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and gentle force, by an unmistakable solicitude for their hearers' best interest, and such an effort to commend themselves to men's conscience in the sight of God, as will carry home to every soul the conviction that the appeal is not a mere customary discharge of a professional duty dryly and respectably fulfilled, but a real effort to bring God, through His Word, in contact with the human heart, and immortal spirits to the cross of Christ. That is the very temper in which Paul wrote and spoke, "Knowing the terrors of the law we persuade men." "My heart's desire and prayer for Israel is that they might be saved." "As though God did beseech you by us we pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God." When the Pulpit breathes out such a spirit as this, unmarred by any such uncouthness of manner, or vulgarity of diction, or incoherent statement, or affectation of sentiment as might pain the listeners, it will matter comparatively little after what example of ministerial oratory the sermon is constructed; for as "charity covereth a multitude of sins," burning and intense love of souls expressed in voice, manner, thoughts and words, will condone many defects, and send away a congregation if not excited by the brilliancy of oratory, at least dissatisfied with themselves and a step nearer to God.[1]

B.

Art. IV.—ENGLAND IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

AMONG the valuable collection of State Papers relating to English affairs in Venice, now being ably calendared by Mr. Rawdon Brown, under the auspices of the Master of the Rolls, is a most interesting report upon the state of England at the time of the accession of Queen Mary, which was drawn up at the instigation of the Doge, by the Venetian Envoy accredited to our Court. Early in the February of 1551, Giacomo Soranzo was appointed to succeed Daniel Barbaro as the representative of the Venetian Republic at the English Court. A man of considerable scholarship, a keen observer of life and character, and endowed with that taste and polish which a long career in the diplomatic service usually develops, he was cordially welcomed by the great, and every facility was afforded him for the performance of the duties of his mission. These duties were to "execute with all diligence the different commissions received by him," to send "detailed and speedy advice of

[1] This Paper, in type last month, through an accident was unavoidably postponed.—Ed.

what occurred at the Court where he resided," and to "acquaint the Senate with whatever was worth imparting on his return home." Shortly after his arrival in London, Soranzo set to work to rigidly examine the social and political life of the country, and as soon as his investigations justified him in the attempt, proceeded to write an elaborate account of England and her people. From this account we now quote.

After describing the events familiar to us all which preceded the accession of Mary—the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII., the slight passed upon the birth of Mary and Elizabeth, the progress of the Reformation under Edward VI., the plot of Northumberland in favour of Lady Jane Grey, Soranzo enters upon a personal description of the Queen. "The most serene Madam Mary," he says, "is of low stature, with a red and white complexion and very thin; her eyes are white (*bianchi*) and large, and her hair reddish; her face is round, with a nose rather low and wide; and were not her age on the decline she might be called handsome rather than the contrary.

She is not of a strong constitution, and of late she suffers from headache and serious affection of the heart, so that she is often obliged to take medicine and also to be blooded. She is of very spare diet, and never eats until one or two P.M., although she rises at daybreak, when, after saying her prayers and hearing mass in private, she transacts business incessantly until after midnight, when she retires to rest; for she chooses to give audience, not only to all the members of her Privy Council and to hear from them every detail of public business, but also to all other persons who ask it of her. Her Majesty's countenance indicates great benignity and clemency, which are not belied by her conduct, for although she has had many enemies, and though so many of them were by law condemned to death, yet had the executions depended wholly on her Majesty's will not one of them, perhaps, would have been enforced; but deferring to her council in everything, she in this matter likewise complied with the wishes of others rather than with her own. [How different is the interpretation History puts upon her conduct!] She is endowed with excellent ability, and more than moderately read in Latin literature, especially with regard to Holy Writ; and besides her native tongue she speaks Latin, French, and Spanish, and understands Italian perfectly, but does not speak it. She is also very generous, but not to the extent of letting it appear that she rests her chief claim to commendation on this quality. . . . . Her Majesty takes pleasure in playing on the lute and spinet, and is a very good performer on both instruments; and, indeed, before her accession she taught many of her maids of honour. But she seems to delight above all in arraying herself elegantly and magnificently, and her garments are of two sorts; the one, a gown, such as men wear, but fitting very close, with an under petticoat, which has a very long train; and this is her ordinary costume, being

also that of the gentlewomen of England. The other garment is a gown and bodice, with wide hanging sleeves in the French fashion, which she wears on State occasions; and she also wears much embroidery, and gowns and mantles of cloth of gold and cloth of silver, of great value, and changes every day. She also makes great use of jewels, wearing them both on her chaperon and round her neck and as trimming for her gowns; in which jewels she delights greatly, and although she has a great plenty of them left her by her predecessors, yet were she better supplied with money than she is, she would doubtless buy many more."

Soranzo then touches upon the restoration of the Roman Catholic religion and the devotion of the Queen to the cause of the Papacy. "She is so confirmed in the Catholic faith," he asserts, "that although the King, her brother, and his Council prohibited her from having the mass celebrated according to the Roman Catholic ritual, she nevertheless has it performed in secret, nor did she ever choose by any act to assent to any other form of religion, her belief in that in which she was born being so strong that had the opportunity offered she would have displayed it at the stake, her hopes being placed in God alone, so that she constantly exclaims: '*In te Domine confido, non confundar in æternum: si Deus est pro nobis, quis contra nos?*'" In an interview with the Venetian envoy the Queen said that "she did not believe she had incurred any ecclesiastical censure, having never consented to the things which took place against the religion, but that nevertheless to put her mind more at ease she moreover wished for absolution from the Pope, not only for herself, but also for the whole kingdom." She begged Soranzo "as everything was still so unsettled that the publication of her demand might seriously injure the affairs of the kingdom," to make her request privately to the Vatican; but, adds the envoy, "at Rome the secret was not kept as it ought to have been, and the Pope conceded the absolution to her Majesty and all those who were heartily disposed to resume their obedience to the Roman Church." The description of the one sister naturally leads to the portrait of the other. "The Lady Elizabeth," writes the observant diplomatist, "is now about twenty-one years old; her figure and face are very handsome, and such an air of dignified majesty pervades all her actions that no one can fail to suppose she is a Queen. She is a good Greek and Latin scholar, and besides her native tongue she speaks Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian most perfectly, and her manners are very modest and affable. During the lifetime of King Edward she held his opinion about the religion, but since the Queen's accession she has adapted herself to the will of her Majesty."

From the Sovereign we are now introduced to her subjects.

"The English for the most part," remarks Soranzo, "are of

handsome stature and sound constitution, with red or white complexions, their eyes also being white.

According to their station they are all as well clad as any other nation whatever. The dress of the men resembles the Italian fashion, and that of the women the French. The nobility are by nature very courteous, especially to foreigners, who, however, are treated with very great arrogance and enmity by the people, it seeming to them that the profit derived by the merchants from their country is so much taken from them, and they imagine that they could live without foreign intercourse. They are also by nature of little faith both towards their Sovereigns and with each other, and are therefore very suspicious. The nobility, save such as are employed at Court, do not habitually reside in the cities, but in their own country mansions, where they keep up very grand establishments, both with regard to the great abundance of eatables consumed by them, as also by reason of their numerous attendants, in which they exceed all other nations, so that the Earl of Pembroke has upwards of one thousand clad in his own livery. In these their country residences they occupy themselves with hunting of every description, and whatever else can amuse or divert them; so that they seem wholly intent on leading a joyous existence, the women being no less sociable than the men, it being customary for them and allowable to go without any regard, either alone or accompanied by their husbands, to the taverns, and to dine and sup where they please. The English do not much delight in either military pursuits or literature, which last, more especially by the nobility, is not held in much account, and they have scarcely any opportunity for occupying themselves with the former, save in time of war, and when that is ended they think no more about them, but in battle they show great courage and great presence of mind in danger, but they require to be largely supplied with victuals; so it is evident that they cannot endure much fatigue."

To a man accustomed to the warmth and brightness of the sunny south, the air of England, with its "clouds, wind, and rain," was anything but appreciated, though the Venetian admits that "in calm weather the climate is so temperate that the extremes of heat and cold are rarely felt, and never last long, so that persons clad in fur may be seen all the year round." The Conservative programme of *sanitas sanitatum* appears to have been much neglected by those in power. "They have," writes Soranzo, "some little plague in England every year, for which they are not accustomed to make sanitary provisions, as it does not usually make great progress; the cases for the most part occur amongst the lower classes, as if their dissolute mode of life impaired their constitutions." On the first year of the Envoy's residence in England there broke out, owing to some "atmospheric putrescence," the disease called the sweat:—

It commenced in Wales and then traversed the whole kingdom, the mortality being immense amongst persons of every condition.

The malady was a most profuse sweat, which, without any other indisposition, seized patients by the way, and the remedies at first administered taking no effect, they died in a few hours, so that during the first three days of its appearance there died in London alone upwards of 5000 persons, but some remedy having been devised subsequently, it ceased in twenty days. The alarm, however, was great and universal; all who could made their escape, all business being suspended, the shops closed, and nothing attended to but the preservation of life.

Upon the position of England as a commercial country Soranzo comments more favourably. The soil, he says, produces wheat, oats, and barley in such plenty that the people usually have enough for their own consumption, "but were they to work more diligently and with greater skill, and bring the soil into higher cultivation, England might supply grain for exportation, but they do not attend much to this, so that they sometimes need assistance both from Flanders and Denmark, and occasionally from France likewise." The brewing of beer, owing to the sun not permitting the vines to ripen, is, he remarks, one of the chief industries of the country. "This potion is most palatable to them, and all persons drink it, even their sovereigns, although they also consume a great quantity of wine, which is brought from Candia, Spain, the Rhine, and from France, the last being more prized than the rest." Both in the Thames and in the neighbouring seas fish is to be obtained in abundance, whilst the oyster-beds are so prolific that "occasionally as many as twenty smacks are seen filled with oysters, but during four months in the summer it is forbidden either to take or sell them." Owing to the excellence of the pasturage the cattle, and especially the sheep, are, he says, in first-rate condition and of great value. The wool which the sheep yield is the best in Europe, and the manufacture of cloth is one of the chief sources of the wealth of the country; "great part of this wool is manufactured in England, where cloths and kerseys of various sorts are wrought, which amount annually to 150,000 pieces of cloth of all sorts and 150,000 pieces of kersey, the rest of the wool being exported and taken usually to Calais on account of the staplers, who then sell it on the spot and have the monopoly of the wool exports from England, though occasionally export-permits are conceded by favour to other persons, though the staplers do their utmost to prevent it. The quantity of unwrought wool exported is said to amount to about 2000 tons annually." Lead and tin are extracted from the mines in Cornwall "in great quantity, and of such good quality that the like is not to be found elsewhere." The country is also rich in coal and iron. The great centres for all this commerce are the two cities of London and York:—

London [he notes] is the most noble, both on account of its being the Royal residence, and because the river Thames runs through it, very much to the convenience and profit of the inhabitants, as it ebbs and flows every six hours like the sea, scarcely ever causing inundation or any extraordinary floods; and up to London Bridge it is navigable for ships of 400 butts burden, of which a great plenty arrive with every sort of merchandise. This bridge connects the city with the borough, and is built on stone with twenty arches and shops on both sides. On the banks of the river are many large palaces, making a very fine show, but the city is much disfigured by the ruins of a multitude of churches and monasteries belonging heretofore to friars and nuns. It has a dense population, said to number 180,000 souls, and is beyond measure commercial, the merchants of the entire kingdom flocking thither, as, by a privilege conceded to the citizens of London, from them alone can they purchase merchandise, so they soon become very wealthy.

Like all foreigners, Soranzo is struck with admiration at the self-government of London and at the majesty of the Lord Mayor:—

This mayor [he says] usually keeps a most excellent table, with open doors, and in one year spends at least 4000 ducats out of his own purse; and on the expiration of his office he is for the most part knighted. His chief charge is to superintend the victualling department, to legislate for the populace in minor suits, and to have care for the custody of the city by day and night, the keys of its gates being in his possession.

A nation so eminently commercial is, in the opinion of the Envoy, not fitted for war. From her whole realm the Queen could easily raise 100,000 men, only "it is not the custom to enroll every sort of person" as is the fashion on the Continent. In cases of need "it is usual to order noblemen to collect such an amount of troops as required, which is done when the Crown does not trust everybody." When fearful of foreign invasion or some sudden insurrection of the natives, it is the custom "to place a light on the top of certain huge lanterns fixed on heights in all the villages, on appearance of which signal anywhere, all the neighbouring places do the like, and the forces muster at the first sight, so in a short time the general muster is made, the remedy and assistance proving alike efficient." From these musters some 15,000 horse might be raised, only "the native English horse is not good for war, and they have not many foreign horses." Of the arms and disposition of the troops Soranzo gives us the following account:—

The weapons used by the English are a spear, and not having much opportunity for providing themselves with body-armour, they wear for the most part breast-plates with shirts of mail and a skull cap and sword. The rest would be footmen, of which they have four

sorts: the first, which in number and valour far excels the others, consists of archers, in whom the sinew of their armies consists, all the English being, as it were, by nature most expert bowmen, inasmuch as not only do they practise archery for their pleasure, but also to enable them to serve their king, so that they have often secured victory for the armies of England. The second sort consists of infantry who carry a sort of bill; and there are some of these likewise who would make good soldiers. The other two sorts are harquebusiers and pikemen, of which weapons they have very little experience. Occasionally the Crown has subsidized German troops.

So much for the army, now for the navy. "Her Majesty's naval forces are very considerable, as she has great plenty of English sailors, who are considered excellent for the navigation of the Atlantic, and an abundance of timber for ship-building, as they do not use galleys, owing to the strong tide in the ocean.

Were her Majesty to take the vessels of shipowners in all parts of the kingdom the number would be immense; but she has only eighty of her own, including some small galleons; and whenever she pleased she could very easily obtain upwards of 150 from private individuals, but small, as in those parts but few large ships are seen, and they say that those of 400 butts and under sail better than the larger ones. Her Majesty has a great quantity of very fine artillery, both in the fortresses beyond sea as well as in many places within the realm, and especially at the Tower of London, where the ammunition of every sort is preserved. The courage of the English soldiers and sailors is beyond suspicion, but it is rendered almost useless by the lack of efficient commanders."

In the whole realm they have no persons, neither sailor nor soldier, capable of commanding either fleet or army. The only man they had, adds the Envoy, was the Duke of Northumberland, who by his bravery distinguished himself in both capacities.

The financial condition of the country is not prosperous. From the property belonging to the Crown, including that of the Church, the revenues of the Queen amount to a million of ducats, and as the ordinary expenditure is estimated at 830,000, it follows that her Majesty should have a surplus of 170,000 ducats.

But [writes Soranzo] from the research used by me I understood that the revenues do not suffice for the expenditure, partly because as usual everywhere it is impossible to levy all the taxes, and in part owing to the maladministration of the money to such an extent that since a long while stipendiaries receive barely half their pay; and the cost of the Coronation and the outfit of the thirty ships which put to sea this year for the coming of the Prince of Spain, were defrayed by a loan, for which the merchants in Flanders contracted at exorbitant interest.

So shrewd an observer did not fail to interpret aright the dangers that menaced both England and the Continent from the Spanish alliance. The Venetian notes how opposed the people were to the marriage, but "the Queen being born of a Spanish mother was always inclined to that nation, scorning to be English, and boasting of her descent from Spain." In vain Parliament besought her to marry an Englishman and satisfy the wishes of her subjects; "not only did she reply ungraciously, but without allowing them even to conclude their address rebuked them for their audacity in daring to speak to her, their Queen, about marriage, saying, however, that she would consult with God, and with no one else, which greatly disturbed everybody." Soranzo then proceeds to discuss the policy that her husband will in all probability pursue:—

"It is quite clear that should Don Philip choose to maintain himself in England by sheer force, he would require a very great number of troops, which I do not think he could muster at present during the Emperor's war with France, so it may be supposed that he intends to rule in peace and quiet, which would I think render him more secure; for the greater the amount of foreign troops introduced into the country, the greater cause would the English have for riots, and discontent, as very well known to his Highness. . . . . It may also be supposed that through a variety of opportunities he will endeavour to benefit the nobility, without whom with difficulty can the people ever do anything of consequence; and by associating with the aristocracy he, in time, will have no great difficulty about ascertaining their disposition, and will give them colleagues, who, acknowledging their dignity and profit as the gifts of his Highness, will seek his advantage, nor will he lack means for disposing adroitly of those who dissent from him. It may also be supposed that his chief care will be to garrison the fortresses with Englishmen who he can persuade himself depend on his own immediate will. These and very many other precautions he could take which might benefit him; but nothing would be more efficacious than the Queen's pregnancy, the mere hope of which is sufficient to curb the people."

This prognostication was, as we know, not fulfilled. Philip was so occupied with his affairs on the Continent that he troubled himself very little about England except, when he wanted resources, to draw upon her Treasury for funds; whilst the discontent of the people with the alliance was not appeased by the appearance of any heir to the Crown. One anticipation of the Envoy was, however, fully realised. "At present," writes Soranzo, "her Majesty is quite at peace with the most Christian King . . . . but should her husband determine on persuading her to make war on France, it may be believed that she will not refuse him, most especially if he made himself agreeable to her." This view was correct. Philip did persuade his wife

to declare war against France—a war which resulted in Spanish aggrandisement and in the loss of Calais to England.

The remainder of the Envoy's report does not call for particular comment. It is of great interest to the foreign State for which it was written, but it does not contain any novel matter for Englishmen. It is a treatise on our laws and forms of government, not from an Italian, but from an English point of view, and therefore familiar to us all. Soranzo describes our system of trial by jury, our courts of appeal, the power of the Lord Chancellor, and the jurisdiction of the Houses of Parliament. Trial by jury does not appear to meet with his approbation, as it seems to him a system dependent not so much upon the sense of justice in the individual as upon his powers of physical endurance. "To say," he comments, "how defective and reprehensible this mode of trial is, seems to me unnecessary, so I will merely observe that one of these twelve judges being better able than his fellows to withstand hunger and other inconveniences, has been the cause of the death of a person under trial, although the others wished to acquit him."

We have but seized upon the most salient points in this despatch, which appears to have been oddly enough overlooked by the more recent historians of this period, but to all interested in the reign of Mary the document, though of course partial and from a Roman Catholic point of view, is well deserving of attention.

ALEX. CHARLES EWALD.

ART. V.—AN EGYPTIAN FARM.

IF we are going to visit a farm in Egypt, we must abandon, of course, our English notions of farmhouse life; but these are so deeply rooted in most English minds, that though we do not exactly expect to see labourers in smock-frocks and hats, or rosy dairy-maids in pattens, red-brick walls with creepers over them, and trim vegetable gardens flanked by well-stocked rick-yards, still a vague sense of disappointment and amazement is apt to come over us unless well prepared for something very different indeed from the farms of our early recollections. But in its own way an Egyptian farm has much to please the eye, especially if it be an *artistic* eye, and to interest it in many ways. Let the reader accompany me to one, and try to see at least as much as, by pen and ink, he can of the farms in the Nile valley. The specimen chosen is like many others, the differences being trivial.