

HISTORY

OF

SCOTLAND.

CHAPTER I.

MARY.

(Continued.)

1545 - 1554.

CONTEMPORARY PRINCES.

<i>England.</i>	<i>France.</i>	<i>Spain.</i>	<i>Portugal.</i>	<i>Germany.</i>	<i>Popes.</i>
Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary.	Francis I. Henry II.	Charles V.	Emanuel the Great. John III.	Charles V.	Clement VII. Paul III. Julius III.

THE murder of Cardinal Beaton was followed, as might have been anticipated, by the most important consequences. It removed from the head of affairs a man, whose talents for political intrigue, and whose vigorous and unscrupulous character, had for some time communicated strength and success to the government—it filled with alarm that party in Scotland which was attached to the Romish faith, and interested for the support of the freedom and independence of the country, whilst it gave new spirit to the powerful faction which had been kept in pay by Henry the Eighth, and through whose as-

sistance this monarch confidently looked forward to the accomplishment of his favorite schemes; the marriage of the youthful Queen of Scotland, to his son, the Prince of Wales, the establishment of the Reformation, and the entire subjugation of this country under the dominion of England.

If the fact had not been already apparent, the events which immediately succeeded the assassination of the cardinal rendered it impossible for any one to escape the conclusion that the conspiracy had been encouraged by the English monarch. Scarcely was the act perpetrated when letters were despatched to Lord Wharton, the English warden, by some of those numerous spies whom he retained, describing the consternation which the event had produced in the capital, the change in affairs which was likely to ensue, and the necessity for immediate exertion on the part of his master.¹ On the other hand, the conspirators, who had seized the castle of St. Andrew's, were soon joined by many adherents, previously the most zealous supporters of the English interests; and who, although not present at the murder, believed that it would subject them to suspicion and persecution²;

¹ MS. Letter in State Paper Office. Original from Lord Wharton, June 2nd, 1545, enclosing three letters which he had received from Scotland.

² Anderson's MS. History, vol. ii. p. 80, dorso. They amounted to seven score persons; among them the Laird of Grange, Henry Balnaves, a Senator of the College of Justice, Henry Primrose, the Laird Pitmillie, Mr. John Leslie, Sir John Auchenchlech, and sundry gentlemen of the name of Melvin.

amongst these the most noted were John Knox,¹ the great advocate and supporter of the Reformation, Mr. Henry Balnaves of Hallhill, and the Laird of Grange.

Whilst such was the conduct of the English faction, the Governor Arran, and the Queen Regent, exerted themselves to maintain the cause of order, and to bring to punishment those bold and daring men, who had so unscrupulously taken the law into their own hands. A convention of the nobility, spiritual and temporal, was held at Stirling, on the 10th of June; and nothing was left unattempted by which a cordial union might be promoted amongst the parties which separated and distracted the state. The meeting was attended by the chief persons of both factions, by the Earls of Angus, Cassillis and Glencairn, to whose devotion to the English interests many of the late disorders might be attributed, as well as by Huntly, Argile, and the Lords Fleming and Elphinston, who were the leaders in the faction attached to France, and interested in the support of the Romish faith.² To conciliate the lords

¹ Knox's History, p. 74. Maitland, vol. ii. p. 866.

² MS. Book of the Privy Council of Scotland. Entitled *Liber Secreti Consilii*, 1545, fol. 28. p. 2. The members present were the Bishops of Orkney and Galloway, the Earls of Angus, Huntly, Argile, Bothwell, Glencairn, and Sutherland, the Commendator of Kelso, the Abbots of Melrose, Pasley, Dumfermling, Cowper, Corsregal, Dryburgh, and Culros; with the Lords Fleming, Ruthven, Maxwell, Somerville, Hay of Yester, Innermeith, Elphinston, Livingstone, Erskine, Sir George Douglas, and Sir William Hamilton.

of the English party, Arran, the Governor, solemnly renounced the contract for the marriage of the young Queen to his son; the "bands" or feudal agreements by which many of the nobles had promised to see this alliance carried into effect, were annulled, and at the same time the Queen Regent released from their written obligations all such barons as had stipulated to oppose the ambitious matrimonial designs of the Governor.¹ On the other hand, the Earl of Angus, Sir George Douglas, and Lord Maxwell² cordially embraced the interest of the Queen Regent, approved of the late act of the Scottish parliament, which had dissolved the peace with England, derided all idea of a marriage between Prince Edward and the young Queen; and renounced for ever all those "bands" by which they had tied themselves to Henry, and which had been repeatedly renewed, or forgotten, as their private interest seemed to dictate: Maxwell, who was now made warden of the West Marches, once more took possession of the strong castle of Lochmaben; and twenty peers were selected, out of which number four were directed to remain every successive month with the Governor as his Secret Council.³

¹ MS. Book of Privy Council, fol. 30, p. 2.

² In Anderson's MS. History, vol. ii. p. 81, we find that Robert Lord Maxwell died in July, 1546, and his second son John returned home out of England, and took upon him the government of the country within the wardenry.

³ On the expiry of the month, their place was to be occupied by other four chosen from the remaining sixteen, and so on throughout the year, care was also taken to select at this convention, each party

