

**THE HISTORY AND LITERATURE  
OF THE STUART PERIOD (TO  
THE ACCESSION OF WILLIAM  
III. AND MARY II, 1689)**

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The History and Literature of the Stuart Period (to the Accession of William III. And Mary II, 1689) by J. Davies

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# THE HISTORY AND LITERATURE

OF THE

## STUART PERIOD

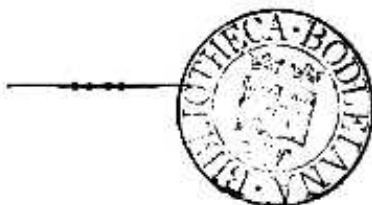
(TO THE ACCESSION OF WILLIAM III. AND MARY II., 1689).

BY

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## HISTORY OF THE STUART PERIOD (to 1689).

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### JAMES I.

**Dates of Birth, Accession, and Death.**—1566 (at Edinburgh), 1603-1625 (at Theobalds, Herts,—of ague and gout, aggravated by his refusal to take medicine, and by unskilful treatment).

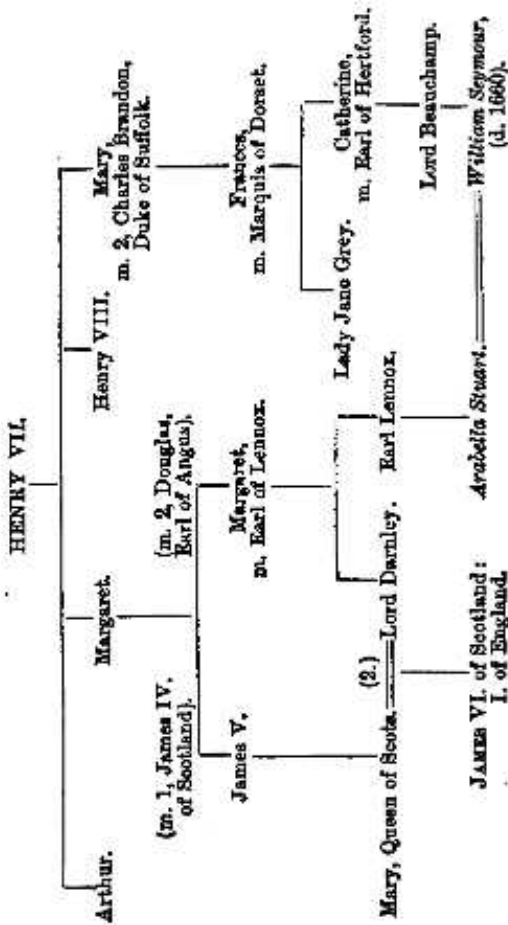
**Descent.**—Only child of Mary, Queen of Scots, by Lord Darnley.

The table on next page will show his,—and also Arabella Stuart's, and William Seymour's,—descent from Henry VII.

**Married** Anne, daughter of Frederick II. of Denmark (d. 1619).

**Issue.**—Henry (a very accomplished and promising prince, died 1612)—Charles I.—Elizabeth (m. Frederick, Elector Palatine)—Robert and Mary (died young).

**Claim to the Throne.**—*Not good.* He was the nearest living lineal descendant of Henry VII., and consequently the hereditary successor to Elizabeth, the preceding sovereign; but Parliament had granted Henry VIII. the power to regulate the succession, which he had done by a will ordering that, if Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth died childless, the crown should pass to the heirs of his younger sister Mary, Duchess of Suffolk—thus excluding the Scotch branch, descended from his elder sister Margaret, and to which James belonged.





The legal heir, at James's accession, was, according to Henry VIII's will, *William Seymour*, who was the nearest living representative of the Suffolk family.

The crowns of England and Scotland were united in James, who thus became the *First King of Great Britain*: the complete union of the two kingdoms was not, however, effected till 1707, by the ACT OF UNION.

### WARS.

1. **In Aid of the Elector Palatine.**—The Bohemian Protestants, having revolted from the Emperor Matthias, on account of his intolerance and unconstitutional government, would not own his successor, Ferdinand II., but made Frederick, the Elector Palatine, their sovereign. Austria and Spain allied to recover Bohemia for Ferdinand, and to drive Frederick from his own dominions. The English were eager to assist the Elector Palatine; but James sent his son-in-law only 4000 troops.

Frederick was defeated at the *Battle of Prague*, 1620, and soon after lost all his territory. The contest, however, lasted from 1618 to 1648, and is hence called the THIRTY YEARS' WAR. It was ended by the PEACE OF WESTPHALIA, which restored to the Elector the greater part of the Palatinate.

2. **With Spain, 1624.**—A marriage treaty had been arranged between Prince Charles and the Spanish Infanta. Buckingham induced James to allow him and the Prince to visit the Court of Spain *incognito*, in order that Charles might see his future wife. Buckingham's haughty manners made him disliked by the Spaniards, and he, in revenge, prevailed upon Charles to break his engagement. At the next meeting of Parliament after their return to England, Buckingham so misrepresented matters to the Lords as to convey the impression that Spain had grossly insulted England. The result was a declaration of war. Large supplies were voted, and 12,000 troops, under Count Mansfield, were sent to the aid of the Elector Palatine. Half the number died in transit, owing to the overcrowding of the transports, so that, on reaching the Palatinate, Mansfield was obliged to remain passive and useless.

## PLOTS AND REBELLIONS.

1. **The Main Plot, 1603.**—The chief *conspirators* were Lord Cobham, his brother George Brooke, and, perhaps, Sir Walter Raleigh. Their *object* appears to have been to raise Arabella Stuart to the throne, with the assistance of Spain.

2. **The Bye Plot, or "Surprising Treason," 1603.**—The chief *conspirators* were Sir Griffin Markham, a zealous Papist; Clarke and Watson, two Roman Catholic priests; George Brooke, who was thus engaged in this and in the "Main;" and Lord Grey. Their *object* was to seize James, and alter the Government,—the Roman Catholics engaged intending to obtain, as one of these changes, toleration for their sect.

Cecil knew of the progress of both plots, and, before any active steps were taken by the conspirators, he caused them to be arrested and tried. All were found guilty of high treason. Brooke, Clarke, and Watson were executed. Raleigh and the rest were kept in prison.

3. **The Gunpowder Plot, 1605.**—The chief *conspirators* were Robert Catesby, Thomas and Robert Winter, John and Christopher Wright, Sir Harry Percy, Rookwood, Grant, Bates, Sir Everard Digby, Francis Tresham, and Guido Fawkes. Three Papist priests—Garnet, Greenway, and Gerard—were privy to it. The *object* of the plot was to blow up James and his Parliament at their re-assembling, as the great step towards restoring Roman Catholicism.

Parliament was to have met in February. The conspirators took a house adjoining the Lords, which they commenced undermining. Parliament was, however, further prorogued till the autumn, and they accordingly ceased operations for a time. Meanwhile, a cellar under the House of Lords was to let; the conspirators took it, and stored in it thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, which they concealed by means of faggots. The 5th of November being finally fixed for the opening of Parliament, the following arrangements were made:—Fawkes was to fire the powder by a slow match, after lighting which he was to escape;—Percy was to obtain possession of Prince Charles, whom they meant to succeed his father;—and Digby and a party of his friends—assembled, on pretext

of hunt, at Dunchurch—were to proceed to Lord Harrington's seat, near Coventry, and seize the Princess Elizabeth.

At the end of October, Lord Monteagle received a letter (doubtless from Tresbam, his brother-in-law) warning him to absent himself from the Parliament about to assemble, and using the significant words,—“They shall receive a terrible blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurts them.” When James read the letter, he at once grasped its import. On the morning of the 5th the cellar was searched. Fawkes was taken at the door, and all the preparations discovered.

As soon as the other conspirators heard of the arrest of Fawkes, they hastened to Dunchurch; but the gentlemen assembled there refused to join them. They then fled to Holbeach, where one of them had a house. Here they were attacked by the sheriffs of Warwick and Worcester. Rookwood, Thomas Winter, and Grant were taken;—Catesby, Percy, and the Wrights were shot;—Bates, Robert Winter, and Digby escaped, but were soon after captured.

Fawkes was meanwhile tortured, and, when he knew that his accomplices had betrayed themselves by their acts subsequent to his arrest, gave full information of the plot.

Digby, Rookwood, Fawkes, Grant, Bates, and the Winters were tried for high treason, condemned, and executed.

Of the priests, Gerard and Greenway escaped; but Garnet was taken, and executed as an accessory, though he pleaded that it was in the inviolable confidence of confession that he had gained a knowledge of the plot.

**A Rising in the Midland Counties, 1607.**—Under Reynolds (*alias* Captain Pouch),—to destroy new enclosures of land. Reynolds and others were taken, and executed as traitors.

#### JAMES'S PARLIAMENTS.

**First, (1604–1611).**—*Main Events* :—

A contest with James, in consequence of his denying their right of settling disputed elections. The Commons successfully upheld their prerogative.