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978-1-107-45074-5 - A Book of French Verse From Marot to Mallarmé

L. E. Kastner

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From Marot to Mallarmé

Selected by

L. E. KASTNER

LITT.D.

*Late Professor of French Language and
Literature in the University
of Manchester*

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PREFACE

My main object in this book has been to trace in its broad lines, by means of typical specimens, the growth and development of French poetry, excluding the drama, from the middle of the sixteenth century, when modern French poetry may be said to have begun, till the close of the nineteenth century. It follows that my selection is confined to those poets who have exercised a pronounced influence or who pointed in their day to a new orientation. Since it is planned to include the most characteristic, not necessarily the most beautiful, pieces written by the representative poets, it is not intended to be an Anthology, but rather a guide and companion to the students, in our universities and in the upper forms of schools, who require a minimum of suitable texts, encouraging them to further exploration on their own account, as a foundation for an intelligent understanding of the development of poetry in French literature.

Concise notes have been added at the foot of the page with a view to elucidating a number of linguistic difficulties, particularly in the earlier poets, or to explaining briefly certain allusions which might impede the reader unduly. Considering the character of the book, it seemed to me that these notes would be more useful drawn up in French.

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