

# **LIFE OF VOLTAIRE**

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Life of Voltaire by Francis Espinasse

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**FRANCIS ESPINASSE**

**LIFE OF  
VOLTAIRE**



**"Great Writers."**

EDITED BY

PROFESSOR ERIC S. ROBERTSON, M.A.,

AND

FRANK T. MARZIALS.

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*LIFE OF VOLTAIRE.*



C. K. OGDEN  
LIFE  
OF  
VOLTAIRE.

BY  
FRANCIS ESPINASSE.

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### CHAPTER I.

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François Marie Arouet (known to the world as Voltaire), born in Paris, November 21, 1694; delicacy in infancy and through life; his father, François Arouet, a high-class Paris notary, then Receiver of Fees and Fines to the Chamber of Accounts; the young François a clever, precocious child; indoctrinated with sceptical views by his godfather, the Abbé de Châteauneuf; motherless at seven; enters the Collège Louis le Grand at the age of ten; forms several lasting friendships; shows early talent for verse-making; anecdotes of his school-days; writes in 1708 an "Ode sur Sainte-Geneviève," called forth by the dangers of a foreign invasion; his later attitude towards clericalism foreshadowed in letters to a friend; leaves the Collège Louis le Grand at seventeen . . . . .	11

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success for a prize offered by the French Academy ; gains notoriety by a satire on the winner of the prize, entitled, "Le Bourbier" ; begins his tragedy of "Œdipe," founded on the masterpiece of Sophocles, and suggested by some private theatricals at the "Court of Sceaux" ; for the supposed authorship of lampoons against the Regent, is exiled to Tulle ; by his father's intervention, is allowed to go to Sully instead ; writes to the Duke of Orleans ; is allowed to return to Paris in the autumn . . .	19

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