

Queen Elizabeth, the Church of England was well nigh the religion of the whole nation, the only dissenters being the Romanists. The Independents, the Baptists, the Presbyterians, and the Wesleyans, had not come into existence in any part of the world. The Prayer Book had been reformed on the model of the Primitive Church, and the Holy Scriptures were read in the ears of all the people. "The determination upon which the Queen acted, as she informed the Archbishop of Canterbury, was, that no man should be suffered to decline, either to the left or to the right hand, from the drawn line limited by authority, and by her laws and injunctions."

We can scarcely realise such a state of things now, but the influence for good which the simple services of the Church then exercised is abundantly seen in the consistent and devout lives of such men as Sidney and other English worthies. One object that he had at heart was the improvement of the Psalmody, which had been rendered into verse, in 1562, by Sternhold and Hopkins, and the following quotation from Sidney's pen will be read with interest:—

"The Lord, the Lord my Shepherd is,
And so can never I
Taste misery.
He rests me in green pastures His;
By waters still and sweet
He guides my feet.

"He me revives; leads me the way
Which righteousness doth take
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I should through valleys stray
Of death's dark shade, I will
No whit fear ill."

One striking feature of his character was moral courage, which gave additional grace to his noble and truth-loving nature. There was scarcely one in England that dared to remonstrate with the Queen, especially upon subjects in which she took a personal though unadvised interest; but when she was meditating a marriage with the Duke of Anjou, a foreigner and a Romanist, Sidney wrote so courteous and yet so manly a protest, that though it greatly displeased the Queen for a time, it proved unanswerable.

This great and good man was destined, in the order of a mysterious Providence, to furnish but one more example of his worth to the gaze of an admiring nation. A war having broken out between the Netherlands and Spain, the Queen espoused the cause of the former, and appointed Sir Philip Sidney governor of Flushing. A fierce engagement ensued under the garrisoned walls of Zutphen. Sidney's horse was shot down, and he was placed in great danger; but although he was thus exposed he promptly mounted a fresh horse and joined in the second charge. Then there was a third onset, and he received a musket-ball in the left thigh, a little above the knee. His new horse, not well trained to battle, took fright and galloped off the field; but the brave rider, though faint and bleeding, retained his seat. He was carried out