way she hoped to attach to herself the great body of her peo­ple, who were mostly protestants ; and as from France, torn at this moment by civil and religious dissensions, she could expect little assistance, she deemed it the more necessary to preserve peace with England. Events of much interest now succeeded each other with a startling rapidity, and the his­tory of Mary, in the brief circle of six years, presented an appalling tragedy, of which we can only give the outline.

The first point on which the two queens came into colli­sion was on the delicate subject of marriage. Mary’s sub­jects wished her to marry, and she considered it wise and necessary that she should gratify their wishes. She was in the bloom of youth, extremely beautiful, and of manners so engaging and attractive, that few could see her without sen­timents of admiration and regard. She was queen of Scot­land, and, after Elizabeth, undoubted heir to the English throne ; though this queen, from her morbid jealousy upon the subject of the succession, had never recognised her right. Mary’s great object, at this moment, was to marry with her approbation, and to procure a declaration of her right of succession to the throne, failing Elizabeth’s issue. She accordingly declared that she would regard her advice upon this subject as that of a mother, and consulted her sister of England with an openness and devotion which, if not per­fectly prudent, appears to have been perfectly sincere.

In return for this confidence, the conduct of the queen of England was marked by that insincerity, selfishness, and want of truth which too frequently characterised her policy. She was determined that, if Mary did marry, she should lower herself by the alliance ; but she would have been still better pleased could she have so ordered matters that she should not marry at all ; and, guided by this ungenerous object, Elizabeth commenced a system of intrigue, the sole object of which was mystification and delay, and in which she enjoyed the satisfaction, not only of deceiving Mary and her councillors, but of setting her own ministers at fault, and rendering it impossible for them to decipher her real inten­tions. In the course of these negotiations, after objecting to every foreign alliance, the English queen at last proposed her own favourite, Leicester, and held out as a bait to Mary, who justly deemed such an alliance beneath her rank, the promise that the issue, if any, of this marriage should suc­ceed to the English throne. Nothing can be more certain than that she had no such intention ; but the farce was so well acted, that not only Mary and the lord James, now earl of Murray, but Randolph, the English ambassador at the Scottish court, were deceived; and when at last the bub­ble broke, and it was discovered that, from first to last, Eli­zabeth had been playing her usual dark and double game under the mask of friendship, the indignation of the suffer­ers was roused, as might have been expected, to the highest pitch.

An almost immediate and violent re-action took place. Mary had hitherto confided in Elizabeth, and consulted her upon the marriage. She now trusted her no longer, and de­termined, without delay, to follow her own inclination. Since her arrival in her dominions, she had favoured the protes­tants and rather repressed the Roman Catholics. She was now disposed to reverse the system. She had hitherto chosen Murray and Lethington as her chief ministers, had entrusted to the first almost regal power, loaded him with estates and honours, and placed him at the head of her no­bility ; and it was by Murray and Lethington’s advice that she had shaped her policy towards England ; but the road they marked out for her had led to insult, mortification, and defeat. Was it possible then, that she could continue to those two men, or to the protestant party, whom they re­presented, the confidence with which she had regarded them ? or rather, was it not natural that, when she discovered their devotedness to Elizabeth, who had deceived and injured her, she should regard them with suspicion and distrust ?

Under these circumstances, and when agitated by such feelings, Mary saw the lord Darnley, the eldest son of the earl of Lennox, who, with his father, had lately returned to Scotland. This young nobleman could boast of a royal de­scent, his grandmother being a sister of Henry the Eighth, and he himself, next to Mary, the nearest heir to the Eng­lish throne. He was now in his twenty-first year, and had not yet discovered that weak intellect and propensity to low- vices which betrayed themselves soon after his marriage. It was the misfortune of the Scottish queen that she acted under impulses. She had been deceived by Elizabeth, and she determined to shew her that she could choose for her­self. Without giving herself time to study his disposition, and purposely abstaining from any previous communica­tion of her intentions to England, she selected Darnley as her future husband, and dispatched Lethington to Elizabeth, not, as before, to ask her counsel, but to inform her of her resolution.

The consequences of this step were extraordinary. Darn­ley and his father were strongly suspected of being Roman Catholics. Murray and Lethington saw in this alliance little else than the demolition of their own power ; the party of Knox and the kirk anticipated the restoration of the ancient religion ; and Elizabeth not only declared herself hostile to the alliance, but bitterly accused the Scottish queen, in­sisted that Lennox and Darnley were English, not Scottish subjects, and sent them orders to repair instantly to her court. It was hardly to be expected that so ridiculous a command should be obeyed, and the opposition of England only rendered Mary more determined upon the marriage. A convention of her nobility was held at Stirling ; it was numerously attended ; the queen communicated to them her intention of marrying Darnley; the measure was approved without a dissentient voice ; and although Murray, and the faction with whom he acted, attempted to instigate the people to opposition and rebellion, the endeavour was signally unsuccessful, and the queen carried her wishes in­to effect. She was married to Darnley in the chapel of Holyrood, on the 29th of July 1565.

Previously to the queen’s marriage, Murray, Argyll, Leth­ington, and the party of the kirk had been encouraged by Elizabeth to rise against their sovereign ; and had they re­ceived from the English queen the substantial assistance which she promised, the result might have led to the de­thronement of her whom they represented as the oppressor of her nobility, and the bitter enemy of the truth. But their schemes were defeated by the energy and promptitude of the Scottish queen and the timid parsimony of her sister of England. It was in vain that Murray and his brother insurgents reminded Cecil of their desperate situation, and the necessity of speedy assistance both in money and in sol­diers. Neither the one nor the other could be wrung from Elizabeth. They were proclaimed traitors, driven from one position to another by the queen of Scots, who herself head­ed the forces which she led against them, and were at last compelled to fly to England and throw themselves upon the protection of Elizabeth. To their dismay she disowned and repulsed them ; upbraided Murray as a traitor to his royal mistress ; and, although herself the encourager of their re­volt, compelled them publicly to declare that she knew no­thing of the matter. They were then dismissed from the queen’s presence, and permitted to retire to Carlisle, where the earl of Bedford received secret instructions to supply their wants during their banishment.

While such was the course of events in England, Mary’s satisfaction in the triumph over her rebels was grievously diminished by discovering that her husband was weak and profligate, the dupe of every artful companion whom he met, and unworthy of the confidence and affection with which she had treated him in the first ardour of her passion. To entrust him with any responsible share in the government