

never trouble thy mind for anything that shall happen to me in this world. If anything happen me that you would be loath to pray to God for me, but trouble not yourselves, as I shall faithfully pray for us all that we may meet together once in heaven, where we shall make merry forever, and never have trouble after."

A special commission under the great seal was issued for his trial, consisting of Lord Chancellor Audley, and several of the nobility and judges. His arraignment took place in May, 1535, but in the hope of better evidence the trial was put off till the first of July. Hereupon Lord Campbell, his successor in office after three hundred years, speaks so aptly to our purpose that his words are most worthy of our attention. "When, sordidly dressed, he held up his hand as a criminal in that place where, arrayed in his magisterial robes and surrounded by crowds who watched his smile, he had been accustomed on his knees to ask his Father's blessing before mounting his own tribunal as sole judge on the most important rights on the highest subjects in the realm, a general feeling of horror and commiseration ran through the spectators; and after the lapse of three centuries, during which statesmen, prelates and kings have been unjustly brought to trial under the same roof, considering the splendour of his talents, the greatness of his acquirements, and the innocence of his life, we must still regard his murder as the blackest crime ever perpetrated in England under the form of law." Lord Macaulay, speaking of the state trials of those days, has called them "murder preceded by mummery."

It is all important in forming our estimate of More's character to know precisely for what he died. Though imprisoned for refusal of the oath of Succession, it was directly for rejecting the royal supremacy that he suffered death. This is the only matter mentioned in the indictment. While no mention is made of the papal supremacy, this was to him a matter of clearly defined faith. "'Tis for this, indirectly," says Father Bridgett, "that he laid down his life." Upon this, Mr. James Gairdner, of the Record Office, wrote: "But if we take cognizance of a cause for which he 'indirectly' suffered, he also died to uphold the sanctity of marriage, of which at that time there seemed