

## ALGERNON SIDNEY.

(See portrait opposite page 184.)

HE usually spelled his name "Sydney." He was a grand-nephew of the famous Sir Philip Sidney, being born in the year 1622. He received a careful education, and accompanied his father, the Earl of Leicester, to Denmark and France, whither the latter had been sent on embassies. In 1641, he served with some distinction against the rebels in Ireland, of which country his father was then Lord-Lieutenant for the king. Subsequently, in 1643, along with his elder brother, the Viscount Lisle, he crossed to England, ostensibly to take service under the king, then at war with his parliament. The two brothers, however, on their arrival, joined the parliamentary forces.

At the battle of Long Marston Moore, in which he was sharply wounded, Algernon's courage and capacity were conspicuous; and in evidence of the estimation in which he came to be held by his party, we find him, in 1646, Lieutenant-General of the Horse in Ireland and governor of Dublin; and subsequently in 1647, after receiving the thanks of the House of Commons for his services, he was appointed governor of Dover.

The year before, he had been returned to parliament as member for Cardiff. In 1648, he was one of the judges at the king's trial, and though, for some reason not explained, he neither was present at the passing of sentence, nor signed the warrant of execution, his general approval of the proceedings is not doubted.

He is reported to have afterwards spoken of the execution as "the justest and bravest action that ever was done in England or any where else." In principle a severe republican, he resented the usurpation of power by Cromwell, and during the Protectorate lived in retirement at the family seat of Penhurst, in Kent.

In 1659, on the meeting of the restored parliament, Sidney was again in his place. He was nominated one of the Council of State, and shortly after despatched to Denmark on a political mission. After the Restoration, he lived precariously on the Continent, flitting about from place to place, but in 1677 a pardon was procured him from Charles II., and he returned to his native country. Nevertheless, he was still obdurately republican in his opinions, and it is undoubted that he schemed for the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic in its