

all classes of her subjects. A Puritan whose hand she had hacked off in a freak of tyrannous resentment is said to have waved the stump about his head, crying, "God bless Queen Elizabeth." The loyalty and devotion of this class of her subjects was rewarded with a harshness of treatment that never has and never can be justified. Their loyalty deserved better at her hands, and their ill-requited loyalty is the darkest feature of her reign, and is far less defensible than her treatment of Mary Stewart.

But she was judged of the nation by her love of peace, her instincts of order, the firmness and moderation of her government, her judicious spirit of conciliation and compromise, by which the whole country enjoyed tranquillity, and a growing and ever-increasing prosperity that were enriching all the people, and making London the mart of the world when every other country was rent and torn with strife.

She ascended the throne after the death of her sister Mary, whose bigotry and cruel persecutions had reduced the realm to the lowest and most wretched state, and she began at once to take measures for restoring the Protestant religion, for the whole work of Reformation had to be done over again. The entire work of her father Henry VIII and of her brother Edward VI had been completely wrecked under her sister Mary. The 42 Articles of Edward's time had been abolished, the celibacy of the clergy re-inforced, the church service was again said in Latin, the Bible was a prohibited book, and the Pope's authority entirely restored, and the "real presence" had long been adopted as the best bait to catch Protestants. They proposed it to Elizabeth while she was still a prisoner in the tower, but her reply was ready,

"Christ was the word that spake it,
"He took the bread and brake it,
"And what that word did make it
"That I believe and take it."

Her tormentor turned in a passion and went back to those who had sent him, saying it was of no use, for that woman had forever at her elbow a whole legion of fiends to tell her what to say.

Burnet says "superstition had made great progress in Queen Mary's reign. the people in many places had pieces of the true cross, and multitudes of the veritable nails that had pierced the body of Christ could be found. The Cathedral churches were dens of thieves and robbers, and many of the most violent were those who had turned several times." At the present day, among our neighbors across the line, when the Democrats get into power they turn all the Republicans out, and when the Republicans get back they set all the Democrats adrift. Now if this be a wise practice Elizabeth acted foolishly, and if she acted wisely this is a foolish practice, which I am much inclined to think is the case. She said for fear of unduly alarming any part of my people I will retain, Heath, Lord Chancellor; the Marquis of Winchester, Lord Treasurer; the Earls of Arundel, Shrewsbury Derby and Pembroke, the Lords Chilton and Howard, Sir Thomas Cheene, Sir Wm. Petre, Sir John Mason, Sir Richard Sackville and Dr. Wotton, Dean of Canterbury and York. There is something arch in Burnet's language. "Most of these, says he, had complied with all the changes that had been made in religion, backward and forward, since the time of Henry VIII, and had become so dexterous at it that they were still retained in every new revolution." Truly, sir, there was hypocrisy in the world before our time. To those who were all Papists at the present she added the Marquis of Northampton and the Earl of Bedford, Sir Thomas Parry, Sir Edward Roger and Sir Ambrose Cecil. The last she made Secretary of State, and soon after sent for Sir Nicholas