

**THE INFLUENCE OF FRENCH LITERATURE
ON EUROPE: AN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
REFERENCE OF LITERARY VALUE TO
STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES, NORMAL
SCHOOLS, AND JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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The Influence of French Literature on Europe: An Historical Research Reference of Literary Value to Students in Universities, Normal Schools, and Junior Colleges by Emeline M. Jensen

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And Junior Colleges.*

BY

EMELINE M. JENSEN, Ph. D.



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*A Madame Louise Rostand Jammes,
qui m'inspire cet livre.*

PREFACE

The mission of this little work is to bring before the reader the influence that the life and thought of the French people, as shown in their literature, have had upon the world.

Not only many of the scientific discoveries, but also some of the most brilliant ideas in literature have been accredited to other nations, although they are French in their origin.

The purpose of this book is to trace the influence of France from her earliest days to the present time, and to inspire the reader with a real love for the French people.

The French people so brilliant, so courageous, so full of animation and vim are a people whom we to-day especially wish to know. The literature helps us to understand and to appreciate them. It tells us what they thought, how they lived, how they fought, and what they did. The French *esprit* and culture come to us through their literary works. Nowhere else do we find such living wit such love for order, beauty, and clearness of style. The French show a constant tendency to please even when contradicting. They have an original aptitude for sociability, which has endeared them to other nations. The phrases and sentences, as well as words of the French introduced into the English during the Norman Conquest, have had much to do in giving the English a refining tone. For in a subtle way, every language grows to associate with itself the thoughts and aspirations of the people with whose

lives it is inextricably inter-woven. So the French, breathing an air of extreme culture and refinement has permeated our language with the same culture. Ever since the early dawn of civilization, the French people full of ready wit, creative imagination, and spirit have led the literary world.

It is the desire of the author to inculcate in the minds of the young students a real love for that which is French.—a love for the creative art and the genius *d' esprit* of the French, a love for the French people, their language and literature.

The college and university students will find here in this little work of historical literary research material for the writing of themes and essays on the subject of France and what she has given to the world. In order that the student may read more widely on this subject, ample references to larger and more complete works have been given. May the reader be inspired to read many of the French works on the subject of the greater freedom for which we are now fighting!

It has been said justly, "Every man has two countries—his own and France," *tout homme a deux pays, le sien et puis la France*—Bounier. This is true now more than ever when France has become a part of us in the great struggle for freedom, in the struggle for world-wide Democracy,—the freedom where the individual shall be educated as a unit and shall be encouraged to think and act for himself,—a freedom where a man can grow and expand only by striving to lift others up to a higher plane of thinking and living,—a freedom which shall indeed

lead to *Liberté, Fraternité, Egalité*,—a freedom based on tolerance, harmony, and peace everlasting.

France through her wonderful literature has shown us how to live, through her undaunted courage she has set us an example of how to fight, and through her wonderful bravery has shown us how to die. It was a French mother who after losing six sons in this present war for freedom said, "I gave my six sons for the liberty of France. I am sorry I have not a seventh one to give."

The author wishes to express her sincere gratitude to those whose eminent scholarship has been of great aid in the writing of this book, Dr. Robert L. Fleury, Kathryn Monroney Ray, M. A., and Dr. Ida Kruse McFarlane, of Denver University. The writer would also thank those other friends who have as kindly, though in a minor degree, helped with suggestions and advice in the publication of this work.

E. M. J.