

account of Philip Sidney's mind and conduct. Praise is also due to the biographer for eschewing that sentimentality which led Masson to picture imaginary scenes and episodes of Milton's life.

"On Monday (September 9th, 1566) the travellers reached Stratford-on-Avon in time for dinner, and those sentimentally inclined may speculate on the possibility of Master Philip's having here caught sight of a child, at this time aged two years and some four months, who was to become even more famous than the hero of our story." But Professor Wallace does not need such speculation in order to lend interest to his subject. Sidney's personal relations to his distinguished contemporaries, Burleigh, Walsingham and Leicester, were closer than those of Milton to Cromwell. He was the ornament of Elizabeth's court, the ardent champion of the Protestant cause, the encourager of colonization and discovery, the refiner of English romance and English poetry, the promoter of Humanistic ideals in criticism.

"The poet's, scholar's, soldier's eye, tongue, sword,
The expectancy and rose of the fair state."

In illuminating these and other facets of Sidney's many-sided nature, Professor Wallace has not only conveyed an adequate idea of his achievements and significance but has made his book a rich and comprehensive summary of the characteristics of the Elizabethan age.

Has the biographer succeeded in presenting a life-like portrait of Sidney, the man? We must not be misled by the mass of detail, which might seem at first to obscure the outlines of the picture. Almost all the facts are essential, either for the background or for the main figure, which, as we read, slowly takes form until in the delightful Postscript, it stands living before us. We understand the influences that formed Sidney's character:—his father, the loyal, efficient administrator; his mother, conscious of high birth and royal neglect, but pious and loving; his classical training at school and college; and his development through foreign travel and the friendship of a Protestant humanist, Hubert Languet, from a raw youth to an accomplished courtier and statesman, the friend of princes. We see his character tested by prosperity in the suite of the unscrupulous Leicester, by adversity under straitened circumstances and the loss of the queen's favour, and by thwarted passion nobly repressed in the *Astrophel and Stella* episode (which Professor Wallace convincingly presents as a genuine experience, and no mere literary creation). Then Sidney begins to assume his rightful place in the service of his queen and country, a place which he fully attains when he goes to Flanders to offer his life for the cause of liberty. Professor Wallace now summarizes the impressions of Sidney, which have been gradually forming, in a few telling paragraphs. The universal attraction of his personality is attributed to his high-mindedness, his simple and