

**THE HISTORY OF NICOLAS
MUSS: AN EPISODE OF
THE MASSACRE OF ST.
BARTHOLOMEW**

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The History of Nicolas Muss: An Episode of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew by Charles Du Bois-Melly

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CHARLES DU BOIS-MELLY

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BARTHOLOMEW**

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THE
HISTORY OF NICOLAS MUSS

*AN EPISODE OF THE
MASSACRE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW*

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH
OF
CHARLES DU BOIS-MELLY

NEW YORK
HARPER & BROTHERS, FRANKLIN SQUARE
1888

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Here is, as he related it,

THE HISTORY OF NICOLAS MUSS,

Household Servitor of M. V'Amiral,

*how with a comrade true, a valiant Swiss,
he did adventure his life during the Matins
of Paris, how through God's succor had de-
liverance therefrom, and how also he protected
the young damsel afterwards his spouse.*

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THE HISTORY OF THE REÏTRE NICOLAS MUSS.

ON a certain winter evening of the year 1611 we sat together, good comrades all, in the lodgment of Master Nicolas Muss, yclept the Reître; for we who are still termed "Francillons" in Geneva, being newly-made citizens, did frequently repair after supper to that honest innkeeper to hold discourse of politics, and to revive old times over the tankard. Now on that evening it chanced that some one did recall the Matins of Paris, and the desolation of the churches when the first breath of that tempest swept across the provinces. "Know ye nought but hearsay?" our host demanded, approaching, goblet in hand, to the table where we sat. "'Sdeath, comrades! closely did I keep vigil, feast, and octave of the Saint-Barthélemy of that year 1572, and if it please ye to hearken to my story, ready am I to tell it."

On this we filled the goodman's glass; then

the old Reitre, having deeply quaffed, began to speak :

Twenty years old was I, and had left but three months before, for some annoy of youth, my academy of Louisburg in Wittemberg, where I had post of Public Reader. And not long after, I did enroll myself among Mansfield's Black Reitres; 'twas when the relief was summoned into Lorraine at the beginning of the third war.*

Ye know full well how after Jarnac and Roche-la-Belle came the rude day of Montcontour,† where we were worsted, each one hotly rushing into the fray without waiting signal. M. de Châtillon did receive there a hurt in the cheek from a pistol-butt, his Arabian escaping from his control during the charge, and carrying him into the thick of the arquebusiers. We yellow-scarves‡ did rescue him but hardly; and mayhap he did observe me at his stirrup, making good play with my poniard, while the Swiss of Pfeiffer and of Cléry tickled ribs with their halberds about us. Be that as it may; the next day, as we were marching from Parthenay

* 1569.

† October 3, 1569.

‡ *Les écharpes jaunes*; the badge worn by the German soldiers fighting in the Protestant cause.