

# **HISTORY OF THE HUGUENOTS**

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History of the Huguenots by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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*Written for the American Sunday-School  
Union, and Revised by the Committee  
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## PREFACE.

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IT has been truly said of nations as of individuals, that the great epochs in their history depend upon causes which have long been operating. The process is, perhaps, unobserved until some slight circumstance all at once develops what has been the growth of years. Those who look at this result often imagine that it is in reality, as it appears to be, the occurrence of a moment; but a discerning eye detects in it the combined influence of innumerable past events. Perhaps we are never more forcibly reminded of this principle than when we examine the origin of the Reformation in Europe. In several different countries, almost by a simultaneous impulse, and without inter-communication, error and superstition gave place to truth and freedom of thought. Such a crisis in the intellectual and moral history of nations (however modified by attending circumstances) must ever be contemplated with intense interest.

It is easy to trace the various influences which distinctively marked the character of this mighty movement in Germany, Switzerland and France. In the two first of these kingdoms it met with a comparatively short-lived opposition, and its progress was characterized by triumphs rather than reverses. But in France, it was the beginning of an almost endless series of struggles. In no other country has truth encountered such resistance from the immorality of the people; an obstacle more difficult to overcome than the most formidable array of theoretical heresies; and in no other country did the reformed endure so much for the sake of their religion. But, if it is by great vicissitudes that the higher principles of our nature are developed, we shall be rewarded for studying a narrative which in every other aspect is painful. We shall meet with scenes which called forth the strongest energies of their action, we shall find noble characters that were made more noble by the discipline of suffering.