

LIVES  
OF  
THE QUEENS OF ENGLAND.

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ISABELLA OF VALOIS,

SURNAMED THE LITTLE QUEEN,

SECOND QUEEN-CONSORT OF RICHARD II.

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Isabella of Valois an infant queen-consort—Betrothed to Richard the Second—Married at Calais—Embarks—Enters London—Called 'the little queen'—Educated at Windsor—King's visits—Her childish love for him—Conspiracy to imprison the king and queen—Her tournament—Richard's farewell visit—The young queen's growth and beauty—Her parting with Richard—Queen's passionate grief—Invasion—Queen sent to Wallingford—King's return—His poetical address to the queen—Richard in the Tower—Dejection—Deposed—Queen joins the revolt against Henry IV.—Richard's murder—Widowhood of Isabella—She refuses the prince of Wales—Returns to France—Tender farewell to the English—Restoration to her family—Renewed offers from the prince of Wales—Her aversion—Betrothed to the heir of Orleans—Birth of Isabella's infant—Her death—Burial at Blois—Grief of her husband—Elegies written by him—Discovery of Isabella's corpse—Re-interment—Portrait.

THE union of Isabella of Valois with Richard II. presented an anomaly to the people of England unprecedented in their annals. They saw with astonishment an infant, not nine summers old, sharing the throne as the chosen queen-consort of a monarch who had reached his thirtieth year. Richard, whose principal error was attention to his own private feelings in preference to the public good, considered, that by the time this little princess grew up, the lapse of years would have