A substantial expansion of education took place in England between 1560 and 1640. The Bacon family was one that contributed considerably to this trend. The forces that created administrators and professional men such as Sir Nicholas Bacon in the sixteenth century were at work in the families of these individuals also. As Professor Lawrence Stone has stated: "a child began to be regarded less as a piece of property of the father and more an individual whose potentialities should be developed." Such an interest is manifest in this letter written by Sir Nicholas Bacon to his son, Nicholas, about a volume containing the five books of Moses which he was having sent to him, and concern for the progress of his daughter in learning to write.

You shall do well to cause some care to be taken of your sister that she spend the day well & vertuously les els whilst she seekes hure healthe she might marre hure manners. For the amendment of health good dyet & convenient exercise ye that that must help. Me thinke ye she did bestowe every day some tyme to learning to wryght amoges other thynge ye were well doone. The pomp maker shall have his charges alwayd when soeuer he came but the sooner he came the better ye he should be bound to performe the work ye wold be understood whethere he be of soahe substance. As A man may trust to hys bond & what you can lern hery sygnifys by your next letter when he comes upp for because the depth ye xculsity fetdone I fere he shall hardly be able to doo yt well.

There remynes in my study A booke in the saizone language wrieten in parchment conteyning the bookes of Mycony thy booke I wold have saffily sent upp by the next messenger with grete charge that ye be well lookeyd into ye lythye loyn. Amongst my wrieten bookes comend me to your mother & to you wyff wryton the xj of Marche 1565 by

Your Fatheres
N. Bacon C. B.
If ye plott for me to canke and seems eare to be taken of
But you and my hart to eorth my lede the as if ye
Of bookes for good the ye must meke and money
For 5 amandment of good ye good is to come amount
2000 yere must help me to be of good effect in
And i do come to be in to the 1st among other
Though ye be not soon
This paper be the
Butt ye may go other ye holde lagen to old ye cut but
To good go on the bed ye will be behold to pleasing
To the best and so end ye past ye be of good
Of knowne ye man that to good bend in light ye can
to the best and pryse ye next doth show the best
For be best ye to this ye next of good and fyrst of good
Jays ye go
Bett good is able to be yet good
For ye of a book in ye better of letters ye is able to show ye
Segment contrary 7 to books of ye for by ye book
Ye not other ye be the bent by ye to be yet good
Of bookes as ye be the best ye doth send to be yet good
Among in ye better of books as ye sent to go yet good ye to ye thyself
Ye of ye bookes 1505 by
vo ruten
J.l. rawe 16.
To my Sonne [illegible]