

On the last day of the sixteenth century Elizabeth granted a charter to the "Company of London Merchants" for trade in the East Indies. The charter was renewed from time to time, and several voyages gave the company great profits. Finally, in 1612, the English obtained permission from the Great Mogul of India to open a warehouse at Surat on the west coast. This was the origin of Britain's Indian empire.

159. **Ireland.**—At the accession of James I, Ireland was settling down to some sort of order. The power of the chieftains was largely gone, and justice was everywhere administered in the name of the king. The fear that they were to be deprived of their lands was the chief cause of a plot against James led by two Irish earls, Tyrone and Tyrconnel. The earls were convicted of treason, and fled from the country; a vast extent of land in the north of Ireland was declared to be confiscated to the crown, and the land was divided up among English and Scottish Protestants. The native Irish had either to seek other homes or to remain as tenants where they had formerly been owners. The new settlers soon made Ulster a rich and prosperous district, but the hatred of the Irish for England was very much increased.

SUMMARY

When James came to the throne, Roman Catholics and Puritans each hoped for his favour, but his support was given to the Church of England. Puritan clergymen appealed for freedom in church ceremonies, but the only good result of the Hampton Court conference was a new translation of the Bible. The discovery of the "Gunpowder Plot" prevented the destruction of the king and of both Houses of Parliament. James attempted to govern as far as he could without a Parliament, and tried to arrange a marriage for his son with the Infanta of Spain. Raleigh was sacrificed to Spanish hatred. Settlements were founded in America and in India. James's favourite idea was the "divine right of kings," but his weakness and folly lessened the personal devotion that the nation had shown to the Tudors.

2. CHARLES I. 1625-1649

160. **Charles I and the "divine right."**—Charles was twenty-five years of age when he came to the throne. In