

At length she lay propped up on cushions on the floor,<sup>1</sup> "tired," as she said, "of reigning and tired of life." In that sullen mood she departed to join that silent majority whose realm under earth is bounded by the sides of the grave. "Four days afterward," says a writer of that time, "she was forgotten."

One may see her tomb, with her full-length, recumbent effigy, in the north aisle of Henry VII's Chapel (Westminster Abbey), and in the opposite aisle the tomb and effigy of her old rival and enemy, Mary Queen of Scots (§ 449). The sculptured features of both look placid. "After life's fitful fever they sleep well."

**457. Summary.** — The Elizabethan period was in every respect remarkable. It was great in its men of thought, and equally great in its men of action. It was greatest, however, in its successful resistance to the armed hand of religious oppression. Protestantism was formally and finally established in England under the National Church.

The defeat of the Armada gave renewed courage to the cause of the Reformation, not only in England, but in every Protestant country in Europe. It meant that a movement had begun which, though it might be temporarily hindered, would at last secure to all civilized countries the right of private judgment and of liberty of conscience.

#### GENERAL VIEW OF THE TUDOR PERIOD (1485-1603)

I. GOVERNMENT. — II. RELIGION. — III. MILITARY AFFAIRS. — IV. LITERATURE, LEARNING, AND ART. — V. GENERAL INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. — VI. MODE OF LIFE, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS.

##### GOVERNMENT

**458. Absolutism of the Crown; Free Trade; the Post-Office.** — During a great part of the Tudor period the power of the Crown was well-nigh absolute. Four causes contributed to this: 1. The destruction of a very large part of the feudal nobility by the Wars of the

<sup>1</sup> See Delaroche's fine picture, *The Death of Queen Elizabeth*.

Roses.<sup>1</sup> 2. The removal of many of the higher clergy from the House of Lords.<sup>2</sup> 3. The creation of a new nobility dependent on the king. 4. The desire of the great body of the people for "peace at any price."

Under Henry VII and Elizabeth the courts of Star-Chamber and High Commission exercised arbitrary power, and often inflicted cruel punishments for offences against the Government, and for heresy or the denial of the religious supremacy of the sovereign.

Henry VII established a treaty of free trade, called the "Great Intercourse," between England and the Netherlands. Under Elizabeth the first postmaster-general entered upon his duties, though the post-office was not fully established until the reign of her successor.

##### RELIGION

**459. Establishment of the Protestant Church of England.** — Henry VIII suppressed the Roman Catholic monasteries, seized their property, and ended by declaring the Church of England independent of the Pope. Thenceforth, he assumed the title of Head of the National Church. Under Edward VI Protestantism was established by law. Mary led a reaction in favor of Roman Catholicism, but her successor, Elizabeth, reinstated the Protestant form of worship. Under Elizabeth the Puritans demanded that the National Church be purified from all Catholic forms and doctrines. Severe laws were passed under Elizabeth for the punishment of both Catholics and Puritans, all persons being required to conform to the Church of England.

##### MILITARY AFFAIRS

**460. Arms and Armor; the Navy.** — Though gunpowder had been in use for two centuries, yet full suits of armor were still worn during a great part of the period. An improved match-lock gun, with the pistol, an Italian invention, and heavy cannon were introduced. Until the death of Henry VIII foot-soldiers continued to be armed with the long-bow; but under Edward VI that weapon was superseded by

<sup>1</sup> In the last Parliament before the Wars of the Roses (1454) there were fifty-three temporal peers; at the beginning of the reign of Henry VII (1485) there were only twenty-nine.

<sup>2</sup> Out of a total of barely ninety peers, Henry VIII, by the suppression of the monasteries, removed upwards of thirty-six abbots and priors. He, however, added five new bishops, which made the House of Lords number about fifty-nine.



firearms. The principal wars of the period were with Scotland, France, and Spain, the last being by far the most important, and ending with the destruction of the Armada.

Henry VIII established a permanent navy, and built several vessels of upwards of one thousand tons register. The largest men-of-war under Elizabeth carried forty cannon and a crew of several hundred men.

#### LITERATURE, LEARNING, AND ART

**461. Schools.**—The revival of learning gave a great impetus to education. The money which had once been given to monasteries was now spent in building schools, colleges, and hospitals. Dean Colet established the free grammar school of St. Paul's, several colleges were endowed at Oxford and Cambridge, and Edward VI opened upwards of forty charity schools in different parts of the country, of which the Blue-Coat School, London, is one of the best known. Improved text-books were prepared for the schools, and Lilye's "Latin Grammar," first published in 1513 for the use of Dean Colet's school, continued a standard work for over three hundred years.

**462. Literature; the Theatre.**—The latter part of the period deserves the name of the "Golden Age of English Literature." More, Sydney, Hooker, Jewell were the leading prose writers; while Spenser, Marlowe, Jonson, and Shakespeare represented the poets.

In 1574 a public theatre was erected in London, in which Shakespeare was a stockholder. Not very long after, a second was opened. At both these (the Globe and the Blackfriars) the great dramatist appeared in his own plays, and in such pieces as "King John," "Richard the Third," and the Henrys, he taught his countrymen more of the true spirit and meaning of the nation's history than they had ever learned before. His historical plays are chiefly based on Holinshed and Hall, two chroniclers of the period.

**463. Progress of Science; Superstitions.**—The discoveries of Columbus, Cabot, Magellan, and other navigators, had proved the earth to be a globe. Copernicus, a Prussian astronomer, now demonstrated the fact that it both turns on its axis and revolves around the sun, but the discovery was not accepted until many years later.

On the other hand, astrology, witchcraft, and the transmutation of copper and lead into gold were generally believed in. In preaching before Queen Elizabeth, Bishop Jewell urged that stringent measures

be taken with witches and sorcerers, saying that through their demoniacal acts "your Grace's subjects pine away even unto death, their color fadeth, their flesh rotteth." Lord Bacon and other eminent men held the same belief, and many persons eventually suffered death for the practice of witchcraft.

**464. Architecture.**—The Gothic, or Pointed, style of architecture reached its final stage (the Perpendicular) in the early part of this period. The first examples of it have already been mentioned at the close of the preceding period (see § 376). After the close of Henry VII's reign no attempts were made to build any grand church edifices until St. Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt by Wren, in the seventeenth century, in the Italian, or classical, style.

In the latter part of the Tudor period many stately country-houses<sup>1</sup> and grand city mansions were built, ornamented with carved wood-work and bay-windows. Castles were no longer constructed, and, as the country was at peace, many of those which had been built were abandoned, though a few castellated mansions like Thornbury, Gloucestershire, were built in Henry VIII's time. The streets of London still continued to be very narrow, and the tall houses, with projecting stories, were so near together at the top that neighbors living on opposite sides of the street might almost shake hands from the upper windows.

#### GENERAL INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

**465. Foreign Trade.**—The geographical discoveries of this period gave a great impulse to foreign trade with Africa, Brazil, and North America. The wool trade continued to increase, and also commerce with the East Indies. In 1600 the East India Company was established, thus laying the foundation of England's Indian empire, and ships now brought cargoes direct to England by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

Sir Francis Drake did a flourishing business in plundering Spanish settlements in America and Spanish treasure-ships, and Sir John Hawkins became wealthy through the slave trade,—kidnapping negroes on the coast of Guinea, and selling them to the Spanish West India colonies. The domestic trade of England was still carried on

<sup>1</sup> Such as Hatfield House, Knowle and Hardwick Hall; and, in London, mansions similar to Crosby Hall.



largely by great annual fairs. Trade, however, was much deranged by the quantities of debased money issued under Henry VIII and Edward VI.

Elizabeth reformed the currency, and ordered the mint to send out coin which no longer had a lie stamped on its face, thereby setting an example to all future governments, whether monarchical or republican.

#### MODE OF LIFE, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS

**466. Life in the Country and the City.** — In the cities this was an age of luxury; but on the farms the laborer was glad to get a bundle of straw for a bed, and a wooden trencher to eat from. Vegetables were scarcely known, and fresh meat was eaten only by the well-to-do. The cottages were built of sticks and mud, without chimneys, and were nearly as bare of furniture as the wigwam of an American Indian.

The rich kept several mansions and country-houses, but paid little attention to cleanliness; and when the filth and vermin in one became unendurable, they left it "to sweeten," as they said, and went to another of their estates. The dress of the nobles continued to be of the most costly materials and the gayest colors.

At table a great variety of dishes were served on silver plate, but fingers were still used in place of forks. Tea and coffee were unknown, and beer was the usual drink at breakfast and supper.

Carriages were not in use, except by Queen Elizabeth, and all journeys were performed on horseback. Merchandise was also generally transported on pack-horses, the roads rarely being good enough for the passage of wagons. The principal amusements were the theatre, dancing, masquerading, bull and bear baiting (worrying a bull or bear with dogs), cock-fighting, and gambling.

## SECTION IX

"It is the nature of the devil of tyranny to tear and rend the body which he leaves." — MACAULAY.

### BEGINNING WITH THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS, AND ENDING WITH THE DIVINE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE

#### KING or PARLIAMENT?

##### HOUSE OF STUART (1603-1649, 1660-1714)

JAMES I, 1603-1625.

CHARLES I, 1625-1649.

"THE COMMONWEALTH AND

PROTECTORATE," 1649-1660.

CHARLES II, 1660-1685.

JAMES II, 1685-1688.

WILLIAM & MARY,<sup>1</sup> 1689-1702.

ANNE, 1702-1714.

**467. Accession of James I.** — Elizabeth was the last of the Tudor family. By birth, James Stuart, only son of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, and great-grandson of Margaret, sister of Henry VIII, was the nearest heir to the crown.<sup>2</sup> He was already King of Scotland under the title of James VI. He now, by act of Parliament, became James I of England.<sup>3</sup> By his accession the two countries were united under one sovereign, but each retained its own Parliament, its own National Church, and its own laws.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Orange-Stuart.

<sup>2</sup> See table, § 420.

<sup>3</sup> See Taswell-Langmead's Constitutional History of England.

<sup>4</sup> On his coins and in his proclamations, James styled himself King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland. But the term Great Britain did not properly come into use until somewhat more than a hundred years later, when, by an act of Parliament under Anne, Scotland and England were legally united.

The English Parliament refused to grant free trade to Scotland and denied to the people of that country, even if born after James I came to the English throne (or "Post Nati," as they were called), the rights and privileges possessed by natives of England.