

of the Church of Rome, to keep the Catholics true to Philip and themselves, to prevent them from rebelling prematurely, to hold them in hand ready to rise at the fitting moment, should other means fail of bringing Elizabeth to reason.”\*

The following extracts of letters from the new Spanish ambassador will show the light in which the character and measures of Elizabeth appeared to Papal eyes, and the schemes that were then being projected to overthrow her Government, and restore the Papal power in England:—

*De Guadra, Bishop of Aquila, to the Duke of Alva.*

“LONDON, May 10, 1559.

“Parliament has risen, and the Queen has confirmed the Acts. It is uncertain whether she will eventually be Head of the Church; at present she calls herself Governor, declining the higher title that she may give it to her husband when she marries. The difference is only in name. The Holy Sacrament was taken away yesterday, and the mass (service) was said in English. The bishops who will not swear will lose their sees; and when they have been all deprived, the Queen will go in progress and institute their successors. Clergy refusing the oath are to lose their benefices. Clergy and laity alike, who speak against the Queen’s doctrines, for the first offence forfeit their properties; for the second their lives.† . . . In the Commons the Queen was compared to Moses, sent by God to deliver his people. Neither the heretics of our time, nor the persecutors of old, ever ventured on so complete a piece of deviltry. Never, I think, was so monstrous an iniquity committed.”

*The Ambassador Bishop to Philip II. of Spain.*

“LONDON, May 30, 1559.

“The Constable Montmorency, with a number of French noblemen, have come over to ratify the Treaty. On Corpus Christi Day they were all at the royal chapel. The Queen placed herself close to the altar and made Montmorency and his companions sit close by her side, much to the scandal of the Catholics to see them in such a place. Some English prayers and psalms and I know not what were read, after which followed some chapters.

“Scotland is in insurrection, and the flame will soon spread here. The Protestants and Catholics hate each other more than ever; and the latter, in

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\* Froude, Vol. VII, pp. 91, 92.

† This is not correct. To refuse the oath of allegiance involved the loss of offices—a condition or tenure on which all public offices are held to this day. “To maintain by writing, printing, teaching, or preaching,” that any foreign power, prelate, or person had authority or jurisdiction in the Queen’s dominions, involved for the first offence forfeiture of personal property; for the second offence *Præmunire*—forfeiture of lands and tenements, goods and chattels, and imprisonment during the Royal pleasure; for the third offence, treason.—1 Eliz. cap. i.