

But 'tis the Interest, and therefore the presumed Will of the People, that the Kingdom should not be divided, but united under one Prince; because the Strength of the Nation is thereby preserved and the publick Peace better established.

So a Son by the second Venter shall succeed to the Crown, because he is equally of the Blood of his Father, and from whom the Expectation of the People is as great, being descended from him, to whom their Allegiance and Submission was once due; the same reason admits an *Alien-born*, tho' he be a Stranger to us by Birth.

And here it may be proper to give a short Historical Account of the Succession in *England*.

'Tis certain when we had seven Kings here together, as in the *Saxon Reigns*, there was no Hereditary Right.

Afterwards *Alfred*, *Adelstane*, *Edmond* the Martyr, and *Harold*, tho' they were all *Bastards*, were successively Kings here, but by a Law under the Saxon Monarchy, *De ordinatione Regum*, Bastards were prohibited to be chosen.

*Edward* the Confessor had no Hereditary Right, for that was in *Edward* the Son of *Edmond Ironside*, Father to *Edgar Etheling* his Nephew, during his Life, and after his Decease, in that *Edgar* who was Nephew to the Confessor.

*William* the First was a Bastard, and had no Right, but the Submission and Election of the People made him King after he had beaten *Harold*.

His Son *William Rufus* had an elder Brother living, whose Name was *Robert*, when his Brother was King.

And *Henry* the First succeeded, tho' his elder Brother the same *Robert* was still alive.

*King Stephen* was chosen by the Clergy and People, and his Election was confirmed by the Pope, tho'