

the Isle of Man to the parliament : but this proposal the earl of Derby treated with the highest indignation. His answer is preserved in Hume's history ; and is more distinguished by enthusiasm and arrogance, than calm magnanimity.

After the death of Charles the First, the earl of Derby, being invited to England by the young prince, returned with three hundred soldiers of birth and fortune, leaving his lady and part of his family in the island. He was present at the battle of Worcester, from the dangers of which he assisted Charles the Second to escape : but on returning into Lancashire was taken prisoner ; and on the 15th October, 1651, suffered at Bolton, for his enthusiastic attachment to principles, that will ever prove equally hostile to the dignity of the prince, and the happiness of the people.

His lady was then in the Isle of Man, and on being informed of the decollation of her husband, she retired into Castle Rushen, determined to defend that fortress to the last extremity. From the execution of this heroic purpose she was however prevented by the prudence of captain Christian, in whom she chiefly confided. Being a native of the isle, he was attached to its welfare ; and to save his countrymen from the miseries of war, capitulated to colonels Birch and Duckenfield, who with ten armed vessels had invaded the island ; but on whose arrival, the whole country submitted to the government of the republic. By this event the countess of Derby was detained a prisoner till the restoration ; yet during her captivity was honoured with all the deference and respect due to her heroism and virtues. On her liberation she retired to Knowsley, where the odious neglect and ingratitude of Charles the Second embittered her life, and hastened her dissolution.*

Soon after its reduction, in 1652, the isle of Man was granted to

LORD FAIRFAX,

in a manner more honourable than any former possessor had obtained it. It was conferred upon him, not by the folly or prodigality of princes, but by the justice of parliament, for his gallant and generous exertions in the cause of mankind.

On the accession of Charles the Second to that throne, which his father had lost by his pusillanimity and despotism, the Isle of Man, with all its regalities and privileges, was restored to the Derby family.

CHARLES,

the son of the nobleman who suffered at Bolton, was the first lord of Man after the restoration. He died in 1672, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

WILLIAM,

on whose decease, in 1702, the younger son,

JAMES,

inherited the honours and estates of the family ; being the tenth earl of Derby, and of the Stanley line the thirteenth lord of Man.

Notwithstanding the late struggles of the Manks for civil liberty, the tenures of many of their lands were so intricate and precarious, as to injure the people, without increasing the revenue of the lord. Accordingly, James, in 1703, by an act of Tynwald (commonly stiled the Act of Settlement) ascertained and confirmed these possessions : and by this policy, or generosity, considerably promoted the peace and prosperity of his subjects. He died in 1735, without issue ; and this ample inheritance of the Isle of Man devolved on

JAMES,

the second duke of Athol ; who was descended from lady Amelia Sophia,† the younger daughter of the seventh earl of Derby.

* See Chap. IX. of the Tour.

† She married John, marquis of Athol, grandfather of James.