

John Knox

on the mass

John Knox: His Ideas and Ideals by the Rev. James Stalker, Professor of Church History, United Free College, Aberdeen (New York: A.C. Armstrong & Son) 1904
London: Hodder & Stoughton

p. 68-69 ((In August, 1561)) Knox, from his pulpit in St. Giles', declared that one Mass inspired him with more terror than would the landing in the country of ten thousand men.

Hearing of this sermon, Mary sent for the preacher to the palace . . . She reproached him with his book on female government . . . She then drew out of him his political views, the upshot of which appeared, she said, to be that her subjects were to obey him instead of her. But out of this conclusion also he extricated himself by the observation that the whole end of his preaching was to lead subjects and princes to obey God. From this she drifted into the true papist's question, how she was to know whether he or the teachers of her youth had the divine authority; to which his reply was that she was to trust neither the one nor the other, but God speaking in his Word.

p. 70 The second occasion of his being summoned to the monarch's presence was a sermon he had preached against an outbreak of persecution in France, where the Huguenots had been attacked by the Guises, in celebration of which the Queen was supposed to have held a ball at Holyrood. This time the preacher was in a humorous mood, and hinted to Mary that the ordinary fate of people who do not go to Church had befallen her, in that she had heard ill of herself, and did not know whether or not it was true. If she would come to the sermon, she would not be misinformed as she had been. Or, if she appointed time and place, he would come and preach his sermon over again to her. . . .

p. 71 It was Mary who was in a pleasant humour at their next interview, which took place at Lochleven/^{p.72}((Knox had been summoned for giving his approval to those resolute Protestants who took the law into their own hands and suppressed the unlawful practice of the Mass by force)) They had an angry interview in the evening; but next morning . . . she summoned him to her side and entered into the most confidential conversation on matters