

Latin language that he could speak it quite fluently.

After his father's death, Cromwell went to London to study law, and in this he succeeded well, although he was said to have been very wild and reckless. In his twenty-first year he married a young lady of firm christian character who was the means of changing his life; and then he became an able defender of Christianity and the commonwealth. After his marriage Cromwell removed to Huntington and there pursued the life of a farmer.

While he remained on his farm, his house was refuge for good men who were promulgating the Protestant faith.

On the 17th of March 1628 Cromwell first took his seat in the House of Commons. He was a man of rough speech, and inelegant manner, and for a long time was not much noticed.

In the spring of 1629 Cromwell made his first speech in Parliament, in which he ably defended the cause of Christianity and free institutions.

"It is amusing," says Hume, "to observe the first words of this fanatical hypocrite, corresponding so exactly to his character."

But we can well see why Hume should make such a statement as this as he was a sceptic in the worst sense of the word, and, of course, viewed all religionists with a prejudiced mind.

Cromwell had seen the people kept in subjection by royalty, and at the age of forty-three he took up arms to fight against the king. His first action was the selection of a thousand men who were tried and true, and who had the cause of liberty at heart.

Mr. Foster remarks, that if his life had ended with this act his name would have been written on the list of fame. Immediately he went into the field, and his first successes was the victory at Gainsbourg, gained over a force three times as large as his own.

"This victory," says Whitelock, "was the beginning of Cromwell's great for-

tunes, and now he began to appear in the world. Soon after this he and Fairfax joined forces and encountered the royal force. That part of the army which Cromwell led went forward singing psalms and praising God. Thus we see the Christian warrior of the sixteenth century leading a Christian army to fight for religious freedom.

He, also, went into Ireland, and soon the hierarchy was overturned. The inhabitants were persuaded to submit to the commonwealth. From this time the country was in a more peaceable condition than ever before.

The affairs at this time in Scotland were in a bad condition, so Cromwell went to make them right. At his first appearance in the country the inhabitants fled with terror, the clergy having told them that the English were "monsters," and that they would put all the men to the sword and thrust hot irons through the women's breasts.

Lesley, the Scotch commander at Edinburgh, was strongly fortified with a force of twenty-three thousand men but he was, like Fabius, not to be drawn out in open battle.

All the while Cromwell's army was wasting away by sickness and disease, and he found it necessary to retreat. A retreat was made to Dunbar, where his ships were, and Lesley took possession of the adjoining heights. Cromwell's army was completely surrounded by the sea, the mountain and the enemy.

"Before the fight," he afterwards wrote to Ireton, our condition was made very sad; the enemy greatly insulted and menaced us."

His faith in himself and his God did not even then leave him.

"He was a strong man," said one who knew him, "in the dark perils of wars, in the high places of the field, hope shone in him like a pillar of fire when it had gone out in all the others."

Cromwell saw that the enemy were getting down into an open field, so he deter-