

was married to the handsome but shallow Darnley, and within a year, her confidential servant was struck dead in her presence by her rude lords and low-minded husband. Early in the next, she heard the crash of the "Kirk of Field." Two months after that, Bothwell, accompanied by four thousand gentlemen, went to his trial, was acquitted, and, seven days after, possessed a written document, signed by the chief nobility of the realm, recommending him as a proper husband for his Queen, and pledging their lives and fortunes to uphold him as such. In the following two months, she was taken by force, compelled to marry, headed an army, concluded an agreement with the rebel lords, who now blamed the marriage they had advised, and bade adieu to the brave but unprincipled Hepburn. Loch Leven Castle held her for nearly a year. Twelve days saw her romantic escape, her appearance at the head of an army, and her hurried flight into England, being yet barely twenty-six. She had lived in stirring times, and there was no wonder that a nineteen years' imprisonment was irksome to her, or that she should countenance even wild schemes for her emancipation.

Elizabeth's treatment of her cousin has had but few defenders. Their rivalry began when the death of Mary of England left the throne vacant. The King of France had then caused the young Dauphiness to assume the arms, as well as the title of Queen of England. This was a direct challenge of the legitimacy of Elizabeth, and was never forgotten, although Mary made overtures of friendship after landing in Scotland. The influence of England was directed to harassing Mary; so we find plots and counter-plots at the Scottish Court, secretly directed by Cecil, and carried on by Murray and Lethington. There is no doubt that this policy added to the stability of Elizabeth's throne; but to hold Mary accountable for a murder planned by lords in the English interest, is certainly unfair. Many of the rebellions and troubles in Scotland were planned, though not countenanced, at the English Court. Feminine envy, too, had helped to embitter the rivalry. Elizabeth had

long tried to believe herself as beautiful as courtier declared and poet sung; but she could not help knowing, that she was but a very plain woman, and that Mary's beauty was such as made men enthusiasts in her cause. Women are not apt to forget or forgive one whose beauty eclipses theirs, and—

In this, at least, Elizabeth
To womankind was true;
For who would ever bend to her,
When Mary was in view?
Mary, the bright and peerless moon,
That shines aloft in heaven—
Elizabeth, the envious cloud,
That o'er its disc is driven.
What mattered it that flattering knaves,
Proclaimed her Beauty's Queen;
And swore in verse and fulsome rhyme,
That never since the birth of time,
Was such an angel seen;
Each morn and eve, her mirror gave
Their wretched words the lie;
And tho' she fain would have believed,
She could not shut her eye.

Several French writers have lately turned their attention to the scanning of Mary's history, as far as it is in connection with the schemes of the aspiring Guise family; but have made but little real progress, though bold assertion, and cunning innuendo, have been used for her disparagement. Mary was, of course, of no small interest to that family, on account of her position with respect to France in the first place, and afterwards to Scotland and England. That they should have tried to use her acknowledged beauty and fascinations to extend their influence over Spain as well, seems a matter not to be wondered at. The treatment she met with in the latter part of her life, is a stain pretty equally shared by the three nations with which she was connected. All the slurs that may be cast upon her memory can never justify such treatment. When her character is fairly compared with her contemporaries, few, indeed, will appear as spotless as she; and the generality of those who may interest themselves in studying the history of her times, will give as their verdict upon the life of this brilliant woman, but hapless Queen—"More sinned against than sinning."