

**The history of the French Academy. Erected at Paris by the late famous Cardinal de Richelieu, and consisting of the most refined wits of that nation. Wherein is set down its original and establishment, its statutes, daies, places, and manner of assemblies, &c.; With the names of its members, a character of their persons, and a catalogue of their works / Written in French, by Mr. Paul Pellison.**

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### **Publication/Creation**

London : Printed by J. Streater for Thomas Johnson. ..., 1657.

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/auhzc4g>

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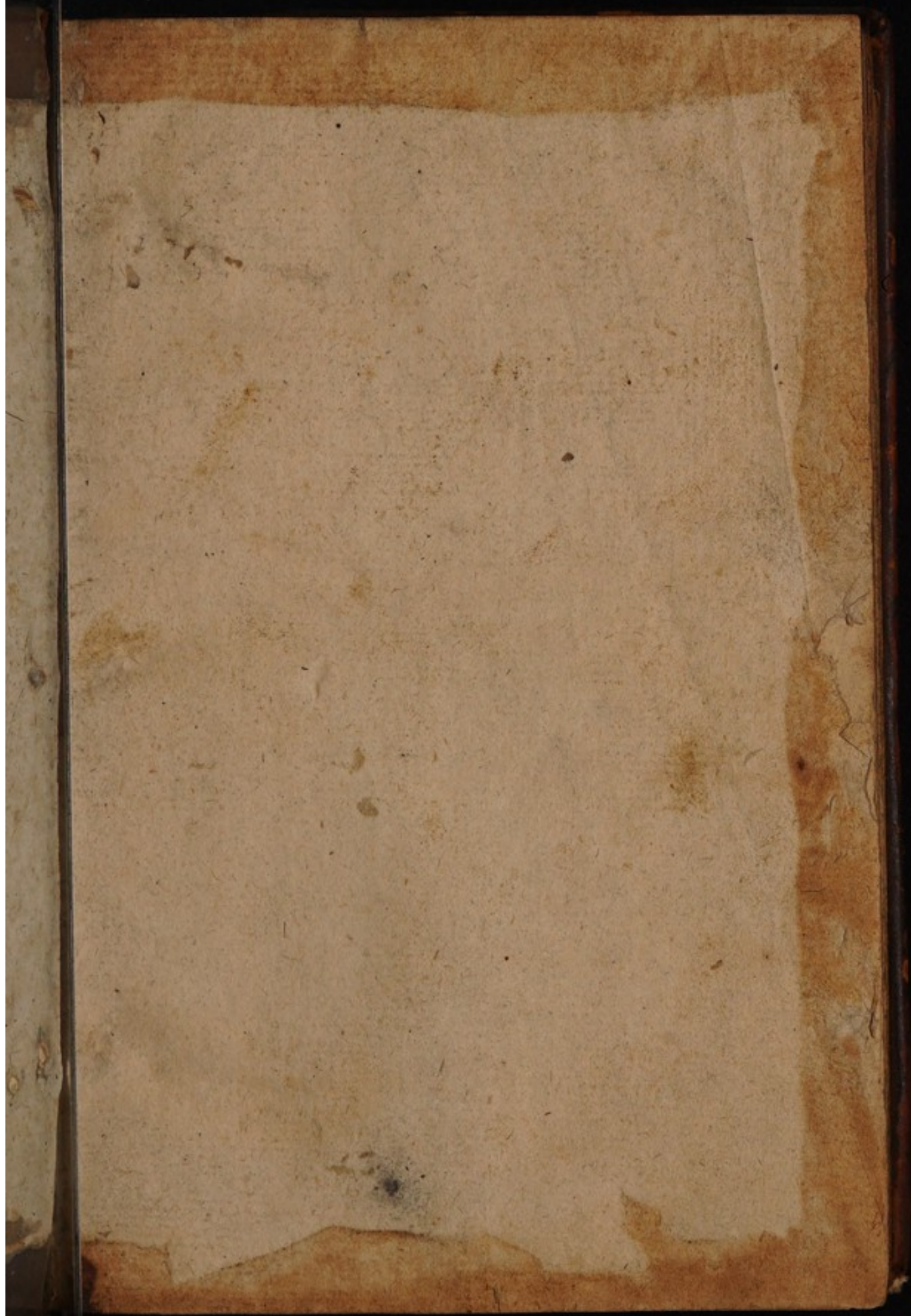




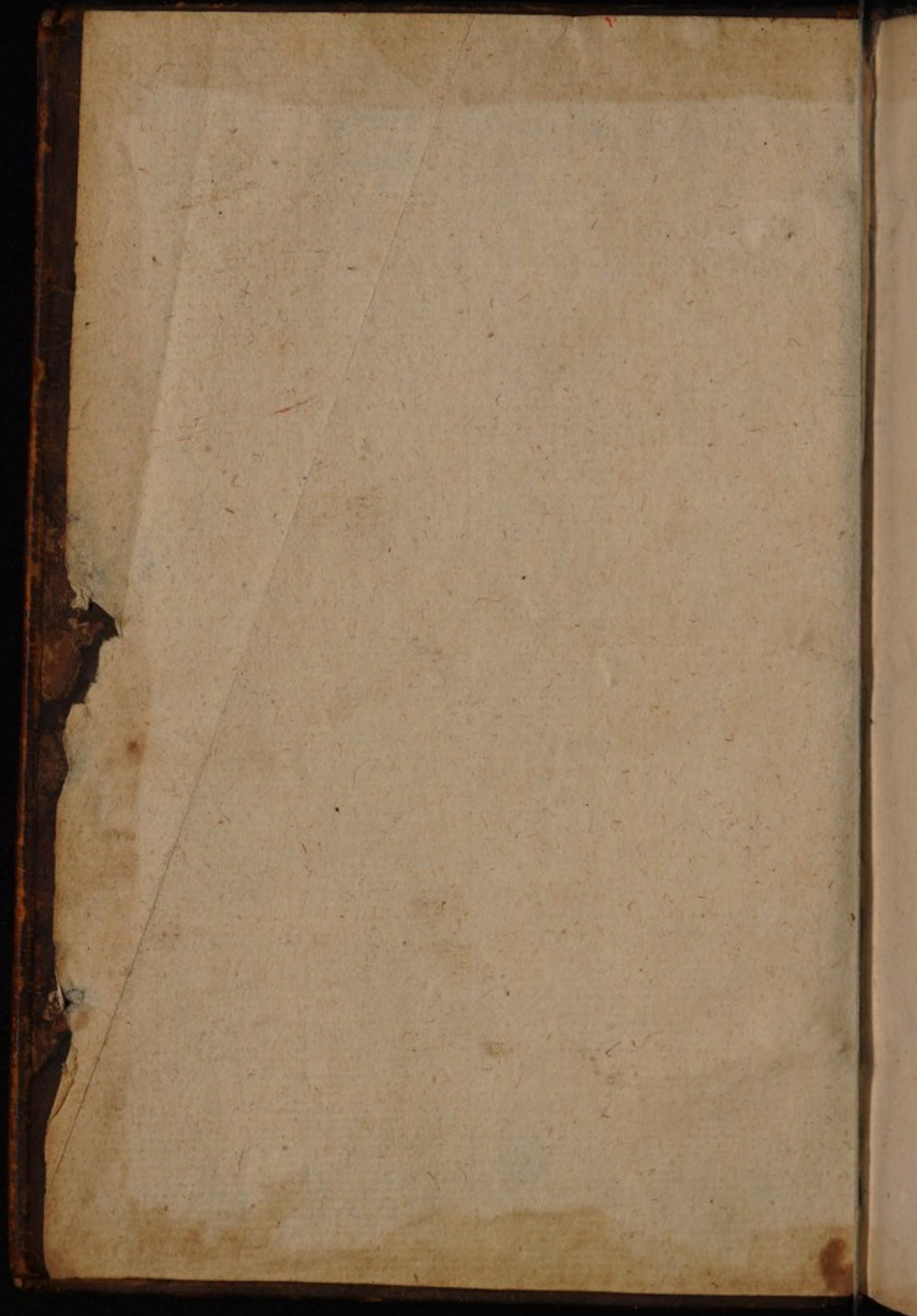


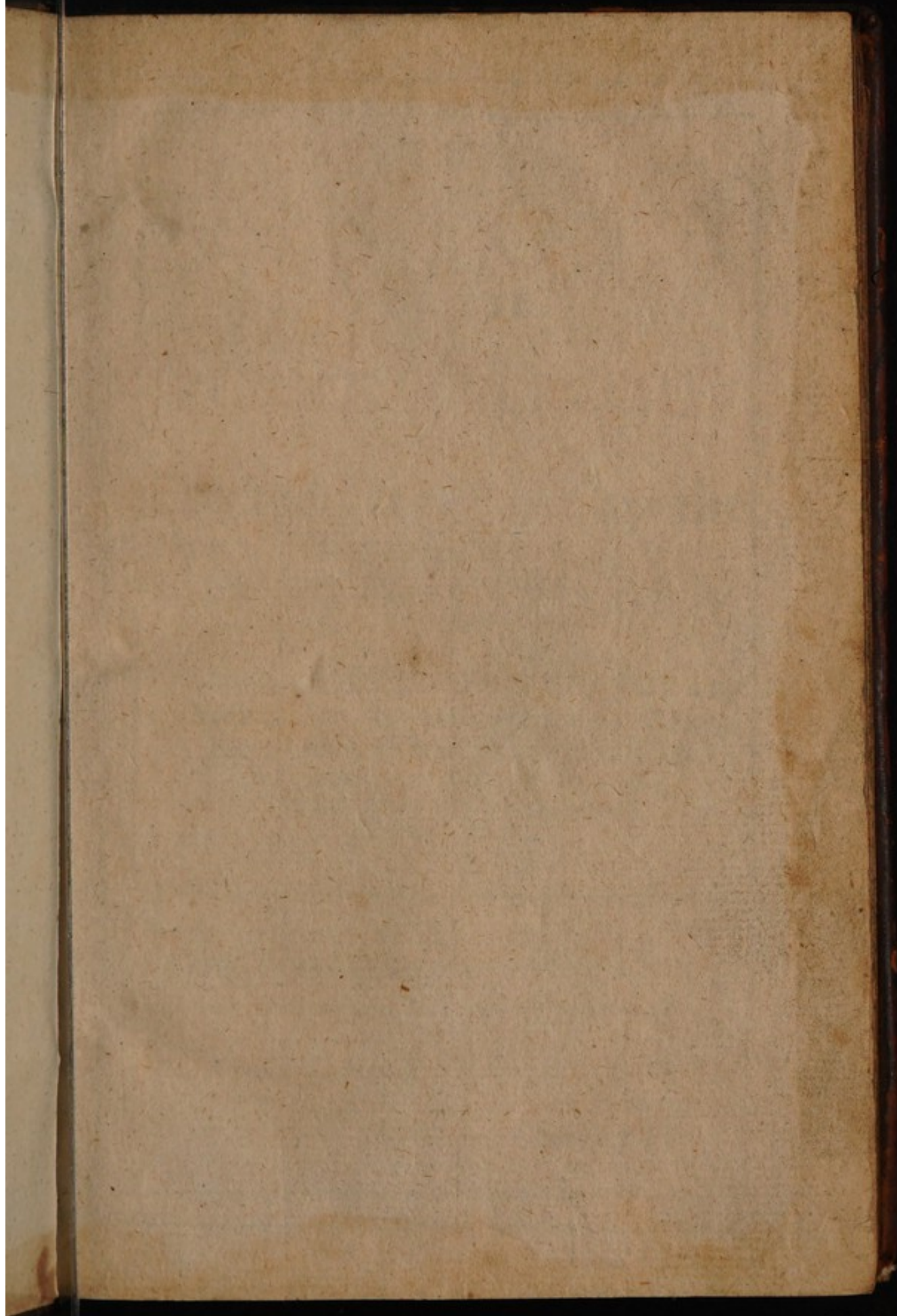
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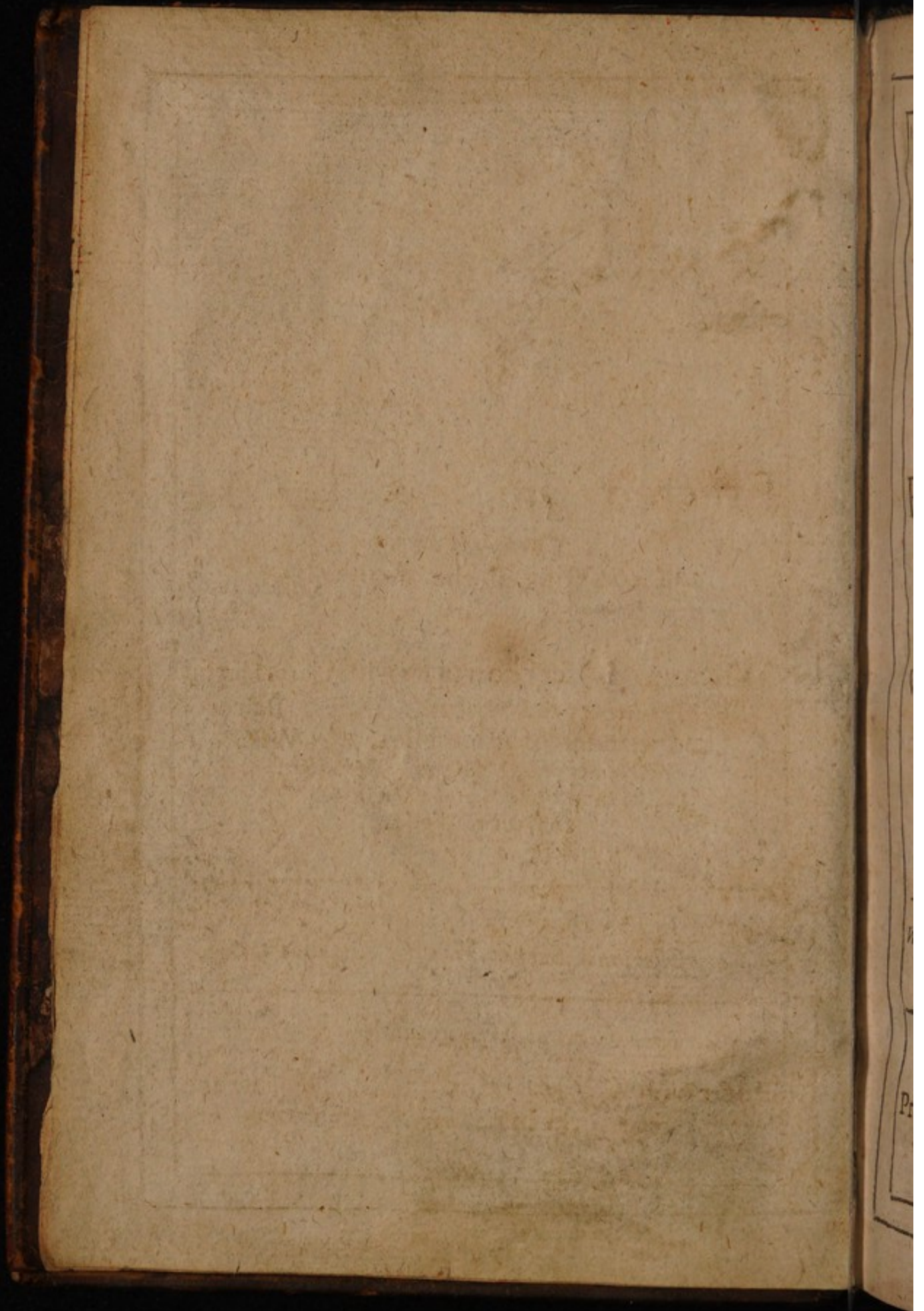














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THE  
**HISTORY**  
OF THE  
**French Academy,**

Erected at *Paris* by the  
late **Famous Cardinal de RICHELIEU,**  
and consisting of the most refined  
**Wits** of that **Nation.**

Wherein is set down its Original and  
Establishment, its Statutes, Daies, Places,  
and manner of Assemblies, &c. With  
the Names of its Members, a Character  
of their Persons, and a Catalogue  
of their Works.

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Written in French, By Mr. **PAUL PELLISON,**  
Counsellor and Secretary to the King of France.

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LONDON,  
Printed by *J. Streater* for *Thomas Johnson* at the  
*Golden Key* in *S. Pauls* Church-yard,  
1 6 5 7.





To  
My  
I  
bee  
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my  
ma  
on  
mig  
exp  
you  
publ





To his very much Ho-  
noured Friend and Kinsman,  
NEVILLE CATELINE  
Esquire.

My dearest Cousen,

**I** Ever looked upon that  
friendship which you have  
been pleased to afford me, as  
a very considerable part of  
my Happiness, and have  
made it my business to finde  
out some way, whereby I  
might manifest my desire of  
expressing my Obligations to  
you, which I cannot do more  
publickly than I do now.

A 2 Hereby



## The Epistle

Hereby also making as many,  
as shall vouchsafe to read  
this, Witnesses of that sin-  
cere and unfeigned affection  
I bear you.

This is the only end of the  
present address, and not the  
least hopes I have fancied to  
my self, that the Book will  
find a more candid reception;  
or any desire to put you to  
the trouble of defending it  
where you come. No, these  
Considerations are as far  
from my thoughts, as per-  
haps they are common to most  
men, upon the like occasion.

For the first of these, give  
me



## Dedictory.

me leave to tell you what I have many times thought of such, as promise to themselves from the high and splendid names they prefix before their writings, to acquire I know not what honour, or at least Protection: That they are like those silly people of Arcadia (I think) that presumed if they could once attain the top of a certain high Mountain, they might with ease touch the Moon; but when they had with a great deal of pains reached the top of it, how much they fell short of their



## The Epistle

aim, is easie to guess. For my part, I could never yet perceive, that any Book fared the better for his sake, to whom it was Dedicated, no more then those ships that having painted upon them the glorious Image and Inscription of some Deitie, were notwithstanding torn by common tempests, and made the sport of every ordinary wave.

———— Et pictos verberat unda Deos.

For the second, I should be very unjust, to expect that at your hands, which I am so far from doing my self, that  
if



## Dedictory.

if I should hear any vilifie  
and condemn it as poor and  
low, I should, if no worse, at  
leastwise readily assent to  
what they say; so mean a  
conceit have I of ought that  
is mine. For, Translations  
at the best (as 'tis commonly,  
but well, said) are but the  
wrong side of a sute of  
hangings, which, though  
the stuffe be never so rich,  
and the workmanship artifi-  
cial, looks but untowardly.  
I do not therefore invite any  
to read this Translation, but  
advise them rather, both for  
their own sakes, and for the

A 4 Authors



## The Epistle

thors, whom I do very much honour, to read it in the French, as it came from the most accurate hand of the noble PELLISSON. But if they can neither procure that, (as I think they will hardly), nor (if they do) understand it, they may make use of this which I offer them. If notwithstanding all this, any shall scorn it because a Translation, I shall give them their liberty, so they will allow me mine, to say (which is all I am likely to bring, in my own defence) that Volentibus, non nolentibus, transtuli. For



## Dedicatory.

For the Book it self, abstracting from it the coorse English habit I have given it, I suppose it cannot be unacceptable to any, that care to know what is done abroad in the world; I do not mean of the routing of Armies, and sacking of Towns, which indeed looke best at a distance, and when the Scene is laid in forreign Countries, (for our own has more then satisfied us with such cruel delights) but of Learning and Learned men; an enquiry after whom is a pardonable, if not laudable curiosity.



## The Epistle

sity. I am sure 'tis pleasant:  
For, to instance in the present  
work, What greater con-  
tentment can be imagined  
then to see the whole pro-  
gresse of so Famous a Com-  
pany, even from its Infan-  
cy and Budding in a few se-  
lect Friends, unto its full  
growth and maturitie, when  
established in a Body, to the  
number of fourty, and those  
all eminent Persons, either  
in Church or State, or at  
least in the Common-wealth  
of Learning? Can it be o-  
therwise then extreamly de-  
lightful to know their De-  
signs,



Dedictory,

signes, to hear their De-  
bates, and in some degree  
to enjoy the conversation of  
so many ingenious Spirits,  
such as Monsieur de Balzac,  
de Gomberville, (the Au-  
thor of Polexander) and  
de Scudery: Whom I the  
rather mention for that  
their Names are so well  
known among us, by their  
works that are done into En-  
glish.

But I trespass too much,  
and am afraid, least  
this Pleasure, which so  
much transports me, seem  
dull



The Epistle &c.

dull and flat to you, coming  
from my Pen. I therefore  
beg your pardon, and be-  
seech you to accept of this  
small testimony of the great  
Love and Respect of

S I R,

Your most affectionate friend  
and humble servant.

H. S.

---

Carmen





Carmen Gratulatorium,

DE

*Translatione hujus Libri  
feliciter absolutâ.*

**E**Rgo tibi patuit felici munere linguae  
*Paucorum* domus, et *Gallis* adeunda *Corinthus!*  
Sic fastiditæ vitæ contagia plebis  
Antiquo satur eloquio, madidusque lepore  
Natali, curas volucres trans æquora mittis!  
Et fecunda salis tellus, et mater aceti  
*Gallia* grata tibi est: hinc siquos protulit ætas  
De meliore luto factos adsciscis amicos,  
*Celtarum* proceres; quos inter jura secantes  
Miseris, patriæ decus, et novus advena lucas.  
Sic tamen, ut totum ne *Sequæma* sorbeat, abis  
(Hoc unum licet invidiam) pars optima sæcli;  
Et cordis plus parte mei, cùm redditis artes  
Transfer, et externis populares dotibus orna.

Id statuis rectè: faciunt sua secula doctum.  
Vivitur hoc ævi, Ne me sibi postulet uni

Roma



Roma vetus, neu collapsæ Pandionis arces ;  
Ingratum mea me si gens, si nesciat ætas,  
Sunt Itali, Gallique, nec absunt forsitan Angli,  
Quos redimam sanus quâvis mercede legendos:  
Talis *Virgilius*, (*Flaccô* rata vota ferente,)  
Jam tum florentes petiit rediturus *Athenas*.  
Haud secus *Archytaxæ* per littora grata *Tarenti*  
Quæsiuit *Plato* præclarus Samnitibus hospes ;  
Talis inis melius culturæ sacra lingua,  
Sic penetras nemus, et reseras mirantibus Anglis  
*Laurigeros* longo stantes ex ordine *Bardos*.  
Sunt nimis ignari rerum, propriâque Seripho  
Contenti, siqui Veneres mirantur inesse  
*Angligenis solis, claris bellique togæque*.  
Crede mihi, sapiunt, et possunt dicere bellè  
*Livones* et tristes *Lappi*, et quas longiùs oras  
Sol videt, aut subigunt protecti pelle coloni.  
Haud adeò miseris læsit præcordia frigus,  
*Nusquam Barbaria est*: sed gens sibi quæq; diserta  
Et petit, et duros dictis exorat amores :  
Nec solum molles *Italos* facundia mulcet:  
Sed siquid balbâ de nare loquatur *Hibernus*  
Orator, vel siquid ovantes gutture *Cambris*;  
Stridulus aut voces elidat dente *Polonus*;  
Aut suspiret *Arabs* expressam ventre loquelam ;  
Immitem flectit popularis *Suada* puellam.

Usque adeo nullis aut res aut verba negantur,  
Et cunctis placuisse datum est, ignavia si non  
Porrectam de monte vetet contingere palmam.  
Ah nimium demens, limæ qui parcit, et idem  
Secula victuram molitur in omnia laudem !

Non



Non exorandus veniet post funera lector,  
Hâc saltem metuat justos ex parte nepotes :  
Sæpius exactam liber hic trutinatus ad aurem  
Nec fidit sibi, nec molles nimis anxius ambit  
Aurículas turbæ, cui dicat, *Candide Lector* :  
Dum properat patriam studiis accendere pubem,  
Orandi dum jura docet, legesque severas :  
Pagina quod retulit, non horruit ipsa, tribunal.

Sed quid ego has laudes, et nullo pondere carmen  
Molior infelix? cum demum laude superbus  
Incedes solidâ, nulli cessura triumpho  
Bis tua vicenis si constet gloria punctis.

---

C. W.

---

The



The Reader is desired to correct these following Errata with his pen, they being such as corrupt the sense.

Page 2 line 12 Commonwealths, p. 3 l. 19. Mancini. l. 24  
recite p. 4 l. 15 that great City. p. 5 l. 25 excused. p. 7 l. 5  
entertained, p. 8 l. 20. scarce. p. 11 l. 19 Servien. l. 29 three. p.  
13 In the margin, after *Fabriano*, adde, *the Filoponi of Fajence*.  
p. 15 l. 13 art. p. 17. l. 11 at. l. 25 impurities. p. 21 l. 20, this.  
p. 22 l. 27 writers. p. 23 l. 6. endeavour. l. 18 Academiciens.  
l. 25 should, p. 27 l. 3 and that, l. 14 tis. p. 28 l. 3. advantages.  
p. 33 l. 18 heads p. 42 Dubourg. p. 43 l. 28 years, yet when, p.  
44 l. 3 vexation. l. 29 about. l. 33 being. p. 45 l. 2. childish,  
l. 13 for *France* read *farre*. p. 46 l. 15 strange. l. 20 Gazetier.  
l. 21 Bureau. p. 54 l. 2 two other. p. 55. l. 22 its. l. 23 which. p.  
58 l. 7 here. p. 59 l. 16 Academies. p. 62 l. 10 Seguier. p. 63 l.  
14 other more. p. 72 l. 18. this, l. 29 Naudæus. p. 80 l. 12 his.  
p. 81 ult. only. p. 87 l. 12 your. p. 92 l. 18 this. p. 93 l. 1 bounds.  
p. 94. 31 'twas. p. 100 l. 29. Bardin's p. 106. l. 6. works. p. 107  
ult. apply. p. 110 l. 22 it self. p. 111 l. 14 Chambre's con-  
jectures. l. 29 do you. p. 116 l. 1 sense. p. 123 l. 10 petty. l. 21  
affectionez. p. 135 l. 12 our. p. 139 l. 19 refuse. p. 144 l. 21.  
pen of. p. 145. l. 10. Bergen. p. 154 l. 11, at Paris, a little after.  
for *corrected* read *bound*. p. 155 l. 22 remained. p. 260 l. 25. l.  
for *Royal r. voyd*. p. 166. in the margin, about the middle  
add, The last part of his discourse was concerning the Acti-  
ons of an Honest man, p. 167 l. 13 vertus. p. 168. l. ult. as, p.  
169 l. 4 Count. p. 170 l. 8. Observations. l. 27. though. p. 173  
antepenult. years old, his stature. p. 174 l. 13 handsome. p. 177  
l. 4 least. l. 10 this. p. 179 l. 28. numbers. l. 31 Affliction. p. 180  
l. 8 works. p. 181 l. 17 for *have*, r. *am*. p. 184 l. 6 vatum insa-  
næ mentes. l. 16. may p. 186 l. 1 by his first wife. l. 14 Cabaret.  
p. 188 l. 9 dele *which*. p. 184 l. 4 a great. p. 204 l. 32 So with  
many p. 206 l. 15 into fashion. p. 209 8. newly p. 210 l. 12 for  
*Justice* r. *Justin*. p. 214 l. 3. this. p. 217 l. 28 JOHN, 221 l. 7  
Prince. p. 224 l. 1 these. l. 22 strange. p. 225 l. 32 Roumens.

THE



A  
RELATION

Containing The

HISTORY

OF THE

*French Academie.*

To Monsieur, D.F.F.

**I** Resolve, since you will have it so, to write all that I have been able to learn concerning the *French Academie*, which is a Company that many talk of, and but few know, as it deserves to be known. For whether we look upon its *end*, which was to advance the Tongue we speak, to its highest perfection, and to chalk us out a way to attain the height of Eloquence; or whether we consider the *persons of whom* it was composed, whose names are famous, and very likely will be so hereafter; or whether we cast our eyes upon its *Founder*, the *Cardinal de Richelieu*, that famous Minister of State, whose *Geni*s and *Fortune* have been alike extraordinary; I see nothing in all this, which deserves not to be known, and to have the  
B memory



THE HISTORY OF

memory thereof carefully preserv'd.

Had any one particularly left us in writing, what pass'd betwixt *Augustus, Meenas*, and the excellent wits of their age; I know not whether we should read the Historie of it, with lesse curiosity and delight, than that of the Warrs, and State-affaires of those times; Nay I know not, to say somthing more, whether we should read it with lesse advantage and profit; we I say, to whom fortune hath given neither Armies to conduct, nor Common-wealth to governe, where we might shew what we are, and to whom she hath bequeathed only study, and conversation, and such private and domestique vertues.

I shall not feare then with all exactnesse on my subject, to relate whatever I have collected, either from the Registers, and large notes which have been communicat-ed to me, or from the long and particular discourse which I have had to this purpose with those persons which were best able to instruct me: and I shall not forget ever many petty circumstances which an Historian would questionlesse omit; but which a freind me thinks may familiarly tell unto his freind. I shall only abstain from following alwaies, and step by step, the Order of the Dates, which would tast a little too much of a Diary, and oblige me too often to fall upon the same things. But nothing will escape me, if I be not deceived when I shall have handled, as I intend these these five particulars.



## THE FRENCH ACADEMY

1. Of the establishment of the French Academie.
2. Of its Statutes; and withall of the daies, places and manner of its Assemblies.
3. Of that which it did after its Institution.
4. Of some remarkable things which passed there.
5. And lastly of the Academiciens in particular.

THE FRENCH Academie was not established by the Kings edict, till the year 1635. But we may say that its origine was foure or five yeares elder, and that it owes in a manner its institution to fortune.

The first part  
Of the esta-  
blishment of  
the Academie

They that have written of the Academie of the *Humorists* of Rome, say that it sprung up by chance at the wedding of *Lorenzo Mancini*, a Gentleman of Rome, that divers persons of qualitie among the guests, to give some divertisement to the ladies, and because twas the time of *Caravall*, set themselves at first extempore, & afterwards with a little premeditation to recite some sonnets, comedies, & discourses, which gave them the name of *Bellihumori*: that afterwards taking an affection insensibly to these exercises, they resolved to form an Academie of good literature: That then they changed the name of *Belli humor* in-

Mr. Naudé  
in his Dia-  
logue de ma-  
curat, where  
he cites, *Gior-  
Bapt. Albertinè  
discorso dell'  
Academia parte  
secunda. p. 88.*



## THE HISTORIE OF

to that of *Humoristi*, and chose for their devise, a Cloud, which being formed of salt exhalations from the Sea, falls down again in a sweet and gentle shoure, with that of the Poet *Lucretius*, for the Motto, *Redis agmine dulci*.

The French Academie did not arise indeed from an accidentall meeting, as that did. But certaine it is, that those which began it scarce thought of any thing lesse then that which happened afterward. About the year 1629. some Gentlemen lodging in severall places of *Paris*, and finding nothing more incommodious in that City, then to go many times to seek one another, and all in vain, took a resolution to meet together one day in a week, at some one of their lodgings. They were all persons of Learning & of Extraordinary merit, *Monsieur Godeau* now Bp of *Grasse*, who then was not a Churchman, *Monsieur de Gombault*, *Monsieur Chapelain*, *Monsieur Conrart*, *Monsieur Giry*, the late *Monsieur Habert* Commissarie of the Artillery, *Monsieur* the Abbot of *Cerisy*, his brother *Monsieur de Serizay*, and *Monsieur de Maleville*. They mett at *Monsieur Conrart's* whose lodgings were the most commodious to receive them, and in the heart of the City, from whence all the rest were almost equally distant. There they entertaine themselves very familiarly, as it is usual in an ordinary visit, with all kind of things, affairs, news, and good learning. Ar



## THE FRENCH ACADEMIE

if any of the Company had composed any Work, as it often happened, he communicated it voluntarily to the rest, who freely told him their opinions. Their conferences were concluded sometimes, with a walk, and sometimes with a collation. Thus they continued three or four yeares, and as I have heard divers of them say, with extream pleasure, and incredible advantage. In so much as even at this day, when they talke of those times, and of the first age of the Academie, they speak of it as of a golden age: during which, withal the innocency and all the liberty of the primitive times, without noise and without pomp, and without any other laws then those of Friendship, they enjoyed whatsoever an ingenious Society and a Rational life has either sweet or charming.

They had made an order not to speake of it to any body, which was very exactly observed for a time. The first that failed in it, was *Monsieur de Malleville* (for tis no hurt to accuse him of a fault which the happinesse of the event has excused) He had said something of it to *Monsieur Faret*, who had then newly printed his *Honeste-Homme*; and who having obtained Leave to be at one of their conferences, brought with him a Copie of his Book which he gave them. He returned with very much Satisfaction, as well with their judgments which they gave of his book, as with all that pass'd in the rest of the conversation.



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But as 'tis a hard matter, that a secret to which we have once given vent, should not soon after become publick, and that another should be more faithfull to us then we have been to our selves; Monsieur *Desmarets* and Monsieur de *Boisrobert* knew of these meetings, by meanes of Mr. *Faret*. Mr. *Desmarets* came thither severall times, and read there the fifth Volume of *Ariana*, which he then composed. Mr. de *Boisrobert* desired also to be present at them, and there was no colour in the world to deny him admittance, for besides that he was a friend to most of these Gentlemen, even his fortune procured him some respect, and rendered him the more considerable. He then was admitted, and when he observed in what manner works were there examined, and that it was not a businesse of complements and flatteries, where each one commends that he might be commended, but that they did boldly and freely censure even the least faults, he was filled with joy and admiration. He was then in his greatest favour with the *Cardinal de Richelieu*, and his chiefest care was to recreate the spirits of his Master, after the noise & perplexities of busines, as well by pleasant stories, at which he was the best of any man in the world, as in telling him all the pretty news of the Court and Town: and this divertisement was so usefull to the Cardinal, that his Cheif Physitian Monsieur *Citois*, was wont to say to him; *My Lords*  
wee'll



THE FRENCH ACADEMIE

*wee'll do all we can for your health; but all our drugs are worth nothing, unlesse you add thereto a little of Boisrobert.* Amongst these familiar discourses, Mr. *de Boisrobert*, who entained him with all kind of news, omitted not to make an advantageous recital to him of the little Assembly he had seen, and of the persons which composed it: and the Cardinall who had a soul naturally carryed unto great things, and loved above all the French tongue, in which he himself wrote exceeding well, after he had commended the design, he asked *Monsieur de Boisrobert*, whether these Gentlemen would make a societie and assemble regularly and under publicke authoritie. *Monsieur de Boisrobert* having answer'd that in his opinion this proposition would be received with joy, he commanded him to make it, and to offer to these Gentlemen his protection for their Company, which he would get established by Letters Patents, and his affection to each of them in particular, which he would manifest upon all opportunities.

When these offers had been made, and the question was to resolve in particular, what answer they should return, there was scarce any of these Gentlemen which witness'd not a displeasure, and a regret, that the honour which was done them would disturb the sweetnesse, and the familiarity of their conferences: nay some of them and especially, *Monsieur de Serisay*, and  
 Monsieur



8 THE HISTORY OF

Monſieur de Malleuille were of opinion that they ſhould excuſe themſelves to the Cardinal the beſt they could: but theſe two, beſides the generall reaſons that were common to them with the reſt, had a particular one which they had an eye to. *Monſieur de Serifay* was Controller of the houſe of the Duke de la Rochefoucant, and *Monſieur de Malleuille* was Secretary to the *Marſhall de Baſſompierre*; Theſe two Lords were lookt upon as Enemies to the Cardinal; The firſt perceiving himſelf in no good condition at Court, had retired to his Government of *Poitou*, and the other was already a Priſoner in the *Baſtille*. Now you know in what reputation the Cardinal then was. One might think, that ſeeing himſelf in a place ſo envy'd, and ſo expoſed to the plots of the *Grandeés*, there was ſcarſe any place, where he had not his Scouts to give him notice of all their deſignes.

Theſe two Gentlemen then, feared leſt that this commerce which they ſhould have with him by meanes of an *Academie*, which he was to be Founder and Protector of, ſhould give men occaſion to talke, and render them ſuſpected to their Lords. They omitted not therefore any thing which might perſwadè the company to be of their minds. However at laſt, the contrary opinion paſſed, which was *Monſieur Chapelain's*: for as he had neither paſſion nor intereſt againſt the Cardinal, who had taken notice of him, and, as a teſtimony of the



THE FRENCH ACADEMY.

the esteem he had of him, had given him a Pension; He represents unto them that it must be confest, they could have been contented that their conferences had not been thus divulged; but that, considering the condition things were in, it was not free for them to take which of the two parts they liked best. That they had to do with a Man, who is extreme eager in what he desires, and that is not accustomed to meet with opposition; or, if he does, to suffer it unpunisht: That he might take it for an affront, if they should refuse his protection, and might revenge himselfe for it, upon each of them in particular: That at least since that by the Lawes of the Realme, all kind of Assemblies were forbidden that are made without authority from the Prince, he might if he pleased with a words speaking, put an end to this in spite of them, and by this meanes break up a Society, which there was none of them, but wish't might be eternall. Upon these reasons it was resolved that *Monsieur de Boisrobert* should be desired to returne most humble thanks to the Cardinal for the honour he did them, and to assure him that although they never had any such ambitious thoughts, and were extreemly surprized with his Eminences designe, yet they were wholly resolved to obey his Commands. The Cardinal received their answer with great satisfaction, and giving divers testimonies that he was very serious in this establishment, he command-

ed



ed Monsieur de Boisrobert to tell them that they should meet together as they were wont, and that they should augment their company as they should think fit, and that they should advise among themselves what forme and what Lawes it would be best to give it for the future.

Things passed thus in the beginning of the yeare 1634. At the same time Monsieur Conrart, at whose house they had their meetings hitherto, was about to marry; having then invited all these Gentlemen as his particular friends to be at his wedding, they conceived that for the future his house would not be so proper for their conferences as before. Therefore they began to meet at Monsieur Desmarests, & to think seriously, according to the intention of the Cardinal, concerning the establishment of the Academie.

IF you remember that you have read in some one of the Poets, the description of a young Commonwealth, where some are busied in making laws, and creating Magistrates; others in setting out the ground, and drawing a platforme of the houses; these in getting together materialls, and those in laying the foundations for the Temples and Walls: Imagine that it was just so, in this first Institution of the Academie, and that there passed divers things almost at the same time, which cannot be related but one after another.

One



## THE FRENCH ACADEMIF.

11

One of the first was, that these Gentlemen increas'd their company with divers persons considerable for their merit, amongst whom there were some that were otherwise so for their quality. For, as the Court does alwaies zealously imitate the inclinations of the grand Ministers and Favorites, especially when they are grounded upon reason and honesty; Those which were neere the Cardinal, and that were in any reputation of wit, thought it a peice of honour to be of that body of which he was the Protector and Father. Not only Monsieur *Desmarests*, and Monsieur *de Boisrobert*, who were the first that knew of these private assemblies; but also Monsieur *de Montmor* Master of requests, Monsieur *de Chastelet* Counsellor of State, (who was in great favour,) Monsieur *Servien* then Secretary of Estate, and Monsieur *Segnier* Keeper of the Seales, now Chancellor of France, desired to be of this Company. But because I must in another place speak of all the Academiciens in particular, I shall deferre till then to let you know, when and upon what occasion each of them was admitted.

And that they might give some order and forme to their Assembly, they resolv'd to create forthwith ~~their~~ Officers: A *Director* and a *Chancellor* that should be changed from time to time, and a *Secretary* that should be perpetuall; the two first by lot, and the last by the suffrages of the Assembly. The Director was Monsieur *de Serisay*

three



*de Serizay*, the Chancellor Monsieur *Desmarests*, the Secretary Monsieur *Conrart*, to whom this Office was given in his absence by a common consent, all agreeing herein, that no man could better fill this place. Then began he to set down in writing what pass'd in the Assemblée, and to keepe those Registers, from whence I have drawn the best and greatest part of this Relation. They begin March 13. 1634.

Register. 13.  
March. 1634.

Register  
Apill. 10. 1634

Besides these three Officers, they created a *Stationer to the Academie*, who was also to serve as *dorekeeper* to it. This charge was given to *Camusat*, who of all others was esteemed the most able, for besides that he was very well seene in his profession, he was a man of a good judgment, and would not print any scurvy books, so that when you and I came abroad into the world, and began first to reade French Pieces, 'twas almost an infallible marke of good ones, that he printed them.

Reg. March 20  
1634.

They consulted likewise in these beginnings, what name the Company should take, and among others that were propounded, that of the FRENCH ACADEMIE, which had already been approved of by the Cardinal, was liked best. Some have since called it *the Academie of the beaux esprits*, others *the Academie of Eloquence*, as Monsieur *de Boisat*, who wrote to it from *Dauphine* with this Title, erroneously, though he himself was one of it. Many others have believed that it was called *the eminent Academie*



*Academie*, in allusion to the qualitie of the Cardinal who was its Protector: And I confesse that I my selfe was heretofore deceived in the Epistle Dedicatorie of the first Book of my *Paraphrase of the Institutes*; but in a word it never calls it self by any other name then that of the FRENCH ACADEMIE.

In the choise of this name, which hath nothing in it either of pride or Strangenesse, they have shown perhaps lesse gallantry; but perhaps too, more judgment and solidity then the Academies beyond the Alps, who wrong themselves in taking one either mysterious, or ambitious, or fantastical, such as we find them in a carrousel or in a mascarade: as if these exercises of the mind were rather debauches and sports, then serious occupations.

Thus their Academicks call themselves at Siena *Intronati*, at Florence *dela Crusca*, at Rome *Humoristi*, *Lincei*, *Fantastici*, at Bologna *Otiosi*, at Genoa *Addormentati*, at Padua *Ricovrati* and *Orditi*, at Vicenza *Olimpici*, at Parma *Innominati*, at Millane *Nascosti*, at Naples *Ardenti*, at Mantua *Invaghit*, at Pavie *Affidati*, and I know none of them, but the Florentine Academie only which is the most antient of them all, which took a plaine simple Name without any affectation.

But perhaps I shall one day, elsewhere and in a discourse by it selfe, treat of all these Academies, and their names; To  
returne

See Monsier Naudæus in his Dialogue de Mascurat, where he names also the *Offuscati* of Cesene, the *Disuniti* of Fabriano, the *Caliginosi* of Ancona, the *Adagiati* of Rimini, the *Afforditi* of Cita de Castello, the *Insenfati* of Perouse, the *Raffrontati* of Ferme, the *Catenati* of Macerata, the *Obstinati* of viterbe, the *Immobili* of Alessandrie, the *Occulti* of Bresse, the *Perseveranti* of Trevisc, the *Filarmonici* of Verona, the *Humorosi* of Cortona, and the *Oscuri* of Lucca



returne at present to that which I began to speak of. At the same time that it chose its name, it deliberated also concerning the Employment it would have, and the Lavvs it should establish. All the Academics were order'd to think of it in private. Monsieur *Faret* was charged in the meane time to make a discourie, which should containe as 'twere the Project of the Academie, and which might serve for a preface to its Statutes: and Monsieur *de Serizay*, to frame a letter to the Cardinal, to beseech him to honour the company with his Protection. 'Twas by this Letter, and by this Project, that they began. The letter vvhich is of the 22th of March, 1634. contained in effect thus much, *That if Monsieur the Cardinal had publish't his writings, there would want nothing to the perfection of the Tongue, and that questionlesse he would have done that which the Academie propounds to it selfe to do: but that his modesty forbidding him to set forth his own rare peices, did not also hinder him from approving that others searcht after those treasures which he keeps locked up, and from authorizing their search. That this was the most solid foundation of the Academies designe, and of its project, which should be presented to his eminence with this letter by Messieurs de Bautru, du Chastelet, and*

The Academies Letter  
March, 22. 1634



de Boisrobert: That it would not receive life but from him, and that the hope of his protection oblig'd it already to an extreame resentment. The Project was a discourse very large, full of many excellent passages, which may be reduced in a lesser compasse to these heads: That the Countrey we inhabite hath alwaies bred most valiant men, but that their valour hath beene without reputation in comparison with that of the Romans and Greeks, because they never had the art of rendring it illustrious by their writings. That neverthelesse at this day the Greeks and the Romans being become slaves to other Nations, and their very languages, though so rich and pleasant, being reckoned amongst the dead; it fell out happily for France that we have continued not only in possession of the valour of our Ancestors, but also in a condition to raise againe to life, Eloquence, which seemed to be buryed with those, that were the inventors and Masters of it: That after the great and memorable actions of the King, 'twas a most happy accident, that there are found at this day amongst his subjects so many men able to make that be read with delight, which we have seen done with astonishment:

That

The Project of  
the Academie







tortur'd in that brevity which is proper to the stile of Lawes. The first, of the qualities requisite in those who should be trusted in this businesse; and the second, what should be their Functions, and what kind of matters they should handle.

I. For the first, That it is not enough to have a large and profound knowledge in the Sciences, nor a facility to speak handsomly in conversation, nor a lively and prompt imagination, good at invention: But that there must be a 'twere a particular Genius, and a naturall light able to judge of that which is most neat and profound in Eloquence: That lastly there is requisite a certain mixture of all these other qualities in one equall temper, subjected to the Lawes of the understanding, and to a solid judgment. As for their Functions, which was the second thing they promised to treat of: That they should be, The purifying of the language from the filth it hath contracted, either in the mouth of the vulgar, or in the croud of Lawyer's, or in the impunities of wrangling, or by the ill use of ignorant Courtiers, or by the abuse of those who corrupt it in writing, or of those that in the Pulpits speak indeed what they ought, but not as they ought. That to this end 'twere good



to settle a certain constant use of words: That 'twere fit to retaine some of those which are now in use, so that they be refer'd to one of the three kinds of writings, in which they might be used; that those, for instance, which are naught in a lofty, might be borne with in a mean, and approved in the lowest and Comique style. That one of the meanes which the Academiciens would make use of, to attain unto perfection, should be the examination and correction of their own writings. That they would severely examine the Subject and the manner of handling it, the Arguments, the Style, the Numbers, and every word in particular. That after so exact observations, they would give any one that would take the paines, leave to add his, perhaps with as ridiculous a successe, as those that thought they had found spots in the Sun. That also the Academie desired to please none but the wisest men, and not those fooles that begin to be dazeld with the glory which it receives from so great a protector. That if these resolutions may not serve as rules for the future, they may at least serve as advice, since tis not probable that so many men assembled together should not be able to decide things, in which it cannot

be



be denied but they have manifested sufficient experience. That this Company hath taken the name of the FRENCH ACADEMIE, because twas the most modest and most proper to its Function. That for the Seale it would use, and the Priviledges it would enjoy, it referred it self herein to its Founder, and to his Authority, who alone having given forme to this Institution was able to build it up upon a foundation strong enough to continue as long as the Monarchie.

This Project, accompany'd with the Letter which I told you of, was presented to the Cardinall by the 3. deputies of the Company. He caused the Letter to be read to him twice, once by Cardinall de Valette, who then was with him; and the next time by Monsieur de Boisrobert. He answered the Deputies in these very termes, I find them in the Register. That he had a good esteem of the whole Company in generall, and each member thereof in particular. That he was very well pleased with their desiring his Protection, & that he granted it to them with all his heart. He caused the Project also to be read to him, and marked in it some passages which he thought were to be corrected, and proposed to approve it, when 'twas mended; which being told the Company, they gave charge first to Monsieur Chapelain, Godeau,



Reg. May 1.  
1634.

*Habert* and *Desmarests* to Examine the dis-  
courie. At last, since each of the Aca-  
demiciens found fault with some thing or  
other in it, twas resolved that every one of  
them should examine it by themselves,  
and to this purpose, that there should be  
thirty copies of it printed, to be distribu-  
red amongst them, but that they should  
swear not to speake of it, or shew it to  
any body. I learnt afterwards one thing  
which I account very remarkable, twas,  
that to have these thirty Copies they took  
the way of printing, not onely because they  
judged it the most facile and ready way;  
but also because according to the Common  
opinion, the lesser pains the Eyes take  
in reading a book, the more liberty the  
minde hath to judge of it. That one sees  
more clearly, & observes better, the graces  
& the faults of a work, when tis written in  
a good Character, then when in an ill; and  
better yet, when tis printed then when tis  
written. That for Instance *Cardinall Perron*  
who spared neither paines, nor care, no  
costs for his books, made them alwayes b  
printed twice: first to distribute onely som  
Copies of them to his private friends, of  
which they might make their observation  
and Secondly, to publish them to th  
world in that forme which he resolved t  
fet them forth in. And to the end that non  
of this first sort should be divulged again  
his will, he caused them to be wrought o  
at his own house at *Bagnolet*, where he ha  
a Presse on purpose.

Wel.



Well, the thirty printed copies were brought back by the Academiciens with their Notes, and which is considerable in so great a number, there was not one of them that had divulged the secret. The discourse was examined afterwards with great care in severall Assemblies, whereof many were extraordinary for this very business. At last, Monsieur *Faret* made it ready to be presented a second time to the Cardinal, which he and Monsieur *de Bisrobert* had charge to do. The Cardinall received the copy which they presented him, and having approved it for the matter, sent it back upon after to the Company with his own marginall castigations, written by the hand of *Charpentier* his Secretary, which related only to the forme and expressions of it. It was ordered that he should be most humbly thanked for his favour, and that they would correct, according to his desire, those passages which he had taken notice of. Onely, asluting to themselves a laudable liberty, in a time when all the Court Idolized the Cardinall, and when it would have been a crime to contradict him; they ordered that upon every one of those passages, He should be desired to tell them, whether it were his absolute pleasure that they should alter them, because the Note was conceived in dubious termes, and because the Expressions seemed to the whole Company to be sufficiently noble, and french good enough.

Reg: May 13  
1634.

Reg. June 19;  
July 17.  
Octob. 30.  
1634.

Reg. November 15. 1634.

Reg. November 27. 1634.



I do not find that they changed these passages afterwards, which makes me think the Cardinal did not urge them any more. Now the design of the Academy was to print this Project, with their Statutes when they were finish'd, & that they were agreed about them. But this was never done, whether it were that this first ardour for the glory of the Company began in time to coole; or that, as I am very prone to believe, it happened then to this judicious Society, as it doth every day to many brave men, not to satisfie themselves, though they satisfie all men else. Perhaps the Academy approved all the parts of this discourse, but still found some fault or other in the whole, as to the order and carriage of it. I durst almost suspect it was thus, not onely because after they had read it twice, and that with very much pleasure, they seeme to me to incline more towards this defect then any other, but besides because in one of the Conferences, wherein twas examined, (as I find in the Registers,) there was a generall Rule made for the future, which too in my opinion may serve as a generall lesson for all writers; *That none should hereafter read any discourse in the Company, unlesse at the same time he bring the Analysis of it by it self that so the Academy may judge of the whole as well as of the parts.*

They forgot not in the mean time, to deliberate about the principal employment of the Academy, concerning its Statutes

and

Reg. July 17.  
1634.



*The French Academie.*

23

Reg. March  
20, 1634.

and the Letters it was to have for its Establishment. In the 2d. Assembly upon the question that was propounded concerning its Function, Monsieur Chapelain declared that *in his opinion it ought to be, To endeavour the purifying of our Language; and the rendering it capable of the highest Eloquence (as you saw 'twas said in the Project): That to this purpose they are in the first place to regulate the Termes and Phrases, by a large Dictionary, and a very exact Grammer which might give it a part of those Ornaments it wants, and that afterwards it might acquire the rest by a Rhetorique and a Poetique, which should be composed to serve as a rule to them that would write in verse and in prose.*

This advice which was also the thoughts of all the other Academies, was generally followed: and because Monsieur Chapelain had enlarged himself upon the manner how they ought to proceed in the Dictionary and Grammer, he was desired to draw a platfome of it, which was seen afterwards by the Company, and thereupon it was ordered he should confer with Messieurs de Bourzey, de Gombauld and de Gomberville. But I shall have another occasion to tell you more of this platfome, and to give you an Abridgment of it, whereby you may judge what esteem and commendations it deserved.

Reg. March  
27, 1634.

As for the Statutes of the Academy, the first that travaild in this subject by order of the Company was Monsieur de Chastelet

Reg. March  
27, 1634.

C 4

Counsellor



Counsellor of State. After they had seen his Papers, he was ordered to confer about it with the same Messieurs de Bourzey, de Gombauld, and de Gomberville. Afterwards it was agreed, that all the Academiciens should be exhorted to give in their memoirs in writing upon this subject. I have seen nine of these memoires or advices of some particular Academiciens, which are those of Messieurs Faret, de Gombauld, Chapelain, Corart, Sirmond du Chastelet, Bardin, Colletet, and Baudoin. I shall not stay to tell you the contents of them, but I believe I may remark by the way two things, which have not been followed in the Statutes. One which is in the memoire of Monsieur de Gombauld, and which I relate here as a Testimony of his piety and vertue. Tis, that he propounded, *that each of the Academiciens should be bound to compose every year a piece, great or small, in the praise of God.* The other, which seems to me very strange, though it was desired by Monsieur Sirmond, a man otherwise of a very solid judgement, *was, that he would have all the Academiciens bound by oath, to use those words which were approved by the Major part of voyces in the Assembly.* So that if this Law had been received, whatsoever particular aversion, one might have to a word, notwithstanding, he must of necessity make use of it, & if any one should use it otherwise, he would commit not onely a fault, but a sin. All these memoires were put into the hand of  
 4. Commisioners Messieurs du Chastelet, Chapelain,



*Chaplain, Farex, and Gombauld*, to cul out of each what they liked best; and after their choise, Monsieur *Conrart*, who in quality of Secretary had also assisted at all these particular Conferences, digested and couched in writing the Articles of the Statutes. They were read, examined, and approved by the Company.

Reg. Decemb  
4, 1634.

The same Monsieur *Conrart* had also in Charge to draw up the Letters Patents for the Foundation of the Academie, which seemed to belong unto him upon a double account, because he was both Secretary to the Academie, and Secretary to the King. After that he had read them in the Assembly, Messieurs *du Chastelet, de Serizay* and *de Cerisy* were ordered to receive them with him, and to shew them to the Lord keeper of the Seales; and Monsieur *de Boisrobert*, to the Cardinall. I believe you'll take it kindly, that I have here inserted them at large, since that they serve for the foundation to all the rest, and that besides they are conceived in very pure and Elegant terms, which not omitting those clauses and formes of Speech usuall to the Chancerie do Neverthelessse relish the politenesse of the Academy and the Court.

Reg. Novemb  
15, 1634.

Reg. January  
2, 1635.

LEWIS, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, KING OF FRANCE AND NAVARRE, to all present and to come GREETING. Since God hath called us to the conduct of this State,



it hath been our cheifest Ayme, not onely to remedie those disorders which the Civil wars, ( wherewith it hath been so long afflicted, ) have brought into it; but also to enrich it with all the Ornaments, befitting the most illustrious and most ancient of all Monarchies that are now in the world: and though we have labour'd incessantly to execute this design, yet till now 'twas impossible for us fully to accomplish it. The troubles raised so often in the greatest part of our Provinces, and the assistance which we have been obliged to give to divers of our Allies, have diverted us from the injoyment of that quiet, which we have procured for others. But as all our intentions have been just, so have they also succeeded prosperously. Those of our neighbours that were oppressed by their enemies, do now live secure under our protection. The publick tranquillity makes our subjects forget all past miseries; & confusion hath at length given place to that good order, which we have revived amongst them, in re-establishing trade, in causing military Discipline to be exactly observed in our armyes, in regulating our taxes, & in reforming luxury. 'Tis well known to every one what share our dear & welbeloved

Cousin



Cousin the Cardinall, Duke de Richelieu has had in all these things, and we should be thought to wrong those abilities, and *that* fidelity which he has manifested in all our affaires ever since we chose him for our Principall Minister, if in what yet remains for us to do, towards the glory and Embelishment of France, we should not follow his advice, and commit the disposall and direction of those things which are yet thereto necessary, unto his care. Wherefore having made known unto him our Intention, he hath represented unto us, that ~~time~~<sup>it</sup> one of the most glorious marks of the felicity of a State; that Arts & Sciences have flourishd in it, & that as well learning as armes have been there in honour and esteem, since *that* they are one of the principall instruments of Vertue. That having atcheived so many memorable Exploits, it remains onely that we add things delightfull, unto those that are necessary, and ornament unto profit, and that in his opinion we could not begin better then with the most Noble of all Arts, Eloquence. That the French Tongue, which hitherto hath but too much resented the negligence of those which could have rendered it the most perfect of the modernes, is more capable then  
 ever



ever to attaine it, considering the number of persons which have a particular knowledge of the advantages, that it is *Mistris* of, and of those which may still be added to it. That to establish certain Rules of it, he has ordained an Assembly, whose proposalls have satisfied him so well, that to execute them, and to render the French Tongue not onely Elegant, but also capable to treat of all Arts and Sciences, there needs onely the continuance of these Conferences; which might be done with very much profit, if we would be pleased to Authorize them, and to permit the making of some Laws & Statutes, for the polittie which is to be observed there, and to gratifie those, of whom it shall be composed, with some honorable Testimony of our Favour. **FOR THESE CAUSES;** having respect to the advantages, which our Subjects may receive from the abovesaid Conferences, & inclining to the request of our said Cousin, **WE HAVE** of our speciall grace, full power, & Royal Authority, permitted, approved, and Authorized, and by these presents, signed with our hand, do permit, approve, and Authorize the said assemblies and conferences: We will that they be continued from henceforth in our good City of Paris, under the  
the



The French Academie.

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the name of the FRENCH ACADE-  
MIE. That our said Cousin have liber-  
ty to Style himself, the head and protector  
of it: That the number thereof be limi-  
ted to 40. persons: That he Authorize  
its Officers, Statutes and Orders, with-  
out requiring any other of our Letters,  
besides these Presents, by which we do  
confirm as well for the present, as for  
the future, whatsoever he shall do upon  
this Account. We will also, that the said Aca-  
demie have a seal with such a mark and  
Inscription as our said Cousin shall think  
fit, to seal all the Acts which shall proceed  
from it. And for as much as the pains of  
those who shall compose it, will be extream-  
ly advantagious to the publick, & they must  
employ therein a great part of their time,  
our said Cousin having represented unto us  
that divers of them can be but very seldom  
in the Assemblies of the said Academie,  
unlesse we exempt them from certain bur-  
thensome charges, which they may be  
charged with, as well as our other subjects;  
and unlesse we grant them power to avoid  
the trouble of going to sollicite upon the  
place the processes and Lawsuits which  
they may have in the Provinces remote  
from our good City of Paris, where the  
said Assemblies are to be: we have at the re-  
quest of our said Cousin, exempted, and by  
these



these presents do exempt from all Tutelles and Curatelles, and from all Guets and Gards, the said members of THE FRENCH ACADEMIE, to the said number of forty: for the time being and for the future, and have granted and do grant unto them the right of Committimus of all the causes personall, possessory and hypotequaires, as wel when plaintiffe as when defendant, before our trusty and beloved Counsellors the Masters of Requests in Ordinary of our Hostel, or the Courts of Requests of our Palace at Paris, at their own choise, in as ample manner as the domestick Officers and servants of our House do enjoy it. WE THEREFORE charge and command our trusty and beloved Counsellors sitting in Court of Parliament at Paris, the Masters of Requests in ordinary of our Hostel, and aliother our Justices and Officers to whom it shall appertaine, that they cause these Presents to be read and registred, and that they permit the enjoyment of all the things therein contained, and of whatsoever shall be made and ordained by our said Cousin the Cardinall Duke de Richelieu, in consequence and vertue hereof to all those who have already been nominated by him, and which shall be hereafter



hereafter to the the number of 40. and  
to those also which shall succeed for the  
future, to be of the said FRENCH  
ACADEMIE, causing to cease all  
troubles and obstacles which they shall  
meet with. And for as much as there  
may be need of these Presents in severall  
places, we will that unto a Copy of them  
compared by one of our trusty and beloved  
Counsellors and Secretaries, credit be  
given as to the Originall. And we com-  
mand our chiefe Huiſſier or Serjeant,  
hereupon to do all actions necessary to the  
execution thereof, without requiring any  
other permission. FOR SUCH IS  
OUR PLEASURE, notwithstanding  
any oppositions or appeales whatso-  
ever, for which we will that it be not  
differred, abrogating for this end all  
Edicts, Declarations, Arrests, Orders, and  
other Letters contrary to these presents.  
And to the end that this may be for ever  
firme and stable, we have caused our Seal  
to be put thereto, Saving our Right in  
other things, and the right of others in  
all things. GIVEN at Paris in the  
month of January, in the year of Grace,  
1635. and of our Reign the twenty fifth.  
Signed, LEWIS. And on the fold, By the  
King DELOMENIE. And sealed  
with



with the great Seal of green wax, upon Strings of red and green silk.

There had been added to the other privileges, and tis likely it would have been easily obtained, *exemption from taxes*; but because all the Academiciens were already exempted from them, either by their Nobility, or otherwise; not any one of them thought fit to desire it, lest he should be thought to stand in need of it himself: & thus they preferred an imaginary honour, before the solid and real interest of their successors.

Reg. Decemb.  
4. 1634.

Reg. January  
8. 1635.

Reg. January  
29. 1635.

It was no difficult matter to get these Letters sealed. The Lord keeper of the Seales, had himself too great an inclination to these kind of exercises, to be any hinderance therin, wherefore he used those deputies which spake to him of it, with all the civility they could desire. Nay a little while after, he sent to tell the Company by Monsieur de Cerisy, that he desired to be comprized in the Catalogue of the Academiciens, which was soon after done. You shall see anone, how this Proposition was received; at present it shall suffice to tell you that he sealed the Letters with all Speed, and that they were brought back to the Academie, by Monsieur de Cerisy, the 29th. of January, 1635.

There wanted but two things for the entire establishment of this Body: the one, to get their Statutes Authorized by the Cardinall, according to the power giv-

en



en him thereto by the Kings Letters. The other, to get those Letters ratified in Parliament. The first was very easie, the second on the contrary accompanied with difficulties and delays. To get the statutes Authorized by the Cardinal, who was then at *Ruel*, they sent to him the 3. officers, Reg. Feb. 5. 1635. with Monsieur *de Boisrobert*. I have heard Monsieur *Conrart* say, who was of that deputation as an officer, and whom, I think, you will acknowledge for a just judge in such matters, that he never heard a man speak better then the Cardinal did in this meeting, that he answered to the speech of Monsieur *de Serizay*, the director, as if he had seen it a long time before hand, and had leisure enough to prepare himself upon the head of it, and even upon every word that was in it; that he spake first for the Academie, in generall; then he address himself to the 4. Deputies, and at last to each of them apart, but so apposite, with so much grace, civility, majestie and sweetness, that he ravisht all that heard him, Reg. February 22. 1635. with admiration. He caused them at last to leave the Statutes behind, that he might view them, and sent them back some time after signed with his own hand, and countersigned by *Charpentier* his Secretary and sealed with his armes *En placard*. But I must not forget to tell you that this was after that he had caused one thing onely in it to be changed, which would have seemed to be too much to his advantage, and to tax him

D him



him of a little vanity. The fifth Article of the Statutes was in substance, *That every Academicien should promise to reverence the vertue & memory of my Lord their Protectour.* He desired that this article should be taken away, and the Company ordered it should be so, in obedience to his Eminence; but that there should be mention of it made in the Registers.

Ke<sup>3</sup>. January  
19.  
and February  
5. 1635.

I should now questionles be very tedious, if I should go about to relate to you exactly, how much time & paines was requisite on the other side, to get these Letters Patens ratified in Parliament. After that they were signed according to order, by Monsieur *Delomenie* Secretary of state, who was then called Monsieur *de Villeauclair*, and is a present Monsieur *the Count of Brienne* with whom they found no difficulty; the were delivered into the hand of Monsieur *Hennequin* of *Bernay* Counsellor, in the *great Chamber* to make a report of them.

Reg. March  
12. March 19.  
April 16.  
1635.

They sent severall deputies as well to him as to the Kings Advocates, and to Monsieur *the chiefe President le Jay*; but a were to no purpose. And although to give the more force to their Sollicitations, after the two first, they resolved to make more in the name of the Company; but the Cardinall, who liked well it should so; and though in his name Messieurs *Dmarests*, *de Bautru*, *de Boisrobert* had been to waite upon the Chiefe President he gave them but little hopes of obtain

Reg. July 23.  
30. 1635.



what they desired. This was the reason, why the Cardinall upon the Complaint that was made to him of it by Monsieur de Boisrobert, in behalf of the Company, wrote to the Chief President the following Letter.

SIR,

I do not take pen in hand to represent unto you the merit of those persons which compose the **FRENCH ACADEMIE** lately established in Paris, because the most part of them having the honour to be known to you, think you cannot be ignorant of it; but to conjure you, that you would for this reason, and for the affection which I beare to them generall, and in particular, contribute the power you have in your Parliament for the confirming those priviledges, which it has eas'd his Majesty to grant them, at my humble desire, being profitable and necessary to the publicke, and having quite another designe then that which you have hitherto been made to believe. I do not doubt but you will in this occasion bring, for their contentment, all the facility which you can possibly, and which they have reason to promise to themselves upon my recommendation to you; assuring you that besides the obligation which these Gentlemen will have to you for this favour which you will shew them in this affaire, I shall partake of their resentment, to witnesse to you in my own also, when ever I shall have oppor-



tunity to do you service, and to let you know  
by my actions that I am.

December.

1635.

SIR,

Your most affectionate servant,

LE CARD. DE RICHELIEU.

A Copie of this Letter was read in the  
Academie, and because the Attourney Ge-  
nerall exprest a desire of it, they obtained  
further of the King, three Letters under the  
Privy Seale; One for him and the Advoca-  
tes Generall: another for the Parlia-  
ment: and the third for the chief Presiden-  
t *le Jay*: The Attourney Generall at that  
time was that great man, to whom I am  
infinitely obliged M. *Molé*, now keeper  
of the Seales of France. These Letters were  
all written to the same tenour and purpo-  
se, and it will be sufficient to relate to you  
of them, that you may know the rest.

BY THE KING.

TRUSTY AND WEL-BELOVED,  
we have heretofore by our Letters Patentes  
in forme of an Edict, in January  
willed and ordained that there should be  
an establishment of a FRENCH ACADE-  
MIE in our good City of Paris,



the which there being only persons of great worth and learning, it cannot be but very advantageous to the publike, and to the reputation of France. FOR THESE CAUSES, we will and command that you proceed to the registering of the aforesaid Letters, according to their forme and tenour, and that you permit the said Company to enjoy the priviledges wherewith we have endowed them, without giving thereto any delay, restriction, or difficulty: hereof faile yee not: FOR such is our pleasure, GIVEN at S. Germain en Lay, the 30th day of December 1635. Signed LEWIS, and underneath DELOMENIE: and, on the backside, To our trusty & welbeloved Councillors, holding our Court of Parliament at Paris.

Moreover the Cardinal signified to the Atturney General who came to visit him at Conflans, that he absolutely desired this ratification, and that having set his seale to the Statutes of the Academie, he judged them worthy the priviledges that were granted to them. He also let the cheife resident know, that for feare there should be delays and obstacles in this affaire, he should cause the Letters to be presented and ratified in the grand Councell. They continued the sollicitings in his name, and those



those which did it, said from him, that he had forbidden the Academie to trouble it selfe any more about it, being resolved, it should receive this favour only from himselfe. At length, the Atturney Generall gave his favourable determination, and Monsieur *Savary*, Counsellor in *the great Chamber*, in whose hands the Letters were, professed also his great willingnesse, adding withall, *That he did not believe, since he was of the Parliament, he had received a greater honour, then the contributing something to the establishment of the Academie.* Neverthelesse he had not this satisfaction, for he fell sick some few daies after: and whether 'twere that there were yet some other obstacles, or that his sicknesse which was long, and of which he died at last, was the cause of it, so it was, that the Letters returned into the hands of Monsieur *de Bernay*, & were not ratified, till a year after or more, the 10th. of July 1637. with this clause, *Provided that those of the Assembly & Academie, take no cognizance but only of the ornament, embellishment, & augmentation of the French Tongue; and of the books that shall be made by themselves, and by others that shall desire it.*

The Academie being assembled three daies after, wou'd have deputed some to go thank the Cardinal; but he sent them word by Monsieur *de Boisrobert*, that he desired it not, and that they should go on to thanke Monsieur *de Bernay* the reporter Monsieur the Atturney Generall, and

Monse



Monfieur the chief Prefident, which was done by the three Officers. At laſt Monfieur *du Tillet*, Clark of the Parliament, ſent the Arreſt of the Ratification to the Academie then aſſembled the laſt of July in the ſame yeare. His Secretary, that had the charge of it, was brought into the Aſſembly, and thanked in the name of the whole Body, by the director.

Thus the FRENCH ACADEMIE, although they aſſembled all this while, and had the ſame meetings which they have at this day, was neyertheleſſe not abſolutely eſtabliſhed, till three yeares and ſome moneths after that they began to labour in it. For they ſpent from the moneth of February of the yeare, 1634. to that of the yeare following, 1635, to give it the forme it was to have, to make ready its ſtatutes, and to get the order of its Ereccion ſealed, and from February 1635. till July 1637. to get this order confirm'd in Parliament.

WHEN YOU reade this, I make no queſtion but you will enquire with ſome aſtoniſhment, for what reaſon and out of what *Caprichio*, ſo judicious a Body as the Parliament of Paris, gave their conſent with ſo much difficulty to a deſign, I will not ſay ſo innocent, but ſo laudable. But, that you may the berter underſtand what was the humour of the Parliament, tis requiſite I let you know, how all France at that time ſtood affected, where the Cardinal de Richelieu having advanced the Regal authority



authority much higher then ever any man had done before, was loved and adored of some, envied of others, hated and detested of many; feared and redoubted of almost all. Besides then, that the Academie was a new institution, which of it selfe would have divided mens opinions, and at the same time have had enemies and approbators, they looked upon it as a work of the Cardinals, and judged either well or ill of it, according to the passion wherewith they were prepossessed of him. Those which were his freinds, spake of it with excessive praises: Never had ages past, say they, so much eloquence, as ours shall have, we shall surpasse all that have gone before us, and all that shall come after us, and the greatest share of this glory will be due to the Academie and to the Cardinal. On the other side his Eremies, and those which envyed him, entertained this designe with scoffs and jeeres. They accused the Academie, of coining new words, of endeavouring to impole laws upon things that were not capable to receive them, and they ceased not to decry it by raileries and satyrs. The people too, and those that were either lesse quick-sighted, or more jealous, who suspect every thing that comes from the Cardinal, were affraid lest that under these flowers there lay hid a serpent, and apprehended at the least that this  
establissh-



establishment would be a new support to his domination, that they must be his pensioners, taking pay to doe whatever he please, and to observe the actions and thoughts of others. Nay they say he cut off fourscore thousand livres of the money leaved for the cleansing of the streets of *Paris*, to give to them 2000 livres pension a peice; and a hundred reports of that nature.

And to this purpose, if you will give me leave to mingle a little mirth with seriousnessse, and to forget a while the Parliament of Paris, to which I will not faile to returne: I could tell you a couple of stories, which will serve not only for a diversion, but also for a confirmation of what I told you even now concerning the opinion which the vulgar had of the Academie. The first is of a certain tradesman of Paris, who had, they say, lately hired a house very commodious for him in *Cinq-Diamans street*, where Monsieur *Chapelain* dwelt, at whose house the Academie then met. He observed that at certaine daies there came a great number of Coaches thither, he enquired the reason of it, and learning it, presently he brok off his bargain, without giving any other reason, but that he would not dwell in a street, wherein there was every week a Cademy of Monopolizers.

The other story is perhaps no lesse pleasant then the former. When my Brother;



ther, and I went to *schole*, we had leave to go spend the time of the vacation in the Country, at some of our friends houses, somtimes at *Ondes* that sweet dwelling, whose name and delights I shall never forget; and somtimes in *Gascoigne* at Monsieur *Dubourg's* in his faire house of *Chermont*. This Gentleman, as you doubtlesse knew, together with a great knowledge in good learning, and much wit, was master of so gay and pleasant a humour, that he could almost in every thing find matter of mirth, but so noble and gallant, as 'twas decent and becoming a person of quality, as indeed he was, having the honour to reckon amongst his ancestors the famous *Anne Duboury* Counsellor in the Parliament of *Paris*, and *Antonie Duboury* Chancellor of France, in the Reigne of Francis the first. We were then at his house, and Monsieur *de Fontrailles*, his next neighbour, whom you know very well, and who since hath borne so great a part in one of the most important affaires of our times, was there also. There came thither a young Gentleman newly arrived from Court; they asked him (as the fashion is) what newes there. He answered that there was nothing more remarkable there, then an Academie established within these few yeares by my Lord the Cardinal de Richelieu for the reformation of style. You shall see, saies Monsieur *Duboury*, who intended only to be merry, that this man will have invented



vented some new design against the Pro-  
ctors and other Lawyers to force them ei-  
ther to reforme their style, or else fine.  
The young Gentleman, who perhaps had  
heard of the false reports that had been gi-  
ven out in Paris of the Academie, believ-  
ed in good earnest that his Landlord  
might be in the like error, and to disabuse  
him, labour'd all he could to demonstrate  
to him by very good reasons that this re-  
formation of style respected only Poets  
and Orators. Monsieur *Dubourg*, seeing  
the pleasant humour he was in, continued  
his discourse, and answer'd, that the Cardi-  
nall was more crafty then 'twas believed,  
that within these ten yeares all the de-  
signes, which we have seene, have had as  
faire beginnings, and as honest pretences;  
but that they would infallibly come from  
Orators to Lawyers, and lay a fine upon  
them for every fault they commit, and to  
get themselves off, force them to pay vast  
summes of mony; that one, by name \* \* \*  
who was his Lawyer in the Parliament of  
Tholose, was ruin'd. For, added he, tis  
impossible he should reforme himself; he  
has belonged to the law some thirty or for-  
ty years, when ever he thinks to make a  
Complement, still there escapes him  
some wrangling Law Term or other. Af-  
ter all this, he appealed to Monsieur *de*  
*Fontrailles* as judge, who approved and  
consented to all he had said, nor was the  
young Gentleman ere the lesse obstinat on  
the



the other side, as he continued that whole after-supper time, and with so much zeale in defence of the truth, and relation to see such honest men in so strange an opinion, that this story, which perhaps to you that read it, will seem frigid, never comes into my mind even to this day, but it makes me ready to laugh.

But to return now to the Parliament of Paris, and the difficulty it made to confirm the Edict of the Academie: You will not believe, and doubtlesse a man would hardly imagine it, that they should apprehend it for the stile of the Lawyers. For my part, I'll tell you my opinion of it. This great body wherein there are alwaies some Extraordinary persons, amongst many others that are not so, was divided, about the businesse of the Academie, and of the Cardinall de Richelieu, with the very same passions and opinions that divided all therest of France, saving perhaps in this Company, there was lesse affection for him then in others, and that for the most part they lookt upon him as the enemy of their liberty, and the infringer of their privileges. I suppose then that there might be three parties in the Parliament above their businesse. The first and least, of those who judging of things sincerely, saw not any thing in this designe worthy to be blamed or despised. The 2d. of those, who bring animated against the Cardinall, or else, too much addicted to the



The French Academie.

45

the sole study of the law, and civill affairs, laughed at this Institution as a Childish thing; and of this number there was one amongst them, (as I have heard,) who giving his voyce concerning the confirmation of the Letters, said, *That this businesse brought into his mind, what one of the Emperours sometimes did, who after he had taken away from the Senate the cognisance of publick affaires, desired to know their opinions, what sawce he should make for a great Turbot that was brought him from France.* Finally, I believe there was a third & last party, which it may be, was not the least powerfull, of those that suspected every thing, and apprehended as well as the Vulgar, some dangerous Consequence of this Institution. Of this I have two proofs in a manner convincing; First the Cardinals Letter, wherein you see he assures the Chief President, *That the Academiciens had a Design wholly different from what he was made to believe.* Secondly, That Clause in the Order for the Confirmation, *That the Academie should take cognisance onely of the French Tongue, and the Books which they themselves made, or which were offered to their judgment:* As if there had been some danger, that it would have taken to it self other functions, and have undertaken some greater matters. And this, as I think, is the cause of those hinderances which for two years retarded the confirmation of these Letters.



I SHOULD HERE put an end to the first part of my work, touching the birth and foundation of the Academie, but that I remember I spake, by the way, of some Satyres which at the first were made against it; and that, to omit nothing, 'tis fit, I should now say something to you of them, as of some other Circumstances of its Establishment.

The first that wrote against the Academie was the *Abbot of St. Germain*, who was then at *Brussels*, accompanying the Queen Mother *Mary de Medici* in her banishment. As he continually bayted by his writings, and that with a sharp kind of animosity, all the actions of the Cardinal *de Richelieu*, so he omitted not to speak very injuriously of the FRENCH ACADEMIE, which he Confounded with that other Academie, which the *Gazetier Remandot* had established at the *Bureau d'Adress*; whether 'twere that he did purposefully mistake so, or that indeed he had but ill intelligence how things went at *Paris*. The Academie would not answer to it in a work on purpose, but *Monsieur de Chastelet* who was of it, and did then in behalf of the Cardinal answer most of those *Brussel-pamphlets*, was desired, after that he himself had propounded it in the Assembly, to add a few lines about this bulinesse, which were afterwards read and approved by the Company. The *Abbot of St. Germain*,  
his

x strange



his peices against the Cardinall de *Richelieu* have been since printed at Paris in two Volumes, after the death of the late King Lewis the 13<sup>th</sup>. The answers of Monsieur *du Chastelet*, were in a peice which he finished not, being prevented by death, and which was never printed.

Of all the other things that have been made against this Company, I have not above three of them which deserve to be mention'd. The first is that *Comedie of the Academie*, which after it had past a long time in manuscript, was at length printed in the year 1650. but with abundance of faults, and without either Author or Printers name. Some are pleased to ascribe it to one of the Academiciens themselves, because it does not ill resemble his Style, witt, and humors, and because he is there spoken of as a man that makes no great reckoning of these conferences. But some others have assured me, that it was a Gentleman's of *Normandy*, by name Monsieur *de St. Evermond*. And truly if the Author of it was of the Academie, I'de say he put many things into it, on purpose to make it be believed that he was not of it: as when he makes Monsieur *Tristan* an Academicien, who was not so yet, untill 10: yeares after; also when he brings in the Marquis of *Brevale*, deliberating whether he should go to the war, or stay in the Academie: The Marquis of *Brevale*, I say, who was never of it, and of whom I do not find



find any mention great or small in the Registers; nor in the notes which have been communicated to me: This piece though artlesse and irregular, and rather deserving the name of a *Fig*, then that of a *Comedie*, is not without witt, and has some very pleasant passages.

The second which I am to tell you of, and which has been lesse seen then the rest, is intituled, *A Role of presentations made on the great daies of the French Eloquence.* 'Tis as 'twere a register of some ridiculous requests for the conservation, or suppression of certaine words, together with as many imaginary answers of the Academy. As for example, *The Secretaries of St. Innocent presented themselves, desiring, it might be declared that the word Secretary might not signifie in good French, the Clark of a Counsellor.* Answer, *Remonstrances shall be made concerning it to the Roy de la Bazouche.* *H. Fierbras a cadet of Gascon presented himself, in behalfe of all those of his Country, requiring that none might take away the point from their honour, nor the glittering from their sword.* Answer, *For what concerns the Point, it should be communicated to the Mathematique professors; and for the Glittering, the Fourbishers should be sent to.* I have been told by some that this *Role of presentations* was made by the Author of *Francion*, and of *The Extravagant sheapheard*; it was presently printed, and it has been reprinted since in the same Volume



In me with the Comedie; but very much mutilated, and alter'd severall wayes.

The last of these three pieces is that ingenious *Request of the Dictionaries*, which too was printed not long since in a little Volume with abundance of faults, and was afterwards printed far more correct in *quarto*. Every body knowes that this was made by Monsieur *Menage*, not onely a very learned and polite man, but also a man of honour and of a solid vertue. He himself had alwayes a very high esteem of the Academie, and has spoken honourably of it in divers of his works. He was a particular and intimate friend, as he is still, of many of the Academiciens, whom he mentions in that *Request*, and he did not do it, as he protests himself, out of any motion of hatred or envy, but onely for a diversion to himself, and that he might not lose some *bons mots*, that came into his mind upon that subject. Besides he suppress it after he had made it, and it lay above ten years hid among his Papers, untill a certain person that had them all in custody, suffer'd himself to be rob'd of that, by one that you and I know, who presently after gave divers Copies of it.

These three pieces and all the rest that have been made against the Academie, go upon a false ground; and describe the Academiciens, as men that labour night & day nothing, but fantastically, forging new words, or else suppressing others, more



out of humour then reason ; whereas they thought of nothinglesse, and when any question was offer'd concerning language, they onely enquired after the use of the word, which is the cheif matter in such matters, and resolv'd in favour of it. As for me, who have exactly veiw'd all their Registers, I can give them this Testimony, that I have there met with many handsome and rationally decisions, whence *M. Vaugelas* has taken part of his *Remarques* ; but that I never found there, any footsteps of so much as one of those silly Orders, which are attributed to them in these *Satyrs*. They made the World then believe all those things ; and, as you know, every man hath many times an avernesse, of which he cannot give any reason, from some certain word and phrases, which he does not love to use. If any one of this Body did expresse such a kind of avernesse in jest or otherwise, presently envy and detraction made this passe for a decision of the Academie's. 'Tis known, for instance, that Monsieur *de Gamberville* did not love to use the word \* *Car*, which indeed is offensive if it be often repeated, and is fitter for a *disputation*, then a *Romance* or a *Poem*. He brag'd one day that he had not at all made use of this word in the 5. Volumes of *Polexander* (where yet I am told it is thrice) ; they conclude presently from this discourse, that the Academie would banish the word *Car*, and although

\* for.

it



it never had the least thought of it, they made a thousand jests upon it, and this was the Subject of that handsome Letter of *Voiture's*, which begins *Mademoiselle, Car estant d'une si grand consideration en nostre langue, &c.*

The Academie shewed its judgment, in that placing its self above calumny it did not vouchsafe to be moved at all the writings which were made against it: at the very beginning and before it saw any of them, it had as twere resolved, not to make any answer to whatsoever should be said concerning it. And lest that any particular person should undertake it of his own head, there was an expresse article put into the *Statutes*, which forbids all of the Body to meddle in it, without leave and without a publique consultation about it.

The Academies of *Italy* seem to have gone much farther, and to have resolved not onely to contemne, but even to forestall and (as I may so say,) outbrave Calumny, having given themselves most injurious names. Thus the Academie *de gli Intronati*, if you search the originall of the word, signifies the Academie of *Dullards* or *Blockheads*, for *intronato* does properly signifie a man whom the noise of hunder hath stunned and deprived of his witts: and many others of thole Academies hat arose afterwards, in imitation of that, took not to themselves more honourable names.



THE  
SECOND  
PART, wher-  
in is treated of  
the Statutes of  
the French  
Academie.

BUT 'tis time to come to my second part, which shall be much shorter then the first, wherein I must entertain you with the Statutes of the FRENCH ACADEMIE, and withall of the dayes, places, and forme of its Assemblies.

I have read elsewhere with pleasure, that the same Academie *degl' Intronati* of *Sienna* which I was but now speaking of, thought it enough at its birth to establish these six fundamentall Lawes very short.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>Orare.</i>               | 1. To pray.                                  |
| 2. <i>Studere.</i>             | 2. To study.                                 |
| 3. <i>Gaudere.</i>             | 3. To be merry.                              |
| 4. <i>Neminem ledere.</i>      | 4. To wrong no body.                         |
| 5. <i>Non temerè credere.</i>  | 5. To believe nothing rashly.                |
| 6. <i>De mundo non curare.</i> | 6. Not to trouble themselves with the world. |

Perhaps afterwards and in time, they added new Lawes to these first, but however very certain it is, that according as a Company increases, and is composed of a greater number of persons, which have not all the same Genius or inclination, and which must by death make roome for others, 'twill have need of a greater number of Statutes to avoyd confusion and disorder.

Those



Those of the FRENCH ACADEMIE, contained 5. Articles, written in such a Style as Lawes should be, perspicuous, brief and plain, without any affectation of Argument.

I shall report onely some of the principal passing by the rest, whereof there have been many expressly changed, by a consultation of the whole Body or tacitely abrogated by custome as it alwayes happens and will do continually, in all humane Societies.

By these Statutes, the Academie was to have a *Seal*, to seal in blue wax all the Acts made by its Order. Upon this Seal was to be graven the Image of its Founder, with these words, ARMAND CARDINAL DUKE DE RICHELIEU, PROTECTOR OF THE FRENCH ACADEMIE, ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR. 1635.

It was also to have a *Counter-seale*, where was to be represented a crown of Laurell, with these words, *Al'immortalité*. It was to have 3. Officers, a *Director*, a *Chancellor*, a *Secretary*, and besides a *Stationer*.

The Office of the *Director* is to preside in Assemblies, to see that good order be kept there with all exactnesse and civility possible, and as it ought to be amongst equals; 'tis the very expression in the Statutes.

He is to gather the Votes, according to the rank that the Academiciens chance to sit



in, beginning with his right hand man, and giving his own vote last, after the two Officers, as they after the rest of the Assembly.

The Office of the *Chancellor*, is to keep the seales, and to seal all the Acts made by the order of the *Academie*.

The Office of the *Secretary* is to write the resolutions and to register them, to signe all the Acts, to keep all the evidences and all the papers of the *Academie*, and to make Certificats for those of the Body, that have need of a Testimony that they are of it. He is also to write the *Academies* Letters, & here you must observe by the way that it wrote two sorts of Letters. Sometimes the whole Company speaks in the Letters, & there its signed thus, for example, *Your most humble servants. CONRART, Secretary to the French Academie.* Sometimes the *Secretary* onely speaks in the name of the whole † Body, and then he subscribes his own name, as it were his own private business, saying that as he writes for a society, he is more reserved in the termes of the Subscription of his Letters.

In the absence of the *Director*, the *Chancellor* presides at meetings, and in both their absences, the *Secretary*.

The *Secretary* is perpetuall and for life, but the *Director* and the *Chancellor* are to be changed every two months, yet sometimes this terme is prolonged by a Common consent, upon divers occasions. *Monfieur de Serizay*, and *Monfieur Desmarests,*

† In this or the like forme.  
The *Academie* hath appointed me to write to you.



*maiests*, who were the two. that bore those Offices, at the beginning of the Academie, held them even to its compleate establishment, that is, neer upon 4. yeares, from the 13th. of *March* 1634. to the 11th. of *January* 1638. although during this space of time they did very often beleech the Company to appoint them successors. I do not find in the Registers any prolongations so large, but many lesse, as for four months, six months, and a who'e year.

The *Stationer* of the Academie is also perpetuall, though he be received upon this condition *so long as the Company shall thinke fit*, which signifies onely that it shall be free to take another if it please. His charge is to be at the Assemblies of the Academie as often as he can, to receive its Orders, and to print its works, and those of particular Academiciens; which shall be examined by it, and to whom it shall give a Certificat of its approbation. The Statute, (which neverthelesse they begin to dispense with, of late,) saies, that tis to those works only to which 'tis permitted to subscribe, *By such a one of the French Academie*. And that they may not be printed by any other Stationer but he; who is bound to change nothing in it after the approbation of the Academie, to which for his end he takes an oath at his first admission to his charge.

The *Director* and the *Chancellor* are to be chosen by lot after this manner. They take



as many white Balls as there be Academic-  
ciens in *Paris*: amongst which there are  
two, whereof one is marked with two black  
specks, and the other with one; all these  
Balls are put together into a box, each of  
the Academiciens present take one; there  
are some also taken for all the rest that are at  
*Paris*, although they be not then present in  
the Assembly: He that has the Ball marked  
with one Black speck, is *Director*: he that has  
that which is marked with two black specks  
is *Chancellor*. And though the lot falls up-  
on the *Secretary* for one of these Offices, he  
may hold it, as I find in the Registers, and it  
is not Incompatible with his own. It is  
observed as a *Caprichio* of fortune, that  
from the very beginning of the Academie  
to this present, Monsieur *Chapelain*, who  
is without question one of the most confi-  
derable persons of the Company, was ne-  
ver yet *Director* nor *Chancellor*.

As for the Office of *Secretary*; No  
man can have it but by the suffrages of the  
Academiciens, Assembled to the number  
of twenty at the least.

The same number of twenty is requisite  
for the Election or for the Ejection of an  
Academicien. These Elections and Ejecti-  
ons are done by white and Black balls:  
For an Election, the Number of the  
white must be four more then the black:  
For an Ejection there must be 4. black ones  
more then the white. There is an Article,  
by which no man can be chosen that is not  
approved by the Protector. Wherefore  
when

Reg. July 7.

1641.

Decem. 1. 1642

Aug. 25. 1644.



when there is a place voyd in the Academie, they proceed in this manner. The *Director* most commonly or some other of the Academiciens propounds him that is presented to fill it; or if there be more of them, they are all propounded together. Then they appoint some one of the Company to know whether the *Protector* be pleased, that they consult about the reception of him or them, and after that he has given his consent, to proceed to Election by Balls, the next meeting. I find in the Register that the Academiciens which are at *Paris* and are sick, may send their Suffrages in writing, to the Company. Reg. May 10.  
1652.

When an Academicien is admitted, the Statutes must be read to him, which he is exhorted to keep; and the act of his admission must be Registered.

In all other things but these Elections, they must give their votes *clarâ voce* aloud; and this must be done without interruption or jealousy, without reproving in choler or contempt the opinion of any one, without saying any thing more then necessary, and without repeating what hath been said. The determinations are referred to other succeeding meetings; I find in the Registers that sometimes the decision has been referred to the *Protector*; as for example, being troubled to know whether they should make a Funerall Oration for the *Cardinall de Richelieu* in publick or in private, and the Company being not able



able to agree about it, they referred themselves concerning it to the Lord *Chancellor*.

These Statutes conteine many things touching the employment of the *Academie*, of which I shall have occasion to speak elsewhere: onely I observe there, that matters of Religion are forbid, and that if they examine any Theologicall writings, it must be onely for the termes and form of them. That for Politicall and morall matters, tis sayd that they shall not there be handled, but with conformity to the Authority of the Prince, and to the State of Government, and to the Lawes of the Realm. Those which are not of the *Academie*, may not be admitted into Assemblies Ordinary or Extraordinary upon any pretence whatsoever; and when any one desires to present a book to the Company, or give it any other Complement, all the advantage he hath, is, to be brought into the place of the Assembly to be heard, and to receive the thanks which they return him, without being present afterwards at that dayes Conference. The *Academiens*, which cannot be present at the Assemblies, are bound to send their excuse, and this was exactly observed a while. Now if any one does absolutely neglect to be present there, it is the custome, that if in case, he want a Certificate that he is of the *Academie*, or any other the like act, it may be denyed him.

If



If any Academicien commit any faule unworthy a man of honour, he may be either expelled, as I said before, or interdicted for some time, according to the Importance of his fault.

This law will seeme to you at first sight to presage ill, and you will say perhaps, here was no need of one to this purpose in the Academie, no more then in the Common wealth of *Athens*, against parricides; but that which hapen'd since, which I will tell you elsewhere, will shew you that this providence was not altogether unprofitable.

To debate upon the publishing of any work of the Academies, there must be twenty at the least, which number the Statutes require, in all affaires of any great consequence. But to give approbation of any particular mans worke tis sufficient if there be twelve, under which number there can be nothing resolved either in this, or any thing else. This approbation of the Academie must be engrossed in parchment, signed by the Secretary, and sealed with the Academies Seale; it must be plaine and without commendation, according to a constant form. It is forbidden to be printed before the book; but they may put this into the Title, as I told you before; *By such an one of the French Academie.* There are many good rules to this purpose, but the difficulties and



and delays, which are mett with in obtaining this kind of approbation, are the cause that the Academiciens never look after them.

To conclude, I will add only two Articles of the Statutes. The first, by which the Academie imposes this law upon it self, to judge onely of the works of those of its Body; With this clause, That if, for any Important reason it find self obliged to examine any other, it shall plainly declare its opinion, without either censure or approbation.

The other Article, is, that which I spake to you of before, and which seems to me so judicious; by which 'tis forbidden any private member to write any thing of his own head in defence of the Academie, without having thereto obtained leave of the Company assembled to the number of twenty at least.

SUCH ARE the Statutes of the FRENCH ACADEMIE: add we now one word of the daies, places, and forme of their Assemblies.

The dayes of these Assemblies have changed very often, they were at first every *Monday* after dinner, as it appears by one of the articles of the Statutes. Afterward, I know not for what reason, they chose *Tuesday* instead of *Monday*, to which neverthelesse a while after they returned. And yet afterwards when the Lord Chancellor was made Protector of the

Article 17.  
Reg. December  
21. 1637.  
Reg. March  
20. 1638.



he Academie upon a desire of it in his name, and to the end that he might be the more often present at the Assemblies, they changed it to *Saturday*, and presently after to *Tuesday*. There have been divers other Changes of the day which 'tis of no importance to observe, 'tis sufficient that you know that the Academie must assemble regularly one afternoon every week; and if the Ordinary-Day chance to be a Holy-Day they take another, and most commonly that which goes before or that which follows. But if there be any thing extraordinary in hand, they meet extraordinarily, as when 'twas debated about making the *Platforme*, or the *Statutes* of the Academie, and the *sentiments on the Cid*. And when they desired to hasten the business of the *Dictionary*, they mett severall dayes and at severall places, as you shall see anon. Even now, when I write this, they assemble twice a week, *Wednesday* and *Saturday*, on purpose to forward his work, and to repaire the time that's lost. The Academie hath commonly its Vacations about the end of *August*, which last till *St. Martin's day*. But this has no certain rule, nor is there any article in the statutes concerning it.

THE PLACE of the Assemblies hath changed oftener then the Day. For to say nothing of those which were at the beginning at Monsieur *Conrarts* house, bewixt that small number of friends, I find that they have been since held in severall places.

Reg. December  
14. 1643.

Reg. December  
27. 1643.

Reg. August

25. 1644.

Reg. July 1638

and elsewhere



March 13. 1634. places. At Monsieur *Desmarests* in *Cl*  
*cheperce-Street*, at the *Hostel de Pelu*  
 Octo 30. 1634. at M. *Chapelaine's*, in *Cinq Diamans-Str*  
 April the last 1635. at M. *de Montmor's* in *St. Avoye-Street*, a  
 July 9. 1635. ter which they came again to M. *Chap*  
 Decem. 3. 1635. *lains*, and after that to M. *Desmarests*: since  
 Decemb. 24. 1635. all these, they mett at M. *de Gomberville*  
 June 16. 1636. near *St. Gervais Church*: at M. *Conrart*  
 May. 3. 1638. in *St. Martins Street*, at M. *de Cerisy's*, a  
 June 14. 1638. *Sequier Hostel*: at M. the *Abbot's de Bois*  
*robert*, at the *Hostel de Mellusine*.

Feb. 16. 1643.

These frequent changes of place pro-  
 ceeded sometimes from the sicknesse or  
 absence, and sometimes from the businesse  
 of those Gentlemen, who had lent them  
 their houses. But at last, in the year 1643  
 Feb. 16. after the death of *Cardinall de*  
*Richelieu*, The Lord Chancellor sent word  
 to the Company, that he desired they  
 would for the time to come meet at his  
 house: as they have done ever since. And  
 truly when I consider the various retreats  
 which this Company had for almost ten  
 yeares, sometimes at one end of the City,  
 sometimes at another, till the time of this  
 new Protector: me thinks I see the Poets  
*Island, Delos*, Errant and floting untill the  
 birth of its *Apollo*. In earnest, it would  
 make a man wonder that the *Cardinall*  
*de Richelieu*, who founded it did not take  
 a little more care to furnish it with a con-  
 stant place of meeting. If that be true  
 which the Lawyers say, that *Temples, Pala-*  
*ces, Theaters*, and in a word, all publick  
 places



places are as 'twere so many strong bonds of civill society, which tye and unite us streightly to one another; he could not doubt but that a certain place assigned to the Academie, and common to all that were of it, would in some sort strengthen this sweet society, and contribute much to its duration. And if otherwise he thought in all things the greatnesse and immortality of his name, the very terme *Academie* might seeme to hint to him, that the small expence in a businesse of his nature, would make him more talked of hereafter, then a thousand other stately Edifices. For, pardon me that I make this digression, how many Kings and great men have there been, of whom we are Ignorant whether they ever had a being, who nevertheless have founded Temples & magnifique places? *Academus* on the other side was onely a petty burges of *Athens*, yet was pleased to bestow upon the Philosophers of his time, a garden of some Acres of ground; in the suburbs of that famous City; This place was called the *Academie*, from whence comes that word so well known at this day over the whole world, which will make the name and memory of his *Hero* live for ever; So the Greek history positively calls him, though we do not find that he ever did any thing else that was remarkable.

All these things, which the Cardinall was not Ignorant of, would make one believe

\*NOTE



believe what divers have sayd, that having long intended to build in the Horse-Market, neer the gate of Saint *Honorè*, a great *Piazza*, which he would have called *Ducale* or the Dukes place, in imitation of the *Royall*, which is at the other end of the City, he would there have set apart some convenient lodgings for the Academy, and that he would have endowed it with some revenues; but that this design and many others which he reserved for more calm and quiet times, was interrupted by his death.

AS for the *form* of the Academies meetings, tis thus. In winter they are in an upper, in summer in a lower roome of *Se-guier Hostel*: and without much ceremony, they sit round a table; the *Director* on that side next the Chimny: the *Chancellor* and *Secretary* at each hand of him, and all the rest as fortune, or Common civility rankes them. The *Director* presides. The *Secretary* keeps the Register: This *Register* is at other times kept very exactly from day to day; but at present, the businesse of the *Dictionary* being the sole employment of the Academie, tis kept only in those meetings, where there happens any thing extraordinary and important. When the *Protector* is present, he sits in the place of the *Director*, who, with the other two officers, sit at his left hand. He gathers the votes and pronounces the resolutions, as the *Director* uses to do. The  
*Cardinal*



Cardinall was never there; but the Lord  
 Chancellor is often present, and does all  
 that I told you but now. That which is  
 most remarkable is, that he honoured this  
 company with his presence, not onely  
 in his leisure and when free from businesse;  
 but many others that never study but when  
 they have nothing else to do: but even  
 when he was most in favour, and had the  
 greatest Employments. I find particularly  
 in the Registers that he was present there  
 the 19th. of December 1643. after he was  
 made Protector, and the 20th. of Aprill  
 1651. a little after that the Seales were  
 delivered to him, which had been given  
 Monsieur d'Chasteanneuf. That even then  
 he propounded to meet twice a week, to  
 forward the businesse of the *Dictionarie*,  
 as I told you, which they do even to this  
 day. They give him also this Testimony,  
 that at these meetings tis not possible to use  
 him with more civility then he does all the  
 Academiciens; and that he presides with  
 the same familiarity, that any one amongst  
 them could do, even to the taking pleasure  
 in being stoppt, and interrupted, and for-  
 bidding even those very Gentlemen that  
 are his Domestiques, to call him *My*  
*Lord*.

Reg. Decem<sup>r</sup>  
 19. 1643.  
 Reg. April  
 10. 1651.

COME NOW to the Employments of  
 the Academie since its Institution: You  
 will find in its project, that it intended to give  
 not onely rules but also examples and to  
 examine its own writings very strictly that

THE THIRD  
 PART, what  
 the Academie  
 has done since  
 its Institution.



Reg. January  
2. 1635.

it might first arrive at that perfection, to which it desired to direct others. Therefore after the design of a *Dictionary, Grammar, Rhetorique, and Poetique*, on the second day of *January 1635*, even before the Letters of its Establishment were sealed, they made by lot with Balls, a Catalogue of the Academiciens, and made an order that each of them in his turne, should be bound to make a discourse upon what subject, and of what length he pleased; that there should be one of them every week, beginning at the first of *February* next, that those which distrusted their memories, might read what they had made; that those which were absent should be lent unto, to the end that if they could not come to pronounce their own discourses themselves, they should send them. But the fantasticalnesse of Fortune having cast the first places upon some that were absent, or were not in a condition to apply themselves to these exercises, they changed the order of the Catalogue and put into their places some other Academiciens that were present, and seemed to have most inclination to it. Thus instead of Monsieur *Maynard*, who was the first upon the rolle, they put Monsieur *du Chastelet*; in the place of Monsieur *de l'Estoile*, who was second, Monsieur *de Bourzey*; in the place of Monsieur *Bardin* who was the third, Monsieur *Godeau* now Bp of *Grasse*; and in the place of Monsieur *de Colomby*, who was the sixth, Monsieur



le Gombaud. There were twenty of these discourſes pronounced one after another in the Academie.

The firſt was Monsieur du Chastelet's Feb. 5. 1639. concerning the French Eloquence.

The ſecond Monsieur de Bourzeys, concerning the deſign of the Academie and the different Genius of languages. Feb. 12. 1639.

'Tis very this discourſe, which our Common friend Monsieur de Saint-Alby, who ſome time ago promiſed us a relation of what has been of the Academie della Cruſca, ſince for ſo many years had a Copie of, without knowing the Author of it, who in my judgment is none of the leaſt.

The third was Monsieur Godeau's Feb. 23. 1639. concerning the firſt Eloquence.

The fourth was Monsieur de Boisrobert's, In defence of Stage-playes. Feb. 26. 1639.

The fifth Monsieur de Montmor's Maſter March 5. 1639. Requests, Of the uſefulneſſe of conferences.

The ſixth Monsieur Gombaud, upon I March 12. 1639. what is not what. March 19.

The ſeventh was Monsieur de la Champeille's 1635.

That the French are of all nations the moſt capable of perfect Eloquence.

The Eighth Monsieur Porcheres Langiers April the laſt 1635. in praife of the Academie, its Proceedings and the members of it.

The ninth Monsieur de Gomberville's, May 7. 1635. when ever any age hath produced an eminent Hero, there have been alſo found ſome that are able to commend him.



May 14, 1635.

The tenth was, Monsieur de l'Estoill'es, Of the excellence of Poetry, and the scarcity of complete Poets. Where amongst other things he declaimes very handsomely against the servilenesse of Ryme, and revenges himself of all the mischief he suffer'd by it.

May 21, 1635.

The eleventh was, Monsieur Bardin's, Of a Philosophical Style where he endeavour'd to shew that Philosophy, according to its severall subjects, is capable of all sorts of Eloquence; and that especially there is no necessity of those barbarous termes with which the Schoolemen have perplexed it; and to give an example of it, he explains in very pure and natural language two of the subtlest Problems in metaphyicks: That there is something which is more then all, and something that is lesse then nothing. By the first he meanes God: and by the second, Sin. He pronounced this Discour'e, which indeed is a very fine one, eight dayes before his death.

July 9, 1635.

The twelfth was, Monsieur de Racan's, Against the Sciences, which was printed a little while since, with some of his Poems. Being absent, he sent it from his house to the Academie: It was read by Monsieur de Serizay.

July 23, 1635

The thirteenth was, Monsieur de Porcheres Langier's, Of the differences and consistencies which are betwixt Love and Friendship.

The fourteenth was, Monsieur Chappain's, Against Love, where by ingenio

reason



Reasons, whose grounds are not without solidity, he labours to take away from this passion, that Divinity which is attributed to it by the Poets.

The fifteenth, Monsieur *Desmarests*, Of the love of *Soules*, where he undertakes to shew that if the love which Monsieur *Chapelain* spoke of, ought to be blamed and condemned, this is not onely to be esteemed, but besides, has something of Divinity in it.

The sixteenth was, Monsieur *de Boissat* Of the love of *Bodies*, were by naturall reasons taken from Sympathies and Antipathies, and the conduct of the world, he would shew that the love of *Bodies* is no lesse Divine then that of *Soules*.

The seventeenth, was sent by the late Monsieur *de Meziriac* and read in the Assembly by Monsieur *de Vangelas*: The title of it is *Of Translating*. In this discourse the Author who was esteemed very learned, and especially in the Greek, after he had extolled the wit, paines and Style of *Amiot* in his translation of *Plutarch*, and as it seems with a great deal of ingenuity, pretends to shew that in divers passages which he had taken notice of even to two thousand, this Grand Translator hath committed very grosse faults, of divers kinds, whereof he gives some examples. I have been told that all the rest of his *Observations*, together with his own new *Translation of Plutarch*, are in the hands



of *Madame de Meziriac* his widow, and likely to be published very shortly. When they are, we shall be better able to judge whether his pretensions be true or no; but if it be so, I know not whether this example ought more to deter or encourage those that addict themselves to translate: for if on the one side, 'tis a sad case, that so excellent a man as *Amiot*, after all the time and paines, which every one knows, he bestow'd upon this work, could not avoyd slipping in two thousands places, on the other side, 'tis a great Comfort, that maugre these 2000. faults, he has, by a greater number of places in which he has hitt right, not fail'd of acquiring to himself an immortall reputation. But I return to the Discourses pronounced in the Academie. The three last, to make up twenty, are, that of Monsieur *Colletet*; *Of imitating the Ancients*.

That of Monsieur the *Abbot of Cerisy*, *Against the plurality of languages*.

And that of Monsieur *Porcheres d'Arband*, *Of the love of the Sciences*.

These discourses were pronounced every week, unlesse those that were to make them had a lawful excuse, or there interven'd some other kind of businesse. They delivered them afterwards to two or three Academiciens appointed by the Assembly, who were to make an exact report of them. But because this examination took up too much time, and was the whole businesse of



of the Conferences: 'twas resolv'd that these Commissioners might proceed further to things in which they were agree'd, without reporting to the Company any but the most important, and such wherein they disagreed.

I find that three Academiciens fail'd to make these kind of discouries in their turns, though they were very able to do so.

First *Monsieur de Serizy*, who desired the Company to consent that *Monsieur Porcheres Lugier* might make a speech in his stead and that's the reason you will find in the Catalogue I gave you two discouries of this Academicien's: The first in the place of *Monsieur de Serizy*, and the second in his own.

Reg. April ult.  
1635.

*Monsieur de Balzac*, as it appears by one of his printed Letters, did onely send to *Monsieur de Chastellet* some of his works, desiring him to read them in the Academie, and to accompany them with something of his own, which may serve (said he) both for the thanks and speech which he owed it.

'Tis at the of the second part, 4th. book and sixth Letter.

*M. de S. Amant* too desired and had leave to be exempted, on condition he should collect, as he himself offer'd, the *Comical* part of the *Dictionary*, and the *Grotesque* terms, that is to say as we call them now a days *Burlesque*; but the word *Burlesque* which has been a long time in Italy had not yet pass'd the mountains, and *Monsieur*

Reg. December 14. 1637.



*Menage* observes very well in his *Origines*, that it was first used by Monsieur *Sarrazin*, a long while after. Then we may say that it not onely passed in *France*, but that it has overrun it, and made strange havock there. Is it not plain that for these last yeares we have played at this game, where he that wins, loses? and is it not the opinion of most men, that to write well in this kind, 'tis sufficient to speake things that have neither sense nor reason. Every one thinks himself able enough for it, of what sex soever, from the Ladies and Lords at Court to the Chambermaidens and Pages. This madnesse of *Burlesque*, which at last we begin to be cured of, went so far, that the Stationers would meddle with nothing that had not his name in the front; that whether out of ignorance, or the better to put off their wares, they fixt it upon things that were the most serious, provided onely that they were short verses: whence it was that in the time of the war at *Paris* in 1639. they printed a piece, bad enough in deed, but yet serious, with this title, which strook with horror all those that read no more of it, *The Passion of our Lord in Burlesque verses*, and the learned Monsieur *Mandans*, who doubtlesse was of this number, reckons it amongst the *Burlesque*-books of our times.

I beg your pardon for this digression, which a just anger against this unufferable  
abuse



abuse drew from me. To returne to my subject; The Academie spent all the time of its Conferences in hearing or examining these Discourses. This employment was very well liked by some of the Academiciens, but most of them were not well pleas'd with an exercise, which when all is done, wa too like the declamations of young boyes; and the Cardinall also exprest that he look'd for something greater and of more solidity from such a Society. They began to talk of the *Dictionary* and the *Grammer*, when Fortune threw another work upon the Academie, which they little expected.

AS many times one man that is of great Eminence, is able to lead the Dance to a whole Kingdom; that great love which the Cardinall bore to Dramatique Poems, had at this time raised them amongst the French, to the highest pitch that they ever were at. All, that found they had any Genius that way, failed not to labour for the Stage. 'Twas the onely meanes to get access to the Grandees, and to be favoured by the prime Minister of State, who scarce liked any of the divertisments of the Court, but that. 'Twill not be amisse ere I passe farther to let you know how much he was addicted to it. He was not on-ly present with much delight at all new Comedies, but took pleasure a'so to conferr with the poets, to see their *design* in its birth, and to furnish them himself with plots. And  
if



if he knew any good wit that of himself had no great inclination to travaile in this kind, He would inensibly engage him in it, with all manner of care and good usage. Thus seeing that Monsieur *Desmarests* was very averie from it, he desired he would at least invent a plot for a Comedie, which he would get somebody else, he said, to make up. Monsieur *Desmarests* brought him four, presently after; That of *Aspasia*, which was one of them, pleased him infinitely, but after he had given him a thousand Commendations, he added, *That he onely that was able to invent it, would be able to handle it worthily.* And obliged Monsieur *Desmarests* to make him the like every year. And when he thought to excuse himself with being employ'd about his Heroique Poem of *Clovis*, of which he had already made two books, it ayiming at the glory of France, and even of the Cardinall himself; the Cardinall answered that he had rather enjoy the fruits of his Poetry, as much as 'twas possible, and that believing he should not live to see the end of so long a work, he conjur'd him for his sake to busy himself in making Playes, wherewith he might refresh himself with pleasure from the wearinesse of greater affaires. By this meanes he got him to compose the inimitable Comedie *Des Visionnaires* [or the *Fanaricks*] the Tragicomedie of *Scipio*, that of *Roxana*, *Mirame* and *Europa*. 'Tis true indeed that part of the plot



plot and humors of *Mirame* were his own  
and hence 'twas, that he exprest a Fatherly  
tenderesse of this piece, the repre-  
sentation whereof flood him in two or three  
thousand crowns, and for which he caus'd  
that great Hall of his Palaceto be built,  
which still serves for these Shews. And  
no question but he himself invented the  
plots of the three other Comedies namely,  
*The Tuilleries*, *The blind man of Smyrna*,  
and *The Grand Pastorall*. In this last there  
were at least five hundred verses of his  
own making, but it was not printed as the  
other two were: the reason was this.  
When he had a design to publish it, he de-  
sired that Monsieur *Chapelain* should re-  
veiw it, and make exact observations upon  
it. These observations were brought to  
him by Monsieur *de Boisrobert*, and though  
they were written with very much discreti-  
on and respect, so vext and nettled him,  
whether for their number, or for the know-  
ledge they gave him of his faults, that be-  
fore he had read them through, he tore  
them in pieces. But the night following  
as he was in bed, and all the house asleep,  
having considered of the Choler he had  
betray'd, he did a thing incomparably  
more to be esteem'd then the best Come-  
die in the world, 'twas that he yeilded him-  
self to reason, for he commanded the torna-  
peices of this paper to be gather'd up, and  
layd together again, and after he had  
read it from one end to the other, and  
made



made deep reflexion upon it, he sent to have Monsieur de Boisrobert waked to tell him, that he perceived well that the Gentlemen of the Academie understood these matters better then he, and he must talk no more of having this printed. He caused to be made the verses of those pieces (which were then called *The pieces of the five Authors*) by five severall persons, distributing to each an Act, and by this meanes finishing a Comedie in one month. These five persons were *M. de Boisrobert, Corneille, Colletet, de l'Estoille, de Rotrou*, on whom, besides the Ordinary pension he gave them, he bestowed considerable gratuities, when they writt nobly according to his minde. Thus *M. Colletet* has assur'd me, that when he carryed to him, *The Monologue of the Tuilleries*, he stopt particularly upon two verses of the description of the square Fish-pond, at this passage.

*La cane s'humecter de la bource de l'eau.  
D'une voix enrouée, d'un battement  
d'aïlle.*

*Animer le canard qui languit auprès d'elle.*

And that after he had heard all the rest, he gave him with his own hand fifty pistoles, with these obliging words, *That 'twas onely for these two verses which he found so excellent; and that the King himself was not rich enough to reward him for all the rest.* *M. Colletet* told me one thing more which was



was very pleasant. In that passage which I related to you just now, instead of *La cane s<sup>h</sup>umecteur de la bourbe de l'eau*, the Cardinall would perswade him to put in, *barbotter dans la bourbe de l'eau*. He desired to be excused, as conceiving that word too low: and not content with what he then said, when he was returned to his lodging, he wrote a Letter to him about it, perhaps that he might speak of it with the more freedome. The Cardinall had newly read it, when there came in some of his Courtiers, who complementing to him about some of his Majesties happy successes in the wars, told him, *That nothing was able to withstand his Eminence: You'r deceived,* answers he laughing, *for I find even here in Paris those that withstand me.* And when they asked him, who those were that durst be so audacious, *Colletet,* sayes he, *for having quarrel'd with me yesterday about a word, he will not yeild it, but has even now written me a large Letter here, about it.* He made afterwards those Comedies of the five Authous, be acted before the King and the whole Court, the Stage being very magnificently adorned. These Gentlemen had a seat by themselves in one of the most convenient places, they even named them somtimes with praise, as at the acting of *the Tuilleries*, in a Prologue made in prose, where among other things the invention of the plot was attributed to *M. Chapelain*, who yet did onely mend it in  
some



some place; but the Cardinall desired him to lend him his name in this occasion, adding, *that in recompence he would lend him his purse in any other.* It was about this time that *M. Corneille*; who was looked upon till then, as one of the chiefest in that kind of writing, having let his *Cid* be acted, was placed, at least in the common opinion, infinitely above all others. 'Tis hardly imaginable with what approbation this piece was received by the Court, and by the publique. They were never weary with seeing it, they talked of nothing else in Company, every body could say some part of it by heart, they made their Children learn it, and in many places of *France*, it went for a proverb, to say, *Tis as brave as the Cid.* It need not be asked, whether the glory of this Author raised jealousy in his Concuents: many would persuade us, that the Cardinall himself was not free from it, and that (though he esteemed *M. Corneille* very much, and gave him a pension) he was vexed, to see, that other pieces of this nature, and especially those wherein he had any hand, were quite discredited by this. For my part, without examining, whether this Soul as great as it was, were capable of this weaknesse, I shall faithfully report what passed in this businesse, leaving every one to believe what he pleases of it, and to follow his own conjectures.

Amongst



Amongst those that could not endure the approbation that was given to *The Cid* and that believed it did not deserve it, *Monsieur de Scudery* appeared the first, in publishing his *observations* against it, whether for his own satisfaction, or as some say, to please the Cardinall, or for both together. Whatsoever the reason were, most certain it is, that in this difference which divided the whole Court, the Cardinall seemed to incline to *M. de Scudery's* side, and was well pleased that he dedicated it, as he did, to the *French Academie*, to refer himself in it to their judgment. One may well enough perceive the Cardinalls desire, which was that it should declare in this businesse. But the most judicious of this body exprest very much repugnance to this design. They said, That the *Academie*, which was but newly born, ought not by any meanes to render it self odious, by a judgment, which would perhaps displeas both parties, and could not choose but disoblige one of them at the least, that is to say, a great part of France. That It was hardly borne with, out of a meere imagination which they had, that it pretended to a kind of Empire in the language; what would it be, if it should manifest that it affected it, and should go about to exercise it upon a work which has given content to a great number, and gained the approbation of the people; That it would moreover retard its principall design, the execution whereof must  
needs



needs of it self be but too slow. That lastly Monsieur Corneille, did not desire this judgment, and that by the Statutes of the Academie; and by the Patent of its foundation, it could not judge of any work without consent and approbation of the Author. But the Cardinall had this design in his head, and these reasons seemed to him very slight, saving the last, which might be taken away by the content of M. Corneille. For the erecting thereof, M. de Boisrobert, who was one of the chief friends, writ to him divers Letters, acquainting him with M. de Scudery's proposall to the Academie. He, who saw well enough, that after the glory which he had acquired, there was in all probability more to be lost then gotten by him at this dispute, kept himself upon the complement, and answer'd. That this Imployment was too low for the Academie. That a Libel, which deserv'd no answer at all, did not deserve its Judgment. That it would be of dangerous consequence, because it would authorize and encourage others to importune these Gentlemen, and that as soon as there should appear any thing handsome upon the Stage, presently the lesser Poets would think they had ground to commence a suit against the Author of it, before their Society. But at last, being pressed by M. de Boisrobert, who gave him sufficiently to understand the desire of his matter, after he had said in a Letter of the 13th. of June 1637. the words which I now related, he chanced



chance to add this, *The Gentlemen of the Academie may do what they please, since you tell me that my Lord will be well pleased to see their judgment of it, and that it must serve for a diversion to his Eminence. I have nothing to say against it.* There wanted nothing else, at least in the opinion of the Cardinall, to ground the Academies jurisdiction, who yet did still excuse themselves from undertaking this businessse: but at last he declared himself openly, saying to one of his domestiques, *Let those Gentlemen know that I desire it, and that I shall love them, according as they love me:* Then they perceived there was no way to avoyd it; and the Academie being assembled on the 16. of June 1637. after that they had read M. de Scudery's Letter to the Company; those which he had written to Monsieur Chapelain upon the same subject, and those which M. de Boisrobert had received from M. Corneille; after too that the same M. de Boisrobert had assured the company that the Cardinall was well pleased with his design: it was ordered that three Commissioners should be nominated to examine *the Cid, and the Observations against the Cid;* that this nomination should be according to the major part of voices by Bals, which should be seen by the secretary only; which was done accordingly; the three Commissioners were Monsieur Bourzey, M. Chapelain, and M. Desmarests. The task of these three Gentlemen was one to examine the body of the work

Reg. June  
16. 1637.



Reg. Janu.  
30. 1637.

in grosse; for as for that of the verses, 'twas resolved that it should be done in the Company. Monsieur de Cerisy, de Gombault, Baro, and l'Estoile, were onely charged to look upon them in private, and to report their observations on which the Academie having deliberated in severall conferences, Ordinary and Extraordinary, Monsieur Desmarests had order to put thereto the last hand. But for the examination of the work in grosse, the buhnesse was somewhat more difficult. M. Chapelain presented his notes first; 'twas ordered that M. Bourzy, and Desmarests should add theirs to them; and whether they were performed or no, whereof I find nothing in the Registers, so it is, that M. Chapelain made a Compleat body which was presented to the Cardinall in writing. I have with abundance of pleasure seen this manuscript, with Animadversions of the Cardinall in seven places, in Monsieur Citois's hand his chief Physitian. Yet there's one of these notes, whereof the first word is with his own hand, and there's another, which shews plainly, what his opinion was of the *Cid*. 'Tis at a passage where tis said, that Poetry would have been now a great deal lesse perfect then it is, were it not for the sonnets that are made about the works of the most famous Authors of the latter times, *The Jerusalem* of Tasso and *Pastor Fido*. At this passage he put in the margin, *The applause and the blaming of the* *Cid*.



*Cid* is onely betwixt the Learned and the Ignorant; whereas the Contests about the other two pieces have been betwixt men of judgment. Which shews that he was periwaded of that which was reproched to M. Corneille, that his work was not according to rule. The rest of these animadversions are not considerable, for they are onely some petty notes, as this, whereof the first word is written with his own hand, *Good*, but it might have been expressed better, and that other, *This example should be somewhat smother*. Whence yet, we may gather, he examined this work with very much care and attention. His judgment in brief was, that the substance of it was good, *But that there wanted*, (for in these termes he exprest himself,) *some handfulls of flowers to be sprinkled here and there*. But this was onely as twere the first draught, which they were willing to present to him, to know whether in grosse, he approved of their *Sentiments*. The work was then given to be polisht according to his intention, and by the deliberation of the Academie to M. de Serizay, Reg. July  
 de Cerizy, de Gombauld, and Sirmond. 17. 1637  
 Monsieur de Cerizy, as I am told, couch'd it in writting, and M. de Gombauld was nominated by the three others, and confirmed by the Academie, to have the last receiving of the Style. The whole was read and examined by the Company, in verall Assemblies Ordinary and Extraordinary,



Reg. July the  
last 1637.

dinary, and given at last to the Printer. The Cardinal was then at *Charonne*, whether they sent the first sheets to him; but they did not satisfy him in the least; and whether 'twere that he judged rightly of it, or that they took him in an ill humour, or that he was prejudic'd against *M. de Cerisy*, he found that they had past from one extrem to the other, that they had given it too many ornaments and flowers, and sent away presently in all haste, to tell them, that they should stop the printing of it. He sent then to have *M. de Serizay*, *Chapelain* and *Sirmond* come to him, that he might the better explain his meaning to them. *M. de Serizay* excused himself, for that he was ready to take horse to go into *Poictou*. The two others went. To hear them, he was pleased to be alone in his Chamber, except *M. de Baubru* whom he called for, as being of the Academie. He talked with them a long time, with all civility, standing and uncover'd. *M. de Chapelain* as he told me himself, endeavour'd to excuse *M. de Cerisy* the best he could. but he soon found that this man would not be contradicted. For he saw him grow hot and active. in so much that coming to him he took him by the bandstrings and held him so, a good while, as a man will do, not thinking of it, when he would speak home to another, whom he would convince of something. The conclusion was, that af-

ter



ter he had explained to the n in what manner he thought this work should have been written, he gave it in charge to M. *Sirmond*, who had indeed a very good Style, and that far from all affectation: But neither did M. *Sirmond* satifie him at all. Mon. *Chapelain* was therefore to resume all that had been done both by himself and others, out of which he composed the work such as now it is, which being approved by the company & the Cardinal, was publisht soon after, very little different from what it was at first, when 'twas presented to him in writing, saving that the matter here is a little more amplified, and some ornaments added.

Thus after about 5. moneths travaile, came forth THE SENTIMENTS OF THE FRENCH ACADEMIE UPON THE CID. In all which time this *Grand Minister* that had all the affairs of the Kingdom in his hands, and all those of Europe in his head, was not weary of this Design, nor gave any respite to his care for this work. It was diversly received by Monsieur de *Scudery*, Monsieur *Corneille*, and the *Publick*. As for M. *Scudery*, though his Adversary were not condemned in all things, and had received very great praises in many, he thought that he had gain'd the day, and writ a Letter of thanks to the Company with this title. *To the Gentlemen of the Illustrious Academie*, where he returned them thanks with a great deal of

Reg. Novem.  
23. 1637.



submission, both for what they had approved in his writings, and for what they had taught him in correcting him, and profest in conclusion, that he was entirely satisfied with the justice they had done him. The *Secretary* was commanded to write him an answer. The sense of it was, that he assur'd him, That the *Academie* had made it their *Principal* care to hold the ballance right, and not to make a matter of *Complement* or *Civility* of a serious businessse. But that their greatest care after this was, to expresse themselves with moderation, and to tell their reasons, without wronging any one. That they were well pleased with the justice he had done them, in acknowledging them just, that they would hereafter requite his equity; and that on all occasions, where it would be permitted them to be obliging, he should not faile of it. As for *M. Corneille*, though he would hardly have submitted to this judgment, yet being resolved to comply with the *Cardinall* herein, he exprest at the beginning that he attended the event of it with a great deale of deference. To this purpose he writ to *Monsieur de Boisrobert* in a Letter of the 15th. of *November* 1637. I expect with a great deal of impatience, the Sentiments of the *Academie*, that I may learn from hence forward what I must follow; till then, I cannot write but with distrust, nor dare I confidently make use of any word. And in another, of the third of *December*; I prepare my self



not to have any thing to answer to the Academie, but thanks. But when the sentiments upon the Cid, were almost quite printed, having understood by some meanes that this judgment would not be so favourable to him, as he hoped; he could not refrain from expressing some resentment of it, writing in another Letter of which I have seen onely a Copie without date or Subscription, *I am resolved, since you will have it so, to suffer myself to be condemned by your Illustrious Academie, if it meddles onely with one half of the Cid the other will remaine unto me whole and entire. But I beseech you to consider that it proceeds against me with so much violence, and that it makes use of so soveregin an Authority, to shut my mouth, that those who shall know its proceedings, will have reason to think that I should never have been found guilty if I might have been permitted to shew my Innocence.*

He complains afterwards as if they had denyed to hear the defence he would have made of his book *vivâ voce* and in the presence of his judges; whereof yet I have not found any footsteps, either in the Registers or in the memory of the Academiciens whom I have consulted.

He adds to this. *After all, behold what is my satisfaction! I assure myself this famous work, which so many gallant witts have been these six months intravaile with, may well be esteemed,*



the Sentiments or opinion of the French Academie, but perhaps 'twill never be the opinion of the rest of Paris; at least I have my sentence before them, and I know not whether they can expect theirs. I made the CID to divert myself, and for the divertisement of honest people that delight in Comedies. 'Tis a sufficient Testimony to me of the Excellency of my piece, that it has been so often acted, that there has been such an extraordinary concourse of people to see it, and such general acclamations given it. All the favour the Sentiment of the Academie can hope for, is to go as farr; I do not fear it will out go me, &c. And a little after, The Cid will alwayes be handsome, and will keep its reputation of being the best piece, that 'has appear'd upon the Stage, untill there comes another, which will not tire the Spectators, even at the 30th. time. &c.

At last, when he had seen the Sentiments of the Academie, I find that he writ a Letter to Monsieur de Boisrobert, Decemb. 22. 1637. in which after he had thanked him, for the care he had taken to let him taste the Cardinals bounty, namely in getting him his pension paid, & after he had given him some orders to have this mony kept for him at Roan, he said, Moreover, I beseech you to believe that I am not



at all angry that you have shoven, nay given, my Letter to the Gentlemen of the Academie. If I had desired it of you, I could blam onely my self; but if my memory faile me not, I think, I onely desired you in that Letter, to assure them of my most humble service, as I desire you would do still, notwithstanding their sentiments. All that troubles me, is that the Gentlemen of the Academie, having resolved to be judges in this Controversie, before they knew whether I would consent to it or no, and their sentiments being already in the presse, as you write me word, before you received that Testimony of mine, they have endeavoured to build their judgment thereupon, and make it be beleev'd, that what they have done therein, was onely to oblige me, and at my entreaty, &c. And a little after; I was resolved to answer them, because Ordinarily the silence of an Author that is written against, is taken for a sign that he sleights his censurers: I have thus used it towards Monsieur de Scudery; but I did not believe it would become me to do the same towards the Gentlemen of the Academie, and I was perswaded that so Illustrious a Body did well deserve, that I should render  
them



them an account of the reasons upon which I built the conduct & choise of my design, and therefore I should extre amly force my humor, which is not to write in this kind, and to divulge the secrets of my Art. I was confirmed in this resolution, by the assurance which you gave me, that my Lord would be well pleased with it, and I resolv'd in my self to addresse the epistle Dediatory to his Eminence, after I had first asked his leave. But now that you advise me not to answer any thing considering the persons that are engaged in it, I want no Interpreter to understand it. I am somewhat more a man of this world then Heliodore, who chose rather to lose his Bishoprick then his book, and do more prize the favour of my Master, then all the reputation upon earth: I will hold my Peace then, not out of contempt, but respect, &c. This Letter contained very much more to the same purpose, and at the bottom he added by way of postscript, I conjure you, not to shew my Letter to my Lord, if you think there hath escaped me any word which may be ill taken by his Eminence.

But as to that which is imply'd by this Letter, that the Academie had begun to make their Sentiments and even to print them,



them, before they had the consent of Monsieur *Corneille*, as *M. de Boisrobert* had write him word; I cannot tell what past between them, onely this that *M. de Boisrobert* might have told him, to oblige him perhaps with the lesse difficulty to consent to this judgment, as to a thing already resolved on, and begun, that his resistance could not hinder it. But I know very well by the Registers of the Academie, which are very faithfull and very exact at that time, that they began not to speak of *the Cid* till the 16. of *June* 1637. that this was after that they had there read a Letter of Monsieur *Corneille's*. That the first which I spake of, wherein he said, *The Gentlemen of the Academie may do what they please, &c.* is dated at *Roan* the 13th. of the same month. That thus it might have come to *Paris* and been shown to the Academie the 16th, and that lastly this work was not given to the Printer till about 5. Months after. Monsieur *Corneille* who has since been received into the Academie as well as Monsieur *Scudery*, with whom he is fully reconciled, did alwayes believe, that the Cardinall and another person of great quality raised this persecution against *the Cid*, witnesse these words which he writ to a friend of his and mine, at that time, when having publisht his *Horace* (another Tragedie) 'twas reported that they would make more observations and a new judgment upon this piece.

*Horace*



*Horace, saith he, was condemned by the Du-  
umviri, but he was absolved by the People.  
Witnesse also thole 4. verses which he  
made after the death of the Cardinall,  
whom he lookt upon in one respect as his  
Benefactor, and in another as his Ene-  
mie.*

*Qu'on parle mal ou bien du fameux Cardinal,  
Ma prose ni mes vers n'en diront jamais rien.  
Il m'a fait trop de bien pour en dire du mal.  
Il m'a fait trop de mal pour en dire du bien.*

*that is,*

*Talk well or ill o' th' famous Cardinall,  
But neither, from my prose or verse, shall fall.  
He did me too much good to speak him ill:  
He did me too much harm to speak him well.*

Such were the thoughts of the parties most interested, touching the work of the French Academie. The *Publick* received it with very much approbation and esteem. Even those that were of a contrary opinion, ceased not to commend it; and envy it self, that expected all this while when something of this Companies would come forth, that it might tear it in pieces, never meddled with this. For my part, I know not whether the famous Academies of *Italie*, ever produced any thing better, or so good, upon the like occasion. I make account in the first place, 'tis very  
much



much that without exceeding the bonds of justice, these Gentlemen could satisfy a *prime Favourite*, that had the whole power of *France* at his command, and he too, their *Protector*; who for certain, what ever were the cause of it, was incensed against *the Cid*. For I am sure he would have desired, that they should treat it more hardly, if they had not let him know, in their address, That a *Judge* ought not to speak as a *Party*, and that a man loses so much of his *Authority* as he betrays *Passion*. Again, if you examine this book seriously, you will find in it a very solid judgment, with which 'tis probable *Posterity* will rest satisfied, much learning and much wit without any affectation either of the one or the other; and from the beginning of it to the end, so much liberty and moderation both together, as can never be sufficiently commended. Moreover those that fancied to themselves that the Academie was a Company of strange Dispositions, that would do nothing but quarrell about syllables, and bring-in some new words and banish others, and in plain termes, weaken and wound the French Tongue, under pretence of reforming and polishing it: Those I say, to disabuse themselves, need onely read this piece where they 'll find a masculine & vigorous Style, the Elegance whereof hath nothing forced or strain'd; the terms choise, but without scruple and swelling; the word



Car and many others which they accus'd the Academie of intending to banish, very frequently used. Nay they'll see that it is so far from bringing in new words, that it has retain'd some which seem'd to be Antiquated, and which perhaps many men would have scrupled to use. Thus has it used the word *dautant* for *parce que* and *aucunement* instead of *en quelque sort*, which are now a dayes very rarely used in that sence. p. 185. *Dautant que les unes ont esté faites, devant les regles, &c.* p. 14. speaking of the Academie, & *s'est aucunement consolee, &c.* p. 89. *nous serions aucunement satisfaits* p. 113. *Rodrigue retourne chez Chimene non plus de nuict, que les tenebres favorisoient aucunement sa temerité, &c.*

AFTER that the Academie had done with *the Cid* they deliberated anew, what employment they should take. 'Twas resolv'd *The Discourses* should be continu'd, and that *Monsieur Sirmond* who was the first in order should be desired to bring his, which yet he did not till 6. months after, I never saw this discourse, nor could I learn the subject of it, which is not express'd in the Register. But the principal thoughts of the Academie at that time, were *The design of the Dictionary*, which was propounded to fall seriously upon *Monsieur de Vaugelas*, who long agoe had made many rare and curious observations upon the Tongue, offer'd them to the Company,

Reg. Decem.

7. 1637.

Reg. May 3.

1638.

Reg. Decem.

14. 1637.



Company, which accepted them and ordered that he should conferr about them with *Monsieur Chapelain*, and that they two together should bring in some notes for the platform, and carrying on of this work. *Monsieur de Vangelas* gave in his, which were very brief, and respected onely the body of the design, whereto he offered farther to contribute his *Remarques*, and he divided these *Remarques* into three sorts. The first, which belonged properly to the Dictionary, regarding onely simple words. The second for Construction, which belonged to the Grammer. The third consisting in certain Rules which could not properly be referred either to Dictionary or Grammer, because they respected neither *Barbarisme* nor *Solecisme*, the matters upon which Grammer and Dictionary imploy the whole extent of their jurisdiction, which nevertheless, said he, were most necessary for the purity, ornament, grace, elegance, and politenesse of Style, and by so much the more necessary, as there are fewer persons that know how to write without *Barbarisms*, and *Solecisms* from which a Style may be free, and yet be extreamply imperfect.

Reg. Decemb<sup>r</sup>

14. 1637.

Reg. Jann.

18. 1638.

As



As for *Monsieur Chapelain*; at the first establishment of the Academy, he had made a large project for a *Dictionary*, which had been seen by the Company. He presented it to them again, and because it descends much to particulars, & for that 'tis upon this very platform that even to this day they proceed in this work, perhaps it will not be besides the purpose, to relate here briefly the contents of it, as I promised elsewhere. This Project then said,

That the design of the *Academie* being to render the Language capable of the highest Eloquence, it would be needful to make two large Treatises, the one of Rhetorick, the other of *Poëtry*. But that to follow the order of nature, there should precede them a Grammar, which should furnish out the body of the Language, whereon are built ornaments of Oratory and the figures of *Poëtry*. That the Grammar should comprehend either the simple terms or the received phrases, or the constructions of words one to another. That so, in the first place, it would be necessary to make a *Dictionary*, which should be as were the Treasury, and Magazine of simple Terms, and received Phrases; after which for finishing the Grammar, there would remain only an exact Treatise to be



e made of all the Parts of Speech, & of all  
 be Constructions regular and irregular,  
 with the resolution of doubts that might oc-  
 cur upon that subject. That for the design  
 of the Dictionarie, there should be made a  
 selection of all deceased Authors, that have  
 written the purest in our language, and a  
 distribution of them to all the Academi-  
 cians, to the end that each of them read with  
 care, those which shall be allotted to him; and  
 that in several papers, he set down in an  
 alphabetical order, the wordes and phrases  
 which he shall beleive to be the best French,  
 quoting the passage from whence he takes  
 them. That these Papers be brought back to  
 the Company, who judging of these phrases  
 and words, may collect in a little time, the  
 whole body of the Language, and insert in  
 a Dictionary the passages of these Au-  
 thors, acknowledging them for Originals  
 of the things that shall be cited from them,  
 without acknowledging them for such  
 as others, which are tacitly disapprov'd of,  
 if they be not in the Dictionary. And be-  
 cause there may be phrases and words in  
 use, whereof examples may not be found in  
 good Authors, that in case the Academy ap-  
 prove of them, they may have a mark set  
 upon them, to shew that use hath  
 authorized them. That the Dictionary be  
 in one volume, but in two several parts,



First, in an alphabetical order, the simple words, whether Nouns or Verbs, or others that deserve the name of roots, which may have produced compounds, derivatives, diminutives, and which otherwise may have phrases that are grounded upon them. That in this part, after having put down each simple word with some mark, to signify what part of speech it is, there follow in order the compounds, derivatives, diminutives, and the phrases depending on them, with the authorities, which yet may be omitted for the simple words, as being out of doubt, and sufficiently known to every one. That thereto be added afterwards, the Latin interpretation for the good of Strangers. That the Masculine, Feminine, or Common gender of each word, be marked with some note. That there may be others to distinguish Poetical terms from those of Prose: and others to signify those of the lofty, ye mean, and the lowest kind of speech. That there be observed also the accents upon long syllables. That they mark also the differences of *e* when open, and when close for the pronuntiation. That they keep themselves to the received orthography, not to molest the common reading, nor hinder but that Books which have been printed formerly



ser.nerl; may be read with facility. That they should nevertheless endeavour to take away all superfluities that may be cut off without any harm. That in the second part all simple words or others, be set down without any distinction in an alphabetical Order, with a reference only to the Page of the great Dictionary; where they are explained, and where also may be marked also all the words and phrases out of use, with their explication, for the understanding of old Books, where they are found, with this notice, That these words or phrases belong to the Language, but must not be used any more. That, in conclusion, for the good of Strangers, one may yet, if one will, add a third part, only of simple Latine words, with a reference to the pages of the great Dictionary, where they may explain the French words. That they may, lest the volume be too big, leave out of the Dictionary all proper names of Seas, Rivers, Cities, Mountains, which are alike in all Languages, as also privat terms, which enter not into common traffick, and are only invented for the necessity of Trades and Professions, leaving to those that have a mind to it, the liberty to make distinct Dictionaries, for the profit of those that addict themselves



to those particular Knowledges.

This was the Project of the Dictionary, which Monsieur *Chapelain* made, and was approved of by the Academie. 'Tis true, that some time after, Monsieur *Silhon*, who was then *Director*, propounded whether it would not be better, that they might make an end of it quickly, to follow the Common Dictionaries, only adding therto what they should judg meet. But I do not find, that this Proposition, which was then put off to the next Assembly, was either received or so much as taken into consideration again. 'Tis true too, they have not punctually observ'd whatever is in this Project, as may be seen in that which respects the quotations. Yet 'twas resolv'd at first to follow the Project in that, and they began a Catalogue of the best reputed Books in our Tongue, to which they at several times added more according as they thought good. For Prose, *Amiot, Montagne, du Vair, Desportes, Charron, Bertaud, Marion, de la Guesle, Pibrac, d'Espeisses, Arnauld, le Catholicon, d'Espagne, The memoirs of Queen Margaret, Coiffeteau, du Perron, de Sales Bishop of Geneva, d'Urfé, de Molieres, Malherbe, du Plessis Mornay*, what ever is extant of *Monsieur Baudin's*, and of *Monsieur du Chastelet*, two Academicians that were lately dead, *Cardinal d'Offat, de la Nouë, de Dammartin, de Refuge & Audignier*; to which doubtlesse they would have added others, as *Bodin and Ste-*

ven,



*ven Pasquier*, which deserved not to be forgotten. For verie, they put into the Catalogue *Marot S. Gelais, Ronsard, du Bellay Belleau, du Bartas, Desportes, Bertaud, Cardinal Perron, Garnier, Regnier, Malherbe, Deslignes, Motin, Touvant, Monfuron, Theophile, Passerat, Rapin, Sainte Marthe*. The Book-seller to the Academy, was charged to bring to the *Director*, a note of all the principal Authors of the Tongue, and of their severall works. But a while after the Academie began to apprehend the pains and the length of the citations, and having consulted many times about it, 'twas resolved by the advice even of *M. Chapelain*, who was the first that put them upon these thoughts, not to set down the Authorities in the Dictionarie, unless in the making of it, they thought good for phrases that were dubious, to cite some approved Author that had used them. 'Twas also resolv'd for the furthering of this work, that *the Cardinall* should be given to understand, that it would be very fit to choose out of the Company, one or two persons, that should wholly apply themselves to it, and have the principall charge of it; *Monsieur de Bosrobert* was desired to mention it, and to propose to him *M. de Vaugelas*, and *M. Faret*, as fittest for this employment and best able to discharge it worthily, if they were acquitted from the cares of their fortune, and could bestow their whole time upon it. *The Cardinall,*



as I find by the answer that *M. de Boisrobert* returned to the Academie, gave no answer to this proposition, whether 'twere that he did not like it, or that his thoughts were taken up with something else. In the mean time, there was not any one in the Academie that offered himself voluntarily to take upon him the performance of this work, every one had his own affaires, and his own private thoughts, from which he was not willing to be taken off. Thus this design, for which they even now exprest so much zeal, began to cool; and for eight or ten months, there was no talk of the *D. Etionary*, the Academy all this while amusing it self about other things, which I shall tell you of, by and by. At last, the Cardinal having often complained, that they did nothing that was profitable to the Publick, and being vexed at it, so far as to say, that he would abandon them; these Gentlemen resolved to make once more, the same Proposition to him. *M. de Boisrobert* then, being there-to exhorted by all the Academiciens, and in particular by Monsieur *Chapelain*, and some others of his most familiar friends, acquainted the Cardinal, that the only means speedily to finish the Dictionary, was to give the principal charge of it to *M. de Vaugelas*; and for this end, to get re-established upon him by the King, a Pension of two thousand Livres, which was no longer paid him, extolling highly his abilities



ries as to this business, his noble birth & his merit, which has a long time been known to the whole Court. The Cardinal at that time received favourably this overture, and answered, That he would, if need were, give the Pension out of his own purse. But he desir'd to see, after what manner, *M. de Vaugelas* would proceed in it. They presented him the two Projects, he liked well the larger, of which I related to you almost all. The Pension of 2000 Livres was re-establisht upon *M. de Vaugelas*; who went to thank the Cardinal for it, and as he had a very ready wit, and very polite through long practice at Court, and in the choicest company; 'twas then that he made that happy reply which questionlesse you have heard of. For they say, that the Cardinal seeing him come into his chamber, arose with that sweet and pleasant Majesty, which almost alwaies accompanied him, and coming towards him, *Well, Monsieur,* (saith he) *you will not forget I hope in your Dictionary the word Pension.* Whereupon *Monsieur de Vaugelas* making a low reverence to him, answered, *No, my Lord, and lesse that of Gratitude.* From that time, began *M. de Vaugelas* to write some sheets of the Dictionary, which he brought afterwards to the Company; and 'twas Order'd, that at the end of every Assembly, those words should be read, which were to be examined the next time to the end they might have time to consider of

Reg. June  
ult. 1639.

Reg. Febr. 7.  
1639.

Reg. Febr. ult.  
1639.



Reg. Apr. 11  
1639.

Reg. July  
11. 1639.

Reg. May  
19. 1642.

them. They propounded once more a distribution of the best Authors to all the Academiciens, to collect out of them the phrases & the elegancies of the Language, but 'twas never performed. They began to examine the letter A; where, to take notice of it by the by, there happens a pleasant passage 'tis that the word *Academie* was omitted in its place no body observing it, till a while after. 'Twas resolv'd since, that besides the ordinary Assemblies, there should be extraordinary ones, for this very businesse, on Wednesdaies, at two boards, which should be at the same time; one at the *Lord Chancellors*, the other at *Monsieur d' Ablancourt's*, in whose absence they removed it afterwards to *M. Sirmonds*. Notwithstanding all this, the work went on extream slow; For the letter A, that was begun *Febr. 7. 1639.* was not finish't till the *17th of October*, about 9 moneths after. They thought then, that besides these two boardes, they must establish two more; one on *Fridays* at *M. de Bourzey's*, the other on *Wednesdays* at *M. Conrart's*, and allot certain Academiciens to sit at each of them. But this care has been almost uselesse; For as they travel'd not in the e four places, neither with the same assiduity, nor with the like Genius, and force; they were necessitated to repasse many things, which these lesser boards had decided, in which they were then employed when I wrote this Relation. The death



death of two persons hath happen'd since which has much retarded the design of the *Dictionary*. First, that of *Cardinal de Richelieu*, which, notwithstanding the care and diligence of the new Protector, hath taken off much of that zeal, with which they went on at first. The other is that of *Monsieur de Vaugelas*, who had, as I told you before, the management of this work; not but that they have given the same charge to *Monsieur de Mezeray*, who acquits himself very worthily. But *M. de Vaugelas*, having a meiner fortune than he deserved; after his death, the papers of the *Dictionary*, with the rest of his writings were seized among other things by his creditors, who thought to get a considerable sum of money for them of some Printer, so that the Academy could not recover what belong'd unto it, but by a *Suit at Law*, and a Decree *du Chastelet* of the 17th of *May* 1651. Presently all were delivered into the hands of the Secretary of the Company, upon his demanding of them: but the Company Ordered there should be a Copy of them taken to remain alwaies at the *Lord Chancellor*. They met twice a week to go on with the *Dictionary*, but to omit that, they were forced to go over again part of that which had been done at those lesser boards, it has hitherto advanced no farther then the Letter *I*: and this slowness together with the uncertainty what fortune may befall the Academy hereafter, is enough



to make it doubted whether it will ever be finished.

Many do very much wonder, that so many men, famous for their worth, and capable of the greatest things, as their particular works do sufficiently manifest, should amuse themselves so long about a work, which seems to have nothing of Noble in it, and of which perhaps not one of them hopes to see an end. For my part I shall not defend *the French Academy* by the comon example of that other *Della Crusca*, which spent nigh 40 years in its *Vocabularie*, frō which at last it reaped very much glory, and the *Italian Tongue* very much profit. But I shall be bold to say, that, if we look a little neerer into things, this design, and their constancy in the execution of it, deserve nothing lesse then high commendations. I know very well, that in this I exceed the bounds of History, which contenting it self to make a faithfull relation, ought to leave the judgment to the Reader, and alwaies continue Neuter between contrary parties; but if I faile herein, you will pardon this fault I am confident, for the desire which I have to let you know, what have been my thoughts many times concerning this businesse, and to clear a truth, which seems not to me to be sufficiently known. First then, it will not be denyed me, I think, but that the Project of a *Rhetorick* and a *Poëtick*, which I formerly told you of, was most worthy of this Company.



Company. 'Twill also be granted me, I conceive that to do this, a *Dictionary* and a *Grammer*, are two things, either necessary or at least very useful, according as I have above related. But, suppose these four works, a *Dictionary*, a *Grammer*, a *Rhetorick* and a *Poëtick*, should be finisht, I say not in 4 years, but even in 20 or 30, who is there that would not speak of it to the advantage of the Academie? Now if you will commend this design, and blame the delay of its execution, you commend that which properly belongs unto it, & blame that which does not, & so ought not to be imputed to it. For if the Cardinal that founded it, had had more care to put it forward, and had made this imployment the most important and principall businesse of all, or most, of the Academiciens; I do not doubt but these four works would have been printed long ago, and followed also with many others. And if in other things, as I alwaies say, true glory consists in doing good service to the Publick, in what manner soever it be; Such a *Dictionary*, whether you look upon', as a means to attain to *Rhetorick* and *Poëtry*, or consider it barely in it self, it cannot but make very much to the honour of its Authors. If any one that is big with high conceits, shal here pretend, proudly to contemn this whole study of words and language, I shall not dispare the case, but willingly suffer him to follow his own inclinations, and ~~employ~~ *apply* himself wholly,



wholly, either to the affairs of the world, or to more sublime studies; but let him beware lest that pursuing, it may be, a false good, or entertaining *Opinions for Verities*, and *Conjectures for Demonstrations*, even when he thinks he applies himself wholly to *solid* matters, he embrace a *cloud* as well as others. I speak now to them, who to those knowledges that are indeed the most important, do add also that of good literature, making it one of their greatest pleasures, who would be weary of the world, were it not for this delightful amusement, who find in it wherewith to comfort themselves in afflictions, and recreate themselves in prosperity, whereby to entertain themselves with their friends & content themselves in their privacies. In a word, wherewith to render themselves fit for what ever the Publick, or a private society can require of them. I make no question but these men would receive the Academies Dictionary with joy, and prize it highly, and receive by it a wonderful benefit. What comfort must it needs be to those that write, when in the heat of composing, they are perplext with some one of those tedious & irksome scrup'les in the language, of tho'e petty *remora's* that on a sudden arrest the greatest Vessels in the main Sea, even when they go with full sail: what comfort, I say, must it needs be to be delivered from them, presently to passe on to other things of more importance, and to have the Warrant of so famous a Company for what they shall



rite? I know well that the spirits of the French are not willing to be enslav'd; nor would I desire, to forbid such as find in themselves a certain particular Genius, from yeilding any thing to their own Passions, when it is not absolutely extravagant, nor directly contrary to that of the Publick; but when all's done, in things of indifference, and which meerly depend upon Institution, the testimony of forty persons the most understanding in such matters, has very much weight and authority, and such men that are any thing rational, would, were it only for quietnes sake, choose much rather to yield than to contend. The *Re- marques* of Monsieur de *Vangelas*, may furnish us with an example hereof; they were encountred by many, scarce any one but found somewhat or other in them, contrary to his own judgment: And yet 'tis well known, they do by little and little make with the wits, and daily gain credit amongst them. This is but the work of one academicien; if that of the Academie were publisht, it would not only resolve an infinite number of doubts; but besides, 'tis very likely it would confirm and in some sort fix the Body of the Language, and hinder it, not from changing at all, (for that can never be hoped in any of the living languages) but at least from changing so often and so suddenly as it doth. All other nations reproach ours with this inconstancy; Our elegantest and most polite Artificers, in a few years become barbarous,



'twould make one sick to read the best and most solid of them, when they begin to grow old; and if ever we can be cured of the evil, in my opinion it must be only by this remedy. Nor must we passe by, as matter of no concernment, the advantage we shall reap by this Dictionary, to find at once the roots of all derivative words; a judicious advice, whether they are *low* or *high*, proper for prose or for verse; in what kind of writing they may be used most aptly, an almost indubitable decision of the length or shortness of syllables, for pronunciation, and of *é open* or *close*, which are the rocks that not only all *strangers*, but even all that are not of the *Isle of France*, do so rudely dash against. Well, let the present age say what it please, Posterity, if it sees this *Dictionary*, either it will not stand to enquire how long it was making; or if it does, will so much the more extol the Authors of it, and account it so much the more indebted to the Academy. I shall go a little farther, and add, that though this Dictionary be never finish'd, since that after all, they have incessantly labour'd in it, who can doubt, but that this exercise of exactly considering words in their Original, of observing their several acceptations, of remarking all the phrases that may be made of them, was most proper for a Body, that propounded to it self the embellishment of the Language as its end; and most profitable to particular Academicians.

fo



for their instructions; and consequently advantageous to the publick, to whom they daily publish part of their Works?

I HAVE spoken of three principal employments of the Academy since its Institution: The *Discourses* or *Harangues*, the *Sentiments on the Cid*, and the *Dictionary*: But during all this time, and in divers intervals, they were often busied with examining the Pieces that were presented them by those of the Company. I find that there were read at several times, The *Poems* of *Monsieur de Gombauld*, and *de l'Estoile*; Reg. Janu. 14. 1636. the *Preface* of *Monsieur de la Cambre's* *Conjectures about digestion*, part of *Monsieur de Balzac's Prince*, which he then called, & 15. 1636. *The Minister of State*; a Political discourse of *M. Silhon's* to justify the administration of *Cardinal de Richelieu*, another of *Monsieur de Sirmond*, in justification of the War against the *Spaniards*; The Prologue of *M. Desmarest's Europa*; the verses of *M. de Racan*, and many other things of lesse importance. Whatever was presented to them after this manner, was examined with so much care and rigour, that the Cardinal thought himself obliged many times, to exhort the Academy, to remit somewhat of it. Perhaps I shall do a pleasure, to insert here what I find to this purpose in the Register of *Munday* the 12th of *Nov. 1634.* which will also let you see the manner of these Registers. Reg. May 15. 1652. Reg. Nov. 12. 1634.

Upon



Upon that which M. de Boisrobert said to the Company, that the Cardinal desired them not to affect too great a severity, to the end that those whose works shall be examin'd, might not be discouraged by a too long and painful curiosity, from writing any more; & that the Academy might bring forth the fruit which his Eminence promised himself from it for the embellishment and perfection of our Tongue: After the Votes were gather'd, 'Twas order'd, that the Cardinal should be most humbly desir'd to be pleased that the Company might not remit any of that severity which is necessary to bring those things which must bear its name or receive its approbation, the nearest that may be to perfection. And in explaining the nature of this severity 'twas said that it should have nothing of affectation or sourness, but only be sincere, solid, and judicious, that the examination of works should be done exactly by those that shall be named Commissioners, and by the whole Company when it judges of their Observations: That the Authors of the pieces examined, should be bound to correct the places shown them, according to the resolution of the Company. Monsieur de Gombauld having beseeched the Assembly to deliberate, whether an Academie

miciens



Academicien, bringing a work to be examined; should be bound alwaies to follow the judgment of the Company in all its corrections: though not wholly conformable to his own. It was resolv'd, that no man should be bound to labour beyond his strength, and that those which have made their works as good as they were able, might receive approbation of them, provided that the Academy were satisfied of the order of the piece in general, of the justness of its parts, and purity of its Language.

In reading these works, the Academy very often gave decisions upon the Language, of which its Registers are full: it did the like also many times upon the mere proposal of some one Academicien; and if at Court, as it often happens, a word had been the subject of some long dispute they seldom failed to speak of it in the Assembly. Such was, for instance, that merry contest, that arose at Rambouillet Hostel, whether one should say *Muscardins*, or *Muscadins*, which was decided by the Academy in favour of the last, which I the rather mention, because it serves to explain a piece of raillerie, made by Monsieur de *Biture*, against them that will have it to be *Muscardins*, which was never printed.

Reg. Feb: 13  
1638.



## The History of

*Au siecle des vieux Palardins,  
 Soit Courtisans, soit Citardins,  
 Femmes de Cour, ou Citardines,  
 Prononsoient troûjours Muscardins,  
 Et Balardins et Balardines,  
 Mesme l' on dit qu'en ce temps là  
 Chacun disoit rose muscarde,  
 J'en dirois bien plus que cela,  
 Mais par ma foy je suis malarde,  
 Et mesme en ce moment voila  
 Qu' l' on m' apporte une panarde.*

So in the year 1651. Monsieur Nau  
 consulted this Company about the wo  
*Rabougri* which signifies properly a Pla  
 that is not come to its perfection and ju  
 bignesse, in which sense we read in th  
 old Statutes *Des arbres rabougris*. It  
 made use of it in a trial, which he had  
 Parlement upon an answer made him  
 two of these Gentlemen, who had ask  
 the opinion of the whole Body concern  
 it, and he printed their Letters at the e  
 of a little Book, which he then publi  
 against his adveriaries. Strangers al  
 amongst whom our Tongue is insensib  
 spread, have sometimes acknowledged t  
 authority of the Academy in the like occ  
 sions. Thus in the year 1652, it was ob  
 ged to pronounce upon a wager of con  
 quence, which had been laid in *Hollan*  
 concerning the word *Temperature*; but as  
 gave these decisions only by the by, I thi  
 I ought not to stay any longer upon them

SOM.



SOMETIMES also, when the Academy had nothing else to do, they read and examined some French Book, and to this purpose 'twas ordered, that there should be alwaies some Book in the place of the Assembly. I took delight to read in the Registers the examination of Malherbe's Stanza's upon the Kings going to Limosin: for if there be any thing that makes appear, that which is so commonly said, that his verses were never finished, certainly 'tis this reading of them. There is scarce one Stanza, wherein, without being too severe a Critick, one meets not with one or more things which one could wish were changed if 'twere possible, without destroying that rare sense, that marvellous elegance, and that inimitable smoothness of the verses, which is found throughout those excellent works. I said without being too severe a Critick; for to give you some Examples of them, in that first Stanza;

Reg. July 16.  
1638.

*O Dieu! dont les bontez de nos larmes touchées  
ont aux vaines fureurs, les armes arrachées,  
et rangé l'innocence aux pieds de la raison,  
jusqu' a rien d'imparfait ta loüange n'aspire,  
acheue ton ouvrage au bien de cet Empire,  
et nous rends l'embonpoint comme la guérison.*

These Gentlemen observ'd well, that *La bonté touchée de nos larmes*, was better then *les bontez*; that the third verse *Et rangé l'innocence aux pieds de la raison*, was not

Reg. April  
19: 1638.

I a

good



good <sup>Stanza</sup> ~~ling~~; that in the fourth verse, *Ta loüange n'aspire à rien d'imparfait*, was not good French, but they did not observe, as a fault, what he sayes at the end, *Et nous rends embonpoint comme la guerison*; though to look a little more narrowly into it, methinkes; and in our Ordinary discourse, a man may say well enough in our Language, *rendre la santé*, and *rendre la vie*, but not *rendre la guerison*. But as for that verse, *Et range l'innocence aux pieds de la raison*, The Academie was not at all satisfied with it, and tis true, there cannot be picked out of it any reasonable sense; but it proceeds from a fault in the printing, which has been committed in all the Editions that ever I saw of *Malherbes* workes, and which no man that I know of, has hitherto perceived; instead of *l'innocence*, it should be *l'insolence*. I thought of it first by Conjecture, but I now make no question of it, since I saw the verse printed after this manner in three Collections of French Poems, which are those of 1615, 1621, & 1627. *Ranger l'insolence aux pieds de la raison*, is not onely good sense, but also very neat and very poericall.

There is one *Stanza* which is the 16. upon which I do not find any thing in the Registers, unlesse that it was admired by every one, and that there was no fault found with it.

Quand



Quand un Roy faineant, la vergogne des  
Princes,

Laisant à ses flatteurs le soin de ses Provinces,  
Entre les voluptez indignement s'endort,  
Quoy que l'on dissimule on n'en fait d'estime,  
Et si la verité se peut dire sans crime,  
C'est avecque plaisir qu'on survit à sa mort.

Yet in this Stanza certainly admirable, he has the word *vergogne*, which many now a dayes would be very loath to use, and which the meanest judges would not faile to condemn. I might add many other things like these, did not I fear to be too long. But there are two passages which I think it not amisse to mention, because the Academie, observed that in them *Malherbe* himself fell short of his own rules. The first is, in the third Stanza.

Reg. April  
26. 1638.

(testes,  
Certes qui conque a vû pleuvoir dessus nos  
Les funestes éclats des plus grands tempestes,  
Qu'exciterent jamais deux contraires partis,  
Et n'en voit aujourd'huy nulle marque paroistre;

En ce miracle seul, il peut assez connoistre,  
Quelle force a la main qui nous a garantis.

*Malherbe* was of opinion that Stanzas of six ought to have a rest at the end of the third verse. And here yet he goes to the end of the fourth e're he rests; but you will not wonder at it when you know, what I believe the Academie it self at that



time was ignorant of, and which I learn't very lately out of some notes that *Monsieur de Racan* gave me of the life of that excellent Poet. 'Tis that he made these *Stanzas*, and many other of his peices, before that he imposed this law upon himself. And hence it is that there are some of his workes where it is not exactly observed, as for example, in the *Consolation to Caritée* in this Stanza.

*Pourquoy done si peu Sagement,  
Démentant Vostre jugement,  
Passez-vous en cette amertume,  
Le meilleur de vostre saison,  
Aimant mieux pleurer par costume,  
Que vous consoler par raison.*

But I shall say more hereafter of this rule when I speak of *Monsieur Maynard*, who was the first Author of it.

I told you there was another passage, where, in the Judgment of the Academie, *Malherbe* transgresseth his own Maximes. 'Tis in the seventh Stanza, in these verses.

Reg. July.  
16, 1638.

*L'infailible refuge, & l'asseuré secours*

Here you see he sayes *asseuré secours* instead of *secours assuré*, as I remember he does also in another place.

*De combien de Tragedies  
Sans ton assuré secours.*

Yet



Yet he held it for a Maxime, that those adjectives, that have their termination, in *e* masculine, should never be placed before the Substantive, but after: whereas others that have the feminine termination, may be placed before or after, according as shall be thought fit. That one may say, for instance, *ce redoutable Monarque*, or *ce Monarque redoutable*; and on the contrary, that we may say *ce Monarque redouté* but not *ce redout Monarque*. I took not this example without reason, and at adventures, for I have often heard *Monsieur de Gombauld* say, that before ever any one had made this reflection, *Monsieur de Malherbe* and he walking together one day, & talking of certain verses of *Mademoiselle Anne de Rohan's*, where there was,

*Quoy faut il-que Henry ce redouté Monarque.*  
*Monsieur de Malherbe* assured him severall times that this end displeas'd him, and yet he could not tell any reason why: that this made him himself consider of it attentively, and that having presently discovered the reason, he told it to *M. de Malherbe*, who was as much pleas'd with it, as if he had found a treasure, and afterwards made of it that generall rule.

The Academie spent almost three months in examining these Stanza's, and yet they made not an end of them, for they never touch'd the four last, because they had other thoughts, and that year's vacation came very soon after.

From April  
 9. to July 6.  
 1638.



Some of them, and amongst others *Monsieur de Gombauld*, and *M. de Gomberville*, were very impatient that the Company did thus censure the works of a great personage after his death, which they thought somewhat cruell and inhumane. But the moderation which it used in this examination (which I have already remarkt) seems sufficiently to show, that its intention was altogether innocent. And if I may Judge of others by my self, I am fully perswaded of it; for, for my part, if being to farr from suppressing this whole Article, I have enlarged my self upon it somewhat beyond my custom, I am sure that neither a youthfull desire to find fault with every thing, nor any other unworthy inclination, has engaged me in this discourse: but on the contrary if I had had lesse esteem and respect for *Malherbe*, I should not have spoken of his faults; and that lastly I have reported them onely (if I may compare things sacred with profane) as the Scripture doth those of the *Saints*, to Comfort them that are too much troubled at their failings, and to keep them from despaire.

Reg. Dec. 3.  
1635.

Reg. March  
15. 1638.

Such were the employments of the Academie. I find too, that 'twas propounded severall times to make two Collections, one of the Verses and to'ther of the Letters of those of the Company, but it was never performed.



I WILL add now according to my promise, some considerable passages that happened in the Academie, which I could not handlomely bring in any where else.

That which offers its self first, according to the order of time, (which I observe as much as I can, in each Particular) is the generositie which the Academie express'd after the death of *Camusat*, its *Stationer*, having in favour of his widow and Children, oppos'd, as I may so say, the will of the Cardinal, its Protector. Presently after his death, *Monsieur de Boisrobert* who was then with the Cardinal at *Abbeville*, wrote to the Academie, *That his Eminence having heard the news, though he thought there was not any man in Paris, more capable to fill this place then Cramoisy, his own Stationer, whom he esteem'd and loved, nevertheless would not make use of that Authority which he had, as their Head, to command them to receive him, but onely desired, that he should propound him to them, with this condition, that if they knew of any other, that would be fitter for them, they might take him, not desiring in the least manner, either in this or any thing else to violate their choice.* By way of postscript 'twas added,

THE  
FOURTH  
PART: Of  
Some Re-  
marquables  
that past in  
the Aca-  
demie.



added. Since the writing of my Letter, my Lord sent for me before much noble Company, to tell me, that you would do him a kindnesse to take the said Cramoisy; I see plainly he is very earnest in this businesse, having done me the honour to speak to me thrice about it. For all this Camusat's widdoe being desirous to continue her trade, and having with her for this purpose one *du Chesne*, a kinsman of her Husbands, and a Scholar, who now is a Dr. in Physick; the Academie desired to continue that honour to her family, and answered *M. de Boisrobert* in such a manner, as not forgetting the respect which it owed the Cardinall, and submitting it self alwayes to obey his will, it let him plainly know, that it was but justice to do so. This Letter had the effect which was desired, and *M. de Boisrobert* wrote another presently after to the Secretary of the Academie, containing the Cardinall's approbation and consent that *du Chesne* should be admitted to exercise that charge in the name of the Widdoe. Thus after they had order'd an answer to *M. de Boisrobert*, to thank him, and to desire him also to present their most humble thanks to the Cardinall; *du Chesne* was brought into the Assembly took the Oath in the name of the Widdoe, and was exhorted to imitate the discretion, care, and diligence of the deceased. And because at the death

Reg. July  
15. 1639.



death of *Monsieur Bardin*, 'twas resol-  
 ed that at the death of all those of the Bo-  
 dy, there should be performed a *service*  
*à les Carmes Reformes* called *des Billettes*.  
 It was ordered there should be one also for  
*amusat*, & this was the honour which this  
 company did to the memory of its Sta-  
 oner. But concerning *M. de Boisrobert's*  
 letter to the Academie, me thinks I ought  
 not to forget this pretty Circumstance. It  
 was signed *Vostre tres-humble* and *tres-obeis-*  
*sant Serviteur*. The Academie that  
 thought good to answer from the whole  
 body, to the end that the Letter might be  
 the more effectually in favour of the *Wid-*  
*ow*, was somewhat at a stand what to sub-  
 scribe. On the one side the whole body wri-  
 ting to one of its Members, ought not in  
 appearance to treat him as an equall, and  
 on the other side meerly to say, *de tres-*  
*affectionnez serviteurs*, according to the  
 custom, seemed not civil enough, and  
 to be used onely to persons very inferiour.  
 At last they took this mean, *Vos tres-passi-*  
*onnez serviteurs*, *CONRART*, as being  
 somewhat more civil then *tres-affectionnez*,  
 and lesse then *tres-humbles*.

I AM now to speak of the death of  
 another Person more considerable, which  
 I know not how to passe by in silence,  
 'twas that of the Cardinal himself, the Pro-  
 tector & Founder of this Body. Whether it  
 were ill for the State, as I ever thought it  
 was, this is no place to dispute. But most  
 certain



Reg. Dec. 9.  
1642.

certain it is, that at least Schollars and the Academie in particular suffered therein an almost irreparable losse. The ninth of the same month, the Company being mett, *Monsieur de l' Estoille*, who had been made *Director* eight dayes before said; That he thought there was not any one in the whole Body, but was most sensibly touched with this disaster, and was ready to expresse it, not onely in ordaining a Service and in composing an *Elogie* for the *Cardinal*, as they were wont to do for the *Academicien* that dyed; but besides in founding an *Anniversarie* for him, with the greatest solemnity that was possible. That neverthelesse all this pomp respecting more the satisfaction of the living, then the glory of the dead, he thought that the *Academie* ought rather to give proof of its piety and gratitude, by some speedy and zealous actions, then by any great preparations, which must needs be retarded a long time. That he therefore desired the Company to deliberate, what was to be done in this businesse. Upon this proposition it was resolved there should be performed a Service for the *Cardinal* in the *Carmes des Billettes*, at the charge of the Company, every one contributing thereto what he pleased, to the end that the action might be done the more honourably, and with the greater dignity: That *Monsieur de la Chambre* should make an *Elogie*, for him, *M. de Serisy* an *Epitaph*, and *Monsieur the Abbot of Cerisy* a *Funerall Oration*, that each of the other *Academicien*s should compose something  
in



in Verse or Prose in praise of him, as many had already done, and *Monsieur Baro* amongst others; a *Sonnet* of whose upon the Church *de Sorbonne* (where the Cardinal chose to be buried) was then read: But as to the *Funerall Oration*; the votes were divided, in resolving whether it should be pronounced in publick, or no; and as I told you elsewhere, they referd themselves to the *Chancellor*, who thought good to have it pronounced onely in the Academie; which was done a while after. As for the *Service*, they judg'd afterwards, that 'twas fittest it should be onely done decently and without pomp. *Monsieur de l'Estiolle* the *Director*, desired that he might have leave to defray the charge of it alone, which was granted him, and the *Service* was celebrated on the twentieth of the same Month at ten of the clock in the Morning.

But the thing of most importance for the Academie was, to choose a *Protector* in the place of him, whom they had lately lost: many inclined to *Card. Mazarin*, concerning whom envy & faction had not yet divided mens minds, every one rejoycing to see him succeed in the Ministry of *Card. de Richelieu*. 'Twas thought that this election would be so much the more acceptable to him, as not being born a *Frenchman*, it would in some sort seeme to him to be the more glorious. Others thought of the *Duke of Enguien*

NOW



now *Prince of Conde*; who had not won  
 any battels, nor done those things which  
 have been since admired, in the first years  
 of the *Regency*; but in whom being very  
 young there did even then appear much  
 spirit, and a great inclination to good  
 literature. On the Contrary all those of  
 the *Academie* that were dependants or ser-  
 vants to the Chancellor, were passionately  
 desirous to gain Him this title, and no  
 man seemed to have more right to it than  
 He. At the very beginning of the *Aca-*  
*demie*, when he desired to be admitted in-  
 to it, they talked of making him *Pro-*  
*rector* with the *Cardinall*; but they went  
 no farther for fear of displeasing that great  
*Minister*, who had already shown some  
 tokens, of jealousy thereupon. So that all  
 the honour they did him then, was to set  
 his name first in the Catalogue, and at a  
 distance from the rest, whom they ranked  
 by lot. The *Academie* neverthelesse had  
 him alwayes in a particular Veneration.  
 They deputed some to go thank him for the  
 honour he was pleased to do them to be  
 one of them: and when from *Lord Keeper*  
 of the *Seales*, he came to be *Chancellor of*  
*France* they wrote a Letter to him to Testi-  
 fie their joy. They thought therefore they  
 could not with reason cast their eyes upon  
 any but him, since that they were alwayes  
 very sensible, that in the birth of the *Aca-*  
*demie*, he exprest so much affection to it:  
 and that besides being raised to the prime  
 dignity



dignity of the Robe, he was a lover of those that make profession of learning, & favour'd them upon all occasions. These reasons outweigh'd all the others in the minds of the Academicians, and in the same Assembly of Dec. 9. 'twas resolv'd that the Officers with Monsieur de Priesac, Chapelain, and de Serisay, should go and beseech him to honour the Company with his Protection. The Officers who are ordinarily three, were then but two, for that Monsieur Conrart, perpetual Secretary, had been made Chancellor, these two charges being not inconsistent, as I told you. M. de l'Estoile, who was the Director spake for them all, the 17th of the same month. His Complement was so short and so good that it may be here inserted.

My Lord,

**W**EE make it sufficiently appear, that all great griefs are not dumb, since, that for the death of my Lord the Cardinal leaveth us yet voyce enough to beseech you not to abandon us in this misfortune. And if there does still remain to that great Genius any care of things here below, he will be well pleased that you are the support of that Company which he loved as his own work. He begs it of you, My Lord, both by that near affection which tyde you to him, and by that which you bear to learning. You never denied him any thing, and this makes us hope that the tempest will cast us from one Port into another,



another, and that we shall recover in you, what we have lost in him, that is, a Protector not only illustrious by his birth and dignity, but also by his virtue. We might say more, and cannot say enough; but your modesty and our grief, permit us only to assure your Lordship, that a Protection so glorious as yours, is the greatest of our desires, that we will make us Laws from your will, and, that we are all in general, and in particular,

Your &c.

They were received with great civility, and with many testimonies of joy. The Lord Chancellour began then to be Protector, and they filled the place of Academicien, which he formerly held, as I shall tell you in the Article of the Academiciens in particular.

To make an end of this I conceive I am obliged to relate what divers persons have dedicated, addressed, or written at several times to the Academy.

Reg. June  
19. 1634.

Monsieur de Espeisses Counsellor of Estate, was the first that I know which writ any thing in honour of it. For June 19. 1634. He presented to it by Messieurs de Cerisy & Desmarests, some French verses in its praise. The two Gentlemen had charge to thank him, and to answer his verses with others.

'Twas about the same time that the eldest of the Messieurs de St. Marthe, presented to the Academy, by Monsieur Colle-



et some excellent Latin verses upon the same subject, which begin thus,

*Salvo perpetuis florens, Academia, Fastis:*  
and were received with all the esteem and civility, as they deserved, though I do not finde any thing of them in the Registers.

Le *Sieur de la Peyre* in the year 1635. dedicated to this Company, his Book, *De Esclaircissement des Temps*, with this Title to the Eminent, which makes many believe that it was called the Eminent Academy. 'Twas order'd that *Messieurs de Gomberville* and *de Malleville* should go and thank him for it at his house. 'Twas in this book that this good man, who had many very pleasant fancies, caused to be set before this book, the Portraiture of the Cardinal in *Taille douce*, with a Crown of rayes about him, in each of which was written the name of an Academicien. And which was the best, amongst these Academiciens, he put *M. de Baunru Cherelles*, who was none of them; And he that made *The state of France* the year 1652. being desirous to insert here the Catalogue of the Academiciens, taking it perhaps from hence, fell into the same error.

Le *Sieur Belot*, Advocat, dedicated also to the Academy at the same time, if I be not deceived, a Book which I could never meet with, and whereof there is no mention in the Registers, intituled, *An Apology for the Latin Tongue*, and 'twas this which

K

gave

Reg. Dec. 3.  
1635.

Reg. June  
28. 1638.

Reg. Nov.  
1639.

Reg. Nov.  
20. 1641.



gave occasion to that handsome passage in  
the *Request of the Dictionaries*.

*Le pauvre Langue Latiale,  
Alloit estre troussé en male,  
Si le bel Advocat Belot, &c.*

Reg. Feb. 1.  
1638.

Monsieur *Frenicle* having caused his *Paraphrase* on 4 *Psalms* to be printed by *Camusat*, commanded him by a Letter to present a Copy of his Book to each of the Academiciens; which was done the first of *Febr.* 1638. And the Company ordered, that thanks should be returned him in their names by the same *Camusat*.

Reg. June  
28. 1638.

*Le Sieur de les Fargues*, a *Tolosain*, now Advocate to the Council, caused first to be presented to the Company, *A Paraphrase upon the second Psalm*, by *Camusat*, who printed it: and afterwards he was brought into the Company assembled together, to present to them his *Translation of Seneca's Controversies*, which he dedicated to them. He caused a Copy thereof to be distributed to each of them. The Prefatory Epistle was read in his presence, and he was thanked for it by the mouth of the Director. 'Twas for this reason that in the same *Request of the Dictionaries* 'tis said,

Jan. ult.  
1639.

*Et le Senéque faisoit nargue.  
A vostre Cand dat les Fargue.*

Reg. Nov.  
26. 1641.

In the year 1641. Father *du Bosc*, a *Franciscan*



ciscan, Chapelain to the King, known to be the Author of *The Honest Woman*, and of many other works, having printed a *Panegyrique on Cardinal de Richelieu*, presented himself at the beginning of one of the Conferences of the Academy, and gave a Copy of his book to each of them that were then present, for which he received commendations and thanks.

*Le Sieur de Tanour*, having published in the year 1650. a Treatise of *Incommensurable quantities*, with a Translation of the tenth Book of *Euclide*, added thereto a very excellent discourse to the Gentlemen of the *French Academy*, concerning a way to explain the Sciences in *French*.

Anno  
1650.

Those of the Body have often presented to the Academy their works, before or after the printing of them. For example, I find that *Febr. 21. 1639.* Monsieur *Giry* presented to them by *Camusat*, his Translation of the Orations of *Symmachus* and *S. Ambrose concerning the Altar of Victory*, for which *Camusat* was charged to thank him.

Reg. Feb.  
01. 1639.

*Monsieur de Racan* when he had composed his *Holy Odes*, which were published last year 1651. sent them to the Academy, to desire their opinion of them, and writ to them that Letter which he has put before this Book. The Academy sent him that answer which he has there likewise printed, without asking their leave to do it, nor



the Secretaries that writ it, which yet was not ill taken by either of them.

But of all that has been written or addressed to the Academy, there is nothing whose memory deserves better to be preserved, than the Letters of Monsieur de Boisat an Academicien, wherein he gives them an exact account, both of what happen'd to him at the house of the Duke de Lesdiguieres, who was then only Count de Sault, & of the Agreement that was made between them by the mediation of the Nobility of Dauphiné, assembled in a Body.

I am not ignorant how delicate and ticklish things of this nature are amongst the French; and that there may be found, those that will blame me for mentioning this in a work where I have no design to diminish the glory of the Academy, or the reputation of any particular member thereof. But I do not see why I should suppress any remarkable occurrences, which I meet with in my subject, that may serve for instruction, and for a precedent in the like occasions, which may one day perhaps be published quite otherwise than indeed they are, and where, all things considered, there is not now any thing that may be offensive either to this Illustrious Company, which had no part in this difference, or to Monsieur de Boisat, a Gentleman, as every one knows, very honourable and deserving. I will speak of it then, and which is more, knowing well, that on the one side, a matter so curi-

ous



ous cannot be unacceptable to you, and on the other, that in these points of honour, they weigh even the least Syllables, I will here insert at large, not only a Copy of the Agreement which was sent to the Academy by *M. de Boissat*, but also the Letter which came with it, and the answer which they made. And if I suppress the first Letter which he writ to this Company, wherein was a particular relation of his misfortune, and of the things which preceded: It is because that I have been told that he himself endeavours to suppress it, out of a motion of true generosity, not to leave any mark of resentment or bitterness against those persons with whom he is wholly reconciled, whose quality and birth I in my own particular, do, as I ought, very much honour.

*The second Letter of Monsieur*

DE BOISSAT

*without date, with this superscription,*

To the Gentlemen of the Academy of Eloquence, assembled in a Body.

Gentlemen,

**A**S I give you an account of the unheard of misfortune, which happened unto me at the house of the Kings Lieutenant in Dauphiné; so I impart to you an Agreement yet more strange, which



the nobility of this Province endeavour'd for the space of three moneths, and for which they assembled themselves together more solemnly then they were wont to do upon other occasions. This extraordinary means which Providence hath raised to put an end to a misfortune, which my sentiments would have rendred immortal, has been able to bring me back to quietness, though the opinions of my Master, my friends, and my kinsmen carried me twither; and though, having sent no less then three Gentlemen to Grenoble, I perceived the way of Arms was impossible, through the care that is generally taken of the preservation of the Grandees. The principal reasons that have obliged me hereto, besides the will of all my friends, you will soon know if you remember, Gentlemen, that a part is indebted and cannot deny its self to its whole, that the Nobility at first undertook the cause for me, and that afterwards desiring the entire cognizance of the business, those that were my Enemies were both Party and Judge all at once; that a Body of a hundred or six score Gentlemen, is a warrant more proportionate to my honour then a Prince. That I have as many cautions as there were heads then assembled; That moreover to  
repair



repair the honour of a private person, they might make new Laws in their own Country, since that they are the very source of honour; That it is a thing unheard of, in the Kingdom of France, that there should be such high satisfaction made to a Gentleman. And lastly, that he who commands them wholly, should submit himself unto them after a manner unknown to all Ages. See, Gentlemen, the motives which obliged me to vanquish my own resistance, and resign my will to that of your whole Province. To tell you now, in what manner they have proceeded, this Copy, the Original whereof I have by me, will testify and shew unto you, That these true Gentlemen have had more regard to my innocence, and their own honour, then to all the Grandeurs of the earth. All I can add from myself is, that for the space of twelve daies, they met together morning and evening with invincible patience, and that all which passed there, is great, memorable, and without example. I hope, Gentlemen, that having known me always perfectly to revere your Body, and to cherish above all things the honour which I have to be a member of it, you will be pleas'd that Monsieur de Serisay may acquaint me with your judgments hereupon,



that if this affair do merit (as I make no question it will) your approbation, I may receive a more perfect contentment, if it be possible, then that *which* now have. This I beg of you with all the respect I owe you, and that you would believe me to be more then any person in the world,

Gentlemen,

Your most humble, most obedient,  
and most passionate servant,

P. DE BOISSAT.

A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT  
MADE IN DAUPHINE, BY  
ORDER OF THE NOBILITY,  
ASSEMBLED ON PURPOSE.

For the Gentlemen of the Academy: who are most humbly beseeched to hear it read in a full Assembly.

**M**ONSIEUR the Count de Sault,  
Chevalier of the Orders of the  
King, chief Gentleman of his chamber,  
and Lieutenant General for his Majesty  
in Dauphiné, and Monsieur de Boisfa,  
having remitted their difference to the  
judgment of the Nobility of this Province,  
assembled



assembled on purpose, after they had known  
 from them the subject of it; they gave  
 judgment for the satisfaction both of the  
 one, and of the other. That a Gentleman  
 of the Assembly, accompany'd with a kins-  
 man of M. de Boiffat's, should go to the  
 house of Madam the Countess of Sault to  
 deliver to her in the presence of those that  
 she shall think fit to call in, the Declarati-  
 on which the Sieur de Boiffat has made in  
 the said Assembly, "That he never had  
 " in his thoughts an intent to offend her,  
 " and that he did alwaies highly esteem  
 " her for her birth, virtue, and all those  
 " excellent qualities that are in her; and  
 " that, if he did but suspect in the least  
 " that he had so reproached and offended  
 " her, as she believed, he would not only  
 " beg her pardon for it, but should also  
 " think himself unworthy to obtain it, and  
 " should not forgive himself;

After which, Monsieur the Count de  
 Sault accompany'd with his Guards and  
 Domesticks, shall come into the place where  
 the Nobility shall be assembled, when he  
 knows that Monsieur de Boiffat is sent  
 for thither, and shall say to him: " Sir, you  
 " know the cause that has made me to con-  
 " fess the wrong that hath been done you,  
 " which makes me hope you will the more  
 easily



" easily grant me the pardon which I beg  
 " of you for it: Acknowledging that I was  
 " carryed to that excess with too much  
 " heat, having therein imployed my  
 " Guards, and that if you had had a sword,  
 " you would have used it, as long as you  
 " had any life: For which I am extream  
 " sorry, and wish that I had lost some  
 " of my blood rather then this had happe-  
 " ned. I beseech you to believe it, and  
 " that I take you for a Gentleman of worth  
 " and courage, which you have witnessed  
 " upon all occasions, and might have  
 " given proof of, by waies which would  
 " have been more Satisfactory to you, had  
 " not the Nobility taken the pains to com-  
 " pose the business. I will add to this a se-  
 " cond favour which I desire of you, and  
 " shall account, if it be possible, a greater  
 " obligation; 'tis Sir, that you would  
 " grant the pardon which I beg of you  
 " for Monsieur de Vacluse, since that  
 " I know with how much submission he  
 " will wait upon you at your house, to te-  
 " stifie how sorry we are, for your having  
 " been so outragiously abused. And that  
 " you may the better perceive how much it  
 " affects me; I bring those by whom you  
 " received this injury, to submit them to  
 " whatever the Nobility shall appoint,  
 " and



and you can desire for your satisfaction.  
 I assure my self that you rightly judge  
 by what I have said, and what I do,  
 that you have reason to forget what has  
 offended you. You will extreamly oblige  
 me to be satisfied with it, and to be my  
 friend, as I desire it of you with all my  
 heart.

After that Monsieur the Count of Sault  
 shall have said thus, he that is President  
 in the Assembly, addressing himself to  
 Monsieur de Boissat, shall say to him,  
 Sir, You have sufficiently seen by the dis-  
 course which Monsieur the Count of  
 Sault hath made unto you, with what  
 grief he resents the wrong that has been  
 done you, and with what passion he desi-  
 reth you would remain satisfied. This  
 Company believes, that you cannot de-  
 fuse what he desires of you, and doth  
 with him beg of you, to cast away the re-  
 membrance of what is past, and to  
 receive the offers which he makes you of  
 his affection. Whereupon Monsieur  
 de Boissat shall say to M. the Count of  
 Sault, Sir, I give to the repentance  
 which you manifest, and to the prayer of  
 these Gentlemen, that which you desire  
 of me. And at the same time M. the  
 Count of Sault shall desire to embrace him,  
 which



which being done, when he with draws from the Assembly, he shall leave behind him those of his Guards and Domesticks, which he is to submit, and then he that's President of the Assembly, shall command the Guard to present themselves without Arms, and to fall on their knees before the Sieur de Boiffat, and say to him, " Sir, This Company has condemn'd t' ese " of the Guard that have stricken you to as long imprisonment as you shall think fit. And after that the Sieur de Boiffat has Declared his pleasure, the President shall send them away, and cause the servants to be brought in; who falling on their knees the Sieur de Boiffat shall take a cudgel from the hand of the President and use it, as he shall think fit.

The same day the Sieur de Vacluse in the company of three or four Gentlemen of the Assembly, shall go to the Sieur de Boiffat at his own house and say to him, " Sir, I come hither to beg your pardon " in the presence of these Gentlemen, " and to offer you all the submissions that " a Gentleman can do, for your satisfi- " on. Mine shall be perfect, if you be- " lieve me your servant, as I beseech you " to do. To which the Sieur de Boiffat shall answer, " Sir, I have promis'd to

M.



M. the Count of Sault, & the Nobility to forget all that is passed in this business.

And after this the Gentlemen that are present shall make them embrace.

The judgement of the Nobility contained in this writing was punctually observed, saving that M. de Boissat made no use of the judgment which they gave him against the Guard, nor of the cudgell towards the servants, out of the respect he was pleased to show to the Assembly, and out of his own generosity. At Grenoble, the 15th of February 1638. Monsieur the Marquis of Bressieux, nominated by the Company President for the time, signed thus in the Original,

BRESSIEUX - MONTEILHER,

MEYPIEU, LA MARCOUSSE, LA  
CHARFE, BOISSIEU  
DE SALVAIN, L'ESTANG, CHATTE,  
EIDOCHÉ,  
S. JULLIEN, PARIS, MONTFERRIER,  
LES ADRESTS,  
LA BASTIE, MONTFALCON, BO-  
VIERES, MARCIEU,  
LORAS, CHAMANIEU, MOYRANS,  
DEAGEANT DE  
VIRE, aliàs DEAGEANT DE BANNET-  
TES, ROLLIGNY,

LA



LA PIERRE, MONTENARD, MIRI-  
 BEL, DE ROCHEBLAVE,  
 RALHANETTES, DE LA BLACHE,  
 DE CALIGNON,  
 ASPREMONT, DE LANGES, BON-  
 REPOS, H. FERRAND,  
 DE REPELLIN IANSAC, SERVIERE,  
 S. ANDRE,  
 S. ANDRE DEPORTE, VALLAMBERT,  
 LANGON,  
 ASPRES ROMME DU PONT DES  
 OLERES,  
 CHAMBRIER, DELISLE, LA PENE  
 DE CHARYAYS,  
 DE RUYNAC, C. ROMME, SOUGIER,  
 DE LIONNE,  
 BOFFIN, ARMAND, DE VILLARS  
 DE VILLIERS  
 DE BENANIN, DU THAU, CLAVÉ-  
 SON, DE MOTET,  
 DE MONIERES, DE LOVAT, GRESSE,  
 DE LA MORTE :  
 BARDONANCHE DE REVOL. A Co-  
 py compared with the Original, Signed, DU  
 FOUR DE LA REPARA Secretary to  
 the Nobility.

*The other Gentlemen, to the number  
 of above sixty, being returned home, some  
 one, some two dayes after the Assembly,  
 according to their affairs, it could not  
 in so short a time be Signed by a greater  
 number then those sixty four, or sixty five,  
 which are there under written.*

An



An Answer to the Letter written  
by Mounſieur du Boisſat, to  
the Gentlemen of the  
Academie.

SIR,

[ Was commanded by the Gentlemen of  
the Academy, to write this Letter to  
you, to thank you in their name for that  
which M. de Serizay gave them from you,  
and for the Copy of the act, which came a-  
long with it. They therein learnt with  
contentment how your interests have been  
dear to the Nobility of Dauphiné, and  
with what care they procured you the satis-  
faction you have received; All the Com-  
pany found your complaints just, and your  
resentment lawful. But if the evil were  
great, it must be confest also, that the re-  
medy which was brought thereto, is extra-  
ordinary; and they think you could not  
have refused it, without doing wrong to  
your self, and offending those who provi-  
ded it for you with so much wisdom, and  
judgment. They believe then that you  
had reason to yield to the advice and  
prudence of those Gentlemen, and that  
you could not have more sure, nor more  
illustri-



illustrious Cautions of the reparation of your honour, then so many persons to whom it is more precious then their own lives, who perfectly understand the Laws of it, and are, to use your own terms the most able to make new ones, as they have manifested upon this occasion. In a word, Sir, they think a Gentleman cannot be treated more gloriously then you have been by all those of your profession, who in this Agreement, appeared no less your Protectors then your Judges; and they do promise themselves a particular advantage by it, namely, to see you here very shortly, where they will themselves testify to you, how much they praise God that this affair is so happily ended; but in the interim whilest they expect you, they thought fit to give you this testimony, which you desired, of their judgement, and affection, by the pen of

Sir,

Your most humble and most affectionate servant,

CONRART.

This



This is all, if I be not decieved, that has been written hitherto to the French Academie, or done in its honour. But as I was in this part of my Relation, there happened one thing, which deserves to be added, and will shew you in what esteem this Company is at this day in for-  
rain Countryes. The *Intronati* of *Sienna* vaunt that a learned man, by name *Thomas*, of the Citty of *Bergoe* in *Norway*, sent by his Prince to search out the greatest rarities of *Italy*, came on purpose into their Citty, with Letters of Recommendations from the famous *Vicenzo Pinelli* of *Padua*, to see their Company, and to have a Copie of their Statutes. The French Academie received some few daies since an honour that may be accounted farre greater. The Baron *Spar*, a great Lord of *Swedland*, signified to them by Monsieur *Tristan*, that he desired to salute them, and being brought in, he made his Complement to them, ( as I find it in the Registers, ) in termes not onely pure, and very good French; but also very elegant. He assured them, both of the extream desire that he had to see their Assembly, as one of the most remarkable things in *Paris*, and the Kingdom; and of the particular esteem which the Queen his *Majesties* had of their Body, concerning whom he never failed to ask what news of all those that return from *France* into *Swedland*. The Director answered for them all, as

Reg. May  
15. 1652.



the Civility of this Baron deserved, and the rare qualities of that most Noble Prince, whom we may justly style the Ornament of our age, and the principall glory of learning. The Baron whom they made to sit at the left hand of the Director, in the Secretaries place, the absent, was present also at the reading of an *Ode* of *Horace* translated by Monsieur *Tristan*. After which he withdrew, and was reconducted by the Officers, together with the other Academicians, to the gate where were *M. de Racan* and *de Boisrobert* to receive him with Monsieur *Tristan*.

#### THE FIFTH PART.

##### OF the Academicians in Particular.

I am come at length to the last part of my work, which respects the Academicians in particular. In it, I will observe this Order. First, I will tell you who and upon what occasion, each Academician was received into the Company, since its first Establishment: then I'll speak of those that are already dead: and lastly will add something of those that are living.

I call them *Academicians* because they themselves chose this name in the Assembly of the 12th. of Feb. 1635; that of *Academists*, which was also propounded having been rejected because of other Significations which it ordinarily has.

I told you in the beginning, that the

Reg. Feb.  
12. 1635.

whi



which gave birth to the Academie by their private and familiar meetings, were M. Godeau, now Bishop of Graie, M. de Gombauld, M. Gry, M. Chapelain, Messieurs Habert, M. Conrart, M. de Serisy & M. de Maleville. To these were joyned M. Farey, M. Desmarests & M. de Boisbert. After that the Cardinall would make a Body of them, there were added many persons at several times, as M. de Baunru, M. Silhon, M. de Sirmond, Monsieur the Abbot de Bourzey, M. de Meziriac, M. Maynard, M. Colletet, M. de Tomberville, M. de S. Amant, M. de Colomby, M. Baudoin, M. de l'Estoile, and M. de Porcheres d'Arbaud saving that the absence of some of these Gentlemen hindered them from receiving this honour. Then began they to make orderly meetings, and to keep a Register, which shews at what time each of the other Academicians were admitted.

The first was Monsieur Servien, then M. Servien Secretary of Estate, afterwards Plenipoten-  
Reg. March  
tiarie and Embassador for the peace at 13. 1634.  
Munster, and Minister of Estate, of whom is said thus in the Register of March the 3. 1634. The Academie thinking it self honoured with the entreaty of M. Servien, Secretary of Estate to be admitted into it, ordered that he should be thanked for it, and assured that he should be admitted when ever he pleases. He comes thither afterwards in the tenth of April, excuses himself for Reg. April  
not having bin present sooner, by reason 10. 1634.



of some important affaires in which he was imployed, makes his complement to the Academie, and receives an answer from the mouth of the Director; But I passe over in two words all these things, that I may not be excessive long.

*Balzac* The same day, *March 13. 1634.* in which *M. Servien* was propounded, *M. de Boisrobert* shewed a Letter which he wrote of his own head to *M. de Balzac*. Wherein he advertited him of the Cardinal's design for the establishment of the Academie, adding, *That if he desired to be admitted into it, he might signifie so much to the Company by his Letters, and that he doubted not but they would willingly grant it to him, in consideration of his worth.* This was done to execute a resolution which was lately made, not to admit any one that did not desire it, which is still observed. What followed, appears not in the Registers, but infallibly *M. de Balzac* upon his answer was received soon after into the Academie, and I find that in the year 1636, he read there some part of his *Prince*; which he then called, *the Minister of Estate.*

*M. Bardin.* Monsieur *Bardin*, who was of the number of those, which they cast their eye upon at first, was received next; after that he had excused himself of some *collesse* which he was said to have shown in the businessse, and assured the Company

*Reg. March*  
27.  
*Apr 13.*  
1634.



the displeasure he took, at that false report which had bin raised of him.

Those which were admitted next after him, *M. de Vager* are *M. de Boissat* *M. de Vagelas* *M. de Voiture & Las, Voiture*, *M. de Porcheres Laugier*. But at the reception of this last, who was propounded by *M. Laugier de Milleville*, there were two orders made, *Reg. Nov. 6.* which I must not omit. The first, that 27. & Dec. for the future they should give their votes 4. 1634. at Elections, by balls and not by word of *Reg. Ibid.* mouth, as they had done hitherto. The *Reg. Jan.* second that they should not admit any Aca- 12. 1635. demicien, that had not bin presented to the cardinall, and received his approbation. I have bin told since, that he did not love *M. de Porcheres Laugier*, looking upon him as a man that had bin intimate with his greatest enemies, that therefore he was very much troubled at this election: that they offered him to revoke it, & that he had so much moderation as to be satisfied with an order for the future. This rule has bin observed hitherto, both for him, and for the Chancellour, since he was Protector, upon the propounding of it by *Monsieur de la Chambre, Nov. 27. 1646.* It was, if I be not deceived, to appease the Cardinal *Reg. Nov. 27, 1646.* that *M. de Porcheres Laugier* made such haste to make his speech before his own turn came, in the place of *M. de Serizay*, and took for the subject of his discourse the praises of the Academie and its Protector, as you saw before.



M. de Mont-  
mor & M.  
de la Cham-  
bre.

Reg. Jan. 2.  
1635.

Monsieur Habert de Montmor, Master of Requests, and M. de la Chambre were received a little while after, and both at once. And I find that January 2. 1635. M. de la Chambre came thither first, and that M. de Cerisy speaking for his Cousin M. de Montmor, gave thanks to the Company for the favour they did him the last Sitting, and assured them he would come and take his place there, as soon as he returned from a voyage he was to make to S. Germain.

'Twas on the same day, Jan. 2. 1635. that they propounded the making of the Discourses, and that to this purpose they drew a Catalogue of the Academicians, which I told you of before. They would be ranked in it by lot without having any regard to the difference of their qualities. And for my part, I assure you also, that when I happen to name many of them together in this relation I please them likewise by lot, that is, according as their names come into my mind by chance, so that from thence you must not make any consequence.

M. the Chan-  
cellor.

Reg. Jan. 8.  
1635.

This Catalogue which was of thirty six persons being shown to the Lord Keeper of the Seales now Chancellor of France, he sent word to the Company by M. de Cerisy, that he desired to be comprised in it. 'Twas ordered that his name should be written in the front, as I told you elsewhere. And that M. de Montmor, dit Chastelet,



*Chastelet*, and the *three Officers* should go and give him most humble thanks for the honour he did the whole Company. In this occasion, *M. de Serisay*, who was the *Director*, was speaker, and they say, discharged it wonderfull well. His speech was read eight dayes after in the Assembly. 'Twas said he gave a Copie of it, to be kept amongst the works of the Academie, but whatever were the cause of it neither this speech, nor many others which he made upon severall occasions, during that long time he was *Director*, wherein he satist'd all men to the utmost, are to be found nor saw I so much as one of them amongst the papers that were communicated to me.

They received next, *Monseur the Abbot de Chambon*, Brother to *M. du Chastelet*: and six months after or thereabouts, *M. Granier*. He was elected by balls, which were all for him, except three. The event shewed that the three which would have excluded him, were not to blame; for I find in the Registers that on the 14th. of *May* following upon the Proposition that was made thereof by the *Director*, in the name of the *Cardinal*, he was deposed for some ill action by a *Common consent*, and without hope to be restored. It would have in it perhaps somewhat of inhumanity to dwell any longer upon this matter, he being still alive, and as they say, wholly given to devotion, although the book in-

*M. The Abbot de Chambon.*

*Reg. Feb. 26. 1635.*

*M. Granier Reg. Sept. 3. 1635.*



titled, *The Estate of France in the year 1652*, has put him amongst the Academi-  
ciens that are dead. It shall suffice me to  
tell you, not to return to him again, that  
he was an Ecclesiasticall person; a Native,  
as I am told, of the County of *Bresse*, a man  
of a handsome aspect, good wit & pleasant  
converſation together with much know-  
ledge & good Learning. That he might settle  
at Paris, he associated himself with a sta-  
tioner, named *Chapelain*, and afterwards  
with another named *Boüillerot*; and hav-  
ing been curious of good Manuscripts, he  
set forth some of them that were very  
rare; To him we owe *The memoires of*  
*Queen Margaret*, and those of *Monsieur*  
*de Villeroy*, the *Letters of Cardinall d' Ossat*,  
and of *Monsieur de Foix*. He caused  
these Books to be printed, and corrected,  
with the greatest care that was possi-  
ble, made many presents of them, was  
very neat in his house, very civill and of-  
ficious towards ingenious and learned per-  
sons, who for this reason were very will-  
ingly at his house, where he had as 'twere  
a kind of Academie. All these things  
brought him into repute, and made him  
known, first to the *Chancellor*, who gave  
him a pension & afterwards to the *Cardinal*,  
who was pleased that *M. de Boisrobert* should  
propound him to be of the Academie.

M. *Giry*.  
Reg. Jan.  
14. 1636.

The first that was received after him  
was *Monsieur Giry*. For though he were  
of those Assemblies of friends at *M. Con-*  
*rars*,



parts, he had retired himself, and was not called when they began to make a body of the Academie. I find in the Registers that he was propounded then by M. de Bosfront in the name of the *Cardinall*, who judged him worthy to be of it, upon the reading of his *Translation of Tertullians Apologetick*. The number of forty was not yet full. In the interim, Monsieur *Bardin* and Monsieur *Chastelet* dyed almost at the same time, and left two new places voyd.

They repaired this double losse by receiving M. *Bourbon*, and M. d' *Ablancourt*. There dyed besides, about the same time two other Academiciens, M. *Habert* Commissarie of the wars and M. de *Mexiriac*.

They received then and on the same day Monsieur *Esprit* and M. de la *Mothe le Vayer*; Fortune placed them as I name them. And at last to fill up the sole place that remained of the number of forty, they propounded, in the same Assembly, M. de *Priezac* Counellor of Estate, who was admitted eight dayes after.

Those which have been received since, are M. *Patru* in the place of M. de *Porcheres d Arband*.

Monsieur de *Besons*, then chief Advocat Generall in the Grand Counsell, now Counellor of Estate in Ordinary, in the place of the *Chancellor*, when he was made Protector after the *Cardinal's* death.

M. *Bourbon*  
& M. d' *Ablancourt*.

Reg. Sept.  
23. 1637.

Reg. March  
25. 1638.

M. *Esprit* &  
M. de la  
*Mothe le Vayer*.

Reg. Feb. 14.  
1639.

M. de *Priezac*.

M. *Patru*.  
Reg. Sept. 3.

1640.  
M. de *Besons*.

Reg. Jan.  
26. 1643.

Monsieur



M. de Salomon.

Reg. Aug. 12  
1644.

Monſieur de Salomon, then alſo advocat Generall in the Grand Coun'eil, in the place of M. Bourbon. He was preferred before M. Corneille who had deſired the ſame place. The Protector ſent the Academie word, that he left them their Liberty of choiſe; and you'l judge by the ſequel that they determined thus, becauſe M. Corneille making his abode at Province, could ſcarce ever be preſent at Aſſemblies, and diſcharge the function of an Academicien.

M. du Ryer  
Reg. Nov.  
21. 1646.

I ſay you'l judge by the ſequel, for ſince M. Faret being dead, they propounded on the one ſide the ſame M. Corneille, and on the other M. du Ryer, and the laſt was preferred. Now the Register in this place mentions a reſolution the Academie had taken; Of two perſons, where both of them are ſufficiently qualified, alwayes to prefer him that makes his reſidence at Paris.

M. Corneille.

M. Corneille was nevertheſſe received at laſt in the place of M. Maynard for that he ſent word to the Academie that he had ſo Ordered his affairs, that he might ſpend one part of the year at Paris. M. de Baſſedens was propounded alſo: and as he had the honour to belong to the Chancellor, the Academie had this reſpect for their Protector, to ſend five Academiciens to him, to know whether theſe two propoſalls were equally acceptable to him. The Chancellor answered that he would leave the



the Company to their absolute Liberty. But when they began to deliberate about this business; M. the Abbot of Cerisy presented them a Letter of M. Balesdens full of very many civilities to them & to M. Corneille whom he desired the Company would be pleased to prefer before him, protesting that he gave him this honour as being his due in all respects. The Letter was read and commended by the Assembly & afterwards he was received in the first vacant place, which was that of M. de Malleville; but I find not on what day; or from that time, the long & frequent indispositions of the Secretary to the Academie, have left a great *vacuum* in the Registers. So that I have not seen any thing of this reception, no more then of the five following, namely of Messieurs de Mezeray, de Mezeray, de Monterul, de Tristan, de Scudery and Doujat: All that I could learn of them, is that they succeeded Messieurs de Voiture, de Sirmond, de Colomby, de Van-gelas, and Baro.

Afterwards M. Charpentier was received in the place of M. Bandoin, after that they had read a Letter of the Chancellor's then absent, by which he signified to M. de Balesdens that he approved this Election, upon the knowledge that was given him of the merit of him that was propounded, and upon reading the book which was sent him. 'Twas *The life of Socrates*, and the memorable passages of that Philosopher, translated out of *Xenophon's* Greek.

Monfieur

M. Balesdens

Messieurs de Mezeray, de Monterul, de Tristan, de Scudery, de Van-Doujat.

M. Charpentier. Reg. Jan. 7. 1651.



M. the Abbot Taleman. Monsieur the Abbot Taleman, Almoner to the King, succeeded also afterwards M. de Montreuil.

Reg. May 10. 1651. M. the Mar-quis of Coastin. Lastly, as I was writing this Relation, Monsieur de l'Estoile being lately dead, the Chancellor sent to desire the vacant place for the Marquis of Coastin, his grandchild, thinking he could not better cultivate the

Reg. 18. & 21. May, & June 1. 1652. & inclination & the great hopes w<sup>ch</sup> this yong Lord gave for all excellencies befitting him.

Yet he sent word to the Company with a great deale of civility, that he desired it as a favour, and that he did not intend this reception should be a precedent, nor that it should be done in any other manner then the former. And indeed the Company having gladly received this Proposition, the election was made eight dayes after by balls, which were all for him: and 'twas ordered, that the Academy should go in a Body to thank the Chancellor for the honour he had done them, which was performed presently, and received by him with extream civility.

I have now told you all that have been received into the Academy since its Institution. You observe doubtless that the number of forty, whereof 'twas to be composed, was not full till the reception of Monsieur de Priezac, in the year 1639. 5. or 6, years after its first establishment, M. Patru, who was the first received afterwards, at his entrance into the Company, made there a very excellent Oration of thanks, which



which gave so good satisfaction, that it obliged all that were received afterwards, to do the like. There are amongst the Papers of the Academy thirteen of these gratulatory Orations, namely those of Messieurs *Patru, de Bezons, de Salomon, Corneille, Balesdens, de Mezeray, de Montereul, Tristan, Scudery, Doujat, Charpentier, the Abbot Taleman, and the Marquess of Coaslin.* But of this great number of Academiciens, not to speak of the Chancellour who of an Academicien, is become Protector of the Company, whose Elogies shall be seen in Histories more important, and more famous than this; seventeen are dead: concerning each of whom I think it not amiss to speak somewhat in particular. And if I should follow mine own inclination, this part of my work would be excessive long; for I confess, I have an extream and insatiable curiosity for every thing that can let me know the manners, Genius, and fortune of extraordinary persons; and that I am even guilty of so much weakness as to study many times in Books, the spirit of the Author far more than the matter which he treats of. But I will not forget that I write more for others, than for my self, and that this is the History of the Academy, and not of the Academiciens, of whom, to say the truth, I ought not to speak any more than is necessary for you to judge of the whole Body by some of its members. Monsieur *Colletet*, who is one of them himself, will  
one



one day supply this defect, and without question will not forget his friends and brethren in the *Lives of the French Poets*, in which he has already far advanced.

The seventeen that art dead, are;

*Bardin.*

*Du Chastelet.*

*Ha'ert, Commissary of the wars.*

*De Meziriac.*

*Porcheres d' Arband.*

*Bourbon.*

*Faret.*

*Maynard.*

*De Malleville.*

*De Voiture.*

*de Sirmond.*

*De Colomby.*

*De Vaugelas.*

*Baro.*

*Baudoin.*

*Montereul.*

*De l'Estoile.*

MONSIEUR BARDIN.

**W**hen Monsieur Bardin left the first place royal in the Academy, the Company ordered, that there should be performed for him a *Service* in the Church *des Billetes*, and that there should be also composed for him an *Elogie* succinct and without affectation of praises, which should be as 'twere an abridgment of his life.



life. Some dayes after 'twas added that there should be also made for him *two Epitaphs* one in Prose, the other in Verse, and that the same should be observed at the death of every Academicien. Monsieur *de Grasse* was appointed to make the *Elogie*, *M. Chapelain* the *Epitaph* in prose, and *M.* the Abbot *de Cerisy* that in verse. Methinks I cannot do better than relate to you here these three pieces, which are neither too long, nor of such a style as to displease you. And if that general rule which was then made, had been afterwards as exactly executed, as 'twas judiciously established it would have been no hard matter for me to speak of the Academiciens that are dead. Those *Elogies* would have either made my labour needless, or have furnished me with excellent good memoirs. But 'tis the Genius of the *French* to make very good Rules and keep them very ill. They have scarce put in practice any thing of it; but what respects the *Service*; the rest, which might have instructed Posterity, and have contributed to the glory, as well of the particular members, as of the whole Body, has been left undone; through a negligence worthy of blame, and altogether mis-beseeming this illustrious Society.



THE ELOGIE OF  
M. BARDIN

**T**HE French Academy thought of nothing but composing Songs of triumph, for his Majesties victories, when it was forced to go into mourning and bewaile the losse of PETER BARDIN, one of its most illustrious Ornaments. He was born in the year 1590. in the chief City of Normandy, of Parents, that left him a more advantageous portion of the goods of the mind, than of those of fortune. He received from them a life which he has lost, and he returned them a glory which shall never be extinguished. He took the first tincture of piety, and good letters amongst the Fathers the Jesuits. Even then his Masters judged, he would prove a man more than ordinary: But as the fruits of the Autumn do many times surpasse the promises of the Spring: so his actions and his writings taught them since, that they did not conceive hopes high enough of him. He would not study to become learned, but to be more good, and he took lesse care to enrich his memory, than to polish his reason, and regulate his manners. He was fit for all kind of Learning, but  
he



he addicted himself particularly to Philo-  
sophy and the Mathematicks, with so good  
success as kindled jealousy in the most  
able. The love of soverain Truth casting  
him upon the study of Divinity; he stopt  
not but at the clear and wholesome springs;  
from whence he drew those beams which  
did enlighten and yet not dazzle him. Af-  
ter he had collected much treasure from  
Authors both sacred and prophane; he  
believed he should commit a piece of theft;  
if he were not liberal therewith. The first  
fruits of his pen were consecrated to the  
glory of God by the Paraphrase of Ecclesi-  
astes which he composed and entitled  
**PENSEES MORALES**. In this work  
the dignity of the subject is maintained  
with an Elocution strong without rudeness;  
rich, without ornament; curious and hand-  
some, without affectation. It was gene-  
rally received with extraordinary ap-  
plause. En ie it self spake not a syllable  
against him; or if it did, it was in secret.  
This encourag'd him to make another Pre-  
face to posterity, which was the first and  
second parts of his **LYCEE**; in which de-  
scribing an Honest man, he drew his own  
picture ere he was aware. He was in tra-  
vel of the third; when an unexpected ac-  
cident snacht him from France; in the



two and fortieth year of his age, and deprived posterity of the fruits of his studies. He had the conduct of Monsieur d'Humieres in his youth, and afterwards dwelt with him, to assist him with his Counsel in his most important affairs, which he embraced as his own. He gave a very good testimony that he loved him passionately; for seeing him in danger to be drowned, he ran to his succour, not considering that in such encounters charity is commonly dangerous. Fear of the danger wherein he saw a person that was so dear to him, confounding him, he lost both his strength and breath; so that he was not able to resist the impetuosity of the waters, which turning in the place where he was lost, made a whirlpool in the midst of one of the most calm, and gentle Rivers of the world. This misfortune would have disquieted his friends for the state of his soul, had not the integrity of his life assured them that he was alwaies prepared for death; there could not be a more lamentable kind of death, nor a more glorious cause. He was of a most sweet conversation, and he knew so well to temper the severity of his Vertue, that it was not offensive to anyone. Although his estate were lesse then he deserved, yet he thought it high enough,



enough, and to make it better, would not stoop to any of those servile diligences which custome has rendred almost honourable. Eight dayes before his death, he spake in the Academy, and his soul was elevated to so high a pitch, that one might judge from thence that he began to untack himself from matter, and that he drew nigh his Center. His stature was moderate, the colour of his hair and visage shewed a just temperament of that melancholy, which Philosophers call wise and ingenious. The Academy did solemnly perform their devoirs to him, which Piety oblig'd them to; and 'twas a long time ere they could dry their tears. The regret which he beгат even in those that knew him not, was a consolation to his friends; and the publick sadness, was a remedy to their private grief. For a stately Monument, they preserved the memory of his name in their souls, endeavouring to follow his example, and had no thoughts sweeter then those which represented to them his Vertue.



The Epitaph on Monsicur  
BARDIN.

*The last part of  
his Discourse was  
concerning the  
Actions of an  
Honest man.*

**S**TAY Passenger, and weep. who  
e're thou art, thou hast lost a friend,  
if thou beest one to knowledge and to ver-  
tue. 'Tis PETER BARDIN, worthy  
of all other honour but that of a grate;  
Nevertheless comfort thy self, thou hast  
not lost him quite, the better part of him  
remains, I might say, all, if thou hadst all  
his HONEST MAN which he had be-  
gun to frame in his LYCEE. Thou wantest  
nothing of him, but what is wanting of  
that Book; yet thou mayst finish it, if thou  
knowest his life. Alas! he was taken  
away in the two and fortyeth year of his  
age; I dare not say, unhappily, since it was  
with glory. Seeing his Benefactor ready  
to be drowned, he threw himself in, to help  
him. He dyed, and he for whom he was  
afraid, dyed not. The danger was inno-  
cent, and the fear was mortall. This ac-  
cident surprizes thee, it did not surprize  
him. He was alwaies ready and his sud-  
den death did onely shorten his griefs and  
hasten his felicity. But I am injurious  
in staying you, to teach you his praises:  
passe on, go wither thou wilt, there  
are



are few places upon earth, where you  
will not hear them.

## The other Épitaph.

Bardin repose en paix au creux de ce tombeau,  
Un trespas avancé le ravit a la terre,  
Le liquide element luy declara la guerre,  
Et de ses plus beaux jours éteignit le flambeau,  
Mais son esprit exempt des outrages de l'onde,  
S'envola glorieux loing des peines du monde,  
Au palais immortel de la felicité. (rage,  
Il eut pour but l'honneur, le savoir pour par-  
Et quand au fond des eaux, il fut précipité,  
Les verus avec luy firent toutes naufrage.

That is,

Bardin doth rest in peace within this Tombe,  
A too too sudden death snatcht him away.  
The liquid Element his Foe become,  
And quencht, alas! the torch of his bright day,  
But his brave soul free from the outrages  
Of the waves, is fled unto the Court of blisse.  
'Twas Honour that he made his mark and  
(Crown,  
Knowledge the portion that his Parents left,  
And when to th' water's boetom he sunk down,  
Each Virtue was with him of life bereft.



I scarce know what to add to this *Elogie* and these *Epitaphs*. Those that knew this Gentleman, say he was really such as you see him there described, and do give very honorable Testimony of his vertue. His writings sufficiently manifest all the rest, and the beauty of his minde appears in that of his expressions, and Style, which perhaps has no other fault but that it is a little too diffuse. I have bin told of some other works of his, which I have not seen, nor are they mention'd in the *Elogy*. They are, *The great Chamberlain of France, dedicated to the Duke de Chevreuse, and printed at Paris by du Val in the year 1623. A book dedicated to the King, and a reasonable long Letter concerning the possession of the Nuns of Loudun.* He had resolv'd to intitle his *Lycee*, THE HONEST MAN, and was troubled that Monsieur *Faret* to whom he communicated his design, had prevented him, and made use of that title himself.

#### MONSIEUR DU CHASTELET.

*Paul Hay* in *Sieur du Chastelet*, was of the ancient house of *Hay* in *Bretagne*, which glories that it sprung six hundred yeares ago from that of the Earles of *Carlile* one of the most illustrious families of *Scotland*. He was at first advocate Generall to the Parliament of *Rennes*, and afterwards Counsellor of Estate in ordinary. He had likewise very honourable employment, as the Commission



mission to establish the Parliament at *Pau*; and in the year 1635. the Intendance of justice in the Kings Army, where the late King, *Louis 13.* the Count of *Soissons*, and the Cardinall *de Richelieu*, were in person. He was nominated to be one of the Commissioners in the triall of the *Marshall de Marillac*; but the Marshall excepted against him, as his Capitall Enemie, and one that had made a Latin Satyr in riming prose as well against him, as against his Brother the Lord Keeper of the Seales. It has bin reported of him since, that he denied before the King, and that with an Oath, that he was the Author of that piece that yet afterwards, when the same exception was made against him another time, he owned what he had formerly denied. Whereupon the King in choler caused him to be Clapt up. As for his own part, in the *Observations* which he had made upon the tryal of *Marillac*, he only protests that he never made any Oath before the King, without saying any thing more of that business. But I know very well what he has said of it to his most familiar friends, and I have had very private memoires concerning it, which in a word may be reduced to this; that being desirous to withdraw himself out of the number of the judges, he himself caused that Petition of the *Marshals* excepting against him to be suggested, and that his artifice being discovered, by some potent persons that were his Enemies,



raised the Kings displeasure. Most certain it is, that alter the last petition of exception, which was presented against him at *Ruel*, where the tryall was, he was committed by the King who was then at *S. Germain*, and carryed the same day to *Villepreux*: and that during his imprisonment, to make his peace at Court, he wrote those *Observations* I spake of, which got him his Liberty. Afterwards he collected divers pieces of severall Authors in deence of the King and his Officers, and printed them with this title, *A Collection of pieces useful for a Historie*, and put before it that long Preface, which is as 'twere an Apology for the Cardinal *de Richelieu*. He was a man of a good aspect of a hot Spirit, and very resolute; he spoke and writ very well, and did infinitely love the exercises of the Academie. And 'tis said they were not unprofitable to him, and that there appears a vast difference between those pieces he wrote before, and those he wrote alter the establishment of this Body. 'Twas he that read, there the first discourse of the twenty, which I formerly mention'd: I say, that read there; for though having gon through many Offices, and in particular that of advocate General, he was alwayes accustomed to speak in publicke, he protested that never any Assembly appeared more awfull to him then this, and therefore he made use of the Liberty which the Statute gives to all the Academiciens, to read their Orations,

if



if they please, instead of speaking them. I have heard some sayings which are said to be his, that me thinks deserve to be related. When Monsieur de Boureville's triall was, he made a *Factum* for him, which was as eloquent as bold, and the Cardinall having objected to him, that it was to condemn the justice of the King, *Pardon me*, said he to him, *it is to justifie his mercy, if he be so good as to make use of it towards one of the valiantest men in his Kingdom.* One day, as he accompanied Monsieur de Saint Preuil, who solicited the Duke of Montmorency's pardon, and exprest much zeale for it, the King said to him, *I believe that Monsieur du Chastelet would have lost an arme to save M. de Montmorency. I would Sir, have lost them both; answer'd he, (for they are unable to do you service,) and have saved one, that hath won you battails and might yet win you more.* At his coming out of prison, the Cardinall making some excuse for his confinement, *I make a great difference,* answer'd he, *between the evill your Eminence does, and that which it permits; and shall be never the lesse obliged to serve you.* And a little while after being carryed to the Kings Chappel, who did not look upon him, nay it seems did on purpose turn his head another way, as if out of a kind of shame, to see a man whom he had lately treated in that manner; He lipt to Monsieur de S. Simon, and said to him, *I beseech you, Sir, tell the King I forgive him*  
with



with all my heart, and do desire he would do me the honour to look on me. Monsieur de S. Simon told the King, who laughed at it, and afterwards was very kind to him. He dyed being forty three years and five months old, April 6. 1636. of a quartan ague, and as I have heard some say, through the Physicians fault, and for having bin too much blooded. He left works both in Verse and Prose. That which I have seen in Verse, is the *Advice to the absent*, against those that were then at *Brussels* with the Queen Mother, Mary de Medicis, and Monsieur, the Kings onely Brother; A pretty long Satyre, *Against the Court-life*, which begins *Sous un calme trompeur*, &c. which has bin falsely attributed to *Theophile*; Another cruel and bloody Satyre, against a Magistrate, under the name of \* \* \*. His works in Prose are *Prose rimée*, or Prose in rime, in Latin, against the *Marillacs*. *Observations on the trial of the Marshal de Marillac*: The preface to *The Collection of pieces, usefull to a Historie*. His Style especially in this preface is magnifick and stately, perhaps even to excess. He had begun another piece in answer to the Abbot of *S. German*, as I said elsewhere; but he dyed before he had finish't it, and what he did, was never seen,

O  
M NSIEUR



## MONSIEUR HABERT.

PHILIP HABERT was of a very ancient familie in *Paris*, of which there are at this day some in the greatest offices belonging to the *Robe*, and it hath had very honourable alliances. Of five Brothers that were of them, this was the second, and the Abbot of *Cerisy* the third. In his Childhood he gave tokens of very much Genius for Learning, but after he had finish'd his Studies the employments into which he entred, in enbly engaged him in the profession of armes. The last, in which he dyed, was that of *Commissarie of the Artillerie*, which had bin given him by *Monsieur de Mesteraie* of whom he was extraordinarily beloved. He was present at the most remarkable transactions of those times, at the battaile of *Avein*, at the passage of *Bray*, at the seiges of *la Motte*, *Nancy*, and *Landrecy*. But in the year 1637. some troops of the French Army having received order to besiege the Castle of *Emery*, betwixt *Mants* and *Valenciennes*, as he was amongst the ammunition of war, which he had the conduit of, a Soldiers match falling into a great barrel of powder, blew up a wall, under whose ruines he was overwhelmed. He was not then above two and thirty yeares old, his stature was indifferent, his hair flaxen, his eyes blue, his visage pale, and pitted with the

small



small pox. His aspect and conversation were cold and serious; but he had a high fancy, great courage, and ardent passions in so much, that I have bin assured, he was like to have dyed in good earnest, for love of one of his Mistresses. He was courteous, discreet and judicious, a person of honour and honesty; and all that knew him, speak of him as of a man not onely very amiable, but also worthy of a most particular esteem. The onely work that he has in print, is, *The Temple of death*, which is one of the most handiome pieces of our French Poetry. He made it for Monsieur de la Meslerie, on the death of his first wife, which was Daughter to Marshal de Effiat. He has left other verses in a Manuscript, but I have heard that they are not altogether of the same strength, whether it be that a man cannot write alwayes with the like happinesse, or that he had not leisure to correct, and polish them, as he did the others, which he chang'd and rechang'd for the space of three yeares, to bring them to that perfection in which we see them. He made also a *Relation* in prose of the passages in *Italie* under the Marquis de Uxelles, Generall of the army which King Lewis the 13. sent to the succor of the Duke of Mantua. The Academie caused an *Elogie* to be made on him by Monsieur de Gombauld, and an *Epitaph* in verse by Monsieur Chapelain, which will hereafter be seen with the rest of their works.

Monsieur



## Monsieur DE MEZIRIAC.

CLAUDIUS CASPAR BACHET ;  
*Sieur de Meziriac* was of *Bresse*, of a noble  
 and ancient Family. He was well made and  
 of a handsome stature, had black eyes and  
 hair, a pleasant countenance, and conversati-  
 on very sweet. He was learned in the  
*Languages* and particularly in the *Greek*,  
 he had a deep insight in *Mythologie*, in  
*Algebra*, in the *Mathematicks*, and other  
 curious sciences. In his youth he spent  
 very much time at *Paris* and at *Rome*: in the  
 latter of which, he made many Italian  
 verses, in emulation of *Monsieur de Vaugelas*,  
 who was there also, Afterwards he  
 retir'd to his house at *Bourg* in *Bresse*, and  
 if we may believe a common friend of ours  
 that was very intimately acquainted with  
 him, he there led a life the most Charm-  
 ing that one can imagin. He was already  
 known, and accounted in *France* one of  
 the prime men of his time, whether for  
 wit or learning, which was sufficient to  
 satisfy a reasonable ambition, as his was.  
 As for his estate, it was at the first worth five  
 or six thousand livres rent, and at last  
 eight or ten by the death of *William Ba-  
 chet* his elder Brother. He never troubled  
 himself to get more, nay on the con-  
 trary he avoyded all publick offices and  
 employments, which others sought after  
 with so much care. Whilst he was yet at  
*Paris*



Paris, they talkt of making him Tutor to the late King *Lewis* 13. this was the reason that he made such haste to quit the Court; and he has said since, that he was never in so much pain, for he thought he had already the heavy burden of a whole kingdom upon his shoulders. After he was thus retired, he married, and though he might pretend to a very rich fortune, he chose rather to take a wife without any Portion, but one of a good familie, handsome, and of very sweet conditions, and perfectly agreeing with his own. He never repented himself of this choice, and often took delight to talk of it with his friends, as of the best choice that he ever made. Health, that precious blessing which renders all others infinitely more acceptable, was not wanting to him, and the onely inconvenience was, that he had now and then some light touches of the gout. But the principall part of his happiness consisted in his disposition, for 'twas naturally facile, discreet, and moderate; alwayes merry, and displeas'd with nothing. There was not any Science, which he had not applyed himself to for some time, as I told you before; No handsome art, but he understood, and could labour in it with his own hands; No person of what quality soever, and even of his own domestiques, that he would not freely discourse with. One might see him do all kind of exercises, according to the



the season of the year, or the Company he was with, playing at cards, dice, and all other games, in which he was skillfull even to the best niceties; dancing amongst a Company of Ladies, and that with so much Liberty that he would often have his Table-book carryed after him, to write when he had a minde to it, without leaving the Room where the Company was. With his free and familiar humor, added to his merit, birth, and estate; he was not only beloved, but also respected and revered of every one, and possessed a kind of Empire in his Country. Neverthelesse he abused it not, nor made use of it but for the good and delight of those that gave it him. He diligently studied their inclinations and their geniues, and according as he judged them fit for any science or art, he would put them upon it with all his power; and took delight to instruct them in it, and conferr with them about it. And sometimes he would allot them parts in playes. And to this purpose I remember I have often heard a friend of ours relate at large, how he caused *The sheperdesses*, a Patorall of Monsieur de Racan's who was his intimate friend, to be acted by persons of qualitie, that he himself pickt out. First he altered it in some places, that the scene might be the Country about *Bourg in Bresse*; then for the acting of it, he took a dining-room, where the windows being open on both sides, the specta-

x best



tors might see the very places that were presented in little upon the Stage. The Engines, which were of necessity to be in this play, to represent the Charms of a Magician, were contriv'd & ordered with an extreme deal of care; And when a certain fiery dragon began to appear, one of the <sup>the</sup> actors fell into a swoon, and most part of the Company trembled for fear lest the fire (as it often happens in the like encounters,) should exceed its Commission. But the thing most to be admir'd at, was, that he had chosen all the Actors fit for the parts he gave them; and that almost all of them, having the same passions which they were to represent, or at least being not far from them, they were as were possess'd after an extraordinary manner. There was among the rest, a young man that personated an afflicted Lover, and was himself an afflicted Lover, who upon this occasion far surpassed all the *Roscisses*, *Asops*, and *Montdories*, and weeping himself first, made the whole assembly weep. This then was the life of this Academicien, which was not long: for he was scarce five and forty years old when he dyed. He left Children and many works of all sorts.

There is of his a little book of *Italian Poems*, where there are imitations of the best Comparisons, that are in the eight first books of the *Eniads*.

Another



Another Book of *Latin Poems.*

Many Poems in French. They are in the Collection of 1621. which is called *The delights of the French Poesie*, and in that of the year 1627.

One Volume which contains part of *Ovids Epistles*, translated into French Verse, with very learned Commentaries. There is one of them which he sayes was translated twenty yeares before, by his Elder Brother *William Bacher.*

*The true life of Æsop in French*: I say, the true life, because that by *Planudes* is by the learned accounted fabulous.

*Diofantus* translated out of the Greek into Latin, with Commentaries, which our friend *Monsieur de Fermat*, and all that understand the *Algebra*, highly esteem. He said himself, that he wondred how he was able to do it, and that he should never have finisht it, had it not bin for that Melancholie and obstinate humor, which was brought upon him by a quartan ague he then had.

A Book of *Arithmetical Recreations* dedicated to *Monsieur de Tournon*, wherein he teaches all the tricks that may be done in play by numbers, and out of this they have taken part of the *Mathematicall Recreations.*

*A treatise of Affliction*, translated out of *Cacciaguerra's Italian.*



His great work was the translation of *Plutarch*, which he undertook in emulation of *Amiot's*, in which he pretended as I told you before, that he had found an infinite number of faults. This work was almost finish'd, when he dyed, and 'tis hoped we shall one day see it publish'd. He cites often in his works, *A Commentarie on Apollodorus* which appears not, and very likely 'tis also amongst his papers.

Of all the things he was skilled in, there was nothing he knew more thoroughly and absolutely, then the *Fabulous Historie*, in which he was accounted amongst the learned, the prime man of his age.

#### M. de PORCHERES D'ARBAUD.

If I have been too long in the life *M. de Meziriac*, I shall be very brief in this, whereof I know but very little. FRANCIS DE PORCHERES D'ARBAUD was of *Provence*, and was said to be descended of that ancient house of PORCHERES, which *Monsieur de Porcheres Laugier* was also said to be of, although they never acknowledged one another for kinsmen. He had been the disciple and follower of *Malherbe*, and imitated him very much in his manner of Versifying. He was Governour of a Son of *Monsieur de Cbenoise's*; and since that, of a Son of the Count of *S. Heran's*, *Monsieur de Boisrobert*,

(of



( of whom every one gives this Testimony, that never any man that was in favour, delighted more in doing good, ) procured him a pension of six hundred Livers from the *Cardinall de Richelieu*. He retired himself into *Bourgogne*, where he married and dyed. He made many verses which have never been printed; some are, as *The Psalms of degrees* and some others, which never came to my hands.

Monfieur BOURBON.

NICOLAS BOURBON, famous in this age for Latin Poetry, was a Native of *Bar* upon *Aube*, the Son of a Physitian and grand nephew of another *Nicolas Bourbon*, Latin Poet in the dayes of our Fathers, whose *Elogie* is to be seen in *Paulus Jovius*, and *Sanmarthanus*; and who, being a Smiths son, among his other works made a description of a Smiths forge, in a Book which he calls *Nuga*, and, by the way, tis this Book, on which *du Bellay* made this merry Epigram.

*Paule tuum inscribis Nagarum nomine  
librum.*

*In toto Libro nil melius Titulo.*

This, of whom I have to speak, was in youth instructed in human Learning by *Teratius*. His first publike employment was to teach Rhetorique in the Col-



lege des Grassins, and afterwards in that de Caloy, and then in that de Harcour. But as he withdrew himself from this last, to live privately; Card. du Ferron, who was grand Almoner of France, having seen some verses of his making, upon the death of Henry the great, nominated him to the place of Professor of Greek eloquence in the Kings College in Critton's room. He was also Canon of Langres, and in his old age, finding himself no longer able to take pains by reason of his sickinesse and particularly of an almost perpetuall want of sleep, which he was troubled with, he retired himself to the Company of the Fathers of the Oratorie, but he would not be obliged to any of the duties, nor so much as permit them to call him Father. Yet he wore the same habit as the rest did, onely he went alone with a secular servant. Whilst he belong'd to one of the Colleges, he was imprisoned, for having made a Latin Satyre, intituled *Indignatio Valeriana*, against an Arrest of Parliament, which had suppress'd a certain piece of money called *Droit de landy*, which Professors took of their Scholars. You may see this more at large in the *Origines* of Monsieur Menage upon the word *Landy*. He earnestly desired to be of the Academie, and was constantly there; although he made as 'twere another Academie at his own house through the concourse of severall persons of all sorts, which his Learning and wort

drew



drew thither. The Cardinall *de Richelieu* gave him a pension, and towards the end of his dayes the last Bishop of *Beauvais*, of the House of *Potier*, who had bin his Scholar, and was an Attendant of the Queen Regent's, *Anne of Austria*, settled another pension on him. But he enjoy'd it not long, for he dyed very shortly after. I have heard him accus'd by many, of being a little too much addicted to money; and that although he had forty or fifty thousand Livers of ready money, which they found in a Chest of his after his death, yet he seem'd to be afraid of nothing so much as poverty, which was caused perhaps, either from his old age, or from some considerable losses he had sustain'd. He was in his youth a great friend of *Regnier*. He is commended for an excellent memory, and 'tis said among other things, that he could say almost by heart all *Thuanus* his Historie, and all the Elogies of *Paulus Jovius*. He was very courteous, a great approver of other mens works, in the presence of the Authors; but sometimes too, as I am told, a little pettish and something too sensible of injuries, which he imagin'd had bin done him. He was at odds with Monsieur *de Balzac*, and wrote against him a Latin Letter, *Andrade*, that is, to Monsieur *Guyet* Prior of *S. Andrade* neer *Bordeaux*. *M. de Balzac* answered him in another Letter in French, addressed to the same *M. Guyet*,



and printed in one of his Volums ; There 'tis that he makes this pretty allusion upon the qualitie of his aduertatie, who was accounted one of the *Fathers of the Oratorie*, and the great Poet.

*Heu vatem insana mentis ! quid vota furentem,*

*Quid delubra juvant ?*

Monſieur *Chapelain* reconciles them, upon which there are Latin Verſes both of the one and others making. He dyed at the age of about threescore and ten, *August 6. 1644.*

There is of his a volume of works in Latin, with which there is a Collection of Elogies made on him, which you may ſee. He was eſteemed by the publike, the beſt Latin Poet of his time : and his Proſe, though it has made leſſe noiſe, deſerves perhaps no leſſe praiſe than his Verſe.

#### MONSIEUR FARET.

NICOLAS FARET was of *Breſſe*, of a familie little known. He came to *Paris* very young with Letters of recommendation from *M. de Meziriac* to ſeverall ingenious perſons ; amongſt others, to *Monſieur de Vaugelas*, and *de Boisrobert*. He applyed himſelf to theſe two, and to *Monſieur Coeffeteau* to whom he dedicates his tranſlation of *Eutropius*. He continued at *Paris* a long time without getting any employment. At length, *Monſieur de Boisrobert* and ſome others of his friends preferr'd him to be Secretary to the



the Count of *Harcour*. 'Twas a place in appearance little advantageous; for this Prince had not as yet an allowance answerable to his birth, and the whole House of *Lorraine* was at that time out of favour. However it happened that *Fares* contributed to the good fortune of his master, and therein to his own. For as he often saw *M. de Boisrobert*, he persuaded him that the *Cardinall*, to divide the the House of *Lorraine*, which was an enemy to him, could not do better, then to draw to his side this Prince, who was already upon no good terms both with his Elder Brother *Monsieur d'Elbœuf*, and his mother; and who in the condition wherein he stood, would the more easily be brought to be at the commands of the Court. The *Cardinall* embraced this counsell, took into his alliance the Count of *Harcour*, and afterwards bestowed on him great employments. *Fares* who had alwayes lived with him with very much familiarity, and more like a friend then a domestique, shared in this prosperity. He married twice very richly, especially the last time. They say, he dyed very well to passe, though out of a laudable gratitude, he divers times engaged himself to help *Monsieur de Vangelas* in his wants; which had well nigh made him ruine his own estate. He dyed aged about fifty years, of a Malignant fever, after he had endured very much. He left one



Son by his <sup>first</sup> wife, and other Children by his second. He was a man of a good Complexion, somewhat fat and grosse, of a Chestnut coloured hair, and high coloured visage. He was a great friend of *Molere's*, the Author of *Polyxena*, and of *Monieur de S. Amant*, who has commended him in his verses, as a brave good-fellow. However he was nothing neer so much, as a man would guesse from thence, although he did not hate good cheer and mirth; and he saies himself somewhere in his works, that the fitnessse of his name to rime with *Cabaret* [which signifies a tipling-house] was partly the cause of this report, which *M. de S. Amant* had raised of him. A man may perceive by reading his writings that he had an excellent wit, very much of purity and cleanness in his Style and a good genius for Language and eloquence. His principall work is, *The honest man*, which he made about the year 1633. It has been translated into *Spanish*. This book deserves to have its Author esteemed, for that being judiciously assisted by the writings of such as went before him & particularly the Count *Balthasar Castiglio*; he has collected in a little room, and explained in very elegant terms, a great deale of good counsel for all sorts of persons, and especially Courtiers.

He has left also his *Translations of Euteropians*, dedicated, as I told you but now,



to Monsieur *Coeffeteau*, who ever since highly esteemed him for his Language. He collected two Volumes of Letters of severall Authors, amongst which there are many of his own.

He made but few verses, neither am I certain that he has any more than an Ode to *Cardinall de Richelieu*, which is in *The sacrifice of the Muses*; and a sonnet which is to be seen in *Nostre-Dame Church*; with a Picture, for a vow which he made in *Piemont* at the *Combat de la Route*, where he was with his Master.

MONSIEUR MAYNARD.

**F**RANCIS MAYNARD, a *Tolosain*, was of a very good family. His Grandfather *John Maynard*, a Native of *S. Cere*, though born in an age when Learning but began to revive in *France*, in the reign of *Francis* the first, was in esteem for his Learning, and wrote *Commentaries on the Psalms*, which are still extant.

From him issued *Gerard Maynard*, Counsellor in the Parliament of *Tolose*, a great Lawyer. He is commended for continuing faithfull in the Kings service; in a time when civill wars had divided all the Soverain Courts of the Realm. He was one of those that retreated to *Chastel-Sarrasy*, when the Company was wholly oppressed by the Power of the *Duke of Joyeuse*. At length, to withdraw himself

yet



yet farther from the troubles, he quitted his employment, and returned to dwell at *S. Cere*. In this retirement he collected that great Volume of *Arrests*, wherein is contain'd almost all the Law of our Province. This book, ~~which~~ my late Father afterwards took the pains to abridge, for his own private use, with what successe you are not ignorant, which was very well received of the publike, even in the Authors life time, and translated, as I hear, into divers languages.

*Gerard* had *John* his eldest Son, who was also Counsellour in the Parlement of *Tolose*, but did not long exercise this charge, dying being very young; and *Francis Maynard*, of whom we speak, who for his witt and verses is become more famous then any of his Ancestors. He was *President* in the *Presidiall Court* of *Aurillac*, and had also the honour before his death to be Counsellor of State. In his youth he came to Court, and was Secretary to Queen *Margaret*, beloved of *Desportes*, and camarade to *Regnier*. He then writ a large Poem in *Stanzas*, which he intituled *Philander*, after the manner of that of *Monieur d'Urfe's*, and *The transformation of the Shepherdesse Iris* of *Deslingendes*. In the year 1634, he went to Rome, where he was in the attendance of *Monieur de Noailles* Embassadour for the King. There he was intimately acquainted with and beloved of  
Cardinall



Cardinall *Bentivoglio*, the rarest Wit and best writer that *Italie* has brought forth in our age. And so he was of Pope *Urban* the 8th. who often delighted to discourse with him about ingenious matters, and gave him with his own hand a Copie of his *Latin Poems*. Nor was he lesse known and esteemed in *France* by the greatest: but his fortune was not any thing bettered by them, as the continuall and perhaps too excessive complaints, which he makes of it in his writings, do but too much manifest. He was nominated at the first (as you saw before,) to be of the Academie. But the Cardinall *de Richelieu* never did any thing for him, and 'twas partly, as I have heard by some, because he loved not to be asked for any thing, but that they should leave him the glory, of giving of his own accord. And therefore it was that he rejected that handsome Epigram of his, which begins with,

*Armand, l'age affoiblit mes yeux,*

and that too, as is said, in a great rage, contrary to his custom. For having heard the conclusion of it, which saies,

*Mais s'il demande en quel employ ;  
En m'as revu dedans le monde,  
Et quel bien j'ay recen de toy ;  
Que veux-tu que je luy reponde ?*

That



That is,

*But if he ask what use of me  
You made whilst here on earth I stay'd,  
Or what good from you I have had,  
What will you have my answer be?*

He answered in cho'ler, *Nothing*. This was the cause of those verses which *Maynard* made against him after his death. He made yet another voyage to the Court in the Regency of Queen *Anne of Austria*, and there 'twas that I saw and came acquainted with him. But succeeding then no better than formerly, he return'd to his house, where he dyed at the age of 64 years, Dec. 28. 1646. Sometime before, he set up this Inscription over his Study, which exprest his disgust of the Court, and of his Age.

*Las d'esperer, et de me plaindre,  
Des Muses des Grands, & du Sort.  
C'est icy que i'attends la mort  
Sans la desirer ni la craindre.*

That is,

*With hoping and complaining tired  
'Gainst th' Muses, Grandees, and my Fate,  
'Tis here that I will death awaite,  
Which is nor feared, nor desired.*

He left amongst other children one Son  
named



named *Charles* whom he often mentions in his verses, and of him I received some notes concerning his life, written very neatly & in handtom terms. He lost another son which was his eldest, and of whom he had great hopes. As for himself, he was a man of a good aspect, such almost as you see him in his picture before his Poems. To this purpose, *Monsieur de Balzac* said of him.

*Consule Fabricio dignusque numismate vul-*  
(tus.

His stature was none of the tallest, and towards the end of his life he grew somewhat corpulent. He was of a pleasant humour in his Conversation, and extraordinarily delighted with mirth and good cheer: neverthelesse he was a person of honour, and a true friend. Besides that *French* Poem which I mentioned, and some *Latine* ones not printed, there are two volums of his, one of verses, which he set forth at his last going to the Court: the other of Letters, which an intimate friend of his publisht after his death; and in my opinion, he never made them to have them printed. However we may say, they have done him no discredit; for there appears almost throughout, the purity of his wit, and that plain and familiar style which is proper to this kind of writing. But 'tis from his verses he hath gotten his greatest credit,

as



2  
*the French Academie.*

as he himself alſo acknowledged: & truly it muſt needs be confeſt, that they have that facility, clearneſs, elegancy, and a certain roundneſſe or ſmoothneſſe which few can imitate. Two things, if I be not deceiv'd, have been the principal cauſe hereof. Firſt, as he himſelf confeſſes, in the 17<sup>th</sup> of his Epittles, he affects to have his Verſes not tread upon the heels of one another; whence 'tis that you ſhall ſee very often 5 or 6 of them, every one having its perfect and compleat ſenſe in it ſelf.

*Nos beaux ſoleils vont achever leur tour.  
L'vrons nos cœurs à la mercy d'Amour.  
Le temps qui fuit, Cloris, nous le conſeille.  
Mes cheveux gris me font déjà fremir.  
Deſſons la tombe il faut toujours dormir.  
Elle eſt un liet où jamais on ne veille.*

In the ſecond place he obſerves every where in his expreſſions a ſimple, natural conſtruction, in which there is no tranſpoſition nor violence; ſo that, although he took incredible pains about it, one would think that all his words came into his mind by chance while he was writing, and that he could hardly have placed them otherwiſe, though he would. I remember to this purpoſe, that one day when I went to ſee him I found him hearing ſome verſes of his Son's, who read them to him. He came to a place where there was ſome word or other out of its natural place, which



which made the sense somewhat dubious for it might be refer'd both to that which follow'd, and to that which went before. But yet the sense of the place took away the difficulty, and the passage was clear enough. He bid him read it to him three times, making as if he could not understand it, and at last turning to his Son: *Ah Son,* said he, *here you are not a right Maynard; for they do not use to place their words thus.*

I think it will not be amisse to relate also to this purpose three pretty passages, which speake somewhat of him, and of his Genius for verse, in the memoires which Monsieur de Racan has written of the life of Malherbe.

He had (saith M. de Racan speaking of Malherbe) for his Schollars Monsieur Touvant, Colomby, Maynard, and de Racan; of whom he gave different judgments, and said in general terms, that Touvant made verses rarely well, without telling us wherein he excelled; That Colomby had an excellent wit, but that he had no Genius for Poetry; That Maynard made the best verses, but that he wanted strength; and that he gave himself to a kind of writing, which he was not fit for, meaning Epigrams; and that he never came cleanly off with them, because



cause he had not sting enough. And for Racan, that he had strength, but did not take pains enough about his verses; that most commonly to save a good conceit, he took too much licence; and that these two last, put together would make one excellent Poet

In another place: He strove earnestly (he speaks alwaies of Malherbe) with one Monsieur de Laleu to make Sonnets with a great deal of liberty, whereof two quatrains should not rime alike. Colomby would never make any of them, nor could he approve them. Racan made one or two of them, but he was the first that disliked them. At length also M. de Malherbe was weary of them, and there was only Maynard of all his Schollars that continued to make them as long as he lived.

I'll add one word to this passage, that tis true that *Maynard* not only made of these kind of Sonnets to his death; but that also in his latter years, wherein I was acquainted with him, he was altogether for them, and cryed out against the tyranny of those that opposed them. And that he would be very angry when some to defend his opinion alledged the example of M. *Malherbe*, saying, he wanted it not, being



being strong enough by reason and his own authority; and lastly, that no man could hinder him from making Epigrams of fourteen verses.

The last passage of the three, is this :

When M. de Malherbe came first to Court, which was in 1605. as we said before, he did not as yet observe the making a pause at the third verse in Stanza's of six, as may be seen in the prayer which he made for the King going to Limousin, where there are two or three Stanza's in which the sense is continued; and in the Psalm Domine Dominus noster, in this Stanza, and perhaps in some others, which I do not remember at present.

*Si tost que le besoin excite son desir, &c.*

He continued alwaies in this negligence, during the life of Henry the Great, as you may see yet in that Piece which begins with

*Que n'estes-vous lassées.*

And in the second Stanza whose first verse is,

*Que ne cessent mes larmes, &c.*

○

which



which he made for Madam the Princesse, and I know not whether he continued not the same negligence even in 1612. in the Verses he made for the Place Royale. Certain it is that Maynard was the first that took notice that this observation was necessary for the perfection of Stanza's of six, and this perhaps was the reason why Monsieur de Malherbe accounted him the only man in France that knew best how to make Verses. Racan who could play a litle upon the Lute, and was a lover of musick, grew soon into credit with the Musicians, who could not make their stops in Stanza's of six if there were not a rest at the third part. But when M. de Malherbe and Maynard would have in Stanza's often, besides the stop at the fourth Verse, another at the seventh, Racan opposed them, and scarce ever observed it. His reason was because Stanza's of ten were scarce ever sung, and though they were, a man could not sing them in three breaths; and therefore it suffices to make one in the fourth. This was the greatest contest that happen'd betwixt M. de Malherbe, and his Schollars, and the reason why they were almost ready to declare him a Heretick in Poetry.

x. v. 770.



The judgment which *Malherbe* gave of *Maynard* in the first of these passages is conformable enough to that of very many understanding men. Yet it must be confessed, that he has done wonderful well in many of his epigrams especially in those which he has imitated, or the Ancients: and our illustrious President *de Caminade*, who gave him every year a *Martial* for a new-years gift, was question esse of this opinion. *Theophile*, whose wit nevertheless I acknowledge is much more to be valued than his judgment, said that his Epigrams seemed to have a kind of *Magick* in them; but in a word, be it how it will, no man can doubt but that *Maynard* whether for this kind of writing or for others deserves to be counted amongst the prime Poets of France. The Judges of the *Floral Games of Tolose*, of whom the same *Monsieur de Caminade* was then President admitted him into their Body, although he had not disputed for, and † *Claud. Binet* gained the three Flowers, according to the *in the Life of* Custom. And as they had formerly given *Ronsard* *says* to *Ronsard* an *Apollo*, and to *Baif* a *David* of *It was a Minerva: but two* silver, they Ordered that there should be *persons of quality of Tolose,* given to *Maynard* a † *Minerva* of the same *that were* matter; but to the shame of our age, the *Judges of the* *Capitons*, that are the sole executors of *Floral Games* these determinations, either out of covetousness or neglect, never accomplished it *have assured* as may be seen by this Epigram in his *me, that they* works with this title, *On a Minerva of silver* *stood in their* *Registers it was* *as Apollo.* *ever promised, but not given.*



## Mr. DE MALLEVILLE.

CLAUDIUS DE MALLEVILLE was a *Parisien*. His Father had been an Officer in the house of *Retz* and his Mother was of a good family in *Paris*. He studied very hard at College, and had a very delicate wit. They sent him to be instructed in affairs to one of the Kings secretaries, named *Potiers*, who was of the Finances, but he tarried not long there; through the inclination he had to Learning. He grew acquainted with *M. Porcheres Langier*, who presented him to the Marshal *de Bassompierre*. He was a long time with this Lord in quality of Secretary, but had very little employment there; and being a man of great ambition he was much troubled at it, and desired him to consent that he might leave him, to dwell with the Cardinal *de Berule*, who was then in favour. But finding no better success there, he returned to his first Master, to whom he did many services, in the time of his imprisonment, who having gotten his liberty and a re-establishment in his charge of Colonel of the *Suisses*, gave him the Secretaries place which is annex thereto. This employment was worth a great deal to him, and in a little time he got twenty thousand Crowns by it. Part whereof he laid out in a Secretaries place to the King, which he



he sought after: upon which there are in his works some verses to Monsieur the Chancellor. He accompanied M. de Bissompierre, in his voyage to England; but not in that to Sufferland. He dyed at a little above fifty years of age. He was of a low stature, very slender, his hair was black and so were his eyes, which were somewhat weak. That which he was most esteemed for, was his wit, and the Genius he had for Poetry. There is a Volume of his Poems printed since his death, which have all of them wit, life, a rare exactness of the verse, much of delicacy and sweetness, and shew a very rich vein; but methinks there are but few of them that are quite finished. In his youth he made some Epistles in prose, in imitation of Ovids, but he has since disclaimed them. 'Twas never yet my fortune to meet with them.

In the year 1641. he caused to be printed by Courbé, a Collection of Love-Letters, of several Authors not naming them. There are many of them his own, and, as they say, some of Desportes, and I observed among them some of Voiture's. He has made also Latin verses, some of which against Mamurra I have seen. 'Tis said, he was the Author of the Translation of Stratonice, the Italian Romance, but that he gave it to d'Andignier, who was one of his best friends, and nephew to that other d'Andi-



guier, who besides other works writ *The loves of Lysander and Calista*.

### MONSIEUR DE VOITURE.

VINCENT VOITURE, born at *Amiens*, but bred at *Paris* and at the Court, would furnish me with many things to say of him; but that they may be had elsewhere. Most of the works which he has eff, are such wherein the Author makes known himself whether he will or no; and paints forth in I may to say, his own humour, and the circumstances of his life. That piece which was printed under the name of his *Funeral Pompe*, is also a good part of his *Orature*. And lastly his *Genie*, and the Character of his wit is, as they say, most lively and naturally express'd in the third Volume of *Cyrus* in the person of *Cullerates*. Though his birth were not high, yet his worth made him live familiarly with persons of the highest quality. His *Father* was a Merchant of Wines by the great, and being a follower of the Court, was a man that loved good cheer, and was well acquainted with the Great ones. He had three Sons, his eldest which died young. This, that was the second whom he never loved, and of whom he was wont to say that they had changed him at Nurse. because he drank nothing but water, being a very weak complexion: And lastly, the youngest which he loved



loved most tenderly, because he was a good companion like himself. He dyed in the wars in the King of Swedens service, having behaved himself very nobly. As the Court is the Theater of Envie, the birth of *Voiture* was often objected to him, both in jest and in earnest. Thus they say one day at the Duke of Orleans's, coming by chance into a room, where some Officers were drinking, one of them with the glasse in his hand, said these verses to him.

*Quoy Voiture tu degenere,  
Hors d'ici magrebi de toy,  
Tu ne vaudras jamais ton pere,  
Tu ne vens du vin ni n'en boy.*

Another time they made this Epigram, for that 'twas thought he was a suitor to one of the Kings Pourveyers daughters, and reported that they were to be married.

*O que ce beau couple d'Amans,  
Va guster de contentemens,  
Que leurs delic es seront grandes!  
Ils seront tousiours en festin,  
Car si la Trou fournit les viandes,  
Voiture fournira le vin.*

Madame Desloges playing at Proverbs with him, and having a mind to reject one of his, *That's naught*, saies she, *perce another of them*. They attribute also to Monsieur de Bassompierre this jest on *Voiture*.



*ture.* 'Tis pittie he was not of his Fathers trade, for lov'ng sweet things as he does, he would have made us drink nothing but *Hypocras*. And this too, Wine that fetches others to life, makes him swoun, meaning that he apprehended he was jeer'd for it. For my part I have made no scruple to relate his Originall, because, in my judgment, if those that are born Nob'le are most happy, those which deserve to be Noble are most praise worthy. They say he was brought into the Court at first partly by the means of Monsieur d' *Avaux*, with whom he had been a fellow-student in the Colledg de *Boncour* who was also of the same age and had the same inclinations with him. Monsieur de *Chaubonne* was the first that carryed him to *Rambouillet Hostel*, that is, to the Rande-vous of all the gallant wits and prime persons of the Court, where the Chamber of the Illustrious *Artenice* was alwayes full of them. He dwelt afterwards with the Duke of *Orleans*, then the Kings onely Brother, whom during the Broiles of this Kingdome being retired into *Languedoc*, he followed thither. From thence he was sent by him into *Spain*, whence out of curiosity he passed in<sup>to</sup> *Africk*, as may be seen In his *Leters*. He was highly esteemed at *Madrid*, and 'twas there he made those Spanish Verses, which every body took to be *Lopez de Vega's*; the phrase and language of them was so pure. The Count Duke of *Olivares* ex-  
prest



prest much affection to him, and took  
 pleasure to discourse with him very often.  
 And he desired him to write to him when  
 he should be returned into *France*, saying  
 to him twice at his departure, *no dexe V.  
 M. de escrivir me aunque no fuera de nego-  
 cios, nos escreveremos aforismos.* As if he  
 had said, *faile not to write, if there be no  
 businesse, yet some fine things or other.* I  
 found these words in some notes written  
 by *Voiture's* own hand, in the time of his  
 voyage. There were some other particu-  
 larities of the Count Duke, prety remark-  
 able, and amongst the rest these two which  
 I remember. First that he brag'd to him  
 in private, that in all the time he was in  
 favour, he never gave any man an offen-  
 sive word. The other was, that he judg'd  
 commonly of men very right, and rather  
 by the ill, then by the good that was  
 spoken of them; that is, if he saw they spoke  
 but little ill of a man, or with but little  
 certainty, he conceived a good opinion of  
 him. I have seen also some fragments of  
 a piece in prose which *Voiture* being in  
*France*, intended to make in praise of this  
 Minister of State, wherein he exprest  
 much of esteem and veneration for him. He  
 made two voyages to *Rome*, and was sent to  
*Florence* to carry the news of the birth of *K.  
 Lewis 14.* that now reignes. He had divers  
 offices at Court, as *Master of the Hostel to  
 the King & Introducator of Embassadors to  
 the Duke of Orleans.* He had also many pen-  
 sions: and received divers favours from  
 Monsieur



Monsieur d' *Avaux*, who being *Sur-Intendants* of the *Finances*, made him his *Commissarie*, onely that he should receive the profits of it without performing the duty. He would have dyed very rich had it not been, for his extream love to gaming. It had such power over him, that he would engage himself insensibly to losses far above his condition, as was that of 15. hundred pistoles which he lost in one night, which was then all the talk of the Town, when I made my first voyage to *Paris*. In this at least he was like to his Father, who was a very great Gamester at *Piquet*, and was wont to say that he counted the Set won when he could get up to the *Quarré*, that is to say 66. with they set up with four counters in a square, whence it comes that to this day amongst Gamesters they call this point, *Voitures Quarré*.

*Voiture* was also of a very amorous complexion, or at least made as if he were so, and though they accused him of having never been really in love, he bragged that he had been thought to be so with all sorts of persons from the highest quality to the lowest, or as 'twas said of him *from the Scepter to the Sheephook, and from the Crown to the Coyf*. He was well pleased that it should be believed he was in favour with all his several Mistresses, and indeed he was with so many who were deeply in love with him. He was never married, and left onely a naturall Daughter. He dyed at the



the age of fifty yeares or thereabout of an  
ague which he caught, as they say,  
to purge himself having the gout. He  
was of a low stature, had black eyes and  
hair, his vi age somewhat simple, but yet  
pleasant. He drew his own picture him-  
self in one of his *Letters to an unknown*  
*Mistresse*, and that which is cut in Brass  
at the beginning of his works is, as they  
say, very like him. He spake things after  
a quite peculiar manner, with an ingenious  
livelynelle. Although he never printed any  
thing, yet was he in great repute, not only in  
*France*, but also in forreign Countrys, for the  
excellency of his wit & the Academy of the  
*Humorists at Rome*, sent him Letters where-  
by they made him one of their Academy.  
His works were published after his death  
in one Volume, which was received by the  
publicke with so much approbation, that  
they were forced to make two Editions  
of it in six Months. His Prose is more  
correct and exact. it has a certain Air of  
gallantry, which is not found any where  
else, and something so naturall and so ex-  
act both together, that the reading thereof  
is infinitely taking. His Verses perhaps are  
no lesse curious, although more neglect-  
ed. He many times slighted *Rules*, but  
like a *Master*, as a man that thought him-  
self far above them, and that scorned to  
bind himself to observe them. That  
which is most to be commended in all his  
writings is, that they are not *Copies* but  
*Originals*, and that by reading the ancients  
and



and the moderns, Cicero, Terence, Ariosto, Marot, and many others: he made a certain new Character wherein he imitated no man, and scarce any man can imitate him. He had written the beginning of a Romance in prose, which he called *Alcidalis*, the subject whereof was given him by *Madame the Marques of Montausieur*, who was then *Mademoiselle de Rambouillet, Julie d' Angenes*. But since his death, this beginning having fallen into the hands of this Lady, was never seen, and perhaps never shall. To conclude, 'twas he that brought again into the fashion in our age, the *Rondeaux* or sonnets that end as they begin, which have bin quite out of use ever since *Marot's* time. I have amongst my papers one thing which justifies what I now said. 'Tis a Letter of his, which was never printed. written to *Monsieur de la Jonquiere*, Father to *Monsieur de Paillerols*, my Cousin. 'Tis dated *January 8. 1628.* and has this Postscript.

*I doubt whether you know what Rondeaux are. I have of late made three or four of them, which have put the Witts in the humor of making them. 'Tis a kind of writing which is proper for jeasting and raillerie. I know not whether you are grown more grave now then you were when you were a Roy; I for my part am alwayes in the same humor I was in, when we stole the drake. If then you love my follies, read them, but by no meanes let the Ladyes see them, whose hands I kisse.*

Rondeau



Rondeau.

*Cinq ou six fois Cette nuit en dormant, &c.*

*On vous savez tromper bien finemens, &c.*

MONSIEUR SIRMOND.

JOHN SIRMOND was a native of *Rion* in *Auvergne*, of a good familie of the *Robe*, he was nephew to Father *Sirmond* the Jesuite, Confessor to *K. Lewis 13.* and one of the most knowing men of our age. He came to Court, and by the favour of Cardinal *de Richelieu*, who esteemed him one of the best writers in those daies, was made Historiographer to the King with a pension of 1200. crowns. He wrote divers pieces for the *Cardinall*, on the affairs of the times, but almost all of them under assumed names. The *Abbot of S. Germain*, who was the writer on the adverse part, treats him extreme ill in the Tract which he called *The Chimerique Embassadour*. He made an answer to it which is in the Collection of *Monsieur du Chastelet*. The *Abbot of S. Germain* replied, and handled him yet more injuriously, whereby he was obliged to write again in his own defence. But *Card. de Richelieu* and *King Lewis 13.* dyed in the interim, and he could never obtain under the Regency a priviledge to print this Book. Hereat he was very much troubled, and seeing besides that his Enemy was upon his return to Court. and that favour would be no longer on his side, he retired into *Auvergne*, where he dyed, being about threelcore years



yeats Old. He left a Son, who, as they say, will print some of his works, particularly his *Latine verses*. His Prose shews that he had an excellent Genius for Eloquence; his Style is strong and Masculine, and wants no adornment. The pieces which I have seen of his, are these, whereof the greatest part are in the *Collection of Monsieur du Chastelet*: *The Pourtraicture of the King*, made of the times of the *Co-stable of Luynes*. *The track of State of K. Lewis 13.* writ in favour of *Cardinal de Richelieu*; *The Letter deciphered: An Advertisement to the Provinces by the Sieur de Cleonville*, which I have heard accounted his *Master-piece*. *L'Homme du Pape and du Roy*, in answer to the *Count de la Rocque*, Spanish Embassador at Venice, who had written a Book against France under the name of *Zambeccari*. *The Chimera defeated by Sulpice de Mandrini, Sieur de Gazonval*; *The Relation of the Peace of Quetafque*, taken out of a Treatise written by *Monsieur Servien*. He hath made also some Latin verses as I said; and that Epigram against *Mamurra*, wherein this Parasite is called *Pamphagus*, is his. I will add here by way of acknowledgment, that one of his Books was one of the first things that made me relish our Language. I was but newly come from Colledge when I met with I know not how many Romances, and other new pieces: which, though I was very young and a mere child, I could

not



not endure ; but run back to my *Tully* and *Terence*, which I found more rationall. At last, they came to my hands almost at the same time four Books, which were, *The eight Orations of Tully*, *The trick of State of Monsieur Sirmond*, *The fourth Volume of the Letters of M. de Batzac*, which were wholly printed, and *The Memoires of Queen Margares*, which I read over twice from the beginning to the end, in one and the same night. After that I began not onely no longer to contemn the *French Language*, but even passionately to love it, to study it with some care, and to believe, as I do still even to this day, that with a Genius, some Time and, Pains a man may render it capable of all things.

## MONSIEUR DE COLOMBY.

*FRANCIS DE CAVVIGNY*, *Sieur DE COLOMBY*, was of *Caen* in *Normandy* a kinsman to *Mulherbe*, whose Disciple and follower he was. He was also of kinne to *Monsieur Morant* *Treasurer de l'Espaigne*, who procured him a pension, and saw it paid him. He had an office at Court which never any had before or since him ; for he was *Styled Orator to the King in affairs of State*, and twas upon this account that he received 1200. crowns a year, he received also other favours from the Court, and was indeed proud



proud that they were thought to be much greater then they were. Towards his latter end, he took upon him a religious habit, but he was no Priest. He dyed at the age of three-score years. He was of a great stature & very strong, of an ambitious humor, and resolute in all his actions. He did not at all value M. Coeffeteau, & found fault with almost every thing he saw of his. He has verses in many of the printed *Collections* & Letters in the Collection of the year 1637. His principal work, is the Translation of Justice, printed 1627. which he has dedicated after a new and strange manner *To the King, & to the Queen his mother*, in two dedicatory Epistles. There is also of his doing a piece of the first book of *Tacitus in French with observations* which he printed in the year 1613. I have seen besides, a discourse in writing to the Duke of Orleans to perswade him to return into France, when he had withdrawn himself in discontent, and here it is that he subscribes himself *Your most humble servant & Orator*. I have heard also of a piece which he writ against *Judicial Astrologie, & a Treatise of Sovereignty* & no doubt he had many others upon the affairs of the times, as *Letters, Apologies, &c.* But in general, I here give you notice, that I pretend not, to forget nothing of what the persons I treat of, have written. In such a Country as France, where they have almost alwaies neglected this kind of Memorials, 'tis sufficient that you may take for truth what I say, without rejecting as false what I do not say. And, if I be not deceived

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ceived; we should use the same discretion in reading all sort of writers, even the most exact, for when all's done, 'tis impossible, but that many things must escape them.

MONSIEUR DE VAUGELAS.

CLAUDIUS FAVRE, Sieur DE VAUGELAS, Baron of *Peroges*, was of *Chamberry*, and sonne of the Illustrious *President Favre*, Author of the Volume which we call *Code Fabrien*, which is of great use in those our Provinces which are governed by the Civill Law. He was the sixt Son, and had no more portion, then the *Baronie of Peroges* which was in *Bresse*, and worth but little: together with an ill-paid pension of two thousand Livres, which *Henry 4.* granted to his Father for him and his heirs, for the services he had done the State in the Marriage of *Madame of Savoye*. 'Twas this pension which the *Cardinal* got re-establisht upon him, when he undertook *the Dictionary*. He came to Court very young, and there spent the remainder of his life. He was Gentleman in Ordinary, and afterward Chamberlain to the *Duke of Orleans*, whom he followed constantly in all his retreats out of the kingdom. He was also towards the end of his dayes Governor of the Children of *Prince Thomas*. But although he neglected nothing which might advance his fortune, though he were in esteem and reputation at Court, and was no way given to debauchery; the many voyages he took

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in following his Master, and other troubles, made him dye poor, so that his estate was not sufficient to satisfie his Creditors. He dyed aged about 65. yeares of an *Imposthume in the Stomack*, which was many years growing upon him, and often times brought upon him a paine in his side, which they attributed to the spleen. At last in the year 1649. having bin extraordinarily afflicted with this grief for the space of five or six weeks, he found some ease, and believing he was almost cured, he would needs walk abroad to take the Ayre in the Garden of the *Hostel de Soissons* where he had lodgings. But the next Morning his paine took him again with more violence. Of two servants which he had, he sent him that was at hand, to call for help, but before he returned, the other coming in, found that he had vomited up the Imposthume, and all in amazement asking him how he did, *You see, my friend, what a psor thing man is.* After these words he spake no more, and lived but some few minutes. He was a comely man, well made in body and minde, of a good stature; his eyes and hair were black, his visage full, and well-coloured. He was very devout, civil, and respectfull even to excesse, particularly towards Ladies, for whom he had an extreme veneration. He alwayes fear'd to offend any one, and upon this account he scarce ever

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durst take part in any controversies or disputes. He was very frequent at *Rambouillet Hostel*. His most intimate friends were *M. Faret* (who had bin as 'twere his Scholar,) *M. de Chaudbonne*, *M. Voiture*, and, to wards his latter end, *M. Chapelain*, and *M. Conrart*. But above all he had contracted a most strict acquaintance with the *Baron de Foras*, who is still alive, and did also, as well as he, belong to the *Duke of Orleans*. They called Brothers, and were companions in their devotions, in which, as in their friendship, they persevered constantly. From his childhood he had very much studied the French Tongue. He chiefly imitated *Monieur Coeffeteau* and had so great an esteeme of his writings, and above all of his *Historie of Rome*, that he could scarce allow of any phrase or expression, which was not used there. To this purpose *Monieur de Balzac* said, *That in the judgment, of Monieur de Vangelas there was no salvation out of the Historie of Rome, so more then out of the Church of Rome.* His chief excellency was for Prose. As for Poetry, he had made some *Italian* verses, which were very well esteemed. But he never made any in *French*, unlesse 'twere extempore, upon a frolick. As for example, it happen'd that one day passing through *Nevers*, where *Princesse Mary*, now *Queen of Poland*, then was, some of her Gentlewomen who were then making a purse for some poor man, came into



the Inne where he was; he could not see them, because he had taken Physick; but he sent two pisto es with his Epigram.

*Empesché d'un empeschement  
Dont le nom n'est pas fort honneste,  
Je n'ay pu d'un seul compliment  
Honorer au moins vostre queste :  
Pour en obtenir le pardon,  
Vous direz que je fais un don  
Aussi honteux que mon remede :  
Mais rien ne paroist precieux  
Aupres de l' Ange qui possede  
Toutes les richesses des Cieux.*

'Twas the Princesse he meant. I have also another Epigram of his made *in promptu*, upon the mistake of a word which a Porter of *Rambouillet-Hostel* had committed, when he delivered a message to him from the Lady Marquisse.

*Tout à ce moment Maistre Isaac,  
Un peu moins disert que Balzac,  
Entre dans ma Chambre, & m'annonce  
Que Madame me derenonce :  
Me derenonce, Maistre Isaac ?  
Oüy, Madame, vous derenonce.  
Elle m'avoit done renoncé,  
Luy dis-je d'un sourcil froncé ?  
Portez luy pour toute réponce,  
Maistre Isaac, que qui derenonce  
Se repent d'avoir renoncé :  
Mais avez-vous bien prononcé ?*



These Epigrams might have bin spared, but that the least things of great men are precious. He had a present wit, and made many times very excellent replies such as that I spake of before, which he made to Cardinall *Richelieu*. He left behind him but two works considerable, one whereof is printed, the other not yet, when I wrote this. The first is his Book of *Remarques on the French Tongue*, against which Monsieur *de la Mothe le Vayer* has made some observations, and it has since bin written, against, by *le Sieur Dupleix*: but in the publick opinion it merits a most particular esteem. For not onely the matter of it, is very good for the most part and the style excellent and admirable; but besides, there is in the whole Body of the work, something of an honest man, so much ingenuitie, and so much freedom, that one can scarce choose but love the Author of it. And I would to God that the Memoires which he had long since ready to make a second Volume, could be found; and that we had not cause to bewail the losse of them which happened after his death, in the hands of those that seiz'd upon his papers. The other Considerable work and as yet unprinted, is *The Translation of Quintus Curtius*, upon which he had bin thirty years, changing and correcting it continually. Nay they say that after he had seen some Translations of *M. d'Ab-lancourt*, he was so taken with the Style of



them, (which is a little lesse diffuse then his own) that he began afresh all his labour, and made quite a new translation. I have seen the sheets which remain of this last sort, where for the most part, every period is translated in the margin five or six severall wayes, almost all of them very good. Monsieur *Chapelain* and Monsieur *Conrart*, who take the paines to review this work with all exactnesse, to print it, are many times hard put to it to judge which is best. And, which I count most remarkable, commonly that which he set down first, is that which they like best. This is the piece of which Monsieur *Balzac* said, *The Alexander of Quintus Curtius is invincible, and that of Vaugelas is inimitable.* Monsieur *de Voiture* who was much his friend, used to jeare him for that excesse of pains and time which he bestowed on it. He told him he would never have done, that whilst he was polishing one part of it, our language would alter, and oblige him to new-make all the others: Where-to he merrily applyed what is said in *Martiall*, of the Barber that was so long in shaving a mans beard. that before he made an end, it began to grow again.

*Eutrapelus tonsor dum circuit ora Luperci  
Expungitq; genas, altera barba subit.*

so said he, *altera lingua subit,*

MONSIEUR



## MONSIEUR BARO.

**BALTHAZAR BARO** was of *Valence* in *Dauphiné*. In his youth he was Secretary to *Monsieur d'Urfé*, one of the most rare and admirable wits that France ever bore: who dying just as he had finish'd the fourth part of *Astrea*, *Baro* caus'd it to be printed and compos'd the fifth part out of his papers. He came to *Paris* and there married a widow, his Land-lady's Sister. He had great access to the *Duchesse of Chevreuse*, for which reason the *Cardinal de Richelieu* was hardly brought to consent he should be of the Academie. He was also gentleman-usher to *Mademoiselle*. Towards the end of his life he obtained two Offices of a new Creation, one of Kings-Attorney in the Presidiall Court established not long since at *Valence*: The other of Treasurer of France, at *Montpellier*. He dyed aged about 50. years, and left Children. He made many Plaies, divers others Poems, but his greatest and principall work is, *The Conclusion of Astrea*, where he seems to have bin inspired with the Genius of his Master.

## MONSIEUR BAUDOIN.

**IOAN BAUDOIN**, was of *Pradelle* in *Vivarets*; but after he had made divers voyages in his youth, he passed the rest of



his life at *Paris*, with the fortune of most learned men, that is, without getting any great good. He was Reader to Queen *Margaret*, and afterwards also to the Marshall *de Marillac*. Notwithstanding the gout and other Maladies with which he was afflicted in his old age, he never gave over writing even to his end, and we are beholding to him for translating into our Tongue a very great number of good Books. His Master-piece is *The Translation of Davila*; but he has done likewise many others which are not to be contemned, as *Sueton*, *Tacitus*, *Lucian*, *Salust*, *Dion Cassius*, *the Historie of the Yncas by an Yncas*, *Lasso's Jerusalem*, *The discourses of the same Author*, *Those of Annirato on Tacitus*, many pieces of the Lord Chancellor *Becon*, *Monsieur de Priezac's Vindiciae Galicæ*, *Suger's Epistles*, *Aesops Fables*, and *the Iconologie of Ripa*. He took a voyage on purpose into *England* by order of the Queen *Mary de Medicis*, to translate *the Countesse of Pembroke's Arcadia*, and was assisted in the work, as they say, by a French Gentlewoman, who had bin a long time there, and whom he afterward married. In all these works his Style is facil. natural, and French. And if perhaps in many places, he has not done things so well as they might have bin, it must be attributed to his fortune which would not permit him to employ upon his writings so much time and care as they required: He dyed at the  
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age of above sixty years. He was of small Stature, had Chestnut-colour'd hair, and a lively Complexion. He left a Daughter & one Son which is since dead in the wars.

MONSIEUR DE MONTEREUL.

JOHN DE MONTEREUL, a *Parisien*, and Son of an Advocate in Parlement, after he had bin a very hard Student, he began to plead at the Barre; but at the age of 18. or 19. years he was in *Italie*, with Monsieur de *Believre*, who presented him to *Cardinall Antonio*, nephew to *Pope Urban* the 8. This *Cardinall* made him *Chanon* of *Thoul* which obliged him to return into *France*, & from that time he was retein'd to be Secretary to the *Prince of Conty*; This *Prince* was then at Colledge, and had not any need of his service. Therefore he omitted not in the mean time to take some other employment. He was at *Rome*, with the *Marquis de Fontenay Mareuil*, *Embassador* of *France*, in the quality of his second Secretary; but at last, Monsieur *Bovard*, who was the first, having bin withdrawn, by reason of the disgrace of Monsieur *du Thou*, whose kinsman he was, *Montereul* became the first, and even before that, he had the chief hand in busineses. At his return from *Rome*, he was in the same quality of Secretary to the *Embasse*, in *England* with Monsieur de *Believre*; and at last was left as *Resident* in *Scotland*, where he did very good service; for he was most  
proper



proper for negotiation, of a souple Spirit, quick, and resolute, and one that scarce ever did any thing without design. 'Twas he that gave the advice that the *Electör Palatine* should passe *incognito* in *France*, to go and command the troops of the *Duke of Weimar*, and possess himself of *Brisac*; which was the cause that they provided for him, and that the *Electör* was stopped in his passage. 'Twas he also that, thinking thereby to do some good Office to the *King of England*, negotiated that he might be put into the hands of the *Scots*. This unfortunate Prince (of whom he hath since given this Testimony, that he never saw a man of a greater Spirit & more vertue) delighted often to discourse with him, and expressed a great deal of affection to him. After he had bin sometime in *Scotland*, he settled in his place one of his Brothers, who was the third. He returned into *France* to take possession of the Charge of Secretary to the prince of *Conty*, who sent him to *Rome* in 1648, to sollicite for a *Cardinalls Hat*. This absence injur'd him, for in the mean time *Monseieur Sarazin*, was likewise made the Princes Secretary, and shared his employment, or, to say better, kept to himself the best and most profitable part of it. This sets them at variance, and wrought him much vexation even to his death. His Master being clapt up with the *Prince of Condé*, and the *Duke de Longueville*, 'tis incredible what service he



did them during their imprisonment, for he found out meanes to win the Soldiers of the Guard to deliver them letters, who writ a world of them continually for their deliverance; and in a word, as tis reported, he alone labour'd as much as all their other servants together. The Prince, after his coming forth, said publikely. *That they were more endebrted to him for their liberty, then to any man.* I learned from a friend of mine, to whom he told it himself, that for to write to them, he made use of a secret, which *the King of England* had taught him, in the long conferences which they somtimes had together. 'Twas a certain pouders, very rare, which being cast on the paper, made that which was before hand written there with a white Liquor, to appear; which, without that, was wholly imperceptible. There were many drugs sent to the *Prince of Conty*, who feigned himself very sick; they were wrapt up in white papers, and every paper was a Letter, yet so that nothing could be seen, though it were never so narrowly looked upon, unlesse they made use of that pouders which the Prince had. It lay commonly over the Chimnies of their Chamber, and to the eyes of the Guard, passed for pouders to dry their hair. By this artifice and severall others, there was scarce a day, wherein he sent not news, and heard not from them; and he shewed no lesse then 300. Letters of the *Prince of Conde's*



*Condé's* writing. After their coming forth, 'tis very like they rewarded him according to his desert; and since that, he had bestowed on him in the court of *Rome*, to the value of ten thousand Livres, all the benefices of the *Prince of Conty*, who 'twas then believed was very speedily to marry *Mademoiselle de Chevreuse*. But he was wanting to his fortune, and dyed at that time, being about seven or eight and thirty years old. He seemed not to be above twenty, or five and twenty, for he was naturally very fair, and retained even then the complexion and flower of his first youth. He was of a middle Stature, flaxen haired, of a visage very white, and mixed with an handsome rednes. They found upon his lungs a strange protuberancy, in form of a mushroom, which by little and little choaked him. There is nothing of his in print, but he left divers pieces both in Verse and Prose, which perhaps will one day come forth.

MONSIEUR DE L'ESTOILE.

CLADIUS DE L'ESTOILE *Sieur de Saffay*, was a *Parisien*, a Gentleman and of a very ancient familie, so as to reckon a Chancellor of France amongst his Ancestors. His Father who was *Audiencier to the Chancery of Paris*, collected divers Memoires of the affairs of his time, out of which a friend of his, to whom he lent them, extracted the book entitled, *A diarie of what pass't under Henry the*  
*third*



third. His Children would never suffer the rest of these Memoires to be seen, which now perhaps are lost. There were three Brothers of them, the eldest which dyed young, the second which was Secretary to the *Cardinall de Lyon*: and this, who was the third, and had no other employment but Learning, and Poetry, wherein he is become very famous. He had more of parts then study and learning. He particularly addicted himself to making of Verses, which he did rarely well, and according to the rules of the Stage, which he professed to have learnt of *M. de Gombauld*, and *M. Chapelain*. One of his private friends told me; then when he had a minde to study, if it happened to be in the day time, he would have the windows of his Chamber shut, and a Candle brought; and that, when he had composed any thing, he would read it to his servant, (as tis also said of *Malherbe*) to know whether he had done it well, believing that Verses have not their entire perfection, unlesse they be filled with a certain beauty, which is perceivable even to the most rude and clownish. He was a great admirer of the Verses of *Monsieur de Serisay*, and *Monsieur de Gombauld*: of the latter of these, going one day with him to the *Hostel de Bourgogne*, I heard him say very seriously, that he had rather be the Author of that Scene of the *Danaïdes*, where the act of those cruel Sisters is described, then of all the best  
Plays



Playes that have been made these 20 years. He was of a very amorous complexion, and 'twas this passion that was the cause of almost all the troubles and afflictions of his life. In his latter dayes he marryed, for love, a woman of a mean estate. He kept his marriage private a long time, and being not so rich, as was requisite to live handiomey at *Paris* with a family, he retired to a Country house, where he spent most of the remainder of his life. He dyed about fifty years old. He was of a middle stature and very slender. His hair and eyes were black, his visage very pale and meager, scarr'd, and without beard in some places, by reason that being a child he fell into the fire. He was a person of very much vertue and honour, and bore his ill fortune without making any complaint of it, and without being troublesome or importunate to any one. He would reprehend boldly and smartly, and with a strong severity, what he disliked in things wherein his judgement was required. They charge him to have been the cause that a young man dyed of grief and vexation, who came out of *Languedoc*, with a Comedy which he thought was a Master-piece, wherein he shewed him manifestly a thousand faults.

A friend of mine who had never seen him, was carryed one day to his house to ask his opinion concerning a piece of the  
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same nature. He heard the first and second Scene of it read without speaking a word, but at the third, in which there was a King, that spake not to his humour, starting up, *This King is drunk*, said he, *else he would ne're talke thus.* He wrote with extraordinary care, and review'd the same things a hundred times, which is the reason we have so few things of his. He left two Plays, *The fair slave*, and *L'Intrigue des Filoux*, and had almost finisht a third when he dyed, which he called, *The Secretary of Saint Innocent.* He had a part, as I told you, in that of the five Authors. There are divers *Odes and Stanza's* of his, very excellent, in the last printed *Collections.*

THIS is all I have to say of the Academiens that are dead. I wish I might speak of those that are living, with the same liberty, and render to every one of them, that I am more intimately acquainted with, that testimony which their wit and vertue deserves. But there are many reasons which hinder me, and one which makes me glad that I am hindred. 'Tis, that if I regard the publick, their Images will questionless be seen elsewhere in a more noble place, and by some better hand; and if I consider you in particular, you know my mind well enough, and have not forgotten what I have so often said to you of them in our long walks at *Roumens*, where there were only trees and fountains that heard us. Be contented therefore to see them here  
named



named amongst the rest, according as they are in the Catalogue of the Academy: I shall add only a word or two, to let you know the Christen name, and quality of each, his Countrey, and the title of his works, by which he is known.

### *A Catalogue of the Gentlemen of the French Academy.*

**T**HE ABBOT DE BOURZEYZ *Amable de Bourzeys*, Abbot of *Saint Martin de Cores*, born in *Auvergne*. There is nothing of his printed under his own name, but one *Letter to Prince Edward Palatine*, which is a Treatise of Religion.

THE BISSHOP OF GRASSE. *Anthony Godeau* Bishop of *Grasse* and *Vence*, born at *Drenx*. His works that are hitherto printed, according to the Catalogue that was given me of them, are these; *The Preface to the Dialogue of the causes of the corruption of eloquence*, translated by *M. Giry*. *That, before Malherbe's works*. *The Paraphrase on the Epistles of S. Paul, and the Canonical Epistles*. *The Life of S. Paul*. *Christian Instructions and Prayers for all sorts of persons*. *Synodical Ordinances and Instructions*. *Meditations*

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on the Lords Prayer. *A Funeral Orati-  
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shop of Bazas. *The Idea of a good Magi-  
strate in the life and death of Monsieur de  
Cordes.* *A Treatise of the Ecclesiastical  
Tonsure.* Another of the Ecclesiastical Vo-  
cation. *Elevations to Jesus Christ after  
the manner of Meditations, and, A new  
Paraphrase on the epistle to the Hebrews.*  
*A Remonstrance made to the King against  
the Parliament of Tolose.* *An exhortation  
to the Parisiens, touching Alms and Cha-  
rity to the poor of Picardy & Champagne.*  
*Advice to the Parisiens, concerning the  
Procession made in the year 1652. for the  
bringing forth of the Shrine of S. Gene-  
viefue under the name of a Curate of  
Paris.* *The life of S. Augustin in quarto,*  
*An Ecclesiastical History of the four  
first ages, in two Volums, in folio.* His  
Poems in print are: *One Volume of  
Christian Poems.* *The Paraphrase of all  
the Psalms in French Verse, which have  
been set to musick by Sieur Gouy.* *An  
Ode for King Lewis 13.* *The institution  
of a Christian Prince for K. Lewis 14.*  
*La grande Chartreuse. La Sorbonne.* *A  
Hymn of S. Charles Borromée.* *A  
Hymn of S. Geneviefue.* He has made  
*a Poem on S. Paul in five Canto's, which*

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is not yet publisht, as also several other *Hymnes, Discourses, and Epistles in verse* address'd to his private friends.

THE ABBOT DE BOISROBERT.

*Francis de Meiel, Sieur de Boisrobert, Abbot of Chastillon upon Seine, Counsellor of State, and Almoner to the King, born at Caen in Normandy. He has compos'd (besides some Letters in Prose, and some Poems which we see of his in several Collections.) A booke of Epistles or Discourses in verse after the manner of Horace, Many Dramatick Poems. A Tragedy intituled, The chaste Dido, or The loves of Hyarbas. Two Tragi-Comedies, which are The Coronation of Darius and Palexe. Three Comedies, the first of his own invention, intituled The three Orobas's, and the two others, The self jealous one, and The foolish Wager, taken from Lopez de Vega.*

DE MONTMOR. *Henry Lewis Habert, Counsellor to the King in his Counsels, and Master of Requests of his Hostel, born at Paris.*

DE GOMBAULD. *John Ogier de Gombauld born in Xantonge at S. Just de Lussas near Brovage. His works in print are Endimion. Amaranthe a Pastoral, a volume of Poems, a volume of Letters. These following are not yet printed, The Danaides, a Tragedy; Cidippe, a Tragicomedy; Three Books*

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Books of Epigrams, several other Poems, Letters, and Discourses in Prose.

DE LA CHAMBRE. *Marin Cureu de la Chambre*, Counsellor to the King in his Counsels, and his Physician in ordinary, born at *Mans*. His works in print are, *New Conjectures about digestion*. *New Conjectures concerning the causes of Light*, *The overflowing of Nile*, *And the love of inclination*, *The Characters of the Passions*, in two volumes. *A Treatise of the understanding of Beasts*. *New Observations and Conjectures about the Rain-bow*. If he perfects what he has begun, we shall have, *A continuation of the Characters of the Passions*, *A Treatise of human beauty*, *Another of the nature and Dispositions of Nations*, and *The Art of knowing men*. He hath translated into French, *The eight Books of Aristotles Physicks*, which is not printed, and gives us hopes ere long of *A Commentary on Hippocrates's Aphorisms*, which he calls, *Usus Aphorismorum*, where his design is, after he has set down *Hippocrates's* meaning in each *Aphorisme*, to apply it to other subjects, and shew all the uses that may be made of it.

DE GOMBERVILLE. *Marin Le Roy*, *Sieur de Gomberville*, a *Parisien*. The printed works which I have seen of his, are the *Romances of Pol Alexander* in five Volumes, of *Cytherea* in four volumes. *The young Alcidian*.



*Alcidiana*, which is not yet finished. The Preface to *Maynard's Poems*.

DE SERISAY. *James de Serisay*, born at *Paris*, Intendant of the Houle to the *Duke de la Rochefoucault*. There is not any thing of his in print; but he has many Poems, and other works in prose, to print.

DE. S. AMANT. *Mark Anthony Gerard*, *Sieur de S. Amant*, born at *Roüen*. There are of his *Three volums of Poems*. He is making an Heroick Poem, called *Moses*.

DE PORCHERES LAUGIER. *Honorat Laugier Sieur de Porcherés*, of *Provence*. They have printed several *Poems* of his, in the *Collections*. And a hundred love *Letters under the name of Erander*. He has many pieces both in verse and prose not printed, and amongst others, *A Treatise of Devises*.

THE ABBOT DE CERESY. *Germain Habert*, Abbot of *de la Roche*, and Abbot and Earl of *Nostre-Dame de Ceresy*, a *Parisien*. He set forth *The Life of Cardinal de Berule* in prose. There are divers *Poems* of his in some of the *Collections* of verses. Some *Paraphrases of the Psalms*, and *The Metamorphosis of Philis's eyes into Stars*. He has made many other verses not printed.

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DES MARESTS. *John Desmarests* a *Parisien*, Counsellor to the King, Controller General in extraordinary in the wars, and Secretary General of the *Levant Company*. His works printed for matter of *Prose*, are *Ariana*, a Romance in two parts. *Rosane* another Romance, not yet finished; whereof there is but one Volume. *The Truth of Fables* in two Volumes. *Erigone*, a Comedy in *Prose*. *The Games of Cards of the Kings of France*, of famous *Queens*, of *Geography*, and of *Fables*, which he invented, by Cardinal *Richelieu's* order, for instruction of *K. Lewis 14.* in his childhood, and when he was *Dauphin*. *An Answer to the Ladies of Rennes* for his game of the famous *Queens*. *A book of prayers and Christian Meditations*. And for *Verse*, one Volume of *Poetical works*, which among other things contain his Playes *Aspasia*, *Roxana*, *Scipio*, *Les Visionnaires*, *Mirame* and *Europa*. *A book of prayers in verse*. *The Poem of the Christian vertues*, in 8. *Canto's*. He had almost done two other Playes which the death of the Cardinal made him leave off, intituled *Annibal*, and *The Charmer charmed*. There is another of his quite finished, which is altogether Comical in short verses, called *The Deaf man*, he has not yet published it. The Inscription on the Kings Statue in brasse in the *Place Royal* is his, He is making an Heroick Poem of the *Baptism of Clovis*, whereof there are nine *Canto's* finished. He was also, by his Master, the



Duke de Richelieu's order, about a considerable work in prose, which he calls *The abridgment of universal Knowledge*, which contains, in near a thousand Chapters, the summarie knowledge of most things that fall into ordinary discourse.

DE RACAN. *Honorat de Beuil* Knight Marquis of *Racan*, son of a Knight of the *Orders du Roy*, born at *la Roche Racan* in *Touraine*. His printed works are, *The Shepherdesses* a Pastoral, *several copies of Verses*, in the Collection of the year 1627. *The 7. Penitential Psalms*. *His sacred Odes upon the Psalms*, which he continues, having already made 65. of them. *His Orations to the Academy, Against the Sciences*.

DE BALZAC. *John Lewis Guez*, *Sieur de Balzac*, Counsellor to the King in his Counsels, born at *Angoulesm*. His works hitherto printed are, *Six volums of Letters*. *One of several works*. *One of verses and Letters in Latine*. *The Prince*. *The Christian Socrates*, with which are, *many other small Tractat's or Dissertations* in one volum in octavo. He hath made a Political work, intituled *Aristippus*, which he is about to publish.

THE COUNT DE SERVIEN. *Abel Servien*, Minister of State, and Keeper of the Seals of the Order, having been heretofore

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before Procurator General in the Parliament of *Grenoble* Master of Requests, chief President in the Parliament of *Bordeaux*, Secretary of State, Ambassador extraordinary in *Savoy*, Plenipotentiary and Ambassador for the Peace at *Munster*. He was born at *Grenoble*. He has not printed any thing in his own name, but several of his works about important matters have been seen with general approbation.

**CHAPELAIN.** *John Chapelain*, a Parisien, Counsellor to the King in his Councils. His Poetical works printed, are, *Odes for the Cardinal de Richelieu. For the birth of the Count de Dunois. For Duke d'Anguien. For Cardinal de Mazarin. A Paraphrase on Miserere. Divers Sonnets on several subjects particularly for Tombs: and some other Poems.* He has made a *Tragedy, The last words of Cardinal Richelieu. An Ode for the Prince of Conde, upon the taking of Dunkirk: and another for the return of the Duke of Orleans*, which are not printed. He is making an Heroick Poem, *Of the Pucells of Orleans*, which is to have 24 Canto's, 13 of which he has already done. In Prose, he has *The Preface to Cavalier Marino's Adonis.* He had also made *A Dialogue of reading the ancient Romans*, which is not printed.

**DE BAUTRU.** *William de Bautru*, native of *Angers*, Count of *Serran*, Counsellor



fellor of State in ordinary, heretofore Introductor of Embassadors to the King. Embassador to the *Arch-duke* in *Flanders*. The Kings *Envoy* into *Spain*, *England*, and *Savoy*.

**COLLETET.** *William Colletet*, a *Parisien*. Advocate to the *Parlement* and *Counfel*. His printed works are, *Verses in the Collection*, called *The delights of the French Poesie*. *Amorous despair*. *The duty of a Christian Prince*, translated out of *Cardinal Bellarmin*, printed under the name of *Lanel*. *The adventures of Ismenes and Ismenia*, translated out of the *Greek of Eustathius*. *Divertisments*, which is a *Collection* of *Poems* divided into six parts. *The Blessed Virgin's lying in*, translated into prose, out of *Sannazarius his Latin*. *S. Augustin's Christian Doctrine*, and *Manual* to *Laurentius*. The translation of a *Book*, written in *Latin* by the *Lord Peter Segurier*, *President* in the *Parlement*, and intituled, *Elements of the Knowledge of God and of our selves*. *Divers Homilies in French*, amongst others, all those of *Lent*, taken out of the *Latin Breviary*. *Several Odes, Stanza's, Sonnets*, and other *Poems* made and published on several occasions,

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occasions, upon the affairs of the times. *Many discourses in prose, upon the like occasions. A Collection of Poems in 1642. Cyminde, a Tragi-comedy. Elogies on the famous Learned men, that flourished the last age in France, translated out of the Latin of Scevola Sammarthanus. The Translation of two Latin Letters of Mrs. Anne Marie Schurman, upon the Question, whether it be fit for young maids to be bred Scholars. The Banquet of Poets, with divers other verses in Burlesque. The translation of a Treatise of Monsignor de la Casa, concerning the mutuall duty of great Lords, and those that serve them. The life of Raimond Lullie. That of Nicholas Vignier Historiographer of France. That of Fryar John de Houffet a Hermit, at mount Valerien. He has translated four Books of Herodotus, and Polydore Virgil de inventoribus rerum. But these two are not printed. He is writing The lives of the French Poets and other Famous men.*

**BOISSAT.** *Peter de Boissat, of Dauphiné. He has printed, A volume of Poems, & A Christian Ethicks.*

**SILHON:** *John Silhon, Counsellor of State, in ordinary; a native of*



Sos, in *Gascogne*. His printed works are, *One Volume in quarto, of the Immortality of the Soul*, which is as 'twere a *Natural Theologic*. *Two parts of the Minister of State*. *A small Book of the requisites of a History*. Another whose Title is, *A clearing of some difficulties concerning the administration of Cardinal Mazarin*. *The Preface to Monsieur de Rohan's Perfect Captain*. There are also some of his *Letters in the printed Collections*.

**CONRART.** *Valentine Conrart*, Counsellor & Secretary to the King, House, and Crown of *France*, a *Parisien*.

**THE ABBOT OF CHAMBEON.** *Daniel Hay* Abbot of *Chambon*, born in *Bretagne*.

**GIRY.** *Lewis Giry*, a *Parisien*, Advocate to the *Parlement* and *Counsell*. His printed works are, *the Translations following*. *The touchstone, out of the Italian of Boccacino*. *The Dialogue of the causes of the corruption of eloquence*. *Tertullians Apologetick*. *The fourth Catilinærie*, which is one of the 8. **Ora-  
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tions of Cicero, translated by several Authors, and printed in the same volume. The Orations of Symmachus and S. Ambrose, concerning the Altar of Victory. Isocrates's Praise of Helen. Plato's Apology of Socrates, and Dialogue called Crito. Sulpitius Severus's Holy History. Cicero's Dialogue called Brutus, or, of the famous Oratours. He has also translated Some select Epistles of S. Augustin, which are not yet printed.

D' ABLANCOURT. Nicholas Perrot Sieur d' Ablancourt, born in Champagne, His works in print are, The Preface to the Honest woman, and the following Translations: Minutius Felix's Octavius. Four of the eight Orations of Cicero, which are those for Quintius, for the Manilian Law, for Marcellus, for Ligarius. Arrian of the wars of Alexander. The retreat of ten thousand Grecians, by Xenophon. All Tacitus's works. Cæsars Commentaries. He now translates Lucian.

ESPRIT. James Esprit, born at Beziers, There is nothing of his printed, but The Paraphrase of some Psalms.



## DE LA MOTHE LE VAYER.

*Francis de la Mothe le Vayer a Parisien*  
 Counsellor of State in ordinary, Tu-  
 tor to M. the Duke of Anjou, as he was  
 also to the King for the space of a year.  
 His works in print are, *A Discourse*  
 printed under the name of *A Transla-*  
*tion of Fabricio Campolini a Veronois,* of  
 the contrariety of humors that are between  
 certain Nations, and in particular be-  
 tween the French and Spanish; with two  
*Political Discourses.* *A brief Christian*  
*Discourse of the Immortality of the Soul,*  
 with a Corrollarie, and a *Sceptical Dis-*  
*course of Musick.* *A Discourse of Histo-*  
*ry.* *Considerations on the French elo-*  
*quence of these times.* *Of the Instruction*  
*of my Lord the Dauphin.* *Of Liberty and*  
*Servitude.* *Of the Vertues of Pagans with*  
*the proofs of the quotations.* *Four volumes*  
*in Octavo of small Treatises.* *Brief Scep-*  
*tical Discourses on that usual form of*  
*speech; He has not common sense.*  
*Judgment on the Ancient and principal*  
*Historians Greek and Latin, of whom*  
*there is any thing extant.* *Letters con-*  
*cerning the late Remarques on the French*  
*Tongue.* *One volume in quarto of small*  
*Treatises, by way of Letters written to di-*  
*verse learned persons.* *Another volume of*  
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the same not yet printed: *A Princes Geographie, a Princes Ethicks, a Princes Rhetorick, for Monsieur the Duke of Anjou. A Princes Oeconomicks, Politicks, and Logick, for the King.* These three last, are not yet printed.

PRIEZAC. *Daniel de Priezac*, Counselor of State in ordinary, born at *Priezac-Castle in Limosin*. His printed works are, *Observations against the Abbot of Melrose's book intituled, Philip the Prudent. Vindicia Gallica. Three volums of the priviledges of the Virgin. Disceptatio legitima, in controversia mota inter Apostolica Camera cognitorem, Actorem: & Eminentissimos Cardinales Barberinos, excellentissimumque urbis Romae praefectum; Defensores.* One volume in quarto of *Politick Discourses*. He is now composing a second.

PATRU. *Oliver Patru*, a Parisien, Advocate in Parlement. There is of his, *A Translation of the Oration pro Archia.* which is one of the eight, translated by several Authors. *A Prefatory Epistle to Cardinal de Richelieu, under the name of the Elzivirs before de Laets New world. Another to President la Mesme, for the widow and children of Camusat, before The Imitation of Jesus Christ, translated by Father Antonie Girard, Jesuite.* He has *Several Pleadings and other works to print.* And 'tis from



*The History of*

from him that *Monsieur de Vaugelas* in the Preface to his *Remarques*, gives us some hopes of a *French Rhetorick*.

**DE BEZONS.** *Claudius Basin*, Seigneur de *Bezons*, a *Parisien*, Counsellor of State in ordinary, heretofore Advocate General to the *Grand Counsel*. There is of his, *A Translation of a Treatise of the Prague peace*, to which he has not put his name.

**SALOMON.** *Francis Salomon* a *Bordelois*. Counsellor of State, formerly Advocate General to the *Grand Counsel*. There is of his, *A Discourse of Estate to Monsieur Grotius*, and *A Paraphrase of a Psalm in verse*.

**CORNEILLE.** *Peter Corneille*, Advocate General to the *Table de Marbre* at *Rouen*, where he was born. He has composed already two and twenty *Plays*, which are *Melite*, *Clitander*, *The Widow*, *La Galerie du Palais*, *La Suivante*, *La Place Royale*, *Medea*, *The Comick Illusion*, *The Cid*, *Horace*, *Cinna*, *Polyeucte*, *The death of Pompey*, *The Lyar*, first and second parts. *Rodogune*, *Theodore*, *Heraclius*, *Don Sancho of Arragon*, *Andromeda*, *Nicomedes*, *Pertharite*. He has also printed two *Books of the Imitation of Jesus Christ*, and intends two more.

**DU RYER.** *Peter du Ryer*, a *Parisien*. His works in print are: For prose, the following *Translations*. *The Oration of Cicero*  
for



for King *Deiotarus*, and that which is ascribed to him, *For Peace*; which are two of those eight I formerly mentioned. The three *Catularies*, all the *Philippicks*, and the rest of the *Orations of Cicero*. The *Paradoxes*, *Offices*, and *Tusculanes* of the same *Author*, the rest of whose works he intends to Translate. *Isocrates's* praise of *Busiris*, Two *Tome* of the *History of Flanders* by *Strada*. *Herodotus*, *All Seneca*, except that which *Malherbe* has Translated of him. *Livia entire*, with the *Supplement of Freinshemius*. The *Supplement of the same Author* so joyn to the *Quintus Curtius* of *Monsieur de Vangelas*. The *life of S. Martyn*, by *Salpitius Severus*. The *King of Portugal's Psalms*. *Berenice* a Tragi-comedy in prose. And for verse he made eighteen Playes, namely, *Lisander and Caliste*, *Argenis the first and second parts*, *The revenge of Sarene*, *Alcimedon*, *Cleomedon*, *Lucrece*, *Clarigene*, *Alcinoë*, *Saul*, *Esther*, *Scevola*, *Themistocles*, *Nisocris*, *Dinamus*, *Amaryllis*, which was formerly printed without his consent. Two others which are not printed, *Aretaphile*, and *Clitophon and Leucippe*. He is finishing the 19th. which he calls *Anaxander*.

BALLESDENS. *John Balesdens*, a *Parisien*, Advocate in *Parlement* and *Counsel*. He has translated the book called *The Mirror of a penitent sinner*, and has published the following *Manuscripts*, out of many more which



which he has collected, *Cartiludium Logice, seu Logica Memorativa, vel Poetica, R. Patris Thomæ Murner, cum notis et conjecturis, Rudimenta cognitionis Dei & Sui, Petri Segnerii Præsidis insulati. Elogia clarorum virorum Joannis Papyrii Massonii*, in 2 volumes. *The Deeds of Conveyance of Dauphiné to the Crown of France. A Treatise of Aqua-vita, by M. John Bronant, Physician to the King.* He also reprinted *Æsopes Fables in French of his own correction*, for the instruction of the King, with *Political and Moral Maximes.*

MEZERAY. *Francis de Mezeray*, a native of the Vicounty of *Argentan*, in the Diocesse of *Sees*. He has set forth *A Continuation of the Turkish History from the year 1612. to the year 1648.* And 3. volumes in folio, of the *History of France*, from the beginning of the *Monarchy to the Peace of Verbins*, and intends to continue it to our times.

TRISTAN. *Francis Tristan l'Hermitte*, Gentleman in ordinary to the *Duke of Orleans*, born at *Souliers Castle* in the Province of *la Marche*. His works in print are, divers Playes, *Mariana, Panthea, The death of Seneca, of Crispus, of the Great Osmar, the folly of the wise.* Three Volumes of *Poems*, intituled, *Les Amours, La Lire, & les vers Heroïques.* In prose, one Volume of *Letters*, and some other small *Treatises.* He is making a *Romance* of many volumes which he calls, *Coromene*



Coromene, an Oriental History. He has also made *The Office of the Virgin, in French*, which contains divers spiritual pieces, in verse and prose.

DE SCUDERY. *George de Scudery*, Governor of *Nostre-Dame de la Garde*, born at *Havre de Grace*. He has made 16. Dramatick Poems. *Ligdamon. The Deceiver punished. The generous Slave. The Comedy of Comedians in verse and in prose. Orante. The Bastard. The disguised Prince. The death of Caesar. Did. The liberal Lover. Tyrannical Love. Eudoxa. The illustrious Bassa*, a Tragicomedy. *Andromira, Axiana, Arminius*. Many miscellaneous Poems, printed at the end of his Playes, to the number of ten or twelve thousand verses. *The Cabinet* which is a Collection of Poems upon Pictures. One volume of several Poems, in quarto. He made *The Cardinal de Richelieu's Epitaph*, which was printed and afterwards cut in brass, to set upon his Tomb. He is making an Heroick Poem, which he calls, *Rome vanquish'd*. His works in prose are, *An Apology for the Stage. Observations on the Cid. Two Letters to the Academy, and one to Monsieur de Balzac, upon the same subject. The translation of Manzini's works. The illustrious Bassa*, a Romance in four parts. Two volumes of *Orations of Illustrious women. Politick Discourses of Kings. The Grand Cyrus*, a Romance, which will be ten volumes.

R DOUJAT.



**DOUIAT.** *John Doujat, a Tolosain, Advocate in Parlement, the Kings sole Reader and Professor of the Canon Law in the Colledge Royal of France. He has divers large works, and in a good forwardnesse, in severall Sciences, and particularly two upon the Law, which he calls *Prænotiones Canonica & Civiles*. He has publisht upon occasions several pieces in Latine or French verses. There is a little Spanish Grammer of his, to which he has not put his name, nor to his Dictionary of Gascon words on Goudelin. He is Author of the Preface to Comenius's *Vestibulum* the Copy of which was given him, and of one of the Epitaphs upon Thuanus, which was printed without his knowledge very faulty, in *Vittorio Siri*, it begins thus, *Lege Viator &c.**

**CHARPENTIER.** *Francis Charpentier, a Parisien. He has printed The life of Socrates, and the Translation of the memorable things of that Philosopher out of Xenophon's Greek. He has translated likewise all the Cyropædia; and some pieces of the Emperor Julian; but this is not yet printed. For verse, he has made A Paraphrase of the Psalm, *Confitemini Domino*, which is in print; and many other Poems, which are not.*

**THE ABBOT TALEMANT.** *Francis Talemant, born at Rochelle, Almoner to the King. He has Translated some Treatises*

TALMANT

and



and some Lives of Plutarch, which he has not printed.

THE MARQUIS OF COASLIN. *Armand de Cambout* Marquis of *Coaslin*, Baron of *Pontchasteau*, and of *Roche-Bernard*, Lievtenant for the King, in *Low Bretagne*, born at *Paris*.

THUS I have related to you the birth, Establishment, and progresse of the *French Academy* to this present time. You do not expect I should proceed any farther, and imitate that excellent Historian, who judging of the future from the knowledge of what was past, has so well made the Horoscope of the Common-wealth of *Rome*. The fortune of the Academy 'tis very likely will follow that of the State: and be good or bad according to the Kings and grand Ministers which it shall please God to give us. It is impossible to foresee all that may happen from *without*, for its destruction or for its glory: but I'll tell you betwixt you & me, that if there be any thing from *within* whereby it may fail, it is perhaps a certain Custome or unwritten Law, which it observes more exactly then any of its Statutes. For I beseech you, do you not think that the advantage of getting into this Body, must needs be look'd upon as a reward to all the Pens of *France*, and to all those that find in themselves any Genius extraordinary? If these Gentlemen, when they are to

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choose themselves a Colleague, were bound alwaies to name the most worthy, whoever he be, be confident none would refuse this honour, or if any one should be so mad, all the shame and discredit would fall upon himself. Neverthelesse they prelerve inviolably this Maxime, not to admit any man of what merit otherwise soever he be, that does not ask it. I know very well, what may be said in favour of this Order, and make no question but those who were the first Authors of it, did it then upon very considerable grounds: but I doubt much whether the evil that it may produce now a dayes, be not greater then the good which may be expected from it. For, if I may speak my mind freely, there proceeds from it one thing of most dangerous consequence. That scarce any one Petitions to be admitted, who before he propounds it in publick, does not make sure to himself suffrages in private, where common civility hardly suffers one to deny the request of a friend. I am well satisfied that all vacant places hitherto have been filled as well as a man could wish; Nay, I see some amongst the last comers, which this Company reckons amongst her prime and greatest ornaments. But who shall assure us that it will be so hereafter, and who knows not that corruption creeps every day, & too fast, into all humane Institutions, even when nothing has ben forgot that may keep it out? Those that will be least capable of  
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this employment will be perhaps most eager to look after it, and will obtain it easily, in a Countrey & Age where men know not how to deny any thing but what respects mony and private interest. On the contrary many others whom the Academy ought to desire for its members, will keep themselves out of the way through natural modesty, or that honest pride which ordinarily accompanies vertue and merit. 'Twill be answer'd perhaps, that they are not such, because they do not trouble themselves for it. Posterity will not admit of this excuse: and if it sees small or mean ~~Actions~~<sup>ors</sup> appear upon the Stage, whilst others, that were able to have acted the chief parts, continue hid behind; it will without doubt blame the judgment that shall have made so ill a choice.

But if this Company sublist long, and with the same honour it has done hitherto, although it produce not those works which are expected from it, yet 'tis impossible, but that *France* should receive much advantage by it.

So many men of parts and learning cannot meet together every week, without stirring up one another to industry and the study of good Letters, without reaping much profit from these conversations, and without spreading insensibly the profit they shall have gained to themselves, over all *Paris*, and over all the rest of the Kingdom.



For my part, such as I am; I profess and acknowledge that from my childhood, I have formed my self, either by the writings or conversation of some of this Society, which have been my chief Masters. What you find most tolerable in the Style, and in the manner of this work, you owe it to the Academy. But if the Academy it self be not displeas'd, that I have taken upon me this employment, it shall know that it is endebted for it to you, and that, had it not been for our friendship, and your laudable curiosity, I had never written its History.

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*F I N I S.*

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THE FRENCH  
ACADEMY *having*  
*desired to hear this Book*  
*which was as yet only a*  
*Manuscript, read in a*  
*full Assembly; Some*  
*days after, it ordered of*  
*its own Inclination, in*  
*favour of the Author;*  
*That the first place that*  
*should be vacant in the*  
*Body, should be set a*  
*part for him, and that in*  
*the interim, it should be*  
*lawful for him to assist at*  
*meetings, and vote there*  
*as an Academicien: with*  
*this clause, That the*  
*like favour should never*

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be granted to another,  
upon any consideration  
whatsoever. This is the  
subject of the ensuing  
Oration.

*An Oration of thanks to  
the Gentlemen of the French Aca-  
demie, pronounced in their  
Assembly, Dec. 30.  
1652.*

GENTLEMEN,

**I**F you expect from me thanks answerable to the greatness of your benefit or to the dignity of this Assembly: I make no doubt but you will soon repent, that you have so generously obliged me. But if we may speak of the favours which you do, as it has been sometimes said of those of Heaven, that a man then deserves them, when he perfectly understands the value of them; never man deserv'd them better then I, and you never made a more judicious election.

I know how glorious it is to be a member of so noble a Body, what profit is joyned to this honour, what pleasure accompanies this profit; how many obstacles in

*x how many defects might forbid me the  
aspiring to these Advantages;*



the thing it self might forbid you to bestow  
it upon me.

These several considerations are continually present before me. There's not one of them but does arrest me, but does sensibly affect me, but does raise in me towards you, Gentlemen, some particular motion of gratitude.

Shall I begin with the glory which is heaped on me by so rare a favour? Kings & Conquerors, and even some of those Heroes of whom the Ancients made their gods, have sometimes taken it for a great honour, to be made Burgeses of certain Common-wealths. And yet, Gentlemen, if we consider, as we ought, a State never so flourishing, and as illustrious as 'tis possible; what is it else but a masse of people, whom only interest and necessity joyn together; where things are carryed sometimes by riches, sometimes by force and violence, sometimes by cheating and couzening, and very rarely by vertue and merit? Certainly, if we be not dazled with outward pomp, and judge more by the eye then by reason; as much as wisdom is above the multitude, the soul above the body, and the desire of knowledge above that of living: so much is the Academy above the Common-wealth, so much does the honour which you have done me, surpass that which heretofore those Kings, and those Conquerours, and even those very gods of Antiquity, gloryed in.

And



And when from these general reflections I descend to those that are more particular, when I cast my eyes upon this famous Society, establisht in the chiefest City of the chiefest Kingdom in the world, founded by the greatest Statesman that ever was, and protected even at this day by another, who, in a word, is most worthy to succeed him; when I look upon it, composed of so many excellent men, known, esteemed and admired of all *Europe*: When I consider that for the future, I shall have a place amongst them, that I shall see my name in the midst of theirs, carryed through the whole Universe, and partake of those immortal praises which are due unto them: shall I be bold to say it, Gentlemen? I question whether I am awake or asleep, and whether this be not one of those pleasant dreams, which without taking us from the earth, make us believe we are in Heaven.

But Gentlemen, those pleasant dreams leave nothing behind them, whereas the glory to which you call me, must soon be followed by a solid and real advantage. To what purpose should I dissemble it? If from my infancy good Letters have been my delight, if I have alwaies looked upon the Art of writing well, as the end and scope of all my endeavours; It was neither easie nor possible for me to attain it, but by the favour which you do me. There is indeed a small number of extraordinary persons



persons whom Nature took pleasure in forming, who find all things in themselves, who know what they were never taught, who follow no rules, but make and give them to others. Such are you in our dayes, Gentlemen: Such in former Ages were some great Personages of *Rome* and *Athens*. But as for us that are of an inferior rank, if we have only our own strength, and if we borrow nothing from others; which way should we, with one only judgement and one only wit, and that too, but ordinary and mean, content so many different wits, so many several judgments, to which we expose our writings? Which way should we of our selves get together so many qualities, whose principles seem contrary? That our writings should be at the same time subtile and solid, strong and delicate, profound and polite. That we should alwaies joyn together Art and Nature, sweetness and majesty, perspicuity and brevity, liberty and exactness, boldness and modesty, nay sometimes even madness and reason? 'Tis very much if our birth gives us a part of that which is necessary for these great things, we must receive all the rest from our breeding; we must have recourse to precepts, examples, friends and masters; and these precepts, these examples, these friends, these masters, 'tis amongst you Gentlemen that I look to find them. What shall I say now of the sweetness which I fancy to my self of your  
Con-



Conferences? Those whom you admit unto them may perhaps expresse in some sort both the honour and the profit which they expect thence; but as for that pleasure, which doubtless the sweet commerce of good things affords you, that pleasure, which vertue joynd to friendship, which the union of spirits, and the conformity of laudable desires, do infuse into all your conversations, one must, if I be not deceived, tast it for to comprehend it; it is felt & cannot be exprest. I call to witness your selves, Gentlemen, I call to witness those hours which slide away so fast, and that importune darkness, which most commonly comes sooner then you desire, to part you, and to break up these Assemblies.

But I dwell too long, Gentlemen, on that which is least peculiar in your benefit. It would have been my duty to have thanked you thus, if you had granted this honour to my merit, to my earnest supplications, to the necessity of filling your company, and obeying your Statutes. But now that you shut your eyes upon all my defects, that you prevent both my endeavours and my hopes, that for me you forget your customs and your Lawes, that there's no obstacle so great, but your goodnes surmounts it; With what words, with what eloquence, although 'twere even your own, can I sufficiently thank you? I will not here examine those defects, which you  
have



have been pleased not to consider, and  
 which should have hindred you from ca-  
 sting your thoughts on me ; and I would to  
 God I could either wholly amend them,  
 or hide them from you as long as I live.  
 But I know not how to be silent of this  
 excesse, this profuteness of your favours,  
 this manner of obliging me, contrary  
 to all precedents. I am afraid, Gentlemen,  
 I speak too boldly of it ; you have done,  
 methinks, in this action, both more then  
 you ought, and more then you could ; you  
 have in some sort, preferred my glory be-  
 fore your own, the interest of a private  
 person without desert, before that of all  
 your most noble Body, I thought, Gen-  
 tlemen; and perhaps you thought so too,  
 that this should have been the princi-  
 pal matter of my Discourse : But how can  
 I enlarge any farther on a subject, where if  
 I would commend your bounty, I see my  
 self almost constrained to blame your in-  
 dulgence, where all my thanks would be  
 reproaches, where I can neither defend  
 you without pride, nor accuse you with-  
 out ingratitude? Of a truth if the Acade-  
 my never did so much honour to any man,  
 never had any man so firm and so true a  
 design to honour it ; if for my sake it has  
 violated its own Laws, it shall never com-  
 plain that I violate them. But yet I fear  
 that all my good resolutions cannot ex-  
 cuse hers. What am I, Gentlemen, that  
 in favour of me those foundations should

be



be shaken which were laid with so much judgement, and strengthened by the practice of so many years? What am I that to give me entrance into this sacred place, it should be necessary, not to open the gates thereof; but, if I may be bold to say it, to beat down the ramparts, and the walls, as they are wont to do for a triumphant, victorious King. I shall be carried away with vanity if I proceed any farther. I feel that sweet confusion thoughts, which proceeds from joy and gratitude, and all those other delightful passions when they are at the highest pitch: and in this disorder of my soul; all I can do is to resume my own words, to make an end just as I began, and to shut up all with this conclusion: If you expected from me thanks that should have been answerable to the greatness of your benefit, or to the dignity of this Assembly; I make no question but you have already repented you of all the favours you have done me: But if to deserve them be nothing else but perfectly to understand the value of them, never man deserved them better then I, and you never made a more judicious election.

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