

await the coming of my master. But for only answer he bade his minions take the youth without more parley, while he himself would await the return of Sir Fabian.

"I will remain here," and he swore a great oath, "to make this Sir Fabian speak and to make known to me the hiding place of that Mass-monger, who of late has ministered between these walls."

Then I prayed with sobs to be allowed to accompany my pupil, and young master, but Topcliffe spurned me with his foot.

"It is not with such as you," he said, "that the Queen's Majesty would cumber up her prisons. For the worms will have you soon and save Jack Ketch the trouble."

He waited in truth until Sir Fabian and my lady came riding back to learn what had befallen. But since the priest was many miles away by then, and since the searching of the house had therefore proved of no avail Topcliffe could find no cause for which to lead him into captivity; and perchance began to fear that he had done but a foolish thing, in carrying thence the boy. Nevertheless, and despite the efforts which Sir Fabian put forth and his unceasing appeals to those who were in power, my young master was kept in a loathsome dungeon. For Topcliffe would by no means own that he had made a mistake, and in addition to the words which that blessed youth had said, he suborned witnesses amongst his followers to declare that Fabian had declared himself willing to cut off the Queen's head, she being no queen at all but only a puppet Queen put there by evil men. Alas! these lying words, which had never so much as entered that innocent head, prevented mercy that might have been shown to him in high quarters. He was done to death in that same year, though not publicly for fear lest his youth and comeliness should stir the populace, but privately in that dungeon where as we heard later, he had shown a martyr's courage. And the tidings reached us long after from a fellow captive that he had with his last breath proclaimed faith in the Blessed Sacrament, which he longed with all his soul to receive once more.

His lady mother did not long survive him; that grievous loss weighed upon her soul too heavily and under-