

personal popularity and enduring credit have been owing, we think we may find a parallel case, though not altogether a parallel character, in the Grand Monarque, Louis XIV., of France. The resemblance in situation consists in this, that both Louis XIV. and Elizabeth occupied in the histories of their respective countries the same relative position in regard to the old feudal times that preceded them, and the great revolutions which came after them, and by which society was remodelled upon a modern basis. Both of them came after the feudal institutions had waxed old; after the local independencies of the different portions of their dominions, and the different grades of the old society had passed away; and at the exact point in which the feudal monarchy, sapping and absorbing for a time all the other parts of the social system, reached its culminating point, and began to tend towards its decline. This parallel, of course, like every other historical parallel, has many points of contrast. But on the whole, the points of resemblance are striking. Louis XIV. was preceded by that grim subtle tyrant, the eleventh of his own name, who at the close of the civil wars, in which England bore so large a share, labored upon by policy, the power of the great feudal system in the same manner as Henry VII., of England, by like arts, of policy, labored, not unsuccessfully, to the same end. Then come the notable contemporaries Francis I. and Henry VIII.—a period of rude magnificence, coarse sensualism, and half-expiring feudalism. Then came in both countries a time of weakness, of civil, and religious discord, the principles of the Reformation and the Church battling fiercely for dominion, and trying their strength against each other. Then finally appears in each country the period in which Nationality becomes (to the outward eye) complete and fixed for ever. The Huguenots are put down in France, the Catholics in England. The Anglican Church, retained as much as it can of the old Catholic hierarchy, throws off the supremacy of the Holy See, and ranges itself on the side of Protestantism. The Gallican Church, indeed, triumphant over its internal enemies, ranges itself on the other side of the question, but assumes such a national complexion that its allegiance to Rome seems almost doubtful. In both countries the power of the Crown has fixed and established the unbroken unity and oneness of the nation; has isolated it as much as possible from all foreign influences; has melted down all the elements of which the countries were composed into the one common state of being subjects of the respective crowns. The Barons, the Church, the Commons—(quite in France, and almost in England)—and every other feudal element of partial independence, are broken and made subject to the Crown. The Barons become entirely courtiers, ministers, and statesmen; the Church becomes a slave; the Commons become proud of the great power of their arbitrary monarchs. In England the Church is a little more enslaved, and the Commons a little less;

but in two other circumstances the parallel is made tolerably complete. Both countries, thus finding a free scope for internal intellectual development, are also able to employ themselves in an external development by arms—each again after its own fashion; one by iniquitous and bloody wars of aggression on land, the other by shameless piracies on the ocean. These great wars of Elizabeth and Louis once passed, there comes for both nations a time of weakness, imbecility, and disgrace; and then again for each by revolution and rebellion, the great crash, by which the monarchy, reared so high on the overthrow of the feudal system, was itself ruined and overthrown when the fullness of time was come.

Placed at such an auspicious period in the history of the French monarchy, Louis became (in reputation) a great King, though with comparatively little real greatness, except in his skill for putting on the outward garment of greatness, and also in his tact for discerning that capacity in others that would be useful for his own purposes. The same may be said of Elizabeth, though in a somewhat lower degree; because in her the ideal of an outward sham royalty of nature was a good deal more dashed by obvious meannesses and despicable littlenesses than in her renowned compeer. But of both of them it may be said, that fortune surrounding them with great statesmen, great captains, great intellectual notabilities of various kinds, and placing them at a period in which the nations over which they ruled, exulted in the proud feeling of their own nationality and power just then completely developed, and looked to the Crown as the type of that glorious state of things—did indeed thrust upon them all the elements of popularity, and in a manner entreat them to be revered and worshipped at a small price of using the means bestowed on them with a little common sense and ordinary discretion. When to this we add that they were both consummate masters of a rather vulgar kingcraft, we think we have said enough to explain by a parallel the main elements of two very exaggerated reputations. The details of Queen Elizabeth's life are tolerably well known, and we have not space to enter into a minute examination of them. They are well brought out by Miss Strickland in the volume before us, and being here separated from the great events and interests of her reign, they strike us the more fully from the unbroken heap presented to us, in this personal portrait, of unmitigated despicableness. Cruelty, vulgarity, meanness, hypocrisy, and falsehood unparalleled; an ultra-farical vanity; a cold, hard, stony nature, selfish to the last degree; and then, to use Cobbett's somewhat coarse expression, she was "a nasty, libidinous old woman." In very polite and courteous phraseology—this is the picture presented to us by Miss Strickland in her gossiping, graceful memoir. We have no room for detailed criticism, but must now content ourselves with a few extracts.

GRATUITOUS CRUELTY.

A few of the less pleasing traits of Elizabeth's character developed them-

ves this year, among which may be reckoned her unkind treatment of the venerable Dr. Heath, the nonjuring archbishop of York, and formerly councillor. It has been shown, that he performed good and loyal service for Elizabeth, whose doubtful title was established, beyond dispute, by his making her first proclamation a solemn act of both Houses of Parliament. Subsequently, in 1560, he was ordered into confinement in the Tower, because he would not acknowledge Elizabeth's supremacy over the Church. He remained there till he was sent into a sort of prison restraint at one of the houses belonging to his See in Yorkshire. His mode of imprisonment permitted him to take walks for exercise. These rambles could not have been very far, for he was turned of eighty. They were regarded with jealousy, and the following order of council exists, in answer to a letter from Lord Scrope, relative to the examination by him to be taken of Nicholas Heath, with whom his lordship is required to proceed somewhat sharply withal, "to the end, that he should declare the full truth why he wandereth abroad; and if he will not be plain, to use some kind of torture to him, so as to be without any great bodily hurt, and to advertise his (Lord Scrope's) doings herein."

The old man had been on terms of friendship with the queen, had done her worthy service, he had been considered an opponent of persecution, yet could Elizabeth, then little turned of thirty, sit in her conclave, and order the unfortunate prisoner to be pinched with the torture, to reveal some vague and indefinite crime, which perhaps only existed in the suspicions of his enemies.

THE QUEEN'S UNDERSTANDING.

At the very period of this stormy excitement, Elizabeth was secretly amusing herself with the almost exploded chimeras of alchemy, for Cecil, in his diary has noted that, in January, 1567, "Cornelius Lancy, a Dutchman, was committed to the Tower for abusing the queen's majesty, in promising to make the elixir." This imposter had been permitted to have his laboratory at Somerset House, where he had deceived many by promising to convert any metal into gold. To the queen a more flattering delusion had been held forth, even the draught of perpetual life and youth, and her strong intellect had been duped into a persuasion that it was in the power of a foreign empiric to confer the boon of immortality upon her. The particulars of this transaction would doubtless afford a curious page in the personal history of the mighty Elizabeth. That she was a believer in the occult sciences, and an encourager of those who practised the forbidden arts of divination and transmutation, no one who has read the diary of her pet conjuror, Dr. Dee, can doubt. It is probable that he was an instrument used by her to practise on the credulity of other princes, and that, through his agency, she was enabled to penetrate into many secret plots and associations in her own realm. But she placed apparently an absurd reliance on his predictions himself. She

even condescended with her whole court and privy council to visit him one day at Mortlake, when it was her gracious intention to have examined his library, and entered into further conference, but understanding that his wife had only been buried four hours, she contented herself with a peep into his magic mirror, which he brought to her. "Her Majesty," says Dee, "being taken down from her horse by the Earl of Leicester, Master of the Horse, at the Church wall, at Mortlake, did see some of the properties of that glass, to her Majesty's great contentment and delight."

After years of false but not fruitless trickery, he professed to have arrived at the point of projection, having cut a piece of metal out of a brass warming-pan, and merely heating it by the fire and pouring on it a portion of his elixir, converted it into pure silver. He is said to have sent the warming-pan with the piece of silver to the Queen, that she might see with her own eyes the miracle, and be convinced that they were the veritable parts that had been severed from each other, by the exact manner in which they correspond after the transmutation had been effected. His frequent impositions on the judgment of the Queen, did not cure her of the partiality with which she regarded him, and after a long residence on the continent, she wooed him to return to England, which he did, travelling with three coaches, each with four horses, in state, little inferior to that of an ambassador. A guard of soldiers were sent to defend him from molestation or plunder on the road. Immediately on his arrival, he had an audience of the Queen, at Richmond, by whom he was graciously received. She issued her especial orders that he should do what he liked in chemistry and philosophy, and that no one should on any account interrupt him. He held two livings in the church, through the patronage of his royal mistress, though he was suspected by her loyal lieges of being in direct correspondence and friendship with the powers of evil. Elizabeth finally bestowed upon him the chancellorship of St. Paul's Cathedral.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Puseyite Quarrels—St. Leonard's Shore ditch.—Ever since the acceptance by the rector of St. Leonard's of two silver candlesticks, presented for the use of the altar, much quarrelling has existed amongst the parishioners—one party contending that such an offering savoured of Puseyism, the other party insisting that it was quite compatible with orthodoxy. The vestry is divided, and the parish walls covered with placards by the contending parties.—*London Morning Post.*

INCOMBUSTIBLE THATCH.—We recommend to the attention of our farmers, who are in the habit of thatching their barns and out houses with straw, a means whereby they may secure them from the risk of conflagration. It has been proved by repeated experiments that straw, saturated with a solution of lime or common whitewash, is incombustible. The fact is of great importance to the rural population; especially as it is not only rendered fire proof, but more durable. A solution of alum would be equally efficacious in this climate, though more costly.—*Montreal Times.*