

Then it was that Mary made her third mistake. There was in her court a man by the name of Bothwell, known as the Earl of Bothwell. He was a big, burly man, very strong in body and rather cruel in his type of mind. A year after Rizzio was killed, Lord Darnley was found murdered in a lonely place in the country. The Earl of Bothwell was suspected of having had something to do with the murder. In spite of this, Mary married Bothwell. The people in Scotland were very much shocked, but Mary and Bothwell paid no heed. They were happy for a short time; then Mary realized that she had married a brute, and trouble began.



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, LED TO EXECUTION

From the painting by L. J. POTT

In 1566 a son had been born to Mary and Darnley. When the Scotch people rose up against the rule of their queen and her consort, Bothwell, they were ready to proclaim the little James as king. A battle between the queen's forces and the rebelling Scots took place in 1567, and Bothwell deserted Mary entirely when he saw the fight going against them. Mary was taken captive and imprisoned. In the end she was forced to sign away her throne in favor of her young son.

Mary escaped from her prison, and again gathered her forces together. A severe engagement took place in 1568, and the queen's men were badly worsted. Mary herself was forced to flee.