

that if you read most any French works from this time - you know modern French they're hard to read - the style is archaic and difficult but Pascal's French reads easily. His writing had a tremendous effect upon the development of the French language. He didn't write much - he wrote these provincial letters and then he wrote some thoughts on religion which is only the start of his book which was issued after his death and

(4.25) Well now this man,

Pascal was a very great scientist but his health was not particularly good and he had a near-squeak from death which turned his thoughts to religion and he vowed that he had a great sudden conversion through the Grace of God - he became a student of the Bible and of Jansen's writing and was intimately associated with this group of men who were living in the convent at Fort Royal. And when a man named Arnaud, who was the lawyer who was pretty much the leader of this group - he was a member of the University of Paris, the Sorbonne - when he publicly declared that the propositions the Pope had condemned were not what the Jansenists believed and weren't what was taught by Jansen, and declared the right therefore ~~XXX~~ to go on with their teaching - he was attacked in the Sorbonne, widely criticized and expelled from the Sorbonne. And people asked him to write a defense of himself which would be issued ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to show the people what the Jesuits were doing, and the attitude the Jesuits were taking of their twisting moral precepts and moral attitudes around in such a way as to secure their ends and to put down everything that was contrary to their desire. Now Arnaud was a great lawyer, a brilliant man, he could have written such a book but nobody every would have read it probably because his style was dull and dry and unexciting. But right at this time there appeared a series of letters and these letters - a letter appeared which was signed Louis de Montaud - just a fictitious name - it appeared in 1656 about eighty-eight years after Calvin's death and 93 years before