1567, printed by Keith, p. 448, from Orig. Caligula, C. 1, fol. xxxii.













































































































































































































































































