

LIVES

OF

THE QUEENS OF ENGLAND.

MARY II.¹

QUEEN-REGNANT OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

CHAPTER I.

Love-match of queen Mary's parents—Its unpopularity—Birth of lady Mary of York, (queen Mary II.)—Nursery at Twickenham-palace—Fondness of her father, the duke of York—Birth of lady Anne of York, (queen Anne)—Maternal indulgence—Ill health of the lady Anne—Is sent to France—Visits queen Henrietta Maria—French court-mourning—Education of the princesses at Richmond—Their mother dies a Roman-catholic—Their father professes the same faith—Their step-mother, Mary Beatrice of Modena—The princesses Mary and Anne educated at Richmond-palace—Preceptor, tutors, and chaplain—Introduction of the princesses to court—Confirmation of Mary in the Church of England—Marriage projects for Mary—Arrival in England of the prince of Orange, (William III.)—As her suitor—Marriage determined—Her agony of mind—Incidents of the marriage—Disinherited by the birth of a brother—Illness of lady Anne with the smallpox—Fears of infection—Interview between the princess of Orange and Dr. Lake—Her continual grief—Lady Anne's sick chamber—Danger—Departure of the princess and prince of Orange—They land at Sheerness—Adventures at Canterbury—Their first acquaintance with Dr. Tillotson—Voyage to Holland—The prince admires Elizabeth Villiers—Reception in Holland—Pageants and rejoicings.

THE personal life of Mary II. is the least known of all English queens-regnant. Long lapses of from seven to ten years occur between the three political crises where her name appears in the history of her era. Mary is only mentioned therein at her marriage, her proclamation, and her death.

¹ For the purpose of preventing repetition, the events of the life of her sister Anne, whilst she was princess, are interwoven with this biography.