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THE PROTESTANTISM OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.\*

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PART FIRST.

MR. Neal and other writers who have followed him, have thrown doubts upon the Protestantism of Queen Elizabeth,—assuming that she was only politically Protestant, but in reality as much Romanist as Protestant,—omitting altogether, or but slightly referring to those personal or official acts by which her real Protestant feelings and principles were exemplified. Upon no other ground, indeed, could they justify their persistent opposition to the Queen and those statesmen bishops, and clergy, who sustained her policy of Reformation. I will, therefore, notice some of those incidents in the life and conduct of Elizabeth which indicate the principles and feelings of the woman as well as of the sovereign, and the testimony and acts of her papal enemies as to the genuineness of her Protestantism.

Elizabeth was the only daughter of the beautiful and murdered Queen Anne Boleyn, who, as Strype says, was “a great friend and patroness of the Reformed religion,” “was a maintainer of Dr.

\* From Dr. Ryerson's forthcoming “*History of English Puritanism in Relation to Protestant Unity and Religious Liberty*,” of which these papers form the Thirteenth Chapter.