

A very interesting article in the London "Bookman," devoted to Walter Pater, ends in this fashion:

"And what, after all, was Walter Pater's message to his age? He had given it to the world in the early chapters of 'Marius the Epicurean'; he uttered it again but a few weeks before he died. Someone in his company, with remnants of ill-digested Positivism yet strong upon him, had asserted that men lived by the memory of the great names *du temps jadis*, such names as Cæsar and Leonardo, and that it was by the study of their deeds and sayings that one required strength of character. But Walter Pater struck it strongly: 'No, that should not be your ideal. Men who lived in times past, however great, cannot be to you what those around you can be. You should learn to live in the men and women of your own immediate surroundings; their words, their looks, their very dress should be to you the very thing that really absorbs your interest. Learn to live in and with your *entourage*, so that it may become to you vivid and real. To be alive to every influence around you is better far than the example of anyone in the past, however great.' This was only another way of expressing the ideal that Marius set before himself, 'to be perfect with regard to what is here and now,' only a re-statement of the conclusion of his 'Renaissance.' If Walter Pater possessed anything so *bourgeois* as a mission or a message, assuredly this is what it was — philosophy interpreted by one's fellow men. 'Philosophy without effeminacy,' was the boast of Pericles concerning his native city. 'Philosophy by and through a love of youth,' was the reply and corollary of Plato, and this, or something very near thereto, was the conclusion of his loving interpreter of our own day, Walter Pater."

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