

sacerdotalistic leanings and I think a clever pope could have brought him to the Roman church. But the Papal forces in his day had no such skill and actually compounded the problems for Romanists in England by secret international meddling.

Under James all dissent was barred. The degree with which it was dealt was dependent on local officials and institutions. Actual persecution varied from place to place but was always a threat. Much grief came to Scotland as James sought to carry episcopacy there and the evangelicals in England were continuously worried by the hierarchical tendencies of the king.

public image

James and the Public Image

During the rule of James a great many things were out of order. Bribery ran high and economics were depressed. Men such as Francis Bacon, et al were caught in a gulf of scholastic emotion. England fared somewhat poorer on the high seas than in Elizabeth's day and much of the nobility was suspect of being less than committed. The revival thrust of the reformation was almost lost in the passage of these events. The issuance of the Book of Sports (1618) calling for particular games to be played on Sunday almost ruined James with dissenters and evangelical Anglicans alike. Neither his rule nor his personality were envied at the time.

The appointment of Abbot as Archbishop of Canterbury (1611-1633) was an item of help to the general public. Abbot was a man of firm conviction. He espoused the idea of a godly king leading a strong church and nation. This made him popular with James. But he was also a man uncompromising in personal and public beliefs and this mitigated his popularity with the king. Abbot was a strong Calvinist and offered help to presbyterian oriented dissenters as he was able. The Plymouth work also had his consent, at least, and his moderation helped all of the English church. The position he held at Canterbury had become the most powerful in the English church...in politics as well as prestige. With Abbot the office was in good hands. Unfortunately a hunting accident harmed his image and effectiveness in later life...I will probably tell you about it as we never miss a story if we know it.

The protestantism that grew during the time of James was that of the Anglican church. It tended to be high-churchly and sacerdotal. It is no surprise