

In August, 1692, through the vigilance of one Liefdale, a Dutchman, a most detestable plot for his assassination was brought to light. One De Granval, a Captain of French cavalry, with an accomplice named Dumont, were arrested for their share in the plot. De Granval confessed that he was engaged by James to shoot King William, the Hero of the Boyne. He was tried, found guilty and shot for his share in the plot.

Again, in 1695, another conspiracy was discovered for his assassination during one of his hunting excursions. Thirty-five men were engaged in this diabolical plot, under the direction of the Duke of Berwick and a Scotch gentleman named Sir George Barclay. The King was to be met in a narrow lane, through which he was in the habit of passing on his hunting excursions. Twenty-seven of the conspirators were to attack and overpower his guards, while Barclay, with the remaining eight, were to stop his coach and murder the Hero of the Boyne.

But God graciously interposed. The heart of Fisher, one of the conspirators, began to fail him; he turned traitor and disclosed the plot. Another, named Pendergrass, actually wrote down the names of those engaged in the conspiracy. It was Saturday night, of the 22nd February. Before dawn on Sunday morning, Charnock, Rockwood and Bernardi, three of the conspirators, were arrested, and before noon seventeen others were made prisoners. On the 18th of March, following, four of the number were executed, and, a few days later, five others paid the penalty of their crime on the scaffold.

With the other conspiracies for the assassination of William III. time forbids me to deal. It seems, however, surprising that, after securing the liberties for which both Whig and Tory, Episcopalian, Papist and Presbyterian had good reason to be thankful, such men as the Lords Godolphin and Bath, the Duke of Marlborough, Admiral Russell, and the Duke of Shrewsbury, all in William's service, should be found engaging in plots for his overthrow, in order to replace on the throne of England the cowardly tyrant who had trampled under foot the liberties of the people and the principles of the Constitution.