# THE ANGELUS SERIES. LIFE SCIENCE AND ART: BEING LEAVES FROM ERNEST HELLO

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The Angelus Series. Life Science and Art: Being Leaves from Ernest Hello by Ernest Hello & E. M. Walker

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## **ERNEST HELLO & E. M. WALKER**

# THE ANGELUS SERIES. LIFE SCIENCE AND ART: BEING LEAVES FROM ERNEST HELLO



## LIFE, SCIENCE, AND ART

BIBL, MAJ. SEMINARY

## The Angelus Series

# LIFE SCIENCE AND ART

BEING

LEAVES FROM ERNEST HELLO

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY

E. M. WALKER

"I have tried to show how Life, Science, and Art are three mirrors, each of which reflects the same face,"—EREST HELLO. JESUIT

BIBL. MAJ.

SEMINARY

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## INTRODUCTION

TEAR the grave of the poet Brizeux, in the cemetery of the Breton town of Lorient, is a great stone cross bearing the simple inscription: Ernest Hello. Anyone passing that way some twenty years ago might have found on the grave. not only flowers, but a little stocking, a child's shoe-the grateful and touching ex-voto of some peasant who felt convinced that he whose prayers, affection, and money, had ever been at the service of the poor during his life, still cared for them, and thought of them, and prayed for them, in the silent world beyond. Nothing endures like love; and the memory of the scholar and man of genius, who was also so good a friend, lingered long about Kéroman and Lorient.

Ernest Hello was born at Lorient in 1828. His father was a magistrate

## Life, Science, and Art

of high standing, a just and upright man, greatly respected in the neighbourhood. His mother, a clever, handsome, proud woman, possessing much nobility of character, was almost too careful of her delicate little son, and it seems probable that her excessive precautions did but aggravate his weak health.

Ernest's childhood was passed on the old family estate of Kéroman, near Lorient. Beyond the wooded farms, where the peasants spoke Breton, lay the desolate landes and the grey sea. He loved these solitudes as a boy, and in manhood he returned to them to spend the best years of his life in strenuous literary work.

Hello was educated first at Rennes. then at the Lycée Louis le Grand, Paris. He studied for the Bar, but threw up his profession because his fellow-barristers decided in conference that it was quite permissible to defend an unjust cause. He could not, he felt, bear to be connected with a body of men, the majority of whom held such an opinion.

Long ago, as a mere child of four, Hello's uncompromising love of

### Introduction

truth had manifested itself. used to dress himself up in the most fantastic guise and play at being a tiger, crawling round the room on all fours and roaring horribly, while his mother fled from him in pretended When, however, he one day alarm. attempted by the same means to frighten away some rather dilatory singularly callers, he was successful. Instead of flying from the wild beast, the visitors were amused, and began to pet and caress "So, mother," said the child, when they were gone, "you were never really frightened at all! But how could you deceive me—a little boy like me?" Never, said Mme. Hello, did she forget the reproach in her child's voice.

So intransigeant a nature would scarcely have been fitted in any case for the legal profession, yet his early training stood Hello in good stead when he turned his attention to journalism. For him, writing was a vocation; the writer's art, a sacred art. He was, indeed, endowed with that first and most indispensable gift of a writer—the gift of style; and this gift of his,