

# **PASCAL AND THE PORT ROYALISTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649152964

Pascal and the Port Royalists by William Clark

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM CLARK**

**PASCAL AND THE  
PORT ROYALISTS**



THE WORLD'S EPOCH-MAKERS

EDITED BY  
OLIPHANT SMEATON

Pascal and  
The Port Royalists

By William Clark, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.S.C.

PREVIOUS VOLUMES IN THIS SERIES:—

CRANMER AND THE ENGLISH REFORMATION.

By A. D. INNES, M.A.

WESLEY AND METHODISM.

By F. J. SNELL, M.A.

LUTHER AND THE GERMAN REFORMATION.

By Prof. T. M. LINDSAY, D.D.

BUDDHA AND BUDDHISM.

By ARTHUR LILLIE.

WILLIAM HERSCHEL AND HIS WORK.

By JAMES SIME, M.A., F.R.S.E.

FRANCIS AND DOMINIC.

By Prof. J. HERKLESS, D.D.

SAVONAROLA.

By Rev. G. M'HARDY, D.D.

ANSELM AND HIS WORK.

By Rev. A. C. WELCH, M.A., B.D.

MUHAMMAD AND HIS POWER.

By P. DE LACY JOHNSTONE, M.A.(Oxon.)

ORIGEN AND GREEK PATRISTIC THEOLOGY.

By Rev. WILLIAM FAIRWEATHER, M.A.

THE MEDICI AND THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE.

By OLIPHANT SMEATON, M.A.

PLATO.

By Prof. D. G. RITCHIE, M.A., LL.D.

THE WORLD'S EPOCH-MAKERS

Pascal and  
The Port Royalists

By

William Clark, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.S.C.

New York. Charles Scribner's Sons

1902

## PREFACE



THE question has often been raised as to whether men are greater than their works or the reverse; and a common opinion answers the question in the affirmative. An eminent French writer of our own days<sup>1</sup> declares that the reverse of this is true. Almost all men, he maintains, are worth even less than the little which they do; and this, he says, is proved by the great trouble they take to do it. Pascal, however, he says, is of the small number of those in whom the man infinitely transcends his actions. The writings of Pascal, he continues, are the finest that France possesses; yet they contain nothing of equal value with the *Life of Pascal* written by his sister in a few pages. It is of such writings and of such a life that we have to speak in this volume; and it is of unspeakable advantage to the student that he should possess a source of information respecting the early days of Pascal of such unquestionable authority.

Nearly all that we know of Pascal is derived from

<sup>1</sup> M. A. Suarès in the *Revue des deux Mondes*, 1st July 1900.



this Life and from his own writings, and especially from the *Provincial Letters* and the *Thoughts*. These works have been commented upon, controverted, and defended; and there is little to be said on either side which has not been said already. In the present volume Pascal chiefly speaks for himself, and the comments upon his statements are generally brief. It would have been quite easy to expand them to a great length. When we are dealing with such subjects as the Augustinian controversy and the Defence of the Christian Religion, it would be easier to write pages than lines. In this respect the writer has endeavoured to give no more than is necessary for the clearing up of such points as may not be plain to the ordinary reader for whom this book is intended.

Some acknowledgment should be made of the debt owing to previous labourers in the same field, and first to the editors of Pascal's works. I have used several editions of the Provincials, but special mention should be made of that of the Abbé Maynard, of the excellent edition of the Rev. John de Soyres, and the final edition of M. Faugère. With regard to the *Thoughts*, the obligations of all students to M. Victor Cousin and M. Faugère are incalculable; but the editions of Molinier and Havet also deserve grateful mention. It was Molinier who first gave the whole work in its complete and perfect form, and Havet has arranged the material thus prepared in the most convenient form. The great work on Port Royal

by M. Sainte Beuve is too well known and too highly esteemed to require more than this mention.

The greatness of Pascal lifts him above all ordinary expressions of praise or admiration. He towers above all save the very greatest of the sons of men. It will be a source of satisfaction to the present writer if he shall have helped to make the immortal writings of this great genius known to some who were previously unacquainted with them.

WILLIAM CLARK.

TRINITY COLLEGE, TORONTO,  
*Michaelmas, 1902.*

## CONTENTS



CHAP.	PAGE
PREFACE . . . . .	v
I. EARLY DAYS . . . . .	1
II. SCIENTIFIC WORK . . . . .	12
III. SPIRITUAL LIFE . . . . .	30
IV. PORT ROYAL . . . . .	57
V. THE PROVINCIAL LETTERS . . . . .	73
VI. LATER YEARS . . . . .	139
VII. THE THOUGHTS . . . . .	157
VIII. DESTRUCTION OF PORT ROYAL . . . . .	227
INDEX . . . . .	233