

ne receive an open trial,
u see either mine inno-
he ignominy and slander
that, whatever God and
open censure; and mine
liberty, both before God
ne as an unfaithful wife,
ty² for whose sake I am
e, have pointed unto,—

But if you have already
infamous slander must
desire of God that he will
the instruments thereof;
our unprincely and cruel
u and myself must shortly
batsoever the world may
sufficiently cleared.

only bear the burden of
e innocent souls of those
trait imprisonment for my
the name of Anne Bolen
his request; and so I will
best prayer to the Trinity
ou in all your actions,
ay.

"ANN BULEN."

has been impugned.
hand-writing differs
Boleyn; but the fact
rs four years after
ry document. The
the king, from the
s than the peculiar
f the captive queen.
had been forwarded
The only real objec-
er is signed "Ann
s, however, possible,
this passionate ap-
his unfortunate con-
eloved signature, to
e time of sentiment,
one by; and such a
ected, and had now

ceased to love, was more calculated to awaken wrath than to revive affection. Every word is a sting, envenomed by the sense of intolerable wrong. It is written in the tone of a woman who has been falsely accused; and imagining herself strong in the consciousness of her integrity, unveils the guilty motives of her accuser, with a reckless disregard to consequences perfectly consistent with the character of Anne Boleyn. Her appeal in behalf of the unfortunate gentlemen who were involved in her calamity is generous, and looks like the courage of innocence. A guilty woman would scarcely have dared to allude to the suspected partners of her crime. It is strange that the allusion to the infant Elizabeth in this letter is made without any expression of maternal tenderness.

On the 10th of May, an indictment for high treason was found by the grand jury of Westminster "against the lady Anne, queen of England; George Boleyn, viscount Rochford; Henry Norris, groom of the stole; sir Francis Weston and William Brereton, gentlemen of the privy-chamber; and Mark Smeaton, a performer on musical instruments,—a person specified as of low degree, promoted for his skill to be a groom of the chambers."¹ The four commoners were tried in Westminster-hall, May 10, by a commission of oyer and terminer, for the alleged offences against the honour and the life of their sovereign. A true bill had been found against them by the grand juries of two counties, Kent as well as Middlesex, because some of the offences specified in the indictment were said to have taken place at Greenwich, others at Hampton-Court and elsewhere.² Smeaton endeavoured to save his life by pleading guilty to the indictment. He had previously confessed, before the council, the crime with which he and the queen were charged. The three gentlemen, Norris, Weston, and Brereton, resolutely maintained their innocence and that of their royal mistress, though urged by every persuasive, even the promise of mercy, if they would confess. They persisted in their plea, and were all condemned to death.³ On what evidence they were found guilty no one can now say, for the

¹ Birch MSS. Burnet. Lingard. Turner.

² Burnet. Birch. Lingard. Turner.

³ Ibid.