

**THE HISTORY OF A CRIME:
THE TESTIMONY
OF AN EYE-WITNESS,
IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649603336

The History of a Crime: The Testimony of an Eye-Witness, in Two Volumes. Vol. I by Victor Hugo & T. H. Joyce & Arthur Locker

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Cover @ 2017

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VICTOR HUGO & T. H. JOYCE & ARTHUR LOCKER

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VOL. I.

LONDON:
GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, PRINTERS,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

1850
No. 100
1/2

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TRANSLATED BY T. H. JOYCE AND ARTHUR LOCKER.

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London:


SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,

CROWN BUILDINGS, 188, FLEET STREET.

1877.

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237. f. 152.



PREFACE.

THIS work is more than opportune; it is imperative. I publish it.

V. H.

PARIS, *October 1, 1877.*

NOTE.

This work was written twenty-six years ago at Brussels, during the first months of exile. It was begun on the 14th December, 1851, and on the day following the Author's arrival in Belgium, and was finished on the 5th May, 1852, as though Chance had willed that the anniversary of the death of the First Bonaparte should be countersigned by the condemnation of the Second. It is also Chance which, through a combination of work, of cares, and of bereavements, has delayed the publication of this History until this extraordinary year 1877. In causing the recital of events of the past to coincide with the events of to-day has Chance had any purpose? We hope not. As we have just said, the story of the Coup d'État was written by a hand still hot from the combat against the Coup d'État. The exile immediately became an historian. He carried away this crime in his angered memory, and he was resolved to lose nothing of it. Hence this book. The manuscript of 1851 has been very little revised. It

remains what it was, abounding in details, and living, it might be said bleeding, with real facts. The Author constituted himself an interrogating Judge; all his companions of the struggle and of exile came to give evidence before him. He has added his testimony to theirs. Now History is in possession of it. It will judge. If God wills, the publication of this book will shortly be terminated. The continuation and conclusion will appear on the Second of December. An appropriate date.



THE FIRST DAY.

THE AMBUSH.