

LORD BACON.



F RANCIS Bacon, born in London, January 22nd, 1561, was the son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Elizabeth's Keeper of the Great Seal. From his early boyhood he manifested superior powers of intellect, which, allied to an ardent love of knowledge, gave every promise of that eminence he was subsequently to attain.

Sent to Cambridge at the age of thirteen, he quitted it three years later dissatisfied with the course of study there pursued. Thence he went to Paris in the suite of the English Ambassador ; and the result of his stay in the French capital was the work afterwards published, *Of the State of Europe*. Returning to England he adopted the profession of law, but did not attain success with a rapidity due to his talents, chiefly owing to the hostility of his uncle, Queen Elizabeth's first minister, Lord Burleigh, who regarded him as a dangerous rival to his own son.

But through the instrumentality of his patron, the Earl of Essex, Bacon procured some advancement, and was presented with a magnificent estate. For all this kindness, however, Bacon returned nothing but flagrant ingratitude. When Essex was subsequently brought to trial for treason, after his unfortunate unfortunate expedition to Ireland, Bacon, the man who should have been his friend and defender, came forward as his accuser with tongue and pen.

In 1619, under King James, Bacon became Chancellor, with the title of Lord Verulam, and the next year that of Viscount of St. Albans. But in order to procure money wherewith to support the extravagance in which he lived, he resorted to unscrupulous and very illegal methods of increasing his revenues. Having been accused by Parliament of venality and corruption, he fully confessed the crimes laid to his charge, and was condemned to pay a fine of £40,000, and to be confined in the tower during the king's pleasure. However he was soon released by James, and procured a full revocation of his sentence. During the remainder of his