

and a little later Scotland made a treaty with France, which arranged for the marriage, after a while, of Queen Mary and the Dauphin, or crown prince.

In 1548 the girl-queen was sent to France to live. There she was educated, and passed gay and happy years at the court of Henry II. The result was that she grew up far more French than Scotch—a thing that her people never forgave in her.

At the age of sixteen Mary married the Dauphin, who was weak and sickly. A little more than a year after the marriage the Dauphin died. As a widow, then, Mary went back to Scotland, to become the real queen in her own kingdom.

At this time Mary was a very beautiful girl, and as charming in her ways as she was lovely of face. She was also clever, and was quite as capable of ruling wisely as was her cousin Elizabeth, now Queen of England.

It was, however, a very rebellious people over whom Mary had come back to rule. Scotland was torn by religious differences. John Knox, the great Protestant preacher, was most powerful in the kingdom, and he did not intend that the queen should turn her people back to Catholicism. Also, Knox thought, because Mary was gay and happy and loved life and pretty clothes, that she was wicked and frivolous as well. He preached against her and to her, but he could not convert her to his views.

The first serious mistake that Mary made was in trying to get Queen Elizabeth to name her as the heir to the throne of England. Mary maintained that if Elizabeth died without children, she was the next in the line of succession. Elizabeth, who was probably jealous of Mary's beauty, would not do this, and she let her feeling against Mary work harm to the Scottish queen. The truth was that Mary was much more lovable than Elizabeth, and had a great deal more of goodness and kindness in her heart.

The second mistake of which Mary was guilty came with her second marriage. There were many men who wished to marry her, but she chose one of the vainest and weakest of them all. He was Henry Darnley, and he wanted badly to be the acknowledged king of Scotland. Mary would not permit this, as she preferred to keep the reins of government in her own hands. She let her husband see that she had found out what a poor sort of man he was. At the same time, she showed that she liked very well the man who was her secretary, an Italian by the name of David Rizzio. Lord Darnley grew jealous of Rizzio, and one night, while they were all at supper in the queen's room, Rizzio was murdered. It was thought that Darnley had helped this to happen.