

which is sufficient enough to make the blood curdle within the veins. This undertaking would seem incredible in these days, and one which no human being would attempt to perform. In his *transitu* across the river, the head of an arrow disengaged itself from his back owing to the exertion of his body. He carried this weapon for several miles sticking in his body, being unable to disentangle himself of it as his enemies were following him so close in the pursuit.

"Finding that he could have no place of security in this county, he betook himself to Sutherlandshire for protection, which was afforded him by the Dunrobin family upon the recommendation of Lady Forse, who, according to her promise, exerted herself to the utmost in his behalf. All that remains to be told is, that he settled in Sutherland, where he was the founder of a respectable and influential scion of the clan, whose posterity can still be traced out at this distant period of time.



THE LAST DAYS OF PRINCES.

(Continued from page 33, February, 1843.)

In prosecuting the design on which this series was formed, it is by no means intended to follow up the regular successions to any one kingdom; neither is it to be narrowed within the limits of either ancient or modern history. Illustrations of the mortal hour among monarchs are numerous, and, while so many of them are striking and impressive, it would be a waste of time both to the writer and the reader, to wade through passages which are comparatively of a common-place character. All ages of the world, and every region of it, can furnish innumerable examples of the nature here proposed; and while ancient times present a Cræsus, an Alexander, an Antiochus or a Nero, and modern ages offer a Louis XI. of France, a Charles V. of Spain, a Henry VIII. of England, a Henry IV. of France, a Peter the Great of Russia, or a Charles XII. of Sweden, there would be little advantage in dwelling upon those whose whole history is composed of a summary like the following:—He was born, he reigned, and he died.

It is therefore on other grounds than that of mere succession that the subject of William Rufus immediately follows, in this series, the considerations arising out of "the last day," of his predecessor and father, William, the Conqueror. The force of contrast is here applied, as bringing out effects more strongly,

and striking more deeply, than when the picture is isolated and alone. The Conqueror was hard, inflexible, and disdained the use of wile or deceit to carry a point which it was his will to succeed in; but Rufus, though brave as any of his race, could apply the cunning of the fox to eke out the strength of the lion. Moreover, the dying hours of the first William were painful and long-protracted, giving time for that awful visitation of horrors and remorse which retrospection introduced to his distracted soul; while the second William was brought to his end in a moment, and before he could have time to utter the shortest prayer for mercy to his departing soul.

But besides the force of contrast, there is also the force of affinity, in summoning up the accounts concerning these remarkable princes. In an examination then will be found something very like a wonderful scheme of Providence, gradually but fully wrought out, and presenting, altogether, a lesson to mankind which compels the mind to contemplation, and which cannot be thrown aside and forgotten without a manifest dereliction from duty. This affinity as well as this contrast will, however, be best perceived in the details which are as follows.

NO. II.—WILLIAM RUFUS.

"Thus was I

* * * * *
Cut off, even in the blossoms of my sin,
Unhous'd, un-anointed, unancl'd;
No reckoning made, but sent to my account
With all my imperfections on my head.
Oh, horrible!—Oh! horrible!—Most horrible!"

Shakspeare.

"See all prepared for the chase to-morrow," said the haughty Rufus. The monarch's will was law, on all occasions; but in this case obedience was pleasure, for the Norman lords, like their Norman master, were devotedly attached to sylvan pleasures, not a little enhanced perhaps in value, by the exclusion of the English from their native woods, and from the courtiers of the King, who were permitted to accompany him, being a privileged few. William then retired for the night, although at an early hour, that he might be the more invigorated by rest, for the next day's sport.

Up sprang the Red King from his midnight couch; with glaring eyes protruded from their sockets; with a countenance, pallid, save the small livid flush of fevered expression which faintly relieved that pallid hue; with frowning brow and eye-brows deeply knit; with lips parted, teeth set, hands clenched, and with all the violent shaking of one in an ague fit. In-