

more disinterested they are, the better they serve the interests of humanity. Pasteur was disinterestedness itself. With but a single motive—that of saving lives—he considered it his duty to make use of all his genius to carry out his noble designs. "Whether our efforts," he writes, "be more or less favored in life, every one, when he approaches the great day of reckoning must be able to say: 'I have done what I could.'" Pasteur was the most modest of men. What in most natures would have caused a just pride, seemed in him to increase his humility, with the satisfaction of having done his duty.

Though he is renowned chiefly as a scientist, Pasteur possessed great literary abilities. His speeches and writings on the explanation of his theories are masterpieces of clearness and precision. Moreover the orations he delivered in '70 on the causes of his country's severe defeats at the hands of the neighbors from the banks of the Rhine, and on the means of remedying the disasters are of a vigorous and very elegant style.

If some nations have not shown gratitude to great men during their life, no such blame can be laid at the door of the French people with regard to Pasteur. The 70th anniversary of his birth was celebrated in Paris with unusual pomp and splendour. The Pasteur Institute is the most gratifying monument that could have been erected to his memory. There the illustrious president continued his labors, there he leaves Nocard and Roux to continue his task. It is reported that a subscription, and an international one, has just been started in Paris to erect a statue. No doubt it will be abundantly contributed to, for if every a bronze memorial was deserved by any man, that man is Pasteur. The illustrious scientist has been praised as much abroad as in France. Perhaps the highest praise we could offer him, would be to quote those beautiful words from the pen of the late Prof. Huxley: "The discoveries of Pasteur would have sufficed to pay the five milliard ransom of the Franco-German War." Pasteur, so long believed to be an atheist, has closed his career a fervent Catholic. As the sun about to sink below the horizon, he has put on his garb of the

richest hue and the last ray he cast has disclosed another phase of his greatness.

France and the Academy have recently lost another man of genius in the person of Alexandre Dumas fils. It is very seldom that we find in literature a father and son become so famous, and the world-wide reputation of the elder Dumas has probably been eclipsed by that of the younger. Dumas fils was born at Paris 1824. The author of "*Monte Christo*" long refused to believe, it is said, that his son would become a writer. He acknowledged it with great pride, however, when "*La Dame aux Camélias*" was produced first as a novel, and then as a play. It alone has secured immortality for its author. Brought before the public by the renowned actress Sarah Bernhardt, it is perhaps the most popular drama of the day. It also obtained great success as an opera by Verdi under the name of "*La Traviata*." Dumas' other productions are; *Diane de Lys*, *Le Demi-monde*, *La Question d'argent*, *L'Ami des femmes*, *Affaire Clémenceau*, *Les idées de Mme Aubray*, *La Princesse Georges*, *Monsieur Alphonse*, *L'Etrangère*, and *Les Danicheff*. All these works are unfit for perusal on account of their immortality. They have, however, great merit with regard to style and conception. The *Journal des Débats* says: "M. Dumas was a man of extraordinary genius and the greatest man our theatre has seen since Corneille, Racine, and Molière." No praise could be higher than this, nor could it come from a more competent authority. It is certain that Dumas' works have wielded an immense influence. All the play-writers of the day pronounce him their master. He is also said to have done more than any other author to make the French national spirit shine in foreign lands. Compared with the elder Dumas, he surpasses him by a closer and more accurate observation of life, a greater depth of thought, and a more polished style. Dumas fils was elected an Academician in 1875, and was appointed officer of the *Légion d'honneur* in 1867. He died on the 27th of November last, and requested that he be not given a military funeral, and that no speeches be pronounced over his grave. He was a business man, leaving a fortune of 5,000,000 francs.