Support falling away from him and suffering from serious stress, James retreated to London and planned to flee the country, fearing that he would be put to death just as his father, Charles I, had been. Casting the royal seal into the Thames, James attempted to flee by boat, though he was captured by a fisherman on December 11th and placed under the guard of William's forces. Reluctant to commit to regicide, William allowed James to escape on December 23rd, where he fled to France.

On January 22nd 1689, a so-called convention Parliament was summoned – it called this because William was only regent, and only a king could summon Parliament. There was some disagreement among its members, for Whigs wished to elect William king, while the Tories supported Mary as queen with William as regent. A compromise was met, and on February 13th, the English throne was offered jointly to William and Mary. Upon their coronation, the dual monarchs swore an oath enforced by the Coronation Oath Act; it required a monarch to promise to govern England according to accords agreed upon by Parliament. Indeed, Parliament had also passed the Declaration of Right, it listing twelve practices by the former king James that had subverted England. Furthermore, it established now entrenched principles, such as the requirement for there to be regular Parliaments and that only Parliament could suspend and dispense powers.

Parliament had finally achieved supremacy in government, this the culmination of a chain of events that began with Charles I and concluded with William III and Mary II that steadily increased Parliament's power and eroded the monarchs'. While England would continue to have monarchs, their influence would be forever restricted.