

“that excellent Princess who afterward proved the mirror of the world.”

He seems to have been the recipient of some personal favors at the hands of Queen Elizabeth, as the concluding part of the following quotation shows :

“Elizabeth,” says he, “the second daughter of King Henry and first child by Queen Anne, his second wife, was born at Greenwich upon Sunday the seventh of September, the year of Christ Jesus 1533, and 25th of her father’s reign, who, with due solemnities, was baptized on the Wednesday following, Archbishop Cranmer, the old Duchess of Norfolk and the old Marchioness of Dorset being the witnesses at the font and the Marchioness of Exeter at the confirmation. She succeeded his sister, Queen Mary, in the monarchy of England, and was for wisdom, virtue, piety and justice not only the mirror of her sex but a pattern for government to all the princes in Christendom, whose name I may not mention without all dutiful remembrance, and whose memory unto me is most dear, amongst the many thousands who received extraordinary favors at her gracious and most liberal hand.”

He pronounced her to be “the greatest in fame that ever ruled before, as if all their virtues had made a confluence in her.” “She lived and reigned and died in peace and full of glory, celebrated by the tongues and pens of the rarest spirits of all nations.” His description of her grief for Essex is excellent: “Her Majesty having such a star fallen from her firmament was inwardly moved, and oftentimes would show passions of her grief even till the time of her approaching end, when two years later she laid down her head in the grave as the most resplendent sun setteth at last in a western cloud.”

His account of the Spanish Armada has the interest of a narrative of a contemporary and an eye-witness. He was, at that time (1588) thirty-six years of age, and the important event evidently impressed him strongly. He fully appreciated the brag and bluster of the Spaniards, the heroism of his own countrymen and the lofty courage of Queen Elizabeth.