

and died bravely...holding his right hand into the flames that it which had betrayed him should be the first member to perish. More than 300 martyr fires were thus lighted and the purges are annotated in FOXE'S BOOK OF MARTYRS. The total number of deaths would have been negligible in some Romanist countries but England was not used to that sort of thing in that degree and it eventually proved an appalling setting for the English church.

In England even many Romanists were offended at the purges and Mary's popular opinion fell even lower. A feeling of hate was generated towards the queen that weighed on her personally. She died under great stress in 1558, unhappy and separated by the ocean from the melancholy Philip. In her death she left Catholicism discredited and in an obvious need for reformation. Cardinal Pole, we may add, died the same day as did the queen.

II.7.e Elizabeth

The Reign of Elizabeth 1556-1603

In 1558 Elizabeth succeeded her sister on the English throne. She was the last of Henry's children to hold the sceptre and by far the most able. She was, in practice, the male heir Henry desired and it is too bad he did not see the possibility in a strong queen before making shipwreck of so many lives. Elizabeth is one of the most outstanding of the rulers of England and her ability to govern and secure her own way in spite of enormous opposition at times, is an historic study in personality. She would rule England until 1603 with an iron hand and would exercise considerable influence on the continent as well. Her policies would make for the ultimate success of protestantism in England and in the Low countries on the continent. Indirectly she would see the beginning of the demise of Spain as a national power. But her early moves went by caution and she thus avoided a big public image of reactionism.

In 1559 a new Supremacy Act designated her as head of the church but the term used was "Supreme Governor" not "head" of the body. A new act of uniformity was given that year with new prayer books. The new archbishop of Canterbury came in 1559 (Parker) when the Apostolic Succession barely survived and the Anglican church as we will later know it was born. Her time was the Golden Age of literature in England (Shakespeare, et al) and a time of