



Scriptural in bacon essay

¹ V Pandimeena, ² M Priyanga

¹ M.Phil, Nadar Saraswathi College of Arts and Science, Theni, Tamil Nadu, India

² MA English, Nadar Saraswathi College of Arts and Science, Theni, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

Evaluating Bacon as an essayist Legouis writer in A History of English Literature: "It was by his essays that Bacon provides himself great writers of his own language. While Montaigne is copious, familiar, prodigal of confidences, interest in everything, prone to philosophise on whatever related to man, Bacon is curt, almost sibylline, entirely impersonal and averse from the observations he has himself been able to make.

Keywords: Legouis, English literature, evaluating bacon

Introduction

Emile Legouis on the Bacon Essays

The essential merit of bacons essays lies in the density of the thought and expression, the frequent brilliancy of the poetic images, inserted never as ornaments but always to emphasize. The moral of these essays is the same as that set forth in the novum organum, and the design is practical and utilitarian. These are in fact two morals rather than one. He is doubtless aware of the difference between virtue and interest. But it is the art of success among men that is the subject of his essays. He points man to the part he should play on the stage of social life, as is indicated in the sub-title of his book: counsels civil and moral. Bedouin who first translated bacons essays into French rightly called the book l' artisan de la fort.

Theological Concept of the Bacon Essays

In theology, bacon starts with unquestioning belief in the existence of god and in the divinely revealed character of the bible. He is sensible of the connection between religion and morality; but he condemns the disposition to find a moral meaning in all religious forms and dogmas as dangerous to unity.

Bacon's position is that having made up one's mind to be useful to one's fellow-men from the vantage ground of place and power, a man would act irrationally if he were to be too scrupulous. And it is the possession of such experience by virtue of which the author of the essay takes upon himself to teach inferior men. It must be admitted that in some cases this teaching appears too cynical: but this may be explained by reference to the training which he had received in the court of Elizabeth, and to the essentially practical and utilitarian spirit of the age in which he lived. The age was one in which subservience to those in power was not looked upon as at all degrading, when indispensable to worldly success; and it was without the moral ideal either of the feudal age which was passing away, or the age of democracy which was yet to dawn.

Qualities of Bacon Essays

They showed that it was possible in English also to express the subtleties of thought in clear, straightforward, and uninvolved sentences and, when necessary, to condense the Comparing bacon with his predecessors, it will be seen how widely he depart of his from the prolix methods of the day.

Bacon's philosophy

In psychology bacon is almost a "behaviourist": he demands a strict study of cause and effect in human action, and wishes to eliminate the word "chance" from the vocabulary of science. He invents a new science-social psychology: "philosophers should diligently inquire into the powers and energy of custom, exercise, habit, education, example, imitation, emulation, company, friendship, praise, reproof, exhortation, reputation, laws, books, studies, etc".

Nothing is beneath science, or about science, according to bacon. Sorceries, dreams, predictions, telepathic communications must be subjected to scientific examination to discover if such effects, attributed to superstition, flow from natural causes. Who knows what unsuspected truth, what new science, may grow out of these investigation as chemistry grew out of alchemy.

We need, says bacon, a ruthless revolution in our methods of research and thought, in our system of science and logic. We need a new organ on, better than Aristotle's. Philosophy has been barren so long, he tells us, because it needed a new method to make it fertile. Not its substitute. Man understands as much of nature as his observation permits him: he neither knows, nor is capable of more. No wonder that philosophy has advanced so little since Aristotle's time; it has been using Aristotle's methods. Now, after two thousand years of logic-chopping with the machinery invented by Aristotle, philosophy has fallen so low that none will reverence it. All the medieval theories, theorems, and disputations must be cast out and forgotten. To renew itself philosophy must begin again with a clean state and a cleansed mind.

Facts, the search for them and their classification, had a powerful effect of English thought, not, however, immediately but after half a century. The royal society for improving natural knowledge emanated from Bacon and was the means of the establishment of the Baconian spirit in the heart of the nation in the mean-while, this man, who opened up new horizons to the understanding of his fellow –country men, who broke with the middle ages and made so bold a step forward into modern times, was chained to the past by his language. He was convinced that these modern languages will at one time or the other “play the bank-rooted with books” and he entrusted his philosophy to Latin. His capital work magna instauratio is written in Latin, as are the numerous scientific and philosophic pamphlets appended thereto. Even when he wrote in English his essays his “essays”, which soon became popular, it was the Latin translation of them, which might, he judged, last as long as books last.

Conclusion

Bacon is not then, historically eligible as a scientific thinker. His scientific deficiencies did not essentially weaken the force of his messages for his time, the substitution of humble, critical interrogation of nature for the arbitrary concepts of traditional authority, abstract reason, and the unaided senses. It was not an insignificant thing that a great lawyer, judge, and statesman should take up the cause of natural science, and Bacon did more than any other individual except Descartes to create a favourable intellectual climate. No one any longer could be deaf to the scientific and humanitarian gospel of experiment, innovation, utility and progress.

References

1. Mathur SS. Bacon’s Essays Published by Lakshmi Narain Agarwal Educational Publishers.
2. Lall Ramji. Bacon’s Essays Published by Rama Brothers Educational Publishers.