

wards became connected by marriage. Sir Philip's sister, in 1576, married Henry, Earl of Pembroke, and this was the lady celebrated by Ben Johnson's*

EPITAPH.

“Underneath this sable herse
Lies the subject of all verse;
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother,
Death, ere thou has killed another
Fair and learned, and good as she,
Time shall throw a dart at thee.”

[See the portrait of this lady at page 144, facing that of her mother, *Mary (Dudley) Sidney*.]

Sir Philip wrote, in 1580, successfully against the marriage proposed between the Duke of Anjou and Queen Elizabeth, the “throned vestal.” His letter is a splendid specimen of his style.

He engaged in the great joust, A. D. 1580, in presence of Queen Bess, with sword and lance, and Spencer says he was, on that occasion,

—“the president
Of nobleness and chivalrie.”

Sir Philip married Frances, the only surviving daughter of his friend Sir Francis Walsingham, and they had one daughter who lived and married, but left no posterity.

The poetry of Sidney was excellent, as well as his prose, but he was too apt to imitate the Italians in their conceits and fashionable absurdities. Sir Walter Raleigh called him the English Petrarch.

In 1581 he represented the county of Kent in parliament, and in 1585 he was invited to enroll himself as a candidate for the vacant throne of Poland. But Queen Bess refused to further his advancement, lest, as she said, she would lose the jewel of her times. She had then become an envious old maid, and wanted the brightest of her courtiers to stand around and admire her, and sacrifice all their highest hopes for her sake. Sacrifices must be made to royalty at all times, especially to royal vestals. “Misery loves company” is a true adage. Elizabeth thwarted many other ambitious men with the pretended fear that they would be apt to prove dangerous by their superior abilities. Lord Burleigh is said to have taught her this singular doctrine.

Sidney, soon after his marriage, formed a plan to sail with Drake in one of his great voyages, but Elizabeth peremptorily forbade it. However, she made him a privy counsellor and soon after Governor of Flushing, and General of the Horse under Leicester, who was commander-in-chief of the forces in the Low

*Greville's Life of Sir Philip Sidney.