

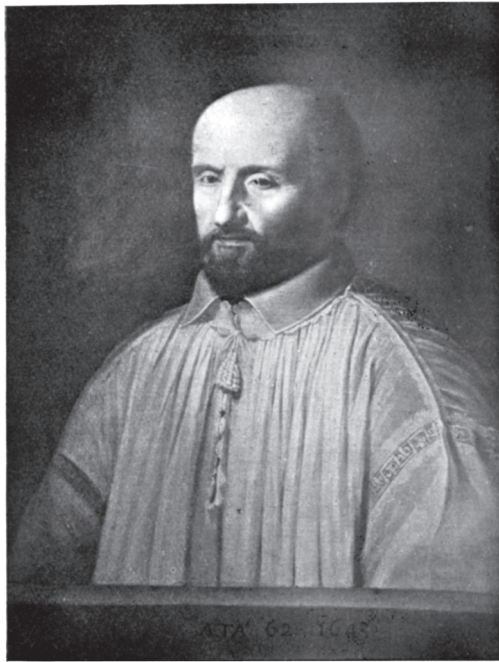
Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51202-3 - The Little Schools of Port-Royal  
H. C. Barnard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

**THE LITTLE SCHOOLS OF  
PORT-ROYAL**

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51202-3 - The Little Schools of Port-Royal  
H. C. Barnard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---



JEAN DU VERGIER DE HAURANNE,  
ABBÉ DE SAINT-CYRAN,  
Founder of the Little Schools of Port-Royal.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51202-3 - The Little Schools of Port-Royal  
H. C. Barnard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

THE LITTLE SCHOOLS OF  
PORT-ROYAL

BY

H. C. BARNARD, M.A., B.LITT.

SOMETIME SENIOR HULME SCHOLAR OF BRASENOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD

Cambridge :  
at the University Press  
1913

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51202-3 - The Little Schools of Port-Royal  
H. C. Barnard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107512023](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107512023)

© Cambridge University Press 1913

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1913

First paperback edition 2015

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-107-51202-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## PREFACE

**W**ITH the exception of two French collections of reprinted extracts from Port-Royalist writers on education, there exists—so far as I am aware—no modern book which deals solely with the Little Schools. In view therefore of the importance and influence of the educational work of the Port-Royalists, it seemed to me that a detailed study of their theories and practice might be of value even at the present day.

I desire to tender my very hearty thanks to the Librarian of Sion College, London, through whose kindness I was allowed access to the unique collection of some 250 original Port-Royal works, bequeathed to the College by Mrs Schimmelpenninck. I have also to acknowledge many kind and helpful suggestions and criticisms from Viscount St Cyres and Mr Arthur Hassall, of Christ Church, and also from Mr M. W. Keatinge, Reader in Education in the University of Oxford.

H. C. B.

*May 1913*

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51202-3 - The Little Schools of Port-Royal  
H. C. Barnard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER I	
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	I
CHAPTER II	
HISTORY AND PERSONNEL OF THE SCHOOLS	
History of Port-Royal previous to the Little Schools . . . . .	6
Saint-Cyran and Port-Royal . . . . .	9
Saint-Cyran's love of children . . . . .	12
Foundation of the schools . . . . .	13
Arrest of Saint-Cyran; dispersion of schools . . . . .	15
Death of Saint-Cyran . . . . .	17
Du Fossé and De Tillemont . . . . .	18
Establishment of the schools in the rue S. Dominique in 1646 . . . . .	20
Port-Royal masters; Lancelot; Guyot; Coustel; Nicole; Le Fèvre De Saci; Fontaine; Hamon . . . . .	21
Reason for the name "Petites Écoles" . . . . .	25
Dispersion of schools in 1650; the groups . . . . .	28
Racine at Port-Royal . . . . .	30
"Floruit" period of the Little Schools . . . . .	32
The educational treatises of the solitaries . . . . .	33
The Pascals at Port-Royal . . . . .	34
Dispersion of schools in 1656 . . . . .	37
Miracle of the Holy Thorn . . . . .	39
Final dispersion of schools—March 10th, 1660 . . . . .	40
Subsequent educational career of solitaries . . . . .	41
Digression on the education of princes . . . . .	42
Why the Jesuits persecuted the Little Schools . . . . .	43
Subsequent history of Jansenist schools; the Tabourin schools . . . . .	44
	49
CHAPTER III	
THE EDUCATIONAL THEORIES OF THE PORT-ROYALISTS	
Theological basis of their educational theory . . . . .	52
Saint-Cyran's views on the teacher's office . . . . .	57
Selection of pupils . . . . .	59
Intellectual education sacrificed to moral education . . . . .	61

	PAGE
Contrast with spirit of Renaissance and of Jesuits . . . . .	65
Attitude towards genius . . . . .	67
Attitude towards the Drama . . . . .	68
Attitude towards Music and Painting . . . . .	69
Educational results of Port-Royal's theological position : . . . . .	71
( <i>a</i> ) Complete surveillance . . . . .	72
( <i>b</i> ) The Port-Royal tuition system . . . . .	73
( <i>c</i> ) Control of general environment . . . . .	76
( <i>d</i> ) Condemnation of travel . . . . .	77
( <i>e</i> ) Character and training of the masters . . . . .	78

## CHAPTER IV

## GENERAL TEACHING METHODS

Affection for pupils . . . . .	82
Moral education—indirect, as far as possible . . . . .	83
Expurgation of texts . . . . .	86
Patience and Perseverance . . . . .	89
Teaching based on Genetic Psychology . . . . .	90
Learning to be made easy and pleasant . . . . .	91
Education through “Realien” . . . . .	94
Manual Training . . . . .	95
Discipline and Punishments . . . . .	96
Prayer as an educational organon . . . . .	99
Instruction in good manners . . . . .	101
Emulation in the Little Schools . . . . .	103

## CHAPTER V

## PARTICULAR TEACHING METHODS

Historical excursus on teaching in the Vernacular . . . . .	107
Reading . . . . .	113
Writing . . . . .	118
Study of the Vernacular; literary style . . . . .	119
Latin . . . . .	124
Previous Latin grammars; Van Pauteren; Comenius . . . . .	126
Lancelot's <i>Nouvelle Méthode latine</i> . . . . .	130
“Versions” . . . . .	132
Translation . . . . .	133
List of Authors read . . . . .	136
Prose composition . . . . .	139
Latin verses . . . . .	140
Emphasis on literature rather than on language . . . . .	141



## CONTENTS

ix

	PAGE
Greek . . . . .	142
Lancelot's <i>Jardin des Racines grecques</i> . . . . .	144
History and Geography . . . . .	147
Mathematics and Science . . . . .	149
Modern Languages . . . . .	150

## CHAPTER VI

## SOME DETAILS OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Time-tables . . . . .	151
Recreation and physical exercises . . . . .	155
Indoor games . . . . .	158
Sleep and clothing . . . . .	159
School fees . . . . .	160
Some noted Port-Royal pupils . . . . .	161
How many pupils were there? . . . . .	163

## CHAPTER VII

## THE PORT-ROYAL GIRLS' SCHOOLS

Boys' schools to be distinguished from girls' schools . . . . .	167
History of girls' schools . . . . .	168
Religious aim of these schools . . . . .	170
The curriculum . . . . .	173
Time-table . . . . .	176
The prayers and the silences . . . . .	181
Teaching as a means to the teacher's salvation . . . . .	184
"Douceur et Sévérité" . . . . .	186
Instruction in good manners . . . . .	187
Punishments . . . . .	188
Age and number of the pupils . . . . .	190
Explanation of contemporary praise of Port-Royal girls' schools . . . . .	191

## CHAPTER VIII

THE EDUCATIONAL PREDECESSORS AND SUCCESSORS OF  
PORT-ROYAL

Influence of the Renaissance on French education . . . . .	194
The University of Paris . . . . .	195
Rabelais and Montaigne . . . . .	196
Ramus . . . . .	200
The Jesuits; the Brethren of the Common Life . . . . .	202
Comenius . . . . .	204

	PAGE
The Oratorians . . . . .	205
Education of girls in France in early 17th century . . . . .	208
Descartes . . . . .	209
The <i>Grammaire générale</i> . . . . .	212
The Port-Royal <i>Logic</i> . . . . .	213
Minor sources of Port-Royal educational theory . . . . .	215
Yet Port-Royal was original . . . . .	216
Followers of Port-Royal: Rollin . . . . .	217
S. Jean-Baptiste De La Salle . . . . .	219
Fleury . . . . .	219
Locke . . . . .	220
Rousseau . . . . .	221
Dumarsais . . . . .	222
Expulsion of Jesuits in 1762 . . . . .	223
La Chalotais . . . . .	224
Rolland . . . . .	225
Educational proposals of the Revolution . . . . .	226
Influence of Port-Royal during the 19th century . . . . .	228

## CHAPTER IX

CONCLUSION . . . . .	230
----------------------	-----

## APPENDICES

A. <i>On the Date of the Destruction of the Port-Royal Boys' Schools</i>	239
B. <i>Bibliography:</i>	
I. Original Port-Royal Authorities . . . . .	247
II. Non-Port-Royal Authorities . . . . .	250
III. Some of the more modern works consulted . . . . .	250
C. <i>Chronological Table</i> . . . . .	252

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Portrait of Jean Du Vergier De Hauranne, Abbé De Saint-Cyran	<i>frontispiece</i>
Map of the Environs of Port-Royal de Paris . . . . .	<i>to face p. 20</i>
Map of the Remoter Environs of Port-Royal des Champs . . . . .	" 49
Bird's-eye View of Port-Royal des Champs . . . . .	" 151