earnest and so convincing, of telling a story : immense
also was the influence of the verbal texture of his
narrative style.

Scott was the first novelist who showed but little of
Defoe's influence ; but still Scott's object was like
Defoe's to convince and not to 'show off.'

It was not till *Pickwick* appeared that the mere
manner or trick of saying the thing was made more
important than the dramatic truth of the thing said.
Not but that Dickens had a real appreciation of Defoe's
methods. In one of his letters he said, 'Did you ever
read (but of course you have though) Defoe's *History
of the Devil*? What a capital thing it is ! I bought it
for a couple of shillings yesterday morning, and have
been quite absorbed in it ever since.'

The difference between the methods of these two
writers has been admirably suggested by Dickens
himself. 'Is it not wonderful,' he said once to Landor
and another, 'that one of the most popular books on
earth, " Robinson Crusoe," has absolutely nothing in it
to cause any one to laugh or cry?' Here he criticized
his own method as completely as he criticized Defoe's.
Defoe would have been as much amazed to hear that
the first function of the novelist is to 'make people
laugh or cry,' as to have been told by Joubert that
'fiction has no business to exist unless it is more
beautiful than reality.' Imitation of reality alone was
what Defoe sought. His object was, like that of one
of his late disciples, Edgar Poe, to 'lie like truth.'
So that he painted as truthfully as possible the picture
he had set himself to paint,—what was it to the
historian of the 'Plague,' and the describer of the
ghost that appeared to Mrs. Veal, whether the picture
was a beautiful one or not? whether it was a pathetic
or a humorous one or not? While Defoe seeks
illusion as the 'be-all and end-all' of narrative art,
Dickens seeks illusion as a means of 'making people
laugh or cry.' Another point of dissimilarity between
Defoe and Dickens is that Dickens not only writes
with a purpose—ethical, humorous, aesthetic, or what