

ANECDOTES OF FONTAINEBLEAU

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Anecdotes of Fontainebleau by Daniel Wilson

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DANIEL WILSON

**ANECDOTES OF
FONTAINEBLEAU**



CHATEAU OF FONTAINEBLEAU.

ANECDOTES
OF
FONTAINEBLEAU;

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY THE

REV. DANIEL WILSON, M.A.

VICAR OF ISLINGTON.



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1848.

ANECDOTES

OF

FONTAINEBLEAU.

THE disciple of Jesus is compared to a beacon shedding its cheering rays over the dark waters, to direct the mariner to his desired haven. Thus every Christian shines as a light in the world, holding forth the word of life; for no sooner has the light of the glorious gospel of Christ beamed upon his heart, dispelling the mists of error and of ignorance, and eternally saving his soul, than he, in his turn, extends his hand with the bright lamp of life towards the world lying in darkness around him.*

The Christians of England have endeavoured thus to shine: the everlasting gospel is being sent to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people; and English

* Phil. ii. 6.

Christians have been some of the chosen instruments of God to work his gracious will. Their brethren in France recal with gratitude the sounds of sympathy, consolation, and encouragement, which, coming from the shores of England, have in former days brought hope to the hearts of their fathers.

When the *Te Deum* was chanted at Rome, and the motto, "*UGONOTTORUM STRAGES, 1572*,"* was twined around the papal sword, England responded to the tidings of death with mourning and lamentation, and deeply did her response affect the souls of the sons of the martyrs. It was the Christian voice of sympathy.

When the revocation of the edict of Nantes, in 1685, expelled the French Protestants from their peaceful homes, and forced them to seek a refuge far from their beloved country, England's voice was again heard inviting the desolate band to her shores, and nobly were

* "Slaughter of the Huguenots, 1572." See a short tract, entitled, "*The Popes, Painted by Themselves*," translated from the French, containing a correct delineation of the St. Bartholomew medal, and of four others struck by the popes; published by the Protestant Association, 11, Exeter Hall, Strand.

the exiled Christians welcomed. It was the voice of Christian love !

To-day that voice is full of animation and joy, for the Lord has opened his hand to shower down blessings upon France; the word of God is shedding its sacred influence in her dwellings; the Holy Spirit is putting forth his power, in bringing souls to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world; in many cities the candlestick has been replaced, after more than a hundred years of darkness; as in Lyons and Saumur, and Sens and Angoulême. These pages will contain an account of a humble commencement of the work in a new part of the vineyard, and relate a few simple facts, showing that where the word of the truth of the gospel is announced by the grace of the Holy Spirit, it brings forth fruit, faith in Jesus Christ, and love to all saints.*

FONTAINEBLEAU, in the midst of its magnificent forest and rocks, boasting of its pile of chateaus, teeming with scenes of historical interest, shall lay aside for a while its proud legends of human greatness, glorious actions,

* Col. i. 4.

and gorgeous pomp, to unfold to our view the triumphs of the Son of God in the souls of a few humble peasants; everlasting triumphs, dearer to the Christian's heart, and more welcome to his ear, than the recital of the most splendid achievements of this world's admired potentates. For, while in a few short days it must be said of those at whose feet the world has bowed, and of all their glory and power, "These have been," years may pass, ages roll away, eternity with its boundless grandeur burst upon us, and still the triumphs of grace in the heart of the poorest child will be as bright, as glorious as ever: jewels in the diadem of Jehovah, and themes for the angels' songs. "The fashion of this world passeth away, but the word of the Lord endureth for ever."

A few years ago, the Protestant chaplain of the prison at Melun, the pastor Vivien, began to feel desirous of extending his exertions in the cause of Christ to Fontainebleau, which is four leagues distant. After three visits to the town he succeeded in discovering four families professing the Protestant faith; and an English gentleman having offered the use of his drawing-room,

Divine service was performed there every week during fifteen months. At intervals two or three Roman Catholics ventured to attend, and, wondering at the beauty of what they heard, excited the curiosity of many others, who were, however, deterred from going to judge for themselves, by the fear of being thought intruders.

M. Braud, one of the first Roman Catholics who was converted to the truth of Christ in the place, deplored the impossibility of announcing the word of God more publicly; and with his pastor, to whom he had become warmly attached, endeavoured to procure a spacious room, to be hired for the purpose. But all their exertions were useless; for the people feared that loss of trade and general enmity would be the consequences of identifying themselves with the Protestants. At length, M. Braud resolved to erect a small chapel, at his own expense, in his garden; and the little flock met together every Sunday evening, until their beloved pastor was called away to a distant post.

After a long interval, during which M. Braud read the service himself to a steadily-increasing congregation, frequent visits from