

conduct of the English seamen is summed up by the Ambassador in his appeal to Elizabeth. "Your mariners," he says, "rob my master's subjects on the sea, and trade where they are forbidden to go; they plunder our people in the streets of *your* towns; they attack our vessels in *your* very harbours and take our prisoners from them; *your* preachers insult my master from their pulpits, and when we apply for justice we are answered with threats.

We have borne with these things attributing them rather to passion or rudeness of manners than to any deliberate purpose of wrong; but seeing that there is no remedy and that there is no end, I must now refer to my sovereign to know what I am to do."

Another strong proof of this open commendations of the piracies of the English on the Spanish vessels is found in Aikin's *Court of Elizabeth* which contains a description of the return of Sir Francis Drake from his search for booty in the Spanish colonies.

"Great interest was excited by the arrival in Plymouth harbour in November 1580, of the celebrated Francis Drake from his navigation of a great portion of the globe. National vanity was flattered by the idea that this Englishman should have been the first by whom this great and novel enterprise had been successfully achieved; and both himself and his ship became in an eminent degree the objects of public curiosity and wonder. . . . The wealth which Hawkins had brought home from the plunder of the Spanish settlements, awakened the cupidity, which in that age was a constant attendant on the daring spirit of maritime adventure; and half the youth of the country were on fire to embark in expeditions of pillage and discovery. . . . Drake's captures from the Spaniards had been made under some vague notion of reprisals, *whilst no open war was subsisting* between England and Spain. The Spanish Ambassador, not, it must be confessed, without some reason, branded the proceedings of Hawkins with the reproach of piracy; and demanded restitution of the booty. Elizabeth wavered for some time between admiration for Drake, mixed with a desire of sharing in the profits of his expedition, and a dread of incensing the King of Spain. At length the Queen decided on the part most acceptable to her people—

that of giving public sanction to the action of Drake." In a few months Elizabeth accepted a banquet from Drake on board his ship, and on this occasion conferred upon him the order of knighthood. This was in 1580, and for seven years the English piracies became more daring, and the annual booty was ever on the increase. This then is a second reason for the Spanish Armada.

Elizabeth during her long, and it must be admitted in many respects glorious reign, committed many cruel deeds, and heinous crimes, but history has never ceased to condemn as the most cruel deed and most heinous crime the murder of her cousin Mary Stuart. Mary was undoubtedly the rightful heir to the throne of England, and in dying she had "left to the Spanish King as to the nearest heir in blood of the Catholic faith her rights to the crown, and the hopes of her more passionate adherents were from that moment bound up in the success of Spain." So writes Green in his *History of the English People*. Philip then had claims to the throne of England, and he thought it proper to vindicate them. Philip was the leading prince of the Catholic States of Europe, but this does not mean that he is to be taken as a representative Catholic prince. His conduct towards the Pope, leads us to the contrary opinion. On this occasion he had in mind the restoration of Catholicity in England and for this purpose he applied to Pope Sixtus V for aid in the work.

In the murder of Mary Stuart, Elizabeth had offered a very greivous insult to the majesty of sovereigns and it laid upon the European princes the obligation of avenging the death of Mary by bringing Elizabeth to task. Philip was by all odds the one on whose shoulders this duty fell most heavily. He was the most powerful Catholic prince, and was as we said above in some way a relative of Mary's.

To justify the invasion of England by Philip is the main object of this essay and when the reasons which led Philip to carry out his project are given, we have almost answered the question. Philip had then three distinct motives for the equipping of the Spanish Armada; to resent the interference of Elizabeth in the Netherlands, to revenge the piracies of the English sailors, and to avenge the death of Mary Stuart.