

**THE ESSAYS OF LORD BACON: WITH
CRITICAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES,
AND AN EXAMPLE, WITH ANSWERS,
OF A UNIVERSITY MIDDLE-CLASS
EXAMINATION PAPER ON THE ESSAYS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649576777

The Essays of Lord Bacon: With Critical and Illustrative Notes, and an Example, with Answers, of a University Middle-Class Examination Paper on the Essays by Francis Bacon & John Hunter

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FRANCIS BACON & JOHN HUNTER

**THE ESSAYS OF LORD BACON: WITH
CRITICAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES,
AND AN EXAMPLE, WITH ANSWERS,
OF A UNIVERSITY MIDDLE-CLASS
EXAMINATION PAPER ON THE ESSAYS**

BACON'S ESSAYS.

HUNTER'S ANNOTATED SHAKESPEARE.

The following Plays may now be had,
Price *ONE SHILLING* each:—

<i>KING JOHN.</i>	<i>TWO GENTLEMEN of</i>
<i>RICHARD II.</i>	<i>VERONA.</i>
<i>RICHARD III.</i>	<i>AS YOU LIKE IT.</i>
<i>HENRY IV. PART I.</i>	<i>TWELFTH NIGHT.</i>
<i>HENRY IV. PART II.</i>	<i>ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS</i>
<i>HENRY V.</i>	<i>WELL.</i>
<i>HENRY VI. PART I.</i>	<i>The COMEDY of ERRORS.</i>
<i>HENRY VI. PART II.</i>	<i>MEASURE for MEASURE.</i>
<i>HENRY VI. PART III.</i>	<i>MUCH ADO ABOUT</i>
<i>HENRY VIII.</i>	<i>NOTHING.</i>
<i>JULIUS CÆSAR.</i>	<i>TAMING of the SHREW.</i>
<i>CORIOLANUS.</i>	<i>MERRY WIVES of</i>
<i>ANTONY and CLEOPATRA.</i>	<i>WINDSOR.</i>
<i>TROILUS and CRESSIDA.</i>	<i>MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S</i>
<i>ROMEO and JULIET.</i>	<i>DREAM.</i>
<i>HAMLET.</i>	<i>CYMBELINE.</i>
<i>MACBETH.</i>	<i>The TEMPEST.</i>
<i>KING LEAR.</i>	<i>OTHELLO.</i>
<i>LOVE'S LABOURS LOST.</i>	<i>WINTER'S TALE.</i>
<i>MERCHANT of VENICE.</i>	<i>TIMON of ATHENS.</i>

THE
ESSAYS OF LORD BACON:

WITH

CRITICAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES,

AND AN EXAMPLE, WITH ANSWERS,

OF A

UNIVERSITY MIDDLE-CLASS EXAMINATION PAPER, ON THE ESSAYS.

BY THE REV. JOHN HUNTER, M.A.

One of the National Society's Examiners of Middle-Class Schools
Formerly Vice-Principal of the Society's Training College, Batterssea.

LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

1873.

All rights reserved.

67.

LONDON: PRINTED BY
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
AND PARLIAMENT STREET

Refr. 1866

23,392.

PREFACE.

‘THE word ESSAY,’ says Archbishop Whately, ‘has been considerably changed in its application since the days of Bacon. By an *Essay* was originally meant—according to the obvious and natural sense of the word—a slight sketch, to be filled up by the reader; brief hints, designed to be followed out; loose thoughts on some subject, thrown out without much regularity, but sufficient to suggest further inquiries and reflections. Any more elaborate, regular, and finished composition, such as in our days often bears the title of an Essay, our ancestors called a *treatise, tractate, dissertation, or discourse.*’

It was, indeed, evidently a main purpose of Bacon's Essays ‘to suggest further inquiries and reflections.’ In a Dedication to the Prince of Wales, which he intended to prefix to the edition of 1612, but withdrew on account of the Prince's death, he calls them ‘certain brief notes, set down rather significantly than curiously:’ ‘dispersed meditations:’ ‘grains of salt, that will rather give you an appetite, than offend you

with satiety.' In the edition of 1625 we meet with many things culled from his other writings ; and, in his Dedication of that edition to the Duke of Buckingham, he describes the Essays as 'being of the best fruits that, by the good increase which God gives to my pen and labours, I could yield.' The original edition in 1597, consisting of only ten Essays, was the author's earliest publication : the edition of 1625 was his last. In the interval the Essays had been growing both in number and length. In 1612 they were increased to thirty-eight ; in 1625 to fifty-eight. The illustrious writer died in the following year.

In Bacon's life-time, the Essays were the most popular of his writings, and he judged rightly that they would ever be so, and took much pains to render them more and more worthy of acceptance. In the Dedication of 1625 he writes : ' I do now publish my Essays, which of all my other works have been most current : for that, as it seems, they come home to men's business and bosoms. I have enlarged them, both in number and weight, so that they are indeed a new work. . . . I do conceive that the Latin volume of them (being in the universal language) may last as long as books last.'

The Latin translation of the Essays was not by Bacon himself, but was executed under his general supervision by other hands. Dr. Hacket, Bishop of Lichfield, Ben Jonson, and Thomas Hobbes of Malmesbury, are the only persons known with any

certainty to have been engaged in this work. The Latin version is characterised by general elegance, and occasional ingenuity ; but as it frequently takes liberties with the original, in expunging, interpolating, and otherwise altering (though in some few of these instances Bacon himself may have been the innovator), and also in several places misinterprets Bacon's meaning, we cannot think that he revised it very carefully. On the other hand, it is a very great help in enabling us to apprehend the sense in which many phrases and forms of expression were understood in Bacon's time ; and on this account I have, in the present volume, made frequent reference to it. The title which he gave to it is—*Sermones Fideles, sive Interiora Rerum.*

On the merits of Bacon's Essays, Mr. Singer quotes Dugald Stewart as thus speaking of them, in 1815 : ' Under the same head of Ethics, may be mentioned the small volume to which Bacon has given the title of *Essays* : the best known and most popular of his works. It is also one of those where the superiority of his genius appears to the greatest advantage ; the novelty and depth of his reflections often receiving a strong relief from the triteness of his subject. It may be read from beginning to end in a few hours ; and yet, after the twentieth perusal, one seldom fails to remark in it something overlooked before. This, indeed, is a characteristic of all Bacon's writings, and is only to be accounted for by the inexhaustible
