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QUEEN ELIZABETH AND THE PAPAL POWER.

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PART II.

THE re-enslavement of England to the Papacy was yet to come. The abortive efforts of the Pope and Philip to dethrone Elizabeth in 1571, and the bull of excommunication, and the conspiracies and Spanish forces by which it was hoped to be accomplished, were renewed upon a larger scale, and culminated in 1588,—“that memorable year when the dark cloud gathered around our coasts; when Europe stood in fearful surprise to behold what should be the result of that great cast in the game of human politics; what the craft of Rome, the power of Philip, the genius of Farnese could achieve against the island-queen, with her Drakes and Cecils, in that agony of the Protestant faith and English name.”*

The conspiracies and intended invasions of 1569 and 1570—assured of success by the crowning act of the Pope’s Bull of excommunication of the Queen, and incitement to universal revolt of her papal subjects—had ended disastrously to its authors and harmlessly to England; but from 1570, Philip seriously meditated

* Hallam, Chap. III., p. 125.