

CHAPTER VII

THE HOUSE OF STUART

1603-1714

1. JAMES I. 1603-1625

152. **Character of James I.**—The heir to Elizabeth's throne was James, son of Mary, Queen of Scots, the child to whom she had resigned her kingdom when she was a prisoner at Lochleven Castle. He was now thirty-seven years of age, and from his looks and manner no one would have guessed that he was the son of Queen Mary. Awkward and clumsy in person, he was a most undignified figure for a king. Though he was confident of his own judgment and impatient of advice, he was easily led by favourites, on



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whom he lavished money without stint. His mind was naturally acute, and he was vain of his learning which was really very great; but he never won the sympathy of the people whom he had come to govern.

153. **James and the church.**—The first question in the minds of James's new subjects was, which church he would favour. The Roman Catholics hoped that out of regard for his mother's belief, he would make life in England easier for them, and the Puritans hoped that he would have a feeling of fellowship with them, because he had been brought up among the Scottish Presbyterians. One thousand Puritan ministers at once presented him with a