FRIENDSHIP'S GARLAND: BEING THE CONVERSATIONS, LETTERS, AND OPINIONS OF THE LATE ARMINIUS BARON VON THUNDER-TEN-TRONCKH

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Friendship's Garland: Being the Conversations, Letters, and Opinions of the Late Arminius Baron von Thunder-Ten-Tronckh by Matthew Arnold

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MATTHEW ARNOLD

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BEING THE

CONVERSATIONS, LETTERS, AND OPINIONS

OF THE LATE

ARMINIUS BARON VON THUNDER-TEN-TRONCKH

COLLECTED AND EDITED

WITH A DEDICATORY LETTER TO ADOLESCENS LEO, Esq.
of "The Daily Telegraph"

BY MATTHEW ARNOLD

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POPULAR EDITION :

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET. W.
1903

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DEDICATORY LETTER.

MY DEAR LEO, - Grub Street, Candlemas Day, 1871.

Shall I ever forget the evening, at the end of last November, when your feeling letter describing the death of our friend first met my eyes? I was alone in my garret; it was just dark; my landlady opened the door and threw a paper on the table. Selfish creatures that we are! my first thought was: It is a communication from the Literary Fund! The straits to which I am reduced by my long warfare with the Philistines, have at last, I said to myself, become known; they have excited sympathy; this is no doubt a letter from Mr. Octavian Blewitt, enclosing half-acrown, the promise of my dinner at Christmas, and the kind wishes of Lord Stanhope for my better success in authorship. Hastily I lighted my lamp, and saw the Pall Mall Gazette. You know, Leo, how, after vainly knocking at the door of the Daily Telegraph, I carried to North-

umberland Street my records of the conversations of Arminius. I love to think that the success of the 'Workhouse Casual' had disposed the Editor's heart to be friendly towards Pariahs; my communication was affably accepted, and from that day to this the Pall Mall Gazette, whenever there is any mention in it of Arminius, reaches me in Grub Street gratis. I took the paper, I opened it; your playful signature caught my eye. I read your letter through to the end, and then

Suffer me, Leo, to draw a veil over those first days of grief. In the tumult of feeling plans were then formed to which I have not energy to give effect. I nourished the design of laying before the public a complete account of Arminius von Thunder-ten-Tronckh, and of the group which was gathered round him. The history of his family has been written by the famous Voltaire in his Candide; but I doubt whether an honest man can in conscience send the British public to even the historical works of that dangerous author. Yet a singular fortune brought together in our set the descendants of a number of the personages of Candide. Von Thunder-ten-Tronckh is, perhaps, sufficiently made known by the following letters; his curious delusion about the living representative of Pangloss is also fully noticed there. But not a glimpse, alas, do these records give of our poor friend Martin (de Mabille), who

has just been shut up in Paris eating rats, the cynical descendant of that great foe of Pangloss's optimism, the Martin of Candide. Hardly a glimpse is given of the Marquis Pompeo Pococurante, little Pompey with the soft eyes and dark hair, whose acquaintance you made at Turin under the portiques du Pô, and whom you brought to London in the hope of curing, by the spectacle of the Daily Telegraph, his hereditary indifference and ennui. Of our English friends, too, the public would, doubtless, be glad to hear more. Mr. Bottles himself fills, in the following letters, by no means that space to which his importance entitles him; the excellent Baptist minister, for whom Mr. Bottles has so high a regard, the Rev. Josiah Jupp, appears far too unfrequently; your Mary Jane, Leo, is a name and nothing more; hardly more than names are my good and kind patroness, the late lamented Mrs. Bottles, and her sister and successor, Miss Hannah. It is a small matter, perhaps; but I should have liked, too, the public to know something of my faithful landlady here in Grub Street, Kitty Crone, on whom, after my vain conflict with the Philistines is ended, will probably devolve the pious duty of closing my eyes.

I had imagined a memorial of Arminius, in which all these would have found their place; but my spirits broke down in the attempt to execute my design. All, therefore,