

CHAP. IV.

1560 - 1561.

CONTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

<i>England.</i>	<i>France.</i>	<i>Germany.</i>	<i>Spain.</i>	<i>Portugal.</i>	<i>Popes.</i>
Elizabeth.	Charles IX.	Ferdinand I.	Phillip II.	Sebastian.	Pius IV.

PREVIOUS to the death of the Queen Regent all parties had become averse to the continuance of the war. From the first, Elizabeth had expressed to her Ministers, her earnest wish to remain at peace, if it could be accomplished with security and honour; and although she at length consented to send an army into Scotland, during its march and even after the opening of hostilities, her negotiations for an amicable settlement with France were earnest and uninterrupted—nor were the ministers of that kingdom less anxious to bring matters to an adjustment. They were convinced that the sagacity and penetration of Cecil and Throckmorton had fully detected their ambitious designs upon England, they agreed, that the vast and impracticable project of the House of Guise for the destruction of the reformed religion, and the union of the kingdoms of England, Scotland

and France under one head, must be for the present abandoned; the extraordinary expense of the Scottish war could no longer be borne, and in the present state of France itself, torn by religious persecution, and weakened by frequent conspiracies and popular commotions, peace appeared the only remedy for the country. Nor were the Lords of the Congregation prepared to prolong the struggle; experience had shown them, that even with the assistance of England, France was a more formidable enemy, than they had imagined. The fortifications of Leith were so strong, that Lethington acknowledged in one of his letters, it might defy, if well victualled, an army of twenty thousand men.¹ It was impossible for them to keep the great body of their forces composed of the feudal militia for any long time under arms, and without money, which was exceedingly scarce amongst them, their hired soldiers were ready to mutiny and sell themselves to the enemy. They were as willing therefore to negotiate, as the other belligerents, and under these circumstances, after some time spent in correspondence and preliminary arrangements, Cecil, the able minister of Elizabeth, and Sir Nicholas Wotton, repaired to Edinburgh, in the middle of June. Here they met the French Commissioners, the Bishops of Valence, and Amiens, La Brosse, D'Osell, and the Sieur de Randan, who being the bearer of a letter from his master, the French King, to Elizabeth, had

¹ MS. Letter State Paper Off., Lethington to Norfolk, 9th April 1560.

in his passage through England been admitted to an interview with that princess.¹

The treaty which was now about to be concluded embraced two great objects; it was necessary to settle, first, the differences between France and England, and secondly, to secure the interests of the Lords of the Congregation. They had taken up arms against their natural Sovereign for the expulsion of strangers from their country, and to restore the kingdom to its ancient liberty; with this end in view they had entered into a separate treaty with Elizabeth; who had afforded them assistance both in money and by the presence of an army. It was necessary therefore to protect them from the probable vengeance of their own Sovereign, and this could only be done by including in the agreement between England and France, a recognition of the treaty between Elizabeth and the reformed Lords. The complaint that the arms and title of the Monarchs of England had been unjustly assumed by the King and Queen of France, was easily adjusted. The French Commissioners, with little difficulty, agreed to renounce it, and even to consider the claim of compensation made by Elizabeth for the injury which she had sustained. But serious debates arose upon the second point. The negotiations here included that large portion of the nobles and commons of Scotland, which had embraced the Reformation. They had taken arms in the beginning of the war to protect themselves

¹ Forbes, vol. i. p. 432. St. P. Off., MS. Letter, Cecil to Elizabeth, Edin. 19th June, 1560.

