

from Louis XII to Francis I, and finally in succession to his three sons, Francis II, Charles IX and Henry III. Shortly before his death and after the ever memorable Siege of Paris, Henry IV of Navarre came to be in the ascendant.

By events in English history his life may be measured by the fact that he was born three years before Flodden Field, and that he died sixteen months after the destruction of the Armada. He was ten years of age when Luther burned the Pope's Bull, and forty-eight when France finally expelled England from her shores. The greatest wars of the times, however, were those against Germany, Italy and Spain, and the greatest enemy of France at that time was the Emperor Charles V. Conditions in France were steadily becoming worse and worse. On the one hand the steady growth of the Huguenot party, until it was fully organized under the Prince de Condé and Admiral Coligny, on the other, this influence for good was outbalanced by the pernicious intrigues of the Court. This last was dominated by the Queen Mother, Catherine de Medici, the Florentine, who quite controlled the actions of her three sons and the politics of the day. Such were the despotic and fickle rulers under whom Paré lived.

In 1562 began the long and disastrous Civil War between Catholic and Huguenot.

Among his contemporaries mention must be made of Ignatius Loyola, Luther and Erasmus, Calvin and Knox, Shakespeare and Rabelais, Raphael and Titian, Paræcelsus, Sylvius and Vesalius. Malgaigne, in his able and learned introduction to the works of Paré, has stated that the way was cleared for his coming and all Europe seemed waiting and watching for the advent. A glance at the condition of surgery before he became the master is necessary at this point:

From the time of Celsus there was a period of constant decline. The European schools had set tradition and authority on high above honest observation and experiment; then also the Church forbade the shedding of blood to the physicians and kept surgery at the level of a low unorganized trade, placing thus almost a premium on Charlatanism. Guy de Chauliac was the shining light in this period of decadence. He wrote his, "Grande Chirurgie" in 1393, when physician to Pope Urban V, at Avignon. His advice to the surgeon may be well quoted: "Let the surgeon be well educated, skilful, ready and courteous; let him be bold in these things that are safe, fearful in those that are dangerous; avoiding all evil methods and practices. Let him be tender with the sick, honourable to men of his profession; wise in his predictions; just, sober, pitiful and merciful; not covetous and extortionate,