

**PETER RAMUS, AND THE
EDUCATIONAL
REFORMATION OF THE
SIXTEENTH CENTURY**

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Peter Ramus, and the educational reformation of the sixteenth century by Frank Pierrepont Graves

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FRANK PIERREPONT GRAVES

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PETER RAMUS
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TO
PAUL MONROE
WHO HAS GIVEN TO THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION
ITS PRESENT HIGH STATUS
IN AMERICA

PREFACE

IT is difficult to understand why Ramus has been so much neglected by writers upon the sixteenth century. He was probably the foremost French philosopher of his century, and he stands well among the great educators, effective orators, and lofty characters of the world's history. In many respects he seems a striking forerunner of modern times. Alcuin, Abelard, Petrarch, Valla, Erasmus, Luther, Ramus, and Descartes are milestones that mark the pathway of progress from medievalism. Yet in few general histories do the life and work of this remarkable reformer figure in any detail. In treatises written in English he is barely mentioned, and while there have been for half a century some extended accounts of his career by French writers, and of late German scholars have been making careful contributions to elucidate the various phases of his work, there scarcely exists anywhere a complete account of his achievements that includes an analysis of his works.