

Before Oliver had completed his seventeenth year, he was removed from the school at Huntingdon to Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge. Though his passion for athletic exercises still continued, so much so that he is said to have acquired the name of a roysterer in the university, it appears certain that he did not mispend his time there, but that he made a respectable proficiency in his studies. Within a year of this, his father died, and his mother, to whose care he appears to have been left, removed him from college. It has been affirmed that he was placed at Lincoln's Inn, but that instead of attending to the law, he wasted his time "in a dissolute course of life, and good fellowship and gaming." But Cromwell's name is not to be found in the registers of Lincoln's Inn, though his son Richard's is. It is, however, probable that Oliver was entered at some other of the inns of court. Returning thence to reside upon his paternal property, he is said to have led a low and boisterous life. However this may have been, he offended at this time by his irregularities both his paternal uncle and his maternal one. But, whatever may have been the follies and vices of Cromwell's youth, it is equally certain that he had strength and resolution enough to shake them off.

In after life Cromwell was not insensible to literary merit. Archbishop Usher received a pension from him; Andrew Marvell and Milton were in his service; and the latter always affirmed of him, that he was not so illiterate as was commonly supposed. He gave 100*l*. yearly to the Professor of Divinity at Oxford; and it is said that he intended to have erected at Durham a college for the northern counties of England.

## XCVII.

## CHARLES THE SECOND—HIS PATRONAGE OF LETTERS.

Of the childhood and education of Charles II. we find scanty record. He was the eldest son of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria of France, and was born at St. James's in 1630. He was chiefly brought up by his mother until he was twelve years of age. In his ninth year he was created Prince of Wales: when the Civil War broke out, he accompanied his father to the battle of Edgehill; and in 1645, he served with the royal troops in the west with the title of general. Next year, on the ruin of the royal cause, he joined the Queen, his mother, at Paris, and he afterwards took up his residence at the Hague. This must have been almost the earliest opportunity that the Prince could have had for study, which must have been of a practical turn. Evelyn describes Charles as "a lover of the sea, and skilful in shipping; not affecting other studies; yet he had a laboratory, and knew of many empirical medicines, and the easier mechanical mathematics; he loved planting and building, and brought in a politer way of living, which passed to luxury, and intolerable expense." But this is the language of a courtier.

Charles's love of the sea led him early in his reign to entertain the suggestions of certain governors of Christ's Hospital for the institution and endowment of the Royal Mathematical School. With Sir Robert Clayton, it is believed, originated this school; and his project being backed by Sir Jonas Moore, then Surveyor-General of the Ordnance, and by Sir Christopher Wren and Samuel Pepys; and having in its favour the mediation of the Duke of York, then Lord High Admiral of England,—a royal charter was granted, and the school was opened for 40 boys, under the auspices of the King, in the year 1673. Beyond the grant of the charter, however, little was done by Charles towards the maintenance of his new foundation. His endowment did not extend beyond an annuity of 1000*l*., terminating at the expiration of seven years. The King reserved as many of the boys as might be required for his own services; and a grant was obtained from the Government by Pepys to be given as premiums to merchant-masters for taking the other boys. The revenue was also increased by a gift, which it was thought the King would not approve of, but, on being consulted, he replied, that "so far was he from disliking, that he would be glad to see any gentleman graft upon his stock." The school flourished: for several years Pepys constantly attended the examination of the boys; and Sir Jonas Moore, one of the first practical mathematicians of the day, commenced for the master's use a system of mathematics, which was completed by Halley and Flamsteed.

Another service which Charles rendered to the higher class of studies was his incorporation of the Royal Society, by royal charter, in 1663, when the King signed himself in the charter-book as the founder; and his brother, the Duke of York, signed as Fellow. Charles also presented the Society with a mace.

Another advantage conferred on science in this reign was Charles's foundation, in 1676, of the Royal Observatory at Green-

wich, for the benefit of astronomy and navigation; and the appointment of Flamsteed as the first Astronomer Royal.

After the Restoration, the first steam-engine is commonly believed to have been constructed by the Marquis of Worcester, which he, in his Century of Inventions, describes as "an admirable and most forcible way to drive up water by fire." He used a cannon for his boiler, and he describes the water as running "like a constant fountain-stream, 40 feet high; one vessel of water rarified by fire, driveth up 40 of cold water." This engine was seen at work in 1663, at Vauxhall, by Sorbiere, who foretold that the invention would be of greater use than the machine above Somerset House, to supply London with water.

## XCVIII.

## BOYHOOD OF JAMES II.

The early life of this prince was clouded by the political troubles of the time, which, as they greatly tended to his personal discomfiture, must have materially interfered with his instruction. James was the second surviving son of Charles I., by his queen Henrietta Maria, and was born at St. James's in 1633. He was immediately declared Duke of York, but not formally created to that dignity till 1643. After the surrender of Oxford to Fairfax, in 1646, the duke, with his younger brother, Henry, afterwards created Duke of Gloucester, and his sister Elizabeth, was committed by the Parliament to the care of the Earl of Northumberland, and he continued in the custody of that nobleman till the 21st of April, 1648, when he made his escape from St. James's Palace, disguised in female attire, and took refuge with his sister Mary, Princess of Orange. Here he joined a part of the English fleet, which had revolted from the Parliament, and was then lying at Helvoetsluis; but although at first received on board as an admiral, he soon after resigned that post to his brother, the Prince of Wales, on the arrival of the latter from Paris, and returned to the Hague. When Charles, now styled King by his adherents, came to Jersey, in September, 1649, he was accompanied by the duke, who remained with him during his stay of three or four months. He then returned to the Continent, and resided some time with his mother at Paris.

A singular circumstance now occurred, which well bespeaks the character of James. Shortly before his meeting with Clarendon, it had been reported that Charles was dead; upon which the duke, looking upon himself as already King, made several journeys to take counsel with his friends; and, upon the falsehood of the intelligence respecting Charles being discovered, James was so childish that he was rather delighted with the journeys he had made, than sensible that he had not entered upon them with reason enough; observing that "they had fortified him with a firm resolution never to acknowledge that he had committed any error." In the end he was obliged to return to his mother at Paris, where he chiefly resided until he had attained his twentieth year. He served with reputation in both the French and Spanish armies; but his great aptitude was for sea affairs, and after his return to England in 1660, he for some time acted as Lord High Admiral. His exertions, assisted by the indefatigable Pepys, the Secretary of the Navy, raised the fleet which afterwards won the battle of La Hogue; as his camp at Hounslow was the nursery for the victorious army of Marlborough. James employed part of the leisure of his retirement in writing an account of his own life, the original manuscript of which extends to nine folio volumes. The manuscript was burnt by the person to whom it had been confided; but a digest of the royal autobiography had been long before drawn up by an unknown hand, apparently under the direction either of James or his son; and this digest being preserved among the papers belonging to the Stuart family, which were obtained by George IV., when Regent, has been printed.

## XCIX.

## RISE OF FREE-SCHOOLS, OR CHARITY-SCHOOLS.

We have already shown that the endowed grammar-schools were the natural successors of the schools and charities of the Church before the Reformation. They contemplated none but the most liberal education. Children were to be brought up as scholars, or to be taught nothing. The grammar-schools were the nurseries of the learned professions, and they opened the way for the highest honours of those professions to the humblest in the land.

About the time of the Revolution, the commercial classes, who had grown into wealth and consequent importance, began naturally to think that schools in which nothing was taught but Latin