

most probably have shared their fate, but at the first sign of danger they left their native country. The Duke of Alva, in the name of his royal master, continued his persecution of the people even after the death of these distinguished Catholic noblemen, and everything done by Alva was sanctioned at least implicitly by Philip. Still, Philip had some reason on his side. The Protestants of the Netherlands refusing some of the concessions offered them by Philip broke out into open insurrection. The ministers in the pulpit, instead of teaching their flocks their duties towards God, incited the people to revolt against the rule of Philip. The result was that mobs paraded the streets, broke into churches and destroyed whatever they could lay their hands on; as an example of this we know that the Cathedral of Antwerp was damaged to the amount of four thousand ducats. This spread the flame of rebellion in the Flemish Provinces. Philip soon heard of it. He said he would act and not promise or threaten any more. He sent Alva, and his deeds are known to us. Whilst Alva was ruler of the Netherlands, Elizabeth of England, in a time of profound peace with Philip, seized on the Spanish ships which were bearing treasure and supplies to Alva. The immediate result was embarrassing to Alva and injurious to the Flemish themselves, for as Alva had no supplies for his soldiers he was obliged to quarter them on the inhabitants, who very naturally complained of the heavy taxes imposed upon them, and of the rudeness and insolence of the Spanish soldiery. Alva levied new taxes and at last the people, exasperated beyond measure fitted out privateers which cruised in the English Channel and attacked the Spanish vessels. Their movements were directed from Dover, by Count La Marque, afterwards however the Queen on the remonstrance of Philip or connivance of La Marque ordered the latter to quit her dominions. This then was one reason why Philip should seek revenge on the English.

During the reign of Elizabeth thousands of English pirates infected the Spanish waters. As examples of these we have the needy sons of Lord Cobham who, having earned some notoriety in Wyatt's rebellion, had grown up after the type of their boyhood, irregular, lawless Protestants. One of them in 1563 roved the seas half pirate,

half knight errant of the Reformation, doing battle on his own account with the enemies of the truth (?) wherever the service to God was likely to be repaid with plunder. Thomas Cobham was one of a thousand whom Elizabeth was forced for decency's sake to condemn and disclaim by proclamations, and whom she was as powerless as she was probably unwilling to interfere with in practice. What Cobham was, and what his comrades were may be gathered from a brief narrative of his ruthless exploits. Here is one instance. A Spanish ship was freighted in Flanders for Bilbao. There were also on board forty prisoners, who were going to Spain to serve in the galleys. Thomas Cobham who was cruising in the Channel, caught sight of the ship, chased her down in the Bay of Biscay, fired into her, killed the captain's brother and a number of men, and then boarding when all resistance had ceased sewed up the captain himself and the survivors of the crew in their own sails and flung them overboard. The ship was scuttled; and Thomas Cobham sailed away with the booty, which the English agents admitted was worth fifty thousand ducats, to his retreat in the South of Ireland. This is a fact related in Sir Thomas Chaloner's despatches to Queen Elizabeth. Chaloner was the English Ambassador in Spain. "This fierce deed of young Cobham" writes Mr. Froude "was no dream of Spanish slander."

Cobham was tried for piracy in London; he received a terrible sentence which was never executed, for Elizabeth set him free and allowed him to return to his former avocations.

Throughout his entire reign Philip was a decided opponent of the slave trade. Many business establishments in Spain carried on traffic in negroes, but these transactions never received the sanction of their sovereign. The English Government on the contrary aided and abetted this terrible commerce. Hawkins was the legalised pirate of Elizabeth; his predatory habits were encouraged by her, for she shared his booty. The Spanish Government on one occasion seized upon and confiscated a cargo of negroes, which Hawkins valued at forty thousand ducats. When the Spanish Ambassador drew the attention of Elizabeth to these facts, she promised to make inquiries, but still Hawkins continued his robberies. The