

**ANTHONY  
BABINGTON:  
A DRAMA**

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Anthony Babington: A Drama by Violet Fane

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**VIOLET FANE**

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# ANTHONY BABINGTON

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A DRAMA

BY

## VIOLET FANE

AUTHOR OF "DENZIL PLACE," "THE QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES," ETC.

LONDON

CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY

1877

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S617an

CHARLES DICKENS AND EVANS,  
CRYSTAL PALACE PRESS.

It is exactly two hundred and ninety years ago since most of the personages of whom mention is here made, suffered death upon a well-established charge of High Treason. If I have not represented Babington as being altogether a hero, it is, that a careful study of what is left for us to study, in his character, has seemed to justify to myself the view I have taken of it, and of the varying impulses which led him to associate himself with the religious politics of his day, and to give his countenance to the commission of a murder which appeared to himself and his partisans as an Act of Faith. Alice and Willoughby are merely imaginary characters, for though there is no reason why Jerome Bellamy should not have had a niece, I do not find any mention of one. The kinship here supposed to exist between this family and that of Babington is also imagined, as is Babington's interview with the

Queen of Scots at Tutbury, with whom, though he had so warmly embraced her cause, he never came in personal contact after her removal from Sheffield. But with these exceptions, this, my first Play, has, perhaps (amongst many others), the defect of being "a mere slice of history," and unfitted in form for the stage, even could an audience be found patient enough to sit out so tragic a tragedy. However, "Let me be a warning to all young gentlemen, especially *generosis adolescentulis*," said Chidiock Titchborne in his last address to the populace; and though ambition, enthusiasm, and religious zeal may not be at this present the besetting sins of many of our "youths of generous blood," there may still lurk some moral in the contemplation, from afar off, of the errors for which these unfortunate young men paid, on this day,\* so dearly, even though there may be some who will exclaim, in the words of Babington—  
"Quorsum hæc alio properantibus?" †

V. F.

\* 20th Sept.

† "What are these things to men hastening to another purpose?"—(*Written by Babington under the picture of himself and his companions.*)



“My prime of youth is but a frost of cares,  
My feast of joy is but a dish of pain,  
My crop of corn is but a field of tares,  
And all my goodes is but vain hope of gain.  
The day is fled, and yet I saw no sun,  
And now I live, and now my life is done !”

“My spring is past, and yet it hath not sprung,  
The fruit is dead and yet the leaves are green,  
My youth is past, and yet I am but young,  
I saw the world and yet I was not seen ;  
My thread is cut and yet it is not spun,  
And now I live, and now my life is done !”

*(Verses made by Chidiack-Tilchborne of himselfe in the Tower the night before he suffered death, who was executed for treason, 1586.)*

100

100

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## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

ANTHONY BABINGTON (a Catholic Gentleman of Derbyshire).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

SIR WILLIAM CECIL (Lord Burghley, Lord Treasurer).

SIR FRANCIS WALSINGHAM (one of the principal secretaries of the Queen of England).

EARL OF LEICESTER (Master of the Horse).

SIR CHRISTOPHER HATTON (Vice-Chamberlain).

EARL OF SHREWSBURY (Earl Marshal of England and keeper of the Queen of Scots).

MARY BEATON (in waiting on the Queen of Scots).

MRS. BELLAMY.

JEROME BELLAMY (her Son).

ALICE BELLAMY (her Granddaughter).

MRS. BABINGTON.

COLONEL NICHOLAS WILLOUGHBY.