

of Scotland; and Henry II, by a descent from Matilda their daughter, is generally called the restorer of the Saxon line. But it must be remembered, that Malcolm by his Saxon queen had sons as well as daughters; and that the royal family of Scotland from that time downwards were the offspring of Malcolm and Margaret. Of this royal family king James the first was the direct lineal heir, and therefore united in his person every possible claim by hereditary right to the English as well as Scottish throne, being the heir both of Egbert and William the conqueror.

AND it is no wonder that a prince of more learning than wisdom, who could deduce an hereditary title for more than eight hundred years, should easily be taught by the flatterers of the times to believe there was something divine in this right, and that the finger of providence was visible in it's preservation. Whereas, though a wise institution, it was clearly a human institution; and the right inherent in him no natural, but a positive, right. And in this and no other light was it taken by the English parliament; who by statute 1 Jac. I. c. 1. did "recognize "and acknowledge, that immediately upon the dissolution and "cease of Elizabeth late queen of England, the imperial crown "thereof did by inherent birthright, and lawful and undoubted "succession, descend and come to his most excellent majesty, as "being lineally, justly, and lawfully, next and sole heir of the "blood royal of this realm." Not a word here of any right immediately derived from heaven: which, if it existed any where, must be sought for among the *aborigines* of the island, the ancient Britons; among whose princes indeed some have gone to search it for him^w.

BUT, wild and absurd as the doctrine of divine right most undoubtedly is, it is still more astonishing, that when so many hu-

^w Elizabeth of York, the mother of queen Margaret of Scotland, was heiress of the house of Mortimer. And Mr Carte observes, that the house of Mortimer, in virtue of it's descent from Gladys only sister to Lewellin ap Iorwerth the great, had the true right to the principality of Wales. iii. 705.