

VOICES OF FREEDOM.

The Divine Right of Kings.
 (Written Expressly for The Journal.)
 What authority have monarchs
 To assume a right divine
 To dispose of, men and brothers,
 Lives and property of thine?
 Who a mortal man commissioned
 O'er a nation rule to bear,
 Just, because, forsooth his father
 Occupied the royal chair?
 Certainly the Bible does not
 Tyranny of kings condone:
 Was it not to punish Israel
 That the Lord allowed a throne?
 When they foolishly to Samuel
 Came a sovereign to demand
 Who would lead them forth to battle
 And from danger free the land,
 Plainly did the prophet tell them
 That their asking was a sin;
 For Jehovah was their master
 Then, as He had ever been.
 Faithfully old Samuel warned them
 That their lot would wretched be,
 Given o'er to kingly caprice
 And deprived of liberty.
 "He will take your sons and make
 them
 Royal horsemen, charioteers;
 Others shall his harvests gather;
 Others, make him swords and spears;
 "In his kitchen shall your daughters
 Cater to his appetite;
 He will confiscate the vineyards
 That are pleasant in his sight;
 "For his work he'll take your children
 As it suits his purpose best—
 In that day for help you'll clamor,
 But you'll seek in vain for rest."
 Thus the seer his people counselled,
 But his words unheeded were;
 So, a monarch he anointed
 To bear rule in peace and war.
 When the haughty Saul, however,
 Failed to keep the Lord's command,
 Then was given unto David
 Title to his crown and land.
 And when headstrong Rehoboam—
 Foolish son of wisest king—
 Would by force the northern tribes-
 men
 To their old allegiance bring,
 Shemaiah, by direction
 Of the Lord himself, forbade;
 And a peaceful, free election
 Then the high-strung Northrons had.
 Thus, the claim that God hath privi-
 eged
 Kings by right of blood to reign,
 Is a long-exploded theory
 That they try to prove in vain.
 Only by the people's sufferance
 Has one man the right to bear
 Rule above his fellow-mortals
 And a royal crown to wear.
 Only while the people will it
 Does he hold the throne by right,—
 None but traitors to their country
 Hold their sovereignty by might.
 He who would command a nation
 Must deserve the highest place,
 Must be foremost in the struggle
 For the progress of our race,—
 Must by lofty, pure example,
 Show that he is fit to be
 Leader of a free-born people
 In this age of liberty.
 Else, no right, divine or human,
 Has he to be longer lord;

And no right have men to serve him
 Or to tremble at his word.

Men by birth are free and equal,
 And no power but that of mind
 Gives to one the rightful privilege
 To direct and rule his kind.

HENRY HARVEY STUART.
 Fredericton, N. B., July 24th. 1896.

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