

THE NATION'S SLEEP

Later on, when Queen Elizabeth with a change of tactics ordered a Welsh translation of the Bible, the fact was not in any way due to a predominance of religious zeal over political policy. The order was simply a piece of political strategy, as one can see by the "proviso" added to the Act of Parliament of 1563, in which the five Welsh bishops are ordered to see that an English prayer-book should henceforward be placed in every Welsh church, so that those who understood the language could make use of it, and those who did not, by comparing the two versions, could as soon as possible gain a knowledge of the English language. With the same intention, William Salisbury, the translator of the New Testament, had already published a Welsh and English dictionary dedicated to Henry VIII. There could be no doubt, therefore, concerning the Tudor attitude towards the language of Wales. Henry VIII. interdicted its use in Courts of Justice, and decreed "that for the future no man making use of the Welsh language could enjoy any fief or office in England, Wales, or any other of the king's domains, under penalty of forfeiture of the said fiefs or offices, unless he was acquainted with and made