

Montaigne, a Study by R. Warwick Bond

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Montaigne, a Study. By R. WARWICK BOND. London: Henry Frowde, 1906. 8vo. 93 pp.

This thoughtful and well-informed essay will be welcomed by those who love the writings of Montaigne. A short sketch of the Essayist's life is followed by a short survey of his thought. The comparison of Bacon with Montaigne is a passage of special interest. Having noted many points of similarity in ideas, Mr Bond proceeds as follows:

'For Montaigne, after all, discussion is the main thing: he has too deep-seated a distrust of human powers to expect any very valuable result, and too little patience and industry to get to the end of a subject. For Bacon decision, fruit is the object; his confidence in human capacity is boundless; and his own patience and industry are equal to enormous effort, if hardly to one commensurate with his mighty aim. Montaigne will enjoy, and suggests the same quiet Epicureanism to others: Bacon will achieve, and show others how to do so. There is a world between the golden mean of the one and the arduous ambition of the other; and the moral contrast is as marked as the intellectual. Montaigne's teaching exhibits the higher standard on all points of practice save the gratification of the senses. He upholds disinterested virtue; he expressly repudiates the political doctrines of Machiavelli, cannot away with falseness and dissimulation in princes, and does not believe in any profit to be reaped by wars of aggression. Nothing is worth more to him than his personal happiness and self-respect. With Bacon success in life is the great object, and the doctrines of Machiavelli colour his views at every turn...Montaigne's is as indisputably the warmer and the nobler heart, as Bacon's is the grander and more potent intellect.'

Mr Bond refers to the excellent study of Montaigne by 'Mr M. E. Lowndes.' But may not the author of the *Essays* have had another *fille d'alliance* beside Mlle. de Gournay?

EDWARD DOWDEN.

Maurice Scève et la Renaissance Lyonnaise. Par ALBERT BAUR. Paris: H. Champion, 1906. 8vo. vi + 132 pp.

Students of the French Renaissance should be grateful to Dr Baur for having turned his attention to Maurice Scève. For though Scève is far from an attractive poet, the Lyons school, of which he is one of the two chief representatives, forms an important link between the Marotic school and the Pléiade, being connected with the former through Marguérite de Navarre and Des Periers, and with the latter through Pontus de Tyard. Dr Baur has also done well to make Scève the occasion for a general survey of the Renaissance at Lyons, which for a short period was of even greater importance than Paris as a literary centre.