

many wives and children near the cathedral was contrary to the intention of the founder.

At the mention of the Bishop's wives her indignation carried her almost beyond the bounds of delicacy, and when Archbishop Parker remonstrated with her on what he called the "Popish tendency" she told him, "she repented of having made *any* married bishops."

It is well known that the first time the Queen honoured the Archbishop by visiting him in his palace (after an enormous expense and immense trouble and fatigue had been incurred by the Archbishop and his wife) instead of the gracious words of acknowledgement which the latter naturally expected to receive at the parting from her royal guest, her majesty repaid her dutiful attention with the following insult: "And you," she said, "Madam I may not call you, mistress I am ashamed to call you, and so I know not what to call you; but, howsoever, I thank you."

When Elizabeth heard that Pilkington, Bishop of Durham, had given his daughter in marriage a fortune of £10,000, she scotched the See of Durham a thousand pounds a year.

Elizabeth spent much of her time at Windsor and hunted in the Great Park. Her feminine feelings (if any) did not prevent her from taking life with her own hand.

Elizabeth seems to have spent a great deal of her energies in repulsing the proffered hand in marriage of her sister's widower, Philip II of Spain. Philip pressed his case with earnestness amounting to importunity, animated by the desire of regaining, with another regal English bride, a counter balance to the powers of France and Scotland.

Some historians assert that he had conceived a passion for Elizabeth even during the life of her sister, but this I very much doubt. Elizabeth always attributed his political hostility to his personal pique at her declining to become his wife.

Elizabeth on the other hand knew that such a marriage would be no less objectionable than that of her father to Katherine of Aragon. She had, of course, a difficult game to play, for the friendship of Spain appeared to be the only bulwark against the combined forces of France and Scotland.

She had succeeded to an empty exchequer, a realm dispirited by the loss of Calais, burdened with debt, embarrassed with a base coinage and a starving population—always, always the problem of catholicism and protestantism—always on the verge of civil war. Moreover her title to the throne had already been impugned by the King of France, compelling his youthful daughter-in-law, the Queen of Scots, then in her sixteenth year and entirely under his control, to assume the arms and regal style of England.

If Elizabeth had been less strong and determined, she would probably have accepted the inglorious protection with the nuptial ring of Philip.

At one time in her reign, the Speaker of the House of Commons, then Sir Thomas Cargrave, craved leave to bring up a petition to Her Majesty, of vital importance to the realm; it was to entreat that she would marry, that the country might have her royal issue to reign over them.

Elizabeth received the address presented by the Speaker, knights and burgesses of the lower house, seated in state in her great gallery at Whitehall Palace. She paused a short space after listening to the address, and then she spoke: "From my years of understanding, knowing myself a servitor of Almighty God, I chose this kind of life in which I do yet live, as a life most acceptable to Him, wherein I thought I could best serve Him. From which my choice, if ambition of high estate, offered me in marriage, the displeasure of the prince (Philip), the eschewing the danger of mine enemies, or the avoiding the peril of death, whose messenger, the prince's indignation, was continually present before mine eyes, by whose means, if I knew or do justly suspect, I will not now utter them; or if the whole cause were my sister herself, I will not now charge the dead—could all have drawn or dissuaded me, I had not now remained in this virgin's estate

wherein you see me. But so constant have I always continued in this my determination, that though my words and youth may seem hardly to agree together, yet it is true that, to this day, I stand free from any other meaning."

Towards the conclusion of her speech, she drew from her finger her coronation ring, and showing it to the Commons told them that: "When I received that ring I had solemnly bound myself in marriage to the realm; and that it would be quite sufficient for the memorial of my name and for my glory, if, when I died, an inscription were engraved on a marble tomb, saying, '*Here lieth Elizabeth, which reigned a virgin, and died a virgin.*'"

In conclusion, she dismissed the deputation with these words: "I take your coming to me in good part, and give to you my hearty thanks, yet more for your goodwill and good-meaning, than for your message."

Elizabeth, when she made this declaration, was in the flower of her age, having completed the twenty-fifth year in the preceding September, and according to the description given of her, at the period of her accession to the throne by Sir Robert Naunton, she must have been possessed of no ordinary personal attractions.

"She was of person, tall. Of hair and complexion fair, and there withal well favoured, but high nosed; of limb and feature neat, and, which added to the lustre of these external graces, of a stately and majestic comportment, participating more of her father than of her mother, who was of an inferior alloy—plausible, or, as the French have it 'debonnaire' and affable; which, descending as hereditary to the daughter, did render her of a more sweet temper, and endeared her to the love of the people."

In the autumn of 1560, Elizabeth's great and glorious measure of restoring the English currency to sterling value was carried into effect. A matter weighty and great that neither Edward VI nor Mary durst attempt. The old money was called in and every person received the nominal value of the base coin in new sterling money, the government bearing the loss, which was of course, very heavy; but the people were satisfied and their confidence in the good faith and honour of the crown richly repaid this great sovereign for the sacrifice. She strictly forbade melting or trafficking with the coin in any way—a precaution the more necessary, inasmuch as the silver was better and purer in England during her reign than it had been the last 200 years, and exceeded in value the standard of that or any other nation of Europe in her own time.

In May, 1560, the new Pope, Pius Fourth, a prince of the House of Medici, made an attempt to win back England, through her Queen, to the obedience of the Roman See by sending Parpaglia, abbot of St. Saviour, to the Queen with letters written in the most conciliatory style, beginning, "Dear daughter in Christ," inviting her to return to the bosom of the church and professing his readiness to do all things needful for the health of her soul and the firm establishment of her royal dignity. Elizabeth refused to even receive the Papal nuncio, and the separation became final and complete.

On New Year's day, 1562, she went in State to St. Paul's Cathedral. The Dean, having had long notice of her visit went to great pains and even greater expense in ornamenting a prayer-book with really beautiful prints, illustrative of the history of the apostles and the martyrs. The book being intended as a new year gift for the Queen was richly bound and laid on the cushion for her use. Elizabeth thought it expedient to kick up a rumpus in order to manifest her zeal against popery before a multitude. When she came to her place, she opened the book, but seeing the pictures burst into a torrent of abuse, banged it shut and calling to a verger bade him bring her the book she was accustomed to use. After the service she went direct to the vestry where she asked the Dean how that book came to be in her place. He replied that he intended it as a new year gift for her majesty. "You

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