

interests. It was this knowledge that enabled her to use her diplomatic skill to the best advantage, and play off the two kings one against the other.

NOTE.—Treaty of Câteau Cambrésis. In 1559, the long war between France and Spain came to an end, and peace was concluded by the Treaty of Câteau Cambrésis. During the festivities, which were held in honour of the peace, Henry II. was killed in a tournament, and Francis II. became king.

SECTION II.—THE RIVALRY BETWEEN ELIZABETH AND MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.

The dangers, which threatened England, however, were not so much from France and Spain as from Scotland. When Elizabeth came to the throne she found that country in very close alliance with France owing to the marriage of Mary, Queen of Scots, with Francis the Dauphin. Mary was the representative of Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII., and stood next to Elizabeth in the line of succession to the English throne. Mary of Guise, the Queen Dowager, was acting as Regent for the young Queen during her absence in France.

1. **The Reformation in Scotland.** Meanwhile the Reformation was making rapid strides in Scotland. As in England the charges of indolence, excessive wealth, luxurious living and even open profligacy were laid against the clergy and with just reason. Most of the nobles had warmly espoused the Protestant cause; anarchy followed and the country was divided into two parties, the Roman Catholic party embracing the Regent and the Clergy, the Protestant party supported by the nobles. Being unable to maintain order, the Regent had garrisoned many of the strongest fortresses with French troops, and actually attempted to establish a standing army of French soldiers, much to the disgust of the Scottish people.

In 1557 some of the Scottish Lords, known as the "*Lords of the Congregation*," issued a document called the **First Covenant**, in which they bound themselves "*to uphold God's word and defend His congregation to the death.*" They were urged on by **John Knox**, the sternest and bravest of all the Calvinistic Reformers, who had just returned from Geneva. Knox was the son of a poor burgher