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England  
Under  
the Stuarts



# ENGLAND under the STUARTS



**I**n 1603, the Great Queen died. She was succeeded by the son of Mary Stuart. He had been king of Scotland almost from his birth under the name of James VI. Among English monarchs he figures as the first of that name. The old rhyme-book says:

This son of Mary, Queen of Scots,  
Ill-mannered but well-read,  
"The Wisest Fool in Europe" was,  
As Sully well has said.

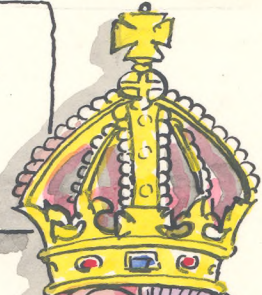
With the accession of James I, "the fires of Elizabethan passion and the flush of Elizabethan dreams" are reported to have suddenly died away. It is indeed unfortunate that, at a time when the sovereign exercised enormous power, the Crown of England should have descended to James, who was not temperamentally fit for the task of kingship. Lacking in those qualities which had so en-



deared the Tudor Monarchs to their subjects, James was completely blind



Badge  
of  
James I



to his own learned ignorance of the English national temper. He immediately celebrated his arrival in England by the despotic hanging of a pickpocket without fair trial.



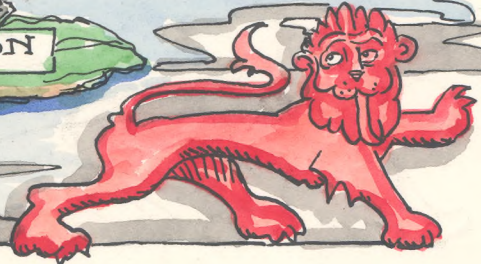
\* \* \* \*  
With the accession of James VI of Scotland to the throne of England, we see the invasion of London



by hordes of Scotsmen. Therefore, it is not out of place to offer a few remarks on the presence of Scotsmen at the English court, and as an important part of the



English scene. Of course, it may be guessed that the English



THE INVASION OF LONDON  
BY THE SCOTS

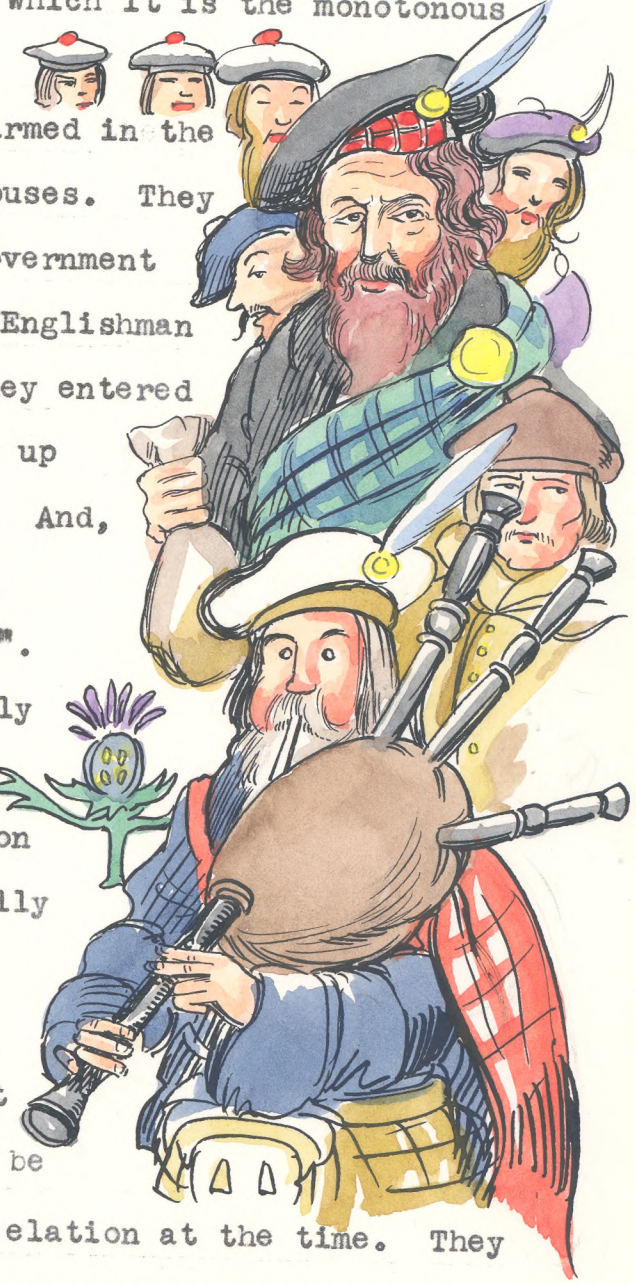




people did not find it easy to get used to the Scotsmen and their "peculiar ways". As a matter of fact, the English are reported to have regarded the Scots as first-rate second-rate fellows, as in their own bag-pipes the drone is more pleasing than the higher and more varied notes to which it is the monotonous accompaniment!

The Scots swarmed in the market-places and in the counting-houses. They filled the subordinate positions in the government offices. Soon it became evident to every Englishman that, like a flock of hungry adventurers, they entered England in the train of King Jamie, to pick up the crumbs that fell from the royal table. And, as such, these Scotsmen are rumored to have "carried it off in London with a high hand".

This is scarcely in accordance with the caution that is generally attributed to the Scottish character. But allowance must be made for their elation at the time. They seem to have been possessed with the idea that it was not so much His Majesty the King



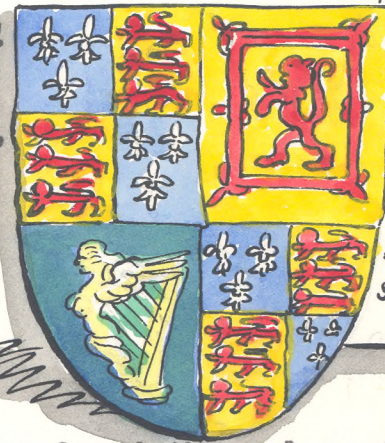




as the whole nation of Scotsmen that had come to the Crown of England. So they were "puffed up" accordingly. As they moved about among the English folk, these Scotsmen "herded lovingly together". A distinct people they undeniably remained. The English knew them as merchants, or lawyers, and, above all, as bakers; but they knew little of them as persons to live with. The Scots remained public mysteries, mid-day spectres, things to be seen, not touched---except by each other!



hen James I entered London, the English rode in from far and near to catch a glimpse of their Scottish sovereign. And those whose rank gave them access through



Royal Arms borne by James I, and Succeeding Stuart Sovereigns

the throng in the Midland market towns, found themselves in the presence of a conceited, garrulous, and good-natured King, wise in book-learning but a poor judge of men. Above all, it was plain for all to see that James Stuart was ignorant of England and of her laws. Otherwise he would not have had that cut-purse (referred to in a preceding page) hanged without a trial. Says the historian Trevelyan, "Not only did England remain terra incognita to James, but he never became aware of his ignorance". His







KING SOLOMON

THE BRITISH SOLOMON

mind was already formed when he first came to reign in Whitehall, and the flattery he received there confirmed his good opinion of his own penetration. "He was perpetually unbuttoning the stores of his royal wisdom for the benefit of his subjects". And, as there was none who could venture to answer him to his face, he supposed them all out-argued and crushed by his superior knowledge and wisdom.

James came to England, not only to reign over the English people, but to play the schoolmaster over his subjects. And the latter tyranny was the more insufferable of the two! He said that he came to England as "an old King", firm in the resolve that he would not be "taught his office". He had his convictions based on experience, and he said he meant to act up to them.

Now the temper of the English people was going to be a very serious matter. The English people felt that they were "fully grown up".

They were fully aware of the fact that they did not want to be in "leading strings" any longer. Even Queen Elizabeth in her last years had galled their temper somewhat. But they were willing to make allowances for one who had served them faithfully and long. But James Stuart, from the start, refused to think



A CAT May look upon a KING

A Proverb applied from a print 1652





Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales  
eldest son of James 1



An heir of  
Great promise.  
The prince's  
pedantic father  
wrote a book,  
BASILIKON  
DORON, for  
his son's  
express  
benefit. But  
for all that Henry  
was a model youth.  
Unfortunately, he  
died in 1612.

of himself as the "servant" of the  
people. No such thing---Rather, he  
announced his belief in the Divine  
Right of Kings, claiming that his  
power was unlimited, and that he de-  
rived his authority from God alone,  
and was responsible, not to the peo-  
ple, but only to God. Having become  
King of England, he was resolved to

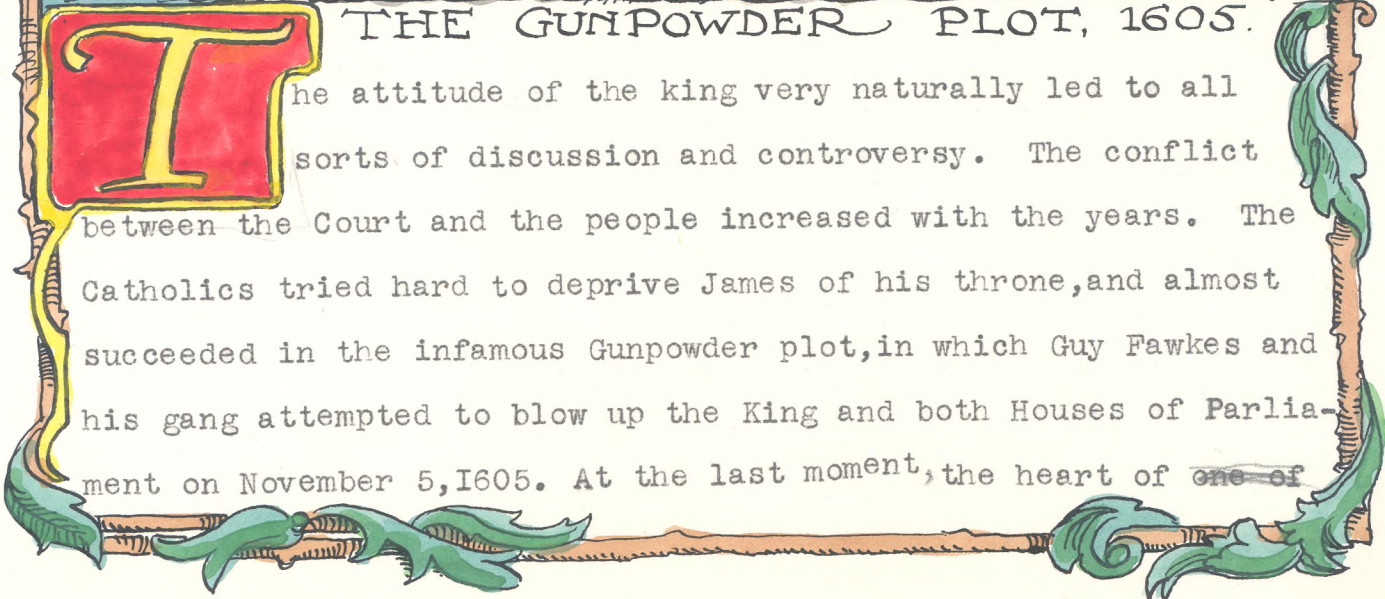
affirm his divine right. That was that!



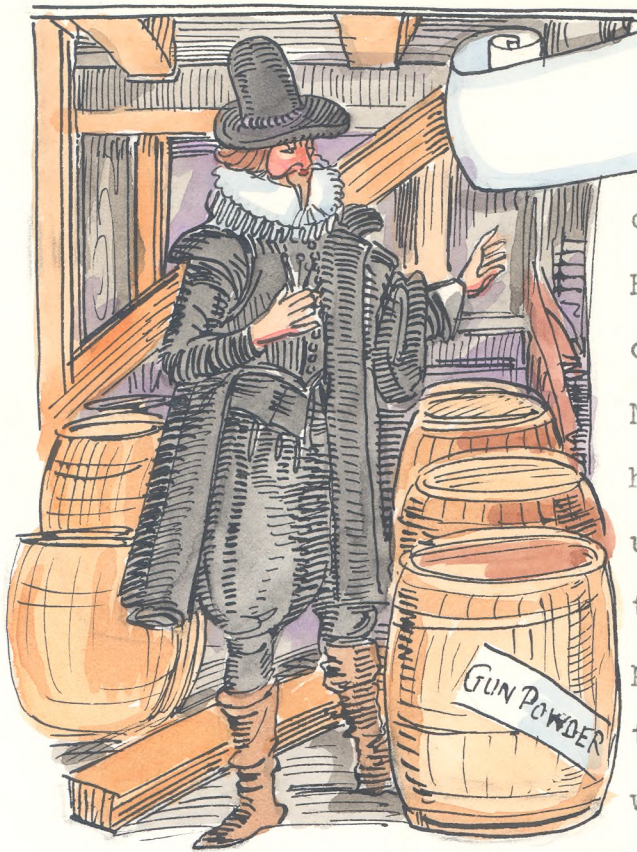
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THE GUNPOWDER PLOT, 1605.

he attitude of the king very naturally led to all  
sorts of discussion and controversy. The conflict  
between the Court and the people increased with the years. The  
Catholics tried hard to deprive James of his throne, and almost  
succeeded in the infamous Gunpowder plot, in which Guy Fawkes and  
his gang attempted to blow up the King and both Houses of Parlia-  
ment on November 5, 1605. At the last moment, the heart of one of



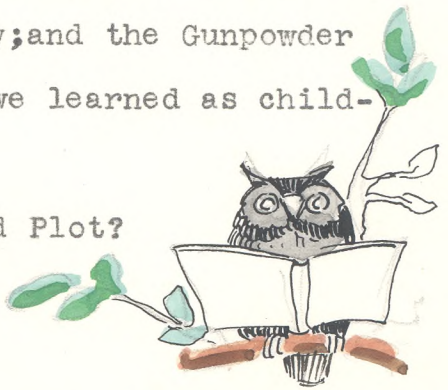




one of the conspirators failed him. He sent a note of warning to the council. Just before midnight of November 4, the Lord Chamberlain and his attendants went to the celler under the Parliament buildings, and there they found a tall man in whose possession were slow matches and touchwood. This was Guy Fawkes, who was to touch off the powder. Fawkes

was taken to the Tower and punished severely; and the Gunpowder Plot was celebrated in the old rhyme which we learned as children at school:

"Don't you remember  
The fifth of November,  
The Gunpowder treason and Plot?  
I see no reason  
Why Gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot.



Soon the Presbyterian sentiment against the King was as high as the Catholic sentiment. Especially was this so, when the King started to harry the Presbyterian and Puritan reformers out of his kingdom. By means of special courts of the Star Chamber and the High Commission, he persecuted the Puritans so severely that many of them were glad to take refuge in Holland, and later seek new opportunities in North America. We shall refer to the Puritan refugees again. They are worthy of a special page or two.





he first quarter of the Seventeenth century was marked by several important steps toward the creation of an oversea empire.

The East India Company, created in 1600, began to trade on a small scale with the Far East. Efforts to settle in the New World---in Virginia---

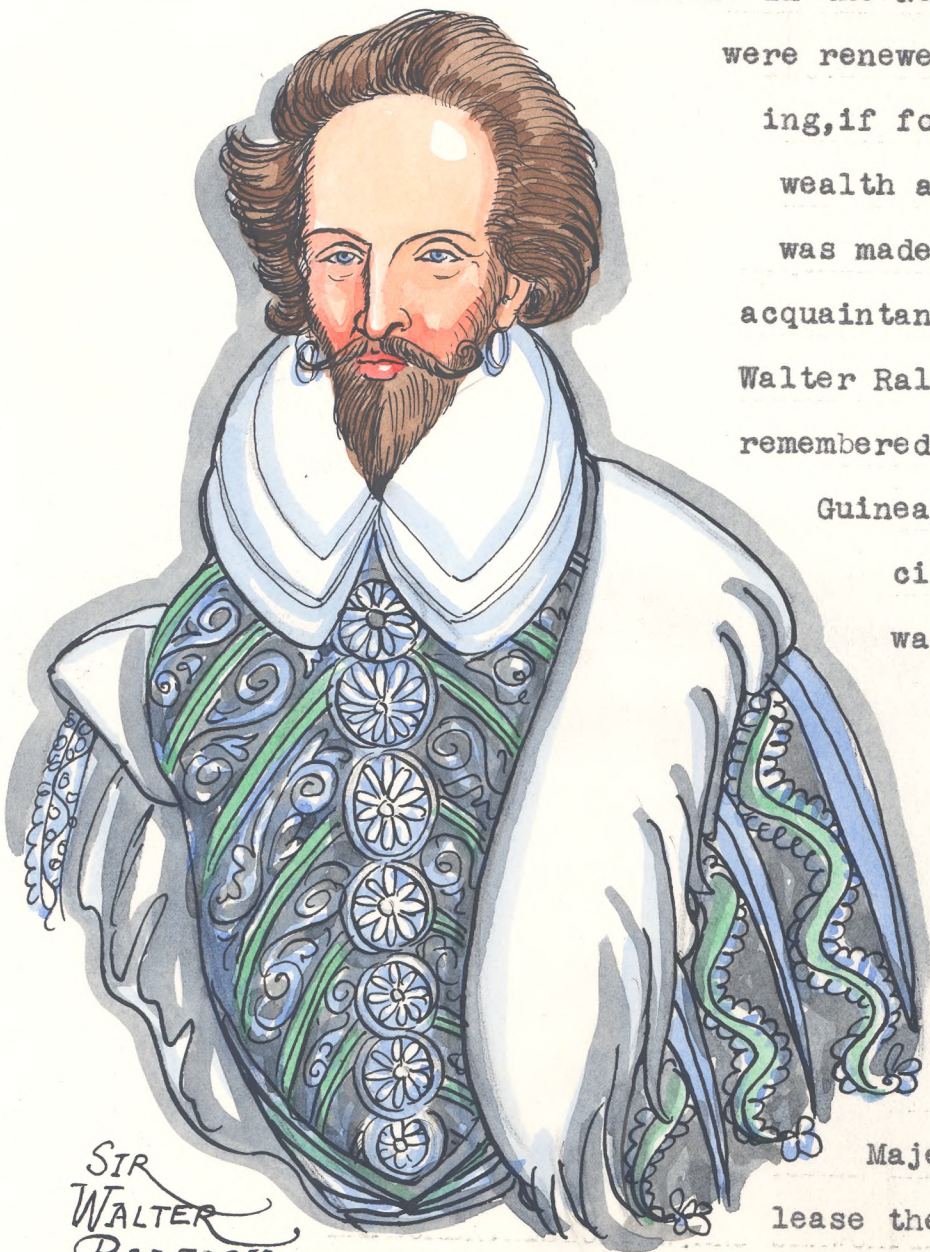
were renewed in 1607. An interesting, if foolhardy, attempt to win wealth across the wide ocean was made by our old Elizabethan acquaintance, the gallant Sir Walter Raleigh (who, it will be remembered, had gone in 1595 to

Guinea in search of the famous city of El Dorado, and who was now in the Tower on a charge of conspiracy against the King).

Sir Walter was "persona non grata" at the Court of King James, because of his attitude toward Spain. His

Majesty was willing to release the restless courtier, poet,

explorer, historian, and sea-captain from imprisonment



SIR WALTER RALEIGH





---to give the adventurer an opportunity to go forth on another voyage of discovery and colonization. (The King was in desperate need of money and hoped that Raleigh would bring new stores of wealth from beyond the horizon!) But

alas for Raleigh! He failed to find El Dorado for the second time. Instead, he attacked a Spanish post, and displeased His Majesty. For the double sin of omission and commission, he was beheaded on his return to London in 1618.

**A**nother party, led by a Captain Newport, was more successful. They landed at the southern point at Chesapeake Bay on the banks of the James River. There they established Jamestown, which proved to be the first permanent settlement in the New World of the West.



*Captain Christopher Newport who sailed into Chesapeake Bay*

