

cedent. Aethelwulf, the son of Egbert, had before his death in 858 made a will settling the succession. This will was confirmed in his lifetime by the Witan, and became effective with a modification, in which it would seem that all parties agreed.

There seems to be little if any doubt that Edward the Confessor devised the Crown by will to William of Normandy, subsequently called the Conqueror; but the Witan, which corresponded at that time to Parliament, did not give their approval. This will, therefore, has never been considered of any legal validity; and had William failed at Senlac, he would probably have died a traitor's death.

Henry did make a will under the powers given him by the former statute, by which he left the Crown to Edward, then to Mary, then to Elizabeth (and the heirs of their body respectively) then to the descendants of his youngest sister Mary, Duchess of Suffolk; but he did not include the descendants of his eldest sister Margaret, Queen of Scotland. This will, however was made under the authority of the Act of Parliament and would have had no validity in itself without the support of the statute.

When Edward VI. was about to die, he was induced to make a will leaving the Crown to Lady Jane Grey and her heirs. This will being without authority from Parliament was not effective; and Lady Jane Grey suffered death with her chief supporters for the treason by them committed in claiming the Crown for her under that illegal will. Mary succeeded and then Elizabeth under the will of their father.

After the death of Elizabeth (in 1603) the question was raised whether the will of Henry VIII. carried the throne to the grandson of the Duchess of Suffolk; but there was doubt as to the legitimacy of the claimant (if he can be so called), the son of the Earl of Hereford and Lady Katharine Grey, and he