

**MEMOIRS OF AN
ARTIST: AN
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

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Memoirs of an Artist: An Autobiography by Charles Gounod & Annette E. Crocker

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CHARLES GOUNOD & ANNETTE E. CROCKER

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MEMOIRS OF AN ARTIST.



CHARLES FRANÇOIS GOUNOD

MEMOIRS OF AN ARTIST

An Autobiography

BY

CHARLES FRANÇOIS GOUNOD

RENDERED INTO ENGLISH

BY

ANNETTE E. CROCKER

CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:
RAND, McNALLY & COMPANY.
MCCCXCV.

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

Gounod, in these memoirs, terms words "docile and faithful servants of thought," and states their duty to be to "lead one to the summit without rude shock—mysterious guides, who conceal both themselves and their methods."

Words served him thus. He was their master, as he was master of all things he took in hand to perform, his dominating genius attuning thought to phrase as sweetly as it wove melody and harmony into musical expression.

I approached with trepidation the task of clothing in new livery his deft servitors, fearing that, perchance, ill-fashioned apparel might render their presence obvious, their guidance clumsy; nevertheless, I undertook the work, actuated by a resolute purpose to maintain faithfully the tone of the original.

That I have fallen somewhat short in my aim, I am only too conscious, but

2 **Translator's Preface.**

that the substance and color of the master's thought are at least faintly reflected, I fain would hope.

The abrupt termination of his memoirs, which break off at a time before the tardy public fully recognized his genius, is a matter of deep regret, for his illuminating comments on contemporary compositions and men doubtless would have been of inestimable value and interest.

It is believed that he brought his memoirs down much nearer to the present time, but afterward destroyed the latter part. Many theories are advanced to account for this regrettable destruction, the most plausible of which is based on the knowledge that shortly after the production of *Faust* there occurred phases in his life which probably he later desired to forget; so it may be reasonably assumed that, dreading to embitter with distressing memories the mellow joys of subsequent years of prosperous recognition, he blotted out that part of his autobiography which would have recalled painful episodes.

Translator's Preface. 3

Whatever may have been the cause, the loss, though great, is, fortunately, not altogether irreparable; for Gounod was a voluminous correspondent, and his letters, which it is understood will soon be published, will in some measure compensate for the loss of his later memoirs.

ANNETTE E. CROCKER.

CHICAGO, December, 1895.