

chievous an acquisition to the cause of her son as that anti-Christian philosopher.

The attention of Mary Beatrice was a good deal occupied, for the last two years of her life, in the various unsuccessful attempts that were made by her son to obtain a suitable consort. He was the last of the male line of Stuart, and many of those who were attached to his cause, were reluctant to risk a scaffold and the ruin of their own families on the contingency of his single life. The backwardness of the English nobles and gentlemen of his own religion during the rebellion of the preceding year, was considered mainly attributable to his want of a successor. The death of his sister, the princess Louisa, had robbed the Stuart cause of its greatest strength, and was a misfortune that nothing but the offspring of a royal alliance of his own could repair. Of all the princesses that were proposed, the daughter of her uncle, Rinaldo d'Este, duke of Modena, was the most agreeable to Mary Beatrice and to her son. "My happiness, my dear uncle, as well as that of all my subjects," writes the princely suitor to the father of the lady, "is in your hands, and religion itself is not less interested in your decision."<sup>1</sup>

The answer was unfavourable, and much regret was felt in consequence.<sup>2</sup> The son of Mary Beatrice was almost as much at discount in the matrimonial market at this period, as his uncle Charles II. had been during the Protectorate; but not quite, seeing that there was one princess, highly connected, and possessed of great wealth, who was romantically attached to him from report. This was Clementine Sobieska, the grand-daughter of the illustrious John Sobieski, king of Poland, whom he afterwards married. Mary Beatrice did not live to witness these espousals. Almost the last time this queen's name is mentioned in connexion with history, is in the correspondence between count Gyllenberg and baron Spaar, the Swedish ministers at London and Paris, and Charles XII.'s minister, baron Gortz, relating to the secret designs of that monarch for the invasion of Scotland with

<sup>1</sup> Stuart Papers, in possession of her majesty the queen; edited by J. H. Glover, esq., vol. i. p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.