

and found them above all suspicion. Their lives, letters, wills, and all public records went to show that they were good and honest people, although some of them had lately renounced the Church of Rome, and gained thereby the hatred of papists. A fac-simile letter of Amy Robsart was found, which showed she was on loving terms with her husband, whose letters also proved that he used all the means in his power to do her justice, and investigate the circumstances of her death and make them public. He sent for Amy's brothers to assist at the inquiry about her death. He wrote many letters urging that the Coroner's Inquiry should be open, thorough and impartial; for he well knew how his enemies would try to make use of his wife's fall to injure him, as he had both religious and political foes of the bitterest sort, because he was a favorite of the Queen, and arch heretic to the old Catholic church.

His letters, says Mr. Pettigrew, show that "Lady Dudley was surrounded by her own attendants and friends, to whom she was attached, and those by whom she was *dearly loved*." How did Queen Elizabeth look upon it? Was she not one of the best judges in the world of such an affair? She issued her Royal Proclamation to the Lords and others of the council, and the Bishops of several counties, rebuking them for not suppressing some former libels against herself, and now lately a most vile book (Leicester's Commonwealth) against Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; and she required them now to be more diligent in taking care of this last, both the queen and they knowing the Earl of Leicester to be perfectly clear of those aspersions it contains. Her words are: "Most scandalous, shameful and divelish are the books and libels continually spread abroad and kepte by disobedient persons, and namely among the rest, one most infamous, conteyning notoriously slanderous and hateful matter againste her righte trustie and right well beloved cozen the Earl of Leiccester, one of her principall noblemen and chief councillors of estate; of which most malicious and wicked imputations, her majestie, in her owne clear knowledge, doth declare and testifie his innocencie to all the world; and to that effecte, hath written her gracious letters, signed with her owne hand, to the lord maiour, sheriffs, & aldermen of London, where it is likely these books would chiefly be cast abroad." The good queen grows severer as she writes: "Testifyinge in her conscience before God, unto you, that her highness not onclie knoweth in assured certaintie the