

means, to be revoked or undone hereafter; and that the children proceeding and procreate under such unlawful marriage shall not be lawful or legitimate, any foreign laws, licenses, dispensations, or other thing or things, to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

The effect of this *ex post facto* statute was not only to render void the marriage of the king with Catharine of Aragon, but as a consequence to bastardize her child, the Princess Mary.

In 1536, the king, desiring to marry Jane Seymour, affected to be jealous of Anne Boleyn, had her tried for high treason, condemned, and executed. She was executed on 19th May, 1535, and on the next morning the king was married to Jane Seymour. She thus became his third wife. In order to legalize the marriage with Jane Seymour, and bastardize the Princess Elizabeth, the issue of his marriage with Anne Boleyn, the king, in the year following, procured the 28 Hen. 8, c. 7, to be passed. It is entitled "An Act for the establishment of the successors of the imperial crown of the realm." It repealed the former act 25 Hen. 8, c. 22. So much however of that act as respected marriages within the degrees therein prohibited was re-enacted, with slight modifications. It was also enacted, that if any man carnally know any woman, all persons in any degree of consanguinity or affinity of the parties so offending shall be adjudged to be within the said prohibition, in like manner as if the persons so carnally knowing one another had been married. The king, though married to Anne Boleyn, had been too intimate with her sister. This is here made the pretence for avoiding the marriage with that sister, and bastardizing her child Elizabeth. The remainder of the act contained a limitation of the crown to the issue of the Lady Jane Grey by the king, and in default to the heirs of the body of the king lawfully begotten, with a general power to the king to name his successors, either by letters patent or by his last will.

The crown was subsequently limited by the king in succession to his son Edward by Lady Jane Seymour, his daughter Mary by Catharine of Aragon, and his daughter Elizabeth by Anne Boleyn, and this limitation was afterwards confirmed by act of parliament.

In the same year that the last mentioned succession act (28 Hen. 8, c. 7) was passed, the 28 Hen. 8, c. 16, was also passed. It was entitled "An Act for dispensing with rules and licenses from the Pope." It enacted that all marriages had and solemnized before 3rd November, 1535, should be valid, whereof there was no divorce or separation had by the ecclesiastical laws of the realm, and which marriages were not prohibited by God's law, limited and declared in the act made in that present parliament for

the establishment of the king's succession, should be good, and they were thereby confirmed. The previous act therefore as to the marriages prohibited "by God's law" was thereby confirmed.

Lady Jane Seymour, on 12th October, 1537, was brought to bed of Prince Edward. She died two days after her delivery, and was buried on the 15th day of October, 1537.

On 6th January, 1540, the king, by proxy, married Anne, sister of the Duke of Cleves, but, not liking her when she came to live with him, refused to have her as his wife. She, however, was in law his fourth wife. Shortly afterwards he fell in love with Catharine Howard, cousin germain of Anne Boleyn, and, in 1540, in order to destroy the effect of his pre-contract with Anne, sister of the Duke of Cleves, so as to enable him to marry Catharine Howard, caused the 32 Hen. 8, c. 38, to be passed. It enacted, in substance, that from 1st July then next (1540), all marriages solemnized in the face of the Church, consummate with bodily knowledge, between persons not prohibited by God's law to marry, should be valid, notwithstanding pre-contract; and that no reservation or prohibition, God's law except, should trouble or impeach any marriage without the Levitical degrees. This was the first act that recognized the Levitical degrees as being in any manner a part of the law of England.

On 8th August, 1540, the king, having removed the obstacles in the way of his marriage to Catharine Howard-married her, and she thus became his fifth wife.

In 1542, Catharine Howard was accused of incontinence, and executed. The king in the year following married Catharine Parr, widow of Lord Latimer. She was his sixth wife, and continued his wife till the time of his death, on 28th January, 1547, in the 56th year of his age, and 38th year of his reign.

His son, Edward 5, succeeded, reigned seven years, and was succeeded by Mary. Her first act was to have a statute passed declaring the legality of her birth. It was entitled, "An Act declaring the queen's highness to have been born in a most just and lawful matrimony." It for the second time repealed the whole of 25 Hen. 8, cap. 22, and so much of 28 Hen. 8, c. 7, as had a tendency to bastardize her or to pronounce the marriage between her father and Catharine illegal, which marriage was declared "to stand with God's law" and to be valid to all intents and purposes. So much of the act 25 Hen. 8, c. 7, as contained the prohibited degrees, was left untouched until the ensuing session, when, by 1 & 2 Phi & Mary, c. 18, s. 17, so much of the 28 Hen. 8, c. 7, as concerned the prohibition to marry within the degrees specified, together