FRANCOIS DE FENELON

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649163281

Francois de Fenelon by Viscount St. Cyres

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PENELIN (After a partrait by PRIUME of Champagne in Heriford House)

FRANCOIS DE FENELON

BY

VISCOUNT ST. CYRES

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FORMERLY STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH

WITH EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS

METHUEN & CO. 36 ESSEX STREET W.C. LONDON First Published in this Series in 1906

TO VIMU AMBORMIA

PREFACE

THIS little book is an abridgment of a larger work published under the same title some five years ago. It is mainly destined for such readers as find the story of Fénelon's life more interesting than a criticism of his works. I have therefore made no change of importance in the narrative part of the book; but I have either severely pruned or altogether cut out the chapters dealing with more abstract subjects. I have also taken the liberty of omitting all but a very tew references and foot-notes. The illustrations are the same as in my former volume, except that I have replaced a portrait of Malebranche by one of Fénelon in middle life, thus providing three portraits of him at different stages of his career. For permission to photograph the portrait by Philippe de Champagne, which serves as my frontispiece, I am again indebted to Sir John Murray Scott and the trustees of the Wallace Collection at Hertford House. And perhaps I may also take this opportunity of thanking the many critics of my former volume for their most gratifying reception of a first literary attempt.