

"In her days every man shall eat in safety,
Under his own vine what he plants; and sing
The merry songs of peace to all his neighbors."

Indeed, there was also fulfilled the earlier prophecy made by Richmond on Bosworth field that the time to come would be enriched

"With smiling plenty, and fair prosperous days."

Shakespeare was showing "the very age and body of the time his form and pressure" when he spoke of "Happy England."

Elizabeth died in 1603, but if we adopt the view of one historian that the Elizabethan age ended with the death of Raleigh—the greatest man of that age, if we omit Shakespeare who belongs to all ages, for Raleigh was both scholar and soldier, a skillful sailor and one of the most sagacious and far-sighted statesmen of our race—the date would be 1616. Yet in 1653, thirty-seven short years after the death of Raleigh, that same England was governed by a Parliament which was dominated by Praise-God Barebone. We must not condemn Barebone too severely, for his companions accounted him a godly man, one of the saints, and he certainly had good intentions, though of the kind with which the infernal regions are said to be paved.

The self-styled Saints, an intolerant and intolerable body of narrow-minded and misguided men, destroyed the Commonwealth of Cromwell and Milton, jeopardized the life-work of broad-minded patriots like Hampden, Elliott and Pym, and were the real cause of the restoration of the arbitrary rule of the Stuarts in the person of Charles II, their most profligate representative.

The reign of the Saints was followed by a sure and swift reaction and, within ten years after Barebone's Parliament ended in popular contempt and general derision, there had begun the era of the most demoralizing licentiousness that the history of England had ever known.

When the present wave of hysteria and repression will end no one knows, but we may all be comforted with the thought that if the good old English principle of Liberty, the eternal principle of Freedom, is not restored to our children it certainly