Papists and Puritans
Under Elizabeth I

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BLANDFORD PRESS
LONDON
A third act dealt with Catholic fugitives overseas. Here the government had in mind not only the exiles like those at Louvain, whose literary efforts were regarded with alarm, but also those who had fled after the Rising of the Northern Earls. The Acte agaynst Fugitives over the sea\(^1\) asserted that these fugitives revealed the secrets of the realm, carried away large sums of money, practiced rebellion, and made fraudulent conveyance of their lands in England by which they still retained the use of them. Anyone who had gone or who should go overseas without license and who did not return within six months was to forfeit the profits of his lands and all his goods and chattels. Fraudulent conveyances were to be void, and trustees who did not report them were subject to penalties. There was, however, an interesting distinction made between the different kinds of exiles. It was enacted that ‘If any person by reason of his blinde zeale and conscience onely, departe beyonde the Seas without Lycense’ and was not in any way involved in treasonable activity, then the Lord Chancellor might make provision ‘for his desolate wyef and children’ to the extent of between one-third and one-quarter of his estate. Anyone who came back and who did ‘fullye reconcile hymself to the true Religion established by the order of Law’, declaring this to the bishop and ‘shewing the same openly by commyng to the Devyne Servyce by Order of this Realme appoynted and receavyng the Holy Communion’, might after a year recover his lands and profits.

The Rising of the Northern Earls in 1569 and the bull of communication of 1570 provided justification for those who argued that Catholics wished to overthrow the government by force. This belief was further strengthened in 1571 by the uncovering of the Ridolfi Plot. Although the traditional story of the plot can no longer be accepted, and although there is a good deal of uncertainty about the precise role of Ridolfi himself and of Mary Queen of Scots, and the duke of Norfolk,\(^2\) there is no doubt that the pope gave enthusiastic support to the enterprise, which was intended to lead to a rising in England backed by Spanish troops. Ridolfi may have been in some degree a double agent and his scheme was completely unrealistic, but this does not alter the fact that the pope and the Spanish king supported the attempt to change the government of England. As Cecil and Walsingham uncovered more and more evidence in the last months of 1571, they could be used to Lord Burghley and Aldermen of London known to a wider Tower in September executed on lucky to escape. In no way implicated they had no contempt for papacy and of Spain Catholicism as a Roman Catholic in 1572. Archbish pressed dislike of the forers of how they pressed the pope. Their impetuousity and princely cruelty a.

It is impossible before the coming of that there were large numbers of the pope. There were not all laid down by law, but a secret. The strength of Catholic priests were still in question about what number was great, and there was continuing few replacements. Government was achieved.

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1. 13 Eliz. c. 3: *Statutes of the Realm*, IV. 531 ff.
2. See p. 65 and note 1.