

wise granted a mansion, on Bennet's-hill, near St. Paul's, to the learned body of heralds, and it is to this day their college.

However fatally mistaken either Mary or her ministers were in the principles of religious government, her last testament proves that she was not insensible to the prosperity of her country. The codicil of her will, added after her strange mania of maternity was dispelled by the near approach of death, provides for the amicable continuance of the alliance between England and Flanders,—that great desideratum, which had been a national object since the alliance of William the Conqueror with Matilda of Flanders. Mary, in her codicil, thus solemnly addressed her husband and her successor: "And for the ancient amity sake that hath always been between our noble progenitors, and between this my realm and the Low Countries, whereof his majesty king Philip is now inheritor, as God shall reward him (I hope, among the elect servants of God,) I pray that it may please his majesty to show himself as a father in his care, or as a *brother* of this realm in his love and favour, and as a most assured and undoubted friend in his power and strength, to my heir¹ and successor."

With this sentence concludes a biography, which presented a task at once the most difficult and dangerous that could fall to the lot of any Englishwoman to perform. It was difficult, because almost the whole of the rich mass of documents lately edited by our great historical antiquaries, Madden and Tytler, are in direct opposition to the popular ideas of the character of our first queen-regnant; and dangerous, because the desire of recording truth may be mistaken for a wish to extenuate cruelty in religious and civil government. A narrative, composed of facts drawn from contemporaneous authorities, is here presented to the public, as little blended with comment as possible. Readers will draw their own inferences; and when their object is historical information rather than

¹ Females were called *heirs* at this era; the word *heiress* was unknown. The queen evidently means Elizabeth, by calling Philip *brother* of the realm.