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LETTERS FROM A SILENT STUDY (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. IN that wholly delightful book of maxims and reflections by William Penn, which he called Some Fruits of Solitude, there is a phrase which, in the reading of new books, continually haunts me as a counsel of perfection, at once a guide and a solace. It is this: If Man be the Index or Epitome of the world, as Philosophers tell us, we have only to read our selves well to be learned in it. But because there is nothing we less regard than the characters of the Power that made us, which are so clearly written upon us and the World he has given us and can best tell us what we are and should be, we are even strangers to our own Genius. There are some writers who more or less approach this ideal. Montaigne, for instance, almost entirely; Amiel, partially; Marie Bashkirtseff, with much qualification v: possibly Marcus Aurelius; and most certainly Paul the Apostle. Of course, there are others, many others, but these are the first five that spring to my recollection. The essence of the thing is not a matter of mere frankness, neither is it that Shibboleth of the superficial, self-introspection (a typical tautological redundancy); still less is it a precipitation of one s self into the inkpot, with a subsequent transmutation to the typewriter. It is rather a suspension of the soul than a pose of the intellect. Roughly indicated it is the Contemplative Attitude. The monkish fathers possessed it in the highest degree, and, in truth, it is barely conceivable apart from a sincere religious belief. There is much of it in Buddhism; the subjective isolation, the clarity of vision, the detachment of self...

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