EDMOND AND JULES DE GONCOURT, WITH LETTERS, AND LEAVES FROM THEIR JOURNALS; VOL. 1

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Edmond and Jules de Goncourt, with letters, and leaves from their journals; Vol. 1 by M. A. Belloc & M. Shedlock

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M. A. BELLOC & M. SHEDLOCK

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Trieste

Edmond and Jules De Goncourt

WITH LETTERS, AND LEAVES FROM THEIR JOURNALS

COMPILED AND TRANSLATED BY

M. A. BELLOC AND M. SHEDLOCK

With Eight Portraits

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I



LONDON WILLIAM HEINEMANN 1895 [All rights reserved]

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PREFACE

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THIS book proposes to give an account of the life and work of Edmond and Jules de Goncourt, brothers who achieved a rare literary partnership, and who have remained closely associated in the mind and judgment of the public, although the younger of the two has lain in the grave for nearly a quarter of a century.

1.1

The diaries of their joint-impressions, having appeared many years after the death of Jules de Goncourt, have kept his memory green and his image living, and in his elder brother's work his name is perpetually revived. The sensitive, vivacious, poetic genius of Jules de Goncourt survives as a permanent influence upon M. Edmond de Goncourt's work.

Their novels and works of historical research have been and are the subjects of constant analysis by all the principal French critics. In the past, Sainte-Beuve, Michelet, Victor Hugo, Flaubert, de Maupassant, and among living writers, Alphonse

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PREFACE

Daudet, Paul Bourget, and Zola, have written with the warmest admiration of their fiction, while the "Diaries" appeal to all readers, by the extreme pathos of the brotherly affection which they reveal, and the penetrating observation of life and literature which they record.

M. de Goncourt has kindly given every facility for the use of the diaries and letters. We have also to acknowledge the assistance afforded by M. Delzant's admirable critical and chronological work.

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