

he was now satisfied by experimental proof that the Pope's excommunication of Her Majesty signified nothing, since she still continued blessed with so miraculous a quality."

It is related of Queen Elizabeth that, making her progress into Gloucestershire, the people affected with this disease "did in uncivil crouds presse in upon her. Insomuch that Her Majesty, betwixt anger, grief and compassion, let fall words to this effect : '*Alasse, poor people, I cannot, I cannot cure you ; it is God alone that can do it.*'"

The following passage in "Macbeth," Act IV., Scene 3, reflects the current opinion of the times in which Shakespeare wrote :

Malcolm.—Comes the King forth, I pray you ?

Doctor.—Ay, sir ; there are a crew of wretched souls
That stay his cure ; their malady convinces
The great assay of art ; but at his touch,
Such sanctity hath heaven given his hand,
They presently amend.

Malcolm.—I thank you, doctor.

Macduff.—What's the disease he means ?

Malcolm.— 'Tis called the evil ;
A most miraculous work in this good king,
Which often, since my here remain in England,
I have seen him do. How he solicits heaven,
Himself best knows ; but strangely-visited people,
All swol'n and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,
The mere despair of surgery, he cures ;
Hanging a golden stamp about their necks,
Put on with holy prayers ; and 'tis spoken,
To the succeeding royalty he leaves
The healing benediction.

James I. doubtless exercised this among other royal prerogatives, a proclamation, dated March, 1616, being said to be in existence, forbidding patients to approach him during the summer. He is also to have reported to have touched the son of the Turkish Chiaus for the cure of the evil, at the foreigner's special request, using at it the usual ceremony "of signing the place infected with the crosse, but no prayers before or after." When he was requested to effect the