

**THE SPIRIT OF MONTAIGNE;
SOME THOUGHTS AND
EXPRESSIONS SIMILAR
TO THOSE IN HIS ESSAYS**

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The spirit of Montaigne; some thoughts and expressions similar to those in his essays by Oskar Baumann

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OSKAR BAUMANN

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THE SPIRIT OF MONTAIGNE

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IN HIS ESSAYS

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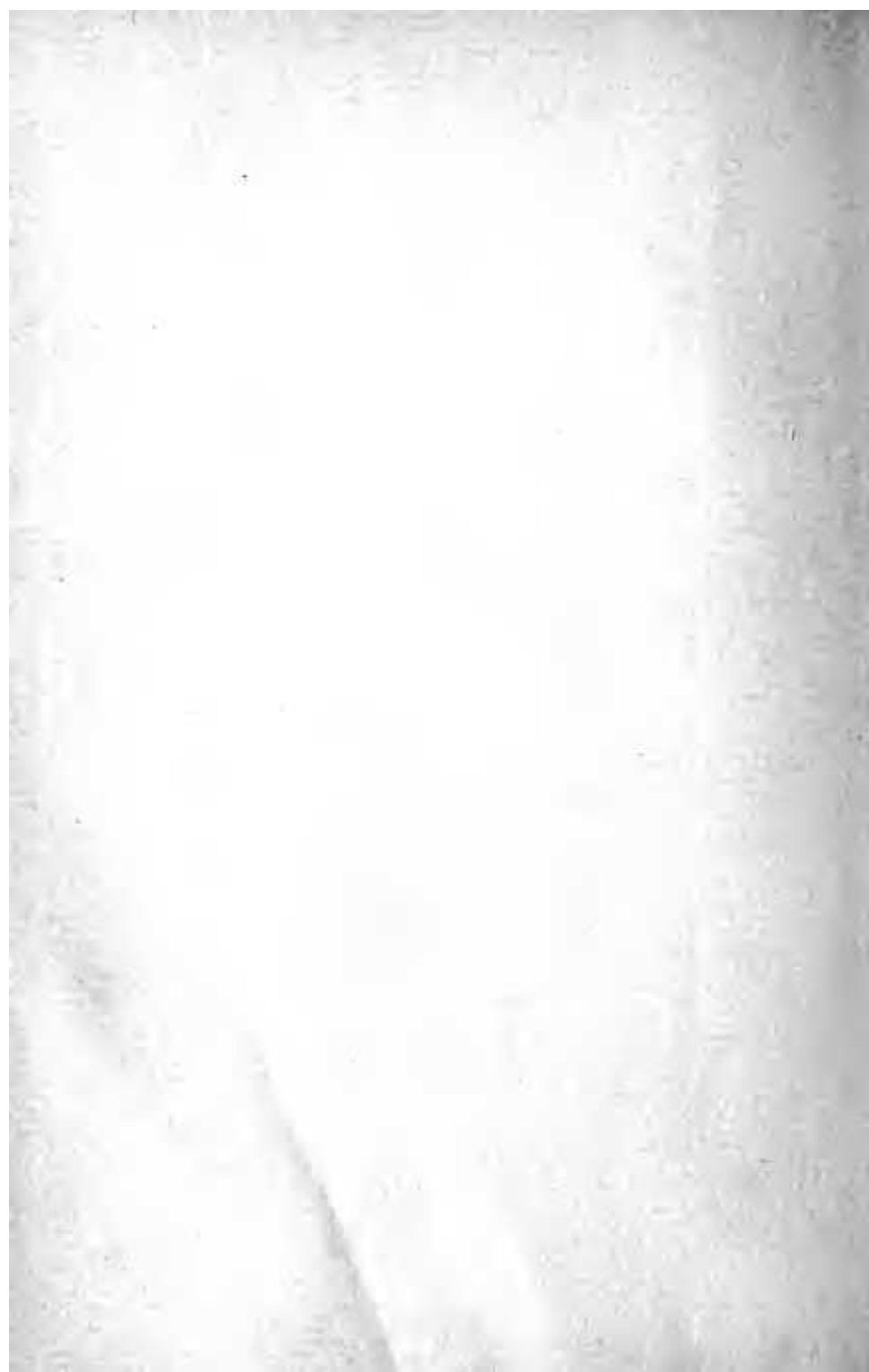
1908

Il y a peu de pensées synonymes, mais beaucoup d'approchantes.

VAUVENARGUES.

J'estois platonicien de ce costé-là, avant que je sceusse qu'il y eust de Platon au monde.

MONTAIGNE.



PREFACE

THE examination of the influence of Montaigne that may be traced in French and English literature which I entered upon in a preceding volume ¹ is here continued. But the following illustrations of it are much vaguer in character than the previous ones. Indeed the reader may often feel that it is not precisely the individual spirit of Montaigne finding fresh expression that is perceived; for with his spirit is blended that of later ages, which while re-thinking Montaigne's thoughts have developed them more fully than it was possible for him to do.

It will be observed that by far the largest number of passages that it has seemed to me worth while to put side by side with Montaigne are from Bacon. After him in number as in date come Locke and Rousseau. The position of each of these three thinkers in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries respectively makes their relation to Montaigne peculiarly important.²

Mingled with minor matters, some of those permanent wide conceptions of human life that form the road along which civilization advances, are here found stated and repeated and echoed with a force that gives surer foot-

¹ *The Influence of Montaigne.*

² The omission of Pascal from this volume is due to the fact that he will form a large part of a volume in preparation.

ing to the mind making its way through the endless by-paths of the thought of our own day.

I have found my work extremely interesting. I hope its results may interest others; but "quand personne ne me lira, ay je perdu mon temps, de m'estre entretenu tant d'heures oysives à des pensemens si utiles et agreables?"

G. N.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

October, 1907.

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