

**BACON'S NOVA
RESUSCITATIO; OR, THE
UNVEILING OF HIS CONCEALED
WORKS AND TRAVELS; VOL. III**

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Bacon's Nova resuscitatio; or, The unveiling of his concealed works and travels; Vol. III by
Walter Begley

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WALTER BEGLEY

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WORKS AND TRAVELS; VOL. III**

BACON'S
NOVA RESUSCITATIO

OR

The Unveiling of his Concealed Works
and Travels

BY THE

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IN THREE VOLUMES
VOL. III.—ENTER BACON



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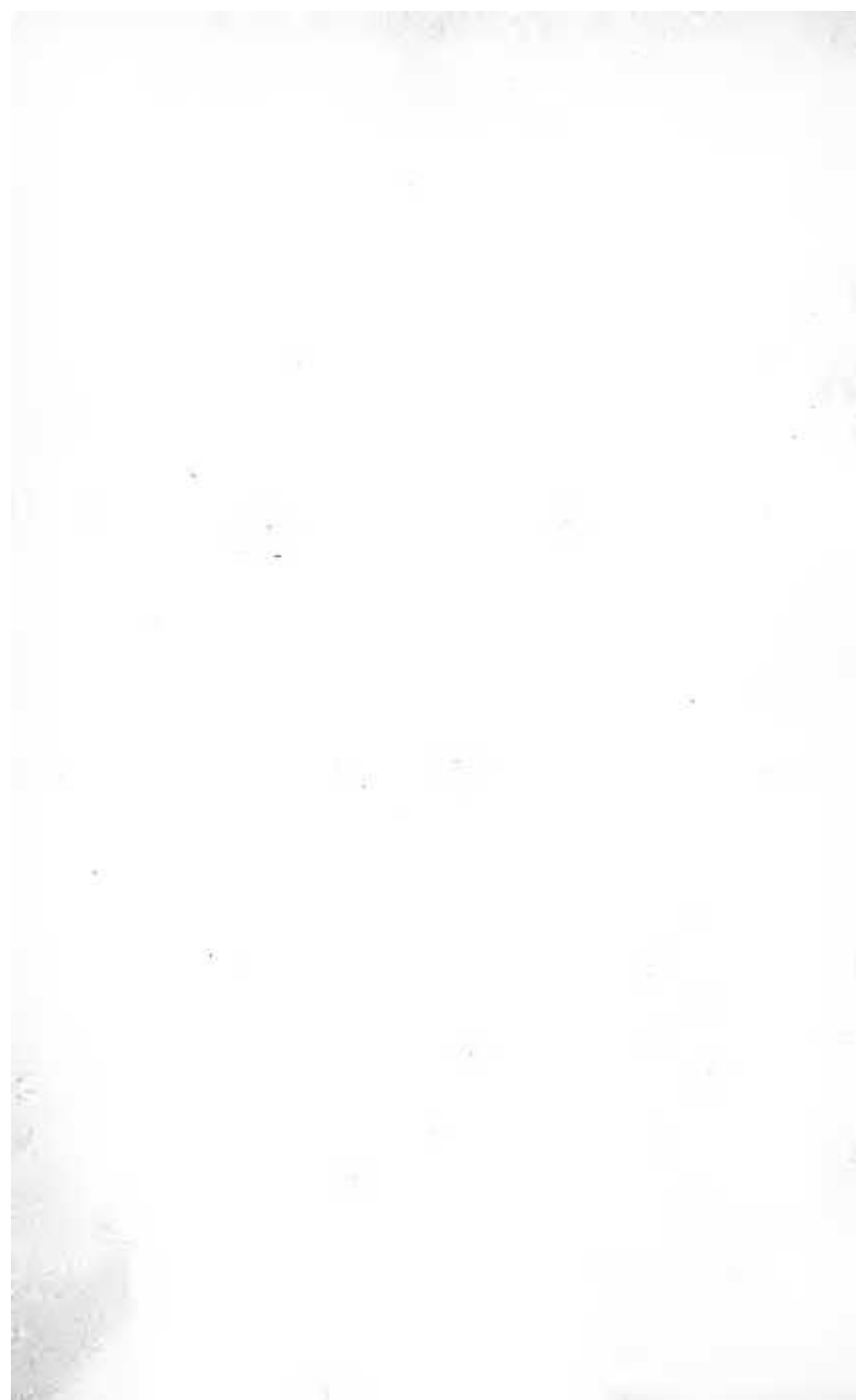
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ENTER BACON

CHAPTER I

A NEW FRENCH DISCOVERY ABOUT BACON

It was my good fortune a short time ago to purchase from a well-known bookseller in Paris a volume in which, to my great surprise, I found a good deal of information about Francis Bacon which struck me as quite new. Some special studies had made me fairly acquainted with Spedding's monumental work on our illustrious countryman, but there were several new and interesting statements in my French book of the year 1631 concerning Bacon which I felt almost sure were not to be found in Spedding. My next impression was that I must have overlooked these when I was going through the fifteen volumes to which I knew Spedding had devoted the best part of his life. For I had heard it said that what Masson did not know about Milton, or Spedding did not know about Bacon, was not worth

knowing. So a diligent search was made through the different volumes, and the result went to prove that the new French matter was not there. Thus a fresh interest was attached to my acquisition. But the questions arise at once: Of what authority is the book and its French author? What opportunities had he of obtaining any special information about his great contemporary? Had this Frenchman ever been in England? Well, from his dedication, it would seem that he had been over here with an Ambassador, and that he was possibly one of his suite, and that it was while he was in this position that he discovered certain manuscripts of portions of Bacon's works, and brought them to France with him. It may thus be worth our while to consider the book more in detail.

The name of the author is not given on the title page, and the dedication of the volume is simply signed 'D. M.'; but by referring to the 'Privilège du Roy,' which in France secures an author's copyright, and in this instance occupies more than two pages of the prefatory matter, we find the full name and titles. He is described as 'Pierre Amboise, Escuyer, Sieur de la Magdelaine;' so we have not a catch-penny volume to deal with, which is reassuring.

The work consists of a Dedication to the Lord Keeper of the Seals of France; an explanatory Address to the Reader; a short Life of Bacon, or, rather, as he terms it, 'A Discourse on the Life of Francis Bacon, Chancellor of England'; then follows an ode in honour of 'Monsieur Bacon, Chancelier d'Angleterre'; and last comes the body of the work, pp. 1-567, containing the translations which the author had made, being helped, as he gives us to understand, by Bacon's original manuscripts. How he obtained these precious documents he does not vouchsafe to tell us; but they are clearly part of those numerous 'collections' for natural history which occupied so fully the time and attention of the fallen Lord Chancellor shortly before his death. It is well known that Bacon's Chaplain Rawley was entrusted with much manuscript matter, which he published by degrees; and in 1627, the year after Bacon's death, Rawley published the '*Sylva Sylvarum*,' and the '*New Atlantis*,' an unfinished Utopian romance, was bound up at the end.

From the prefatory address of Pierre Amboise to his readers, he does not appear to be at all satisfied with the way in which Rawley presented Bacon's posthumous '*Naturall Historie*' to the public in 1627. In his opinion Rawley made