

her husband, was drawn into the war. The one possession that England still held in France was Calais. It had once been strongly fortified, but the defences had been neglected. The French, in 1558, attacked and captured the town. England no longer owned a foot of ground in the kingdom across the Channel. Mary grieved deeply. "When I die," she said, "Calais will be found engraven on my heart."

Mary's reign was drawing to a close, and the kingdom was in a most unhappy condition. Pirates swarmed along the coast; the navy was neglected; fortresses were unrepared; there was no money in the treasury; commerce had almost ceased on account of wars and pirates. The people were weary of her rule. Her husband had neglected her; and the poor queen, long troubled by disease and now prostrated by the loss of Calais, died within the year.

SUMMARY

At Mary's accession the church was restored to the position that it had occupied when Henry VIII came to the throne. The proposed marriage of Mary with Philip of Spain roused much opposition and led to a rebellion under Sir Thomas Wyatt. Parliament, however, gave way and the marriage took place. Mary's fervent desire that all should conform to the old faith led to religious persecutions. During a war with France, Calais was lost to England.

5. ELIZABETH. 1558-1603

135. **Elizabeth's difficulties.**—The task before Elizabeth when she came to the throne was not an easy one. The treasury was empty, the people were discontented, and the whole nation was divided on religious questions. England was at war with France and without proper means of defence. Further, the Pope would not acknowledge Elizabeth's right to the throne; indeed, Mary of Scotland had already laid claim to the title. England was not strong enough to stand alone should her enemies unite against her. Time must be gained to replenish the treasury, to settle the re-