

well remarks, "Her capacity was large and forecasting, and the debt of England, of Protestantism, and of humanity, to her character and reign, is incalculable. Without her help, limited and hesitating as it often was, Scotland could not have asserted her independence of France; and the Dutch could not have asserted their independence of Spain; which is in effect to say that Europe could not have been free. The great reaction of Romanism began with her accession, and her policy may be said to have crushed its revived energy, and to have fixed it within limits which it has not since been able to pass."\*

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## A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

BY DR. HOLLAND.

THERE'S a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky  
There's a mother's deep prayer  
And a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire where the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.

In the light of that star  
Lie the ages impearled;  
And that song from afar  
Has swept over the world;  
Every heart is aflame, and the beautiful sing,  
In the homes of the nations, that Jesus is King.

We rejoice in the light,  
And we echo the song  
That comes down through the night,  
From the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely Evangel they bring:  
And we greet in His cradle, our Saviour and King.

\* *Revolutions of English History*, Vol. II., p. 668.