

**THE SPIRIT OF
PROTEST IN OLD
FRENCH LITERATURE**

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The spirit of protest in Old French literature by Mary Morton Wood

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BY

MARY MORTON WOOD, PH.D.

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NOTE

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HENRY ALFRED TODD

NEW YORK,
Jan. 31, 1917

TOUT HOMME A DEUX PAYS, LE SIEN ET PUIS LA FRANCE

PREFACE

THE present study is an effort to discover the problems of social justice and personal liberty that interested the more thoughtful writers of medieval France.

The intent has been to submit each author's views in his own words, with as little as may be of twentieth century interpretation. As the passages quoted, however, comprise less than a fiftieth part of the material originally selected for presentation, it will be seen that much abridgment has been necessary; but since the excluded portions are mere recitations of the thought, their omission in no degree changes the purport of any passage. Except in the case of a few obvious errors, the textual reading of the editions cited has been followed. In the matter of the English rendering, the controlling principle has been regard for the convenience of the English reader. On the one hand, literal exactness has been sacrificed whenever the meaning of the original has thereby become clearer; on the other hand, no attempt has been made to smooth away the roughness of the original when a literal version could convey the sense.

Like all other students of Romance Philology at Columbia University, the writer of this study has found inspiration in the accurate scholarship and generous assistance of Prof. H. A. Todd. The effort to win the high prize of his approval has at least made the present work less unworthy than it would otherwise have been.

MARY MORTON WOOD

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
December, 1916