

But it is claimed that this is only one view of his character, and, on the other hand, that he was very deceitful, heartless, and lustful. "However," says the prefatory epistle, "there came out after his death a poem, called *Leicester's Ghost*, which not only avers all the particulars which are contained in these Memoirs, but recites divers other things which seem to have been transacted by him since the writing of those papers." The whole substance of the poem and these Secret Memoirs is but a rehash of the Libel by Robert Parsons, the Jesuit, called "*Leicester's Commonwealth*." I have looked through this volume of 218 pages to find the "true inwardness" of it, and I see that it must be the work of a Romanist, cunning and false to the core. One charge is, that Leicester had a wife alive when he first began to pretend marriage to Queen Elizabeth. On page 107, are these words: "Then he (Leicester) might have entitulated any one of his own brood, whereof he hath store in many places (as is known), to the lawful succession of the Crown under the color of that privy and secret marriage with her majesty, wherein he will want no witness to dispose what he will." The writer then goes on to assert that Leicester had contrived to have the law so framed and worded that, upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, her natural issue by himself, be it son or daughter, might become entitled to the Crown of England. The author says: "The disposition of the man (Robert Dudley) is bent wholly to a sceptre."—Page 109. This papist author makes a terrible onslaught upon the Dudleys, saying that Robert's grandfather was a pettifogger and cozener, and his father, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, was a tyrant. "It is a settled rule of the Dudleys," says he, "that where you have done once great injury, there must you never forgive." Again, he says, "The race of the Dudleys are most cunning merchants to make their gain of all things, men and times."—Page 165.

"The priests and jesuits, here executed or in prison or abroad in corners; are they not of Oxford University? And why is all this? Is it not because the chief governor of Oxford (Robert Dudley, Chancellor) is an Atheist?"—Page 84.

We should ever keep in view that Queen Elizabeth and her brave ministers were now establishing our Protestant Reformation in England, and this effort of their popish enemies, inspired by religious zeal, had for its chief object the overthrow of Protestantism. What they dared not attack openly they endeavored to