

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1582—1584.

 CONTEMPORARY PRINCES.

<i>England.</i>	<i>France.</i>	<i>Germany.</i>	<i>Spain.</i>	<i>Portugal.</i>	<i>Pope.</i>
Elizabeth.	Henry III.	Rudolph II.	Philip II.	Philip II.	Gregory XIII.

ALL was now joy and exultation with the Ruthven lords, and the ministers of the Kirk, who cordially embraced their cause. Mr John Durie, who had been banished from his pulpit in the capital, was brought back in processional triumph. As he entered the town, a crowd of nearly two thousand people walked before him bareheaded, singing the 124th Psalm; and, amid the shouts of the citizens, conducted him to the High Church. It was observed that Lennox, from a window, looked down in anger, but showed no disposition to contest the field with

his enemies; and next day, accompanied by Lord Maxwell, Fernyhirst, and others of his friends, he left the city, and took the road to Dalkeith. This, however, was only to blind his opponents; for he soon wheeled off in an opposite direction, and, with eighty horse, galloped to Dumbarton.¹

Meanwhile, Gowrie and his associates carried all with a bold hand. They had already compelled the King to issue a Proclamation, in which he declared that he was a free monarch, and preferred to remain for the present at Stirling: both assertions being well known to be false. They now committed Arran to a stricter ward, summoned a Convention of the nobility for an early day, required the Kirk to send Commissioners to this Assembly, promised to hear and remove its complaints, and gave a cordial welcome to Sir George Carey and Sir Robert Bowes, the English Ambassadors, who had now arrived at Stirling.²

At this audience Carey delivered a gracious message from his royal mistress; but when he alluded to the dangerous practices of Lennox, and charged him with meditating an alteration in religion, and the overthrow of the King's estate and person, James

¹ MS. Letter, St. P. Off. Archibald Douglas to Randolph, 12th Sept., 1582. Calderwood, MS. Hist., fol. 1213.

² Calderwood, MS. Hist., Ayscough, 4736, fol. 1211-12. Ibid. fol. 1213. Carey had audience on the 12th Sept., MS. Letter, St. P. Office, 14th Sept., 1582, Carey to Elizabeth. Endorsed by himself—"Copy of my letter to the Queen's Majesty." Bowes was at Berwick on the 10th, and at Stirling on the 14th Sept., Bowes' Letter-Book.

could not conceal his passion and disgust. He warmly vindicated his favourite: affirmed that nothing had been done by Lennox alone, but with advice of the Council; and declared his utter disbelief that any treason could be proved against him.¹ Elizabeth and Walsingham, however, trusted that this would not be so difficult; for they had lately seized and examined two persons, who managed the secret correspondence which the imprisoned Queen of Scots had recently carried on with Lennox, her son, and the Court of France. These were, George Douglas of Lochleven, the same who had assisted the Queen in her escape; and the noted Archibald Douglas, cousin to the late Regent Morton, who had remained in exile in England since the execution of his relative and the triumph of Lennox.

This Archibald, a daring and unprincipled man, had been a principal agent in the murder of Darnley, and had played, since that time, a double game in England. He had become reconciled to Lennox, and was trusted, in their confidential measures, by Mary and the French Court; whilst he had ingratiated himself with Elizabeth, Walsingham, and Randolph, to whom he unscrupulously betrayed the intrigues of their opponents. On the late fall of Arran, the mortal enemy of the house of Douglas, he had written an exulting letter to Randolph,² and had begun his preparations for his return to his native country,

¹ Calderwood, MS. Hist., fol. 1213.

² MS. Letter, St. P. Off. Archibald Douglas to Randolph, 12th September, 1582.

when he was seized, by the orders of the English Queen, his house and papers ransacked, and his person committed to the custody of Henry Killigrew, who, by no means, relished the charge of the "old Fox," as he styled him, in his letter to Walsingham.¹

From the revelations of these two persons much was expected; and George Douglas confessed that he had carried on a correspondence between Mary and her son, in which she had consented to "demit" the crown in his favour, on the condition of being associated with him in the government, and that her friends in France consented to recognise him as King. It was evident, also, that a constant communication had been kept up between Lennox, the captive Queen, and the Bishop of Glasgow, her ambassador at the French court; but it would have required much ingenuity to construe this into treason on the part of Lennox, and the examinations of Archibald Douglas gave no colour to the accusation. Arran, indeed, who was still a prisoner at Ruthven, offered to purchase his freedom by discovering enough to cost Lennox his head;² but the Lords would not trust him, and preferred relying on their own exertions to so dangerous an alliance.

In these efforts they derived the most active assistance from the ministers of the Kirk, who, on first

¹ MS. Letter, St. P. Off. Henry Killigrew to Walsingham, 17th September, 1582.

² MS. Letter, St. P. Off. Archibald Douglas to Randolph, 12th Sept., 1582.

