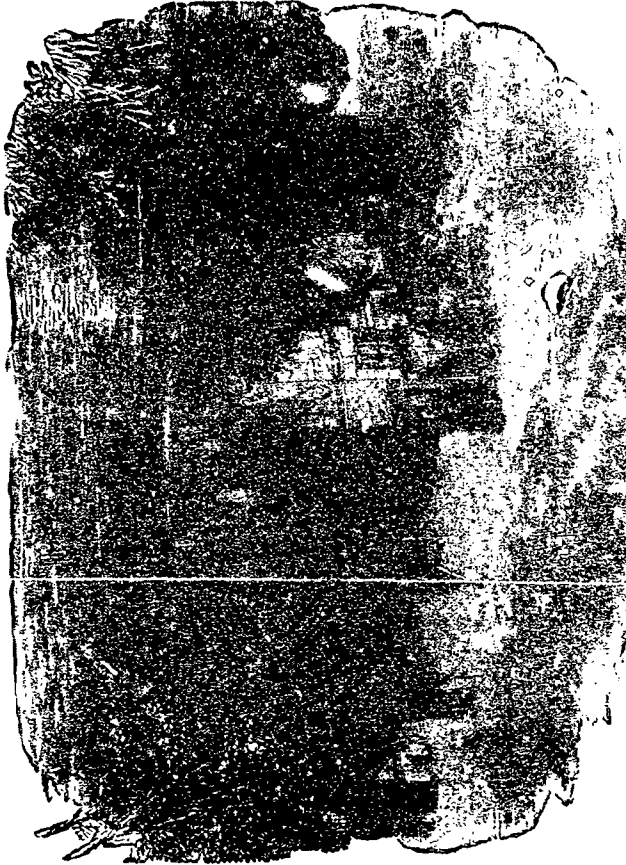


descent she inherited "the blue-black Irish hair and Irish eyes," and her sprightly fancy and wit. The royal Bluebeard soon tired of his new toy, and, says Milman, the machinations of the Jesuits wrought the fall of the Queen, because she favoured the Reformed doctrines. Henry, according to his custom, was smiling on his victim while the axe was sharpening. Upon a fowl and



groundless charge she was thrust into the gloomy Tower, whence she came forth only to the scaffold. To the King she wrote a letter, which may still be seen in the Cotton Library, that might have softened any heart but one of adamant:—

"Never prince had wife more loyal in all duty and in all true affection than you have had in Anne Boleyn. Try me, good king; but let me have a lawful trial, and let not my sworn enemies appear as my accusers and