

the fold. Part of the mover was diplomatic and part political. Henry did not want to fight a war with France and the Empire over his moves and the pope had called for such a war. So while he made diplomatic moves on one side, he made tactical moves on the other in order that he might show himself a good Catholic save in subjection to the Roman pontiff. The first and most notable of these moves was the SIX ARTICLES of 1539. These reinstated the ideas of transubstantiation, called for all clergy who had married to give up their wives, etc. His movements in this way befuddled the English people and the continental critics. He died, so to speak, just in the nick of time in 1547.

Thomas Cranmer

Thomas Cranmer

A word is deserved for Thomas Cranmer, architect of most of the good Henry achieved and a force in the English church for more than twenty years. Archbishop of Canterbury after 1533, Cranmer had a knack for knowing when to stand up and when to sit down...he did not needlessly argue with the king, but did speak with courage when incidents seemed to merit it and withstood the danger of brooking the king's irritation. Cranmer would eventually be martyred (1556) in the days of Mary, daughter of Catherine of Aragon, but he served England in supporting the English Bible, working out new rituals and liturgy, and giving form to the articles that would mark the Anglican church in time to come. He was not always successful, most notably failing to save Thomas Cromwell after the latter fell from Henry's favor in 1540, and he also went through a short disaffection late in his life. But he died strongly and in some ways he is the spiritual heart and head of the English reformation...a man who grows into the truth better the longer we know him.

The Reign of Edward VI (1547-1553)

Edward VI

Immortalized in Mark Twain's THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER, Edward was but nine years old when brought to the throne. He was one of Henry's three living children, the son of Jane Seymour who died twelve days after his birth, the only male heir. Being too young to rule personally, he was under the tutelage of Lord Somerset as protector until 1549. Uneven economic policies followed and with the marriage of Mary of Scotland to Francis II of France, it was rumored