

Countries. He proved equal to all occasions and was one of the ablest generals in the field. His bravery and wisdom were unsurpassed by any.

But for the jealousy and timidity of the Queen he might have adorned and enlightened her councils, instead of going into foreign service and devoting himself to banishment and premature death.\*

Probably none of his works were published in his lifetime. His works display a universal study of nature and mankind.

Sidney was knighted in 1583 at Windsor Castle.

In 1584 he wrote his splendid defence of the Earl of Leicester. The style of it is grand, but there was a lack of minute detail. He denounced the scurrilous libel of Parsons in no measured terms. The Jesuit was so whipped with a scorpion lash that there was no shred of skin left on his vile body: as for soul, he never could have had one. "What," asks Sir Philip, "can be said to such a man? Or who lives, even Christ himself, but that so stinking a breath may blow infamy upon? . . . Now, to the Dudleys, such is his bounty, that, when he hath poured out all his flood of scolding eloquence, he saith they are no gentlemen, affirming that the then Duke of Northumberland was not born so. In truth, if I should have studied with myself of all points of false invectives, which a poisonous tongue could have spit out against that Duke, yet would it never have come into my head, of all other things, that any man would have objected want of gentry unto him; but this fellow doth like him, who, when he had shot off all his railing quiver, called one cuckold that was never married, because he would not be in debt to any one evil word. I am a Dudley in blood, that Duke's daughter's son, and do acknowledge, though in all truth I may justly affirm, that I am, by my father's side, of ancient, and always well-esteemed and well-matched gentry, yet I do acknowledge, I say, that my chiefest honor is to be a Dudley, and truly am glad to have cause to set forth the nobility of that blood whereof I am descended, which, but upon so just cause, without vain glory, could not have been uttered; since no man but this fellow of invincible shamelessness, would ever have called so palpable a matter in question. . . . Dudley house is a noble house to this day, and thus hath it been time out of mind. In Henry the Fifth's time, the Lord Dudley was his Lord Steward, and did that pitiful office in bringing home, as chief mourner, his victorious master's dead body, as who goes but to Westminster, in the church may see."\*

On the 22nd of September, 1586, Sidney, with a small detachment of 500 men, was attacked near Zutphen, by 3000 of the

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\*Lodge's Portraits.