they advanced and occupied Edinburgh, the earl and the queen retired ; but in a few days they found themselves strong enough to confront their enemy on Carberry hill, near Musselburgh. Both factions, however, seemed anxious to avoid a battle, and an extraordinary agreement took place. Bothwell, whom they had declared their determination to seize and punish as the murderer of his sovereign, was per­mitted, without molestation, to ride off the field. The queen was assured of their unshaken fidelity ; and so completely did she credit their asseverations, that she gave her hand to Grange, and suffering him to lead her to his associates, was conducted by them to the capital.

Within an hour she discovered that she had surrendered herself to her mortal enemies. On her entering the city, afurious mob assailed her with execrations, and displayed before her a broad banner bearing the figure of her murdered hus­band. Amidst these indignities she was carried to a house, where she was so strictly guarded, that not even her maids were allowed access. And on the succeeding evening she was conveyed by the lords Lindsay and Ruthven a prisoner to Lochleven, a strong castle in the middle of a lake, from which all escape seemed hopeless.

From those who had thus shamelessly broken their so­lemn engagement, little else could be looked for but addi­tional indignity and outrage. Mary was soon visited in her prison by lord Lindsay of the Byres, whose fierce temper and brutal manners peculiarly fitted him for the mission on which he was sent. He presented to her three written in­struments. By the first she was made to resign the crown in favour of her son ; by the second, the earl of Murray was nominated regent during the king’s minority ; by the third, a temporary regency was appointed to act until Murray returned from the continent. When Lindsay threw these deeds on the table, he plainly informed the queen that no alternative was left, but either to sign them without delay, or prepare for death, as the murderer of her husband. We are not to wonder that, aware that her life was in the hands of her bitterest enemies, Mary instantly obeyed.

The young king was now crowned, and Murray having arrived from France, assumed the regency, and entered upon the cares of government. He had not, however, for many months enjoyed the sweets of power, when the queen, by the assistance and ingenuity of a youth of sixteen, named Douglas, escaped in the night from Lochleven, and riding first to Seaton, and next day to Hamilton, soon found her­self surrounded by a band of her nobles, and at the head of six thousand men. Mary was desirous to avoid war, and addressed repeated pacific proposals to the regent, who was then at Glasgow. She offered to call a free parliament; she was ready to deliver up to justice all whom he accused as guilty of the murder, provided those whom she arraigned of the same crime were also delivered up. This was per­emptorily refused, her messengers were arrested, her ad­herents denounced as traitors ; and the queen, aware that it must come to the decision of the sword, determined to await the arrival of additional forces, when she was hurried into an engagement with the regent, who threw himself in her way at Langside, as she was on her march from Hamil­ton to Dunbar. The result was calamitous. Her army was completely defeated, and εhe herself compelled to fly from the field with a slender train, who rode to Dundren- nan, a distance of sixty miles, before they drew bridle. Next day she intimated her resolution of throwing herself on the protection of Elizabeth. From this step her friends passionately dissuaded her; but she declared she would trust to the assurances which she had received fromher good sister ; and crossing the Sol way, she proceeded through Cockermouth to Carlisle. The return for this act of generous confidence and devotedness is well known. Elizabeth refused to see her, gave orders that she should be detained, kept her in

prison a miserable and heart-broken captive for fourteen years, and at last brought her to the scaffold.

From the imprisonment of Mary, (1568,) till the acces­sion of James the Sixth to the English throne (1603,) there is an interval of thirty-five years. It is occupied by the suc­cessive regencies of Murray, Lennox, Mar, and Morton, af­ter whose execution we have that portion of the reign of James which extends from 1581 to 1603. With a rapid review of the most interesting and influential events dur­ing this period, we shall conclude our labours.

The imprisonment of Mary left Murray the undisturbed possessor of the supreme power in Scotland ; but the queen strenuously and indignantly asserted her innocence of the atrocious crimes of which she was accused ; and as the Eng­lish queen could bring forward no possible justification of her conduct in detaining Mary, except her alleged accession to the murder, it was evident that an investigation of the circumstances, if demanded by the accused party, could not in justice be refused. Mary offered to hear the accusation of her enemies in the presence of Elizabeth, and in the same presence to undertake her defence ; but this was deni­ed her. It was then proposed by the English ministers that she should consent to a public trial ; but this she rejected as beneath the dignity of an independent sovereign. It was lastly suggested that her enemies should be summoned to produce their proofs before certain English and Scottish commissioners, and that the cause should be left to their decision.

A commission was accordingly held at York, but it led to political intrigues rather than judicial investigation. Af­ter some interval Murray was summoned to hold a private interview with Elizabeth at Westminster ; and Mary again demanded to be admitted to the same presence, and con­fronted with her accuser. This was denied, while the English queen permitted Murray to bring forward his charge, and to attempt to substantiate it by letters, affirmed to be in the queen’s hand-writing, addressed to Bothwell, and con­clusive, as he contended, of her guilt. Again Mary demand­ed by her commissioners to be heard personally in her de­fence ; and this being refused, they protested against further proceedings, and declared the conference at an end. Cecil., however, insisted that the inquiry should proceed ; and having procured all the evidence which he judged necessary, he at­tempted to persuade the Scottish queen, as the only way of avoiding an ignominious exposure, to resign her crown. Her reply disconcerted him. “ They have accused me,” said she, “ of the murder of my husband. It is a false and calumnious lie. It was themselves that counselled and contrived themur- der, some of them were even its executioners. Give me what I am justly entitled to, copies of the letters they have pro­duced ; let me see and examine the originals, and I pledge myself, in presence of the queen, to convict them of the atro­cious crime they have had the audacity to impute to me.” This bold and unexpected tone embarrassed Elizabeth ; and Mary having repeated her charge, insisted on having copies of the letters produced against her. The English queen evaded the request, and advised her to resign her crown. To this she declared that no persuasion would ever induce her ; and under such circumstances the conferences were abruptly terminated. Murray, with his associates, received permis­sion to return to Scotland. He carried away with him those alleged original letters, which the party whom they inculpat­ed was never permitted to examine ; and he left behind him copies, which were also concealed from Mary and her com­missioners. It is from these copies, which the accused was never permitted to compare with the originals, that future authors have been obliged to infer the guilt or innocence of the queen ; and certainly, if the opinion of Elizabeth is en­titled to weight, it is clear that she considered the proof as defective. She and Murray shrunk from a public challenge of Mary ; and however suspicious or inexplicable some of the