

rivals in everything, even in love—if a headlong steeplechase for the hand of a rich widow can be called by that name; and neither of them ever asked for quarter, or made the slightest concession. History hardly presents another example of individual hostility so deeply seated, so unremitting, so long continued. No feud of the Capulets and the Montagues or of the Guelphs and the Ghibelines ever developed more ill-will. It seems a pity that these two extraordinary men should have been contemporaries; for without the other either might have had all the wealth and honors to which they both aspired with all the zeal which ambition and avarice could breed. As it was, their antagonism embittered and blasted the life of each. It was largely through the influence of Bacon that Coke was stripped of the ermine, and consigned to the Tower, where he had been times without number to see the rack and the thumb-screw applied to the helpless victims of the law. The gloomy structure must have had a strangely familiar look to him when the huge iron doors closed upon him. But his day of triumph came when he helped to drag Bacon from the woolsack, and to stamp on his brow the indelible mark of infamy.

It has been said that every man is, consciously or unconsciously, a follower of either Aristotle or of Plato; but Bacon was not a disciple of either. With that fine comprehensive glance which enabled him to dispose of a whole system in a few words, he said that Plato subordinated the universe to thought, while Aristotle subordinated it to words. With Bacon the universe stood not solely for either intellect or for logic; but every phenomenon required a separate and an unbiased study for itself. Only by the evidence of the senses, painfully and laboriously employed in every possible direction, could the secrets of the sphinx be discovered. Bacon was the first and the greatest of the moderns. Without assistance he closed the record of the past, and raised the curtain upon the modern world. The phrase "the interpretation of nature" was invented by him to denote a process seemingly the most obvious of all; but which was the last thing thought of. Of all the ancients he most closely resembled Socrates, who had indeed told men that their generalizations were based on no accurate knowledge. But Socrates confined the field of his inquiries to questions of intellect and of morals; by which unfortunate limitation he delayed the progress of civilization for more than two thousand years.

[Concluded in next issue.]