

in the way of whose ambitious schemes she stood. Even her rival, Anne Boleyn, is made to pay tribute to the virtues of Catharine. She says :—

" And she
So good a lady, that no tongue could ever
Pronounce dishonor of her,—by my life,
She never knew harm doing ;
To give her the avaunt it is a pity,
Would move a monster."

Yet it did not move " Sweet Anne."

No woman-saint in the calendar
hes ever been bequeathed for the

have been found amongst the number of the queen's defenders. Of Wolsey and Anne Boleyn it is not necessary to say much.

It is difficult to discover exactly what part Wolsey had taken in the inception and earlier stages of the divorce ; though he himself stated that, when Catharine first discovered the intrigue, she attributed it to his " procurement and setting forth." This, too, is the view taken by Shakespeare ; although he allows the king to exonerate his minister. The Wolsey of the play



CATHARINE'S DEATH SCENE.

example and edification of posterity, in such a rich halo of virtue and saint-like qualities, as that in which Shakespeare has enshrined this poor, unfortunate queen. When it is borne in mind that Catharine was the true and unswerving daughter of the Catholic Church, that her cause was the Catholic cause, for which her illustrious advocates, Fisher and More, a few years later suffered death, it is not difficult to believe that Shakespeare's sympathies were wholly on the side of truth and justice, and that, had he lived in the days of the divorce, he would

is arrogant, boundlessly ambitious, revengeful, selfish except in his master's interest, a lover of splendor and display, lavish with his money, caring little about Church affairs except in their political aspects, and greatest in his fall. Wolsey went hopelessly wrong when he soiled his hands trying to loose what God had joined together. The outrage put upon the innocent queen cried for revenge, and God's ways subserved the dramatist's ends. Wolsey was the victim ; his downfall, the penalty. Though the queen's enemy, he was no friend to Anne Boleyn, nor did