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VOICE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE: INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES -- VOLUME EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION -- VOLUME EDITOR'S BIBLIOGRAPHY -- A VERY USEFUL EPISTLE -- SERMON OF M. JOHN CALVIN -- SERIES

EDITOR'S BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX

Sommario/riassunto Born to a noble family in Tournai, Marie Dentière (1495-1561) left her

convent in the 1520's to work for religious reform. She married a former priest and with her husband went to Switzerland, where she was active in the Reformation's takeover of Geneva. Dentière's Very Useful Epistle (1539) is the first explicit statement of reformed theology by a woman to appear in French. Addressed to Queen Marguerite of Navarre, sister of the French king Francis I, the Epistle asks the queen to help those persecuted for their religious beliefs. Dentière offers a stirring defense of women and asserts their right to teach the word of God in public. She defends John Calvin against his enemies and attacks the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. Her Preface (1561) to one of Calvin's sermons criticizes immodesty and extravagance in clothing and warns the faithful to be vigilant. Undaunted in the face of suppression and ridicule, this outspoken woman persisted as an active voice in the