

**CHAPTERS OF THE
BIOGRAPHICAL
HISTORY OF THE
FRENCH ACADEMY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649465842

Chapters of the Biographical History of the French Academy by Edward Edwards

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD EDWARDS

**CHAPTERS OF THE
BIOGRAPHICAL
HISTORY OF THE
FRENCH ACADEMY**

CHAPTERS
OF THE
BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
OF THE
FRENCH ACADEMY.

WITH AN APPENDIX,
RELATING TO THE UNPUBLISHED MONASTIC CHRONICLE,
ENTITLED,

LIBER DE HYDA.

By
EDWARD EDWARDS.

LONDON:
TRÜBNER AND CO., 60, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1864.

37558.45



Bartholomew

PRINTED BY
J. E. ADLARD, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

CONTENTS.

I. CHAPTERS OF THE BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF *THE FRENCH ACADEMY*:—

CHAP.	PAGE
I. SUMMARY.—VIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY IN GENERAL; AND OF ITS INFLUENCE ON FRENCH LITERATURE.—SOURCES OF THE HISTORY	3
II. THE FOUNDERS.—THE HOTEL DE RAMBOUILLET.—THE QUARREL CONCERNING <i>THE Cid</i>	8
III. THE EARLY ELECTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS.—THE EXPULSION OF THE ABBE DE ST. PIERRE.—THE ACADEMIC IMPEDIMENTS AND ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF MONTESQUIEU.—THE STRENGTH AND THE WEAKNESS OF VOLTAIRE.—HIS SPEECH TO THE ACADEMY	22
IV. BUFFON; THE COURT DEVOTEÉ, PARADIS DE MONCRIÉ; AND THE DISCOURSE ON STYLE.—THE DISGRACES OF THOMAS.—CHAMFORT AND MIRABEAU.—THE ACADEMY DISSOLVED	38
V. RETROSPECTIVE GLANCE AT THE ACADEMIC PRIZES AND THEIR RESULTS, UP TO THE REVOLUTIONARY DISSOLUTION.—CREATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT REORGANIZATION BY NAPOLEON.—RETURN OF THE OLD ACADEMICIANS WHO HAD SURVIVED THE REVOLUTION	45
VI. DESTUTT DE TRACY; HIS LIFE, PHILOSOPHY, AND ACADEMICAL RECEPTION.—HIS MINOR WRITINGS AND DEATH	50
VII. CHATEAUBRIAND AND NAPOLEON I.—THE WRITER, THE EXILE, THE ACADEMICIAN, AND THE STATESMAN.—AN IMPERIAL AUDIENCE AT SAINT-CLOUD.—THE PUBLIC LIFE OF CHATEAUBRIAND DURING THE RESTORATION.—THE <i>MEMOIRS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE</i>	58

CHAP.	PAGE
VIII. NAPOLEON AND THE POETS.—THE CAREER OF LEMERCIER.—THE POETRY-PRIZE OF THE <i>BELLE POULE</i> EXPEDITION.—THE ACADEMY UNDER THE RESTORATION.—THE "LAW OF JUSTICE AND OF LOVE"	77
IX. THE STRIFE OF CLASSICISTS AND ROMANTICISTS.—THE ACADEMICAL CANDIDATURES OF CASIMIR DE LA VIGNE, AND OF VICTOR HUGO	82
X. ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE.—HIS WORK ON NORTH AMERICA.—HIS RECEPTION AT THE ACADEMY.—HIS OTHER WRITINGS AND POLITICAL LIFE	86
XI. ALFRED DE VIGNY AND THE COUNT DE MOLÉ	100
XII. THE COUNT DE MONTALEMBERT, AND THE ABBÉ LACORDAIRE	104
XIII. THE GOBERT PRIZES FOR FRENCH HISTORY.—THE PRIZES OF BARON DE MONTYON	113
XIV. THE RECENT ELECTIONS.—THE CANDIDATURE OF THE EMPEROR.—THE PAMPHLET OF BISHOP DUPANLOUP	118

II. THE EARLY BIOGRAPHERS OF KING ALFRED; WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF AN UNPRINTED CHRONICLE OF ANGLO-SAXON HISTORY.

I. CONCERNING THE <i>BOOK OF HYDE ABBEY</i>	129
II. THE RELATIVE STATUS OF THE HISTORIANS OF ALFRED.—HARMONY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF HIS LIFE, AS NARRATED (1) IN THE <i>SAXON CHRONICLE</i> ; (2) IN THE <i>ANNALS</i> ASCRIBED TO ASSER OF ST. DAVID'S; (3) IN THE <i>BOOK OF HYDE ABBEY</i>	136
III. LIST OF AUTHORITIES QUOTED BY THE HYDE CHRONICLER.	161
IV. CONCERNING THE DOCUMENTS EXHIBITED IN THE HYDE <i>CHARTULARY</i> .—TEXT OF ALFRED'S WILL IN ANGLO-SAXON AND IN MIDDLE ENGLISH.	165

I.
CHAPTERS OF THE BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY
OF *THE FRENCH ACADEMY*.
1629 — 1863.

“ True, indeed, it is
That they whom Death has hidden from our sight
Are worthiest of the mind’s regard ; with these
The Future cannot contradict the Past :
Mortality’s last exercise and proof
Is undergone ; the transit made that shows
The very Soul, revealed as she departs.
Yet (as you have suggested),—I shall give,—
Whilst we descend into those silent vaults,—
Some pictures from the Living.”

The Excursion, v.

CHAPTER I.

RETROSPECTIVE GLANCES AT THE GENERAL HISTORY OF *THE FRENCH ACADEMY*, AND AT ITS INFLUENCE ON FRENCH LITERATURE.

ON this side^{of} the Channel, we have been accustomed to think of endowed and privileged literary associations, as of a somewhat cumbrous machinery for thrusting the heads of dwarfs up to a temporary level with the heads of great men. We cannot, or cannot very easily, enter into the views and feelings with which many highly educated and accomplished Frenchmen will talk of the private doings, and of the public displays of the "French Academy." When we find a man of the world, and a statesman—as well as a distinguished author—like the Count de Montalembert, writing (as he wrote in 1863) of the membership of the French Academy, as being "the noblest reward which, in our days, can crown a glorious and independent life," we are apt to regard it as, at all events, a highly rhetorical phrase. The flutter of excitement which an academical election in Paris often creates, amongst the men of high scholarship, and of varied experience of life, as well as amongst the fashionable writers of the passing day, seems to us overstrained, if it be not puerile. And we cannot forget that in some well-known