

lustrious ancestors, whose origin is lost in the most remote antiquity.

William Henry, the third Prince of Orange and Nassau, was the posthumous son of William the second, Prince of Orange, by the Princess Mary, eldest daughter of Charles the First, King of England. He was born on the 4th of November (O.S.) 1650, but a few days after the death of his father. His guardianship devolved upon his grandmother, the Princess Emelia de Solms, daughter of John Albert, Count of Solms, one of the most amiable and most accomplished women at that period in Europe. In the month of June, 1670, the young Prince was first introduced to the Council of the States of Holland; and in the month of October following he made his first journey to England, on the 30th of which month he arrived at Whitehall, where he was most graciously received by His Britannic Majesty. On the 10th of November in that year the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London gave a splendid entertainment at Draper's Hall in honor of the young Prince's visit; upon which occasion he was presented with the freedom of the City in a gold box. The University of Oxford conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and the highest honors were paid him by all classes in the kingdom.

Holland was at this period threatened by a most powerful league; and it was thought that the danger impending must end in her utter ruin. The States saw the great storm ready to burst upon them, and from the great promise of the young Prince, invited him—then

only in his twenty second year—to take the command of all their forces by sea and land. The Prince, though a youth and possessing a very delicate constitution, was remarkable for sagacity, deep thought, unassuming manners, and a quiet, silent and retiring disposition. He accepted the important command offered him, and immediately joined the army, then encamped near Nieukop. Such was the prudence, discretion and bravery of the young Prince in this critical campaign, that he not only maintained his ground with inferior numbers, but he compelled the French Forces, commanded by the King in person, to retire with great loss, and to abandon the strong works of which he had been in the possession. The discretion and valor of the youthful hero shone so conspicuously in this campaign, that his conduct became the theme of admiration of both friends and foes; and immediately after (in 1672) the Prince was publicly proclaimed by the Magistrates, in the Common Hall of Dort, *Stadtholder, Captain General, and Admiral* of all their forces by land and sea. All the Cities of Holland and Zealand, grateful for their delivery, and thoroughly satisfied of the high promise of bravery and discretion with which he had inspired the public mind, hastened to follow the example of Dort, and the Grand Assembly of all the States presented his Highness with a public instrument, confirming him in the Stadtholdership, with all the dignities and privileges, which his ancestors of glorious memory had enjoyed.

At the period of the English