

THE WOMEN OF THE RENAISSANCE
A STUDY OF FEMINISM

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avec les sincères devoirs
Rue Maubert

The Women of the Renaissance

A Study of Feminism

By
R de Maulde la Clavière

Translated by
George Herbert Ely

"The path of a good woman is indeed
strewn with flowers, but they rise behind
her steps, not before them."—RUSKIN.

With a Portrait of the Author

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TO

WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY

EDITOR OF TUDOR TRANSLATIONS

THIS VERSION IS

INSCRIBED

Vers le bonheur !

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

No mere translator can hope to preserve the style of his original, and herein M. de Maulde is bound to suffer more than most writers. There is no one to whom Buffon's phrase, *Le style est l'homme même*, may be more justly applied. His work is absolutely himself; it derives from his original personality and his wide and sure learning an historical value and a literary charm almost unique. He is a wit with the curiosity and patience of the scholar, and a scholar with the temperament of the artist. The sparkle and humour of his conversation are crystallised in his letters, the charming expression of a large and generous nature.

Trained at the *École des Chartes*, M. de Maulde held for a few years an appointment in the prefectural administration. But his tastes drew him rather to history than to politics. In 1886 he founded the *Société d'Histoire diplomatique*, of which he has been the life and soul, and which owes its success mainly to his activity and enthusiasm. He is the founder also of the *Congrès internationaux d'histoire*, of which the first was held at the Hague in the summer of 1898, when official delegates from all the great countries of the world met amicably to discuss international relations in the cold light of scientific history. For many years he has been a member of our Royal Society.

But it is above all as a student of the Renaissance that M. de Maulde takes high rank among contemporary

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