

tions, the crown retains its descendible quality, and becomes hereditary in the prince to whom it is limited.

(7) King Egbert, King Canute, and King William I. have been successively constituted the common stocks, or ancestors, of this descent.

(8) At the revolution the convention of estates, or representative body of the nation, declared, that the misconduct of King James II. amounted to an abdication of the government, and that the throne was thereby *vacant*.

(9) In consequence of this vacancy, and from a regard to the ancient line, the convention appointed the next Protestant heirs of the blood royal of King Charles I. to fill the vacant throne, in the old order of succession; with a temporary exception, or preference, to the person of King William III.

(10) On the impending failure of the Protestant line of King Charles I. (whereby the throne might again have become vacant) the king and parliament extended the settlement of the crown to the Protestant line of King James I. viz. to the Princess Sophia of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being Protestants: And she is now the common stock, from whom the heirs of the crown must descend.

SECT. IV. *Of the king's royal family.*

(1) THE king's royal family consists, first, of the *queen*: who is regnant, consort, or dowager.

(2) The *queen consort* is a public person, and hath many personal prerogatives and distinct revenues.

(3) The Prince and Princess of

Wales, and the Princess-royal, are peculiarly regarded by the law.

(4) The other princes of the blood royal are only intitled to precedence.

SECT. V. *Of the councils belonging to the king.*

(1) THE *king's councils* are, 1. The *parliament*. 2. The great council of *peers*. 3. The *judges*, for matters of law. 4. The *privy council*.

(2) In *privy-counsellors* may be considered, 1. Their creation. 2. Their qualifications. 3. Their duties. 4. Their powers. 5. Their privileges. 6. Their dissolution.

SECT. VI. *Of the king's duties.*

(1) THE *king's duties* are to govern his people according to law, to execute judgment in mercy, and to maintain the established religion. These are his part of the original contract between himself and the people; founded in the nature of society, and expressed in his oath at the coronation.

SECT. VII. *Of the king's prerogative.*

(1) PREROGATIVE is that special power and pre-eminence which the king hath above other persons, and out of the ordinary course of law, in right of his regal dignity.

(2) Such *prerogatives* are either *direct*, or *incidental*. The *incidental's*, arising out of other matters, are considered as they arise: We now treat only of the *direct*.

(3) The *direct* prerogatives regard, 1. The *king's dignity*, or royal character; 2. His *authority*, or regal power; 3. His *revenue*, or royal income.