

the Princess Anne had also proved faithless, he returned in trembling haste to London. When tidings of Anne's desertion reached him, the hapless King exclaimed, "God help me; my own children have forsaken me!"

12. Meantime, the Prince of Orange pressed on steadily toward the capital, contriving by skilful management to avoid all conflict with the English troops, to whom the sight of a foreign invader would naturally have been hateful. James now resolved on flight. On the 10th of December 1688, he despatched his wife and her child to Gravesend, where they embarked for France. On the following day, James himself left Whitehall Palace for Sheerness; but he was arrested by some boatmen on the Thames, and was brought back to London. It was now the object of the Prince of Orange, who was at Windsor, to induce James to leave the country. A detachment of Dutch troops was sent into London, and an order issued to the King to withdraw from St. James's Palace. The hint was taken; and on the 26th of December 1688 James II. saw his capital for the last time. He repaired to France, and for the rest of his life enjoyed the princely hospitalities of Louis XIV.

13. The flight of James was followed by the creation of a Provisional Government, with the Prince of Orange at its head. The peers and the leading statesmen who were in London agreed that the Prince of Orange should summon a Convention to consider the peculiar state of the nation. This Convention met in January 1689. After much discussion, it was unanimously declared that by his abdication and flight James had forfeited his title to the throne, and that the interests of the kingdom required a Protestant successor. The crown was offered to William and Mary, the chief powers of government to be in the hands of the former. Should they die without issue, the right of succession was vested in the Princess Anne. They were required to subscribe to a *Declaration of Right*, the provisions of which we shall find embodied in the famous *Bill of Rights* passed a few months later.

CHAPTER XLII.

HOUSE OF STUART.—WILLIAM AND MARY (1689 to 1694).

WILLIAM III. (1694 to 1702).

1. The political movement which led to the flight of James and the elevation of William and Mary to the throne is known in English history as the *Revolution of 1688*. The new King was the son of William, Prince of Orange, and Mary, daughter of Charles I. In 1677 he married his cousin Mary, eldest daughter of James II. Before his accession to the English throne he

William
and Mary.