



Memoirs of Celebrated Female Sovereigns: V.1

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This historic book may have numerous typos, missing text or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1832. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... Queen Elizabeth ascended the English throne; being a Protestant, the See of Rome and the French and Spanish courts refused to acknowledge her; and Mary, being indisputably the next heir, was persuaded, or rather was commanded by the King of France, her father-in-law, and the Guises, her uncles-, to assume the title and arms of Queen of England. A fatal mistake, of which she could not then calculate the consequences, but which, by first arousing the jealousy and hatred of Elizabeth, led the way to her own destruction. In July, 1559, the dauphin succeeded to the throne, by the death of his father, Henry II. (who was accidentally killed in a tournament), and in the September following, Francis and Mary were solemnly crowned at Rheims, King and Queen of France. But the health of the young king was already rapidly declining, and in a few months afterward he expired at Orleans, whither he had been carried for the benefit of the air. Almost the last words he spoke were expressions of tenderness and confidence towards his queen, whom he earnestly recommended to the care of his mother and his brother. Francis was in his eighteenth year when he died, after a reign of about a year and a half. Mary is described by ah eyewitness as a "sorrowful widow," and appears to have lamented her husband very sincerely; indeed, without attributing to her any very passionate regard for her boyish consort, she could not be insensible to the loss of one who had loved her from infancy, and by whose death she was left to feel herself a stranger and an intruder in the land which had been the scene of her youthful happiness; of which she had been the crowned queen. Catherine de Medicis, intent upon her own ambitious projects, now viewed her with "jealous leer malign:" Mary had, in early lif...

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