LIFE OF ERNEST RENAN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649004942

Life of Ernest Renan by Francis Espinasse

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 ESPINASSE

LIFE OF ERNEST RENAN

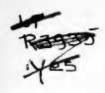


"Great Writers."

EDITED BY

ERIC ROBERTSON AND FRANK T. MARZIALS.

LIFE OF RENAN.



LIFE

OF

ERNEST RENAN

BY

FRANCIS ESPINASSE

LONDON
WALTER SCOTT, LIMITED
FATERNOSTER SQUARE

1897

(All rights reserved)



CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Renan born at Tréguier, 28th February 1823; his parentage; death of his father, and family difficulties; becomes a ward of St. Yves, the patron-saint of the widow and the orphan; first school-days; the See of Tréguier; stories of the Breton saints; old Seminary of St. Nicolas du Chardonnet in Paris, and changes effected therein by the Abbé Dupanloup; Renan, as a promising pupil, recruited for the Seminary (1838)

CHAPTER IL

Description of Renan as a lad by his early friend the Abbé Cognat; early days at the Seminary; influence of M. Dupanloup; transferred to branch of the Seminary of St. Sulpice at Issy; Renan alarms his professors by his arguments; goes to St. Sulpice in Paris; begins to waver from the Faith; takes first steps towards priesthood; writes to his friend Cognat to explain his conduct; learns Hebrew and studies German exegesis under the influence of Le Hir; extract from the Souvenier relating to influences of his new studies; his sister's help and influence; confides his doubts to his friend Cognat; leaves St. Sulpice (1845), and finally abandons all intention of entering the priesthood; his character and attitude; comparison with those of Voltaire; influence of his clerical education; respect for the Roman Catholic priesthood

CHAPTER III.

Renan begins life as tutor in the Quartier Latin (1845); friendship with Marcellin Berthelot; studies assiduously, especially languages, and wins Volney prize; much impressed by events of 1848; contributes essays to periodicals; La Liberté de Penser; first contribution, "The Origin of Languages"; description of L'Avenir de la Science; his criticism of Strauss in article on "The Critical Historians of Jesus"; other contributions; acts as temporary professor at the Lycée of Versailles; appointment on commission of literary inquiry in Italy and England, and visits those two countries (1850); obtains post in the Department of Oriental MSS. in the Bibliothèque Nationale (1851); De philosophia peripatetica apud Syros commentatio historica and Averroës et l'Averroïsme; his sister keeps house for him; first acquaintance with Lévy the publisher, and engagement with him

CHAPTER IV.

Renan thrives apace; is now in position to marry; his wile a niece of Ary Scheffer, the painter; his sister continues to live with him; publishes (in 1855) "General History and Comparative System of the Semitic Languages"; theories, etc., therein propounded; Renan becomes member of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres; more periodical literature; "Studies of Religious History" and "Ethical and Critical Essays"; quotation from essay on Calvin; essays on "The Poetry of the Exhibition" and "The Poetry of the Celtic Races"; quotation from the former; Renan translates the Book of Job and the Song of Solomon; his theory of the authorship of the former; quotations from both

CHAPTER V.

Renan commissioned to explore ancient Phoenicia (May 1860); his intimacy with Prince Napoleon and Madame Cornu, and partial adhesion to the Empire; journey to Syria; Mission de Phénicie; can now realise his wish to visit the Holy Land; begins his Life of Jesus; his sister's affectionate sympathy; she is attacked by fever and dies; dedication to her of the Vie de Jésus

87

CHAPTER VI.

PAGE

The Collège de France; Renan appointed (1857) to the chair of Hebrew and cognate Semitic languages; his first lecture on the part played by the Semitic nations in the history of civilisation; delight of the students, but disapproval of the clergy; Renan's course suspended; he earns his salary by giving private lectures; Life of Jesus published in 1863; the miraculous discarded and story reconstructed by the help of imagination and learning; general character and scope of the book; quotation from the closing passage; immediate and immense success of the work; anger of the French Roman Catholic Church; displeasure of the Emperor; Renan deprived of his professorship; offered a post in the Bibliothèque Impériale, and declines it; criticisms on the Life of Jesus by Sainte-Beuve and Edmond Scherer; references to it by Prosper Mérimée and George Sand; Renan's idea of the universe given in "The Natural Sciences and the Historical Sciences"; his interest in the Higher Education in France

0.2

CHAPTER VII.

Renan goes again to the East at the end of 1864; the second and third volumes of the Origines du Christianisme, entitled respectively "The Apostles" and "St. Paul"; his reference in the preface to criticisms on the Vie de Jésus; effect of criticism upon these volumes; his views upon the authorship of materials for history of the apostolic age; description of early Church; praises the spirit that presided over its organisation; the conversion of St. Paul; St. Paul's mission in the Church; verdict on his character

122

CHAPTER VIII.

"Questions of the Time"; Renan's opinion of the political state
of France; becomes a candidate for the constituency of
Seine-et-Marne (1869); his anti-revolution policy; fails to
secure election; result of general election; Renan's article,
"Constitutional Monarchy in France"; is travelling with
Prince Napoleon when the war of 1870 breaks out; fall of
Sedan; Renan's comparison of France and Germany, as

CHAPTER IX.

Renan visits Rome; writes L'Antichrist; Nero; analysis of the Apocalypse; the revolt of the Jews and its effect on Christianity; is invited to attend a Scientific Congress at Palermo; gives his observations in "Twenty Days in Sicily" (1875); accepts invitation to the bi-centenary of the death of Spinoza (1877); his address; publishes "The Gospels and the Second Christian Generation" (1877); his theories of the authorships of the Gospels; interwoven with history of the Roman Empire; growth of the authority of the Bishops of Rome; the "Miscellanies of Travel and History"; subjects treated of therein

CHAPTER X...

Renan's philosophy of life; sudden change of theory as to the moral aims of Nature; the Dialogues Philosophiques; "Caliban," "Eau de Jouvence," "Le Prêtre de Nemi"; "L'Abbesse de Jouarre"; L'Eglise Chrétienne; theories of the authorship of the Gospel of St. John; heresies which sprang from Gnosticism; Marcion; sketch of character and career of Adrian; Renan comes to London (April 1880) to deliver the Hibbert Lectures on Christianity and Rome; extracts of reminiscences of his visit from the Pall Mall Budget; his lectures; "Marcus Aurelius and the end of the Roman World"; explains the hatred of Marcus Aurelius for the Christians; state of the Church at his death; rise of monasticism: views of the severance of Church and State, and the religion of the future; elected to the French Academy; address upon Claude Bernard; subsequent addresses upon Pasteur and Lesseps; Ecclesiastes; writes the Souvenirs d'Enfance et de Jeunesse to indicate the steps of his mental and moral growth; preface to that book; Renan finds himself reconciled to the French Republic; publishes Nouvelles Études d'Histoire Religieuse; essay on Buddhism; on

CONTENTS.

- 3

	PAGE
St. Francis of Assisi; Renan's popularity; miscellaneous	
lectures and addresses; is fêted at Tréguier; takes a	
house at Rosmapanon; writes Feuilles Détachées; his	
later conceptions of the universe; Histoire du l'euple	
d'Israel (1887-94); difficulty of extracting history from	
legend; resume of the book	173

CHAPTER XI.

Renan's sufferi	ngs, and death on the 2nd October 1892; a	
state-funer	1; his remains removed from Montmartre	
to the Par	theon; Renan's character; his patriotism and	
devotion to	higher education; his hatred of controversy;	
personal a	ppearance; philosophical speculations; style	
and quality	es as a writer : faithfulness to truth .	4