

26 four major wars), yet he would vomit at the sight of blood and flesh on the battlefield. The list of paradoxes and contradictions is endless.

The number of love affairs, even after marriage, was also endless. Yet he was devoted to his wife Eugenie. One of his mistresses, an English actress from Brighton, Harriet Howard, so loved him that she spent her fortune financing his attempts to win power. Even when he was locked up in the fortress at Ham he wooed a young pretty laundress... and gave her two children whom he later made counts.

One affair that shook France was that with a 25 year old beautiful circus artiste Marguerite Bellanger, who earlier worked as a chambermaid in Boulogne. They met at a royal hunt and she was soon showing him tricks in which she could stand and walk on her hands. Paris gossip was that she could do other tricks while standing on her hands too!

There were scores more women whom Napoleon III bedded. From Italy, France, and Russia they flocked to him for the honour. There was even a lover in Tunbridge Wells.

It seems to me if Napoleon III had spent less time in bed, indulging his pleasures, he might have made an even greater Emperor.

Still, we all have our weaknesses!



*Napoleon & Eugenie  
(circa. 1862)*

*Drawing by E.Senyard*

## *Dover in the Reign of Bloody Mary*

**Ivan Green BA., FCCEd.**

**DURING THE SIX YEARS** of the reign of Edward the Sixth, who succeeded Henry the Eighth, there was little to report on the fortunes of Dover. The castle suffered badly from neglect and the harbour became more and more unusable, because of shingle (often called 'prebble' in old records), progressively blocking the harbour mouth, so much so that even ships drawing as little as four feet of water could not enter.

Queen Mary started off her reign in the right way, as far as the town was concerned, spending much money on the castle, and being concerned with the harbour problem, though her efforts achieved little. She authorised an indulgence which gave permission to collect money from all over the country for the repair of the harbour. It however produced practically nothing.

A fundamental problem was the landing of goods and passengers from the ships which, being unable to enter the harbour, were forced to anchor offshore, many small boats being used to ferry their goods and passengers to the beach.

These boats, being completely uncontrolled, charged exorbitant fees, and caused both inconvenience and scandal. It is said that these small boat crews, by their exorbitant demands, gave the name to Dovorians of 'Dover sharks'.

To overcome this problem and enable the town to control them, the

Queen granted the town its charter of Rivage and Ferriage in 1553. Following the usual preamble in Latin, the translation of the first part reads:

*'Know that we of our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, to our beloved the Mayor, Jurats and Commonalty of our town of Dover, in our county of Kent, the Rivage and ferriage of our whole port of Dover, in our said county of Kent, from all and all manner of skiffs and boats within the port aforesaid for the carrying of men and other things to be carried and transported from the shore of the port aforesaid to the ships in the aforesaid port, and lying at anchor to the deep sea near the aforesaid port, and from those ships to the shore aforesaid: so that none there presume to convey or transport any thing or any men in any skiffs, vessels or boats, except only in the boats or vessels of the inhabitants of our said town of Dover, without the licence of the said Mayor, Jurats and Commonalty. or their assigns.'*  
The remainder is too long to quote here.

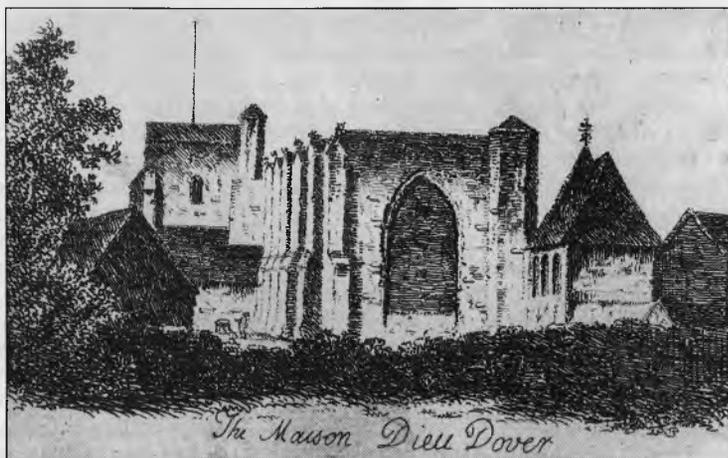
Mary's proposed marriage to Philip of Spain was bitterly opposed in many parts of the country, especially in Kent where it caused a rebellion led by Sir Thomas Wyatt. The rebellion failed and

Sir Thomas and some 150 of his followers were executed. Many others, including several Dovorians, were pardoned. The marriage was consummated, but Philip soon abandoned Mary and returned to Spain.

But one local event was to have terrible consequences. On the 17th of November 1554 Cardinal Pole landed in Dover, his intent being to assist Mary in the reconciliation of the English church with Rome. The terrible persecution of people unwilling to comply began in earnest in 1555. Several hundred, including over 70 in Kent, were burnt at the stake, a very public and terrible death, and hundreds died in prisons from disease and starvation.

It was primarily directed to ordinary and humble people, both young and old, many of them parents of families. Fortunately Dover did not suffer the dreadful persecution, though most of the inhabitants must have been very disturbed when Cardinal Pole, who was made Archbishop of Canterbury when Archbishop Cranmer was burnt at the Stake in March 1566, came to Dover on a visitation the same year. He was accompanied by Bishop Thornton, the Bishop of Dover, who was very active in the condemnation of many Kent people

The old Maison Dieu founded by the great Hubert de Burgh in 1203AD, as it was in the 16th century. Note the little chapel on the extreme right, which was added to the Maison Dieu early in the 13th century. It still survives, but is now enclosed by the enlargement of the main building, and its interior can still be seen by visitors since, many years ago, it was covered into use as the old courthouse.





*A continental artist's view of Dover in the mid 16th century. He has got many of the town's details wrong, but the emphasis is on the tremendous strength of the castle, and the many guns by which the town is defended.*

who were later burnt.

At that visitation the officers of St Mary the Virgin's church in Dover were ordered by Thornton to provide a mass book, candlesticks, tapers, a pyx, a cross, a holy loaf and hallowed fire, at a cost of some £3, a substantial sum in those times.

Bishop Thornton also discharged Christopher James, the priest of St Mary's, because he was a married man, and appointed another priest in his place. In 1555 the mayor, Richard Elam was turned out of office, together with several members of the corporation, because they did not conform to the Roman faith.

While Richard Elam was still in office he supervised the moving of the town's curfew bell from the tower of old St Peter's church, (then situated where Lloyds Bank now stands in the Market Square) to the tower of St Mary's. The bell was rung by an official who was paid by the town.

The freedom from religious

persecution of Dover citizens following Cardinal Pole's visitation was probably because of the even more precarious situation of English held territories in France. Dover was the one link through which they could be helped. The French, for many years the victims of the supremacy of the English longbow men, had turned to gunpowder. Although Henry the Eighth's gunnery campaign had resulted in much use of guns in his defences and on his ships, English territories in France were woefully inadequate in their own use of guns for their defence.

Soon Calais, England's last town and harbour on the continent, was directly menaced, and Mary was desperately alarmed. Sir Thomas Cheney, the deputy constable of Dover castle, was ordered to muster all the able bodied men, and their ships, from the Cinque Port towns to assemble at Dover, and to them he added all the castle defenders, except only a hundred men.

But the Queen was so unpopular, and

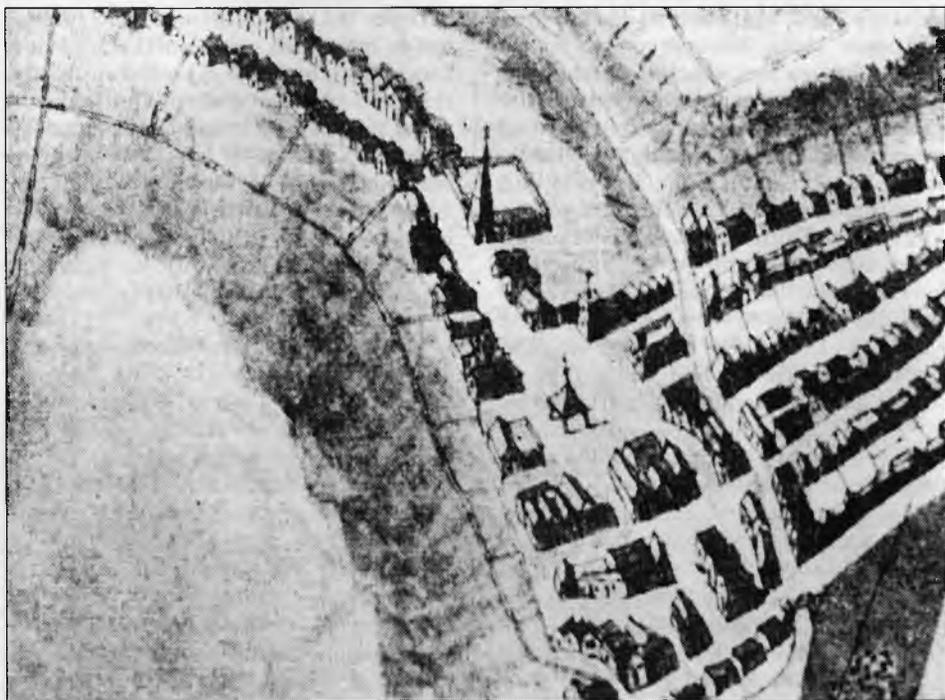
indeed hated, that the response was disastrously slow and fitful. Her bonfires of so many ordinary and humble people, her consigning of hundreds more to death by starvation and disease in filthy prisons, and her lack of any concern for her subjects was such, that she had forfeited her subjects' loyalty. The muster was reluctant, slow and inadequate. Eventually a scratch force was collected, but almost as soon as it left Dover it was struck by a storm and was dispersed.

Many Dover men, and Dover ships, were lost in that ill fated attempt. Calais, which the queen declared was so close to her heart, fell and with it the last English port on the continental coast, though the Passage itself, the sea link

between Dover and Calais was soon reinstated.

The much hated and feared queen passed away, unlamented, on the 17th of November 1558, and her cruel cardinal also died on the same day. It was the end of an era. Incredibly, that cardinal having also been Archbishop of Canterbury, has an elaborate tomb in Canterbury Cathedral.

When the news of the queen's death reached Dover, the mayor, Thomas Collye, surrounded by the members of the Common Council and freemen, held a hornblowing in the Market Square and announced Mary's death and the accession of the new queen, the great Elizabeth the First, and the start of a new, and better, reign.



*This old and somewhat muzzy picture of Dover in the time of Bloody Mary is of great interest. The building with the tall spire is the church of St Mary the Virgin, and above it, and slightly to the left, is the old Biggin Gate. In the open space below St Mary's is the market place with the old market cross, and the small building above and to its right, with the tower and cross is St Peter's church, which stood on the site now occupied by Lloyds Bank.*