

the great development of England's international strengths. At only one point in her entire reign did she appear indecisive and this had nothing to do with the church...more an affair of the heart!...and so we leave the Elizabethan age until we resume it in the next period of our study.

Had Henry survived to watch Elizabeth work, he would have expressed a certain satisfaction. Although more cultured, moral, and spiritual, she was in the important areas of court, politics, and national policy, a "chip off the old block, so to speak.

### THE ANABAPTIST MOVEMENT

#### II.8 Anabaptists

As the study in church history narrows, we often do not have time to look in detail at many aspects that are deserving of more attention. From this position we have not studied the anabaptist moves as much as should be done in the light of their later contributions to the American ecclesiology, in particular and the ecclesiastical setting in general. In the reformation period, however, it was almost an incidental affair and that is why relatively little attention has been given it thus far.

The Anabaptist move had neither governmental backing nor overwhelming popular support. Its chief claim to fame was a uniform hatred it inherited from Catholic, Lutheran, and reformed bodies. The nature of the movements does not allow for categorization and this makes it hard to define the varied aspects. There was little uniformly true about the many anabaptist groups save the concept of re-baptism and resentment of papal authority and governmental interference.

Contrary to much opinion, most of the early anabaptists were not immersionists although this view grew in popularity as time went on. They did emphasize, among other things, "believer's baptism" by whatever means. They opposed state-churches and formality as well as formal clerical study. Some opposed the military orders of the day and most frowned on worldliness as a rule of life. We may say that the Reformers in general did not understand the Anabaptists and likely did not try somewhat due to the diversity of the group and the lack of patience shown in the reformers for varying opinions. With their insistence against education many anabaptist