

the town till it came to the eastern gate. Just without it were the tents of the army the young Duke of Monmouth had gathered in his passage from Scotland, which country he had left with a determination to win for himself, what his own ardent wishes, and the crafty insinuations of his adviser Shaftesbury, had induced him to believe his rights. As soon as the messengers despatched from London had announced to him the sudden death of the king, his father, and the reluctance of the people to receive James, Duke of York, as his successor, he determined to advance his claim, and win, if possible, from the affections of the people, a position on the throne. He therefore summoned together his few followers, and proceeded to England. His fascinating manners won many to his standard, and by the time he arrived at Taunton, he had gathered quite an army. He was met when within a few miles of the city, by a deputation tendering to him the homage of subjects, and requesting him to honor their poor town, by entering and partaking of its hospitalities. He arrived without the walls at night, and the news spreading rapidly, immediate preparations were made for giving him a warm and heartfelt reception.

As the procession approached the place where the camps were pitched, an order was given to the troops to arrange themselves in a semi-circle; Monmouth, surrounded by his generals, placed himself in the front, and when the procession appeared he rode forward to meet it; when near enough to perceive that it was composed principally of ladies, he threw himself from his horse, and with his usual graceful and dignified manner, advanced to meet them.

The standard bearer planted the banner directly in front of him, while Lady Anne Merton, bending on one knee, placed in his hand the Bible and the ribands; and with few but well-chosen words, she saluted him as king, and legal successor to his father's crown, begging him to accept the banner wrought by the ladies of Taunton, with their most earnest prayer that it might ever wave over a victorious army.

Monmouth, with gallant grace, bowed over the fair hand which presented him the standard, and raising her gently from her lowly posture, he thanked her, and through her the people of Taunton, for their loyalty and ready recognition of his rights, and promised, when duly reinstated, to remember the people of Somersetshire. He raised the Bible to his lips, and swore upon it to be the guardian of the religious faith of his people, to preserve them from Jesuitical influences, and Catholic ascendancy. Then to prove they were correct in their choice of him as their

monarch, he drew from his bosom the certificate of marriage given by Charles to his mother, and read it aloud; he uttered many denunciatory threats upon the traitor Duke of York, as he termed him, who had usurped the throne, and caused himself, against the feelings of the people to be proclaimed James the Second, when he, the son of the beloved Charles, the grandson of the immortal Martyr King, was the only one entitled to that designation.

Shouts of applause, and "Long live King James the Second!" rang through the air; "Down with the Usurper!" "Away with the Catholic Duke!" and the enthusiasm rose to such a height, that the soldiers prayed to be led against the enemy's troops, which were quartered at no great distance from them. But Monmouth did not think his forces, who were quite undisciplined, numerous enough to be led against the picked British troops which had been sent against him. He therefore checked their ardour, and remained encamped at Taunton; every day adding something to his numbers.

But things could not long continue so; it was necessary, if a blow was to be struck, that it should be done immediately; and Monmouth was urged by his officers to press forward. He accordingly entered Bridgewater, Wells, Frome, and was proclaimed in all these places. So far he had proceeded without any interruption; but he found at Sedgemoor an army of three thousand men, under the command of Feversham and Churchill; they were most of them men who had been called over from Holland, to aid in putting down this rebellion.

The battle was commenced most vigorously, Monmouth's men fell with great force and energy upon the enemy, and shewed what enthusiasm and native courage could do, even unassisted by discipline; and for a short time they threw the veteran forces into disorder, and drove them from their ground; the fight was continued with hot and eager interest, till the ammunition failed Monmouth's men; then the regular troops rallied, and attacked them fiercely till they were obliged to give way. Monmouth looked with an aching and dispirited heart upon his falling and flying followers; finding it impossible to rally them, he put spurs to his horse and fled; but the over-wearied, though noble steed, could not long support him; he carried his master a few miles from the field of battle, and then fell dead under him, and the unfortunate Prince found himself unable to proceed. He well knew every effort would be made to discover him, and he trembled to think of the fate which would await him should he be found. Just at this moment he perceived a