**Marriage-“The Virgin Queen”**

*Elizabeth's response to a delegation from Parliament who petitioned* (pleaded/begged) *her to marry soon and not to marry a foreigner.  The delegation wanted to be sure of the succession by her having a male child, and they wanted it to be English through and through, so that no foreigner would have a claim to the throne (she was under pressure to marry her sister's widower, Philip of Spain):*

“As I have good cause, so do I give you all my hearty thanks for the good zeal (passion) and loving care you seem to have, as well towards me as to the whole state of your country…And to the first part I may say unto you that from my years of understanding since I first had consideration of myself to be born a servitor of almighty God, I happily chose this kind of life in which I yet live, which I assure you for my own part hath hitherto best contented myself and I trust hath been most acceptable to God.

..That may be a fit governor, and peradventure more beneficial to the realm than such offspring as may come of me. For although I be never so careful of your well doings and mind ever so to be, yet may my issue grow out of kind and become perhaps ungracious. And in the end this shall be for me sufficient, that a marble stone shall declare that a Queen, having reigned such a time, lived and died a virgin.”