

**SELECTIONS FROM
RABELAIS' GARGANTUA;
WITH INTRODUCTION AND
NOTES**

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Selections from Rabelais' Gargantua; with Introduction and Notes by François Rabelais & C.
H. C. Wright

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FRANÇOIS RABELAIS & C. H. C. WRIGHT

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FROM
RABELAIS' GARGANTUA

EDITED
WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY
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TO THE MEMORY
OF
FERDINAND BÔCHER
PROFESSOR IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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P R E F A C E

THE task of preparing Rabelais for the "edification of ingenuous youth" seems daring at first, and doomed to disaster. It is, however, perfectly possible to draw from the first book a text which may be used by all. Indeed, the passages might have been much longer. So, in the stately words of the editor of my copy of Sterne, I offer these pages "without the least apprehension that the perusal of any part of them will be followed by consequences unfavourable to the interests of society." After all, some method *ad usum Delphini* is the only one of making accessible an author hitherto almost impossible to read.

I had originally planned extracts from the five books, but was urgently advised to confine myself to the first by the late Professor Bôcher, whose wide knowledge of the sixteenth century I was unfortunately unable to call upon for any part of my actual work.

The passages form a narrative of the history of Gargantua. The text is that of Burgaud des Marets and Rathery, which of the various accessible ones seemed the least likely to present unnecessary difficulties of spelling to the student, who ought to be able to concentrate his

attention on more important features of a difficult author. Much use has been made in the notes of Cotgrave and of Urquhart, whose renderings often have an archaic quality, helpful in preserving the spirit of the original.

I wish to thank Professors Sheldon and de Sumichrast of Harvard for some valuable suggestions, and Professor de Sumichrast for the hospitality of the series in which this volume appears.

C. H. C. WRIGHT.

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