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The participants in the Pilgrimage of Grace intended to reverse the disruption of the status quo in the North and also took advantage of the opportunity to protest other issues that were important to them. The king and his government responded by crying treason and imprisoning organizers and participants.

After the Act of Supremacy gave Henry VIII the position of head of the Anglican Church, Cromwell, who was then Lord High Chancellor and head of the king's own council, began taking steps to expand royal power in the North of England and dissolve any real power or influence of the Catholic Church. He levied new taxes and confiscated church lands and closed monasteries.
Because these measures targeted the North, it is no wonder that the marches took place primarily around Northern towns with monastic presence. This monastic region was affected most by the measures especially those which rendered the church powerless. The Church had previously provided charity and social services which made many of the "new" leaders were unwilling to or unable to. (Doc 1)

The marches were also wary of magistracy power.

The participants were also wary of the power of the government and the monarch. Allegiance to the monarch, therefore, was something they were self-conscious about and many of the documents whose authors are unknown, contain reaffirmations of their loyalty. This probably came about in the face of accusations of treason by the king and his agents (Doc 7,8) and did not sound sincere in the face of the demands and other statements they make. Document 6 belies its initial exclusion of the king from the anger of the marches when the author accuses the parliament in a very pronounced spirit of "being the kings appointees."

The other concerns of the protesters were related to security from Scottish creaks and "thieves," basically the rule of law. And this also to deal with Catholicism
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biggest opponents in England, Cromwell and the
heretics which they were. We also see calls for more
reduced political relevance and freedom in addition to
requests by what is probably a livestock economy of
agricultural economy.

(paragraph based on documents 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)

Responding to the concerns of the merchants, the
government simply accuses them of rebellion, calls them
ignorant and unfit for power and as for the rule
of law and the security of the north? It is the
protestors who have given comfort to the states and
undermined the government's efforts. (Doc 9, 17)

The accusation of treason was a little extreme to the
merchants. They didn't want to usurp the rule
of the king only to bring back the old Catholic order
and increase their political significance. (Doc 8)

And the king, somewhat patronisingly, concedes that this was their
aim. His goal is not to cause permanent damage to the
unity of the country but to preserve peace and
his sovereignty. The treason accusation was for him too
extreme as well. Instead he recognises the Catholic
church and lets his subjects off competitively,
with simple acknowledgement that he was right all along.
(Docs 9, and 16)
With the desire for marriage to Anne Boleyn and the possibility of a male heir, King Henry VIII of England went to the pope with a plea. He wanted a divorce from Catherine of Aragon (the once wife of his elder brother) and wanted to bring Boleyn into the folds of royalty. The pope adamantly denied this request and sent Henry back unsatisfied. Henry's time was running short as Boleyn Henry therefore in an attempt to legalize his wedding and his coming child, in the Act of Supremacy ordained himself the head of the Anglican Church in the Act of Supremacy. He rejected the pope and broke his wedding with Catherine. His disagreement with Catholicism caused him through Thomas Cromwell to take actions against Catholic interests in England, to the dismay of a large part of his population. Many of his citizens therefore embarked on the Pilgrimage of Grace, in an effort to save English Catholicism. The primary goals and concerns favored by this group were the rectifying of God's supremacy in England, and the return of church lands and other. Two factions formed within this group with two distinct purposes. One group aimed to rectify God's supremacy in England, whereas the other group with the same guise had nothing but worldly intentions. A major concern however during this time was the security
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of the protesters was Henry VIII saw them as committed of "rebellion" (Doc 9). He along with Cromwell had
Despite the threat of prosecution, the people stood firm
to their ground, but to no avail. Their efforts were largely frustrated.

A handful of true believers who looked to the
Pope for guidance joined the Pilgrimage of Grace
to save the face of Christianity in England. At York
many took the "Oath of Honorable Men" to pledge
their allegiance to God's cause. From the wording "
You shall not enter into our Pilgrimage of Grace for
worldly gain. Do so only for your love of God..."
we can assume that amongst his group were dissenters who
looked to his movement as a means for materialistic gain
rather than spiritual advancement. The majority loved God,
but a few hypocrites existed. These people mourned the
loss of God's rule and groups like them protected Henry's
brand of religion. Another group of protesters carried
the banner showing Christ's divinity, love and sacrifice
asking onlookers, why were Church lands taken (Doc 3).
Christ died for the salvation of mankind and this
is how England treats him? The people
could not leave this and cried Ballads, singing
The Plight of the Lord (Doc 4). Though the peasants
with banners read the monks with their poems requested
their lord the Lord and returned, a cynic cannot

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help but take their words with a pinch of salt. Might these peasants want the lands returned as they work on them, could the monks possibly want their cattle returned as it was their source of untapped luxury? Though this set of people with their highly noble intentions were under scrutiny for were under suspicion, the next group who openly requested more than God's work can be considered nothing more than hypocrites.

One individual, Robert Aske, in a petition to the king, asks for the lands of the church returned and the abolishment of Protestantism, as well as other reforms. He uses the situation as an excuse to request such things as the repealing of “statutes against head guses” and the shipping of the parliament to York (Doc 5). Another individual, Sir Thomas Tempest, calling Thomas Cromwell a “traitor” accuses the current parliament of “no authority or virtue” asking for reform (Doc 6). Tempest’s bias is clear here as he too was a member of parliament and might be wanting that he would like to return to the political scene. Though the departure of current parliament members could cause an openly for his return to power.
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Though the intentions of the protesters can be debated, one issue concerning all was the safety of the protesters. The peasants had to join together to defend themselves against the likes of "thieves or scots" (Doc 7) as the "rulers of this country [England] do not defend " them (Doc 6). They were constantly faced by robbery and invasion, but that was not their only threat. The people thought they were fighting for the king, but King Henry declared it an act of treason. Nicholas Le Clo, a parish Catholic priest, lamented this predicament, "During the whole insurrection, not one gentleman tried to warn the commander of Lincoln that it was treason" (Doc 8).

Later Henry realized this and let "be better" (Doc 7) forgive the "worse sort" (Doc 7) in the case that they "repent... and make humble submission to his Highness" (Doc 9). Though many suffered and were hung, however, did not accept his offer and were prosecuted in 1537 (Doc 10). Although the intentions of both groups within the pilgrimage were their foil bore no reward, England continued into the future as a Protestant nation. The kindness of the past looked onto the
cruel future. Robert Aske said, and its institutions were once a boon to people, but now they are a sight to pity. Where shortly thereafter he was executed in his struggle for Catholicism (Dec 11).