

at the age of five, when he started his schooling. At seventeen he went to the University of Oxford, and from there he entered the Middle Temple, and for a time devoted himself to law. The riots in London, incidental to the period, drove the young man to Holland, though that country was also in arms, and he even served as a volunteer, but in a month or two was again back at the Middle Temple. In order to escape being pressed to take the Solemn League and Covenant, however, he was obliged to make a four years' tour, from 1643, through France, Italy and Switzerland. During his residence in Paris he became acquainted with Sir Richard Browne, at that time British Ambassador at the court of France, and in the summer of 1647 Evelyn married Sir Richard's daughter; settling some time afterwards at Sayes Court, in Kent, which he rendered famous. It was at Sayes (for a time occupied by Peter the Great of Russia after Evelyn left it) that he made those experiments and observations which he gave to the world in his *Gardeners' Almanac* and *French Gardener*, his ever-famous "*Sylva: a Discourse on Forest Trees*," a monumental work, indeed, and a grand record by itself to his wisdom and perspicacity. But with these he published also a work entitled "*Pomona*," dealing with the orchard, nor did he forget a pamphlet on "*Salads*." His "*Terra; a Philosophical Discourse on Earth and Vegetation*," published in 1668, is read with the very greatest interest at the present day. His "*Fumifugium*," of 1661, dealing with the smoke nuisance of London, again asserts the far-seeing mind, pregnant with reforms. But while Evelyn was so much a gardener and natural philosopher, "his foible was omniscience," and at the king's request he produced a work on "*The Origin and Progress of Navigation and Commerce*." The statements contained in the work being

such as greatly incensed the Dutch, with whom England was then much at war. Besides the forenamed books and pamphlets, Mr. Evelyn published others, respectively entitled "*Sculptura*" (1662), a treatise on the art of engraving; "*Numismata, a Discourse on Medals*" (1668); and his "*Parallel of the Ancient Architecture with the Modern*" (1664), as well as others on subjects of lesser importance, including translations. His diary shows him to have been a regular attendant at the court of both King Charles and James II., and though he was so studious and inclined to seclusion, yet he constantly mixed up with the society and fashion and intellect of the period, all of which then concentrated in London. His diary is not so complete as that of Pepys, who was his close companion, but it is the product of a finer mind, and certain passages, like his description of the great fire of London, could not be improved on, as examples of descriptive English. After the destruction of so much of London by the fire, he lent his counsel and assisted Sir Christopher Wren and those who attended to the remodelling and rebuilding of the city. The social history of Evelyn's time shows that between London and the country the distinction was sharply marked. The country gentlemen seldom came to London, but busied themselves in cultivating their estates and in administering justice in their neighborhood. The provincial towns were the social centres for the district. They were a rude, uneducated race, "who drank hard and swore freely," but in their rough way they did their duty, and were revolted by the sight of the vices of the court and capital. The country clergy were hardly more lettered than their squires; the learned and eloquent clergy nearly all came to London. John Evelyn died one year before the accession of Queen Anne, at the age of 86 years.