Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

Documents Online

Title: "Spirit of Britain" Section 01, by Montagu F. Modder

Date: circa 1950

Location: MC 2002.1

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

(Section III)

THE SPIRIT OF BRITAIN

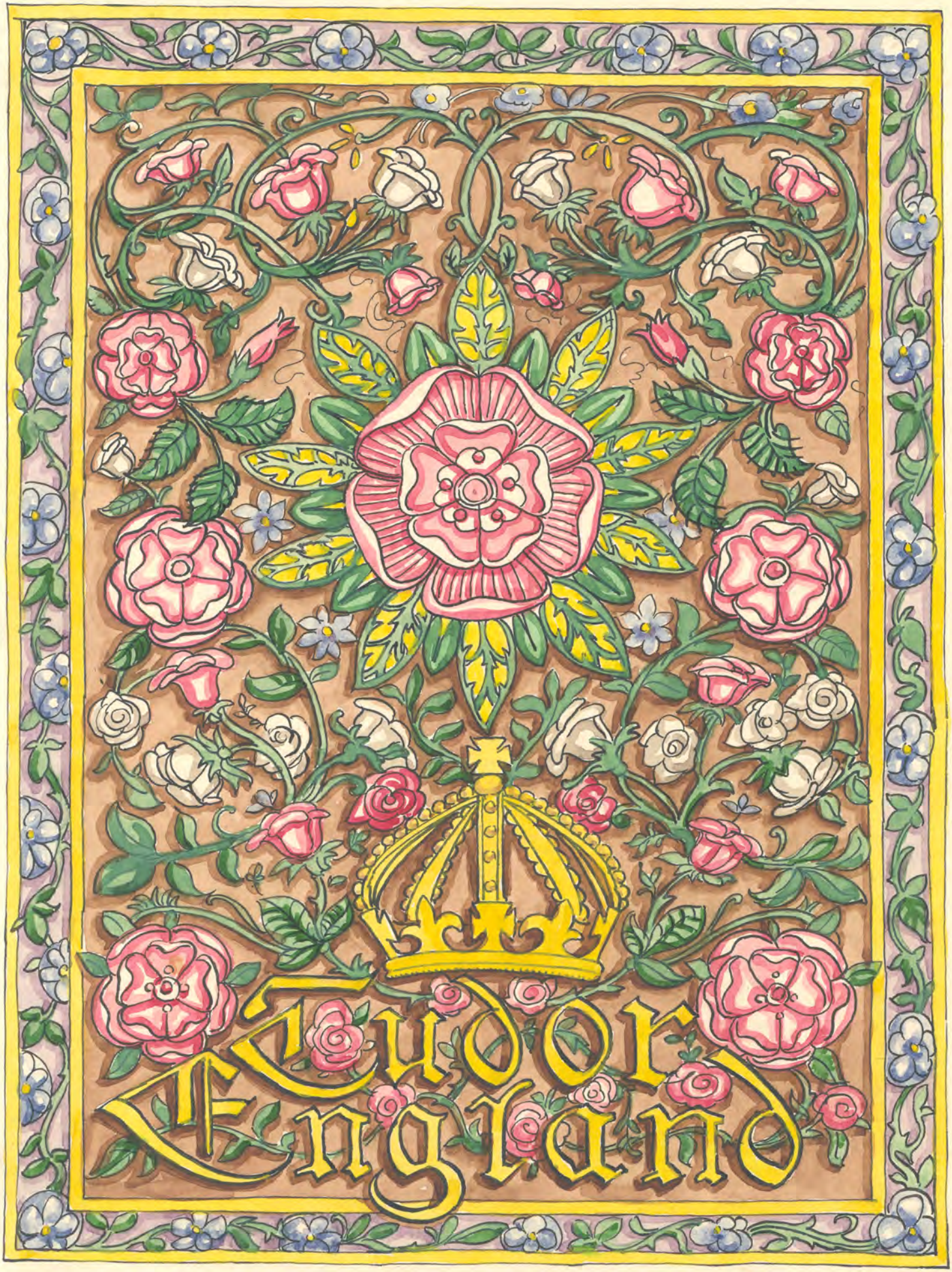
A Literary and Historcial and Social
Adventure in Understanding

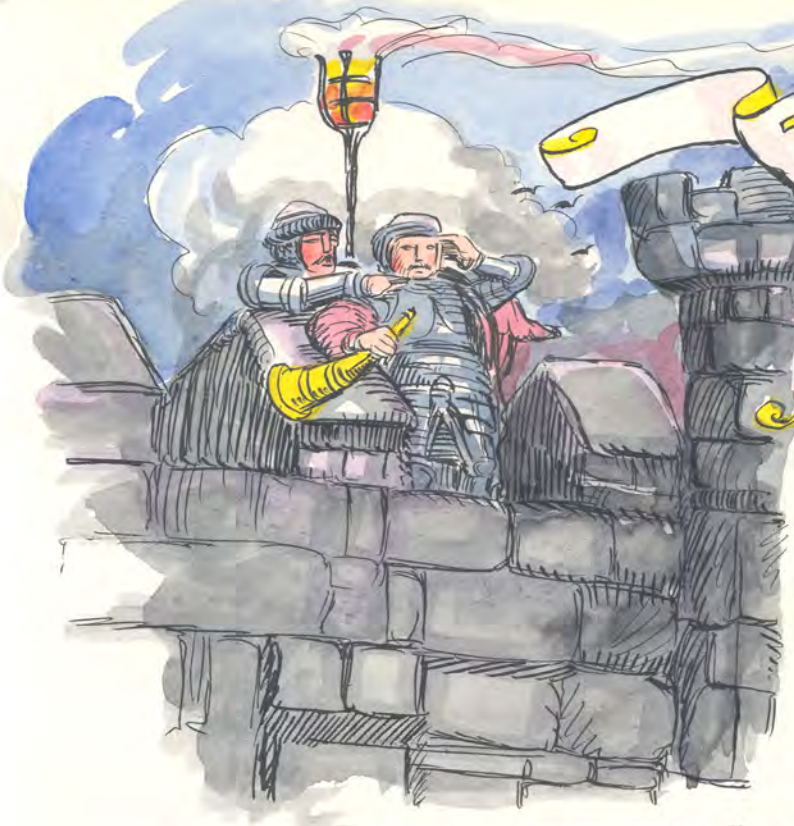
Written and Illustrated
by Montagu Frank Modder

The Pageant of English Literature

ILLUSTRATIONS BY

MONTAGU F. MODDER


Tudor
England

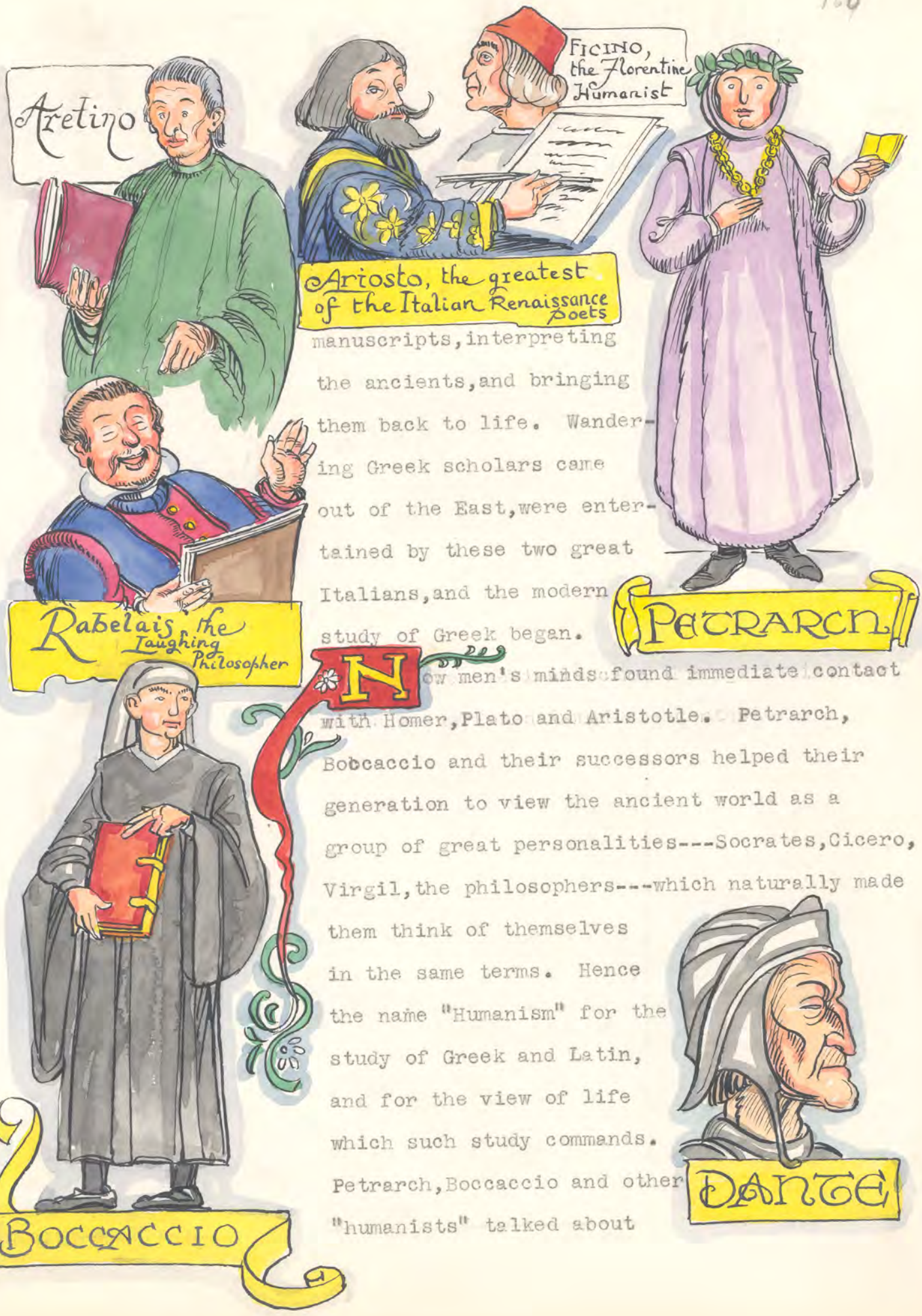


New Horizons

Now we come to a turning-point in the history of England. We have reached the period when our modern world began to be born. It is the period when "the old order changeth, giving place to new, And God fulfils Himself in many ways."

Throughout Europe, a general revival of Culture---nourished on the rediscovery of the civilization of Greece and Rome---was growing in influence and power. From I450 on, a new science and new political theories were gaining ground. This Renaissance---this New Birth---this revolution in the mind of Europe ---gave rise to tremendous changes in the life, art, and ideals of the peoples of Italy, France and Germany, and, in time, modified and transformed the social organization of England.

In Italy, the great revival set in, when Dante, in his Divine Comedy, gave his readers a new sense of the human reality of Latin poets, especially Virgil. Petrarch and Boccaccio spent most of their great genius collecting



manuscripts, interpreting the ancients, and bringing them back to life. Wandering Greek scholars came out of the East, were entertained by these two great Italians, and the modern study of Greek began.

Now men's minds found immediate contact with Homer, Plato and Aristotle. Petrarch, Boccaccio and their successors helped their generation to view the ancient world as a group of great personalities---Socrates, Cicero, Virgil, the philosophers---which naturally made them think of themselves in the same terms. Hence the name "Humanism" for the study of Greek and Latin, and for the view of life which such study commands. Petrarch, Boccaccio and other "humanists" talked about

Homer, Cicero, and Plato as if they were friends in the flesh, and wrote letters to them!

The re-found treasures of the classics disclosed a new philosophy of life, and the newly-discovered art of printing carried learning and literature to wider circles.

What was this new philosophy of life? Stated in simple terms, it was based on the idea that man should develop all his powers for action and knowledge, and all his capacities for enjoyment of earthly existence.

Accompanying this intellectual movement was a new interest in the phenomena of nature. Since ancient times, magic and various forms of superstition had influenced ideas of religion, of social behaviour, of medicine and the treatment of disease. Of experimental and laboratory science little was known. But in 1543, Copernicus, a Polish scholar, published a little book about the relation of the earth to the sun and other heavenly bodies. This book gradually helped to transform knowledge.....Most particularly about Man himself. For centuries, it

The Nave of Gloucester Cathedral

was believed that the World was an evil place, at best a place of preparation for the hereafter. To the Medieval man, this life was but a pilgrimage from this world to the next. The new philosophy of the Renaissance was based on the transforming view that this life, this world, had possibilities of its own. Man could make something of his time while on the road to Heaven! It was possible to live, not merely to wait; to think of improving the present, not to fix all one's thoughts on the destination.

Leonado Da Vinci
the most Civilized man of his day

As a result of "the rebirth of

learning", an infinite curiosity about life and conditions on this globe became wide-spread. The journeys of explorers, and the investigations of astronomers and other scientists, led to inquiry and lively interest in the intellectual and emotional life of all men. Plato's dialogs on love and Beauty were used as the basis of discussions in academies. Skill in conversation, and the ability to tell a good story, were cultivated and studied. Business and trade afforded new opportunities to the ambitious youth, to whom the many-sided appeal of life was made attractive in the new descriptions of the Ideal courtier, the Ideal citizen, the Ideal statesman, and so forth. Gradually, other-worldly ideas gave way to this-worldly views. Men took a greater interest in their homes, their cities, and their personal creature comforts. Dress and entertainment became the rule.

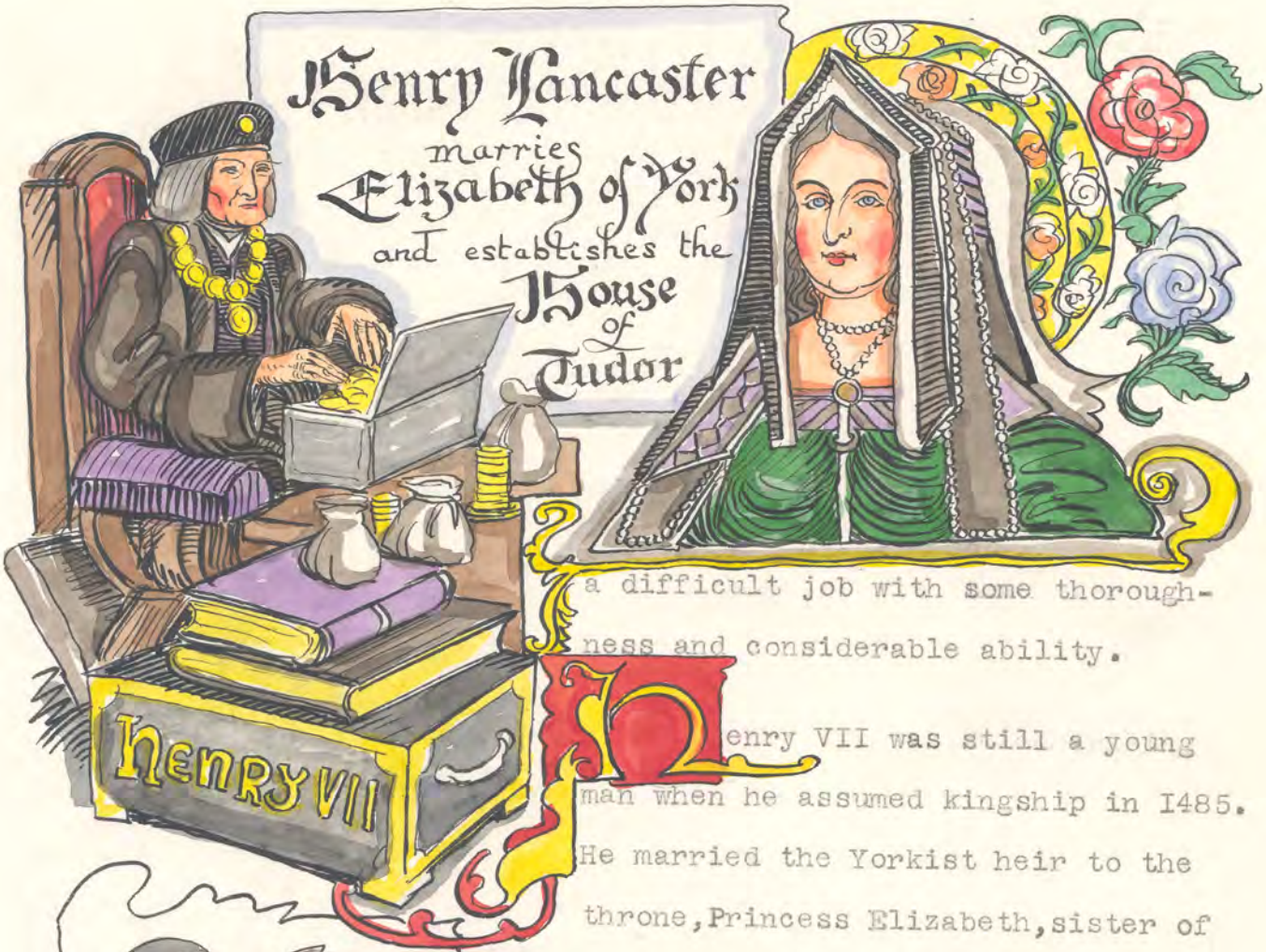
Such illustrations might be multiplied indefinitely. Their chief value to us lies in their testimony to the Renaissance love of life for its own sake. And all this is to serve merely as an introduction to the

new age in England---the beginning of a modern period in English life, The Tudor Regime.

> O, now, let Richmond and Elizabeth,
> The true succeeders of each royal house,
> By God's fair ordinance conjoin together!
> And let their heirs, God, if thy will be so,
> Enrich the time to come with smooth-fac'd Peace,
> With smiling Plenty and fair prosperous days.

So sang Shakespeare, in the final scene of Richard III. With Henry, Earl of Richmond, the Tudors started a new order in England. The Tudors were Welshmen---they were personally brave, endowed with political sagacity, firmness of purpose, and blessed with a casual aptitude for getting things done. These qualities harmonized peculiarly well with the needs of the country.

Henry's claim to the throne was not a very good one. His aim, therefore, was to "let sleeping dogs lie". He said to his subjects, "Mind your own business, and let me mind mine". He realized that his main task was to heal the wounds left by feuds and civil war; and he set to work to do

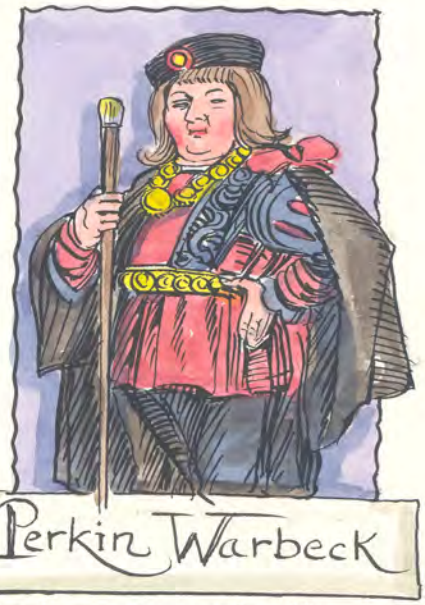


a difficult job with some thoroughness and considerable ability.

Henry VII was still a young man when he assumed kingship in I485. He married the Yorkist heir to the throne, Princess Elizabeth, sister of the two princes who had been murdered in the Tower. The combination of the male Lancastrian and the female Yorkist seemed a happy politic arrangement. Even so, efforts were made to dethrone Henry. Lambert Simnel, the son of an Oxford baker, was carefully coached to personate the young Earl of Warwick, the Queen's cousin. Simnel and his followers were defeated and the pseudo-earl was

Merchants of the Tudor Renaissance

assigned to the King's kitchen as a scullion,for he was but an "image of wax that others had moulded". A few years later,another attempt was made to unseat Henry Tudor. This time,the counterfeiting game was played by a young fellow named Perkin Warbeck. His Yorkist features impressed his followers. He said he was the Queen's brother,Richard,who had actually been murdered in the Tower. For several years,Perkin played the part of Prince Richard,and wandered from court to court. The game came to an end in I497,when he was captured and beheaded as a lesson to any future aspirants. Henceforth Henry VII's position was secure.



BUILDING OPERATIONS

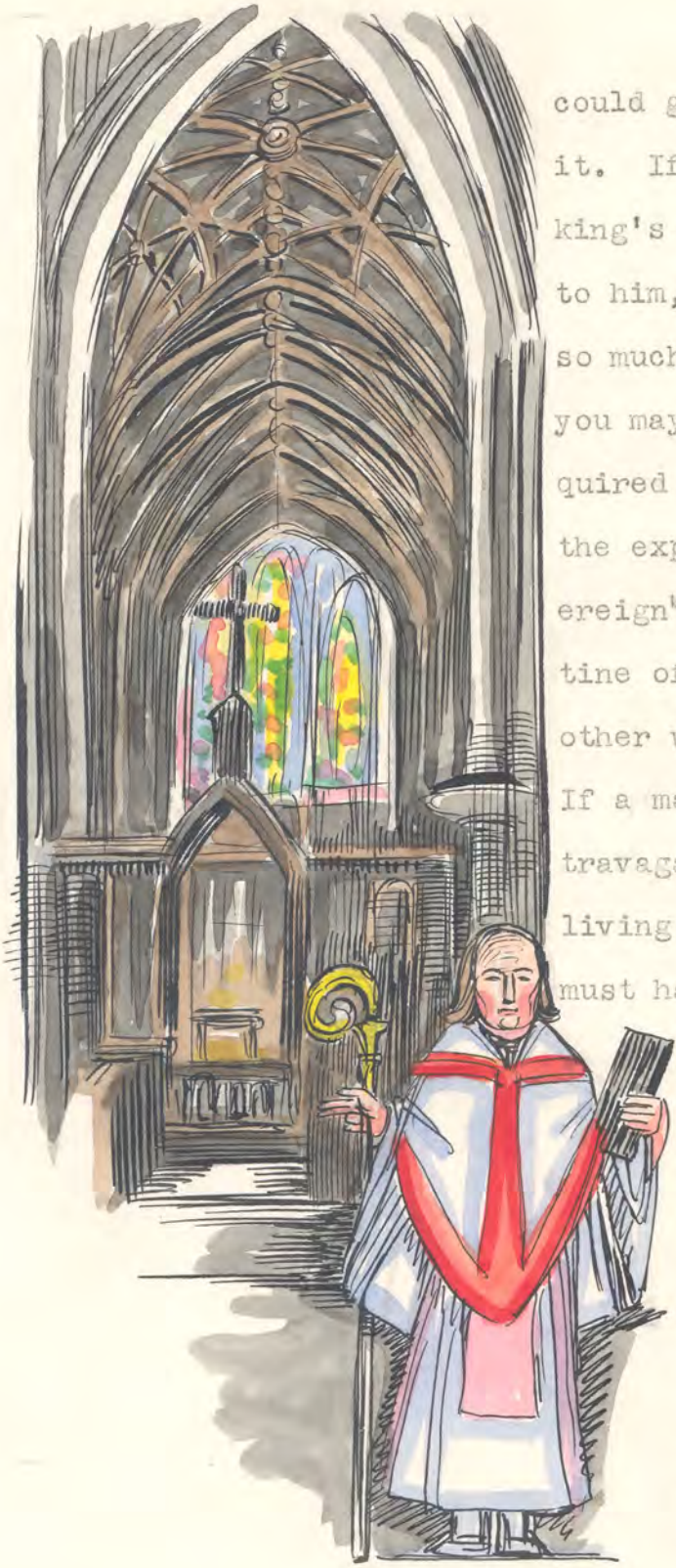
Mediaeval Tapster
(figure from Carving in a Parish Church

For twenty-four years, the first Tudor monarch did his best to make Englishmen stop talking and fighting among themselves. He set them to work, each at his own job. He was supported by the triple power of the gentry, yeomen and the merchants; and managed to successfully checkmate the surviving power of the baronage. Knowing how provincial juries could be intimidated by their former masters, the King formed his own Court of Star Chamber, and made his subjects respect the king's will. He taxed the rich, and carefully nursed trade and manufacture. One of his officials, Cardinal Morton, invented a plan known as "Morton's Fork", by which Henry

AN ARCHITECT

His Majesty's Treasury

Archbishop Morton's Fork



could get money from any one that had it. If a man lived expensively, the king's agent would say to him, "You are spending so much on yourself that you may rightfully be required to contribute to the expenses of your sovereign". This was one tine of the fork! The other was quite as bad. If a man lived simply and without extravagance, the agent would say, "Your living costs you so little that you must have enough laid by to make a generous gift to the King". And this was the other tine of Cardinal Morton's fork! In various ways, the shrewd monarch accumulated a tremendous fortune. (It is estimated that the king was worth over a hundred million dollars). And, as the years rolled on, he kept very careful account of his wealth, and "drew more gold than blood" from his subjects. Sentence of death was rare under Henry VII. In politics, as in justice, the country was wisely administered.

Sebastian Cabot

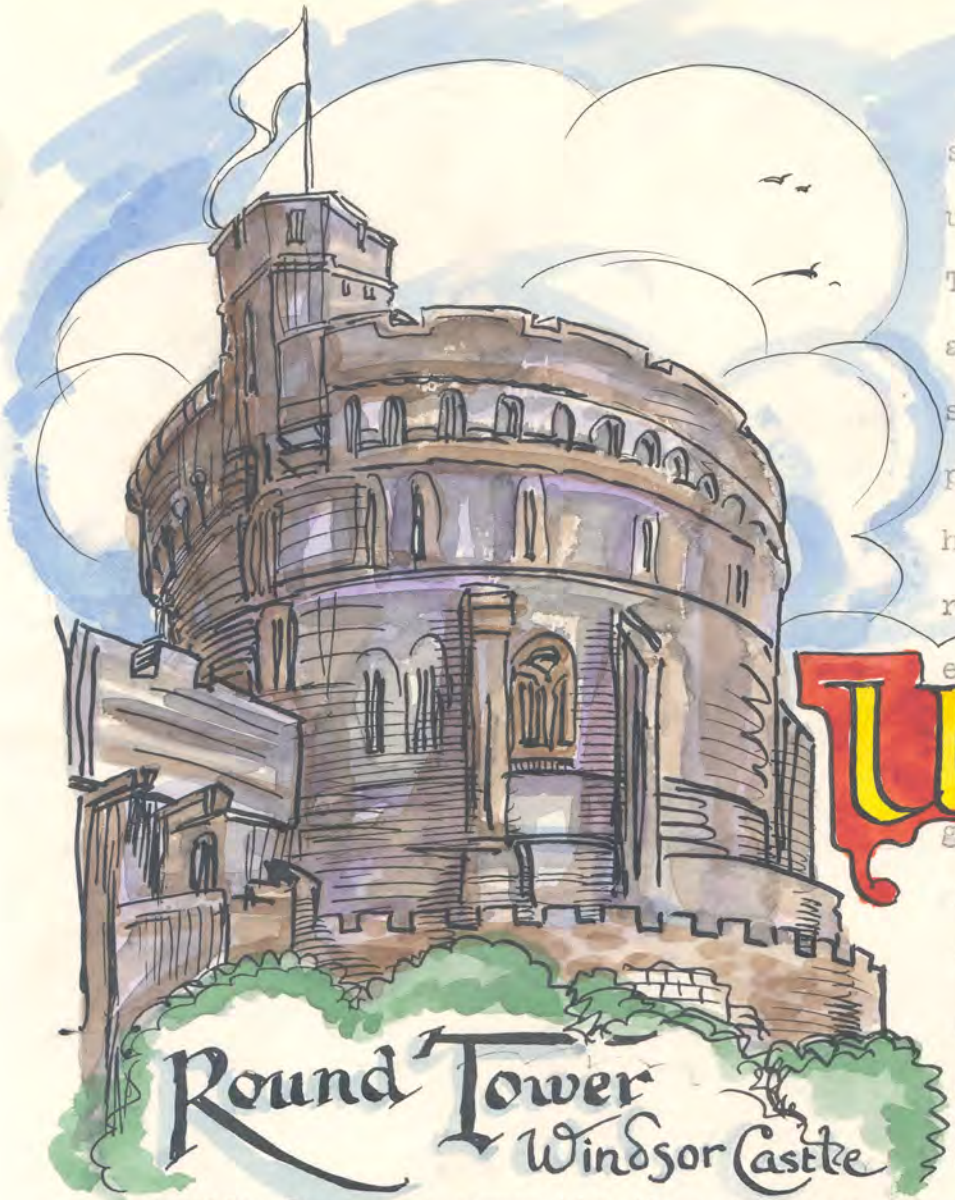
Henry VII's emphasis upon the steady development of his own resources led him to promote the interests of English merchants and traders. The bulk of English trade flowed to the Low countries, and to the Mediterranean, though there was considerable trade with the wine-growing regions of western France, some with Spain and the Baltic countries. The Venetians virtually monopolized English trade in the Mediterranean, bringing in wine, sugar, currants, and eastern luxuries, in exchange for English wool and cloth.

John Cabot

But, in the main, the king's interest in the development of trade was confined to the conventional and safe routes. He was not willing to take chances with the unusual and adventurous ---although his reign coincided exactly in point of time with the great adventures of Vasco de Gama and others. It is reported that when Christopher Columbus appealed to the English king for assistance in financing his great voyage of discovery, Henry turned him down! Henry must have real-

ized his mistake, when Isabella of Spain forestalled him! Five years later, he did fit out a ship for John Cabot's first western voyage in I497. In the following year, he made possible a second Cabot voyage, and granted a charter of trade and colonization to a group of Bristol merchants. The king's private accounts show that he distributed a few pounds here and there to returning voyagers who brought him parrots and wildcats. It is evident that the king disliked to spend his money on uncertain enterprises. So the honor of discovering the New World fell to Spain rather than to England.

The first Tudor monarch died in I509, and was laid to rest in the beautiful chapel he had added to Westminster Abbey. He was not a splendid king; he was pretty clearly not a well-beloved king; but he was a successful king. "What he minded, that he compassed". His reach never exceeded his grasp. He saw his problem clearly, defined it in terms which admitted of a solution, and then solved it. His first business was to establish a dynasty after thirty years of dynastic struggle. He established his dynasty. His second problem was to make England



Round Tower
Windsor Castle

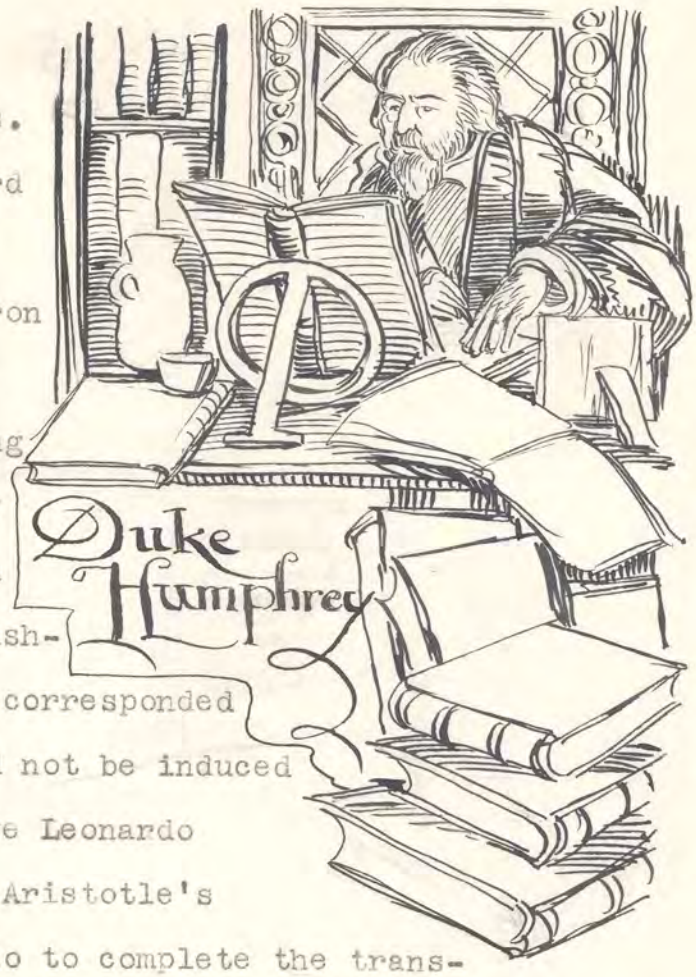
secure, within and without, under a strong monarchy. That also he did. His final problem perhaps was to set up a reserve against possible contingencies, and he left behind him the richest treasury in Christendom.

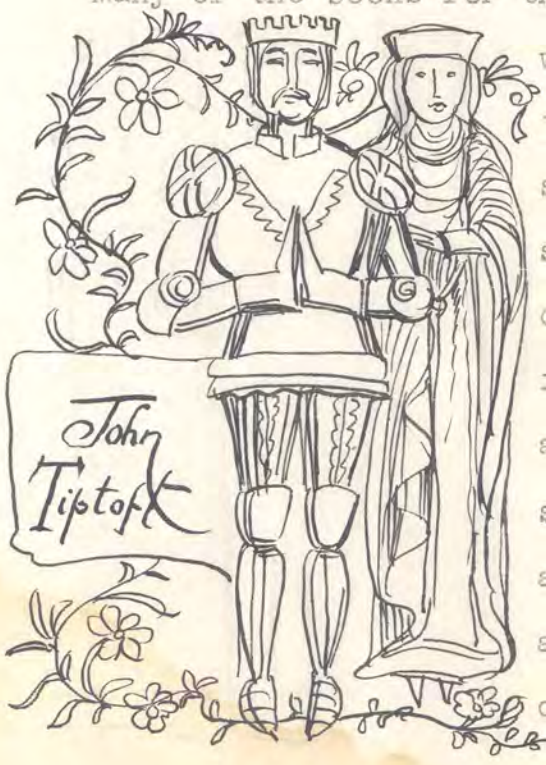
Under the personal guidance of Henry VII, England cut adrift from certain old traditions inherited from the Middle Ages, and started on a career as a nation of shopkeepers--- a career far more romantic than that of knight-errantry!

King Henry VII had little time to play the role of patron of literature and learning, so busy was he in consolidating his kingdom. Consequently, it was left to the bourgeoisie and a group of Oxford scholars to bring the fruits of the Italian renaissance to England. Under King Henry's protection gathered a group of extraordinary "humanists" who seemed to have caught the spirit of Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, the bene-

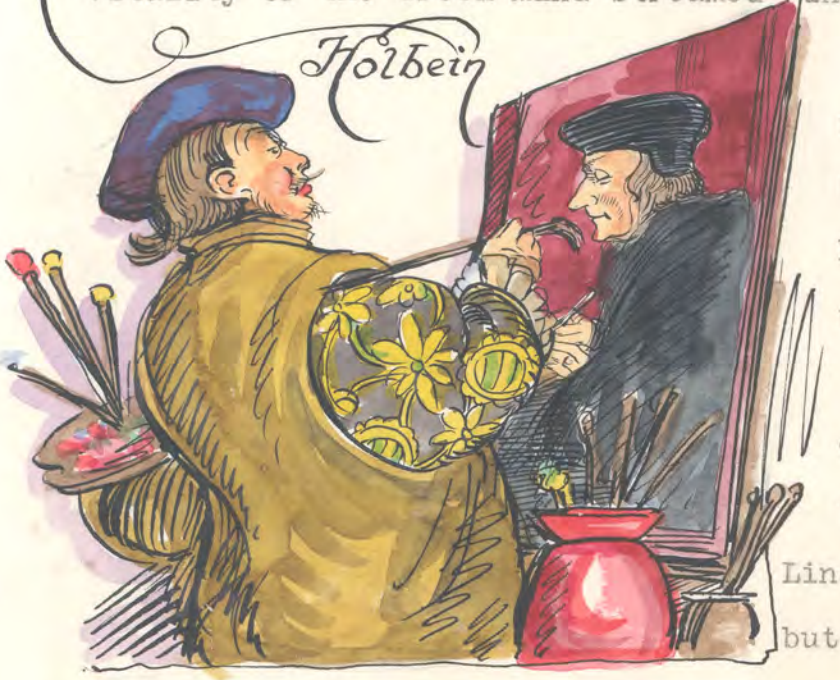
factor of Oxford with 235 books.

Duke Humphrey was the third brother of Henry V, and should claim our attention as the patron of Lydgate and others. He did everything in his power to bring Italy and England into literary connection. He invited Italian scholars over to instruct Englishmen in classical learning. He corresponded with Italian scholars who could not be induced to leave their country. He gave Leonardo Bruni the impulse to translate Aristotle's Politics. He encouraged Decembrio to complete the translation of Plato's Republic. He patriotically came to the rescue of Oxford University---then in a lamentable condition---and gave many of the books for the founding of a library. Of course, what interests us at this point is the fact that Duke Humphrey formed around himself a small circle of English humanists. And the seed sown by the Duke bore fruit, not in any direct addition to English literature, but in the awakening of humanistic interests among men of intellectual promise in the succeeding generation. As a pioneer, he attracted to Italy other Oxford men,---above all, John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, a princely collector of illuminated books.





In the Tudor period, the English humanists were usually labelled "the Oxford Reformers". All but one saw Italy. All of them knew Greek, and through them the vitality of the Greek mind streamed into that of the enterprising Tudor world. On this page, the great painter Holbein is making a sketch of Erasmus, the Dutch humanist, who visited them in England.



Let us say something about each of them. William Grocyn taught Greek at Oxford. Thomas Linacre taught Greek at Oxford, but he also humanized the theory

Dean Colet lecturing at Oxford

and practice of medicine. He translated Galen's works, and founded the London College of Physicians.

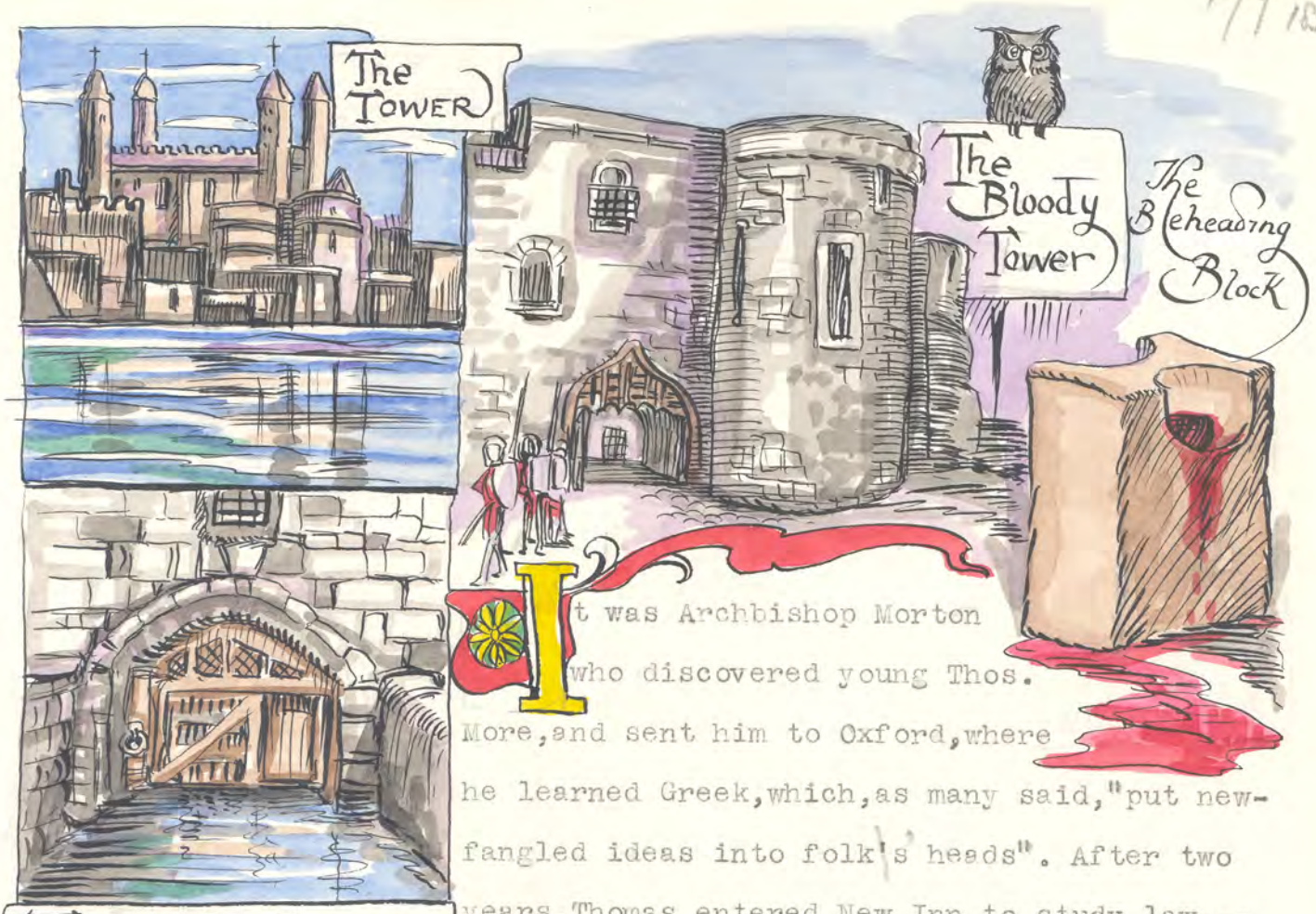
John Colet lectured at Oxford on the literal sense of the Biblical texts. As Dean of St Paul's, he "electrified the throng" and scandalized the old fogy bishops by his new-style sermons in the cathedral! He gave his fortune to found St. Paul's School, where 153 boys "of all lands and nations" were to be "instructed in the fear of God, and then in Latin and Greek literature".

Boys from St. Pauls School

These "reformers" carried their scholarship into the world. They preferred the active life of London to the retirement of Oxford---which, as Professor Osgood observed, "is all the evidence we need of their humanism".

Thomas More, Lord Chancellor

The finest figure among the English humanists was Sir Thomas More---a man of great intellect, irresistible charm, and playful wit. He rose on his merits to be Lord Chancellor of England. He deserves a special page in this brief survey, because, with all his distinction, he was a genial, simple, and great gentleman.



The last days of the author of UTOPIA

It was Archbishop Morton who discovered young Thos. More, and sent him to Oxford, where he learned Greek, which, as many said, "put new-fangled ideas into folk's heads". After two years, Thomas entered New Inn to study law--- just about the time John Colet was returning from Italy. Both Colet and More listened to the teachings of Grocyn. And, when Erasmus paid a flying visit to England in 1498, Colet and More met the famous Dutch humanist. As the story runs, Colet told Erasmus of the surprising genius of his young friend Thomas More, and told More of the amazing endowment of Erasmus. The two, unknown to each other, met at the same table, and fell into a dialectical discussion which neither could resist; till at last the elder, putting two and two together, exclaimed "Aut tu es Morus, aut nullus,", the younger promptly responding "Aut tu es Erasmus, aut Diabolus". Whether the tale be true

Raphael Hythloday and Thomas More discuss the best State of a Commonwealth

or not, the acquaintance was made, and ripened into the warmest of friendships.

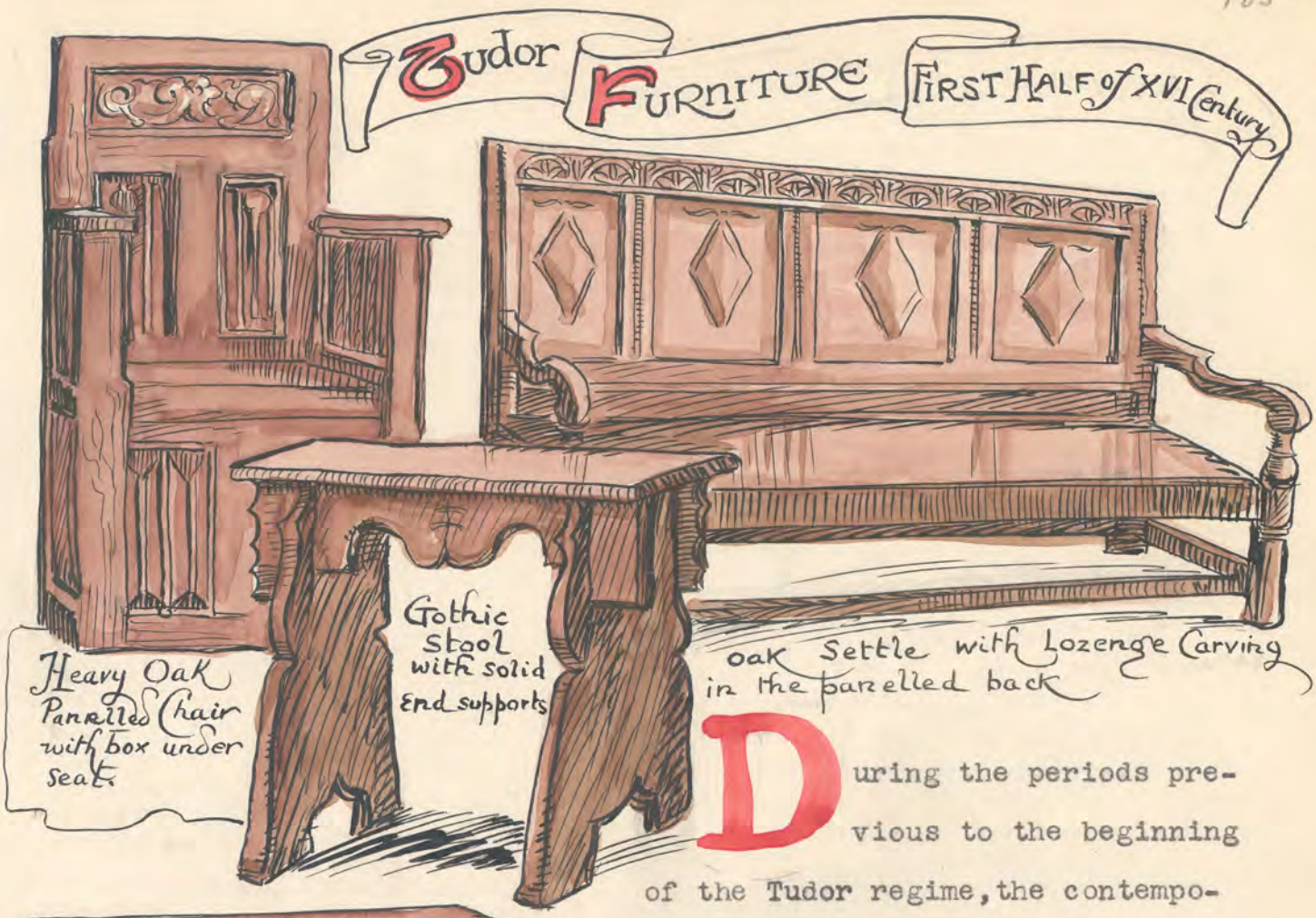
Throughout More's life, revolutionary forces had been at work in the political, intellectual, and religious world. At present, More's most intimate associates stood in the very forefront of the most advanced school of thought. Therefore, in writing his Utopia, Sir Thomas took his position beside his illustrious friends. In his book he described an ideal commonwealth fashioned after the spirit of Plato's Republic---distinguished for its national system of education, its advocacy of tolerance in religion, and the cooperation of all citizens for the common good. More's Utopia was Plato's Republic adapted to modern times and methods.

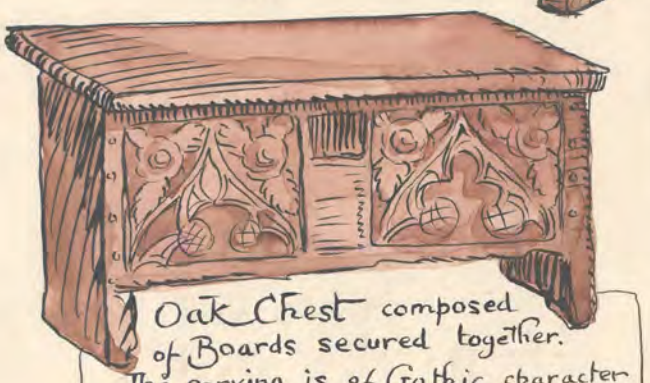
ALL MEN WORK IN UTOPIA

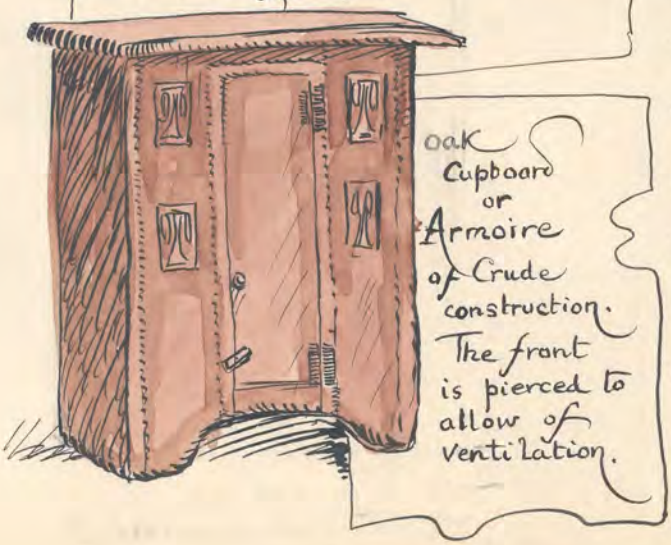
TRUE PLEASURES

An Illustration by Holbein, for Erasmus's Book "Praise of Folly"

Tudor Furniture First Half of XVI Century

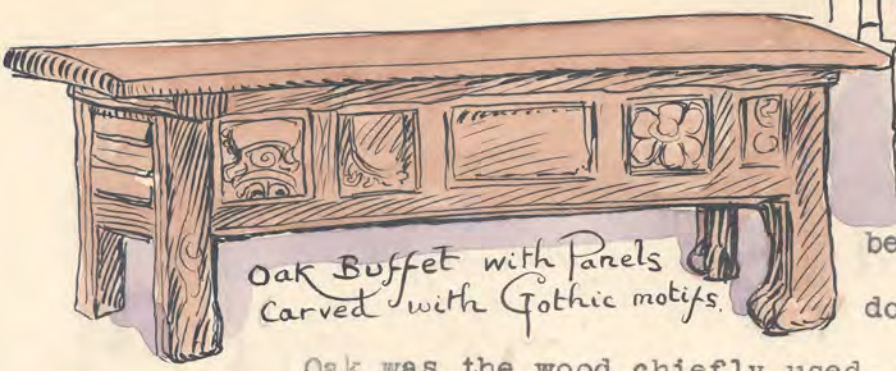






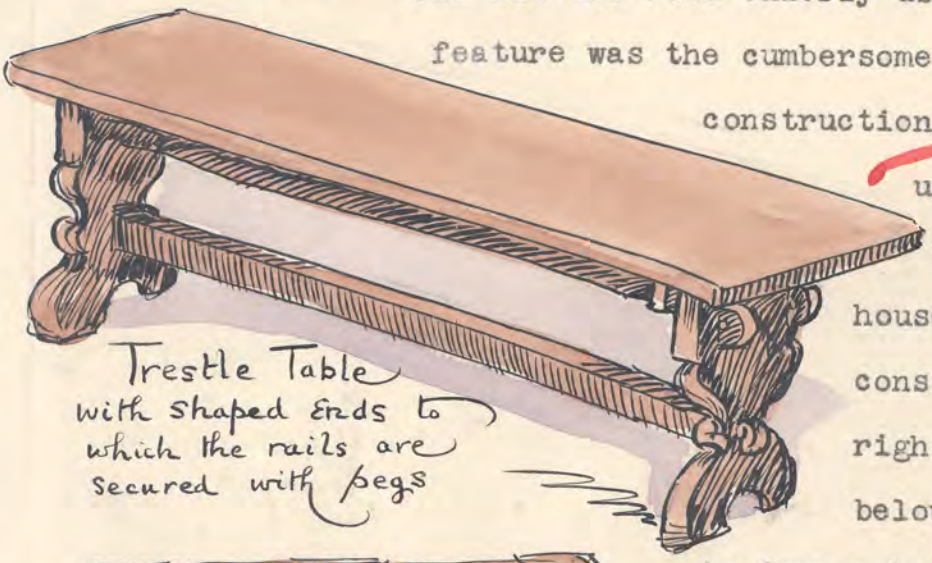
During the periods previous to the beginning of the Tudor regime, the contemporary furniture followed the expression of architecture in its character. The Gothic style which had become settled in England by the Fourteenth century, was the chief source of inspiration of craftsmen until towards the end of the reign of Henry VIII, when the first signs of the Renaissance became apparent. The houses in the early Tudor times were very sparsely furnished. Even in the larger mansions only bare necessities were provided for. Most of the pieces of furniture were so constructed as to

Tudor Furniture Early XVI Century



Oak Buffet with Panels Carved with Gothic motifs.

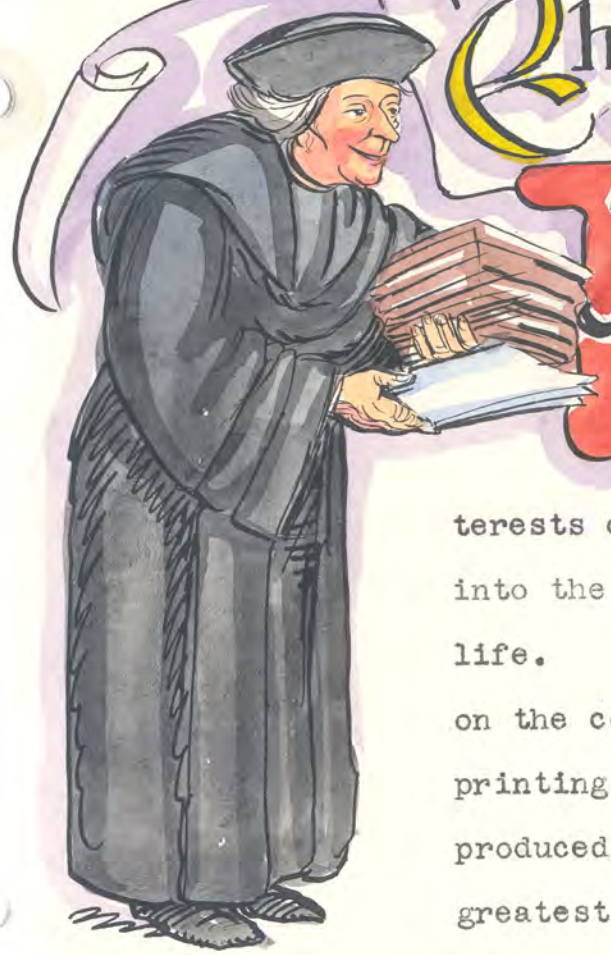
be useful in a double capacity. Oak was the wood chiefly used. The outstanding feature was the cumbersome and massive style of construction. Stools were the usual form of seating for all but the chief persons in a household. Chairs were solid constructions with heavy uprights and rails, the under portion below the seat being contrived to form a box. Settles were usually made to seat three or four persons, and were in some cases built as fitments into the wall. The chest was probably the earliest form of furniture. Its actual uses were manifold, serving as a table, seat, side table and even as a bed. The upright cupboard, often known as an armoire, contained the foodstuffs in early Tudor homes. Trestle tables were the earliest form of table, consisting of a heavy board supported by solid end pieces, held in position by rails secured by pegs. Four-poster beds were in all probability introduced into England soon after the Norman conquest, and were in general use in Tudor times.



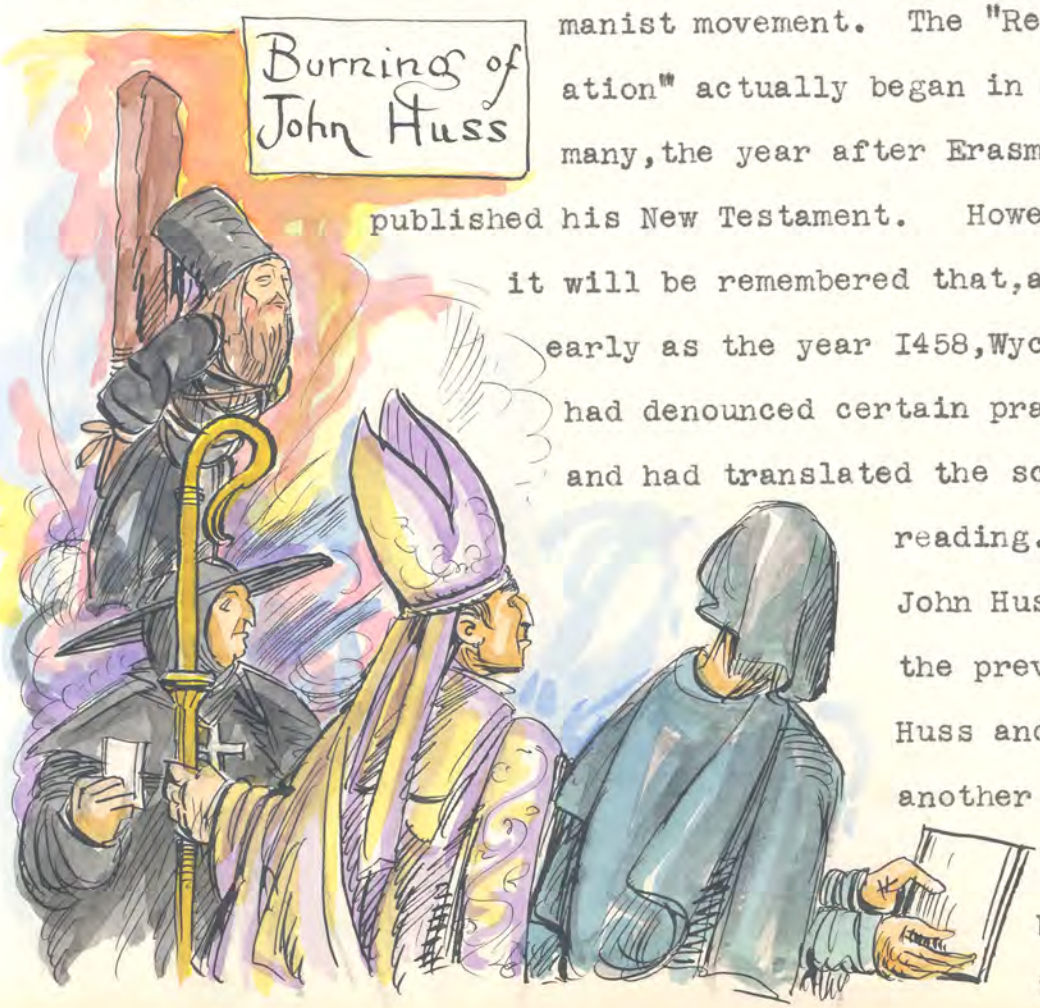
Trestle Table with shaped Ends to which the rails are secured with pegs

oak Four-Poster

The Reformation



As we have seen, the Renaissance in Italy made for individualism. The critical spirit of the Humanists carried the interests of the "rebirth of learning" into the realms of religion and social life. In 1513, Erasmus was again on the continent; and from the famous printing press of Froben, at Basel on the Rhine, he produced a multitude of works that made him the greatest literary force of the humanist movement. The "Reformation" actually began in Germany, the year after Erasmus published his New Testament. However, it will be remembered that, as early as the year 1458, Wyclif had denounced certain practices of the church, and had translated the scriptures for popular reading. And some years later, John Huss preached against the prevailing abuses. Both Huss and Jerome of Prague, another critic of eccleciastical corruption, were burned at the stake for their plain-speaking!



St. Peter's and Vatican

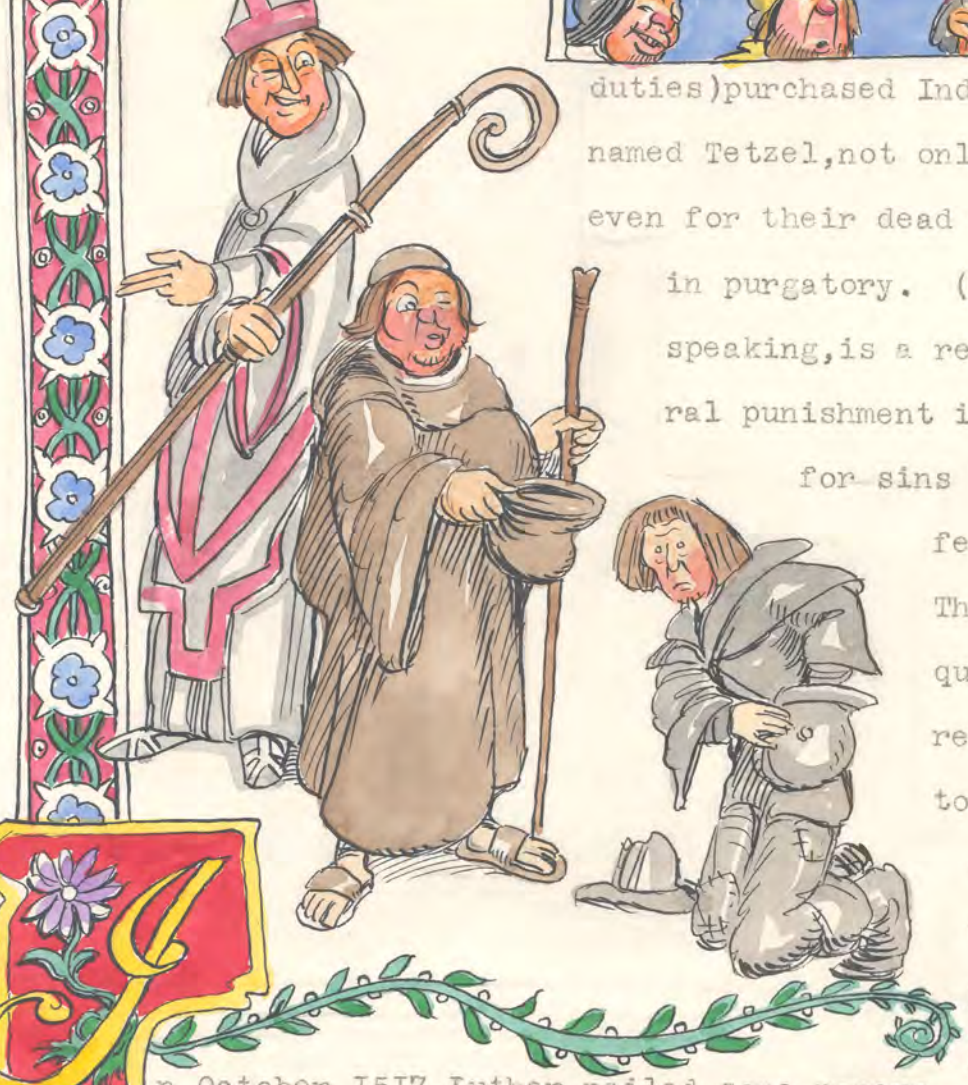
and reformers met with failure and utter defeat.

The Church of Rome, emboldened by success, advanced her pretensions and exactions; and the Popes, believing themselves to be infallible, held tremendous power and undisputed sway over certain elements of Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, and England.

Papal Guard

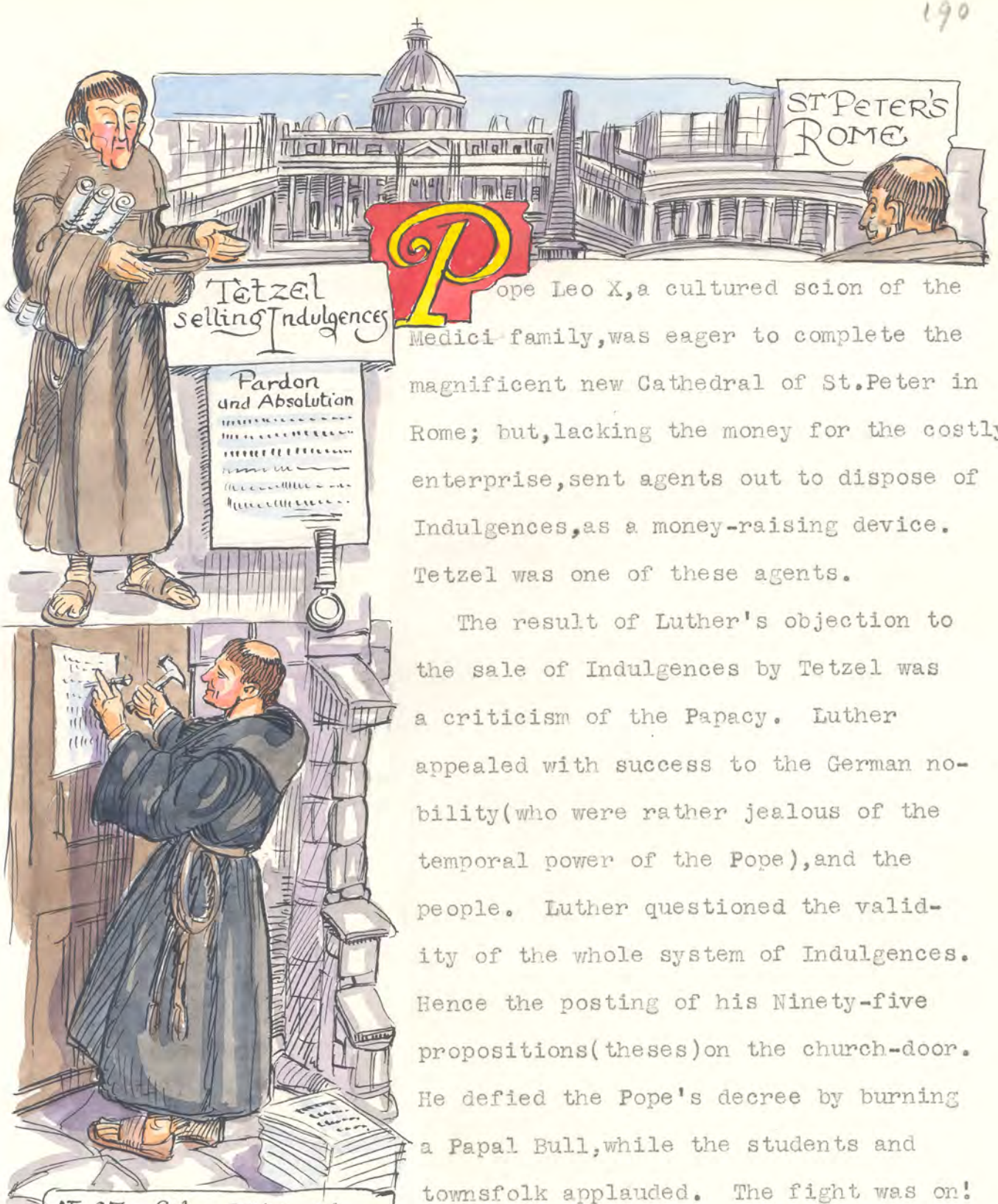
In 1508, Luther began the study of the writings of St. Paul and of St. Augustine, in the newly-founded Saxon university of Wittenberg. These studies led him to a belief in justification before God by faith, and not by faith and good works as elaborated by the Church. In the year 1517, the members of the parish of which he had charge (in addition to his teaching

duties)purchased Indulgences from a vendor named Tetzel,not only for themselves but even for their dead friends and relatives in purgatory. (An Indulgence,strictly speaking,is a remission of the temporal punishment imposed by the Church for sins that have been confessed and pardoned). This cut Luther to the quick! It affected the relation that he bore to his parishoners. It also seemed a gross way of draining money from Germany for the Pope.



In October I5I7,Luther nailed some papers to the door of the Castle church in Wittenberg. It was the custom of the day to act thus,when a man wanted to engage in a scholastic debate with another. In this respect,Luther's action was by no means unusual. Yet the forces set in operation by that event in I5I7 altered the entire religious and intellectual pattern of the western world. From this sprang a great religious revolt that split Christendom into innumerable factions and sects.

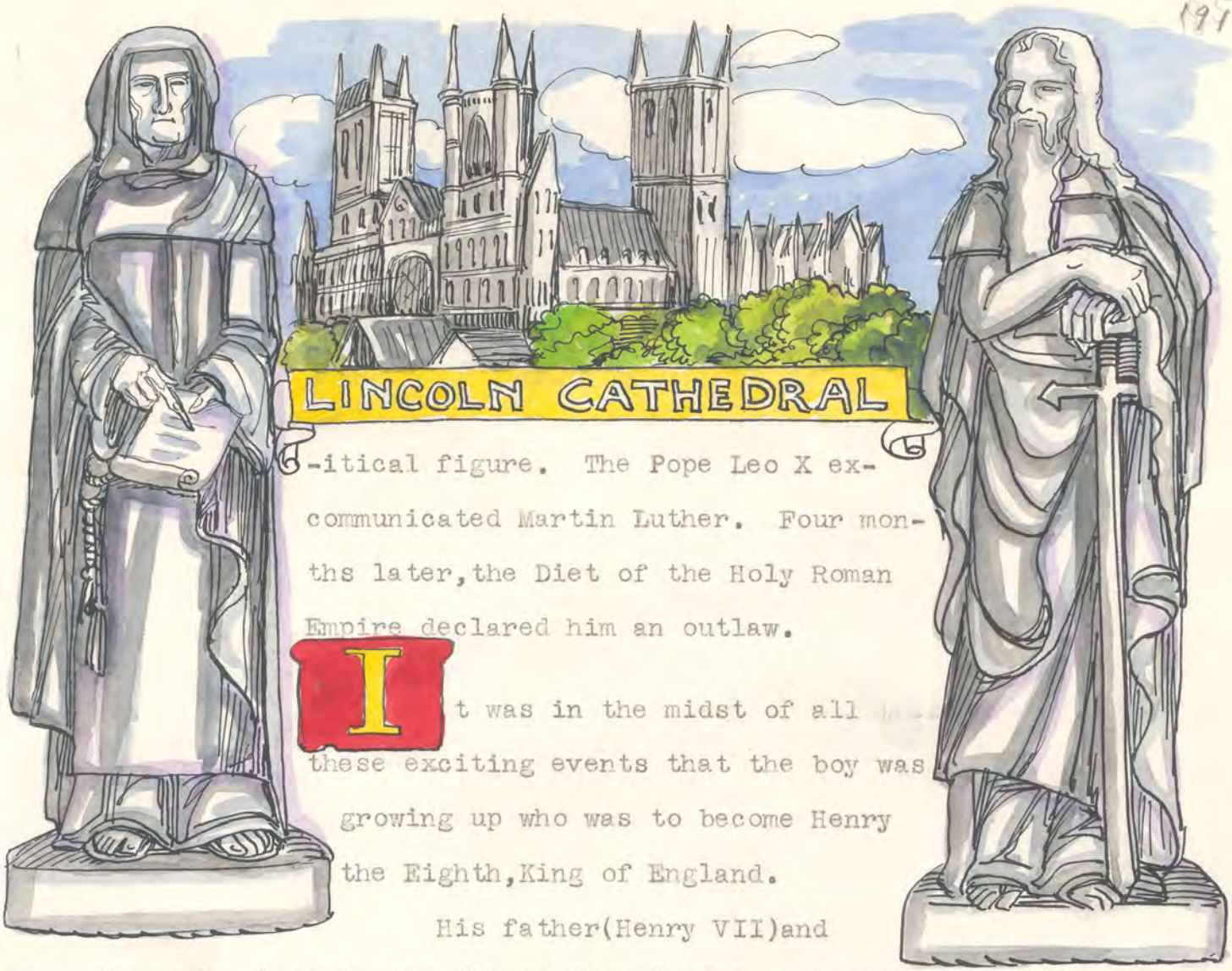
Pope Leo X
from Raphael's portrait



Pope Leo X, a cultured scion of the Medici family, was eager to complete the magnificent new Cathedral of St. Peter in Rome; but, lacking the money for the costly enterprise, sent agents out to dispose of Indulgences, as a money-raising device. Tetzel was one of these agents.

The result of Luther's objection to the sale of Indulgences by Tetzel was a criticism of the Papacy. Luther appealed with success to the German nobility (who were rather jealous of the temporal power of the Pope), and the people. Luther questioned the validity of the whole system of Indulgences. Hence the posting of his Ninety-five propositions (theses) on the church-door. He defied the Pope's decree by burning a Papal Bull, while the students and townsfolk applauded. The fight was on!

The eyes of all Europe were now turned in the direction of a leader who had been transformed from an obscure monk into a prominent reformer and pol-

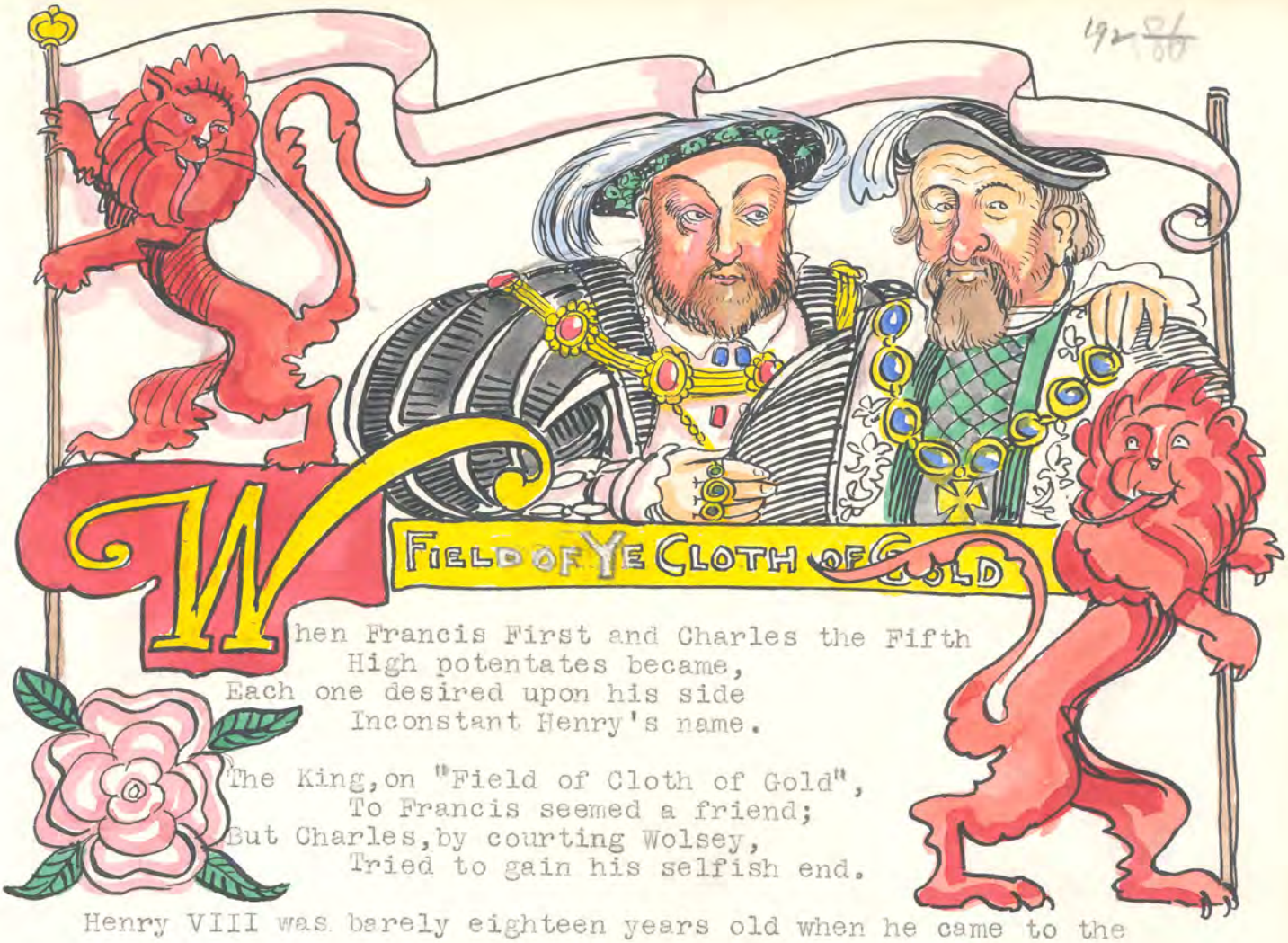


-itical figure. The Pope Leo X ex-communicated Martin Luther. Four months later, the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire declared him an outlaw.

It was in the midst of all these exciting events that the boy was growing up who was to become Henry the Eighth, King of England.

His father (Henry VII) and mother were laid in the florid Chapel of Westminster, whose windows were covered with a tracery of Roses, red and white, to mark the union of the Houses of Lancaster and York. His father, as we have already observed, left him a realm that was prosperous, united, and accustomed to a firm rule. In the royal treasury there was such a fortune as had never before come into the possession of an English sovereign. What would the new King do with all these wonderful gifts? Let us read a little rhyme at this point:

The "Bluff King Hal" of martial fame
Was emulous and vain;
In league with Venice, Leo Tenth,
And Ferdinand of Spain.

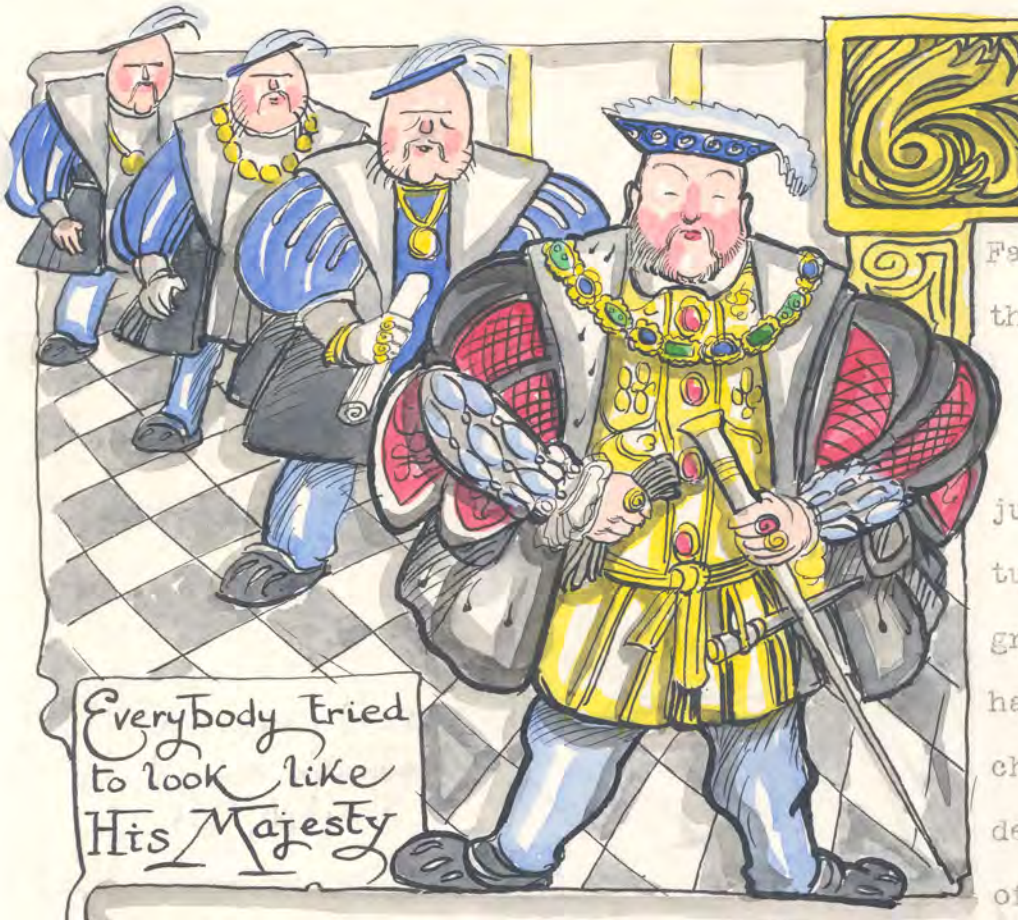


When Francis First and Charles the Fifth
High potentates became,
Each one desired upon his side
Inconstant Henry's name.

The King, on "Field of Cloth of Gold",
To Francis seemed a friend;
But Charles, by courting Wolsey,
Tried to gain his selfish end.

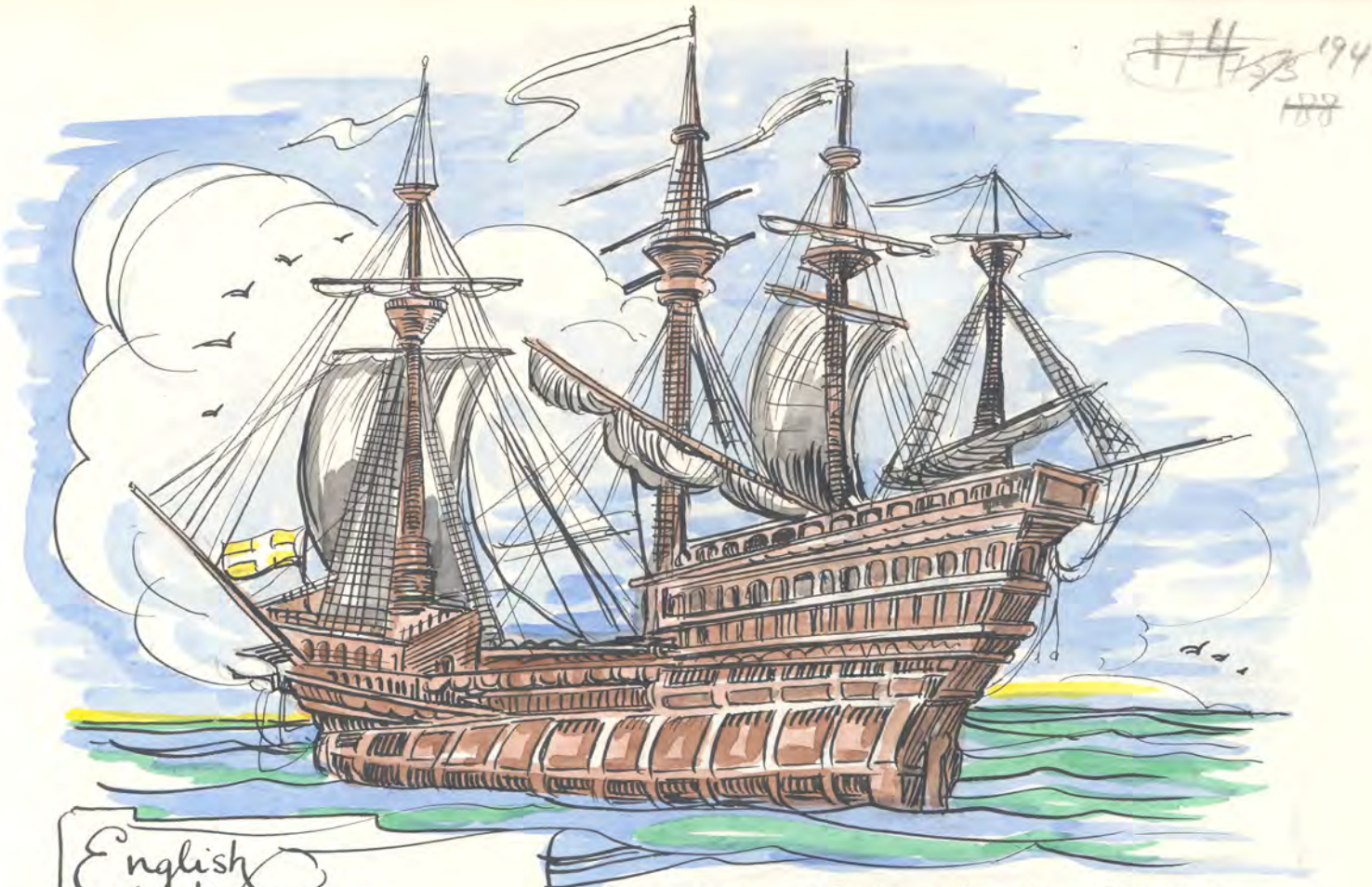
Henry VIII was barely eighteen years old when he came to the throne. A handsome, gifted youth, richly endowed with the Tudor impetuousness and charm, he regarded his reign as a magnificent game, and he played that game magnificently for forty years.

From the very first, the years were momentous. As we have seen, when Henry was still in his youth, Luther began his attacks on the Pope. Later, the king wrote a defence of the Seven Sacraments, in answer to Luther's pamphlet on the "Babylonian Captivity". This devotion to the Roman Church won for him the title, "defender of the



Faith"---a title which the English kings still possess.

Fashion molds kings just as it imposes costume and custom. A great mediaeval king had to be courteous, chivalrous, stern and devout. A great king of the Renaissance was expected to be cultured, a libertine, spectacular, and often cruel. Henry the Eighth had all those qualities. But these qualities were "translated into English", says Maurois, who explains that "Henry's libertine life was conjugal, his culture was theological and sporting, his splendor was in good taste, his cruelty was legally correct". So he remained, in the eyes of his subjects, a popular sovereign. Even to this day he is defended by English historians! Well, we shall gave him all the space we can afford---he is a good subject for sketches! His calf was more shapely than Francis I's---so 'twas reported by the Venetian ambassador! A capital bow-



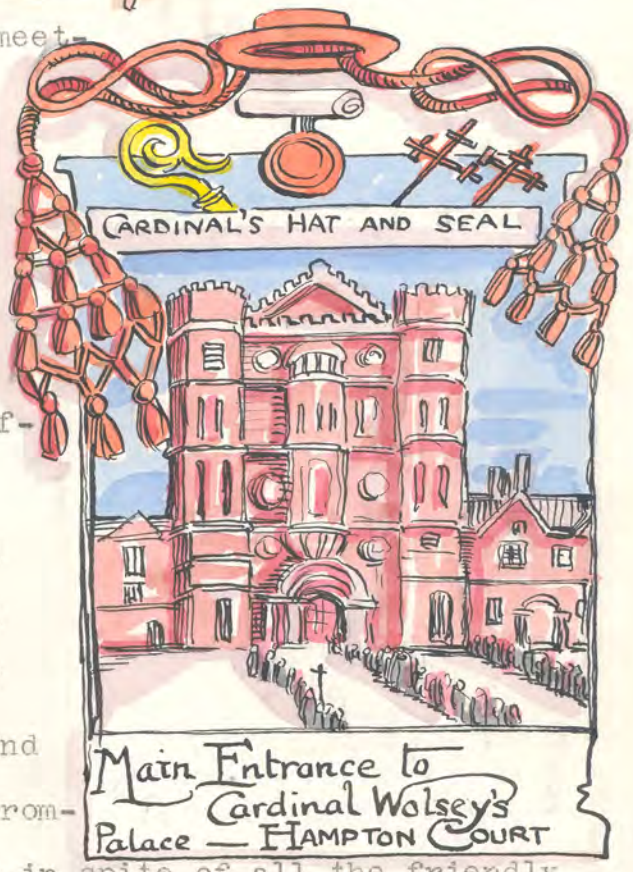
English Warship which conveyed Henry VIII to France

-man, a fine athlete, a tennis-player, a great horseman who could wear out ten horses in a day's hunting, Henry is really a glamorous sort of prince. Also, he is reported to have set his own hymns to music, and to have played the lute "divinely". We really should have a sketch of "Bluff Prince Hal" playing the lute and singing his favorite song---his own composition---which, queerly enough in view of his later life, is about his faithfulness in love. It says:

"As the holly groweth green,
And never changeth hue,
So am I---ever have been---
To my lady true!"

He liked to wear handsome clothes, and to have a good time. And, after all the hard, gloomy years of fighting and bloodshed, it was a real delight to the English people to see this merry monarch enjoy himself. On the continent, two other young rulers---Francis

the First of France, and Charles the Fifth of Germany---both ambitious men---were eager for Henry's friendship. Francis invited Henry to a meeting in France. It was a magnificent show, and for three weeks "The Field of the Cloth of Gold" was a magnificent spectacle, rich in dress and entertainment, and the exchange of lavish gifts and more lavish promises. But, in spite of all the friendly farewells and the promises, Henry's help was given to Charles! Actually, Henry cared more for pleasure and extravagence than for the business of State. "Oh, go and talk to my Chancellor about that", he would say. And his Chancellor happened to be the cunning Thomas Wolsey, afterwards Cardinal Archbishop of York, and Legate (special agent) of the Pope. Wolsey lived in as magnificent a manner as the king. John Skelton, the "poet laureate" of that time, compared the King's court and Wolsey's court, in a poem worth



reading, entitled "Why Come Ye Not to Court? Whose Court? --- the King's Court or Hampton Court?"

Shortly after his accession, Henry married Catharine of Aragon, widow of his brother Arthur and a daughter of Ferdinand of Spain. She was neither his choice nor his love. It was a political marriage. After many years of life with Catharine, Henry's conscience began to prick him for taking advantage of the papal dispensation to marry his brother's widow. When, despite the need for a male heir, only a female child survived as a product of this marriage, Henry professed to think that this was the "judgement of God" on him! Also he wanted to marry someone else. He had fallen in love with the Lady Anne Boleyn, one of Queen Catharine's court ladies. Henry applied to the Pope for a divorce. The Pope, Clement VII, realized that Catharine was the aunt of the Emperor Charles, the most powerful monarch in Europe at the time. The Pope dared not offend the Emperor. Henry attempted to have Wolsey and

Catherine of Aragon
daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain
first wife of Henry the Eighth of England

another cardinal, Campeggio, in England, settle the matter. But the Pope called the case to Rome. The Pope and Wolsey shifted and twisted and turned and promised, but could give the King of England his wishes. Suddenly, to the surprise of all his courtiers, and of all Europe, Henry roared out, "Pope! What do I care for the Pope? Call my Parliament".

That was in 1529, and the King was thirty-eight years old. He was determined to take matters into his own hands. He vented his disappointment upon Cardinal Wolsey, who was ousted from the Chancellorship; and defied the Pope's authority in England. The divorce must be had at all costs.

The Parliament of 1529 granted the King his divorce, and sat for seven years, enforcing new laws against the Pope. Wolsey

Chancellor More

was succeeded by Sir Thomas More, who with anxiety in his heart, assumed office in the midst of the controversy over the divorce. The King and Anne were married by Archbishop Cranmer, in January 1533; and at Easter the fact was announced to the people. The Pope excommunicated Henry. The breach with Rome had come at long last!

Thomas Cranmer

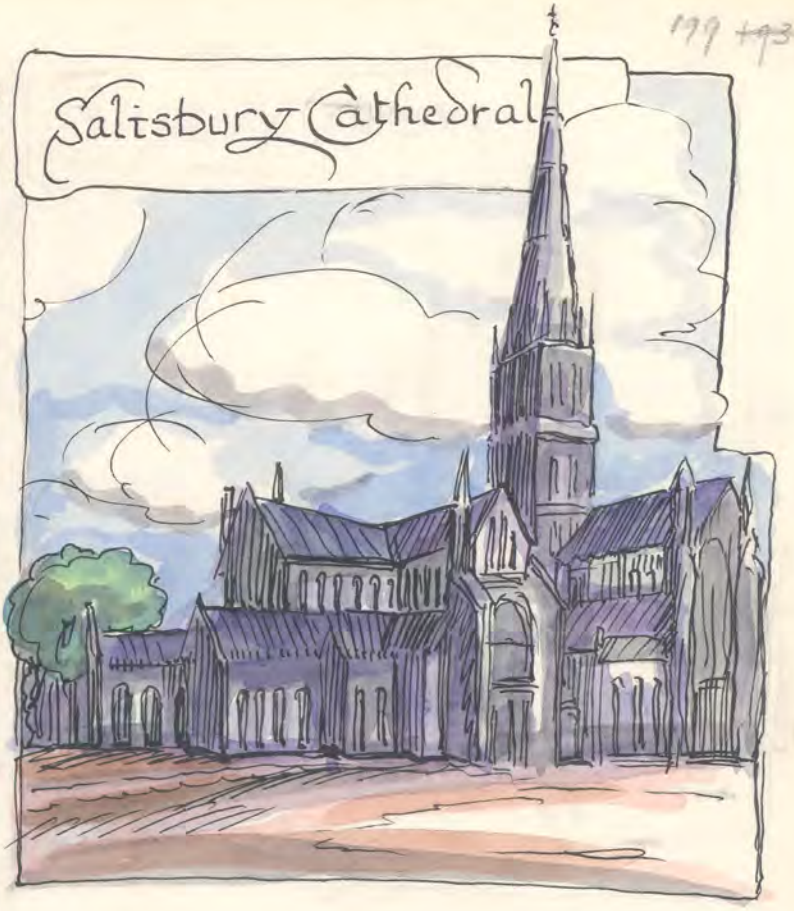
Parliament now proceeded to complete the work. As an answer to the papal excommunication of Henry and Anne, a law was passed forbidding any payments to Rome, prohibiting the reception of papal bulls or briefs regarding the election of bishops and archbishops, and providing for the control of the Church through the King. By an Act of Supremacy, passed in 1534, the Anglican Church was created as a distinct national church, completely separated from the Roman communion.

A Typical Tudor POLITICIAN, from a Sketch by Holbein

Hanging of Charter, a friar, in Clerical dress, at York

Henry was "justly and rightfully" recognized "only supreme head on earth of the Church of England". Parliament declared that this step was taken "for the increase of virtue in Christ's religion within this realm of England". But this was too violent a declaration for some loyal Catholics to abide; and in the following

Interior of A Cathedral



Salisbury Cathedral

year good Sir Thomas More lost his head for refusing to repudiate the Pope.

In demanding allegiance to himself as head of the English Church, the King introduced a veritable reign of terror. The Catholic-minded officials of Church and state were terrorized by several barbarous executions. In I535, a number of Carthusian monks were publicly butchered because they held to the headship of the Pope in things spiritual. (I have sketched one of them on the preceding page). Bishop Fisher was another victim---he had defended Catharine and the legitimacy of her marriage. And, of course, the trial and execution of Sir Thomas More was the climax to the drama. In the darkness of his imprisonment, the author of Utopia saw the hopelessness of his dreams

Bishop John Fisher SKETCH BY Holbein

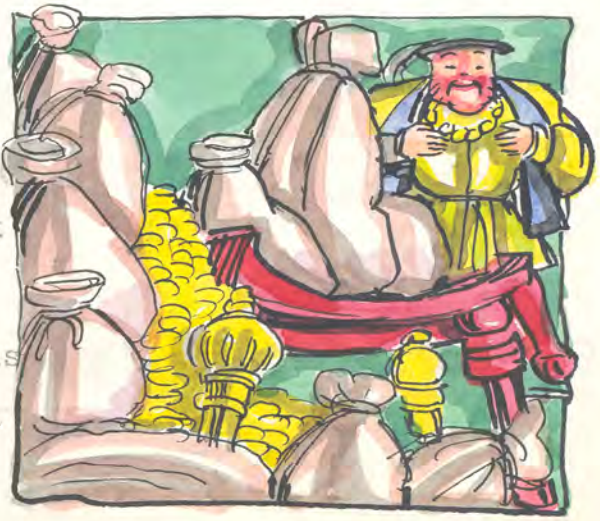
of twenty years back.

One can obtain an indelible impression of the despotism and violence attached to the religious change in England by observing the brutal way in which Henry and his officers carried on the spoliation of the churches and the monasteries. For this purpose, Henry found a splendid agent in Thomas

Monks turned out by Order of the King

Cromwell, an utterly unscrupulous, if very able, vicar-general.

As we have already observed in this study, the monasteries served a very useful purpose in the Middle Ages. Even in the Tudor period, they served in many ways as efficient institutions. Some of them were useful as inns for travelers, as means of poor relief, as seats of education and instruction in farring and building. Some of them, of course, were places of refuge for lazy and indolent persons, and there was certainly much criticism of the corruption of several monastic institutions that had grown rich and arrogant. It was estimated at the time when Thomas Cromwell proceeded to remodel the Church to the advantage of the King's coffers, that the Church owned half the kingdom, and that half of the ecclesiastical income was in monastic hands. Cromwell made short work of the monasteries. The reports from his agents and investigators showed many evils and much maladministration that would necessitate and justify the shutting-up of



monkish houses. That is,if the charges were all true. Undoubtedly the biased agents and investigators found what they sought. As a direct result of the reports,the Reformation Parliament,in I536, ordered the dissolution of some 376 monastic houses of small size,whose annual income was under two-hundred pounds. Then followed the dissolution of the lesser abbeys,from which the King received thousands of pounds of income and moveable wealth.

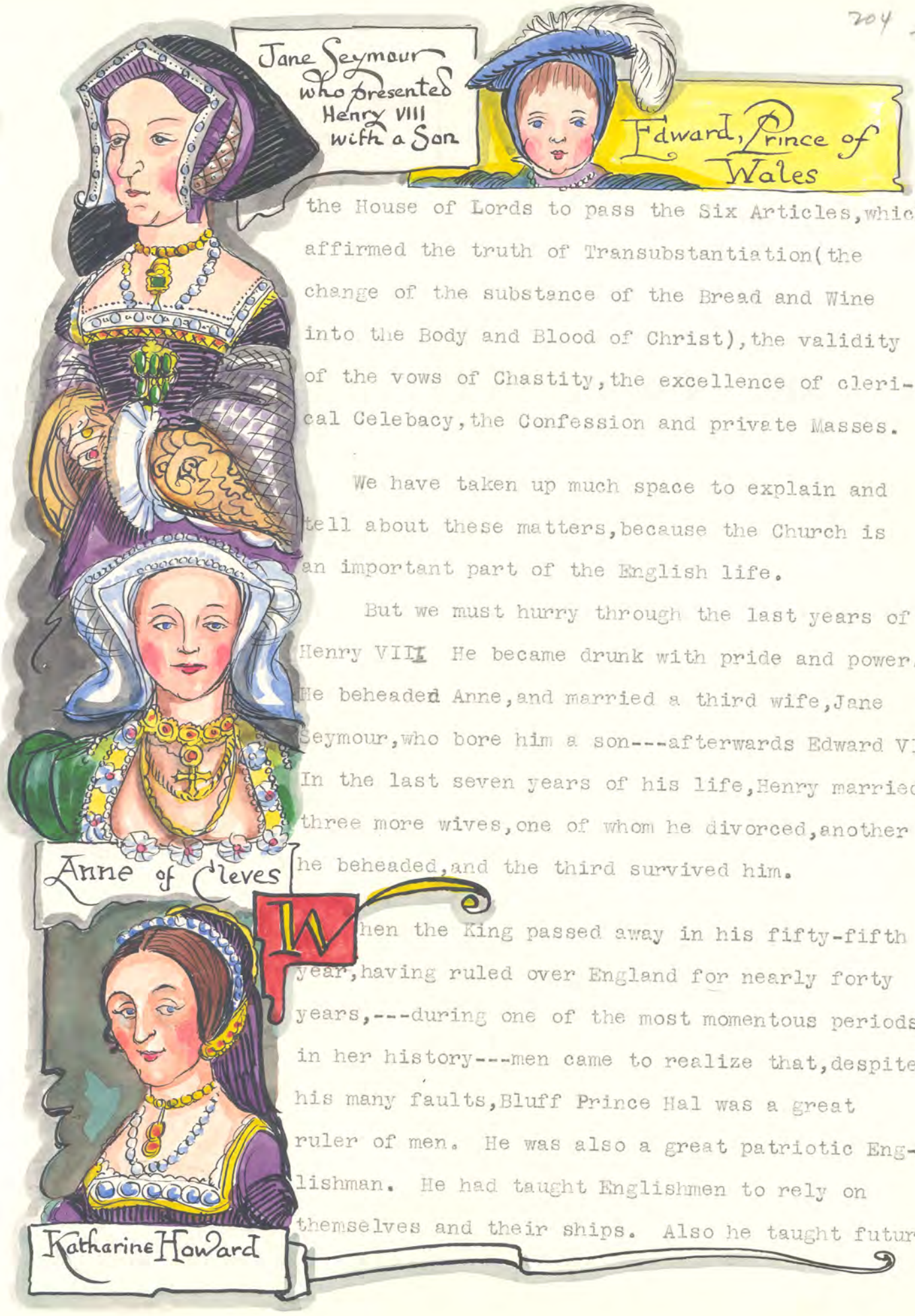
The great abbeys were willing to vote for the dissolution of the lesser monasteries,in the hope that they(the big ones)would be untouched. But the joke was on them! They had not counted on Henry's appetite! During the next few years,monastery after monastery,untouched by the Act of I536,was dissolved;and the whole business culminated in a parliamentary act of I539,which made lawful all seizure of Church property not yet in the hands of the King.

Scattered over England today are found the ruined buildings of the greater and lesser abbeys. Many imposing ruins yet testify to their great position in mediaeval England.

SKETCHES of EMINENT TUDOR PERSONAGES

ow did the bishops and priests and monks accept all this? With a few exceptions, they showed remarkable pliability. The English prelates were on the whole statesmen rather than churchmen. The House of Lords, where the Archbishops and Bishops sat, voted all the reforms without protest. The higher clergy seemed to be in favor of Anglicanism. The lesser clergy had been influenced by Lollard teachings. Of course, some "stubborn spirits" that refused to accept the change---men like Sir Thomas More and Bishop Fisher---were hanged, drawn and quartered.

But a Church with ten or twelve centuries behind it, has deep roots. Not even the most powerful monarch could wrench them up without a struggle. Henry, like his people, had instinct. He clung to his title of "Defender of the Faith" and to his claim to be "head" of the "Catholic" church in England. After several attempts at formulating an Anglican creed, the King brought

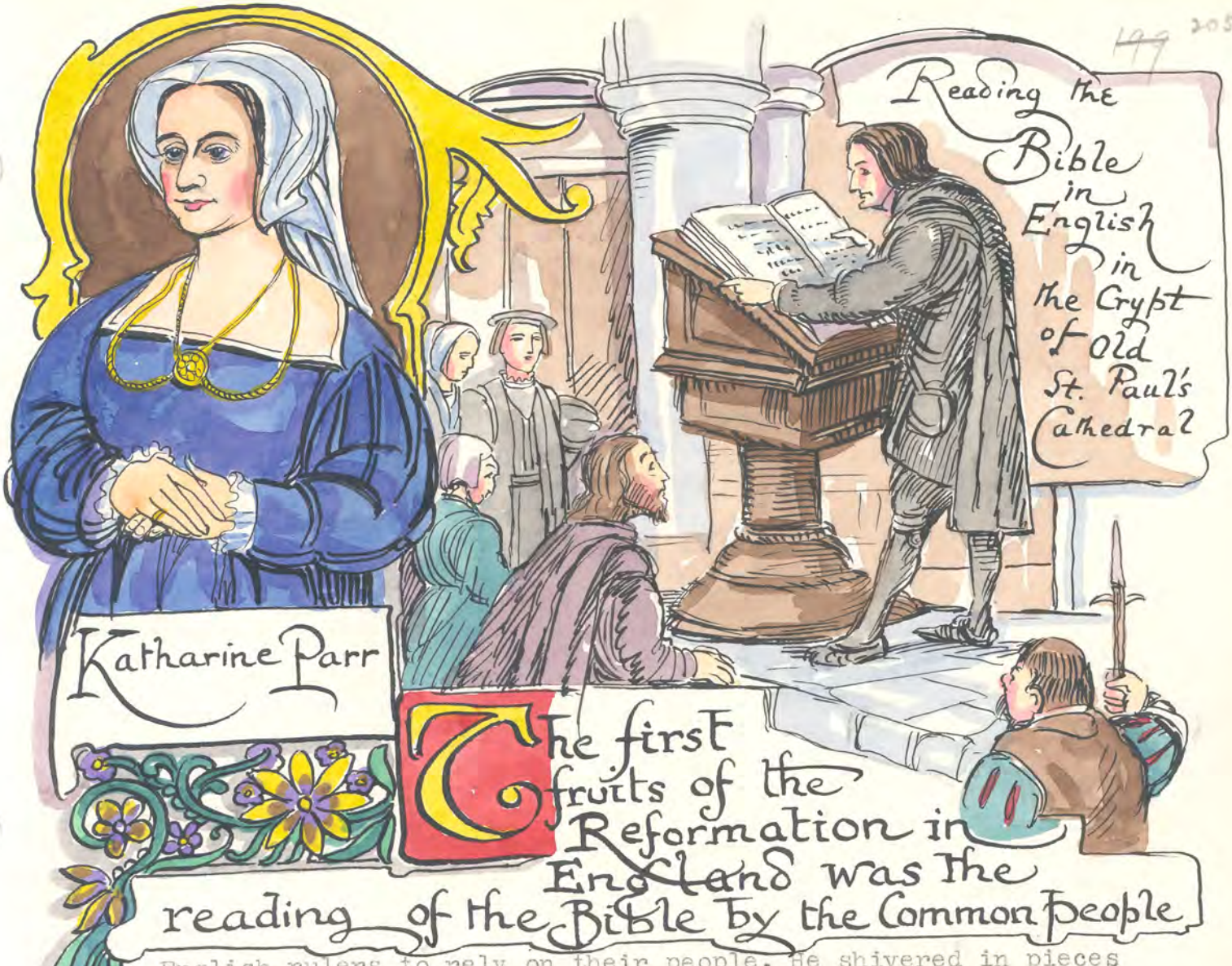


the House of Lords to pass the Six Articles, which affirmed the truth of Transubstantiation (the change of the substance of the Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of Christ), the validity of the vows of Chastity, the excellence of clerical Celebacy, the Confession and private Masses.

We have taken up much space to explain and tell about these matters, because the Church is an important part of the English life.

But we must hurry through the last years of Henry VIII. He became drunk with pride and power. He beheaded Anne, and married a third wife, Jane Seymour, who bore him a son---afterwards Edward VI. In the last seven years of his life, Henry married three more wives, one of whom he divorced, another he beheaded, and the third survived him.

When the King passed away in his fifty-fifth year, having ruled over England for nearly forty years,---during one of the most momentous periods in her history---men came to realize that, despite his many faults, Bluff Prince Hal was a great ruler of men. He was also a great patriotic Englishman. He had taught Englishmen to rely on themselves and their ships. Also he taught future



The first fruits of the Reformation in England was the reading of the Bible by the Common People

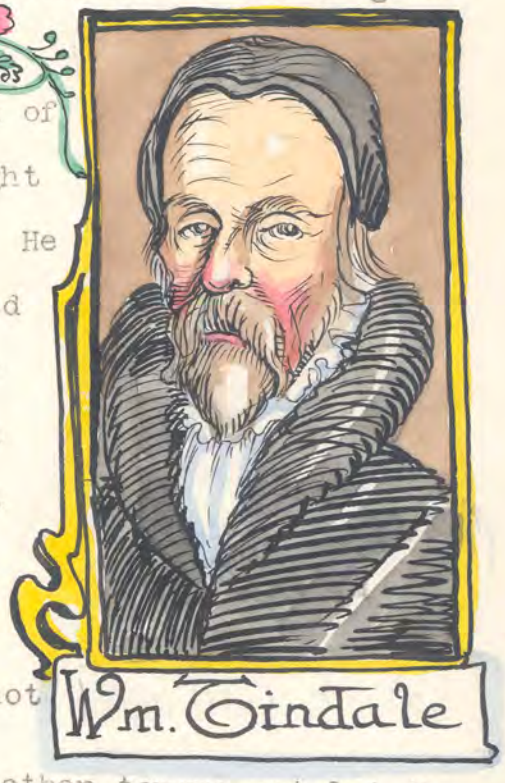
English rulers to rely on their people. He shivered in pieces the foreign yoke that had bound the Church of England since the days of St.Augustine to the Pope of Rome. It is easy to multiply instances of his greed, selfishness and cruelty to individuals; but "no king was ever more careful of the interests of the rank and file of his subjects", says Conyers Read, who has very carefully investigated the records.

The King had ordered an English translation of the Bible to be placed in every parish church for every one to read. That was in itself a matter of tremendous importance. We shall say more about it on

this page!

A Chained Bible

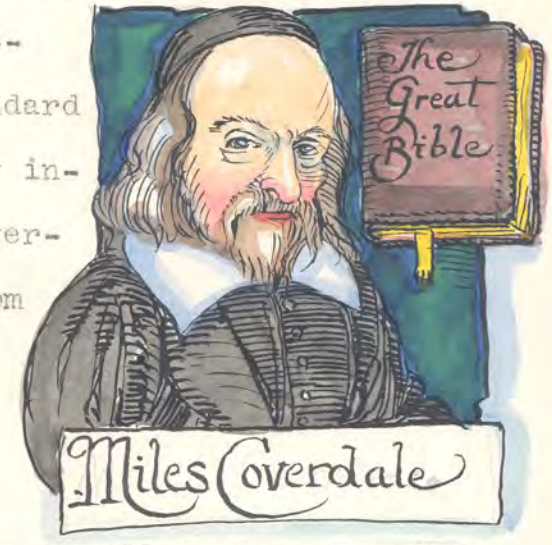
What we call the English spirit of free inquiry was fostered and developed by Wiclif and his Lollards with the English scriptures in their hands. Out of it grew, as out of no other one root, the freedom of the English people. In the century just after Wiclif came the "revival of learning" which made popular again the study of the classics and the classical languages; and under the influence of Erasmus and the Humanists, with their new insistance on classical learning, there came necessarily a new appraisal of the Vulgate as a translation of the original Bible.

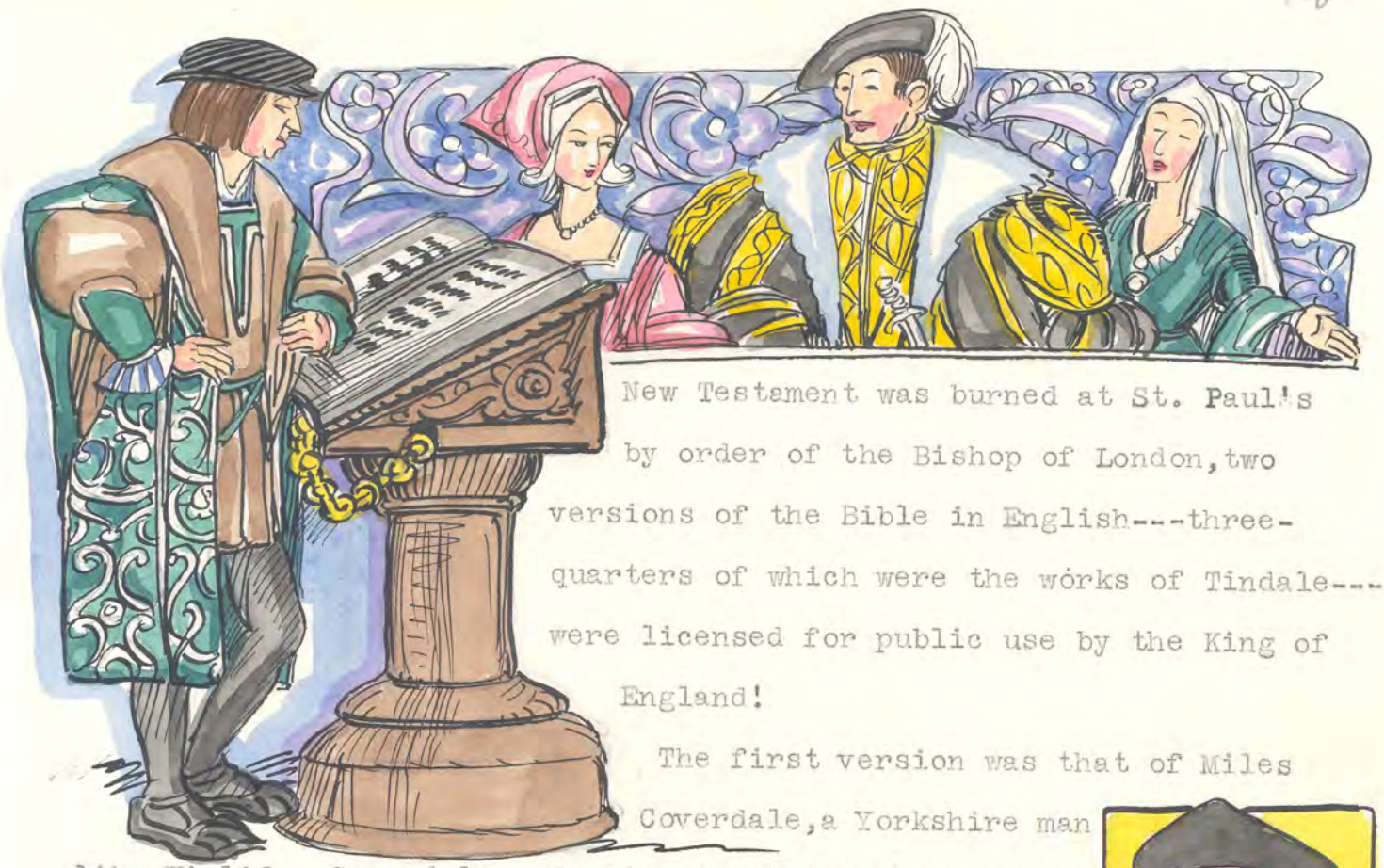


Wm. Tindale

One hundred years exactly after the death of Wiclif, William Tindale was born. He was eight years old when Columbus discovered America. He was a student at Cambridge when Luther posted his theses at Wittenberg. Just as a century before, Wiclif had felt the social need for a popular version of the Bible, so Tindale felt it now. He saw the need as great among the clergy of the time as among the laity. He said in one of his writings: "If you will not let the layman have the word of God in his mother tongue, yet let the priests have it, which for the great part of them do not understand Latin at all, but sing and patter all day with the lips only that which the heart understandeth not". In 1523 or so, Tindale began

to cast the scriptures into the current English. A wealthy London merchant subsidized him with the munificent gift of ten pounds(about fifty dollars),with which he crossed the Channel into Hamburg. And there,and elsewhere on the Continent---where he could be hid---he brought his translation to completion. Printing facilities were greater on the Continent than in England. (By I500 there were at least forty printing presses in various towns of Germany,France,Italy, the Netherlands and England.) The final revision of Tindale's translation was published in I534---the notable year in his life! In two years he was put to death by strangling,and his body was burned. But Tindale's good work was done--he produced a version which "fixed our standard English once for all,and brought it finally into every English home." It was a worthy version,the first translation into English from the original Hebrew and Greek. When a high church dignitary had protested to Tindale against making the Bible so common,he had replied:"If God spare my life,ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth a plow shall know more of the Scriptures than thou dost". And while that was not saying much for the plowboy,it was saying a good deal to the dignitary! In I537,ten years after Tindale's

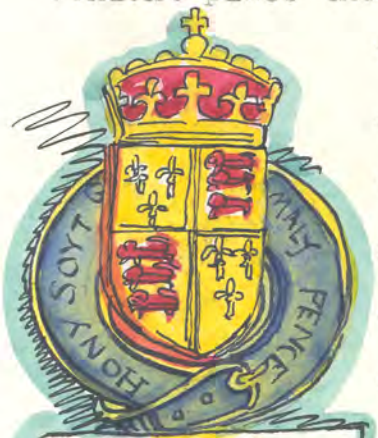




New Testament was burned at St. Paul's by order of the Bishop of London, two versions of the Bible in English---three-quarters of which were the works of Tindale---were licensed for public use by the King of England!

The first version was that of Miles Coverdale, a Yorkshire man like Wiclif. Coverdale made his translation because he loved books. Coverdale's work resulted in the publication of the Great Bible, which was issued to meet the decree that each church should make available in some convenient place the largest possible copy of the whole Bible, where all parishoners could have access to it and read it at their will. The Great Bible gets its name solely from the size of the volume. Bishop Bonner caused six copies of the great book to be located wisely throughout St. Paul's. He found it difficult to make people leave them during the sermons. He was so often interrupted by voices reading to a group, and by the discussions that ensued, that he threatened to have them taken out during the service if people would not be quiet.

Bishop Bonner



Royal Crest on Title page of Bible, 1535

Edward
after
the painting by
Holbein

Under Edward VI, the order for a Great Bible in every church was renewed. All restrictions on translation and publication of the scriptures were cast off. During the six years of this reign, nearly fifty editions were permitted.

The Regent

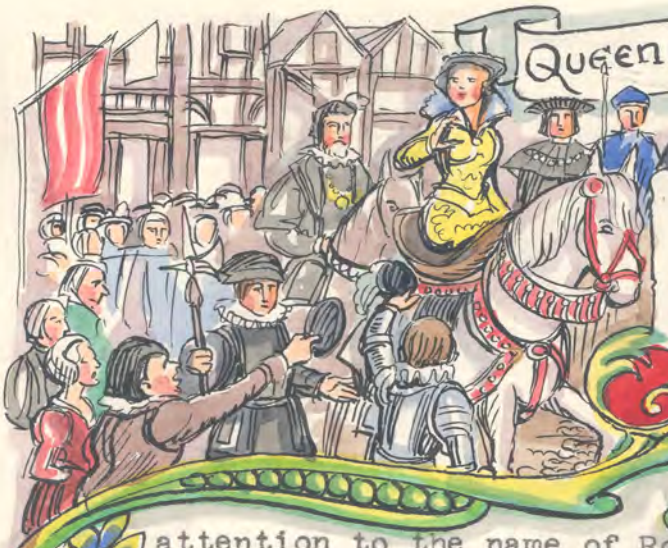
Edward Seymour
Earl of Somerset

Edward VI, son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour, came to the throne in 1547 as a boy of nine. A frail, intellectual child, charmingly portrayed by Mark Twain in The Prince and the Pauper, he was controlled by his regent, the Duke of Somerset, a violent Protestant, who imposed on all churches a Protestant ritual in accordance with the English Book of Common Prayer, which Archbishop Cranmer sponsored. In Edward's reign too the marriage of priests was

allowed,and the laws about the burning of heretics was abolished. Somerset was a man of high character, but too rash and hot-headed to lead the nation. He was soon overthrown by a much more violent person,the ruffian Duke of Northumberland. Somerset was sent to the Tower,and there executed. Northumberland pushed on the Reformation for purely selfish ends. He thrust all leading Catholics into prison; he bullied Princess Mary(who was the natural head of the Catholic party),and tossed the remaining Church lands into the hands of his fellow nobles!

Edward VI,who had always been very delicate,began early in I553 to draw to his end. So Northumberland persuaded the dying boy-king to make his will,leaving the crown to Lady Jane Grey,recently married to one of Northumberland's sons. When Edward died in July, Lady Jane was actually proclaimed Queen in London. But not a cheer was raised by the people. The whole nation rose as one man for the rightful heir to the throne---the injured Princess Mary. Within nine days, the unhappy Lady Jane was in the Tower,where a few months later she was executed. Mary entered London amid wild shouts of welcome

Lady Jane Grey



from loyal subjects. Even though he recanted, Northumberland was not able to save his head.

The sad fate of Lady Jane Grey calls the student's attention to the name of Roger Ascham, the princess's famous and eminent teacher. Ascham's services to both English literature and English education are imperishable. In the reign of Henry VIII, Ascham was chosen by the king himself as tutor of his royal children. The tutor is probably better known to the world today by the one passage in his book, The Schoolmaster, in which he describes Lady Jane Grey's studying Plato's Phaedo, than by all the rest of his writings. Ascham's championship of English as a literary medium against Latin does him honor. Ere long every one agreed with him. His prose style was even in his own day an invaluable example to his contemporaries how to treat ordinary matters without bombast or pretension. The very soundness of his educational views has made them commonplace through general acceptance.

Associated with Roger Ascham in the reformation of Tudor education was Sir John Cheke, tutor and afterwards Secretary of State to Edward VI.

Another scholar of wide culture and various information in these times was Sir Thomas Elyot, whose reputation as an educator rests upon his book, The Governor, which treats of the training of all persons of condition who may be called upon to act as rulers and governors. Though somewhat amusingly pedantic, it is a work of great good sense.

But neither Ascham nor Elyot can lay any claim to being the first English prose writer who set the example of a prose style. That honor, according to Professor Saintsbury, should be accorded to Sir John Mandeville, whose famous books on travels in the Eastern world has secured for the writer the same reputation as that afterwards conferred on Ferdinand Mendez Pinto (of whom I know almost nothing!).....But for that matter, little is known about Mandeville. Some say he was an English knight, or a priest. Others say there was no such man. But his book is before us, and it is one of the most remarkable works in English literature.

Mary

Katharine of ARRAGON

Let us now revert to the accession of Mary Tudor, who ascended the throne in I553. The old rhyme-book says:

Proclaimed the Queen, she sent her foes
To prison or the block;
And to the Holy See of Rome
Restored her wandering flock.

With Rogers, Ridley, Latimer
Who perished at the stake,
The contrite Cranmer suffered
For his dear religion's sake.

The Queen's detested husband,
Philip Second, King of Spain,
By Mary's help, a war with France,
Was unable to maintain.

* * * * *

Mary was the most devout of Roman Catholics. Her accession at the age of 38 years, brought considerable trouble and woe to the court. She was not beautiful, and she was not charming. She had a short nose, a square chin, rather hostile eyes and a rough, deep voice like a man's. (Sir John Tenniel might have had her portrait before him when he drew the Queen of Hearts for Alice in Wonderland!) Poor Mary---her life had been a checkered one. After the annulment of her

mother's(Katharine of Aragon's)marriage and the stigma of bastardy, the little princess recovered some measure of her father's favor by signing an abject submission to Henry VIII's marital and ecclesiastical arrangements---which involved a denial of her own birthright. She had no deep feeling for England. She was more Spanish than English. Her fundamental loyalties were for the church universal,and for the Pope.

During Edward's reign,she had managed to preserve the celebration of the Mass in her household;and she had maintained close contacts with her cousin the Emperor,Charles V. Easily the most honest of the Tudors,she left no one in doubt about her attitude. It was clear enough that at her accession she would re-establish Roman Catholicism in England.

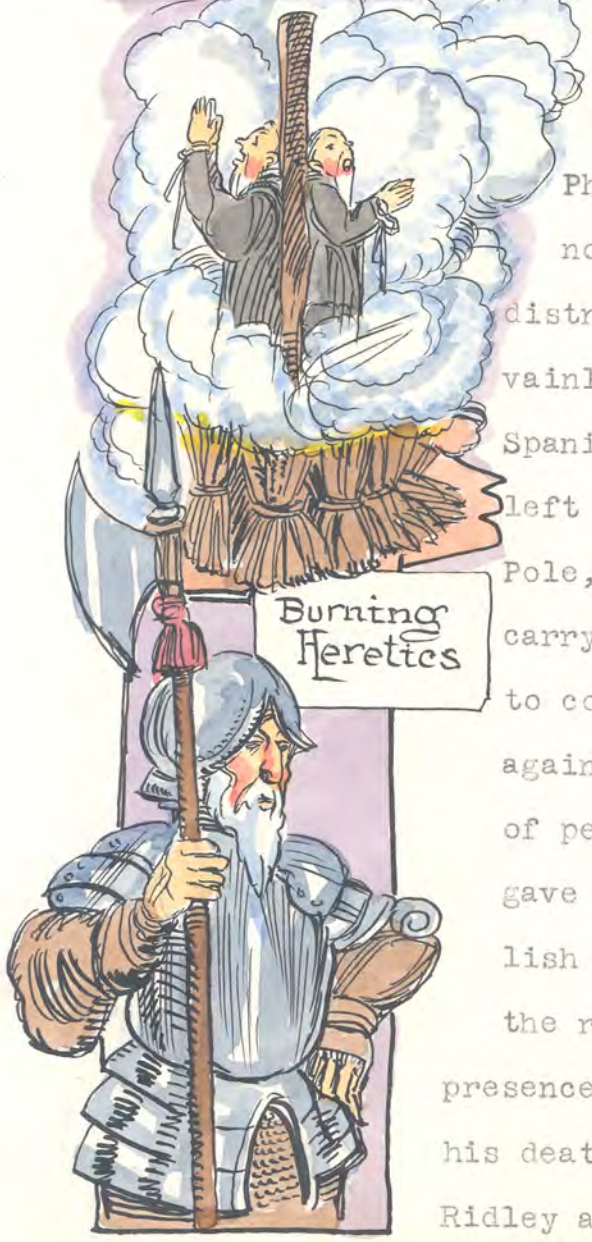
She boasted of her Spanish blood. She

Bearing Faggots

Burning Hands

John Rogers the Compiler of Matthew's Bible

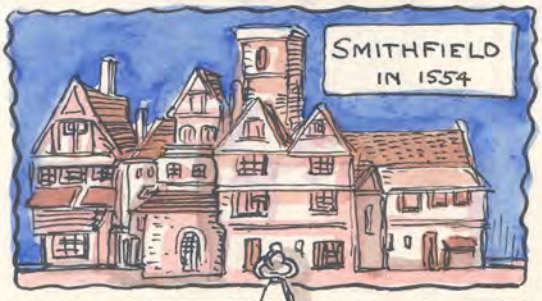
declared her intention of making England into a Catholic nation. She married Philip of Spain, the son of the Emperor---even though Philip was twelve years her junior, and had no love for her. Englishmen were naturally distrustful of such a marriage, and Parliament vainly endeavored to dissuade the Queen. The Spaniard came to England for the marriage, and left soon after. But the papal legate, Cardinal Pole, who came about the same time, stayed on to carry out Philip's program, to force the country to conformity. The heresy laws were re-enacted against the Protestants. Mary bent to her task of persecution with an intense earnestness that gave to "Bloody" Mary's rule an evil name in English annals. The first martyr was John Rogers, the real compiler of Matthew's Bible. In the presence of his wife and ten children, Rogers met his death with courage. Then followed Bishops Ridley and Latimer who were burned together at Ox-

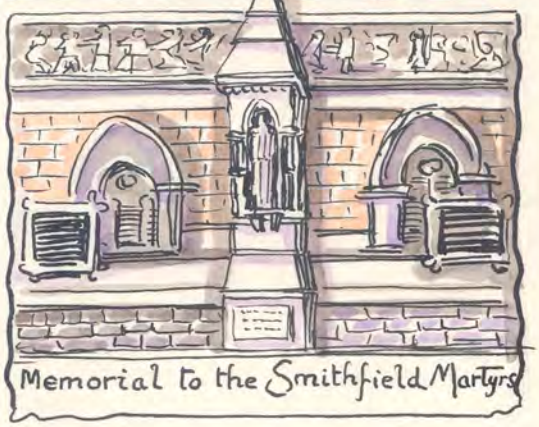


Burning Heretics

ford. Cranmer, as Archbishop of Canterbury, received an elaborate trial; but nothing could save one who had been so prominent in the break with Rome. When the supreme moment came, he screwed his courage to the sticking-point, and thrust his right hand, which had signed the recantations, into the flames first---so that the offending member might first be consumed. Many of less prominence went to the stake in those dreary days. Laymen suffered as well as the clergy. Even the dead were taken from a quiet grave, to be tried and burned, that they might not have the benefit of Christian burial! About three-hundred are reported to have gone to the stake.

An end came to the butchery with the death of Mary in I558. But





before that "easement", the sickening succession of burnings at the stake had kindled a hatred of Spain and of the Roman Church in the hearts of thousands of Mary's English subjects.

It should be recorded that no great Englishman approved of the burnings. The Spanish councillors and the queen herself urged them on. Philip's treatment of the Protestants on the Continent, particularly of the Huguenots in France, was even worse than the Marian persecutions in England---

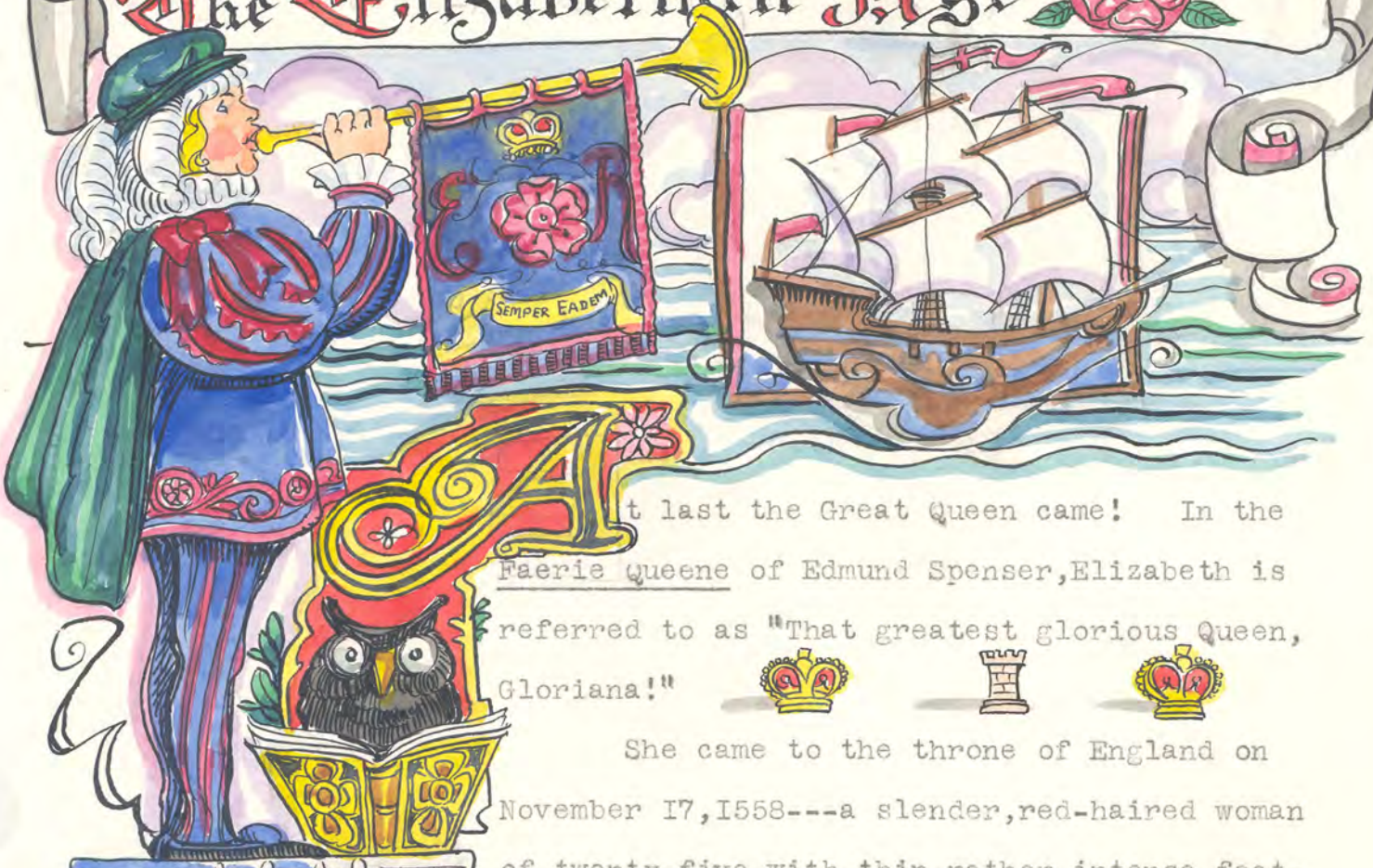
For many years to come, it was felt that the whole business of religious persecutions was "a foreigners' job"---something very characteristic of the low Spaniard.

But, a new day was soon to come. According to the rhyme-book:

> Ere long, neglected Mary died in fifteen fifty-eight;
> Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen, was then proclaimed in state!


dieu et mon droit
SEMPER EADEM
PRAYER BOOK
PRAYER BOOK

The Elizabethan Age



At last the Great Queen came! In the Faerie Queene of Edmund Spenser, Elizabeth is referred to as "That greatest glorious Queen, Gloriana!"

She came to the throne of England on November 17, 1558---a slender, red-haired woman of twenty-five, with thin, rather intense features and a vigorous, wiry body. Her girlhood had not been happy, for she was the daughter of Anne Boleyn, who was sent in disgrace to the scaffold by her crude irascible father.

After Mary's death, the question of Elizabeth's legitimacy arose. If Catharine of Aragon had been validly married, then Henry VII's subsequent union with Anne Boleyn was bigamous. Then, too, Elizabeth was a mere natural child. Parliament, however, declared her to be supreme ruler of England.

Despite all the irregularities of her upbringing, Elizabeth had been given all the opportunities of an excellent education. She hunted

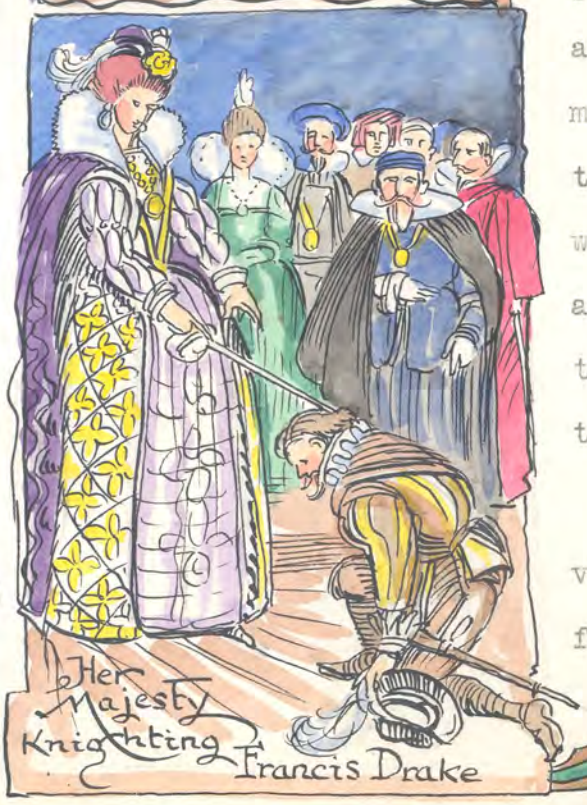
and danced vigorously. She delighted intelligently in music and poetry. She read much,and wrote,spoke,and discussed with power and ability---not only in English,but also in the languages of classical antiquity and of

contemporary Europe. As Queen, whenever she visited the Universities, she made a point of attending the learned disputations and delivering speeches in Latin and in Greek!

Her energy was boundless! She went from work to play, and back to work with incredible dash and swing, leaving her courtiers exhausted by the way. And it is said that "no man ever knew all that she did, or tracked her snapping, flaring spirit through the mazes of her conduct".

But, whatever else she may have been, the great Queen Bess was an English woman through and through. She had an uncanny sense of the mind and heart of her people. In her presence, the wilted spirit of her subjects revived. Men worshipped and served her with all their powers and talents. All the inherited promptings of the old Chivalry rose within her people when the young Queen appeared before them.

Elizabeth became an incarnation of the new, vigorous, young England, that saved the nation from the haughty Spaniard and the Papal foe.



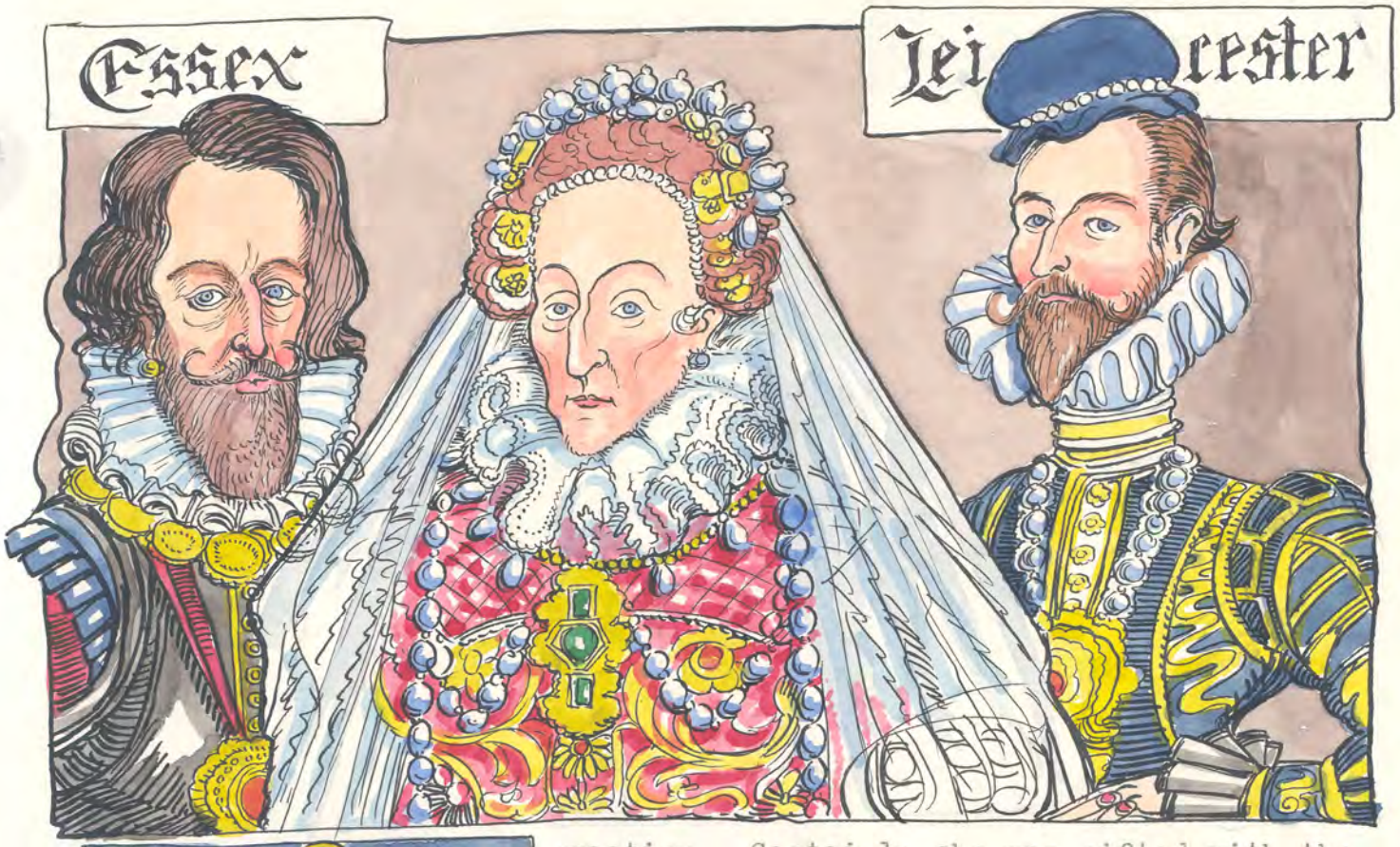
Elizabethiana

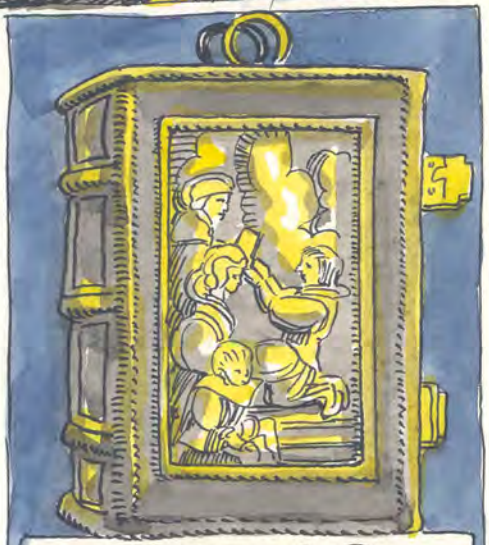
Great Seal of Queen Elizabeth

In the day of her accession, the young Queen began the series of flirtations that involved half the personable young men of her court, and half the desirable matches in European politics. Yet, during the seventy years of her life, she remained single. Different guesses have been made as to why she did not marry. We shall not try to make any new guesses. Nor shall we try to analyze her character, which was one of the least calculable in all history. "She was an unblended composite of twenty people", says one baffled historian. With unpredictable suddenness, she flashed from one extreme of temperament to another. She was by turns mean, generous, brave, suspicious, cruel, farsighted, unjust, ridiculous, splendid! Yet, in her inmost, inviolable soul she was always Queen of England!

The Queen's Barge on the Thames

How much of the greatness of the Elizabeth Age may be safely ascribed to the queen herself is a much mooted





Queen Elizabeth's Prayer Book

SILVER MEDAL commorating the Defeat of the Spanish Armada

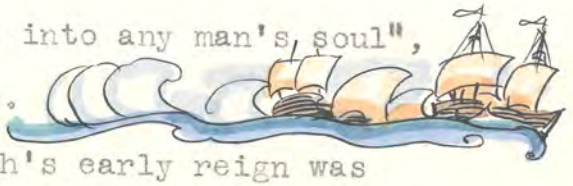
question. Certainly she was gifted with the strange Tudor genius for ruling English men and English hearts. At the time of her accession, the nation was torn by religious strife between powerful Catholic and Protestant parties; foreign relations were dangerously tangled; the country was deeply in debt and still suffering from Henry VIII's debasement of the coinage. Out of such chaos, Elizabeth was to make order.

When she finally made her religious settlement with the co-operation of Parliament, it was a compromise or middle-way. She favored neither Catholic nor Protestant, but worked in the interests of the great majority of her people. She abolished Papal jurisdiction, and became the

1588

An English Warship

Supreme Governor(not "Head")of the Church of England. By an Act of Uniformity,she restored the English Prayer Book of Edward VI. There was no inquisition into any man's private faith. "I will open no windows into any man's soul", said the prudent queen.

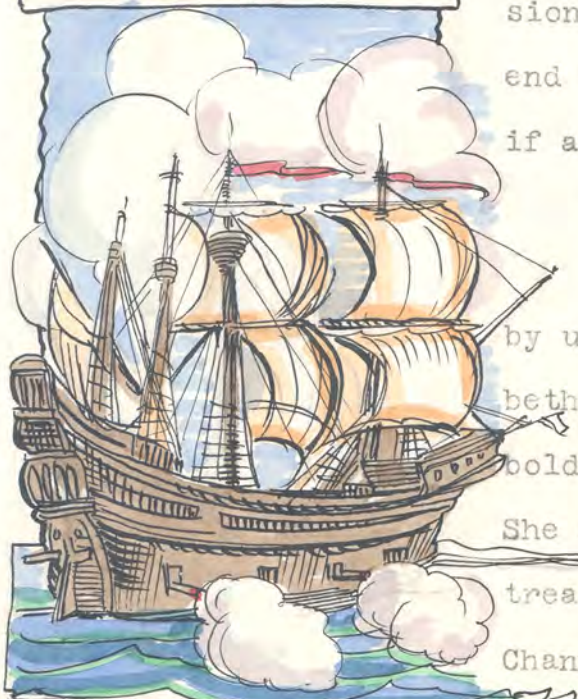


Philip 11

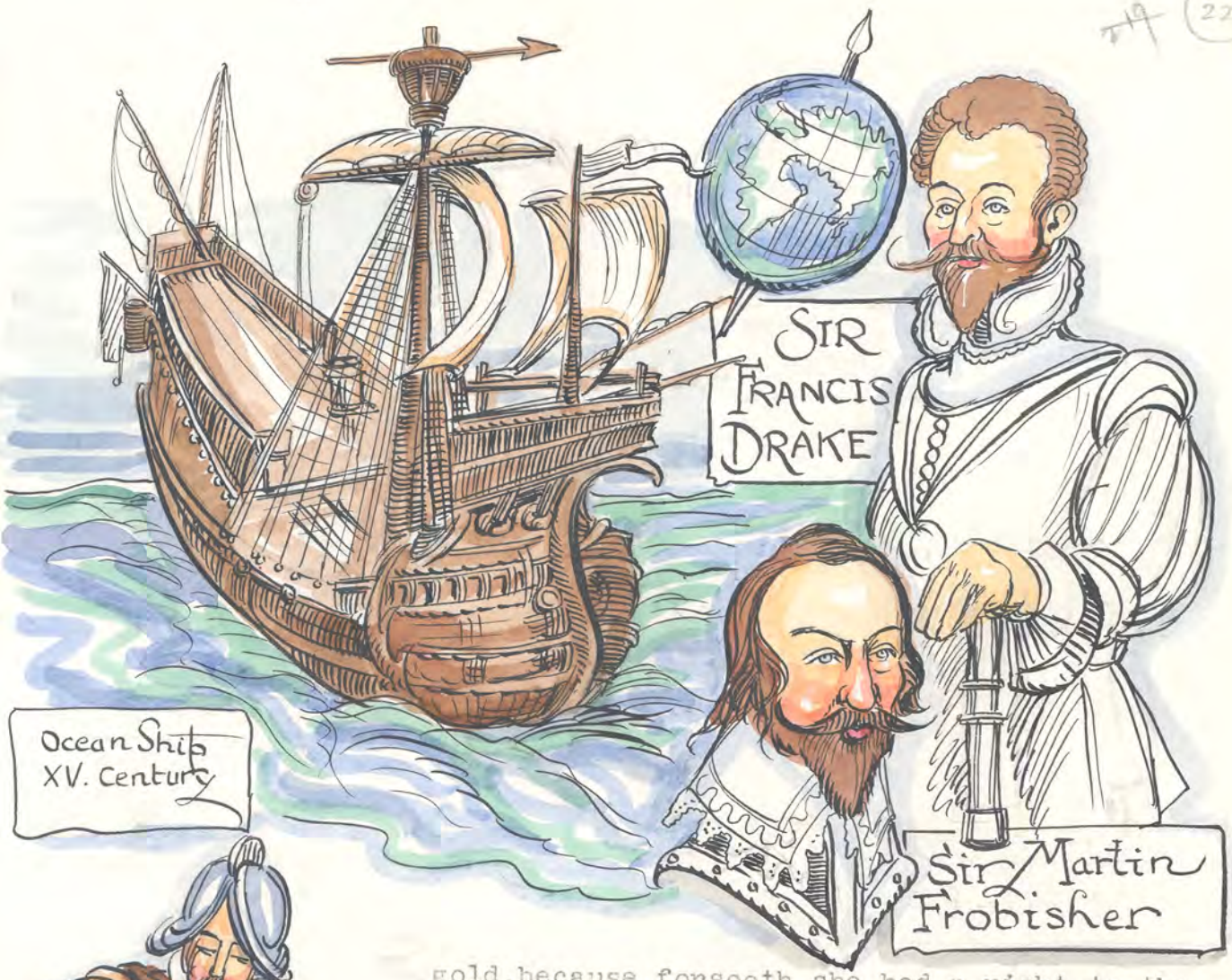
Much of Elizabeth's early reign was taken up with foreign policy. The dominant state in Europe was Spain,ruled by Mary's husband,Philip II,who,possessing most of the New World,denied to other nations the privilege of trading with it. The apprehension of a possible Spanish attack on England was a constant nightmare! English seadogs carried on an unofficial war upon Spanish-borne trade,and the growing tension between Philip and Elizabeth was bound to end in disaster for the smaller power,---that is, if a miracle did not happen in favor of England!

And the miracle did happen!

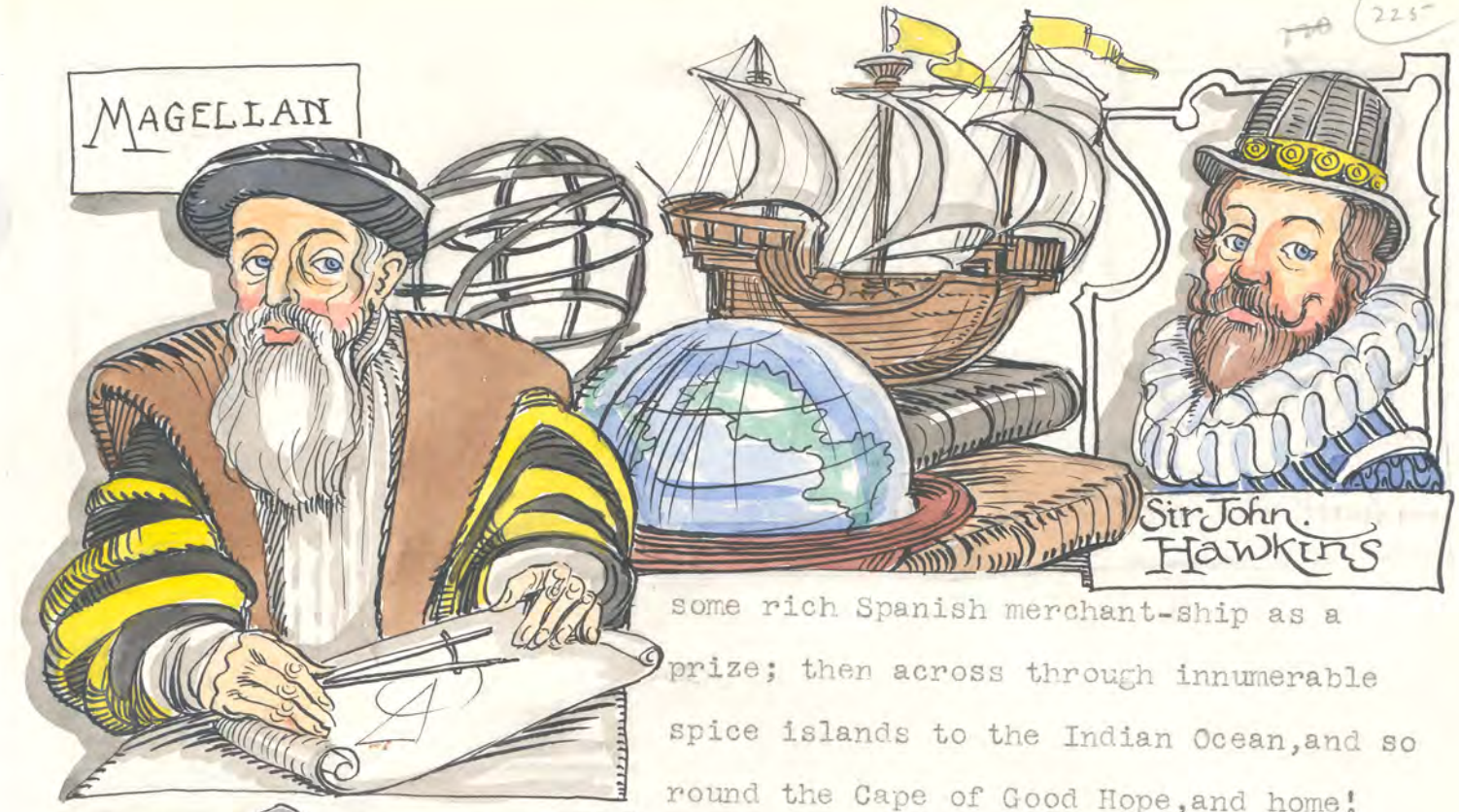
During the time when Philip was distracted by uprisings against him in the Netherlands,Elizabeth was not idle. She secretly encouraged her bold sea-rovers to prey upon Spanish shipping! She even encouraged them to seize Philip's treasure ships when they sailed through the Channel...and then proceeded to "borrow" Philip's



one of Philip's Hulks



gold, because, forsooth, she had a right to the loan, as she had rescued it from Channel pirates! All merchant-ships in those days carried guns, for they always had to be ready for a tussle with pirates. The English ships were all fighting ships, and they thoroughly enjoyed the encounters with the heavy and stately Spanish galleons. When Sir Francis Drake pillaged the Spanish colonies, the Queen acknowledged his services publicly. In 1577, Drake's Golden Hind undertook the daring voyage across the Atlantic, across the Equator, south and ever south till the Strait of Magellan leads into the Pacific; and then north again---picking up here and there



some rich Spanish merchant-ship as a prize; then across through innumerable spice islands to the Indian Ocean,and so round the Cape of Good Hope,and home!

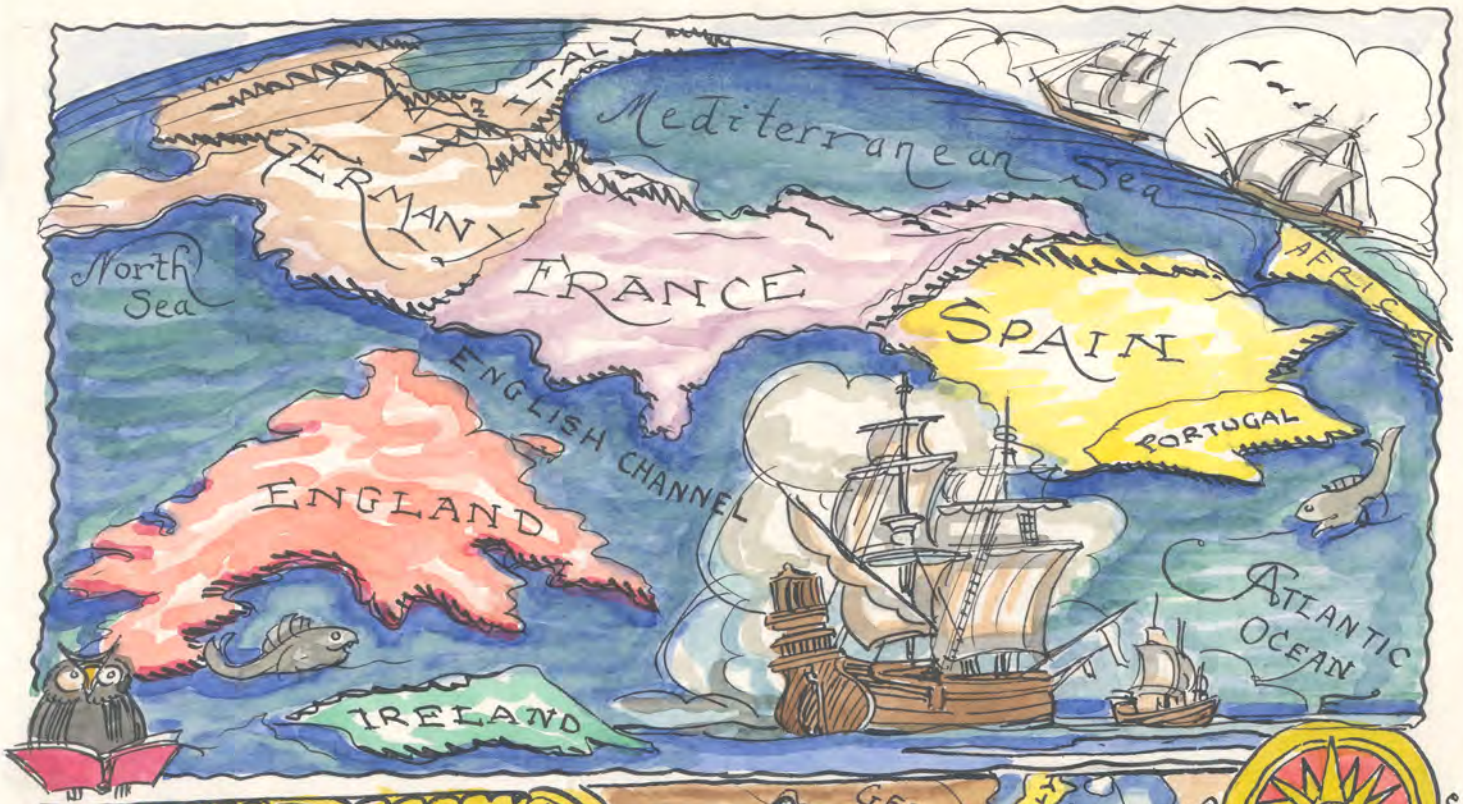
Home---in time to raid Cadiz harbor and destroy Philip's ships,which were getting into readiness to invade England.

In mid-summer of I588,Philip's famous Armada sailed from Spain--to help Philip's general,the Duke of Parma,across from the Netherlands with an army for the conquest of Elizabeth's realm. But a swarm of Elizabeth's privateers,swift and sure, manned by Drake's toughened sea-dogs, harassed the clumsy,overloaded Spanish hulks,manned by unskilled and haughty sailors and soldiers,who had no conception of open-sea fighting on isolated boats----And the Armada was a complete "wash-out". North Sea fogs and storms gave the finishing touches to one of the

most dramatic defeats in naval history. Philip's fleet was crippled by the English guns before it reached the Straits of Dover. Then great gales drove the Armada northward, round Scotland, and southward again round Ireland. At length only a few mere hulks returned to the harbors of Spain.

England now ruled the seas! She could send her ships where she chose, and trade wherever she wished. No fear was there now of becoming a province of Spain. Philip, of course, was not willing to accept defeat. He continued the war to the end of his days on earth! But now England took the offensive, and in the years that followed the defeat of the Armada, Drake led well-equipped expeditions in attacks against Lisbon and other Portuguese cities, Hawkins and Frobisher did considerable damage to Spanish trade in the Atlantic, and Howard and Grenville carried the fight to the Azores. Philip died in 1598, beaten in the long struggle with Elizabethan seamanship and enterprise.

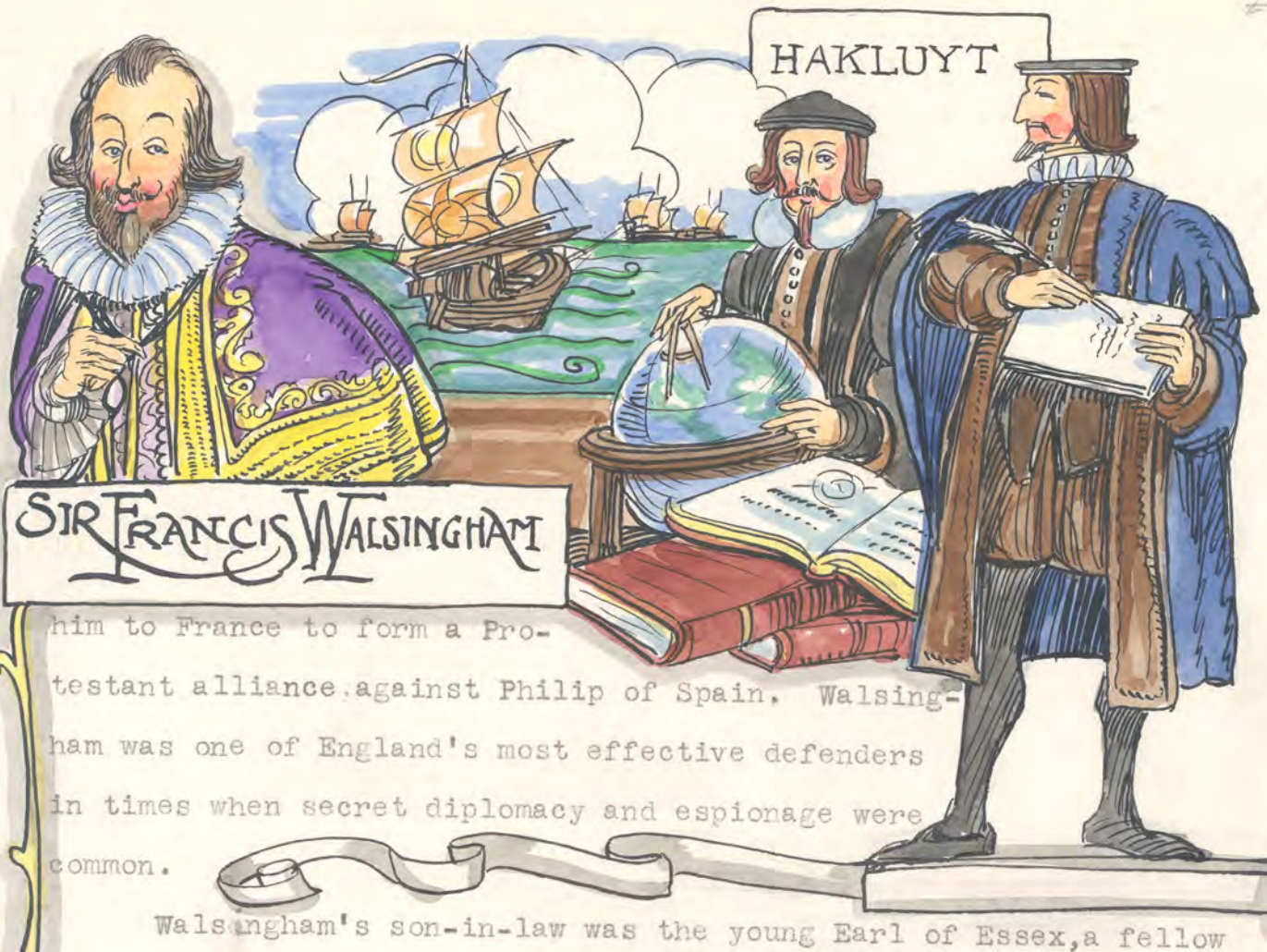
As we have seen, the Queen was aided in her great triumphs by a num-



LORD HOWARD of Effingham

ber of remarkable men who gave her unstinted and lon service. At first she depended on Sir William Cecil(created Lord Burghley in I57I),a man of absolute

integrity, whose faithfulness to the queen was unswerving even under difficult conditions. Another important member of the Queen's "cabinet" was Cecil's brother-in-law, Sir Nicholas Bacon, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. It was through the shrewd Lord Keeper that Elizabeth admonished her Parliaments. (Sir Francis Bacon and Sir Edward Coke really came into the Elizabethan triumph later, but we put their pictures in here, to fill up the space! At this time, they were learning the business of law and government.) But Sir Francis Walsingham was among Elizabeth's eminent assistants. He was the great foreign envoy; the Queen sent

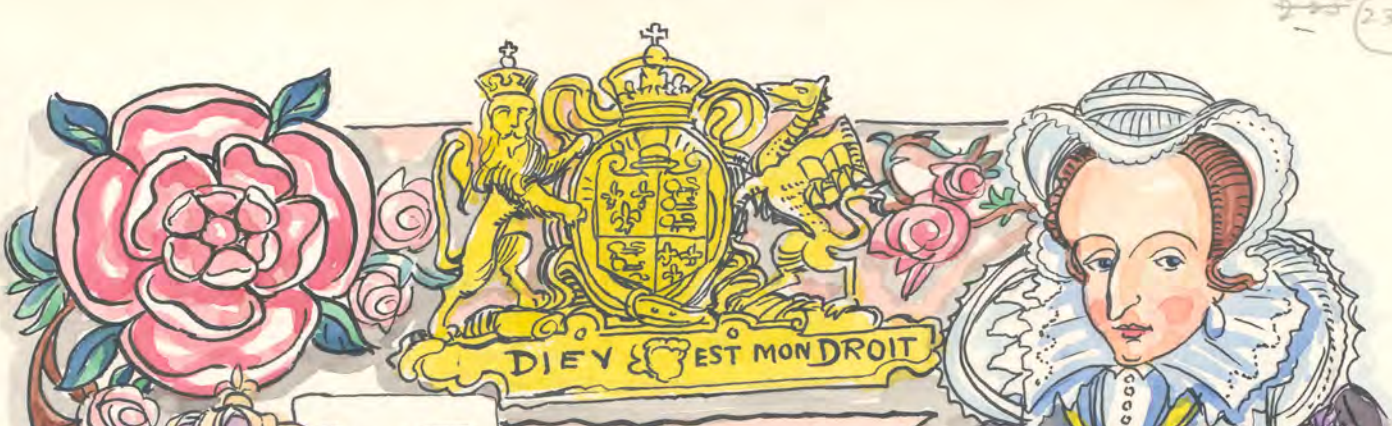


SIR FRANCIS WALSINGHAM

him to France to form a Protestant alliance against Philip of Spain. Walsingham was one of England's most effective defenders in times when secret diplomacy and espionage were common.

Walsingham's son-in-law was the young Earl of Essex, a fellow of considerable merit. He was among the queen's favorites, and might have done well for himself if he had not been such a loud-mouthed critic of the way in which Irish matters were being mishandled. When the Queen sent him out to Ireland, to remedy the situation in that unhappy country, Essex failed ignominiously. The disgrace that followed brought about his imprisonment and execution. Another favorite was the Earl of Leicester, who aspired to be the queen's consort. In time, that

Henry de Valois, Duke of Anjou — another Suitor



Francis II, husband of Mary Stuart

hope was dimmed by several tragic circumstances.

* * * * * * * * *

THE case of Queen Elizabeth and Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was the second of the two important duels of the English queen's long reign (The other duel, as we have seen, was with Phillip II of Spain). The beautiful Mary Stuart

Mary Stuart at the age of 17

returned to Scotland in 1561, after the death of her husband, the young King Francis of France, only to find that Elizabeth had already helped the Scottish nobles to overthrow the French power and the Catholic Church in Scotland at one blow. The new Presbyterian Church was going strong among the Scottish people. They had been turned to Calvinism by the forceful and vigorous teaching and preaching of John Knox, the zealous Protestant reformer. When Mary Stuart held on to the old faith of the Catholic Church, Knox bitterly assailed her. He caused her subjects to


Edinburgh Castle before 1573


The Birthplace of John Knox in Edinburgh

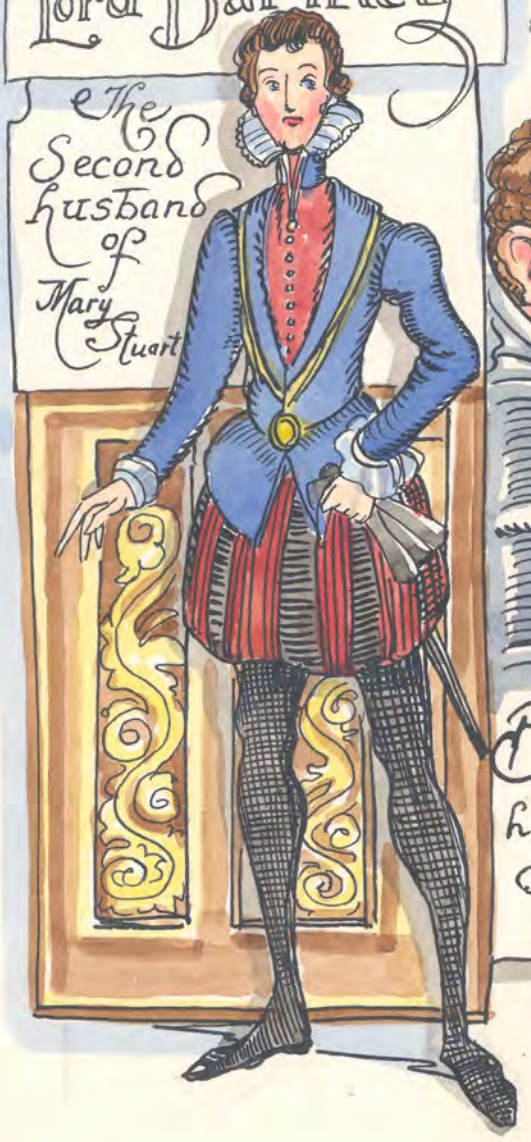
JOHN CALVIN

JOHN KNOX

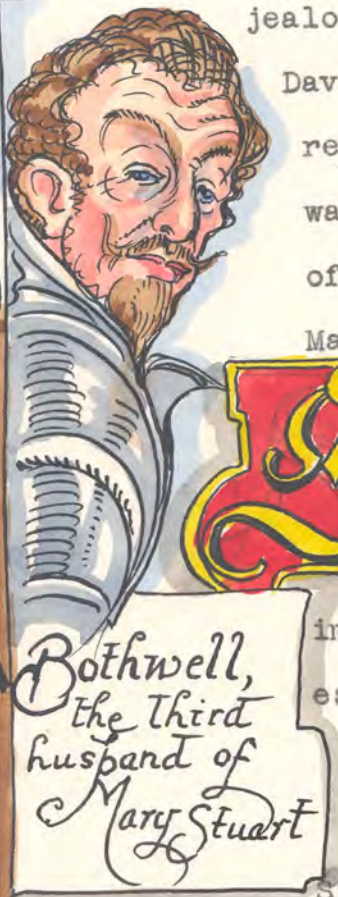

The Escape of Mary Queen of Scots from Loch Leven Castle 1568

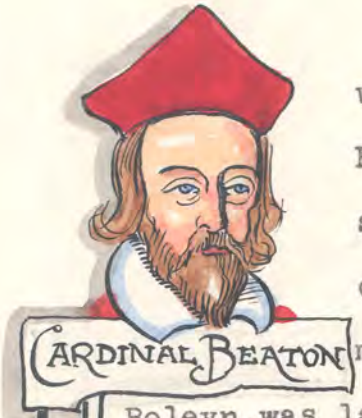
reject her as their ruler. **

MARY made her position even more untenable by her unfortunate ventures into matrimony. She married her kinsman, Lord Henry Stuart Darnley, thus securing the perpetuation of the Stuart name in the dynasty. But Darnley had nothing to him beside his Stuart name and handsome appearance. He was an empty-headed, unfaithful and yet insanely jealous fellow, as his murder of David Rizzio, Mary's Italian secretary, soon revealed. Darnley was in turn murdered by the Earl of Bothwell, whom the unhappy Mary speedily married. *******



SCOTLAND now rose against their Queen. Mary Stuart was deposed, defeated and imprisoned. But she managed to escape to England---only to change her Scottish prison for an English one. At first, Mary Stuart's imprisonment at Fotheringay Castle was a polite one, with every luxury except freedom. But fresh conspiracies





were started in England, to put Mary Stuart on the English throne. It will be recalled that a considerable party in England (composed of Catholics) had never felt that the marriage of Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn, was lawful, and that Elizabeth had no legal claim to the throne. If they were right, then Mary Stuart ought to be the Queen of England, according to the usual rules of succession.

Mary Stuart honestly came to believe that she was the rightful Queen of England. She began to implore the aid of every Catholic power in Europe, and soon became involved in conspiracies against Elizabeth's life. These conspiracies grew so thick and fast that Lord Cecil felt it necessary to bring the royal guest ----who was held as a prisoner for nineteen dreary years!---to trial.

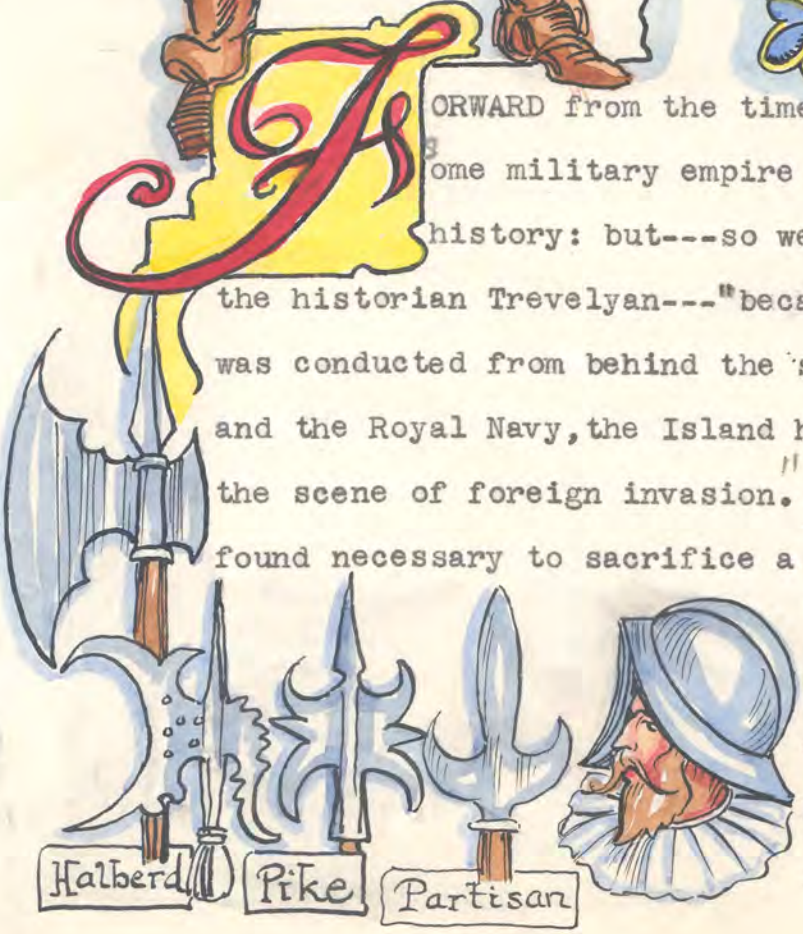
The unhappy Mary Stuart was tried, condemned, and beheaded in Fotheringay Castle, in Northamptonshire, February 8, 1587. And her son, James VI of Scotland, was brought up as a Protestant by a Regency that was not unfriendly to Elizabeth.

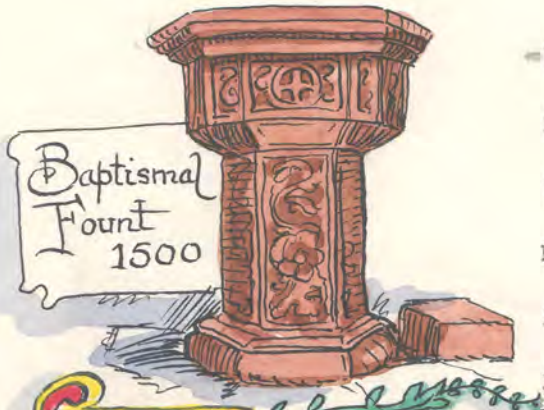
Execution of Mary Stuart.

Eventually, the son of Mary Stuart succeeded to the English throne as James I, founder of the Stuart dynasty in England----which seems to me to be something of an ironical trick for history to play on our good Queen Bess!

* * * * * * * * * *

FORWARD from the time of Elizabeth, warfare against some military empire is a recurrent motif of British history: but---so we are informed by the historian Trevelyan---"because such warfare was conducted from behind the shield of the sea and the Royal Navy, the Island has never become the scene of foreign invasion." Nor was it ever found necessary to sacrifice a large part of the manhood of the country abroad, or to interrupt the usual course of business and pleasure at home. Such continuous security is the secret of much in Eliza-





bethan character and institutions. This feeling of security enabled the people to evolve Parliamentary government and the freedom of the subject before any other great country.

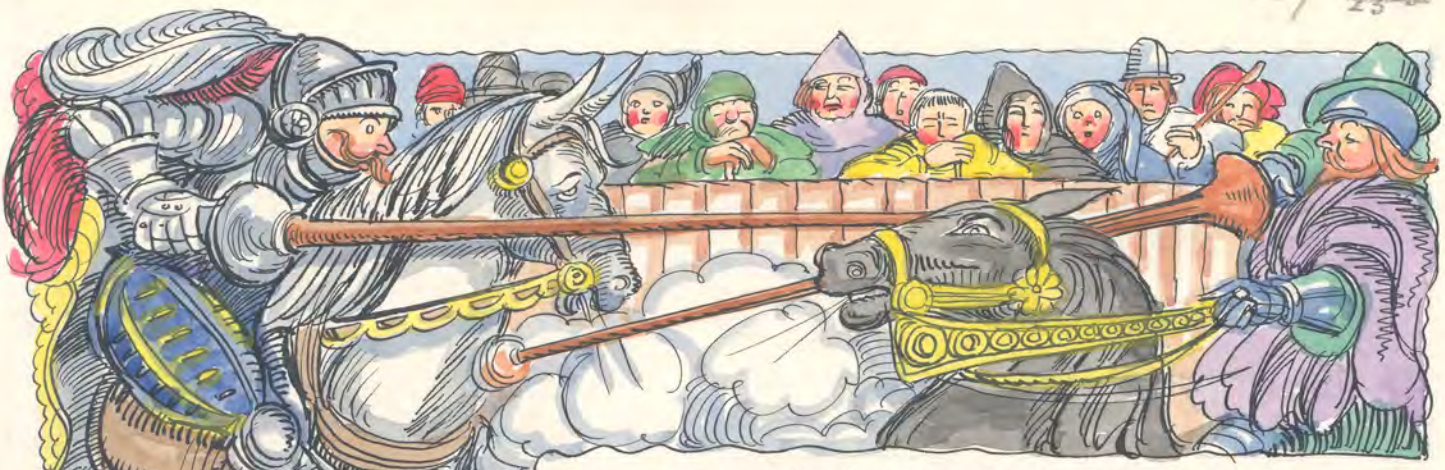
In a very interesting discussion of Elizabethan England(The Miracle of England),Andre Maurois calls our atensionto the fact that the Elizabethans were not different from the people of today. Their bodies were made as ours are made. They had the same brains, the same hearts,the same loins and the same passions as those of their descendants.....But the swirls and the quirks of their clothes distorted so cunningly the lines of their bodies,and the splendor of their metaphors so strangely

An Elizabethan Coach

disguised these inborn passions, that to many historians the Elizabethans have seemed as creatures from another world! In particular, some critics have been astonished at the contrast between the delicacy of Elizabethan poetry and the cruelty of Elizabethan executions, bear-gardens and public shows. Also between the luxury of their dress and the filth of their cities and river-fronts. But every epoch holds such surprises. Historians yet unborn will find it no less hard to recognize the intelligence of our scientists or the acuteness of our novelists with the stupidity of our economic system or the savagery of our wars!

During the early years of Elizabeth's reign, there seems to have been some restraint on extravagence, owing to the condition of the national finan-

Elizabethan Houses



ces. But, with increased prosperity, the court became the center of all that could give pleasure. Balls, tournaments, banquets, bear-baitings, the acting of plays, elaborate Christmas festivities, boating on the Thames, and the like helped the court and the people to spend their days in a merry social way. During

July and August, the Queen generally left her residence at Whitehall, going on a "progress" through her Dominions. This gave Her Majesty an opportunity to enjoy a sumptious holiday at the expense of her wealthy subjects. Often several counties were traversed in a leisurely fashion, and the country folk had a chance to see the Queen as she passed by. Sometimes the Court stopped for several days at the residence of a highly-favored nobleman, and there would

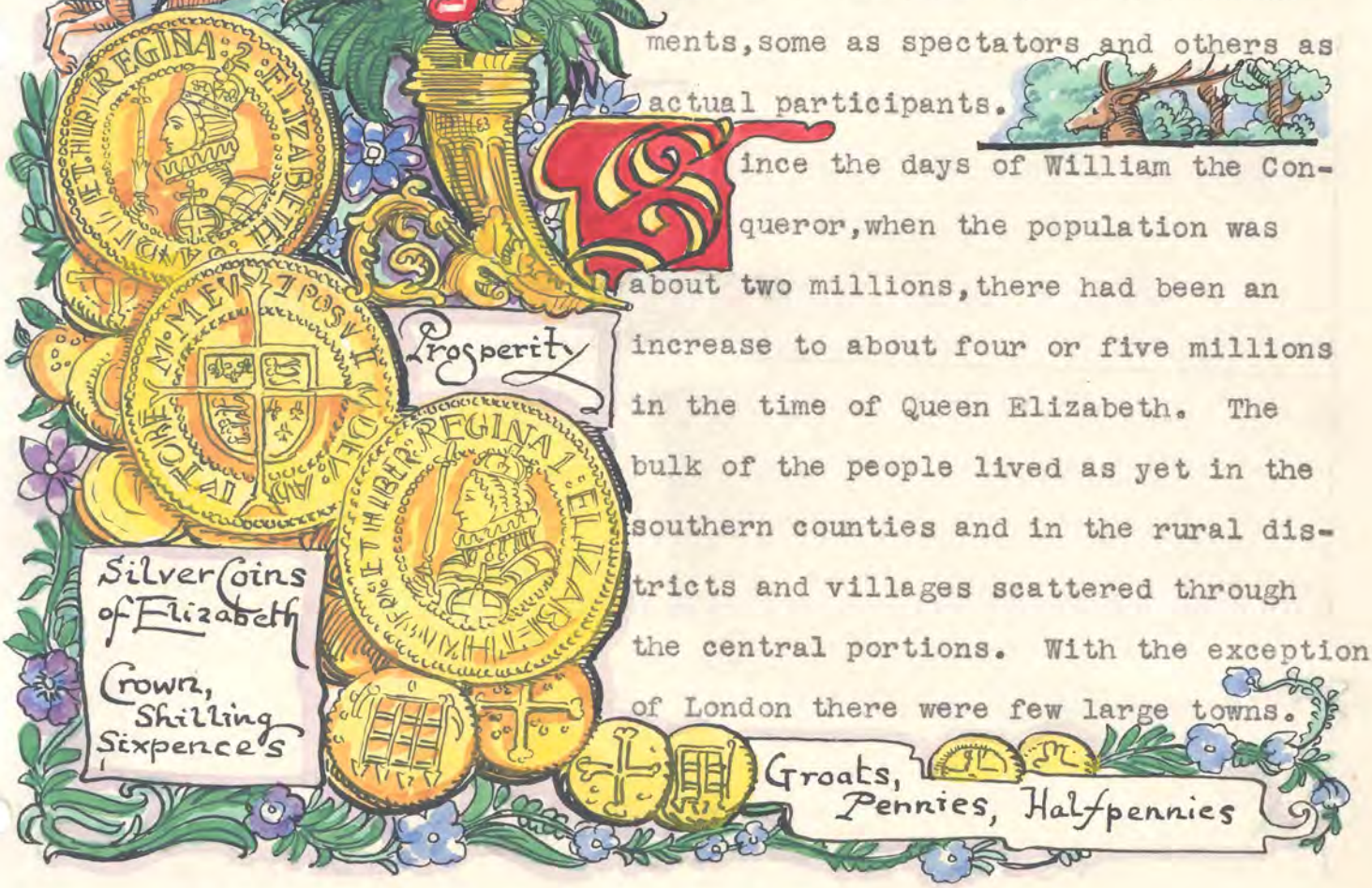
An Assembly made in the presence of Queen Elizabeth

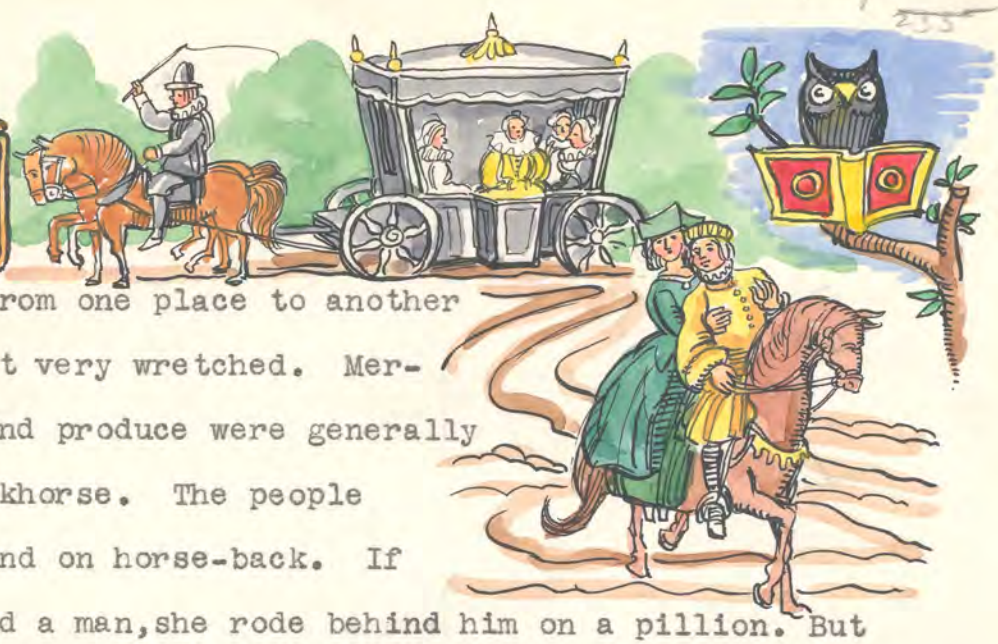
be a round of glorious entertainment, fireworks, plays, and various sports in the Queen's honor, and the whole countryside was called upon to share in the

The Chase

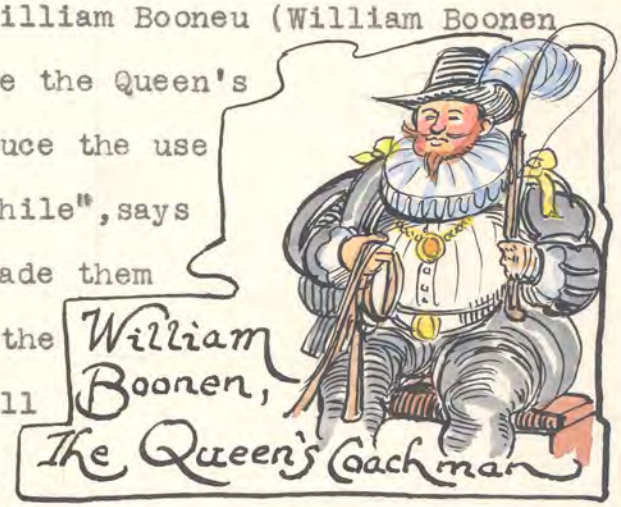
out-door sports and games and tournaments, some as spectators and others as actual participants.

Since the days of William the Conqueror, when the population was about two millions, there had been an increase to about four or five millions in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The bulk of the people lived as yet in the southern counties and in the rural districts and villages scattered through the central portions. With the exception of London there were few large towns.

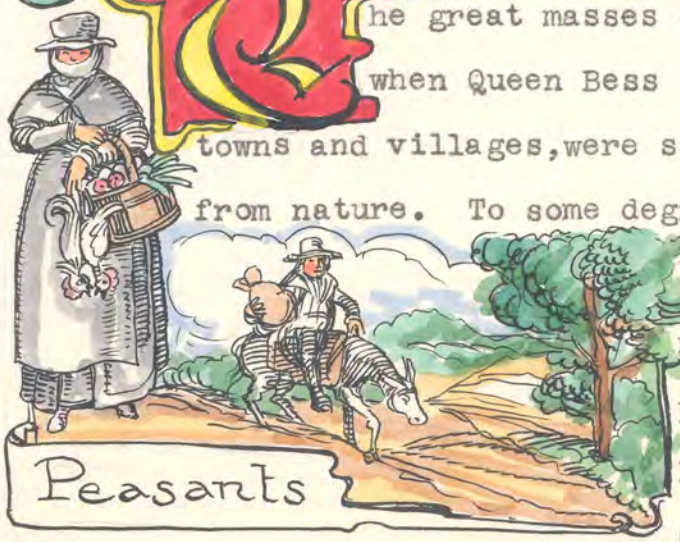


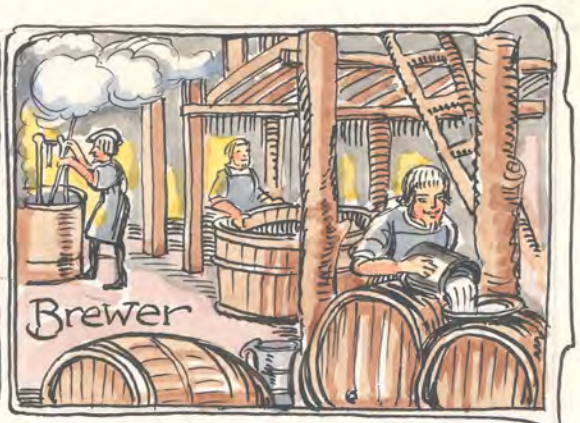


The roads from one place to another were as yet very wretched. Merchandise and produce were generally transported by packhorse. The people traveled on foot and on horse-back. If a woman accompanied a man, she rode behind him on a pillion. But coaches were gradually coming into general use. Stow in his Chronicle relates how, in the year I564, Guilliam Booneu (William Boonen to the likes of us!) a Dutchman, became the Queen's coachman, and was the first to introduce the use of coaches into England. "After a while", says the chronicler, divers great ladies made them coaches, and rid in them up and down the country, to the great admiration of all the beholders; but then by little and little, they grew usual among the nobility and others of sort, and within twenty years became a great trade of coach-making".



The great masses of the people of England in the days when Queen Bess traveled "in progress" through their towns and villages, were still country folk, not yet divorced from nature. To some degree they were already relieved from the harsh poverty and ignorance of the mediaeval peasant. A considerable proportion of the inhabitants were hard-working agriculturists and trained craftsmen. Apprenticeship was the



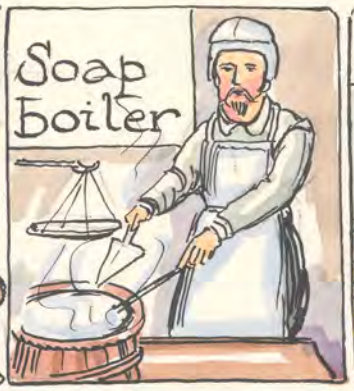


Confectioner

Chicken Man

Broom Man

key to the new national life. According to the uniform pattern of the apprentice system (Elizabeth's Statue of Artificers)no master could set up as a master or as workman till he had served his seven years's apprenticeship. In that way the youth of the country obtained technical education and social discipline that went some way to compensate for the unfelt want of a universal system of school education. Youth was under control of a master,in some cases until the age of twenty-four. Industry was conducted in the home of the employer,who worked at the same shop and usually dined at the same board with his paid journeyman and his bound apprentices. "The happiness of the manufacturing household depended,not on factory laws or trade



union rules", says Trevelyan, "but on the temper and character of the inmates"...."The distinction between master and man was one of rank only, not of class". In the words of the song "Sally in our Alley", Carey portrays some of the realities of the "prentice life" (which were just the same under Elizabeth as under Queen Anne):

WHen she is by, I leave my work,
I love her so sincerely;
My Master come like any Turk
And bangs me most severely!

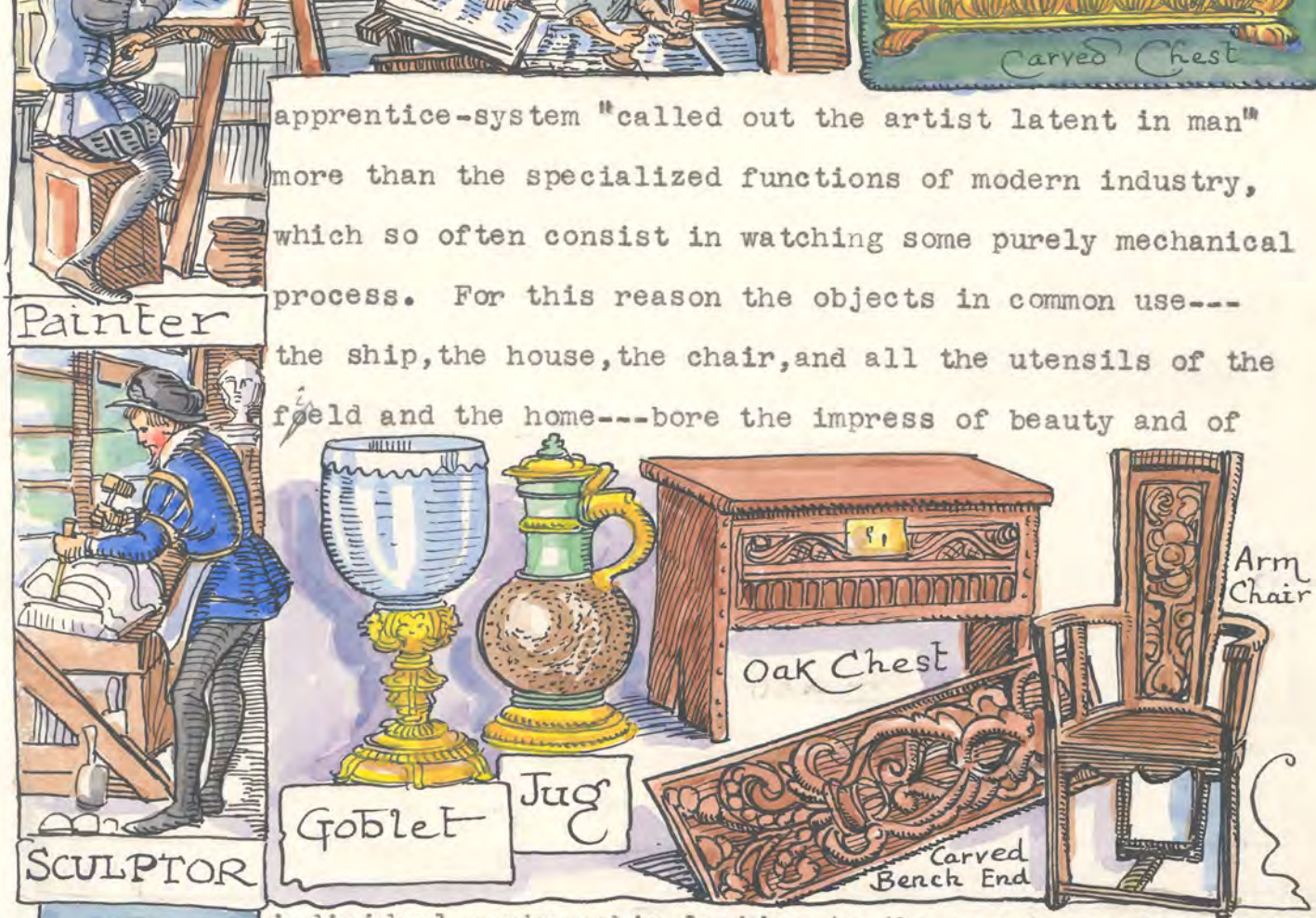
MY Master carries me to church
And often am I blamed
Because I leave him in the lurch
As soon as text is named.

MY Master and my neighbors all
Make game of me and Sally,
And but for her I'd better be
A slave and row a galley.

BUT when my seven long years are out
O then I'll marry Sally,
O then we'll wed, and then we'll bed,
But not in our Alley!

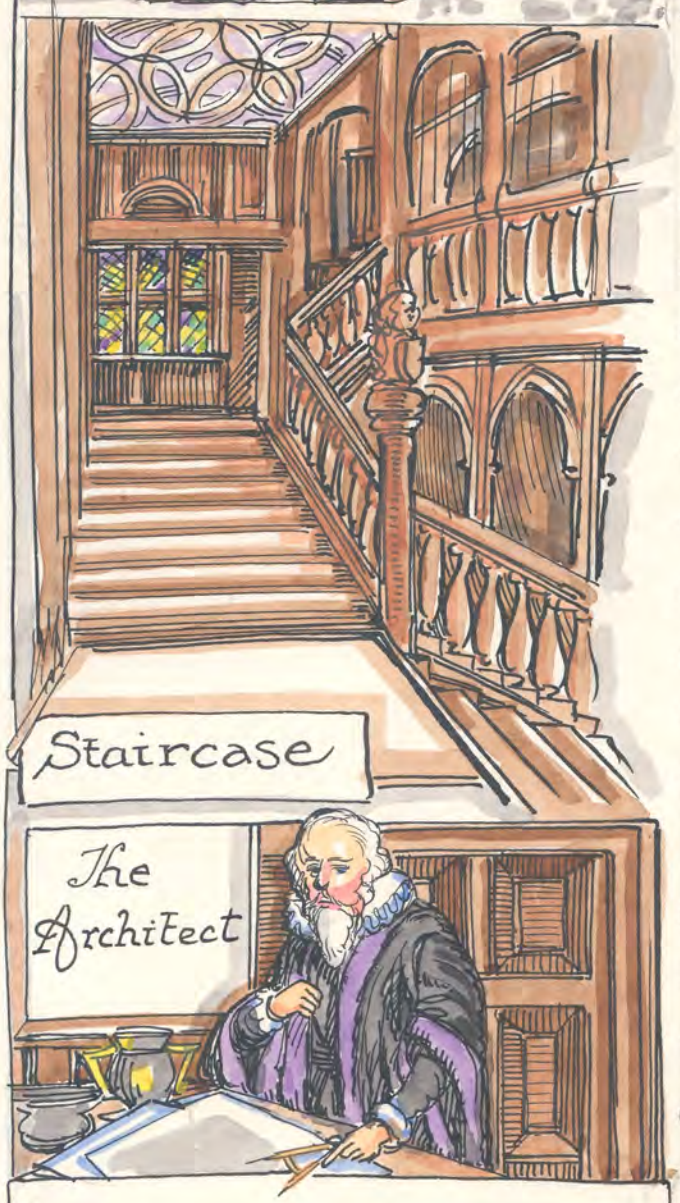
Contemporary observers call our attention to the fact that the skilled craftsman found joy in his work. The

apprentice-system "called out the artist latent in man" more than the specialized functions of modern industry, which so often consist in watching some purely mechanical process. For this reason the objects in common use--- the ship, the house, the chair, and all the utensils of the field and the home---bore the impress of beauty and of



individual workmanship, lacking to the machine-made article of today. "Work was more popular then than now", observes the informed critic, "because much of it was educative of man's best talents". But there was another side to the life of the pre-mechanical age which should not be forgotten. There was a great deal of hard muscular toil to be done. In the saw-pit, the quarry, the wharf, and elsewhere, the proportion of dangerous trades was great. And in cottage industries parents often employed their small children for very long hours.

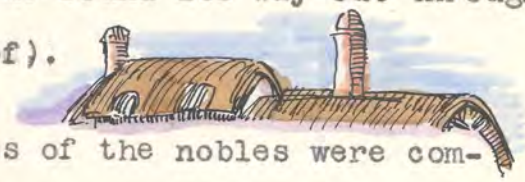
THE houses of the Elizabethans---especially those in the Midland and Western counties---present a striking variety of treatment, though subject to a general similarity of plan. Local conditions necessitated the free use of timber and plaster. The main walls were constructed of stout timber framed together, with the interstices filled with lath and plaster, so that the outside surface of the houses showed squares and triangles of wood-work breaking up the plaster facing. The better houses were roofed with tile, the poorer with thatch. In most homes the windows had the benefit of glass (the manufacture of glass was still in its infancy). The poorer dwellings had open lattice board shutters.



Chimneys were rare until the end

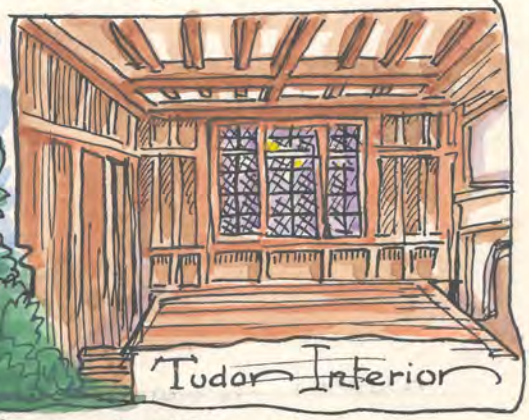
House at Layer Marney Essex c. 1520

of the century. (Fires were built on the floor, and the smoke found its way out through a hole in the roof).



The houses of the nobles were complicated structures, wherein convenience, instead of safety from external attack, was the important thing. The great hall was the common meeting place for banquets and celebrations of all sorts. An elaborate Elizabethan home, invariably built in the form of an "H" or an "E", was seldom complete without its "Withdrawing room" (our modern living room), parlor, scullery, pantry, buttery, spicery, and numerous bedrooms. The ceilings were usually richly ornamented with curious patterns and heraldric devices and emblems. Broad staircases with frequent landings appeared for the first time in English architecture.

Harrard House Stratford



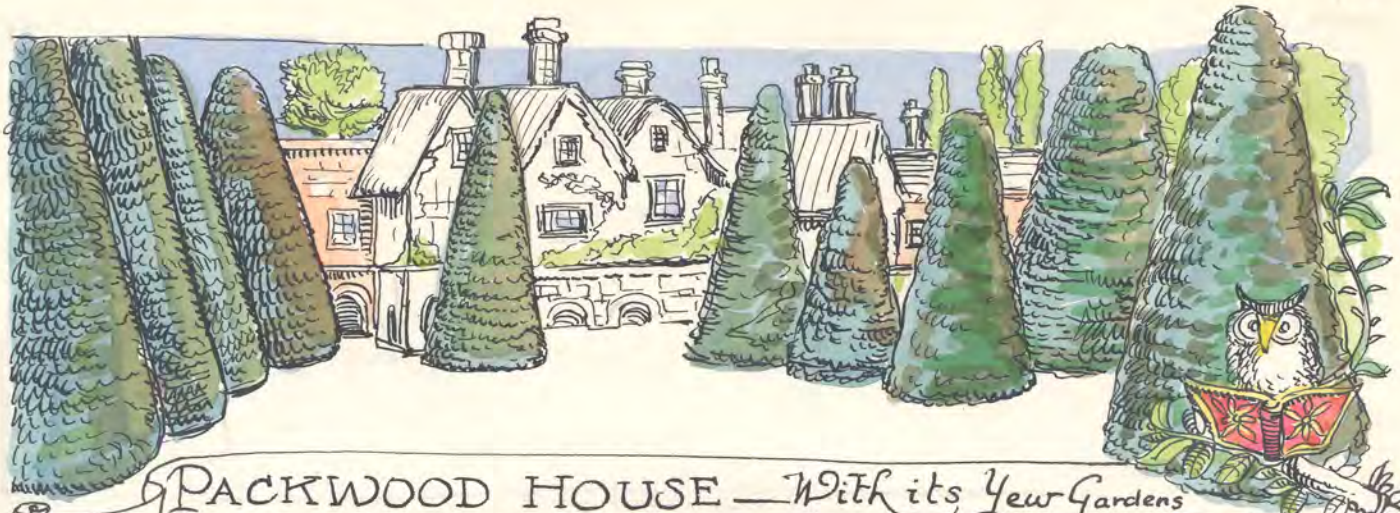
Tudor Interior

House at Bexon Bredgar Kent

House on Pride Hill SHREWSBURY

THE Elizabethans took more than a passing interest and pride in their gardens. Harrison devotes a special chapter to a discussion of the average Englishman's pleasure in gardens and gardening. Of his own garden Harrison says: "Let me boast a little of my garden, which is but small....and yet such hath been my good luck in the purchase of the variety of simples that, notwithstanding my small ability, there are near three hundred of one sort and another contained therein....If therefore my little plot, void of all cost in keeping, be so well furnished, what shall we think of those of Hampton Court, Nonsuch, Tibault's, Cobham Garden, and the sundry others appertaining to divers citizens of London..."

Gardening is a subject that covers much ground in the days of Queen Bess, for there were orchards, kitchen-gardens, and flower-gardens, each variety having its own peculiarities and regulations. The



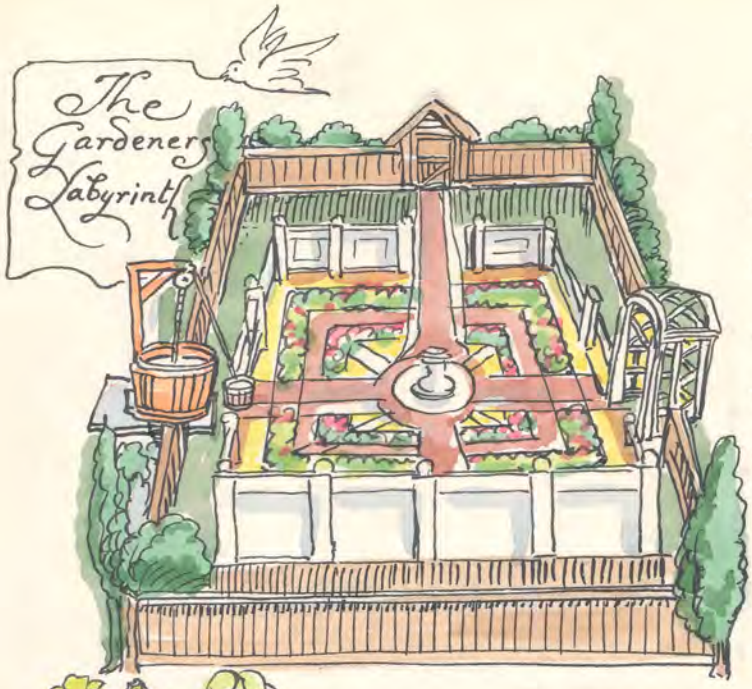
PACKWOOD HOUSE — With its Yew Gardens planted in 1650 — A living treasure preserved for the nation — Old English Longbows were fashioned from these Yews

English love of flowers dates back to mediaeval times, and shows itself in the early Church services, in the monastic legends, and in early garden literature. We are informed that in the Tudor regime the flower-garden assumed a new importance. Full in view of the principal windows of the house was the array of flowering plants. Like the Italians, the Elizabethans designed their gardens for use and pleasure at all hours of the day and for the different purposes of social enjoyment. Usually square, in order "to best agree with any man's dwelling", the flower garden was surrounded by a fence, either of "sawen wood", a thick hedge of holly or hornbeam, or a wall of stone or brick. On the side

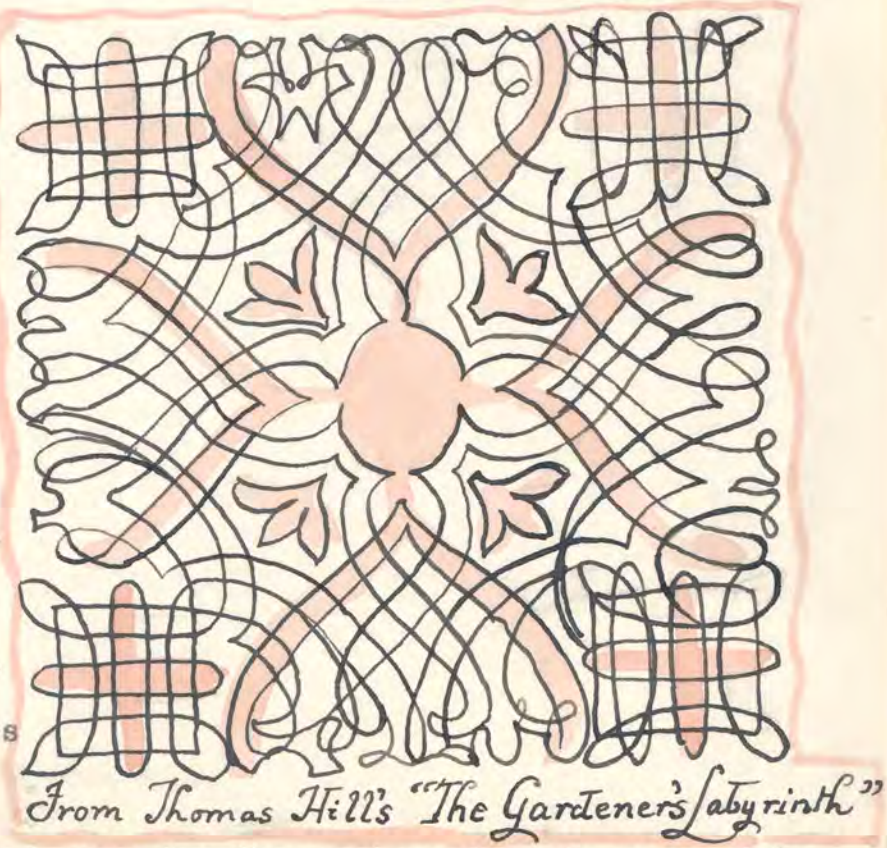
Strawberry

Crocus (1614)

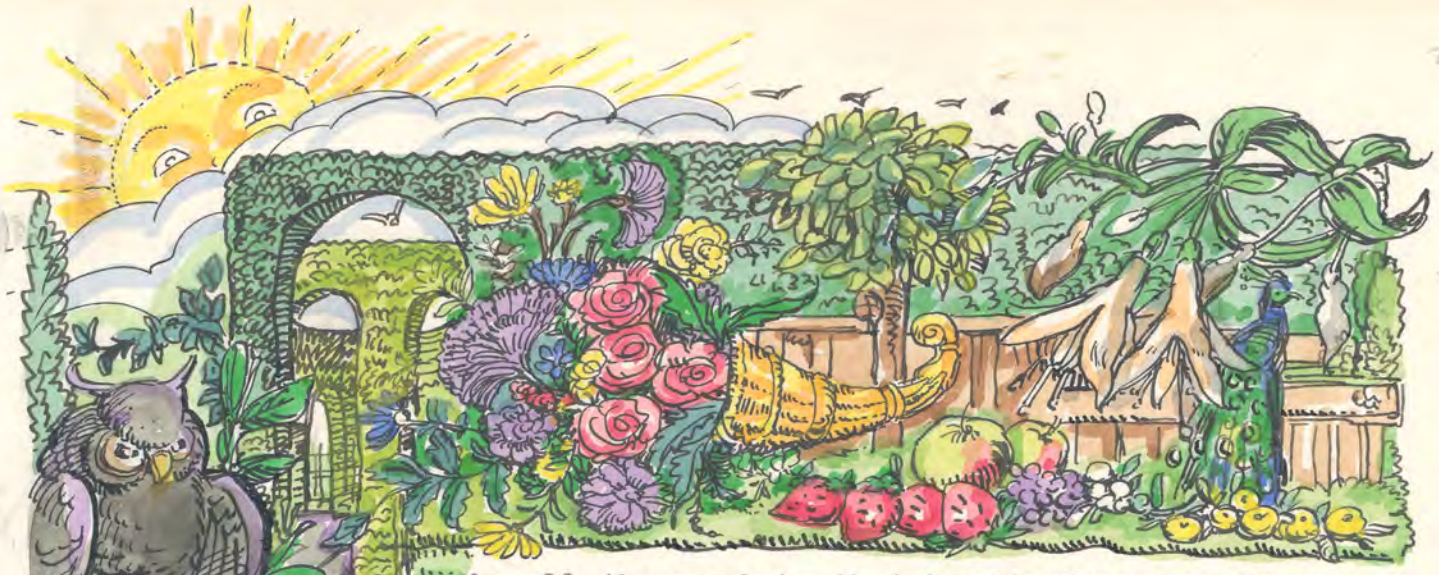
Rosaceum (1560)



facing the house was the principal gate of the garden, often made of wrought iron and supported on stone pillars. The enclosed patch was laid out with the utmost stiffness and formality in paths and flower-beds. Underfoot, these paths were paved with gravel, sand, or shells; overhead, they were sheltered between tall hedges, or arched with boughs of trees planted at intervals along the sides. For the trellises vines and clematis were most commonly used. In the designs of the flower-beds, the gardeners exercised their ingenuity. The "curious-knotted garden" repeated geometrical designs which sometimes became "odd-conceited" in mathamatical precision and regularity. The flowers with which the knots were planted were for the most part hardy perennials



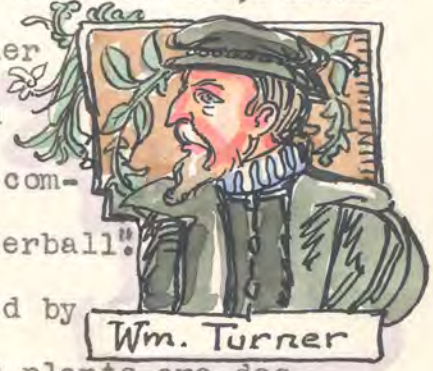
From Thomas Hill's "The Gardener's Labyrinth"



in all the variety that horticulture could then command. No attempt was made to mass the blooms in modern fashion. The flowers were arranged so as to secure some uniformity of height and some balance of their supposed sympathies and antipathies. Here are some of the flowers referred to by Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and which must have been familiar to all Elizabethans: the "faint" and "pale" primrose, first-born child of Spring; crocuses with their "saffron wings"; daffodils "that come before the swallow dares"; the "azured" harebell or wild hyacinth; "the pied" April daisy; "freckled" cowslips; purple violets; flower-de-luces or irises; "crow-flowers or ragged robins; "cuckoo-cups or buttercups; broom; columbines; pinks; carnations; peonies; "larks-heels or larkspurs"; "sweet marjoram and sweet balm; poppies; marigolds that "close and ope their golden eyes"; anemones; aconites or monkshood; tall white lilies; lavender; rose-

-mary; the "lucious woodbine" and its "sweet honeysuckle" flower; eglantine, or sweet-briar; pansies "for thoughts" or "love-in-idleness" or Cupid's flower; the soft myrtle; and roses in rich profusion, white, red, and crimson, and of varied sorts---the damask, the musk, the canker or dog rose, and the rose of York and Lancaster. (Notice the absence of snapdragons or foxgloves or hollyhocks and lilies of the valley). Tulips, though grown in Holland as early as I560, did not reach England till the close of the century.

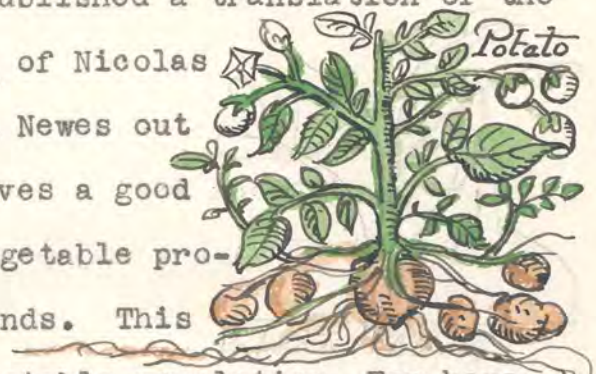
From the earliest times, the English people are reported to have possessed a "wide knowledge of native plants and garden herbs", which was an original achievement and independent of tradition. The Anglo-Saxons had accumulated a large body of fact and information which was transmitted through the centuries to the Elizabethans. Much of this knowledge (and the use of herbs for therapeutical purposes) was purely empirical. The process by which botany gradually emerged in England may be traced to the work of William Turner, commonly referred to as "the Father of English Botany". To Queen Elizabeth, he dedicated the complete edition of his "New Herball". Turner's work was superseded by Henry Lyte's "Niewe Herball" (I578), in which I,050 plants are des-



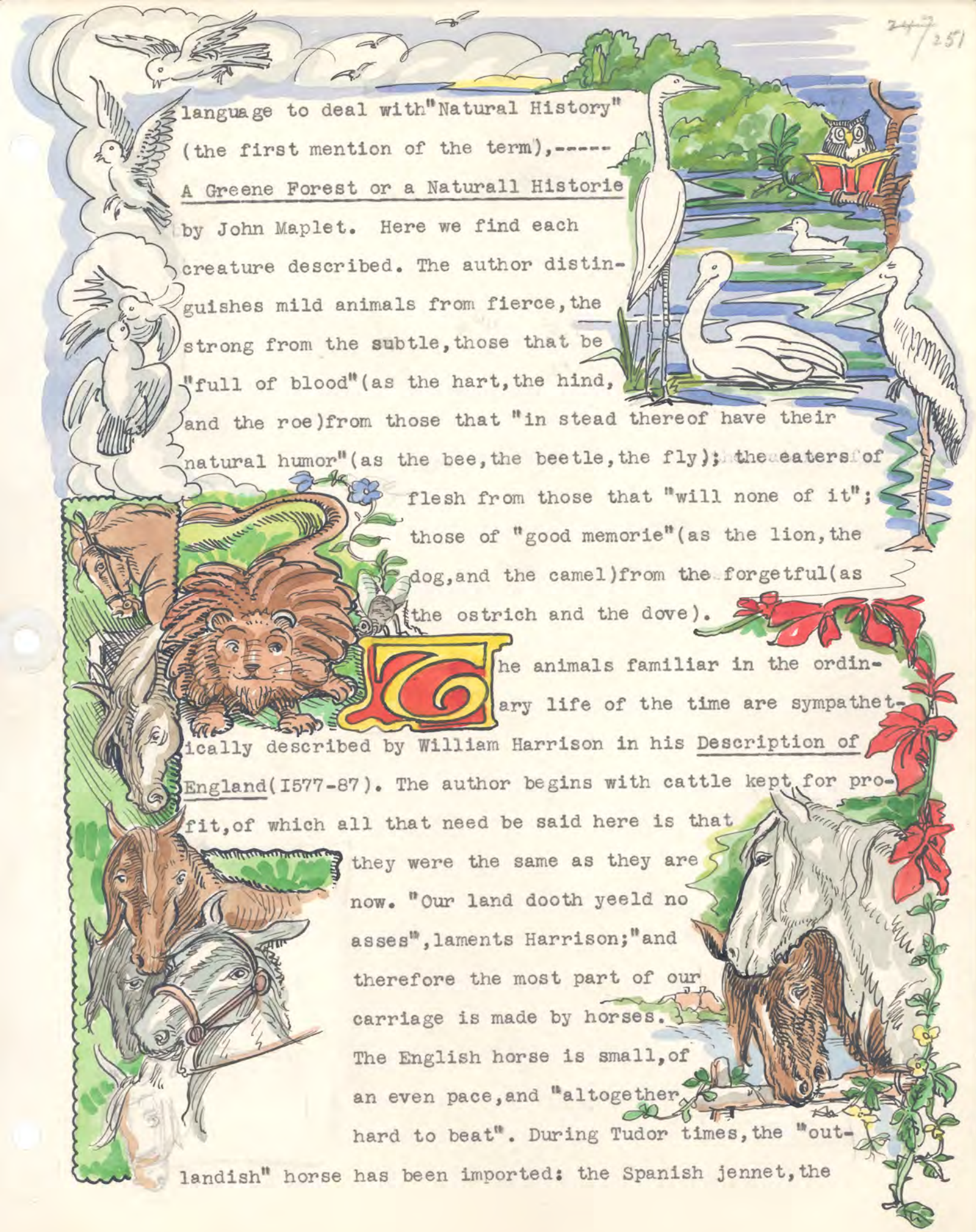
Mistletoe

cribed, and some of these plants are illustrated with foreign blocks. If Shakespeare and his contemporaries looked into any botanical book at all, it was probably Lyte's book.

In 1577, John Frampton, a merchant who had long resided in Seville and also translated Marco Polo, published a translation of the Historia Medicinal of Nicolas Monardes under the title of "Joyful Newes out of the Newe founde Worlde", which gives a good account of all the most valuable vegetable productions of the newly-discovered lands. This must have been a notable revelation. For herein was the first mention of the Potato plant brought by the Spaniards to Europe about 1580. Also herein is a reference to Tobacco, which, according to Sir Francis Bacon, "is immediately grown into use".



Advance in the direction of modern zoological classification was much slower than the advance in herbals. Consequently, the Elizabethan knowledge of Animals ran along traditional natural history and is full of inventions, errors of observation, myths and false etymologies. This book would not be complete without some reference to the first book in the English



language to deal with "Natural History" (the first mention of the term),----- A Greene Forest or a Naturall Historie by John Maplet. Here we find each creature described. The author distinguishes mild animals from fierce, the strong from the subtle, those that be "full of blood" (as the hart, the hind, and the roe) from those that "in stead thereof have their natural humor" (as the bee, the beetle, the fly); the eaters of flesh from those that "will none of it"; those of "good memorie" (as the lion, the dog, and the camel) from the forgetful (as the ostrich and the dove).

The animals familiar in the ordinary life of the time are sympathetically described by William Harrison in his Description of England (1577-87). The author begins with cattle kept for profit, of which all that need be said here is that they were the same as they are now. "Our land dooth yeeld no asses", laments Harrison; "and therefore the most part of our carriage is made by horses. The English horse is small, of an even pace, and "altogether hard to beat". During Tudor times, the "outlandish" horse has been imported: the Spanish jennet, the

Neapolitan courser, the Irish hobby, the Flemish roil, and the Scottish nag.

The English were equally fond of their dogs. There were game-dogs: spaniels and hounds (harriers, terriers, bloodhounds, gazehounds, greyhounds, lymers and tumblers---the last named being a kind of lurcher which tumbled about and played antics in order to deceive rabbits as to his intentions!) There were also water-spaniels and land-spaniels for falconry. The beagle and the brach are rather special game dogs. Among the house-dogs("of the homelie kind")we find the shepherd dog and the mastiff. Also there were "toy-dogs", for which there was some contempt in certain quarters. It seems that "mincing ladies" allowed these toy dogs to lick their(the ladies') lips in their coaches! In Shakespeare there is reference to"village curs" that "bark when their fellows do". The English mastiff was the most famous of them all. Three were considered a match for a bear, four for a lion. Lapdogs were popular as

warmers or comforters---they were gentle spaniels or Maltese dogs.

The Cat was regarded as "the harmless necessary cat".

There were not many important wild animals---except in the shows. Wild boars had disappeared long ago from Britain. But the red and fallow deer were plentiful in the woodlands. The fox "which lives by subtilty";the badger,the rabbit also known as "the earth-delving cony";and the otter;besides several other members of the weasel family(the marten,the polecat, the miniver,the stoat,the ferret)---were pretty well known to all country folk.

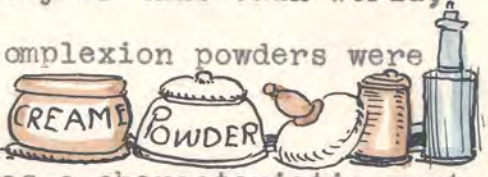
Concerning many of the animals of every-day life there were all sorts of fantastic beliefs. Also there existed a large body of legend concerning animals now known to be entirely mythical;such as the dragon,the griffin, the phoenix,and the unicorn.

The prosperity of the Elizabethans was very much in evidence in their personal manners and dress. Probably never was English costume more ornate than in the reign of Queen Bess. The Queen herself set the fashion in extravagance and personal vanity. A man in full dress wore a doublet with sleeves and breeches and hose stuffed and stiffened until the poor creature looked like a dressed-up puppet. The breeches were more and more puffed out with wadding that consisted of wool, hair, rags and even bran! Hats were of all shapes and colors, invariably decked with plumes and feathers. Men adopted various fashions in hair-dress, and their beards were the talk of the town. An Englishman's dress was such a medley of ideas of different places that even Portia of Belmont, commenting on the appearance of Falconbridge, the young baron of England, said: "How oddly he is suit-

After Raleigh
Edward de Vere
Earl of Oxford
was the most
perfect type
of
Courtier

-ed ! I think he bought his doublet in Italy, his round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany, and his behaviour everywhere".

The women dressed in an equally odd way. Their hair was built up high on the head, and was frequently dyed. The Queen herself set the fashion in the use of wigs ---Her Majesty is reported to have had over eighty wigs! As at all times in the history of this vain world, face washes and complexion powders were in popular vogue.

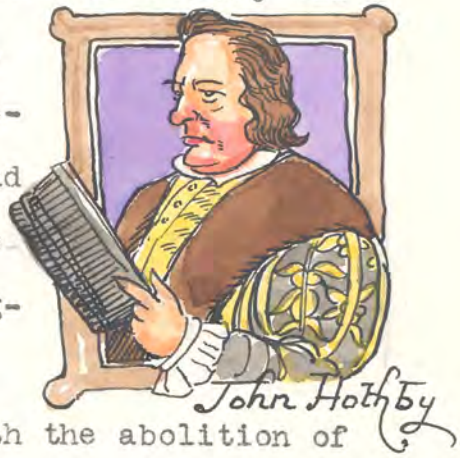


The ruff was a characteristic part of English dress. As a result of the introduction of starch and starching into England by a certain Mistress Vanderplasse, the ruff grew in size and in importance. Sometimes the Elizabethan ruff contained as much as twenty yards of linen, and was nine to twelve inches deep. Eventually it grew so cumbersome that it had to be under-propped with a wire frame. In addition to the ruff, the women had the farthingale whereby they increased their miseries. A farthingale is a wire or whale-bone framework on which the skirt was draped. There were numerous styles

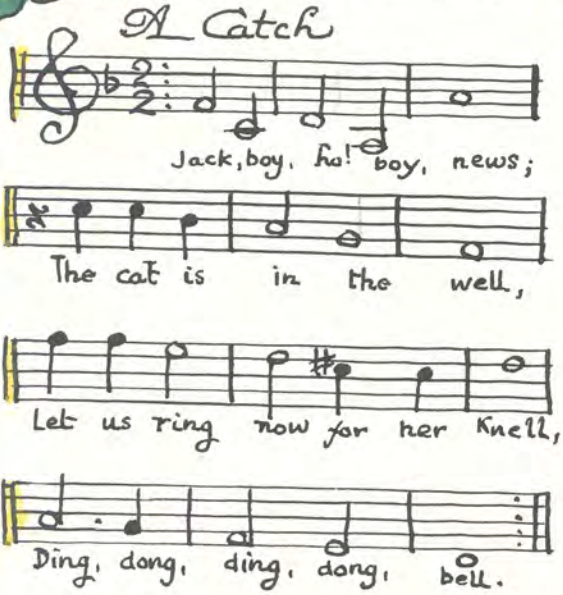
in farthingales. The cart-wheel was the most absurd and had a radius of four feet. High-heeled shoes were worn to protect the expensive skirts,and at times "chopines" a foot high made it almost seem that the ladies walked on stilts. There is no space left to talk about several other Elizabethan oddities---such as the tremendous fans of the day---so we must pass on to the table manners of the upper classes. In short,table manners were not so elegant! Meat was consumed in large quantities,without "utensils". Forks were a novelty. Everybody used toothpicks in public. (It was the mark of a gentleman to pick his teeth ostentatiously at table).

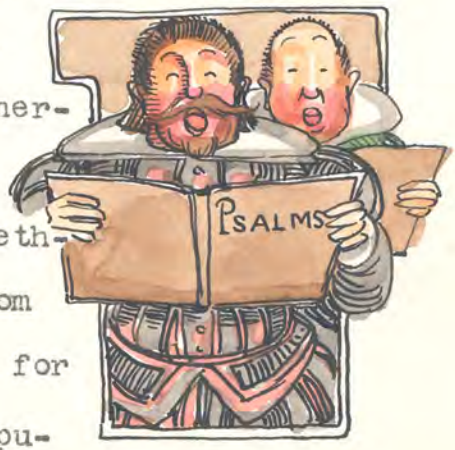
But,in spite of their odd ways and fashions, the Elizabethans of all classes greatly enjoyed their "Merry England". They participated in a round of jolly sport and pastime--- in hunting,hawking,falconry, archery,fencing,dancing,dicing, wrestling,and in singing---and even in the writing of all kinds of prose and poetry. Before we

take up the subject of Elizabethan poetry, it may not be out of place to say a few words about the Elizabethan fondness for music. The Wars of the Roses seem to have driven English musicians abroad. But with the restoration of peace, and the prospect of better things, some of them were induced to return. It is said that Henry VII sent to Italy for the learned John Hothby, and Henry VIII engaged distinguished musicians to serve his gay court with melody and song. The Reformation is believed to have dealt a severe blow to the progress of English music, for, after the court, the church was the chief support of musicians, and with the abolition of the Roman ritual the important branch of church music became of little practical use, and English musicians were reduced to cultivating their art for purely secular purposes. At the time of the accession of Elizabeth, English music had fallen far behind the music of Italy and the Netherlands. The Huguenot refugees who poured into England from the Netherlands, and the Flemish weavers who fled from the persecutions of Alva, introduced a taste for psalm-singing; and from 1560 to 1600 the popu-



John Hothby



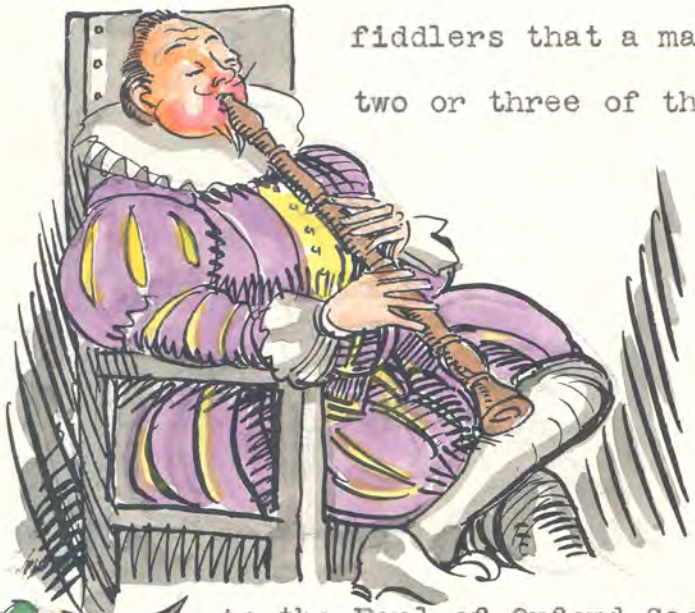


Artist playing Viol da Gamba

-larity of this sort of music was enormous. (Some ninety editions of metrical psalms with music are reported to have been published during the later years of Elizabeth's reign).

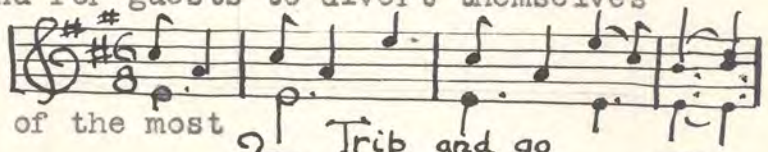
The taste for music among the common people and country folk must have been very widely spread, or there would not have been so many ballads nor so many itinerant musicians to sing them. In I587 Gosson complained(in his Schoole of Abuse) that "London is so full of unprofitable pipers and fiddlers that a man can no sooner enter a tavern than two or three of them hang at his heels,to give him a dance before he depart". Every great nobleman maintained among his household a certain number of musicians. (Most of the better-known musicians of the day were in the service of country gentlemen: John Farmer dedicated his madrigals to the Earl of Oxford,George Kirbye was in the service of Sir Robert Jermyn,Thomas Greaves was lutenist to Sir Henry Pierrepont,and so forth).

Queen Elizabeth's lute



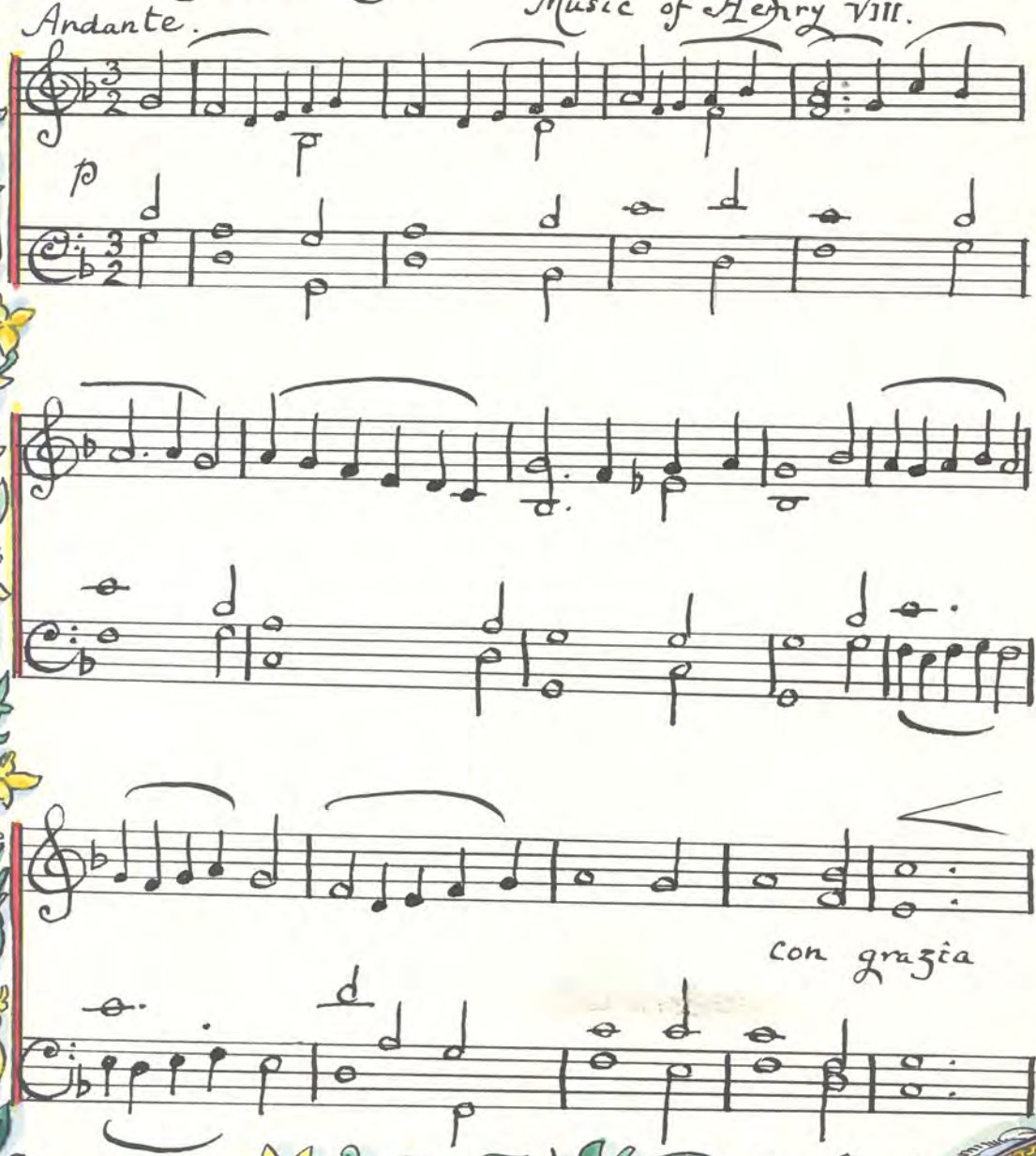
What are some of the more common musical instruments in Elizabethan England? Sir Francis Bacon refers to trumpets and cornets; also to recorders or flutes that "give a clear

sound". "The lute string", says the great scientist-philosopher-statesman, "giveth a harsh and untuneable sound". The sackbut was a slide trombone which pleased his lordship much for its "purling sound". However, according to Sir Francis, "the sweetest and best harmony is when every instrument is not heard by itself, but a conflation of them all, which requireth to stand some distance off". In these conflations, or consorts, viols were generally employed: two trebles, two tenor, and two bass viols. (The violin was to come in later, nearly a century after the death of Shakespeare, when Stradivarius, Amati, Guarnerius, the kings of violin-making were to appear on the scene.) It was part of a liberal education to play upon the viols; in fact many a wealthy gentleman kept a chest of viols at hand for guests to divert themselves with music. One of the most used musical instruments of the Tudor age was the lute. It came into Europe in the middle ages from Spain. Many were the modifications of this instrument in England. Henry VIII is reported to have done well with the lute, and we have taken the liberty to sketch his



Trip and go
Heave and hoe,
Up and down,
To and fro

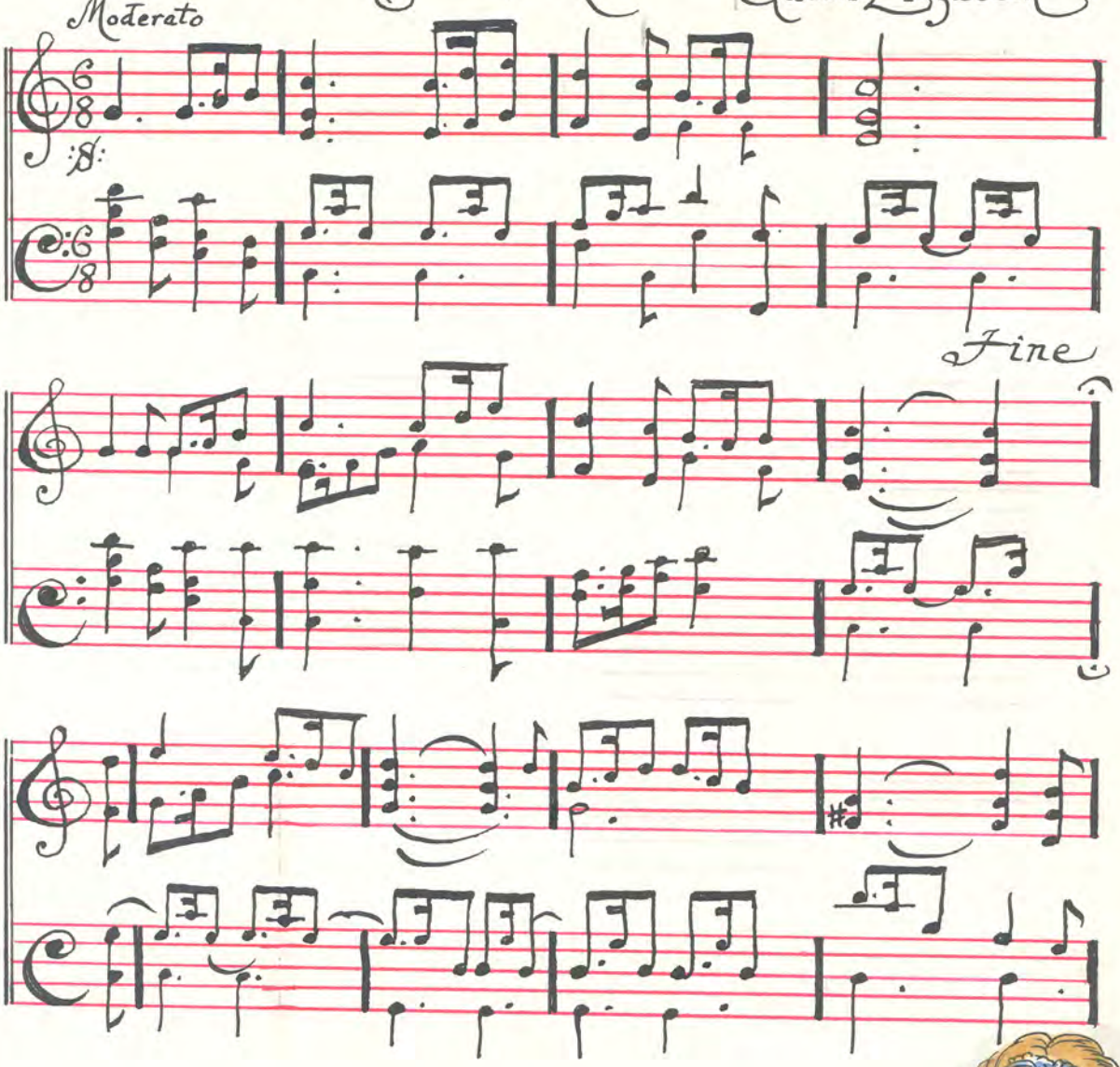
"The Kyng's Maske" — undoubtedly the Masque Music of Henry VIII.



majesty strumming a tune on his favorite lute. The chief difficulty about the lute seems to be in the tuning thereof! Says Mattheson(in 1720)"if a lute-player have lived eighty years,he has probably spent about sixty years in tuning his instrument". Rivalling the

Sellinger's Round

As played by Queen Elizabeth

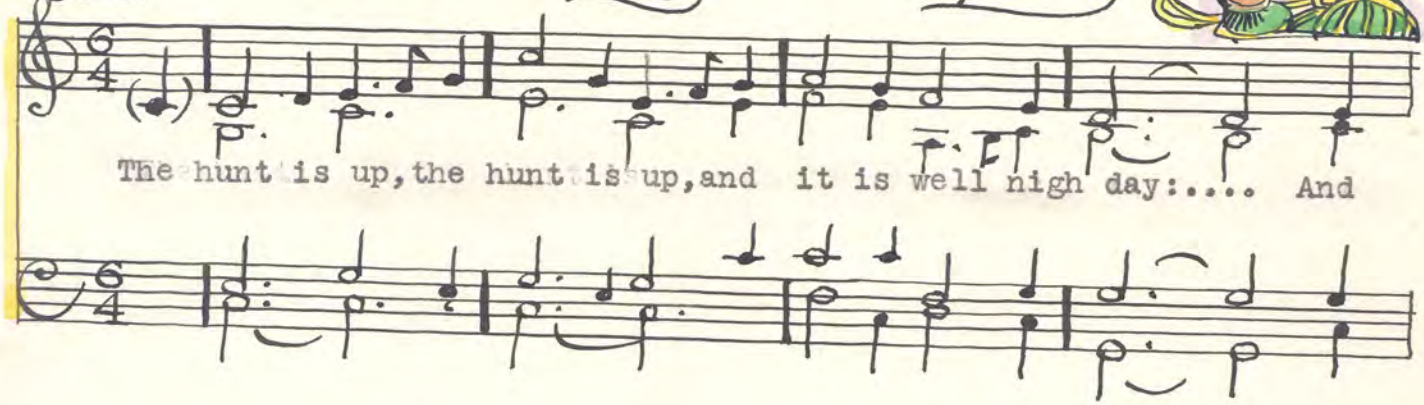


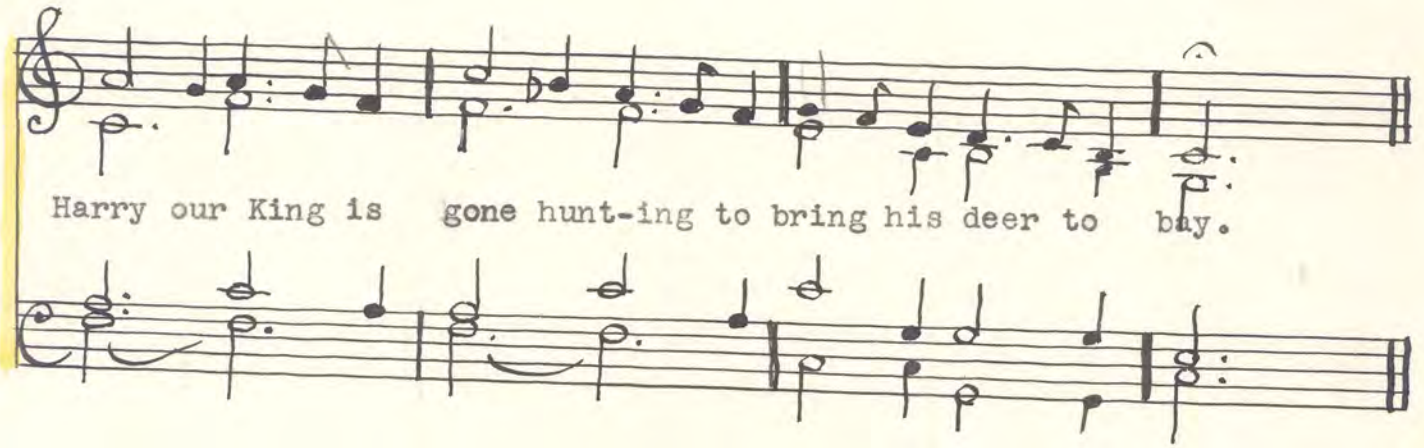
lute in popular favor was the virginals, a tiny and primitive piano on which the strings were plucked by little pieces of quill, set in "jacks". It is a recorded fact that Queen Elizabeth was very proud of her skill as a performer upon the virginals. She may have played "Sellinger's Round" for Sir James Melville, the ambassador from Mary Queen of Scots, to hear. "She inquired", says

the ambassador in his record of an interview,"whether my queen or she played best. In that I found myself obliged to give her(Queen Elizabeth)the praise".

The Elizabethans loved to sing,and the strongest tendency of the age was towards the composition of lyrics of all kinds,for all occasions. We shall reproduce a sample or two,just to give you an idea of the tunes and the words.

The Hunt is Up!



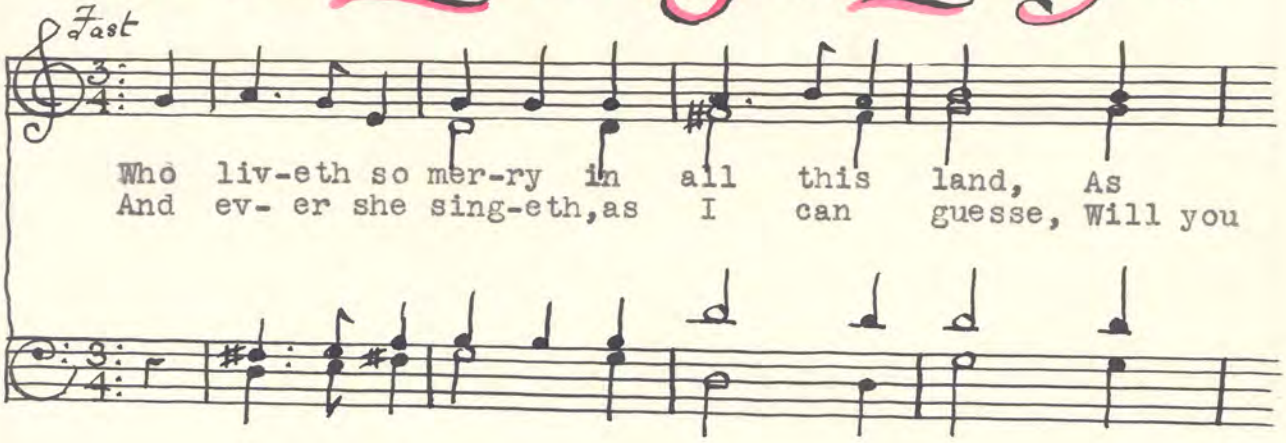


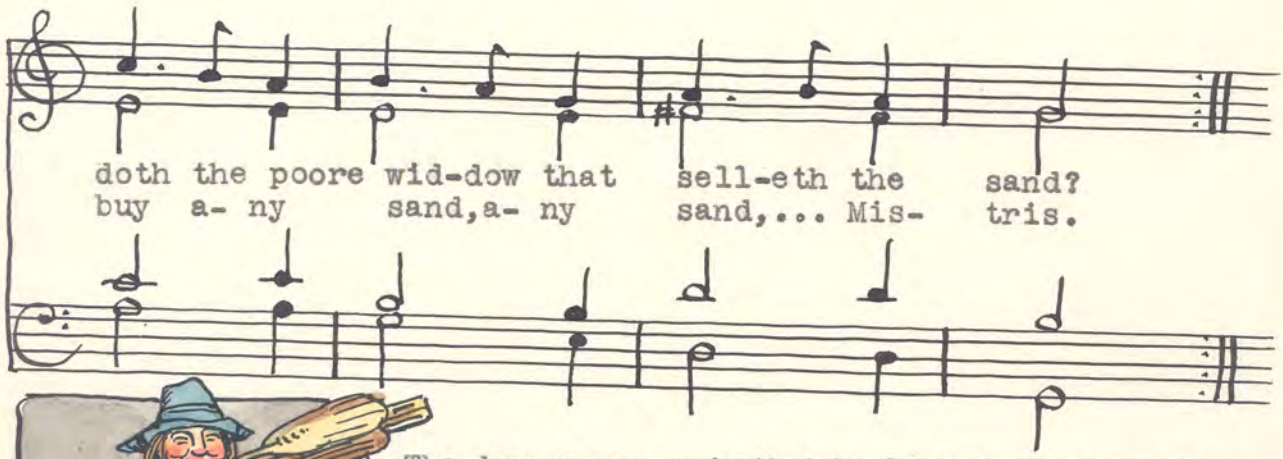
The east is bright with morning light,
And darkness it is fled,
And the merry horne wakes up the morne
To leave his idle bed.

The sunne is glad to see us clad
All in our lustie greene,
And smiles in the skye as he riseth high
To see and to be seene.

Awake,all men,I say agen,
Be merry as you maye,
For Harry our Kinge is gone hunting,
To bring his deere to baye

Who Liveth So Merry?





The broom-man maketh his living most sweet,
With carrying of broomes from street to street.

Chorus: Who would desire a pleasanter thing
Than all the day long to doe nothing
but sing?

The Chimney-sweeper all the long day,
He singeth and sweepeth the soote away;

Chorus: Yet when he comes home, although he be
weary,
With his sweet wife he maketh full merry.

The Cobbler he sits cobbling till noone,
And cobbleth his shoes till they be done;

Chorus: Yet doth he not fear, and so doth say,
For he knows that his work will soon decay.

Who liveth so merry, and maketh such sport,
As those that be of the poorest sort?
Chorus: The poorest sort wheresoever they be,
They gather together by one, two, and three.