

in that vigour of mind by which a prince ought to preserve his independence, and avoid the snares and fetters of sycophants and favourites; but whatever her weakness in this particular might have been, the virtues of her heart were never called in question. She was a pattern of conjugal affection and fidelity, a tender mother, a warm friend, an indulgent mistress, a munificent patron, a mild and merciful prince, during whose reign no subject's blood was shed for treason. She was zealously attached to the church of England from conviction rather than from prepossession, unaffectedly pious, just, charitable, and compassionate. She felt a mother's fondness for her people, by whom she was universally beloved with a warmth of affection which even the prejudice of party could not abate. In a word, if she was not the greatest, she was certainly one of the best and most unblemished sovereigns that ever sat upon the throne of England; and well deserved the expressive though simple epithet of "The good Queen Anne."

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

§ I. State of parties in Great Britain. § II. King George proclaimed. § III. The civil list granted to his majesty by the parliament. § IV. The electoral prince created Prince of Wales. § V. The king arrives in England. § VI. The Tories totally excluded from the royal favour. § VII. Pretender's manifesto. § VIII. New parliament. § IX. Substance of the king's first speech. § X. Lord Bolingbroke withdraws himself to France. § XI. Sir William Wyndham reprimanded by the speaker. § XII. Committee of secrecy. § XIII. Sir John Norris sent with a fleet to the Baltic. § XIV. Discontent of the nation. § XV. Report of the secret committee. § XVI. Resolutions to impeach Lord Bolingbroke, the Earl of Oxford, the Duke of Ormond, and the Earl of Strafford. § XVII. The Earl of Oxford sent to the Tower. The proclamation act. § XVIII. The king declares to both Houses, that a rebellion is begun. § XIX. The Duke of Ormond and Lord Bolingbroke attainted. § XX. Intrigues of the Jacobites. § XXI. Death of Louis XIV. § XXII. The Earl of Mar sets up the pretender's standard in Scotland. § XXIII. Divers members of the lower House taken into custody. § XXIV. The pretender proclaimed in the North of England by the Earl of Derwentwater and Mr. Foster. § XXV. Mackintosh crosses the frith of Forth into Lothian, and joins the English insurgents. § XXVI. Who are attacked at Preston, and surrender at discretion. § XXVII. Battle of Dunblain. § XXVIII. The pretender arrives in Scotland. § XXIX. He retires again to France. § XXX. Proceedings of the Irish parliaments. § XXXI. The rebel lords are impeached and plead guilty. § XXXII. The Earl of Derwentwater and Lord Kenmuir are beheaded. § XXXIII. Trials of rebels. § XXXIV. Act for septennial parliaments. § XXXV. Duke of Argyle disgraced. § XXXVI. Triple alliance between England, France, and Holland. § XXXVII. Count Gyllenburg, the Swedish minister in London, arrested. § XXXVIII. Account of the Oxford riot. § XXXIX. The king demands an extraordinary supply of the Commons. § XL. Division in the ministry. § XLI. The Commons pass the South Sea act, the bank act, and the general fund act. § XLII. Trial of the Earl of Oxford. Act of indemnity. § XLIII. Proceedings in the convocation with regard to Dr. Hoadley, Bishop of Bangor.

A. D. 1714. § I. It may be necessary to remind the reader of the state of party at this important juncture. The Jacobites had been fed with hopes of seeing the succession altered by the Earl of Oxford. These hopes he had conveyed to them in a distant, undetermined, and mysterious manner, without any other view than that of preventing them from taking violent measures to embarrass his administration. At least, if he actually entertained at one time any other design, he had, long before his disgrace, laid it wholly aside, probably from an apprehension of the danger with which it must have been attended, and seemed bent upon making a merit of his zeal for the house of Hanover: but his conduct was so equivocal and unsteady, that he ruined himself in the opinion of one party, without acquiring the confidence of the other. The friends of the pretender derived fresh hopes from the ministry of Bolingbroke. Though he had never explained himself on this subject, he was supposed to favour the heir of blood, and known to be an implacable enemy to the whigs, who were the most zealous advocates for the protestant succession. The Jacobites promised themselves much from his affection, but more from his resentment; and they believed the majority of the Tories would join them on the same maxims. All Bolingbroke's schemes of power were defeated by the promotion of the Duke of Shrewsbury to the office of treasurer; and all his

^a These were the Dukes of Shrewsbury, Somerset, Bolton, Devonshire, Kent, Argyle, Montrose, and Roxburgh—the Earls of Pomfret, Anglesey,

hopes blasted by the death of the queen, on whose personal favour he depended. The resolute behaviour of the Dukes of Somerset and Argyle, together with the diligence and activity of a council in which the whig interest had gained the ascendancy, completed the confusion of the Tories, who found themselves without a head, divided, distracted, and irresolute. Upon recollection, they saw nothing so eligible as silence, and submission to those measures which they could not oppose with any prospect of success. They had no other objection to the succession in the house of Hanover, but the fear of seeing the whig faction once more predominate; yet they were not without hope that their new sovereign, who was reputed a prince of sagacity and experience, would cultivate and conciliate the affection of the Tories, who were the landholders and proprietors of the kingdom, rather than declare himself the head of a faction which leaned for support on those who were enemies to the church and monarchy, on the bank and the monied-interest, raised upon usury, and maintained by corruption. In a word, the whigs were elated and overbearing; the Tories abashed and humble; the Jacobites eager, impatient, and alarmed at a juncture which, with respect to them, was truly critical.

§ II. The queen had no sooner resigned her last breath than the privy council met, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, and the Hanoverian resident, Kreyenberg, produced the three instruments in which the Elector of Brunswick had nominated the persons^a to be added as lords justices to the seven great offices of the realm. Orders were immediately issued for proclaiming King George, in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The regency appointed the Earl of Dorset to carry to Hanover the intimation of his majesty's accession, and attend him in his journey to England. They sent the general officers in whom they could confide to their respective posts: they reinforced the garrison of Portsmouth: they appointed Mr. Addison their secretary: while Bolingbroke was obliged to stand at the door of the council-chamber with his bag and papers, and underwent every species of mortification. On the whole, King George ascended the throne of Great Britain in the fifty-fifth year of his age, without the least opposition, tumult, or sign of popular discontent: and the unprejudiced part of the nation was now fully persuaded that no design had ever been concerted by Queen Anne and her ministry in favour of the pretender. The mayor of Oxford received a letter, requiring him to proclaim the pretender. This being communicated to the vice-chancellor, a copy of it was immediately transmitted to Mr. Secretary Bromley, member of parliament for the University; and the vice-chancellor offered a reward of one hundred pounds to any person who should discover the author. It was either the production of some lunatic, or weak contrivance to fix an odium on that venerable body.

§ III. The parliament having assembled, pursuant to the act which regulated the succession, the lord chancellor, on the fifth day of August, made a speech to both Houses in the name of the regency. He told them, that the privy council appointed by the Elector of Brunswick had proclaimed that prince under the name of King George, as the lawful and rightful sovereign of these kingdoms; and that they had taken the necessary care to maintain the public peace. He observed, that the several branches of the public revenue were expired by the demise of her late majesty; and recommended to the Commons the making such provision, in that respect, as might be requisite to support the honour and dignity of the crown. He likewise expressed his hope, that they would not be wanting in any thing that might conduce to the establishing and advancing of the public credit. Both Houses immediately agreed to addresses, containing the warmest expressions of duty and affection to their new sovereign, who did not fail to return such answers as were very agreeable to the parliament of Great Britain. In the mean time the lower House prepared and passed a bill, granting to his majesty the same civil list which the queen had enjoyed; with additional clauses for the payment of arrears due to the troops of Hanover, which had been in the ser-

Carlisle, Nottingham, Abingdon, Scarborough, and Orford—Lord Viscount Townshend, and Lords Halifax and Cowper.