

of science. As fond as he was of experiment, he made and multiplied them to little profit ; and made no important advance in any branch' of physical science. This seems strange when we consider that one of the strongest objections Bacon had against ancient and scholastic philosophy was its unprogressiveness and inutility. However, some writers state that Bacon's object was not to make discoveries, but to render the method of induction useful for application to scientific experiment. They say that he himself made no discoveries, but his life was employed in teaching the way in which discoveries are made.

Besides his scientific, or philosophical works, Bacon has also written a number of literary works, which have been universally commended for their depth of reasoning and literary excellence. He combined a gorgeous and energetic style, with an intellect one of the most penetrating and profound that ever appeared among men. One of the special characteristics of his style is its poetical beauty of expression. Possessing an imagination and fancy, that would have made him an honored name among the greatest poets, he preferred to make it entirely subservient to reason ; and the result is a clear, brilliant, fanciful diction, everywhere irradiated by the light of an intellect which outshines that of other men.

The best known and most popular of his literary productions are his *Essays*. They are fifty-eight in number. The style is elaborate, sententious, often metaphorical ; and possesses a degree of conciseness which renders it impossible for a reader to grasp the entire signification, except after repeated perusal. He has also written a *History of the Reign of Henry VII.*, a reliable and attractively written work, which alone would have rendered Bacon's name illustrious as an historian had not his other writings made it doubly so as a philosopher.

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