

**LOUISE LATEAU, THE
ECSTATIC OF BOIS
D'HAINÉ; HER LIFE,
STIGMATA AND ECSTASIES**

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Louise Lateau, the Ecstatica of Bois D'haine; Her Life, Stigmata and Ecstasies by Ferdinand J. M. Lefebvre

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FERDINAND J. M. LEFEBVRE

**LOUISE LATEAU, THE
ECSTATIC OF BOIS
D'HAINE; HER LIFE,
STIGMATA AND ECSTASIES**

J. H. B. G.

LOUISE LATEAU,

THE ECSTATICA OF BOIS D'HAINÉ ;

OR

LIFE, STIGMATA AND ECSTASIES,

BY

DR. LEFEBVRE,

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

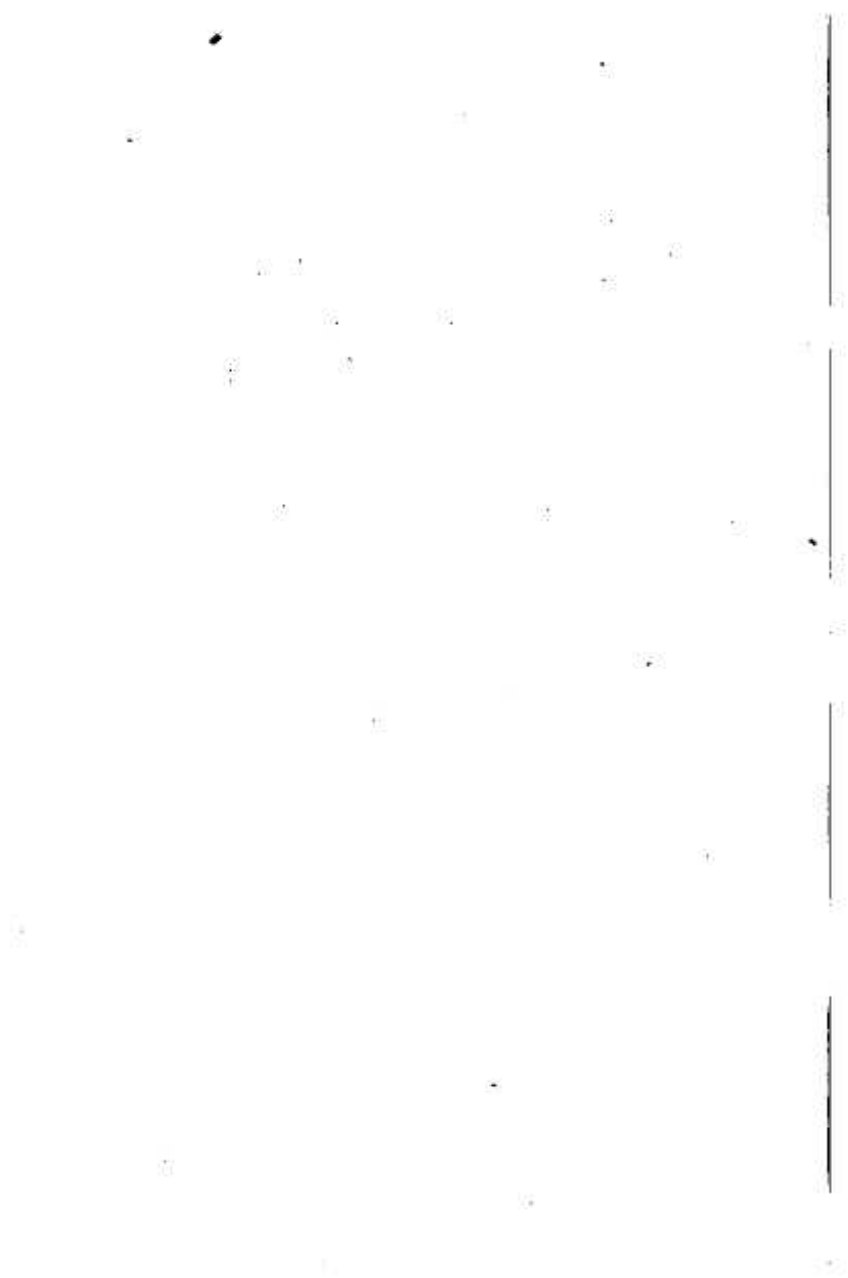
BY J. S. SHEPARD.

WITH A BRIEF SKETCH OF SEVERAL FORMER
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PREFACE.

The present translation embodies but a portion of the more important work of Dr. Lefebvre, from which it is for the most part taken.

The translator, while desiring to leave nothing out of the English edition which might add to its interest, and at the same time furnish a complete and connected narrative of Louise Lateau's case, has yet thought it advisable to omit the exclusively medical study of the ecstasy and stigmata, which none but scientific men would care to follow.

He has striven to the best of his power to preserve a strict adherence both to the style and text of his author, which must prove his excuse for anything constrained or artificial in the English version.

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INTRODUCTION.

At the commencement of last year (1868) a singular rumour spread over Belgium. The tale ran that, in a village of Hainault, a young girl lost blood every week from various parts of the body, and to render it the more remarkable, that the blood never escaped but on the Fridays, and then invariably from the same points, the left side of the breast, the palms and backs of the hands, and the corresponding parts of the feet. A few months later, it was further stated that the young girl, as each Friday came round, fell into an ecstasy which lasted for the greater part of the day.

The accounts of the first witnesses of these extraordinary facts produced a lively