

= Mary of Modena =

Mary of Modena (Maria Beatrice Anna Margherita Isabella d 'Este ; 5 October [O.S. 25 September] 1658 ? 7 May [O.S. 26 April] 1718) was Queen of England , Scotland and Ireland as the second wife of James II and VII (1633 ? 1701) . A devout Catholic , Mary married the widowed James , who was the younger brother and heir presumptive of Charles II , (1630 ? 1685) . She was uninterested in politics and devoted to James and their children , two of whom survived to adulthood : the Jacobite (previous Roman Catholic / Stuart dynasty) claimant to the thrones , James Francis Edward , (who would have become James III of England , but later in life known as " The Old Pretender ") , and Louisa Maria Teresa .

Born a princess of the northwestern Italian Duchy of Modena , Mary is primarily remembered for the controversial birth of James Francis Edward , her only surviving son . It was widely rumoured that he was a " changeling " , brought into the birth @-@ chamber in a warming @-@ pan , in order to perpetuate her husband 's Catholic Stuart dynasty . Although the accusation was almost certainly false , and the subsequent Privy Council investigation affirmed this , James Francis Edward 's birth was a contributing factor to the " Glorious Revolution " , the revolution which deposed James II and VII and replaced him with his Protestant eldest daughter from his first marriage to Anne Hyde , (1637 ? 1671) , Lady Mary , (later Queen Mary II) . She and her husband , William III , Prince of Orange @-@ Nassau , would reign jointly on the English Throne as " William and Mary " .

Exiled to France , the " Queen over the water " ? as the " Jacobites " , (followers of James II and VII , Stuart dynasty claims , and generally Roman Catholics) called Mary ? lived with her husband and children in the Château de Saint @-@ Germain @-@ en @-@ Laye , provided by King Louis XIV of France (" The Sun King ") . Mary was popular among Louis XIV 's courtiers ; however , James was considered a bore . In widowhood , Mary spent much time with the nuns at the Convent of Chaillot , where she and her daughter Louisa Maria Teresa spent their summers . In 1701 , when James II died , young James Francis Edward became king at age 13 in the eyes of the " Jacobites " , as now " King James III and VIII " . As he was too young to assume the nominal reins of government , Mary acted as his regent until he reached the age of 16 . When young James Francis Edward was asked to leave France as part of the settlement from the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 , which ended the War of the Spanish Succession (1701 ? 1714) , Mary of Modena stayed , despite having no family there , her daughter Louisa Maria Teresa having unfortunately died of smallpox . Fondly remembered by her French contemporaries , Mary died of breast cancer in 1718 .

= = Early life (1658 ? 1673) = =

Mary Beatrice d 'Este , the second but eldest surviving child of Alfonso IV , Duke of Modena , and his wife , Laura Martinuzzi , was born on 5 October 1658 NS in Modena , Duchy of Modena , Italy . Her only younger brother , Francesco , succeeded their father as Duke upon his death in 1662 , the year Mary turned four . Mary and Francesco 's mother Laura was strict with them , and acted as regent of the duchy until her son came of age . Mary 's education was excellent ; she spoke French and Italian fluently , had a good knowledge of Latin and , later , mastered English .

Mary was described by contemporaries as " tall and admirably shaped " , and sought as a bride for James , Duke of York , by Lord Peterborough . Lord Peterborough was groom of the stole to the Duke of York . A widower , James was the younger brother and heir of Charles II of England . Duchess Laura was not initially forthcoming with a reply to Peterborough 's proposal , hoping , according to the French ambassador , for a " grander " match with the eleven @-@ year @-@ old Charles II of Spain . Whatever the reason for Laura 's initial reluctance , she finally accepted the proposal on behalf of Mary , and they were married by proxy on 30 September 1673 NS .

Modena was within the sphere of influence of Louis XIV of France , who endorsed Mary 's candidature and greeted Mary warmly in Paris , where she stopped en route to England , giving her a brooch worth £ 8 @, @ 000 . Her reception in England was much cooler . Parliament , which was entirely composed of Protestants , reacted poorly to the news of a Catholic marriage , fearing it was a " Papist " plot against the country . The English public , who were predominantly Protestant ,

branded the Duchess of York ? as Mary was thereafter known as until her husband 's accession ? the " Pope 's daughter " . Parliament threatened to have the marriage annulled , leading Charles to suspend parliament until 7 January 1674 OS , to ensure the marriage would be honoured and safeguarding the reputation of his House of Stuart .

= = Duchess of York (1673 ? 1685) = =

= = = Household = = =

The Duke of York , an avowed Catholic , was twenty @-@ five years older than his bride , scarred by smallpox and afflicted with a stutter . He had secretly converted to Catholicism around 1668 . Mary first saw her husband on 23 November 1673 OS , on the day of their second marriage ceremony . James was pleased with his bride . Mary , however , at first disliked him , and burst into tears each time she saw him . Nonetheless , she soon warmed to James . From his first marriage to the commoner Anne Hyde , who had died in 1671 , James had two daughters : Lady Mary and Lady Anne . They were introduced to Mary by James with the words , " I have brought you a new play @-@ fellow " . Unlike Lady Mary , Lady Anne disliked her father 's new wife . Mary played games with Anne , to win her affection .

The Duchess of York annually received £ 5 @,@ 000 spending money and her own household , headed by Carey Fraser , Countess of Peterborough ; it was frequented by ladies of her husband 's selection : Frances Stewart , Duchess of Richmond ? Charles II 's discarded mistress ? and Anne Scott , 1st Duchess of Buccleuch . That the Duchess of York loathed gambling did not stop her ladies compelling her to do so almost every day . They believed that " if she refrained , it might be taken ill " . Consequently , Mary incurred minor gambling debts .

The birth of the Duchess of York 's first child , Catherine Laura , named after Queen Catherine , on 10 January 1675 OS represented the beginning of a string of children that would die in infancy . At this time she was on excellent terms with Lady Mary and she visited her in The Hague after the younger Mary had married William of Orange . She travelled incognito and took Anne with her .

= = = Popish plot and exile = = =

The Duchess of York 's Catholic secretary , Edward Colman , was , in 1678 , falsely implicated in a fictitious plot against the King by Dr. Titus Oates . The plot , known as the Popish Plot , led to the Exclusionist movement , which was headed by Anthony Ashley Cooper , 1st Earl of Shaftesbury . The Exclusionists sought to debar the Catholic Duke of York from the throne . Their reputation in tatters , the Yorks were begrudgingly exiled to Brussels , a domain of the King of Spain , ostensibly to visit Lady Mary ? since 1677 the wife of Prince William III of Orange . Accompanied by her not yet three @-@ year @-@ old daughter Isabella and Lady Anne , the Duchess of York was saddened by James 's extra @-@ marital affair with Catherine Sedley . Mary 's spirits were briefly revived by a visit from her mother , who was living in Rome .

A report that King Charles was very sick sent the Yorks back to England post @-@ haste . They feared the King 's eldest illegitimate son , James Scott , 1st Duke of Monmouth , and commander of England 's armed forces , might usurp the crown if Charles died in their absence . The matter was compounded by the fact that Monmouth enjoyed the support of the Exclusionists , who held a majority in the House of Commons of England . Charles survived but , feeling the Yorks returned to court too soon , sent James and Mary to Edinburgh , where they stayed on @-@ and @-@ off for the next three years . Lodging in Holyrood Palace , the Yorks had to make do without Ladies Anne and Isabella , who stayed in London on Charles 's orders . The Yorks were recalled to London in February 1680 , only to return again to Edinburgh that autumn ; this time they went on a more honourable footing : James was created King 's Commissioner to Scotland . Separated from Lady Isabella once again , Mary sank into a state of sadness , exacerbated by the passing of the Exclusion bill in the Commons . Lady Isabella , thus far the only one of Mary 's children to survive

infancy , died in February 1681 . Isabella 's death plunged Mary into a religious mania , worrying her physician . At the same time as news reached Holyrood of Isabella 's death , Mary 's mother was falsely accused of offering £ 10 @, @ 000 for the murder of the King . The accuser , a pamphleteer , was executed by order of the King .

The Exclusionist reaction that followed the Popish plot had died down by May 1682 . Exclusionist @-@ dominated Parliament , suspended since March 1681 , never again met in the reign of Charles II . Therefore , the Duke and Duchess of York returned to England , and the Duchess gave birth to a daughter named Charlotte Mary in August 1682 ; Charlotte Mary 's death three weeks later , according to the French ambassador , robbed James of " hope that any child of his can live " ? all James 's sons by Anne Hyde , his first wife , died in infancy . James 's sadness was dispelled by his revival in popularity following the discovery of a plot to kill the King and him . The objective of the plot , known as the Rye House Plot , was to have Monmouth placed on the throne as Lord Protector . The revival was so strong that , in 1684 , James was re @-@ admitted to the Privy Council , after an absence of eleven years .

= = Queen (1685 ? 1689) = =

Despite all the furore over Exclusionism , James ascended to his brother 's thrones easily upon the latter 's death , which occurred on 6 February 1685 OS , possibly because the said alternative could provoke another civil war . Mary sincerely mourned Charles , recalling in later life , " He was always kind to me . " Mary and James 's £ 119 @, @ 000 joint coronation ceremony , occurring on 23 April OS , Saint George 's day , was meticulously planned . Precedents were sought for Mary because a full @-@ length joint coronation had not occurred since the ceremony performed for Henry VIII of England and Catherine of Aragon .

Queen Mary 's health had still not recovered after the death of Lady Isabella . So much so , in fact , that the Tuscan envoy reported to Florence that " general opinion turns [for Mary 's successor] in the direction of the Princess , Your Highness 's daughter " . France , too , was preparing for the Queen 's imminent demise , putting forward as its candidate for James 's new wife the Duke of Enghien 's daughter . The Queen was then trying to make her brother , the Duke of Modena , marry the former , Anna Maria Luisa de ' Medici .

In February 1687 , the Queen , at the time irritated by the King 's affair with Catherine Sedley , Countess of Dorchester , moved into new apartments in Whitehall ; Whitehall had been home to a Catholic chapel since December 1686 . Her apartments were designed by Christopher Wren at the cost of £ 13 @, @ 000 . Because the palace 's renovation was thus far unfinished , the King received ambassadors in her rooms , much to the Queen 's chagrin . Five months later , shortly after the marriage talks with Tuscany collapsed , the Queen 's mother , Duchess Laura , died . Therefore , the whole English court went into mourning . Duchess Laura left Mary " a considerable sum of cash " and some jewellery . William III of Orange , James 's son @-@ in @-@ law , sensed popular discontent with James 's government ; he used the death of Mary 's mother as a guise to send his half @-@ uncle , Count Zuytlestein , to England , ostensibly to condole Queen Mary , but in reality as a spy .

Having visited Bath , in the hope its waters would aid conception , Queen Mary became pregnant in late 1687 . When the pregnancy became public knowledge shortly before Christmas , Catholics rejoiced . Protestants , who had tolerated James 's Catholic government because he had no Catholic heir , were concerned . The Protestant disillusion came to a head after the child was known to be male , and many Protestants believed the child was spurious ; if not , James II 's Catholic dynasty would have been perpetuated . Popular opinion alleged that the child , named James Francis Edward , was smuggled into the birth chamber as a substitute to the Queen 's real but stillborn child . This rumour was widely accepted as fact by Protestants , despite the many witnesses of the birth . Mainly by mismanagement on James ' part , these rumours had some excuse as from personal prejudice he had excluded many from the ceremony whose testimony must have been counted valid ; most of the witnesses were Catholics or foreigners , and several , such as the Princess Anne of Denmark , later to be Queen Anne , and the Protestant prelates , or the family of

the Princesses whom the new birth would remove from the direct succession , were not allowed to be present . Anne later answered a memorandum of 18 questions regarding James Francis Edward 's birth for her sister , the Princess of Orange . Anne 's answers , biased and unreliable , convinced the Princess of Orange that her father had thrust a changeling upon the nation . Count Zuytlestein , returning to the Netherlands shortly after the birth , agreed with Anne 's findings .

Issued by seven leading Whig nobles , the invitation for William to invade England signalled the beginning of a revolution that culminated in James II 's deposition . The invitation assured William that " nineteen parts of twenty of the people throughout the kingdom " wished for an intervention . The revolution , known as the Glorious Revolution , deprived James Francis Edward of his right to the English throne , on the grounds he was not the King 's real son and , later , because he was a Catholic . England in the hands of William of Orange 's 15 @,@ 000 @-@ strong army , James and Mary went into exile in France . There , they stayed at the expense of King Louis XIV , who supported the Jacobite cause .

= = Queen over the water (1689 ? 1701) = =

= = = Reception at Louis XIV 's court = = =

As Mary II and William III & II had ascended the English and Scottish thrones , Mary of Modena ceased to be Queen of England on 11 December 1688 OS and of Scotland on 11 May 1689 OS . This was concurrent with her husband 's formal deposition . James II , however , backed by Louis XIV of France , still considered himself king by divine right and maintained it was not within parliament 's prerogative to depose a monarch .

Louis XIV gave the exiled King and Queen the use of Château de Saint @-@ Germain @-@ en @-@ Laye , where they set up court @-@ in @-@ exile . Mary soon became a popular fixture at Louis XIV 's court at Versailles , where diarist Madame de Sévigné acclaimed Mary for her " distinguished bearing and her quick wit " . Questions of precedence , however , marred Mary 's relations with the Dauphine of France , Maria Anna of Bavaria . Because Mary was accorded the privileges and rank of a queen , Maria Anna was outranked by her . Therefore , Maria Anna refused to see Mary , etiquette being a sensitive issue at Versailles . In spite of this , Louis XIV and his secret wife , Madame de Maintenon , became close friends with Mary . As there was no queen at the French court , nor a dauphine after 1690 , Mary took precedence over all the female members of the French court and French royal house , as did her daughter in her capacity of a royal princess until the next French dauphine appeared in 1711 . James was largely excluded from French court life . His contemporaries found him boring , and French courtiers frequently joked that " when one talks to him , one understands why he is here . " Mary gave birth to Princess Louise Mary in 1692 . She was to be James and Mary 's last child .

Initially supported by Irish Catholics in his effort to regain the thrones , James launched an expedition to Ireland in March 1689 . He abandoned it upon his defeat at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 . During James 's campaign , Mary supported his cause throughout the British Isles : she sent three French supply ships to Bantry Bay and £ 2 @,@ 000 to Jacobite rebels in Dundee . She financed those measures by selling her jewellery . Money problems plagued the Stuart court @-@ in @-@ exile , despite a substantial pension from Louis XIV of 50 @,@ 000 livres . Mary tried her best to assist those of her husband 's followers living in poverty , and encouraged her children to give part of their pocket money to Jacobite refugees .

= = = Estensi succession = = =

The collapse of James 's invasion of Ireland in 1691 upset Mary . Her spirits were lifted by news of the marriage of her brother , the Duke of Modena . He married Margherita Maria Farnese of Parma . When , in 1695 , Mary 's brother died , the House of Este was left with one progenitor , Cardinal @-@ Duke Rinaldo . Queen Mary , concerned for the dynasty 's future , urged the Cardinal @-@

Duke to resign his cardinalate , " for the good of the people and for the perpetuation of the sovereign house of Este " . Duke Rinaldo 's bride , Princess Charlotte Felicitas of Brunswick @-@ Lüneburg , was , according to Mary , " of an easy disposition best suited to [the Duke] " .

A bone of contention , however , arose over the Queen 's inheritance and dowry . Duke Rinaldo refused to release the former , and left the latter £ 15 @,@ 000 in arrears . In 1700 , five years later , the Duke finally paid the Queen her dowry ; her inheritance , however , remained sequestered , and relations with Modena worsened again when Rinaldo allied himself with Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I. Leopold was an enemy of Louis XIV , James and Mary 's patron .

= = = Regency = = =

In March 1701 , James II suffered a stroke while hearing mass at the Château de Saint @-@ Germain @-@ en @-@ Laye , leaving him partially paralysed . Fagon , Louis XIV 's personal physician , recommend the waters of Bourbon @-@ l'Archambault , to cure the King 's paralysis . The waters , however , had little effect , and James II died of a seizure on 16 September 1701 . Louis XIV , in contravention of the Peace of Ryswick , declared James Francis Edward King of England , Ireland and Scotland as James III and VIII . This act irritated King William III and II , who had ruled alone since the death of his wife , Mary II . Because James Francis Edward was a minor , Queen Mary acted as nominal regent for her son . Mary presided over his regency council , too , although she was uninterested in politics . Before his death , James II expressed his wish that Mary 's regency would last no longer than their son 's 18th birthday .

Dressed in mourning for the remainder of her life , Queen Mary 's first act as regent was to disseminate a manifesto , outlining James Francis Edward 's claims . It was largely ignored in England . In Scotland , however , the confederate Lords sent Lord Belhaven to Saint @-@ Germain , to convince the Queen to surrender to them custody of James Francis Edward and accede to his conversion to Protestantism .

The conversion , said Belhaven , would enable James Francis Edward 's accession to the English throne upon William III 's death . The Queen @-@ Regent was not swayed by Belhaven 's argument , so a compromise was reached : James Francis Edward , if he became King , would limit the number of Roman Catholic priests in England and promise not to tamper with the established Church of England . In exchange , the confederate Lords would do all in their power to block the passing of the Hanoverian succession in Scottish parliament . When , in March 1702 , William III died , Simon Fraser , 11th Lord Lovat , declared for James Francis Edward at Inverness . Soon after , Lovat travelled to the court @-@ in @-@ exile at Saint @-@ Germain , and begged the Queen @-@ Regent to allow her son to come to Scotland . Lovat intended to raise an army of 15 @,@ 000 soldiers in Scotland , to seize the throne for James Francis Edward . Mary refused to part with James Francis Edward , and the rising failed . Mary 's regency ceased with her son 's reaching of the age of 16 .

Having wished to become a nun in her youth , Queen Mary sought refuge from the stresses of exile at the Convent of the Visitations , Chaillot , near Paris , where she befriended Louis XIV 's penitent mistress , Louise de La Vallière . There , Mary stayed with her daughter for long periods almost every summer . It was here , too , in 1711 , that Queen Mary found out that , as part of the embryonic Treaty of Utrecht , James Francis Edward was to lose Louis XIV 's explicit recognition and be forced to leave France . The next year , when James Francis Edward was expelled and Louise Mary died of smallpox , Mary was very upset ; according to Mary 's close friend Madame de Maintenon , Mary was " a model of desolation " . Deprived of the company of her family , Queen Mary lived out the rest of her days at Chaillot and Saint @-@ Germain in virtual poverty , unable to travel by her own means because all her horses had died and she could not afford to replace them .

Following her death from cancer on 7 May 1718 , Mary was remembered fondly by her French contemporaries , three of whom , Elizabeth Charlotte of the Palatinate , the Duke of Saint @-@ Simon and the Marquis of Dangeau , deemed her a " saint " . Mary 's remains were interred in Chaillot among the nuns she had befriended .

= = Issue = =

= = Ancestry = =