

was barely afloat, his powder gone, forty men killed, and himself desperately wounded. Tennyson tells the story in stirring verse in his ballad of "The Revenge." The war was brought to an end by the sack of Cadiz in 1596.

143. **Church troubles.**—During the latter part of Elizabeth's reign the Roman Catholics were treated with great severity. Priests and laymen who would not abandon their religion were banished, and about fifty, including two women, were put to death. The Court of High Commission was established to settle questions relating to the church. This commission bore with special hardness upon a new body now coming into notice in England, the Puritans.

These Puritans were extreme Protestants who took special objection to the pomp and ceremonies which were retained in the church service. They also objected to the great power given to bishops and other church officers, and to the large revenues attached to some clerical positions. So long as England lay under the shadow of a great war with Spain, the Puritans were treated with forbearance. Hundreds of their clergy conducted the church service very much as they pleased. But as Elizabeth grew stronger and better able to assume a bold tone towards her enemies abroad, she gradually asserted her authority to bring the church worship to a uniform standard. In 1593 severe penal laws were passed by Parliament. Clergy who refused to obey the strict letter of the law regarding the service were turned out of their churches, and, in some cases, imprisoned. Laymen who refused to attend church were imprisoned; if they refused to conform within three months they were banished, and, if they returned to England, they were put to death. The law was so rigorously enforced that many of the Puritans left the country to await in exile the beginning of a new reign.

144. **Discoveries and colonization.**—In addition to Hawkins and Drake, many other Englishmen made voyages of discovery during Elizabeth's reign. Sir Martin Frobisher made many voyages to the New World, and tried to reach India by the "North-west passage," north of North America;