

escorted by Bishop Compton, who was clad "in a buff coat and jack-boots," had fled to the northern rebels. "*God help me,*" cried the wretched King, "*for my own children have forsaken me.*"

Meanwhile, William had advanced to Hungerford. In his alarm, James sent his wife and his son to France. He then ordered writs to be prepared for a free Parliament, and entered into negotiations with William to the effect that both armies should remain at a distance of forty miles from the capital, while the Parliament was sitting. Suddenly, however, his courage seems to have failed him and he changed his plans. He burnt with his own hands the writs, and flung the Great Seal into the Thames, with the foolish hope, that by so doing, everything would be thrown into inextricable confusion. Disguised as a country gentleman, he attempted to make his way out of England, but he was stopped near Sheerness by some rough fishermen, and brought back to Whitehall.

The news of James's flight threw London into a state of confusion. Riots broke out, Roman Catholic chapels were sacked and burnt, and the Roman Catholic courtiers compelled to fly for their lives. Jeffreys was found lurking in an ale-house at Wapping, and was with some difficulty rescued from the hands of an infuriated mob, and conveyed by two regiments of militia to the Tower. William was entreated to hasten his march, as it was felt that only his presence could preserve order in the city. But he insisted that James should withdraw from Whitehall before he entered London. The crest-fallen King had not the courage to resist, and taking advantage of the means of escape, which were offered him, he again left London, and took ship to France, where he met with an honourable reception from Louis XIV.

On the flight of James, William entered London unopposed, and immediately convoked the House of Lords. By their advice, he issued writs in his own name summoning a Convention, and to this body was entrusted the business of settling the question of the government. As soon as the Convention met, it was found to be strongly Whig in character. It passed a resolution that King James,