

The Puritans were not born over night, but were rather the growth of years. When Henry the 8th., after living more or less decently for twenty years with Catherine of Aragon, who was six years his senior, gave way to his passions and sought a divorce in order to take a new wife, he found himself balked by the Roman Catholic church, and took advantage of the dissatisfaction that existed with the church, ~~and~~ withdrew from the Roman church and made himself the head of the church in England. The dissoluteness and extravagance of the king met with certain disapproval.

Later, after the short reigns of Edward and Bloody Mary, when Elizabeth came to the throne, there were also those who disapproved with rottenness both within and without the church and sought its reformation. To these persons, in derision, the name of "purist, or Puritan" was first given about 1664.

Such a halo has been thrown around the long reign of "Good Queen Bess?", and its remarkable revival in trade and letters, that few realize even today, the low ebb to which the nation had sunk spiritually and morally. Mary Queen of Scots has been pilloried in history as a wanton, but Elizabeth had even more admirers. Edmund Spenser, while serving his Queen in Ireland recommended the utter destruction of the men, women and children of their native land that they might be replaced with others from England.

Drake, who paved the way for England's later maritime greatness, was a pirate, and Queen Elizabeth permitted him to prey upon the commerce with nations with whom England was at peace. Piracy was the most profitable business in the empire. Hawkins, who helped defeat the Spanish Armada, was a slave trader. Elizabeth