

**Review: Rev. M. Creighton, *The Age of Elizabeth*, Longmans, Green and Co., London, U.K., 1881**

Pages: 236

**Dispels Cromwellian Myths**

A comprehensive account of not only Elizabeth's times and domain, but also Scotland, Spain, the Netherlands and major characters. With such a large period the events selected and history provided seems well-balanced.

However, in this case, it pays in spades to understand who is writing the history: As an Anglican "Reverend" (harlot daughter of Rome) Creighton was educated in Rome and clearly a papal sympathiser. His bias shines through often against so-called Protestants, e.g., that the massacre of Huguenots at Vassy was accidental [p. ], and Pius V, Michele Ghislieri, had been a Dominican Inquisitor. The author calls him "a man of fervent piety and blameless life". [p. 105]

Henry of Navarre was to marry Margaret of Valois, the French King's sister. Huguenot's had massed in Paris to be present.

The author lies that the massacre was not premeditated (p. 116).

Marriage of the clergy gave rise to scandals [!]. (p. 126) [I Tm 4.3]

Philip's invasion is said to have borne no religious character! Quite laughable as he reports 300 monks priests and inquisitors in the Armada. [p. 176]

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**Preface** (pp. iv-viii)

**Introduction** (pp. 1-6)

Men either thought in and through the Church only did they have communion with God; or God would receive any man who turned to Him. [p. 3; I Tm 2.5]

Scotland shook off Catholicism almost immediately.

French Catholicism was more deeply rooted.

### **I) Religious Settlement in Germany and England (pp. 7-14)**

Germany was a number of small States, each ruled by a hereditary prince. There were also a number of Free Cities. In 1529, many formed the League of Smalkald to defend the Reformation.

Charles V had to war against Moorish corsairs; the King of France over Burgundy; in Italy to secure his rule; and against the Ottoman Turks. While he opposed Protestantism, he was not a devout Papist (yet he declared war against the Smalkald League in 1546!). In 1544, he put down pirates to secure the seas, and made peace with France.

The Diet of Augsburg was held in 1555: "cujus regio ejus religio" ("whose region is his religion").

### **II) Progress of the Reformation in England Under Edward VI: 1547-1553 (p. 14-28)**

Sovereignty of Europe couldn't be obtained without suppression of the Reformed religion; unless Charles crushes England, he cannot crush the Reformation

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's prayer book is the same as today's. Cranmer ate meat openly in Lent, images were torn down, and Parliament legalised clergy marriage.

James V died in 1542, leaving Mary as heir to the Scottish throne. Henry VIII sought marriage between Mary and his son Edward. However, the Scottish lords bound Scotland and France by marrying her to the dauphin, so she was sent there in August 1548. This was Scotland's pledge to Catholicism.

England had debased its coinage which led to inflation. Large farms were found more profitable for grazing than growing corn, so sheep-farming

became England's main agricultural industry. Unemployment arose, however, since fewer labourers were required.

Changes of ministry in those days were only secured with the death of a fallen minister.

Edward VI ordered the Irish should only have church services read in English.

On his deathbed, he wrote an instrument that England should pass to a Protestant Queen. Lady Jane Grey was chosen and ascended 6/7/1553. Mary escaped and had the support of the people and custom, so Jane was committed to the Tower then executed.

### **III) Catholic Reaction in England 1553-1555 (pp. 28-39)**

Cranmer denounced the Mass being restored in Canterbury Cathedral.

Mary abolished the Prayer Book and Cardinal Pole was made Papal legate to England.

Mary determined to marry Prince Phillip of Spain. He arrived July 1554.

Elizabeth was imprisoned and Emperor Charles V urged she be put to death.

The author calls Julius II "an easy, good-natured man". [p. 36]

Papal supremacy was restored in England on St Andrew's day (November 20), 1554. Old laws against the Lollards were revived and chief Reformers imprisoned with executions to follow. Victims were deliberately chosen from the most important people.

'Catholic revival' was not likely to restore national prosperity.

### **IV) France, Spain, and the Papacy: 1555-1558 (pp. 40-45)**

Charles V resigned in 1556 so the Netherlands, Spain, and Italian lands passed to son Philip. He retired to the monastery of Yuste in Estremadura.

England lost Calais in 1557-8; the peace of Cateau Cambresis was concluded 12/4/1559.

Mary saw all her plans had failed.

Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn was enthroned without opposition.

### **V) Religious Settlement in England (pp. 46-50)**

Elizabeth could never accept Calvinism. She enforced a revised Prayer Book by the Act of Uniformity.

Cardinal d'Medici became Pius IV after Pau IV's death. His papal nuncio was forbidden to enter England.

Elizabeth's position was at first very dangerous.

### **VI) Reformation in France and Scotland (pp. 51-62)**

Geneva was in a state of political confusion and became a centre of French Protestantism led by Jean Chauvin. He was once driven out in 1541 but returned.

Charles Guise, Cardinal of Lorraine and son of Duke of Guise was a fierce. James V married his sister and Mary of Scotland was his niece. Thus, Mary laid claim to Elizabeth's throne and sought to crush Protestantism.

In 1554, Scotland brought in French troops and Mary of Lorraine, sister of the Cardinal was made Queen regent.

The First Covenant was formed 1557.

Walter Mill was burnt in 1558.

John Knox saw putting down Popery as his highest duty.

Mary hired native Scots with French funds to punish Perthian rebels, which strengthened the Congregationists who seized Edinburgh and deposed her in October 1559.

"Huguenots means "a crowd hastily gathering".

Ex-Queen regent Mary of Scotland died 20/6/1520, leaving the Congregation supreme. They abjured the Pope and forbade the mass on pain of death for the third offence (25/8/1560). [p. 61]

## **VII) Mary Queen of Scots (pp. 62-79)**

Mary landed in Scotland August 1561 from Calais, received with enthusiasm.

She succeeded in gaining toleration for her own Catholic worship.

The author says the massacre of Huguenots at Vassy on 1/3/1562 was accidental! [p. 67]

The Guises grew strong in France due to the Jesuits [p. 69].

Mary married her cousin Lord Darnley, Henry Stuart, on 29/7/1565. It was an unhappy union. Darnley was jealous of the queen's secretary David Rizzio, and on 9/3/1566 had him stabbed to death.

Mary gave birth to James VI; Elizabeth: "The Queen of Scots is mother of a fair son, and I am a barren stock".

Mary got Lord High Admiral Bothwell to kill Darnley; he was blown up 9/2/1567 at a house in Kirk-of-Field. They married 15/5/1567.

Mary became hated; Bothwell fled to Denmark and she was confined in Lochleven Castle. She was then found guilty of Darnley's murder and made to abdicate in favour of James, with her half brother Murray as regent.

## **VIII) Spain and the Netherlands: The Spanish Monarchy (pp. 80-86)**

Philip II founded the Spanish empire with Madrid as capital.

## **IX) Revolt of the Netherlands (pp. 87-97)**

William of Nassau was Prince of Orange.

Charles V established the Inquisition in Netherlands in 1522. It increased in violence in 1550, then 1555 under Philip.

*Gueux* are beggars.

18 August was the Ommegang ceremony in Antwerp; procession of a miraculous image of the Virgin.

Philip was in debt and took Duke Alva's advice to reduce the Netherlands with 10,000 veterans. Alva departed in May, 1567. The Prince of Orange went into exile and became a Protestant.

### **X) Results of Alva's Measures on France, England, and Scotland (pp. 98-104)**

Queen Mary of the Scots was a dangerous captive.

The Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland rebelled against Elizabeth, celebrating mass and tearing the Bible up.

### **XI) Struggle of Catholicism and Protestantism, 1570-72 (pp. 105-113)**

Pius V, Michele Ghislieri, had been a Dominican Inquisitor. The author calls him "a man of fervent piety and blameless life"! [p. 105]

In May 1570, he wrote a bull of excommunication to Elizabeth.

The Florentine Ridolfi's plot was to liberate Mary, marry her to the Duke of Norfolk and restore Catholicism.

Venice, the Pope, and Philip II won a brilliant victory at Lepanto over the Turks.

Catherine de'Medici was daughter of the man to whom Machiavelli dedicated "The Prince".

Philip II raised a 5% real estate tax, and a 10% VAT. By mid-1572, much of the Netherlands was in revolt against Alva. Holland, Zeeland, Friesland

and Utrecht recognised the Prince of Orange as Philip's lawful stadholder in place of Alva.

## **XII) St. Bartholomew's Day (pp. 114-122)**

Henry of Navarre was to marry Margaret of Valois, the French King's sister. Huguenot's had massed in Paris to be present.

The author lies that the massacre was not premeditated (p. 116). Victims were from 25,000-100,000 and Gregory XIII ordered a 'Te Deum' sung in honour of the bloodbath.

Holland and Zeeland showed desperate bravery against Spain at the siege of Haarlem; 4,000 men against Don Frederic de Toledo's 30,000. However, due to famine they surrendered on 12/7/1573 and the town was butchered.

England was at peace from 1572-76.

## **XIII) Home Government of Elizabeth: Elizabeth and Home Affairs (pp. 123-132)**

England had 5M, the treasury was in debt and the coinage debased. The latter was to be called in, melted down and reissued at intrinsic value.

Elizabeth is said to have had no sympathy for the Netherlands.

Marriage of the clergy gave rise to scandals [!]. (p. 126)

The Royal Exchange was built in 1560.

Elizabeth's' rule as economical and taxes reasonable.

## **XIV) Elizabeth: Her Court and Ministers (pp. 132-142)**

William Cecil, Lord Burleigh was Prime Minister. His chief ally was brother-in-law Sir Nicolas Bacon, father of Francis Bacon.

Nicolas' motto was "mediocria firma" ("the middle course is most secure").

*Leicester's Commonwealth* by Jesuit Parsons accuses Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester of murder and assassination.

**XV) Conflict of Catholicism and Protestantism, 1575-86 (pp. 143-152)**

Only two Netherland states were Protestant; fifteen remained Catholic. However, by the Pacification of Ghent on 8/11/1576, all bound themselves to expel Spain. A Perpetual Edict was made 17/2/1577 and Spanish troops withdrawn.

Don Juan of Austria, brother of Philip II obtained his permission to attack England.

**XVI) The Jesuits and the Catholic Reaction (pp. 153-160)**

Ignatius Loyola was Don Iñigo Lopez de Recalde.

The Jesuits brought Walloon provinces in the Netherlands back to Spain.

The Papal attempt on Ireland in 1580 by the Earl of Desmond failed.

In August 1582, James VI was secured in castle Ruthven by his nobles against the Duke of Lennox.

In 1579, Gregory XIII founded the English college at Rome. In 1580, Jesuits Parsons and Campion entered England.

Francis Throgmorton tried to kill Elizabeth; he was executed.

**XVII) The League and the Armada (pp. 161-168)**

Henry III of France was confederate against the Guises and revoked the edicts of toleration in July 1585.

Elizabeth sent 5,000 men and 1,000 horse to the Netherlands under the Earl of Leicester. This achieved nothing so they returned.

In 1585, Sir Francis Drake with 25 vessels plundered San Domingo and Carthage, returning in 1586 ("Drake has played the dragon").



The Duke of Parma was to capture London, kill Elizabeth and he would marry Mary and rule England for the Pope.

### **XVIII) The Spanish Armada (pp. 168-180)**

Anthony Babington at the Jesuit Rheims Seminary hatched a plot to kill Elizabeth. Spymaster Sir Francis Walsingham knew of this and allowed progression until Mary's complicity was evident. Babington and co. were executed September 1586.

Mary was beheaded in Fotheringay Castle on 8/2/1587.

In 1587, German and Swiss Protestants went to aid the Huguenots, leading to the War of Three Henrys: Henry II, Henry of Navarre, and Henry of Guise.

In April 1587, Francis Drake sought to "sing King Philip's beard". He destroyed forty vessels in Cadiz and a store of provisions, as well as capturing the *San Filipe* treasure ship.

The "Invincible Armada" sailed May 1588: 132 ships; 8,766 soldiers; 2,088 galley slaves; 21,855 soldiers; 300 monks, priests and inquisitors. Alexander of Parma was meant to link up with 17,000 Spaniards from the Netherlands.

The Royal Navy only had 35 ships and 6,279 men. However, it was increased to 140.

Philip's invasion is said to have borne no religious character! [p. 176]

Six English vessels were made fire ships to destroy the Spanish navy.

In the end, only 53 Spanish ships and 10,000 men returned, defeated.

The Armada's failure marked the end of Spain as a power.

### **XIX) Reaction Against Spain (pp. 180-191)**

Dominican (Jesuit?) priest Jacques Clement assassinated Henry II on 2/8/1589.

## **XX) England After the Armada (pp. 192-201)**

Troubles in the Netherlands were to England's profit due to competition in the textile trade.

It is stated: "great men dined in state at a high table..while dependants sat at lower tables". Cf. Luke 14.10.

Knives for eating were only common from 1563, and the fork in 1611.

Sir Walter Raleigh first brought tobacco to England in 1586.

Town trades were rigidly guarded by guilds.

## **XXI) The Elizabethan Literature (pp. 201-218)**

Roger Ascham: "He that will write well in any tongue must speak as the common people do, and think as wise men do...Many English writers have not done so, but using strange words, as Latin, French, and Italian, do make all things dark;" [p. 204] Cf. Proverbs 1.6.

"Euphemism" derives from John Lyly's "Romance of Euphues".

Francis Bacon published his first essays in 1597.

## **XXII) Last Years of Elizabeth (pp. 219-229)**

Philip II, 1598: "I die like a good Catholic, in faith and obedience to the holy Roman Church". [p. 223]