

golden chain with a portrait of himself attached, exclaiming as he did it, "Behold the miracle of Holland!" The young man was too strong to be spoiled even by such flattery.

Grotius returned from France with the degree of LL.D. conferred upon him by the University of Paris, entered upon the profession of the law, and commenced a brilliant literary career. Honours came unsought and toils and responsibilities were multiplied. He was made "Advocate General" for the States of Holland and Zealand, and Pensionary of Rotterdam. These offices were attended with distinction and authority; the persons thus invested being charged with the public peace, and the prosecution of public offenders and representation and defence of the State.

About this time, July, 1608, at the goodly age of twenty-six, he was united in marriage with Mary Reygersburg, of an illustrious family in Zealand; this auspicious event was celebrated by many a Belgic bard. Another mark of public confidence awaited him; he was chosen by the "States General," or Dutch Congress, to prepare a history of the great struggle between the Republic and the Spanish empire. This history was one of the sacred labours of his life. In 1623 he was sent to England, to the court of St. James, to adjust maritime claims between the Republic and that kingdom. Thus we find him in England at the age of thirty, in the prime of his manhood, almost without a rival, or peer, as a statesman and scholar. He doubtless made the acquaintance of the distinguished men of the times in English society, among whom were Shakespeare, then in the prime of his strength, and the world-renowned Sir Francis Bacon, the Lord High Chancellor of England. John Milton and Oliver Cromwell were lads at school, and had not commenced their wondrous career, to which perhaps they were largely impelled by the influence of this champion of liberty from the Dutch Republic.

When Grotius returned to the Republic he found strife about doctrines, and intolerance of opinion, disturbing and distressing the people. He united with Arminius, Episcopius, Barneveldt, Uytenbogard, and Hoogenbeets, among the wisest and best men of the Republic, with thousands of others of less promin-