

tion of every form of worship and of everybody's conscience.

Secondly, we consider sovereignty. Calvin also honors the *droit divin*. Highest authority in monarchy or democracy reigns *Dei gratia*. But that divine right attaches to the crown, not to the person. Princes are common creatures and, as a rule, of lower morals than average men. In his "Commentary on Daniel" he writes: Monarchs, in their titles, always put forward themselves as kings, generals, and counts, by the grace of God; but how many falsely pretend to apply God's name to themselves, for the purpose of securing the supreme power. For what is the meaning of that title of kings and princes—"by the grace of God," except to avoid the acknowledgment of a superior. Meanwhile, they willingly trample upon that God, with whose shield they protect themselves,—so far are they from seriously thinking themselves to reign by his permission. It is mere pretence, therefore, to boast that they reign through God's favor. "They hear it said," he continues, "that sovereignty is inviolable, and what now do they do? They make of it a shield for themselves, as though this inviolability was predicated of their own person." At court we often see highest positions held by ignorant and unprincipled men, and the kings themselves, in these days, are often as inane as the ass among dumb brutes. Moreover, earthly princes lay aside all their power when they rise up against God, and are unworthy of being reckoned in the number of mankind. We ought rather utterly to defy them than to obey them, whenever they are so restive and wish to spoil God of his rights, and, as it were, to seize upon his throne and draw him down from heaven. This differs not a little from the *droit divin* as claimed by Louis XIV., but shows that it made Calvin no cringing slave of kings, even though we do not approve his passion.

The form of government Calvin looked upon as an outcome of history, and which, as such, commands our respect. Is it a monarchy, then honor the king. Is it democracy, then