

hastened to his support, and the heads of the Douglas family were forced to flee for safety across the Border (Canto II., ll. 141-3). James at once set about the task of securing law and order in his own kingdom.

In 1529-1530, he crushed the power of the great Border chiefs (Canto II., Section xxviii.), after which he turned his attention to the Highlands; but although he mingled lenity with severity, his interference with the fancied rights of these unruly nobles earned their lasting enmity (Canto V., Section xxi.).

In 1537, James was married to a daughter of the French king; but two months later she died, and James was subsequently married to Mary of Guise. The ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots was a daughter of this marriage.

During the next few years James gradually became involved in religious and political troubles, which finally broke out in Border warfare against England. In this struggle the Scotch suffered a series of reverses, which ended in the disgraceful retreat at Solway Moss. These misfortunes were too much for the proud spirit of James, and so preyed upon his mind that he fell ill and died, in the year 1542. "So died James V.," writes Andrew Lang, the historian, "being little over thirty years of age. Surrounded by treachery from his cradle, tossed on the waves of every intrigue of that desperate age, perplexed in the impenetrable storm of old and new, stricken by shame, the deadliest of wounds, he let life slip from his languid hands, and was at rest."

Of the different individuals who appear in the story of *The Lady of the Lake*, James V. is the only one whose character is drawn from history. Scott represents him as handsome in person, vigorous in body, possessed of great courage, and skilled in the manly arts, and with this description the historians of his time agree. He succeeded in bringing a semblance of order into his troubled realm, and his interest in the common people and his efforts to promote their welfare earned him the title of *The King of the Commons* (Canto V., Section xxi.). He took pleasure in mingling with his subjects in disguise, and many stories are told of his adventures on these occasions.

The Douglas, Ellen, Roderick Dhu, and Malcolm Græme are fictitious characters. The Douglas is a supposed uncle of the Earl of Angus (Canto V., ll. 525-6); and his character is partly modelled upon that of Archibald Douglas of Kilspindie, who went into exile with the other members of the Douglas family.