

as he had fled from the country, the throne was vacant. A Declaration of Rights was then drawn up, which traced the whole history of the contest with the king, stated clearly the rights and liberties of the people, and closed by declaring William and Mary king and queen of England, the actual government to be carried on by the king. William at once accepted the crown, both for himself and for his wife, and promised to rule according to the laws of England.

### SUMMARY

James succeeded to the throne without opposition. Rebellions, under Argyle in Scotland and Monmouth in England, were sternly suppressed. James, in spite of the opposition of Parliament, did all in his power to restore the Roman Catholic church in England. He declared that both Roman Catholics and Protestants should have religious freedom, and required all clergymen to read in their churches a proclamation to this effect, contrary as it was to the laws of the land. Seven bishops petitioned against this ordinance and were sent to the Tower, but were acquitted. The birth of a prince, who would be brought up as a Roman Catholic, aroused the people to invite William, Prince of Orange, to come to their assistance. James fled to France. A Convention, which met in 1689, at the call of William, declared the throne vacant and elected William and Mary king and queen of England.

## 6. WILLIAM III AND MARY II. 1689-1702

197. **Limitations of the royal power.**—In the autumn of 1689 Parliament passed an Act called the Bill of Rights, confirming the Declaration of Rights issued by the Convention which had met ten months before. The bill provided that, without the consent of Parliament, the king should not set aside the laws or maintain a standing army; that the election of members of Parliament should be free from interference, and that Parliament should be frequently assembled; that William and Mary should reign as joint sovereigns, with the practical care of the government in the hands of William; that if either William or Mary died the other should continue to reign; that if they left no children, the crown should descend to Anne, the sister of