

He knew as well as any one that wars of religion and ecclesiastical settlements have a secular side. Charles V. was King of Spain as well as Catholic King. The Reformation was neither entirely a contest of light with darkness nor a rebellion against religion. The Catholic reaction was a reaction to the profit of absolutism, the Protestant interest in the Thirty Years War became the interest of France, and her success laid a foundation for Lewis XIV.'s wars of aggression. Roughly speaking, the settlement of 1648, which extended the French frontier, also fixed the limits of Catholic and Protestant States, and gave the German princes a relief from Imperial interference, and so perpetuated that difference between Northern and Southern Germany on which 1871 set the seal. The people counted for nothing in these proceedings: but from the sense of independence secured by the princes might and did grow up among the northern principalities a sense of German unity, in spite of jealousy and particularism, to be fostered by preachers, poets, and dreamers, and bear surprising fruits.

The Bishop is less cautious and neutral as a lecturer than as a writer of history. His sympathies are with things established. He parts from Charles V. "with some little liking, and some considerable respect." He seems to think that to be "an unrelenting, unscrupulous persecutor" like Tilly may be excused by "strong convictions." We imagine that the devil has strong convictions. On the other hand he allows Gustavus Adolphus the praise of "transcendent ability and perfect honesty."

No historian is more averse than Stubbs to cheap and easy results, showy generalisations and stage-light effects. He is the antipodes of Macaulay, and more sober than Freeman, in whom the scholar and the partisan never quite settled their differences. Such balance of opinion, when we want to hear a judgment from one who has authority, is tantalising. It is refreshing, then, when we find him sometimes giving us a view with something of a bias; for even if we do not like the bias, there is likely to be more truth in a warm opinion than in a cold one.