

there would be a French invasion of England to return the land to Catholic power. Edward could not do much on his own and the leadership of parliament was what moved England during these years. The French invasion did not come, incidentally, although the league between France and Scotland is one of those interesting international ploys that very often is decisive in key issues.

Parliament, 1547, immediately repealed Henry's Six Acts. They had not been popular and his corpse was hardly "cold" (as they say) until Parliament was ready to repeal. In 1549 they made official legislation allowing priests to marry and gave also the first Act of Uniformity, a law ordering the nature of worship services so as to disallow diversion and dissent. Also issued was the book of COMMON PRAYER, re-issued in 1552 and called the FIRST PRAYER BOOK OF EDWARD VI. The prayer book was beneficial to the general English church populace but the acts of uniformity would soon become thorns in the flesh to all who had any disagreement whatsoever with the establishment. Finally, in 1552, Parliament passed the Forty-Two Articles of the English church...later to be reduced to the Thirty Nine Articles. These were progressively protestant and calvinistic and enjoyed the contributions of a number of leading theologians, one of whom was John Knox.

Edward did not live long. The last four years of his life found Cranmer in the dominant role. The movement was decidedly in the reformed direction and a lot of progress was made. But Edward was sickly (tuberculosis is suspected) and he died quietly leaving no heir of his own. At his death some suggested the throne might pass to Lady Jane Grey, a remote cousin, in the interests of protestantism. But it was only realistic that it should continue in the Tudor line and that Henry's next oldest child should come to the throne. That was Mary, daughter of Catherine. She was strongly Romanist and bitter over the passing of her mother and the personal abuse she had suffered in those years. Her attempts to return England to Rome would catapult the nation into spiritual disorder but, as is often the case, unwittingly firm up the reformational moves. Indirectly she will do more to solidify the Reformation than might otherwise have been expected.

II.7.d Mary

The Reign of Mary 1553-1558

Mary was the oldest living child of Henry VIII