

A SAILOR KING AND SOME OF HIS ADMIRALS.

BY HERBERT S. JEANS.



JAMES II.

IF James II. was never, at any time, the most revered of English kings, he was at the least, a good sailor.

He knew the country's needs so far as an efficient Navy was concerned, and he did all in his power to put ships, officers and men on a satisfactory basis. Like our present Prince of Wales, he had been Duke of York, and whilst holding that title he had also filled the office of Lord High Admiral. In that capacity he had fought and defeated such giants as Opdam and de Ruyter. At the battle of Lowestoft (1665) he laid his ship, the *Royal Charles*, 80 guns, alongside that of Baron Opdam, the *Endracht*, 84 guns, and was so exposed to the enemy's fire that when three of his

staff, the Earl of Falmouth, Lord Muskerry, and Richard Boyles, were killed by one chain shot, his clothes were bespattered with their blood—indeed, Pepys states that the Duke was knocked down by Boyles' head, which was struck off by the shot. Shortly after this gruesome event, the magazine of the *Endracht* blew up, and with her perished the Admiral and over 500 men, only five of all her crew being saved. The fight was then maintained with great determination by Captain Van Tromp, son of the renowned Admiral of that name, who gave the English seamen such a busy time of it in the days of Blake; but as night drew on he was constrained to fly for safety to the shoals of