

secretary *Cecil* and all his friends, who were in the principal posts of the government, had been for a long time secretly in king *James's* interest, though, to avoid the suspicion of their mistress, they had sometimes pretended an inclination to the *Infanta's* title ^a; which I suspect to have been the cause, why some persons of great quality, who sided with the *Cecils* against *Essex*, came afterwards to fall into intrigues with the court of *Spain*. On the other hand, the potent family of the *Howards*, with all such of the nobility and gentry as were inclined to the old religion, had an unfeigned affection for the king of *Scots*^b. The bulk of the people too were inclined to wish him for their king, out of respect to the memory of *Essex*, who was held to be his martyr, as well as out of dislike to some of queen *Elizabeth's* ministry, who they believed would be instantly discarded, when he should be once seated on the throne. Yet there wanted not many powerful enemies to this succession both abroad and at home. The *Spaniards* had views for themselves ^c, the *French* king had an aversion mixed with contempt for king *James*, and the pope had many projects for restoring his power here, by bringing in some prince of his own religion ^d. There were, besides, some *English* pretenders, viz. such as claimed under the house of *Suffolk*, and had been competitors against queen *Mary* ^e; and some again, as the *Bassets*, who affected to derive themselves from the house of *Plantagenet* ^f; so that no small precaution was necessary to prevent any disturbance

^a Sir Henry Wotton's remains, p. 211. Naunton's fragmenta regalia, Osborne's works, vol. ii. p. 104. ^b Stowe, Speed, Willson, Baker, Echard, Rapin. ^c Doleman's treatise of the succession. ^d Lettres du cardinal d'ossat. ^e Treatise of the succession, p. 196. ^f Prince's worthies of Devon. p. 114. Wood's Ath. Oxon. vol. i. col. 366.