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Lyceum Club, London
Francis Bacon

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Dinner
to commemorate
the 350th Anniversary
of the Birth of
FRANCIS BACON.

President: Miss C. Fell Smith.
Hostesses: Mrs. Harold Bayley.
Miss Gladys Bradford.
Miss Sara Dean.
Mrs. Langdon Down.
Mrs. Rosher.
Dr. Ettie Sayer.
Mrs. Sayers.
Miss Ida Smedley, D. Sc.
Mrs. Steeves.

LYCEUM CLUB,
23rd January, 1910-11.



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FRANCIS BACON

*Notable
Testimonies.*



“The inscription on a miniature painted by Hilliard in 1578, SPEDDING. indicates the impression made by his conversation on those who heard it. There may be seen his face as it was in his eighteenth year, and round it may be read the significant words—the natural ejaculation, we may presume, of the artist’s own emotion: ‘*Si tabula daretur digna, animum mallet.*’ If one could but paint his mind!”

FRANCIS BACON

One sees him by the light of Hilliard's portrait, as he strolled along the Cam or reclined under the elms with his fat round face, his bluish grey eyes, his fall of dark brown curls, and his ripe jesting mouth ; with his hose puffed out, his ruff and rapier as the scholars then wore them ; in his face a thought for the bird on the tree, the fragrance in the air, the insect in the stream, no less than the Greek dialectics and the twelve books of Euclid.

* * *

HEPWORTH "No one lapse is known to have blurred the beauty of his
DIXON. youth. No rush of mad blood ever drives him into brawls—
To men of less temper and generosity than his own—to
Devereux and Mountjoy, to Percy and Vere, to Sackville and
Bruce—he leaves the glory of Calais sands and Marylebone
Park. If he is weak on the score of dress and pomp ; if he
dote like a young girl on flowers, on scents, on gay colours, on
the trappings of a horse, the ins and outs of a garden, the
furniture of a room ; he neither drinks nor games, nor runs
wild and loose in love. Armed with the most winning ways,
the most glazing lips at court, he hurts no husband's peace, he
drags no woman's name into the mire. He seeks no victories
like those of Essex, he burns no shame like Raleigh into the
cheek of one he loves. No Lady Rich, as in Sydney's im-
mortal line, has cause

to blush when *he* is named.

When the passions fan out in most men, poetry flowers out in
him. Old when a child he seems to grow younger as he grows
in years."

FRANCIS BACON

The Memory of Francis Bacon.

By THE PRESIDENT,
And by Mr. W. M. SAFFORD.



*Notable
Testimonies.*

“For my Name and Memory, I leave it to Foreign Nations and to my own Countrymen after some time be passed over.”—BACON’S WILL.

* * *

“From the day of his death, his fame has been constantly and steadily progressive ; and we have no doubt that his name will be named with reverence to the latest ages, and to the remotest ends of the civilized world.”

MACAULAY

FRANCIS BACON

SIR TOBY “A friend unalterable to his friends.”
MATTHEW. “A man most sweet in his conversation and ways.”
 “It is not his greatness that I admire, but his virtue.”

PETER
BOENER. “A memorable example to all virtue, kindness, peaceable-
ness, and patience.”

(BACON'S
APOTHE-
CARY). In conversations, and otherwise, he was no dashing man, as
some men are, but ever a countenancer and fosterer of another
man's parts. Neither was he one that would appropriate the
speech wholly to himself, or delight to outvie others, but leave
a liberty to the co-assessors to take their turns. Wherein he
would draw a man on, and allure him to speak upon such a
subject, as wherein he was particularly skilful, and would
delight to speak. And for himself, he contemned no man's
observations, but would light his torch at every man's candle.

* * *

DR. RAW- “ There is a commemoration due as well to his abilities and
LEY. virtues as to the course of his life. Those abilities which
(BACON'S commonly go singly in other men, though of prime and
CHAPLAIN). observable parts, were all conjoined and met in him. Those
are, *sharpness of wit, memory, judgment, and elocution.*”

* * *

I have been induced to think, that if there were a beam of
knowledge derived from God upon any man in these modern
times, it was upon him. For though he was a great reader of
books, yet he had not his knowledge from books, but from
some grounds and notions from within himself; which, not-

FRANCIS BACON

*Notable
Testimonies*

withstanding, he vented with great caution and circumspection.

“ . . . And my memory neither doth nor (I believe possible FRANCIS OSBORN. ever) can direct me towards an *example* more splendid in this kind, than the *Lord Bacon, Earl of St. Albans*, who in *all companies did appear* a good *Proficient*, if not a *Master* in those *Arts* entertained for the Subject of everyones *discourse*. So as I dare maintain, without the least affectation of *Flattery* or *Hyperbole*, that this most *casual talk* deserveth to be *written*. As I have been told his *first* or *foulest Copys* required no great *Labour* to render them competent for the nicest judgments. A high *perfection*, attainable only by *use*. and *treating with every man* in his respective *profession*, and what he was most vers'd in. So as have I heard him entertain a *Country Lord* in the proper *terms* relating to *Hawks* and *Dogs*, and at another time out-cant a *London Chirurgeon*, thus did he not only *learn* himself, but *gratifie* such as taught him ; who looked upon their *Callings* as honoured through *his Notice* ; nor did an easie falling into *Arguments* (not unjustly taken for a *blemish* in the *most*) appear less than an *ornament* in him : the ears of the hearers receiving more *gratification* than trouble ; and (so) no less *sorry* when he came to *conclude*, than *displeased* with any did *interrupt* him. Now this *general Knowledge* he had in all things, *husbanded* by *his wit*, and dignified by so *Majestical* a *carriage* he was known to own, strook such an awful *reverence* in those he *question'd*, that they durst not *conceal* the most *intrinsick* part of their *Mysterics* from him.”

FRANCIS BACON

BEN
JONSON. “ . . . Yet there happened in my time one noble speaker, who was full of gravity in his speaking. His language (where he could spare or pass a jest) was nobly censorious. No man ever spake more neatly, more pressly, more weightily, or suffered less emptiness, less idleness, in what he uttered. No member of his speech, but consisted of his own graces. His hearers could not cough, or look aside from him, without loss. He commanded where he spoke, and had his judges angry and pleased at his devotion. No man had their affections more in his power. The fear of every man that heard him was, lest he should make an end.”

* * *

BEN
JONSON. “ . . . Lord Egerton, the chancellor, a grave and great orator, and best when he was provoked. But his learned and able (though unfortunate) successor, is he who hath filled up all numbers and performed that in our tongue, which may be compared or preferred either to insolent Greece or haughty Rome. In short within his view, and about his times, were all the wits born, that could honour a language, or help study. Now things daily fall, wits grow downward, and eloquence grows backward ; so that he may be named, and stand as the mark and the king of our language.”

* * *

“ . . . Witness the care of Julius Cæsar, who, in the heat of the civil war, writ his books of Analogy, and dedicated them to Tully. This made the late Lord St. Alban entitle his work ‘Novum Organum ;’ which though by the most of the super-

FRANCIS BACON

ficial men, who cannot get beyond the title of nominals, it is not penetrated, nor understood, it really openeth all defects of learning whatsoever, and is a book *Qui longum noto scriptori proroget ævum.*

My conceit of his person was never increased towards him by his place or honours ; but I have and do reverence him, for the greatness that was only proper to himself, in that he seemed to me ever, by his work, one of the greatest men. and most worthy of admiration. that had been in many ages. In his adversity I ever prayed that God would give him strength ; for greatness he could not want. Neither could I condole in a word or syllable for him, as knowing no accident could do harm to virtue, but rather help to make it manifest.”

* * *

“I could never bring myself to condole with the great man after his fall, knowing as I did that no accident could do harm to his virtue but rather make it manifest. He seemed to be ever by his work one of the greatest men and most worthy of admiration.”





Crisp van Pas Jun Fecil.

FRANCIS BACON

*Notable
Testimonies.*

“Those who saw him nearest in his private life give him the best character.” SPEDDING

“Beloved for the courteousness and humanity of his behaviour.” DAVID
HUME.

“He attached little importance to himself. . . . No correct notion can be formed of Bacon’s character till this suspicion of self-conceit is scattered to the winds.” ABBOTT.

“Weighted by the magnificence of his character.” ABBOTT.

“All who were great and good loved and honoured him.” AUBREY.

“One with whom the whole purpose of living was to do great things to enlighten and elevate his race, to enrich it with new powers, to lay up in store for all ages to come a source of blessings which should never fail.” DEAN
CHURCH.

“His greatness, his splendid genius, his magnificent ideas, his enthusiasm for truth, his passion to be the benefactor of his kind, the charm that made him loved by good and worthy friends, amiable, courteous, patient, delightful as a companion, ready to take any trouble.” DEAN
CHURCH.

“It is not too much to say that in temper, in honesty, in labour, in humility, in reverence, he was the most perfect example thatt he world has yet seen of the student of nature.” DEAN
CHURCH.

“A deep sense of the misery of mankind is visible throughout his writings. . . . He has been called a utilitarian, not because he loved truth less than others, but because he loved men more.” ELLIS.

The Influence of Francis Bacon.

By Dr. G. Walter Steeves.

- INGLEBY. "If we look carefully into the matter, it is not on the prescribed method of Bacon that his fame was built. It was the power of divination in the man which made him great and influential. . . . He was very near discovering the law of the correlation of forces."
- MINTO. "His services lay not so much in what he did himself, as in the grand impulse he gave to others."
- HALLAM. "The study of mankind occupied the largest part of his time."
- EDINBURGH "He was more eminently the philosopher of human than of REVIEW. general nature."
- D'ALEM- "Columbus, Luther, and Bacon are, perhaps in modern BERT. times the men of whom it may be said with the greatest probability that, if they had not existed, the whole course of human affairs would have been varied."
- BARON "When one considers the sound and enlarged views of this LIEBIG. great man, the multitude of objects to which his mind was turned, and the boldness of his style which unites the most sublime images with the most rigorous precision, one is disposed to regard him as the greatest, the most universal, and the most eloquent of philosophers."
- "Some of Bacon's suggested experiments on light might well be supposed to have been borrowed from Newton ; and

FRANCIS BACON

*Notable
Testimonies.*

the results at which he arrived in the investigation of heat, he sets forth in language not greatly differing from that which in modern times describes heat as a mode of motion."

"Bacon was the prophet of things that Newton revealed."

HORACE
WALPOLE.

"Not the abstract qualities and powers of the human mind, but the combination of this into concrete character, interested Bacon. He regarded the machinery in motion; the human being as he thinks, feels, and moves; men in their relations with men."

E. P.
WHIPPLE.

"The glance with which he surveyed the intellectual universe resembled that which the archangel from the golden threshold of heaven darted down into the new creation."

MACAULAY.

"The small, fine mind of Labruyère had not a more delicate tact than the large intellect of Bacon. His understanding resembled the tent which the fairy Parabanon gave to Prince Ahmed. Fold it, and it seemed a toy in the hand of a lady; spread it, and the armies of powerful sultans might repose beneath its shade."

MACAULAY.

"In wit, if by wit be meant the power of perceiving analogies between things which appear to have nothing in common, Bacon never had an equal, not even Cowley, not even the author of Hudibras. . . . Occasionally it obtained the mastery over all his other faculties, and led him into absurdities into which no dull man could have fallen."

MACAULAY.

"If we compare what may be found in the sixth, seventh, and eighth books, of the 'De Augmentis' in the 'Essays,' the 'History of Henry VII.,' and the various short treatises con-

HALLAM.

FRANCIS BACON

tained in his works on moral and political wisdom, and on human nature, with the rhetoric, ethics, and politics of Aristotle, or with the historians most celebrated for their deep insight into civil society and human character,—with Thucydides, Tacitus, Philippe de Comines, Machiavel, Davila, Hume—we shall, I think, find that one man may almost be compared with all of these together.”

HALLAM. “The wisest, greatest of mankind.”

EDMUND BURKE. “Who is there that, hearing the name of Bacon, does not instantly recognise everything of genius the most profound, of literature the most extensive, of discovery the most penetrating, of observation of human life the most distinguishing and refined?”

WHIPPLE. “He stands almost alone in literature, a vast dispassionate intellect, in which the sentiment of philanthropy has been refined and purified into the subtle essence of thought.”

THOMAS FULLER’S WORTHIES. “His abilities were a clear confutation of two vulgar errors: first, that judgment, wit, fancy, and memory cannot conveniently be in conjunction in the same person; whereas, our knight was a rich cabinet, filled with all four, besides a golden key to open it.”

SIR ALEXANDER GRANT. “It is as an inspired seer, the prose-poet of modern science that I reverence Lord Bacon.”

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR. “The little volume of Bacon’s ‘Essays’ exhibit not only more strength of mind, more true philosophy, but more originality, more fancy, more imagination, than all the volumes of Plato.”

FRANCIS BACON

*Notable
Testimonies.*

“We have only to open ‘The Advancement of Learning’ to see how the Attic bees clustered above the cradle of the new philosophy. Poetry pervaded the thoughts, it inspired the similes, it hymned in the majestic sentences of the wisest of mankind.”

“The most exquisitely constructed intellect that has ever been bestowed on any children of men.”

“The great glory of literature in this island, during the reign of James, was my Lord Bacon.”

“Lord Bacon was the greatest genius that England, or perhaps any other country, ever produced.”

“One of the most colossal of the sons of men.”

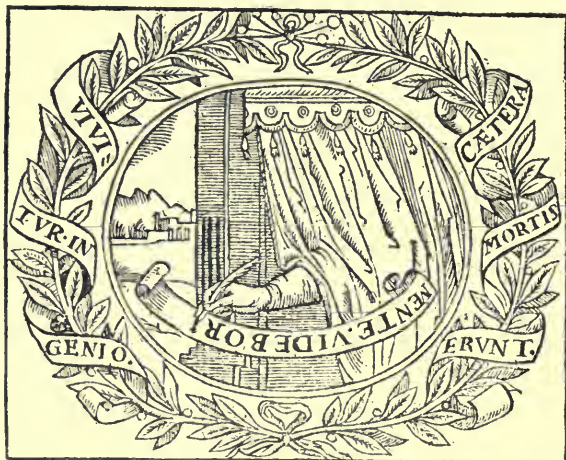
“He possessed at once all these extraordinary talents which were divided amongst the greatest authors of antiquity. He had the sound, distinct, comprehensive knowledge of Aristotle, with all the beautiful lights, graces, and embellishments of Cicero. One does not know which to admire most in his writings, the strength of reason, force of style, or brightness of imagination.”



FRANCIS BACON

The Mystery of Francis Bacon.

By Mr. W. T. SMEDLEY.



On the frontispiece of Peacham's *Minerva Britanna*, 1612.

Ad D.B.

Si bene qui latuit, bene vixit, tu bene vivis :
Ingeniumque tuum grande latendo patet.

Epigrammatum Ioannis Owen,
Lib. 2, No. 35, 1612.

Thus rendered in Thomas Harvey's Translation, 1677.

Thou livest well, if one well hid, well lives :
And thy great wit concealed more splendour gives.

FRANCIS BACON

He cannot be seen of any mortal creature, but is, notwithstanding, known by his works.



Therefore set it downe, that an Habit of Secrecy is both Politicke and Morall.



On the title page of the New Atlantis.

“Every age methinks will adorn and amplify this structure ; though to what age it may be vouchsafed to set the finishing hand—this can be known only to God and to the Fates.”—

Rawley’s introduction to the *Manes Verulamiani*.

FRANCIS BACON

“THE GUESTS.”

Proposed by Miss GLADYS BRADFORD.
Responded to by Mr. HAROLD BAYLEY.

“THE PRESIDENT.”

Proposed by Dr. ETTIE SAYER.



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