this episode, but it suggests a calculation by the citizens that a change of masters would not have been to their advantage.

One aspect of French rule was however troubling for Turin's citizens and their leaders: this was the infiltration of Protestant beliefs into the city, facilitated by the movement of troops, some of whom sympathized with the Reformed faith, and by a clandestine influx of Protestant preachers and books. The Turinese authorities were especially sensitive to this danger because of the religious revolution at Geneva, which was now firmly in the Protestant fold. The French governors, like Guillaume du Bellay, the patron of Rabelais (who served as his physician and spent some time at Turin with him), were little inclined to take a firm line against the spread of heterodox ideas. Small wonder, therefore, that the city fathers and the clergy were alarmed. So the council petitioned Turin's new high court to enforce Francis I's recent edicts against Protestantism, and paid famous preachers to deliver rousing Lenten sermons denouncing the errors of the Reformers. These measures enjoyed only limited success, however, for by the time the French occupation ended, a community of Protestants had established itself in the city: it would be rooted out by the restored Savoyard government.

In 1547 Francis I died. His successor, Henry II, pressed ahead more vigorously with the policy of integrating Piedmont into the French monarchy. In August 1548 he traveled through Piedmont to see his new domains at first hand, and made a grand entry into Turin, where he was greeted by salvos of artillery and displays of fireworks. Relations between the citizens and the French occupiers began to deteriorate however, after war broke out again between the French and Spanish crowns in 1551. The French authorities made increasing demands for taxes and for the billeting of soldiers, and the region was ravaged by the armies of both sides. In this atmosphere of deepening crisis Duke Charles II died at Vercelli in August 1553. He had steadfastly refused to recognize the French conquest of his ancestral lands, which now passed – in name at least – to his son Emanuel Filibert. The new duke was then living as an exile from his ancestral lands: he had grown up at the court of the Emperor Charles V, and was rising to become one of the emperor's most renowned generals. Charles V recognized Emanuel Filibert as heir to the Savoyard domains, and formally invested him with them at a ceremony in Brussels – far from Piedmont – in 1554, but Emanuel Filibert remained a prince without a state. All that would change, however, as a result of the decisive victory he won for the emperor at Saint-Quentin in 1557, which brought an end to the Franco-Spanish wars, and opened the way for his restoration as duke of Savoy.