

recovered themselves and placed on the throne their trusted leader as Henry IV. in 1593. The treachery of Henry IV. in returning to the Roman Catholic fold, and so far forsaking those by whose heroism he had gained his crown, was a grievous disappointment to the Huguenots; but the Edict of Nantes (1618) guaranteed to them a degree of religious liberty (along with onerous restrictions), and a recognized standing in the kingdom.

A. Calvinism.

Calvinism had secured a controlling influence in the Netherlands, and the Dutch Calvinists, under the leadership of William of Orange and of his son Maurice of Nassau, had been able to withstand the concentrated forces and the almost boundless resources of Spain, and after one of the most prolonged and heroic struggles of history to gain a glorious independence in 1609.

Calvinism had invaded Scotland, and under the enthusiastic leadership of John Knox had swept everything before it; and though thwarted and harassed for a generation or more had gained a complete victory in 1592.

In the Palatinate of the Rhine Protestantism had been as far as possible excluded during the early years of the Protestant Revolution. Lutheranism gained some footing about 1550, but by 1563 Calvinism had secured a controlling position.

Calvinism had invaded the strongholds of Lutheranism in Germany and had won to its guarded and secret support the great Melancthon, and at one time was dominant in the University of Wittenberg. Here was a new religious force not provided for in the Treaty of Augsburg that could not long be left out of consideration. It may be remarked just here that Lutherans were for the most part inclined to put the strictest construction on the exclusion of Calvinism from toleration under the Augsburg Treaty, and were glad to see Calvinists persecuted even by their Roman Catholic enemies.

In England, too, Calvinism had gained a firm footing, and during the period under consideration (covering the age of Elizabeth and that of James I.) was a rapidly growing power. Before the close of the Thirty Years' War its energies long pent up were to burst forth with volcanic effect.