

**THE TWO FRIENDS;
A NOVEL, IN THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. III**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649221240

The two friends; a novel, in three volumes, Vol. III by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**THE TWO FRIENDS;
A NOVEL, IN THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. III**

THE TWO FRIENDS.

VOL. III.

THE TWO FRIENDS

A NOVEL.

BY

THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

LONDON
SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.
1835.

LONDON:
ROBSON AND PALMER, PRINTERS, 23, WILKINSON STREET, ALBANY.

F23
1924
13

THE TWO FRIENDS.

CHAPTER I.

"La société est souvent plus sévère pour l'oubli des convenances, que pour l'oubli des devoirs."

WE left Lord Heatherfield in Wales, slowly recovering from the effects of his wound, attended by his friend Desbrow, whose unceasing care administered not more to his bodily than to his mental comfort.

The letter having been dispatched to Lady Walmer, in which he declared his renunciation of her hand, his mind gradually assumed its natural

tone: it seemed as if a fearful load was removed from it, and now the image of Emily reigned alone. Still his love was without hope, for though he knew she still thought of him with tenderness, could he flatter himself into the belief, that after the weakness and vacillation he had betrayed, she would confide her happiness to his keeping, or that she would bestow her hand on one whom she could no longer respect.

Desbrow interposed the shield of his firmness of character, between Heatherfield and his besetting sin, a dread of the opinions of the clique he denominated the world. Its false principles and conventional tactics still influenced him, and instead of relying on the only safe monitor, conscience, he referred to society for a criterion by which to govern his actions; and hence, found himself in continual opposition with moral duties as well as with his own feelings.

Conversing on this subject one day, he asked Desbrow, if the circle who had witnessed his attentions in former times to Lady Walmer, would not severely censure his desertion of her.

“Why, as to that,” replied Desbrow, “the probability is, that long ere this, that circle has ceased to remember the existence of either of you,—one half having pronounced, that to marry her would be to confirm every evil report respecting her,—and the other, *vice versa*.—Believe me, they have taken up some newer, and therefore more interesting topic, and will recur to her no more, until some other attachment on her part recalls her to their recollection.”

“Spare me, my dear Desbrow,” said Heatherfield; “indeed you wrong Lady Walmer; she is incapable of the levity of conduct you attribute to her. Would that I could flatter myself that some other and more fortunate attachment might replace the unhappy one she formed for