

vision of gaolers. As she herself had forebodingly said "if they kept her in prison, they should have enough to do with her."

(1) Plot of the Duke of Norfolk, and revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569. Mary's right to the throne encouraged her to intrigue with some discontented English noblemen in the North of England, where the love for the Old Religion was still strong. It was arranged that she should marry the Duke of Norfolk, the leader of the Roman Catholic party; that there should be a general rising of the Roman Catholics throughout England, and with the aid of a Spanish army, Elizabeth should be deposed and Mary placed on the throne. Norfolk, however, was suspected of intriguing with Mary with a view to marry her, and was immediately sent to the Tower. The other rebel Lords, Northumberland and Westmoreland, were summoned to London to answer for their conduct, but they refused to obey, and having called together their retainers after the manner of the old Feudal Barons, raised the standard of rebellion. The rising was purely a religious one, its object being the restoration of the Old Religion, and the Pope sanctioned the enterprise by bestowing on it his blessing. Marching on Durham, the insurgents seized the town, and having entered the cathedral, destroyed the English Bible and Prayer Book, and caused the Latin mass once more to be celebrated in the presence of an immense gathering of Roman Catholics. They then marched south in the hope of securing the person of Mary, who was at the time a prisoner in Tutbury Castle, Staffordshire, but on the approach of the royal forces, under Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex, the rebel leaders lost heart, and, disbanding their troops, fled over the border. Mary was hastily removed to Coventry to prevent her from falling into the hands of the rebels. Terrible severity was meted out to the captured insurgents; no less than 700 were summarily hanged in the market towns and villages between the Wharfe and the Tyne. *This was the last attempt made to check the progress of the Reformation by force of arms.* Elizabeth's position was now stronger than ever.

(2) The Ridolfi Plot, 1572. In 1570, Pope Pius V. excommunicated Elizabeth, declared her to be no longer Queen