

soon became general, that the proscription of the whole Protestant population was at hand—that every public functionary must make up his mind, to lose his soul or to lose his place,—that Ireland was on the eve of a second “Forty-one Massacre,” and England and Scotland to be visited by a second “St. Bartholomew.” Who indeed could hope to stand, where the Hydes (Clarendon and Rochester) had fallen? They were the Brothers-in-law of the King, the Uncles and natural guardians of his children, his friends from early youth, his steady adherents in adversity and peril, and his obsequious servants since he had been on the Throne. Their sole crime was their religion, and for it alone they had been discarded. In great perturbation men began to look round for help, and soon all eyes were fixed on one, whom a rare concurrence, both of personal qualities and of fortuitous circumstances, pointed out as their “GREAT DELIVERER.”

This “GREAT DELIVERER” was William Henry, Prince of Orange and Nassau, afterwards William the Third, King of England, of “*Pious, Glorious and Immortal Memory.*” The place which this great man occupied, not only in the history of Great Britain and Ireland, of Holland, France, and Germany, but of mankind at large; and the fact of the great Association, the history of which is being traced in these pages, being called by his name, and the members thereof professing to adhere to his principles and to hold up his example to the world, for the guide and imi-

tation of its inhabitants, justly call for more than a passing glance at the origin of his family, and at the eventful history of his own glorious life and actions.

CHAPTER VI.

Julius Cæsar, in his first book of Commentaries (*De Bello Gallico*), says, “one Nasuam (Nassau) with his brother Climberius, led a body of Germans out of Swabia, and settled with them on the banks of the Rhine, near Treves.” This is as far back in antiquity as we choose to go, to trace the origin of the family of Nassau. For although many legends represent several achievements, as being performed by members of this illustrious Family, at dates still more antiquated, we desire not to occupy our time in relating, or the readers in studying, matters as historical, which rest upon authorities obscure and uncertain, and which, to say the least of them, are of doubtful authenticity.

Upon the very spot of ground mentioned by Cæsar, there is an estate which to this day appertains to the Nassauian Family. The most impartial historians admit, that for over ten centuries this distinguished House has had an uninterrupted succession of the highest dignitaries; and more than six hundred years ago, it had the honour to be graced with the Imperial dignity in the person of Adolphus of Nassau, Emperor of Germany. So that the “*immortal*” hero whose “*glorious*” achievements fill the pages of many histories, is descended from a long line of il-