

been some work accomplished on this line, what they really did was to earn the suspicion of the Catholic leaders on the continent, and as was true of Pole earlier, they were too English for Rome and too Roman for England. They did provide spiritual help to the sequestered Catholics that remained in England and provided tracts, breviaries, etc.

### The Campaigns of Philip II

As king of the Spain and the most powerful of the Catholic leaders, Philip had some remote claim on the English throne due to his marriage to Mary. In a self appointed role as Roman hero, Philip II was determined to hold the Netherlands as a Spanish possession and to conquer England. He was, as almost all the books will tell you, "slow on the draw," however. In most cases where action was required, Philip was suspicious of his leaders, jealous of others, and usually offered too little, too late. In the Netherlands, suspicious of the generals, he interchanged commanders and hampered their successes. The need for fighting the French sapped his strength as well. But by 1585 he was fighting a strong campaign in the Lowlands and was insisting on a plan to take England.

In achieving his goals, Philip had attempted to get to England through Mary, Queen of Scots. Having been the husband of Mary Tudor, he conceived of a real interest in England and by 1588 had raised a great sum of money, equipped a vast land army, and placed a flotilla at sea that was the largest seen in recent history...maybe ever. This was the famous Armada. Due to the intervention of Providence, the courage of the English seamen, and the successful resistance of the Dutch in the areas where Philip thought he would have them beaten, the war plans were overcome. With the destruction of the Armada and the loss of the Netherlands, the Spanish power moved into a period of demise and that land would never rise to such a world force pinnacle again. Students interested in reading of this age will find Mattingly, *THE SPANISH ARMADA*, and the more recent historical novel, *ELIZABETH THE GREAT*, fascinating reading material. For a better understanding of the wars in the Netherlands and the career of Philip in conflict with the Dutch, try the selective passages in Motley: *THE RISE OF THE DUTCH REPUBLIC*.

### The Conspiracies

Along with the Douai ministry and the