

CUS417/127. 195 '16

WESTBURY LODGE,
NORHAM ROAD,
OXFORD.

22.3.19

Dear Sir William,

Here is a Bacon - Steele
manifesto. If you would like it shortened
or amplified in any way I will do so.
Also if you would like any number of
copies I will let you have them.

Yrs
Charles Singer

Steele thinks he can finish off
the whole ^{of Bacon's} ~~show~~ in about 6 years if he
gave full time to it.

ROGER BACON & THE STATE OF PUBLICATION
OF HIS WRITINGS.

I. SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF BACON.

It may be convenient to have on record a short statement of the claims of Bacon as a scientific pioneer.

(1) He attempted to set forth a system of natural knowledge far in advance of his time. The basis of that system was observation and experiment. He was clearly the first man in modern Europe of whom this can be said.

(2) He was the first man in modern Europe to see the need for accurate study of foreign and ancient languages. He attempted grammars of Greek and Hebrew along definite scientific lines. He projected a grammar of Arabic. Moreover, he laid down those lines of textual criticism which have only been developed within the last century.

(3) He not only expatiated on the experimental method, but was himself an experimenter. His writings are important in the development of the following sciences:-

(a) Optics. - His work on this subject was a text-book for the next two centuries. He saw the importance of lenses and concave mirrors, and showed a grasp of mathematical optics. He described a system equivalent to a two-lens apparatus, and there is trustworthy evidence that he used a compound system of lenses equivalent to a telescope.

(b) Astronomy. was Bacon's perpetual interest. He spent twenty years in constructing astronomical tables. His

suggested correction of the calendar, though unsuccessful in his own day, was borrowed and re-borrowed, and finally, at third-hand, produced the Gregorian adjustment.

(c) Geography.— He was the first geographer of the Middle Ages, and gave a systematic description of Europe, Asia and part of Africa, and collected first-hand evidence from travellers in all these continents. His arguments as to the size and sphericity of the earth were among those that influenced Columbus.

(d) Mechanical Science.— Suggestions described by him include the automatic propulsion of vehicles and vessels. He records also the working out of a plan for a flying-machine.

(e) Chemistry.— The chemical knowledge of his time was systematised in his tracts. His description of the composition and manufacture of gunpowder is the earliest that has reached us. It is clear that he had worked out for himself some of the chemistry of the subject.

(f) Mathematics.— His insistence on the supreme value of mathematics as a foundation for education recalls the attitude of Plato. It was an insistence that the method of thought was more important than its content.

II. STATE OF PUBLICATION OF WORKS OF BACON.

NO IMPORTANT WORK OF BACON HAS BEEN TRANSLATED.

English translations have appeared only of the "Nullity of Magic" (1597, 1659), of the work on Old Age (1693), of the

Speculum Alchimiae (1597) and of the Radix Mundi (1707); both the latter being short alchemical tracts.

PRINTED.

- Opus Majus Jebb (Parts I-VI) London 1733, Venice 1750.
 Bridges (I-VII) Oxford 1897.
 (Part IV) Combach, Frankfurt 1614,
 (Part V) Frankfurt 1614.
- Opus Minus Brewer, (R. S.) imperfect, 1859.
- Opus Tertium Brewer, (R. S.) Duhem, 1909, Little 1912.
- Compendium Philosophiae Brewer (R. S.) 1859.
- De nullitate magiae Paris 1542, Oxford 1594, Hamburg 1618, Brewer (R.S.)
- Compendium Studii Theologiae Rashdall, 1911, (part).
- Four Alchemical Tracts, 1603, 1620 (Theatrum Chemicum) etc.
- Medical Tracts Oxford 1590 - new edition in preparation by
 Withington and Little.
- Grammar, Greek & Hebrew Nolan & Hirsch, Cambridge, 1902.
- Metaphysics Steele, 1905.
- Communia Naturalium Steele, 1906.
- De Coelestibus Steele, 1913.
- Secretum Secretorum Steele, at press - partly printed.
- Mathematics Steele, text in hands of printers.

UNPRINTED.

- Questiones super I-VI Physicorum, librum de plantis, in
 Metaphysica from the Amiens MS. described by
 Victor Cousin.
- De Principiis naturalium from the Digby MS. in preparation.
- Computus Naturalium from the Royal MS. 7 D. VIII, in preparation.
- De Cometis from the Florence MS.
- Communia Metaphysici from the B.M. MSS. in preparation.

Summa Grammaticae	from the Peterhouse and Worcester MS. Doubtful works.
Sincategoreumata	Digby & Erfurt MSS.
De signis logicalibus	Digby MS.
De somno et vigilia	Digby & Cambridge MSS.
De sectione conica	(Speculi Bodl. Florence, and B.M. compositio) MSS.
De speculo comburenti	B.M. & Florence MSS.
De mutabilibus pronosticorum elementorum	Winchester MS.
De incarnatione	Oxford, Paris, Leon MS.
13 other alchemical works	attributed to Bacon of which some are beyond doubt genuine.

III. PUBLICATIONS OF ROBERT REYNOLDS STEELE.

SEPARATE PUBLICATIONS.

Early English Text Society

Lydgate and Burgh's Secrees of Old Filoseffres	ed. princeps.
Three Prose Versions of the Secretum Secretorum	ed. princeps.
The Earliest English Arithmetics	ed. princeps.

Roger Bacon

Metaphysica	ed. princeps.
Communia Naturalium	ed. princeps.
De Coelestibus	ed. princeps.
Secretum Secretorum	ed. princeps. - in the press.

Bibliographical Society

English Music Printing to 1600
English Music Printing 1601-1640 - in the press.
Notes on English Books printed abroad in the 16th century.
Notes on English Arithmetics.

Tudor and Stuart Proclamations, 2 vols. folio, being an abstract and bibliography of every Royal Proclamation from 1485 to 1714 in the three kingdoms, with an historical introduction. Oxford.

The Revival of Printing. Medici Society.

The Art of the Russian Icon. Medici Society - in the press.

Medieval Lore. The Encyclopedia of Bartholomew Anglicus. Stock. 18.
 Huon of Bordeaux Allen.
 Renaud of Montauban Allen.
 The Alexander Romance Allen.
 The Russian Garland Allen.
 Chatterton's Poems Vale Press. 2 vols.
 The Kingis Quair Vale Press.
 Old French and English Ballads Eragny Press.
 The Mirror of Perfection Dent.
 Kings' Letters - 3 vols. Chatto & Windus.
 More's Utopia, from the first English edition, Chatto & Windus.
 More's Utopia, from the second English edition, Dent.
 The Defence of Guinevere, Chatto & Windus.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNALS.

Quarterly Reviewer. Essays on Medieval subjects - including Roger Bacon. July 1914.

Critic for Medieval and Bibliographical subjects of The Athenaeum for over 20 years; having reviewed all the principal works on these subjects.

Contributor to The Academy, (before 1900) The Saturday Review, Literature, etc.

Articles in "Social England", "Encyclopedia of English Literature," etc., etc.

Handwritten: more work