

plague, he appears to have gone to Cambridge. A few years later we find him spending three months at Paris, and he there happened to be an eye-witness of the now widely-famed massacre of the French Protestants, which took place at the festival of St. Bartholomew. Such a scene, so harrowing in its details, could not fail to make a deep impression upon a mind so tender and ingenuous.

"The city seemed asleep when, at an hour and a half after midnight, the palace clock gave an unwonted sound. In an instant lights were placed at every window, soldiers emerged from hitherto dark corners, and thousands of men, armed and muffled, with the mark of the Cross fastened to their sleeves, streamed out of the houses, and joined in the cry, 'For God and the King'! Then all was confusion; half-naked men and women rushing out to be slaughtered; a strange mingling of prayers and curses, of laughter and wailing. In most parts there was indiscriminate butchery of all Huguenots. According to the lowest estimate, five thousand Protestants were murdered in Paris, and about a hundred thousand in the provinces. For seven days the slaughter lasted, and through that time blood flowed in the streets like rain."

Sidney having seen with his own eyes this revolting spectacle of dire persecution, deemed it his duty to retire from Paris without delay. He accordingly proceeded to Frankfort, in Germany, where he happily formed the acquaintance of one Hubert Longuet, a zealous member of the Reformed Church, whose Christian advice and devoted fidelity proved at this time of eminent service to the youthful Sidney, in helping to establish him both in the true faith of Christ's Church and the principles of godliness.

Upon his return to England, in 1575, Sir Philip was received at the Court of Queen Elizabeth, where he won universal favour, so much so that, on one important occasion, when Sir Francis Drake was about to embark on his second expedition against the Spaniards, the Queen issued a peremptory command that Sidney should not accompany him, *lest she should lose the jewel of her dominions.*

Prized and beloved by the whole English nation, and sharing the honours incident to so high a position, he was exposed to many temptations; but neither the blandishments of the gay world in which he moved, nor the incitements to ambition, which caused the downfall of other great men around him, ever gained the mastery of his nobler self. Scarcely believing in the good influence which he exercised, he would fain have retired into the quietude of private life. "I am very much grieved," wrote Hubert Longuet, "to hear you say that you are weary of the life to which I have no doubt God has called you, and that you wish to flee from the glitter of your Court. I know that in the splendour of a Court there are so many temptations to vice that it is very hard for a man to hold himself clean among them, and to stand upright upon such slippery ground; but you must struggle virtuously and boldly against these difficulties, remembering that the glory of victory is always great in proportion to the perils undergone."

Unfortunately, little is known respecting Sir Philip Sidney's observance of the public ordinances of religion, but, in the time of