

Elizabeth did not love Scottish Puritanism, and had been deeply offended by Knox's "First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women," a tract against the fitness of women for rule, written during the reign of Mary, policy demanded that she should support a movement likely to weaken the hold of France and Catholicism on Scotland. Mary of Guise died almost at the moment of Protestant victory. A treaty signed June 6, 1560, withdrew the French troops and left the Lords of the Congregation the masters of Scotland.

At the Height of His Power

Knox's power was now come to flood-tide. Parliament abolished the Pope's authority in Scotland, and forbade the celebration of Mass under heavy penalties. When young Mary Queen of Scots, lately widowed of her French boy husband, returned to Scotland in 1561, only the drawn sword of her half-brother, Lord James Stuart, secured her the privileges of the outlawed faith in her private chapel. Loud and bitter were the protests of Knox, and Mary humbled herself in repeated interviews with him.

Knox, flint to blandishments and arguments alike, left her weeping tears of impotent anger. So began a duel which ended only when the queen, as a result of her own criminal folly in marrying her husband's murderer, had fallen from her high estate and become a fugitive and a prisoner—in the end a martyr—in England. (See Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots.)

His Influence Lives

After preaching the coronation sermon of Mary's baby son, James, Knox retired from public life mainly on account of failing health, and died three years later, on November 24, 1572.

The deposition of Mary and the rule of a Protestant regent seemed to guarantee that Knox's work should not be undone. Nor was it, for though vexatious strife between "kirk" and crown continued long after his death, Puritan Presbyterianism continues to this day to be the creed of the "established kirk" and the mould of Scottish character. In large part this was due to the deep sincerity and conscientiousness of one who, however harsh, dogmatic, and intolerant he was, "neither flattered nor feared any flesh."

A RELIGIOUS REFORMER



John Knox, the famous Scottish Reformer, whose determined stand against Catholicism has left a lasting mark.

KORAN. On the Koran, the sacred book of the Mohammedans, is founded the religion of about 225,000,000 people. The name means "the Reading," the book to be read. It is used in public worship, is the chief text-book in Mohammedan schools, and is the standard of all law and practice among all devout Mussulmans.

How it was Written

The Koran is regarded by the Moslems ("the faithful") as the word of God revealed to the prophet Mohammed, through the angel Gabriel. Its various parts were written down from the prophet's lips, from time to time, by the prophet's scribes, on dried leaves, bits of leather, whitened shoulder blades of sheep, or whatever else was at hand. After the death of Mohammed these fragments were gathered together, copied, and arranged roughly in the order of their length without regard to contents. Thus the book has "neither beginning, middle, nor end." The original writings were then destroyed.

The Koran, which is written in Arabic, is about as long as the New Testament, and is divided into 114 *suras*, or chapters. Each of these begins, "In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate." The book consists of history, legends, prophecies, moral precepts, and laws. The histories are chiefly about Old Testament characters, and many of the doctrines and laws are the same as those of Judaism or of Christianity. Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed are named as the greatest of the line of prophets sent by God to lead mankind in the path of truth.

Doctrines and Duties

The fundamental doctrine is the oneness of God, expressed in the simple statement, "There is no God but God (Allah)"; and submission to

His will (Islam) is the highest virtue. Much emphasis is laid also on the Last Judgment, when everyone shall receive reward or punishment for his deeds. The faithful Moslem is commanded to pray five times a day, turning his face toward Mecca, to fast at stated times, to give alms, and to make at least one pilgrimage in his lifetime to Mecca, the sacred city. Both the civil and criminal laws of Mohammedanism are based on teachings of the Koran. The Koran is regarded with the utmost reverence by Mohammedans, who resent seeing it in the hands of unbelievers. (See Mohammed.)