

UG SEM: 3 .CORE COURSE:6 (CC-6)

BRITISH NON FICTIONAL PROSE: FROM THE AGE OF ELIZABETH TO THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

OF STUDIES

-FRANCIS BACON

STUDIES serve for delight, for ornaments, and for ability . Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring; for ornament is in discourse; and for ability , is in the judgment and disposition of business; for expert men can execute ,and perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the general counsels, and the plots and marshalling of affairs come best from those that are learned. To spend too much time in studies is sloth ; to use them too much for ornament is affectation; to make judgement wholly by their rules is the humour of a scholar. They perfect nature , and are perfected by experience ; for natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study ; and studies themselves to give forth directions too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience.

Crafty men contemn studies, simple men admire them , and wise men use them ; gor they teach not their own use ; but that is a wisdom without them and above them , own by observation. Read not to contradict and confute , nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted ,others to be swallowed, and few to be chewed and digested;

that is , some books are to be read only in parts ; others to be read but not curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and diligence and attention. Some books also may be read deputy, and extracts made of them by others; bu that would be only in the less important arguments and the manner sort of books ; else distilled books are, like common distilled waters , flashy things. Reading maketh a full man ; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. And , therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; If he confer little, he had need have a present wit ; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not.

History make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematics, subtle ; natural philosophy, deep ; moral ; grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend : *Abeunt studia in mores !* Nay , there is no stond or impediment in in the wit but may be wrought out by fit studies ; like as diseases of the body may have appropriate exercises. Bowling is good for the stone and reigns, shooting for the lungs and breast, gentle walking for the stomach, riding for the head and the like. So if a man's wit be wandering, let him study the mathematics; for in demonstrations, if his wit be called away never so little, he must begin again. If his wit be not apt to distinguish or find differences, let him study the schoolmen; for they are *cymini sectors !* If he be not apt to beat over matters, and to call up one thing to prove and illustrate another, let him study the lawyers' cases. So every defect of the mind may have a special receipt.

FRANCIS BACON. (1561-1626)

Francis Bacon was a contemporary of Shakespeare. Highly educated, he rose to become the Lord Chancellor of England in the reign of James 1. He was accused of taking bribes , fined and imprisoned .He was later pardoned and spent the rest of his life in literary pursuit .He wrote *Essay,The Advancement Of Learning, Novem Organum* and *The New Atlantis*. His most popular work is *Essays*. He speaks of his essays as ' certain brief notes set down rather significantly than curiously; of a kind where of men shall find much in experience and little in books.' The essays cover a wide field of topics and convey profound and condensed thought. Bacon's prose is rich, clear, concise and often epigrammatic .

Of Studies: Key words

ability: development of mental powers

expert men: the experienced

Plots: plans

humour: characteristics

too much at large: very vague

crafty: cunning and ingenuous

find talk: acquire subjects for conversation with the idea of 'Showing off '

present wit : ready mind .

Abuent studia in mores: (Latin) studies influence character .(Ovid , Heroides ,XV, 83).

stond : obstacles.

reigns : kidneys

never so little: no matter how little.

schoolmen : the medieval philosophers whose exercises often lapsed into endless analysis of logical futilities.

Cymini sectores : (Latin) hair- splitters; given to excessive subtleties in discussions and disruptions.

receipt: recipe.

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