

DRAKE

CHAPTER pass through. The CANONS divide, pass along the step below, and get back to the top step at each end of the CHOIR. The DEAN and the BISHOP remain in the centre of the CHOIR. A BEADLE brings a velvet cushion and places it on the step below the BISHOP]

DOIDGE. What 's he puttin' on step?

TAILOR. A cushion for the Queen to say her prayers on.

MENIENNICK. Id n' her goin' into Church, then?

TAILOR. No. She 's to thank God in the open, before all her people. [To MOTHER MOONE] Think of it! You 'll see the Queen!

MOTHER MOONE. Aw — ! Don't talk to me! — I be all on tenterhooks to see my Tom!

HABERDASHER. Soon now. Here be the flower-girls, to greet the Queen.

[Six girls in white with wreaths on their heads, and bearing rush baskets of flowers come down, R. Distant trumpets]

TAILOR [In great excitement] Hark! The Queen!

[Movement in the CROWD — a surging forward and turning towards L. back, repressed by the PIKE-MEN. Confused cries, murmurs, shouts, but the following words stand out: — "The Queen's coming!" — "The Queen!" — "Where?" — "I see her coach!" — [A CHILD] "Mother, I can't see nothing!" — [The CHILD is lifted shoulder high] "Here she comes!" — "She's got her crown on!" — "Bow-ing and smiling!" — "Look at the flower-girls!" — "Pretty moids!" — "There's Natton!" — "Raleigh! Raleigh!" — "There's old Burghley!" —