

Such a state of things was highly repugnant to the feelings of a man like Henry VIII., who wished to establish, as much as possible, unity in belief in what was thought to be the essential points of Church doctrine. Accordingly in 1539 he forced his Parliament to pass the cruel Act of the "Six Articles." This Statute declared in favour of (1) the Real Presence of "the natural Body and Blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper"; (2) the sufficiency of Communion in one kind; (3) the celibacy of the Clergy; (4) the perpetual obligation of the vows of chastity; (5) private masses; and (6) auricular confession. Whoever wrote or spoke against the first of these articles was to be burnt as a heretic; and whoever wrote or spoke against the last five should, for the first offence be condemned to imprisonment and forfeiture of all his goods, and be hanged for the second offence.

NOTE.—Under this cruel Act no less than 500 Protestants were thrown into prison and twenty-eight executed. Cranmer was compelled to put away his wife, and two Bishops, one of whom was Latimer, resigned their sees.

Thus it was that Henry hanged Roman Catholics as *traitors*, for rejecting the Act of Supremacy, and burnt Protestants as *heretics*, for refusing to accept the Roman Catholic Doctrine of Transubstantiation.

7. **Henry's marriage with Anne of Cleves and the Fall of Cromwell, 1539.** For three years Henry had remained a widower, when Cromwell, who was anxious to form an alliance with the German Protestants against the Emperor Charles V., persuaded his royal master to marry Anne, sister of William of Cleves, and a relation of the Elector of Saxony, who was at this time the most powerful of all the German Protestant Princes. Holbein, a great German painter, who had settled in England, was sent over by Cromwell to paint a flattering portrait of this lady, and when Henry saw it, he was so pleased with it, that a marriage was at once arranged, and Anne brought over to England. But Henry found her so illiterate and so utterly destitute of grace and beauty, that he refused to take her as his wife. He could not, however, send her back to Germany without offending the German Protestants and causing them to ally themselves with Charles, and so he completed the marriage, telling Cromwell "*that as he had gone so far he must put his*