

notes si remarquables, je fus tellement intéressé que je résolus sur le champ de prendre connaissance de tout l'ouvrage avec le plus grand soin. . . . Maintenant comme d'autres soucis assez différents m'écrasent pour ainsi dire, ce sera plus lentement mais plus attentivement que je poursuivrai la lecture que j'ai commencée, et je le ferai avec d'autant plus de persévérance que déjà souvent j'ai éprouvé quel grand profit je trouverai dans l'étude de ta version et de tes notes."⁹⁰

But Jean Diodati was far from being a man of learning alone: he had too much of Italian fervor of temperament, and was too deeply imbued with the Christian spirit, not to wish to take a part in spreading the faith which he could not but nourish by the study of the Scriptures; and his attention was most naturally directed, in a special manner, to his beloved native land. Venice was the outpost which he aspired to take possession of for the cause of Reform, where a great hostility to the Papal See, in consequence of the excommunication of the Republic by Paul 5th, the potent influence, though secret, of the celebrated Fra Paolo Sarpi, the encouragement of the English ambassador Wotton, and other circumstances, seemed to have opened the way. More or less, during the years from 1605 to 1610, our Diodati was engaged in this enterprise, and in that time he twice visited Venice in person. His plans, however, failed, and we refer to the undertaking more for the light it throws upon the character of the man than for any historical importance attaching to it. Between himself and Sarpi (of whom he says, evidently with impatience, that his "incomparable learning was diluted by such a scrupulous prudence, and so little enlivened and sharpened by fervor of spirit, although accompanied by a very upright and wholly exemplary life,"