

CHAP. IV.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1594—1597.

CONTEMPORARY PRINCES.

<i>England.</i> Elizabeth.	<i>France.</i> Henry IV.	<i>Germany.</i> Rudolph II.	<i>Spain.</i> Philip II.	<i>Portugal.</i> Philip II.	<i>Pope.</i> Clement VIII.
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JAMES had now fulfilled all his promises to Elizabeth; and by the severity with which he had put down the rebellion of the Catholic earls, had more than fulfilled the expectations of the Kirk. The castles and houses which were said to have been polluted by the Mass, were smoking and in ruins;¹ the noblemen and gentry, whose only petition had been, that they should be permitted to retain their estates, and have their rents transmitted to them in the banishment which they had chosen rather than renounce the faith of their fathers, were fugitives and wanderers, hiding in the caves and forests, and dreading every hour to be betrayed into the hands of their enemies.² All this had been accomplished at no little personal risk: for the King was surrounded by perpetual plots

¹ MS. Letter, St. P. Off., Sir R. Bowes to Sir R. Cecil, 28th September, 1594.

² MS. St. P. Off., Bowes, 29th October, 1594.

against his liberty, and sometimes even against his life.¹ He had cheerfully undergone great privations: had impoverished his revenue, incurred heavy debts, and imposed burdens upon his subjects, that he might, by one great effort, extinguish the Catholic faith, destroy the hopes and intrigues of Spain, and relieve the Queen of England from all her fears. He had done this, trusting to her promises of that pecuniary aid which was absolutely necessary for the payment of his troops; and before he set out, had despatched his secretary, Sir Robert Cockburn, to the English Court,² with the perfect confidence that everything which had been undertaken by "his good sister" would be fulfilled.

In this, however, he was miserably disappointed. Whilst the King was engaged in burning and razing the houses of the Catholics, Elizabeth and the now venerable Burghley were closeted at Greenwich, laying their heads together to find out some plausible excuse for stopping the payment of the promised supplies. Cockburn, the Ambassador, was artfully detained and delayed from week to week, and month to month, till the result of the campaign could be guessed with some certainty. When this was ascertained, the sum of two thousand pounds, for which an order had been given, was recalled;³ and a paper was drawn up by

¹ MS. Letter, St. P. Off., Bowes to Burghley, 7th Oct., 1594. Also, *Ibid.*, Occurrents, 8th Nov., 1594, and 16th Nov., 1594.

² MS. Letter, St. P. Off., Sir R. Cockburn to Sir R. Cecil, 16th September, 1594.

³ MS. Letter, St. P. Off., Sir R. Bowes to Burghley, 23d Oct., 1594.

Lord Burghley, detailing the sums paid by England to James since the year 1586, and proving, to the perfect satisfaction of Elizabeth if not of James, that instead of any money being then due to the King of Scotland, he had been overpaid to the extent of six thousand five hundred pounds.¹ This, the Queen added, was at the rate of three thousand pounds a-year; which James could hardly complain of, as it was the exact allowance given both to her sister Mary and herself by their father Henry the Eighth: and yet the Scottish King now pretended that she had promised an annuity of four thousand pounds; which she positively denied.

For this unwise and double conduct in the Queen there could be no defence. She had first excited James to this northern expedition by flattery and large promises of support; she now forgot all, and deserted him without scruple or remorse. Such a mode of proceeding roused his passion to a pitch of unusual fury; and when Sir R. Cockburn returned, the storm broke pitilessly on his head. The King, at the same time, expressed, in no moderate terms, his rage and suspicion against Burghley and Sir Robert Cecil, by whose advice Elizabeth had acted; and some busy courtiers blew the coals, by assuring him that both father and son were involved in the intrigues and treasons of Bothwell. Had the Queen kept her promises, (so he said;) had she not thrown to the winds her solemn assurances made him by her Ambassadors Lord Burgh and Lord Zouch, the land would have

¹ MS. St. P. Off. B.C., Scottish payments, 5th Nov., 1594. The indorsation is in Burghley's hand.

