Tacitus at once occurs to the reader as rivalling Saint-Simon in the art of making the definitive word-picture of an individual. In one way the latter's claim is higher than that of Tacitus. Owing to the loss of the memoirs of his age we have little wherewith to check the accuracy of the author of the *Annals* and the *Histories*. On the other hand, from the last third of Louis XIV's reign and from the Regency which succeeded it, as well as from previous periods to which Saint-Simon refers, dozens of memoirs survive. For example, the "Grande Mademoiselle" wrote hers and singularly lacking in merit our author found them. Such memoirs exist and may occasionally be read but the portraits etched by gall on a metal more lasting than bronze by the second Duke of Saint-Simon stand, promising like Horace's poems to outlast the Pyramids. Au revoir, Saint-Simon.

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