

He wrote Alva to make preparations. The conspirators had asked for 6000 arquebusiers, 2000 for England, 2000 for Ireland, and the same for Scotland. The viceroy was directed to provide 4000 men and 2000 corselets, and keep the matter a profound secret, and Phillip promised to send 200,000 crowns for expenses. Alva had penetration more than his master. He saw the rashness of the scheme, "to provide and despatch 10,000 into the heart of a foreign nation, and keep the matter a profound secret!" Truly, he said, "*this is no trifle*;" yet he had the habit of hypocrisy so common to the times. He applauded the plot, a grand one, and thanked God who had made him vassal of such a master, but in the same breath advised Phillip not to proceed a step till the conspirators had Elizabeth in their power.

All these machinations were soon known in England, and the only result was that Mary was more closely guarded. Norfolk was apprehended, tried and executed, and yet Phillip continued to plot. None but a lunatic, one would think, would continue to conspire after the conspiracy was exposed and the conspirators arrested, and yet this was what Phillip did. Alva complained again, and not without reason. "He was to give no cause of offence to England, and yet send an army into the heart of the country to succor an imprisoned traitor, and keep the matter a secret from his own council." He was too sagacious for such folly. But we are not to suppose that to kill the Queen of England, subvert the laws of her realm, to burn her fleet and butcher her subjects, was work at all revolting to Alva, no, they were objects of his delight, only he wanted more feasibility as to the time and place of execution.

In 1570 a rebellion was fomented in Ireland under the same auspices. Two years afterwards the Queen and her people had an awful example in France on the festival of St. Bartholomew of the terrible nature of the enemy. 1584 brought the discovery of the Throgmorton conspiracy. In the same year a Popish missal was published and circulated in the palace, urging upon the ladies of the household to do to the Queen as Judith had done to Holofernes, that is, slay her while asleep in bed. In 1585 there was a more formidable plot still: a Romanist of the name of Parry, who had been convicted of treason but pardoned by the Queen, went to Milan to consult a Jesuit priest as to the best service he could render to the Church. He was solemnly assured that nothing he could do would be so meritorious as to shoot the Queen of England. The Papal Nuncio of that city was consulted, and gave the project his unqualified approval. He wrote to the Pope, detailing his scheme and asking absolution and benediction. The Pope sent him both with much applause for answer. He came to England, but needing assistance he joined himself to a nobleman in the fiendish work who betrayed him. Parry was tried, condemned and suffered death. *He was one of the martyrs of this reign, and the rest were mostly like him.*

In 1577 the Pope sent a man from Florence commissioned to plot and intrigue to take away her life, that the whole Papal party might be reunited. The next year an Englishman received a similar commission.

But the most memorable plot was still to come. Ballard, a Romish priest, addressed himself to a Romish gentleman of Derbyshire, who was known to be a warm admirer of Mary Queen of Scots; he joined the priest in the plot and secured the co operation of many others. Mary approved and warmly supported their scheme, and had the temerity to promise ample rewards to all the assassins when hers should be the crown. But the plot like the others was betrayed, every conspirator was seized, and sooner or later suffered for their crime.