

**HEATH'S MODERN
LANGUAGE
SERIES. HERNANI**

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Heath's Modern Language Series. Hernani by Victor Hugo & John E. Matzke

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VICTOR HUGO & JOHN E. MATZKE

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LANGUAGE
SERIES. HERNANI**

HERNANI.

Heath's Modern Language Series

VICTOR HUGO

H E R N A N I

*EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION, AND CRITICAL AND
EXPLANATORY NOTES*

BY

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PREFACE.

SINCE the "Quarrel about the Cid," no play has so completely revolutionized French dramatic art as Victor Hugo's "Hernani." Its first representation marks an epoch in the history of the French theatre, and for this reason none is better adapted to a study both of the merits and faults of the Romantic movement in France.

It has been my endeavor to present a faultless text. I have followed the *édition ne varietur format in-18*, published by the "Maison Quantin" in Paris. But, alas! perfection is not of this world. In a number of instances I have been forced to introduce necessary corrections. The faults concern mostly omissions or errors of punctuation; but it is to be deplored that the *édition définitive* of Hugo's works should be to such a degree unreliable that it makes the master-workman of the Alexandrine line responsible for a verse of thirteen syllables (1084).

My object in the Introduction is to give information which will serve to place the play in its true position in the history of dramatic development. In the Notes I have striven to show the resources and material of which the poet has made use, yet have never lost sight of the grammatical and syntactical aid which a student has a right to expect in a play edited for his use. In a few instances the expected note

will be found wanting; in these cases long and careful research has proved unsuccessful.

I have attempted an innovation, in texts edited for the study of French, which I trust will be approved. I have given frequent references in the notes to Whitney's (Wh.) and Edgren's (E.) French Grammars. In my opinion the study of grammar is most productive when it is based upon the reading.

Since my object was to edit a useful school edition, I have made free use of whatever material was at my command, without indicating at every moment the sources upon which I have drawn. One or two notes I have borrowed from Perry's edition of the play, Rivington, 1888; and a few translations, which seemed to me peculiarly happy, I have taken from the excellent English version of the play by Mrs. Crosland in the Bohn library: both of which I have indicated in the usual way.

In closing, the pleasant duty still remains to me to thank the many friends who with counsel and advice have aided me in the performance of my task, — notably Dr. Warren of Adelbert College, who has kindly read the manuscript and given me much valuable aid; Dr. Bowen of Ohio State University, who has made many valuable suggestions and aided me in the reading of the proofs; Professor Lebon of the Boston English High School, to whose kindness are due some of the notes; and Mr. S. Willard Clary of D. C. Heath & Co.

JOHN E. MATZKE.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
October 1, 1891.

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