

**MAURICE  
DURANT. VOL. I**

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Maurice Durant. Vol. I by Charles Garvice

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**CHARLES GARVICE**

**MAURICE  
DURANT. VOL. I**



# MAURICE DURANT.

BY

*CHARLES GARVICE,*

AUTHOR OF "ONLY COUNTRY LOVE," "EVI," &c.

VOL. I.

LONDON :

A. SMITH, 334, STRAND, W.C.

1875.

LONDON:  
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FULWOOD'S RENTS, HOLBORN.

823  
G199m  
v.1

TO  
*HENRY IRVING,*  
WITH THE  
WARMEST ADMIRATION  
AND ESTEEM.

4m. Mrs. May 27 Feb. 5 1/2 m. 31.





## P R E F A C E.

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PREFACES are out of date, but I may be permitted, here, to state that this Novel of Incident was written some years ago when the Author's acquaintance with the world, the flesh, and His Satanic Majesty was small in degree and imaginative in quality. The story was first published in a periodical, and, notwithstanding its too palpable inconsistencies and crudity, obtained a fair share of success. That success is the cause of its republication in this form. While reading the proofs for this edition I attempted to

prune and revise; but the attempt proved, at the outset, that the wiser course would be to resign the imperfect whole to the critics, who, in their tenderness for all things young—not to say vernal—may, perchance, temper justice with mercy.

CHARLES GARVICE.

THE RETREAT, COOKHAM,

AUG. 24TH, 1875.



## CHAPTER I.

Dreams, books, are each a world ; and books, we know,  
Are a substantial world, both pure and good ;  
Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,  
Our pastime and our happiness will grow.

WORDSWORTH.

WHAT need is there to describe Grassmere ?  
Who does not know it, with its half dozen  
rustic houses, handful of farms, irregular cluster  
of cottages, old, time-eaten church, rotting pil-  
lory and rusty stocks ; its bright, silver stream,  
tall, regal trees, green-robed valleys, and heather-  
covered hills ; and, lastly, its ancient, stately  
Hall and moss-grown Rectory ?

Our English rural villages are very much  
alike, and between Grassmere and any other  
of the thousand and one English hamlets there  
is but little or no difference. Perhaps it