QUEEN ELIZABETH: AN HISTORICAL DRAMA IN FOUR ACTS

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AN HISTORICAL DRAMA

IN FOUR ACTS

BY

W. G. HOLE

AUTHOR OF "POEMS LYRICAL AND DRAMATIC"

LONDON

GEORGE BELL AND SONS

1904

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TO MY FRIEND

RAYMOND BLATHWAYT

NOTE

THE drama of Queen Elizabeth's reign is so vast; the stage is so crowded; so many actors have strong parts, play them and make their final exits long before the last scene is reached, that no apology seems necessary on the part of the author for having freely availed himself of the licence permitted to the dramatist in dealing with historical facts and dates, especially as this play is intended for the stage rather than for the study.

The main departure from historical reality will be found in connection with the Earl of Leicester's marriage with the Lady Douglas Sheffield, which took place some years earlier than the period covered by the interval between Acts II. and III., and was not concealed from the Queen so successfully, and for so long a time, as represented. Elizabeth's infatuation for Leicester is matter of common historical knowledge, and there can be little question that it was his untimely death (which took place a few days after the defeat of the Spanish Armada, but as to the exact scene of which authorities differ), rather than the remonstrances of her Council, which prevented her from conferring upon him the title of "Lieutenant

General of England and Ireland." The further intention disclosed in her speech in the last scene is, the author opines, neither dramatically improbable nor out of keeping with his conception of this great Queen's character.

NEWTON ABBOT,
September, 1904.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

ROBERT DUDLEY, EARL OF LEICESTER,
WILLIAM CECIL, LORD BURLEIGH,
LORD CHARLES HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM, Lord Admiral,
LORD HUNSDON,
LORD COBHAM,
LORD DERBY,
SIR FRANCIS WALSINGHAM,
SIR NICHOLAS BACON, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal,
SIR CHRISTOPHER HATTON, Lord Chancellor,
SIR JOHN HARRINGTON, a Cousin to the Queen,
MR. SECRETARY DAVISON,
} Members of Her Majesty's Council.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.
SIR JAMES KNOLLYS, an old Soldier and Captain of the Queen's Body-Guard.
CLODD, the Queen's Jester.
MASTER LANEHAM, Keeper of the Council Chamber Door.
POTTS, a Vintner.
Speaker and Members of the House of Commons.

Two Workmen.	Beefeaters.	Courtiers.
Attendants.	Messengers.	Heralds.
Soldiers.	Mariner.	