

He also says the portrait of the author found in the later editions of the history was engraved by Savary.

Du Fresnoy, speaking of the maps, says: "It is a diligent and exact work, and of equal use for the history, as the topography of England."

Another writer says: "The history contains more valuable matter, and is better arranged, than any preceding chronicle."

Dr. Granger, in his Biographical History of England, says Speed's history was pronounced by the learned men of his times "incomparably more complete than all the histories of his predecessors put together."

Another writer—Ducarel—writing in 1754, says: "The first edition of Speed's history is preferable to all the subsequent ones, being in a large folio and on Atlas paper, and the cuts are sharper and clearer. It is a wonderful work, but he had the assistance of the immortal Sir Robert Cotton, Dr. Barkham and others."

Taine, in his History of English Literature, mentions Speed, in connection with others, as one of the founders of English history. He says "Hollinshed, Speed, Raleigh, Stowe, Knolles, Daniel, Thomas, May, and Lord Herbert founded history."

John Speed having lived through the reigns of Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, it is interesting to note his estimate of those sovereigns.

He had no admiration for Mary. He says: "Of all since the conquest, her reign was the shortest, only excepting that of Richard the Tyrant, but much more bloody than was his, and more blood spilt in that short time of her reign than had been shed for cause of Christianity in any king's time since Lucius, the establisher of the Gospel in this realm. * * * Her end came when she had reigned five years, four months and eleven days, and her body lyeth interred in a chapel in the minster of St. Peters at Westminster, without any monument or other remembrance."

His account of Queen Elizabeth is in a far different spirit. His admiration for her is expressed in every form of lofty phraseology. Mentioning her birth he calls her