

**THE AESTHETIC DOCTRINE
OF MONTESQUIEU; ITS
APPLICATION IN HIS
WRITINGS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649148233

The aesthetic doctrine of Montesquieu; its application in his writings by Edwin Preston Dargan

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EDWIN PRESTON DARGAN

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THE AESTHETIC DOCTRINE
OF MONTESQUIEU

ITS APPLICATION IN HIS WRITINGS

DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY IN CONFORMITY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

BY

EDWIN PRESTON DARGAN

(1)

BALTIMORE
J. H. FURST COMPANY
1907

PREFACE.

The present study was undertaken from a desire to acquire familiarity with the writings of a great Frenchman, and with the purpose of discovering his artistic ideas, of determining his strictly literary value. The desire has been satisfied, but the purpose remains only partly fulfilled. It was hoped that his Aesthetic Doctrine could be made the kernel of a treatment which would include a thorough study of Montesquieu's style, of his setting, of his precursors and influence. Especially was it hoped that there would be opportunity to engage in the fecund criticism of his general ideas.

The writer has not abandoned all hopes of completing this treatment, for which much material has been already collected. During two years, Montesquieu has been the thing most prominently before him; one does not quit a great thinker so easily. At present, however, in view of the specific demands of dissertation-writing and other circumstances, it has seemed best to submit only what may prove, it is trusted, a tolerably exhaustive and rounded presentation of the Doctrine. A final chapter on application has been added, to point, at least, along other paths.

Thanks are due for courteous assistance to the officials of the Library of Congress, of the British Museum and of the Bibliothèque Nationale. More especially would the writer speak in grateful acknowledgment of the encouragement given and the allowances made by his two very considerate referees.

E. P. D.

(April, 1906.)

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ABBREVIATIONS.

- A. and I. = Arsace et Isménie.
C. de L. = Causeries du Lundi.
E. L. = Esprit des Lois.
G. D. R. = Considérations sur les Causes de la Grandeur et de la Décadence
des Romains.
Hist. Vérit. = Histoire Véritable.
L. P. = Lettres persanes.
M. or Mout. = Montesquieu.
Mél. in. = Mélanges Inédites.
P. and F. = Pensées et Fragments.
S. and E. = Sylla et Eucrate.
T. G. = Temple de Gnide.
V. à P. = Voyage à Paphos.
Voy. = Voyages de Montesquieu.

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BOOK I.
PROLEGOMENA.

CHAPTER I.
BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The edition used is certainly the best, and the one which at present is considered definitive—that of Edouard Laboulaye, 7 vols., Paris, Garnier, 1875-9. (For contents of this, see at end of Bibliography.)

The present list includes only those works actually quoted or referred to in the following pages.¹ Among these, the criticisms of Sainte-Beuve, Brunetière, Fagnet, the biographies of Vian and Sorel, the more recent studies of Doumic, Lanson, Barckhausen, and Saintsbury, and the great work of Taine, have been found of special service.

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— *Lettres Persanes*. Edition revue, etc. Paris, 1897.

¹ An elaborate and up-to-date bibliography, which, it is hoped, may also prove exhaustive, has been compiled. This includes about five hundred titles, and deals with every phase of Montesquieu. The writer hopes to publish it, some time in the future, as a general bibliography of the subject.

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¹ With the collaboration of MM. Céleste and Déséiméris.