

John Knox: His Ideas and Ideals by Jas. Stalker (New York and London) 1904

p. 72(cont'd) concerning both his and her welfare; no allusion being made to the subject of the preceding evening's discussion, till, at the moment of parting, she wispered that all should be done as he had desired: to which he replied: "I am assured then that you shall please God and enjoy rest and tranquility within your realm; which to your Majesty is more profitable than all the Pope's power can be."

p. 73 Very different was the next interview, which took place in June 1563, when it was rumoured that the Queen was about to marry the son of the King of Spain, of course a Catholic. On this report Knox had commented in the pulpit with such energy as to displease his own friends, and flatterers were not slow to carry his words to the court. On his arrival there he found the Queen in a towering passion, which lasted throughout the entire interview; every attempt of his to explain himself being met with the question: "But what have you to do with my marriage"? . . . He pleaded that he was not his own master in the pulpit, but had to utter what was given him. But the same angry rejoinder burst from her; and she added the contemptuous question: "And what are you within this realm?" But it was now his turn to score; and he replied: "A subject born within the same; and, albeit I be neither earl, lord nor baron, yet has God made me, how abject I ever be in your eyes, a profitable member thereof." . . . Knox was dismissed with an injunction to wait in the ante-chamber till the royal pleasure should be announced to him. There he was avoided by the courtiers, as if he had been a leper; but he turned him to the ladies of the court and said, not in the tones of a terrified man: "O fair ladies, how pleasant were this life of yours, if it should ever abide, and then in the end you might pass to heaven with all this gear. But fye upon that knave Death, that will come whether we will or not." And so on he moralized . . . till the storm in the inner chamber was allayed and he was permitted to depart.