

to the 'officers of armes, sheriffs in that part,' charging them as Queen Mary had done in 1567, to make 'publicatioun heirof be oppin proclamatioun.' . . .¹

Calderwood records that 'the King wes proclaimed King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland at the croce of Edinburgh upon the last of March; which was done with noise of trumpets, playing upon instruments, singing and great acclamation of the people.'²

On 31st March, 1625, on the accession of King Charles I., the Scots Privy Council ordered the proclamation 'of his sacred majesties authoritie and his just laughfull and undoubt right by lineall succession . . . whilk proclamatioun . . . was accordinglie made and than instantlie publist at the mercat cros of Edinburgh with sound of trumpetts, displayed coattis of armeis and all otherissolemnities requisite . . .'³

The Register of the Edinburgh Town Council has no reference to the proclamation, although, on the day after, it has a minute which begins with a phrase doubtless borrowed from it: 'Since it has pleased God to call to his mercy upon the twentie sevin of Marche laste owre late Sovereigne King James of famous memorie.' On this preamble the Council 'ordain their Treasurer to caus hing the Kyngis loft in the gritt Kirk with blak'; in other words, the Royal gallery in St. Giles.

The proclamation of the accession of King Charles II., which was made in Scotland on 5th February, 1649, immediately on the arrival of the news of his father's execution, was the most formal, solemn, and most exactly recorded proclamation that was ever made in Scotland. The Estates of the Parliament had adjourned on the third of that month, to meet again on the sixth, but on receipt of news of the King's execution the members convened on the fifth, passed an Act declaring their proceedings regular (cap. 51), and proceeded at once (cap. 52) to 'Proclaim and declare to all the world that the . . . Lord and Prince Charles is . . . King of Great Britain France and Ireland. . . . For testification of all which Wee the parliament of the Kingdome of Scotland publish this our dew acknowledgement of his just right title and succession to the Crown of these Kingdomes at the Mercat Croce of Edinburgh with all usuall solemnities in the lyk cases. . . . And command this act to be proclaimed at all the mercat croces of the Royal burghes within this Kingdome, and to be printed that none may pretend ignorance thairof.'

To this the Estates of Parliament added a further 'Act (cap. 53) anent the solemnities to be keeped in reading and proclaiming the proclamation above written.' It ordained that the market cross should be 'all covered with hangings,' that the guard of the town should line the way from the Parliament House to the Cross,⁴ and about

¹ *Privy Council Register*, vi. 552-4.

² *Calderwood's History*, vi. 210.

³ *Privy Council Register*, 2nd Series, i. 2, 3; *Edinburgh Town Council Register*, vol. 13, f. 278.

⁴ A distance of about a hundred and twenty yards. The 'Cross' was an octagonal tower-like building, standing in the fairway of the High Street. Its platform, reached by an inside stair, was twelve feet above the level of the street, and was surrounded by a parapet about a yard in height. From the centre of the tower rose the tall shaft of the cross proper.