

was it that revived the dying fires of persecution? "And now," says Motley, "the hour had come when the Jesuits thought that they might step openly with their works into the daylight again. Of late years they had shrouded themselves in comparative mystery, but from their seminaries and colleges had gone forth a plentiful company of assassins against Elizabeth and Henry, Nassau, Barneveldt, and others who whether avowedly or involuntarily were prominent in the party of human progress. Some important murders had already been accomplished, and the prospect was fair that still others might follow if the Jesuits persevered. Meantime these ecclesiastics thought that a wholesome example might be set to humbler heretics by the spectacle of a public execution." The historian then gives the story of Anna van den Hove, a poor servant girl who while her two mistresses had gone back to Roman Catholicism remained steadfast in the Reformed faith, and whom the Jesuits denounced to the civil authority, demanding her execution under a statute then deemed obsolete. The girl refused to apostatize. "So Anna van den Hove was led, one fine midsummer morning, to the hayfield outside of Brussels, between two Jesuits, followed by a number of a peculiar kind of monks called love-brothers. These holy men goaded her as they went, telling her that she was the devil's carrion and calling on her to repent at the last moment and thus save her life and escape eternal damnation beside. But the poor girl had no ear for them, and cried out that like Stephen she saw the heaven opening and the angels stooping down to conduct her far away from the power of the evil one. When they came to the hayfield they found the pit already dug and the maid-servant was ordered to descend into it. The executioner then covered her with earth up to the waist and a last summons was made to her to renounce her errors. She refused and then the earth was piled upon her and the hangman jumped upon the grave till it was flattened and firm." Has the Jesuit changed and become a convert to toleration, as Sir John Thompson and Sir John Macdonald would have us believe? It was no longer ago