

sharpened intellect and strong will, with a fine ecclesiastical schooling at the hands of Bishop Hooper, and possessed of an uncanny sense of what was politically profitable, returned England to a good economy and many other favorable conditions. She had the help of some strong nobles but the real work was her own and it has earned her the reputation of being one of the most capable of all English rulers. She was the daughter of Anne Boleyn and so held in scorn by the Roman parties, but she was the only surviving child of Henry and had the better claim to the throne of England although there were some disputants in the wings, had she faltered. Literature came to a new height in her time, the English renaissance flourished, and by the time of her death, England had become a power in the fullest sense of the word.

Elizabeth and the Church

It is not easy to tell what Elizabeth's true spiritual interests were other than the fact that she was not loyal to the papacy. She recoiled from the Roman institution but was slow in making any total showing of this as she maintained many of its ceremonial forms which she seemed to enjoy. In 1559 Parliament enacted a new Supremacy Act in which she was declared to be the supreme Governor of the church (she had previously rejected the concept of the term "head"). This action was forged in the house of Commons and somehow moved through the laborious and Roman-oriented House of Lords. The same year saw a new Uniformity Act but the absolute enforcement of this was deferred for some time. While the Supremacy Act called for the immediate submission of all bishops the lesser clergy were given more time to think about it and make up their minds. Of the sixteen resident bishops none yielded to the act and all were removed from office. The Canterbury position was open (Cardinal Pole having died the same day as did Queen Mary) and the position was secured for Matthew Parker. Some of the Bishops of Edward's day, having been removed during Mary's reign, were returned to office and a few new bishops appointed. All were urged to secure the loyalty of the lesser clergy and that took some time. Elizabeth enjoyed the church leadership of some capable men at Canterbury. Parker headed the church until 1576 and he was succeeded by Grindal who in 1583 was followed by Whitgift until 1604. These were men of reformed convictions and they worked within the good offices of the queen to make the church progressively more Anglican...while retaining such ceremonies and services as were desired in the royal favor.