

agrarian background. James V (1513-1542) had married Mary of Lorraine (France) and the Scottish and French thrones had been marked for a lot of intrigue thereafter although there had been other French sympathies in Scotland for some time as a part of the "hate the English move". But from the marriage of James V and Mary of Lorraine came Mary, Queen of Scots. Scotland had been thoroughly Roman and martyrs had been common before 1550. The most notable had been the reformer, George Wishart, martyred in 1546. Associated with the persecutors was the infamous Cardinal Beaton and a long line of Roman prelates who suppressed evangelical dissent.

John Knox

Born in 1505, Knox became part of the protestant party in 1547 and went to the continent in the days of Edward of England. He was in Geneva in 1554 and studied at Calvin's school and under the strong influence of Beza. He returned to Scotland for about 6 months in 1555 and preached evangelical dogma in spite of the hostile actions of the Queen Regent (Mary of Lorraine) who held a guardianship over the Scots throne until 1560. In 1558 Elizabeth took the throne in England and in 1560 Mary of Lorraine died and her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots, returned to Scotland (from France) to rule in 1561. Knox had just returned as well. Knox was not disposed to a queen and had written a book on the evils of having a woman for a ruler...the book was published in England, unfortunately, just as Elizabeth was taking the throne. It made a bad impression on Elizabeth who, we are told, did not think much of Knox or his opinions thereafter. Elizabeth was not the target of the book, of course, but the timing made it a mistake for Knox.

There was immediate conflict between Mary and Knox. He resented her Romanism in the uncertain ecclesiastical lay of Scotland and he was appalled at her attempts to dominate through subtlety and femininity. Mary was most attractive and not above the use of feminine wiles (whatever they are!) to have her own way. It was a difficult situation as the most prominent and best-heard preacher and the Queen were in total variance. In 1565 Mary wed Lord Darnley and to them eventually was born a son, James VI of Scotland and in time to be James I of England, in 1566. Darnley was less than an ideal biblical husband and was ferociously jealous of Mary's secretary, David Riccio. He apparently was responsible for the frightful assassination of Riccio when he was pulled