

HISTORY
OF
SCOTLAND.

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P R E F A C E .

THE letters of Queen Elizabeth given in the Appendix to this Volume, and now printed for the first time, are taken from originals written entirely in the Queen's own hand, or from contemporary copies of such originals. They were her private and confidential letters ; a circumstance which renders them highly valuable, both as throwing light on the personal character and peculiarities of this famous Queen, and on the secret history of the times.

The letters of Elizabeth, which have hitherto been given to the world, have been almost exclusively letters of State, written by Lord Burghley, or some other of her Councillors, and signed by the Queen. It is scarcely necessary to point out the difference between the *generality* of these last, which

are indeed public papers, and the *individuality* of the letters printed in this Volume, which were strictly sealed, and meant only for the eye of the Prince to whom they were addressed.

Of these latter, some of the most curious are preserved in the MS. Collections of the Right Hon. Sir George Warrender, already alluded to in the Preface to Volume Eighth of this History; and of which his liberality has, for the last two years, permitted the Author the fullest use.

DEVONSHIRE PLACE, }
December 4, 1843. }

THE NINTH VOLUME.

CHAP. I.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1586-7—1589.

	PAGE
Elizabeth's conduct on the death of Mary,	1, 2
Her great injustice to Davison,	3
James receives the news of his Mother's death,	5
Letter of Walsingham to Chancellor Maitland,	7
The Borders break loose,	9
James' cautious policy,	11, 12
Fall of the Master of Gray,	13
The King attains Majority,	14
Reconciliation of the Nobility,	15
Intrigues of Huntly and the Catholics,	16
Difficulties of Elizabeth,	17, 18
Lord Hunsdon Communicates with James,	20
James' proceedings against the Catholic Lords,	22
Destruction of the Spanish Armada,	23
James deceived by Elizabeth,	ib.
Fowler's Character of James,	25
Huntly and Errol's intrigues with Rome,	27
Their letters intercepted,	28
James' vigorous proceedings against them,	29, 30
James' negotiations for his marriage with Anne of Denmark,	32
The Bride sails, but is driven back,	34
The King embarks for Denmark,	36
Marriage, and return of the King,	37
Coronation Fêtes,	39

CHAP. II.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1590—1593.

	PAGE
State of the Kingdom,	41, 42
Chancellor Maitland and the Earl of Bothwell,	43
Maitland's plans for consolidating the King's power,	44
Comparative power of the Protestants and Catholics,	45
Reforms at Court,	47
James' activity,	48
His embassy to the Princes of Germany,	49
Embassy to Elizabeth,	50
She sends him the Garter by the Earl of Worcester,	51
Elizabeth's letter to James on the rise of the Puritans,	53
Cordiality between Elizabeth and James,	55
Chancellor Maitland's letter to Burghley,	56
James' activity against the Witches,	57
Bothwell accused of plots with the Wizard Graham against the King,	59
Bothwell imprisoned. He escapes,	60, 61
Disorganized state of the Kingdom,	63
Bothwell's attack on the Palace,	64
Murder of the "Bonny" Earl of Murray by Huntly,	66, 67
The Chancellor Maitland driven from Court,	70
James' difficulties,	71
He makes advances to the Kirk,	72
Presbytery established by Parliament,	73, 74
Intolerance of the Kirk,	75
Arrest of Mr George Ker,	76
Discovery of Spanish intrigues,	77
Intercepted letters of the Catholic Lords,	78, 79
Huntly and Errol imprisoned,	80
James' spirited conduct to Bowes,	ib.
Elizabeth's letter to James,	81
James' angry expostulation with Bowes,	82
His activity against the Catholic Lords,	85
Mission of Lord Burgh to James,	86
James' leniency to the Catholic Lords,	87
He gives audience to Lord Burgh,	88

	PAGE
The Ambassador's intrigues with Bothwell,	89
Miserable state of the Kingdom,	91
The Kirk propose the entire extirpation of the Catholics,	92, 93
James' opposition; deserted by the Kirk,	94
Impotence of the laws,	95, 96
Reappearance of Captain James Stewart, formerly Earl of Arran,	97
The King's vigorous conduct,	98
Parliament assembled; Bothwell forfeited,	99
Proceedings suspended against Huntly, Errol, and Angus,	100
Indignation of the Ministers,	101
Bothwell seizes the Palace, and becomes master of the Government,	102
James' dissimulation,	104
Bothwell and Dr Toby Mathews,	105
Mathews' letter to Burghley,	106, 110
Bothwell's letter to Elizabeth,	111
Bothwell's trial and acquittal,	113
James' unsuccessful attempt to escape,	114, 115
He regains his Liberty,	117

CHAP. III.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1593—1594.

James' resolute conduct,	118
Elizabeth courts the Catholics,	119
Her duplicity, and letter to James,	121
Bothwell ordered to leave the kingdom,	122
Vigour and power of the King, and return of the Chancellor Maitland,	123
James' wise measures,	125
Alarm of the Kirk,	127
Excommunication of the Catholic Lords, and Public Fast,	128, 129
The Catholic Lords supplicate to have their trial,	130
The Kirk insists on delay,	132
They summon the people to meet in arms at Perth,	133
Danger of a hostile collision,	135

	PAGE
James takes a middle course,	136
His severe decree against the Catholics,	137
The Kirk complain of his leniency,	138, 139
Elizabeth's letter to James,	141
Lord Zouch's (the English Ambassador) interview with James,	144, 145
Lord Zouch's conspiracies against James,	146
Birth of Prince Henry,	147
Zouch and Bothwell's plot discovered,	149
Defeated by the King,	150
James' letter to Elizabeth,	151, 154
James' embassies to foreign States, on the birth of his son,	155
His resolution to pursue the Catholic Lords,	156
Embassy of Sussex, and baptism of Prince Henry,	ib.
Letter of Elizabeth to James,	157, 158
Letter of James to Elizabeth,	160, 161
Elizabeth discards Bothwell,	162
James preparations against the Catholics,	163, 165
Argyll marches against Huntly,	166
Besieges Ruthven Castle, but repulsed,	167
BATTLE OF GLENLIVAT,	169, 172
The King attacks and entirely defeats Huntly,	174
Commits to the Duke of Lennox the temporary govern- ment of the North.	175

CHAP. IV.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1594—1597.

The Queen breaks her promises to James,	177
His extreme rage and disappointment,	179
Emulation between the Chancellor Maitland and the Earl of Mar,	180
Disagreement between the King and Queen,	181, 182
Commutations in the North,	183, 185
Convention of the Nobles,	186
Miserable state to which Bothwell is reduced,	187
Spanish intrigues resumed,	188
Errol and Huntly leave Scotland,	190

James' judicious measures,	191, 192
Slaughter of David Forrester,	193
James' rebuke of the Chancellor,	194
Rivalry of Maitland and Mar,	195
The King and Queen reconciled,	196, 197
State of the Western Isles,	199
Elizabeth's negotiation with Maclean,	200
Power of Maclean,	201, 203
Letter of Maclean to Bowes,	205
Death of the Chancellor Maitland,	207
Fears of the Kirk, at the renewal of Spanish intrigues,	209
Appointment of the Octavians,	211
Sir Robert Bowes sent by Elizabeth to Scotland,	212, 313
Bowes' interview with the Queen,	214
Bowes' negotiation with Maclean,	216
His observations on James' character,	217
Meeting of the General Assembly,	218
Their satisfaction with James' proceedings,	219, 220
Seizure of Kinmont Willie,	222
Buccleugh carries him off from Carlisle Castle,	224, 225
James commits Buccleugh to ward,	226
Huntly returns secretly to Scotland,	228
James anxious for his recantation and restoration to his honours,	229
Extreme indignation of the Kirk,	230
They insist on violent measures,	231
Mr David Black's attack upon Queen Elizabeth,	232
Complaint of the English Ambassador,	233
Black's defence,	234, 235
James' interview with the Commissioners of the Kirk,	238, 239
Black found guilty, and banished,	240
The Commissioners of the Kirk ordered to leave the city,	242
The King's declaration,	ib.
Twenty-four citizens banished the capital,	244
Great tumult in the city,	246, 247
The King leaves his capital and retires to Linlithgow,	248
The Kirk write to Lord Hamilton,	249
Mr John Welsh's seditious sermon,	250
Lord Hamilton refuses the offers of the Kirk, and gives their letter to the King,	252

	PAGE
Vigorous proceedings of the King,	253
His return to Edinburgh, and submission of the citizens,	254
James resolves on the establishment of Episcopacy,	255
His "Queries" directed to the Kirk,	256, 257
Answers of the Kirk,	259
Meeting of the General Assembly,	260
Success of the King,	262
Plot of Barclay of Ladyland to seize "Ailsa,"	264
Huntly's recantation, and reconciliation to the Kirk,	265
Visitation of St Andrews, and removal of Andrew Melvil,	267
Petition by the Kirk to have a voice in Parliament,	269
Meeting of the General Assembly,	270
Angry debates,	271
Agreed that the ministers shall have a voice in Par- liament,	272
Final establishment of Episcopacy in 1600,	272, 273

CHAP. V.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1597-98—1600.

State of the country,	274
Death of Sir Robert Bowes,	276
Mission of Sir William Bowes to Scotland,	277
James' anxiety on the subject of his title to the Crown of England,	ib.
Affair of Valentine Thomas,	279
James' complaint against Spenser's "Fairy Queen,"	280
Increase of Witches, and imposture of Aitken discovered,	281
Proposals of Donald Gorm to Queen Elizabeth,	283
Maclean slain by Sir James Macdonald,	285
James' schemes for the Civilisation of the Isles,	287
The Lewis and Skye let to a Company of Lowland Barons,	288
Their disasters and failure,	ib.
The Magistrates of Edinburgh's spirited resistance to the Crown,	289
Contest between the King and the Supreme Court,	290
Death of Lord Burghley,	291

	PAGE
Sir Robert Cecil manages the Scottish affairs,	292
His alarms for James' orthodoxy,	293
James' financial embarrassments,	294
Mission of Sir William Bowes,	295
"Basilicon Doron,"	ib.
Andrew Melvil attacks it,	296
Publication of the King's book,	297
A General Fast,	298
Sir Edmund Ashfield kidnapped,	299
James' indignation,	300
Arrival of a French Ambassador,	301
Alarm of the Kirk at the arrival of "English Players,"	302, 303
General "Band" on the Succession,	303
James' harangue on the same subject,	304
His Scheme of Taxation defeated,	305
Spirited resistance of the Burghs,	ib.
First day of the year altered from 25th March to 1st Jan.,	306

CHAP. VI.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1600.

THE GOWRIE CONSPIRACY,	307
Early Life of the young Earl of Gowrie,	308, 309
Education at Padua,	310
His stay at Paris,	311
His reception at the English Court,	311, 312
Coldness between Elizabeth and James,	313, 315
Bothwell reported to be in Scotland,	316
Reflections on the state of parties,	317
Gowrie's return to Scotland,	318
Anecdotes,	319, 320
He retires from Court,	321
Convention of Estates, and debates,	323
Gowrie opposes the King,	325
James' rage at Gowrie and the Burghs,	326
Remarks,	327, 328
Gowrie's Plot and Accomplices,	329

	PAGE
He studies Machiavel,	330
Logan of Restalrig and Laird Bower,	331
The Master of Ruthven,	332
Gowrie House and Fastcastle,	333
Letter of Logan to the unknown Conspirator, 18th July,	334, 336
Logan to Laird Bower,	ib.
Logan to the unknown Conspirator, 27th July,	337
Logan to Gowrie, July 29,	338, 341
Logan to the unknown Conspirator,	341, 343
Summary of the Letters,	344, 345
Progress of the Plot,	346, 348
The King arrives at Gowrie House,	349
Progress of the Plot,	350, 351
James follows the Master of Ruthven to the private room,	352
The struggle between them,	ib.
The Catastrophe : Death of the Master and Gowrie,	355, 357
Popular tumult,	358
James returns to Falkland,	359
Rejoicings when he returns to Edinburgh,	359, 360

CHAP. VII.

JAMES THE SIXTH.

1600—1603.

Scepticism of the Kirk on the Gowrie Conspiracy,	361
James' impatience and impolitic conduct,	362
Severe proceedings against the House of Ruthven,	363
Elizabeth's Letter to James,	365, 366
Ashfield's directions to James as to the "Succession,"	367
Differences between the King and his Queen,	368
Birth of a Prince, afterwards Charles the First,	369
Friendly Letter of Elizabeth to James,	370
James interests himself for the Earl of Essex,	371
Embassy of the Earl of Mar and the Abbot of Kinloss to Elizabeth,	372, 373
Elizabeth's cold reception of them,	375
James' secret instructions to the Ambassadors,	376, 377
The Ambassadors gain Secretary Cecil,	379

	PAGE
Elizabeth's letter to James,	381
Last Parliament of Elizabeth,	382, 383
The Queen abolishes Monopolies,	384
Mission of the Duke of Lennox to Elizabeth,	384, 385
The Duke's secret negotiations in England,	386
Cecil and Howard's secret Correspondence with James,	386, 387
James' wise and spirited conduct,	389
His difficulties in conciliating the Catholics,	390, 391
Former mission of Pourie Ogilvy,	392
James' alleged letter to the Pope,	393
Difficulty in discovering the truth as to these intrigues,	394, 395
All parties favour his title,	395
Reconciliations and stanching of Feuds amongst the Scot- tish nobles,	ib.
Elizabeth's last letter to James,	397
Elizabeth's last illness,	400
Her death: James proclaimed her successor,	405
Sir Robert Carey's journey to Scotland,	406
James sets out for England,	408
His triumphant Progress,	409
He enters London, and takes possession of the English Throne,	410
CONCLUSION OF THE HISTORY,	411

PROOFS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

FROM

UNPRINTED MANUSCRIPTS.

	PAGE
I. Huntly's Rebellion, with Errol, Angus, and Bothwell,	415
II. Queen Elizabeth to King James, 29th May, 1590,	417
III. Queen Elizabeth to Henry the Fourth, 27th July, 1591,	419
IV. Queen Elizabeth to the King of Scots, 12th August, 1591,	420
V. Elizabeth to Henry the Fourth, 9th November, 1591,	421
VI. Elizabeth to James, 25th November, 1591,	422
VII. Queen Elizabeth to James, 4th December, 1592,	423
VIII. The Present State of the Nobility in Scotland, 1st July, 1592,	425
IX. Elizabeth to James, June 1594,	432
X. Elizabeth to James, 1593,	433
XI. Kinmont Willie,	435
XII. Elizabeth to James, April 1596,	437
XIII. After Kinmont Will's rescue and deliverance by Buccleugh, 1596,	439
XIV. Elizabeth to James, 1st July, 1598. On the subject of Valentine Thomas,	440
XV. James to Elizabeth, 10th February, 1601,	441
XVI. Elizabeth to James, May 1601,	442
XVII. Elizabeth to James, 2d December, 1601,	443
XVIII. Elizabeth to James, 4th July, 1602,	444