

**JOURNAL OF  
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DE GUÉRIN**

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**G. S. TREBUTIEN & C. A. SAINTE-BEUVE**

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MAURICE DE GUÉRIN

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JOURNAL  
OF  
MAURICE DE GUÉRIN

EDITED

By G. S. TREBUTIEN

*WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL AND LITERARY MEMOIR*

By SAINTE-BEUVE

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## NOTE.

A NEW translation of the *Journal of Maurice de Guérin* needs no other justification than the deepening interest in Nature and the rare quality of a writer of whom Matthew Arnold wrote that he had "a sense of what there is adorable and secret in the life of Nature." The earlier American translation has been out of print for a number of years; and a new and wider constituency of those born to understand and value De Guérin awaits his *Journal*. The present translation is put forth with the hope that it may bring to the knowledge of these lovers of Nature a work which has appealed to the best minds, and taken its place among the classics of that kind of observation and meditation which find their inspiration in Nature, and their end in the fuller fellowship of the soul with its ancient companion and teacher.

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## MEMOIR.

ON the 15th of May, 1840, the *Revue des Deux Mondes* published an article by George Sand on a young poet whose name had been until then entirely unknown, — Georges-Maurice de Guérin, who had died during the previous year, on the 19th of July, 1839, at the age of twenty-nine. His title to the posthumous honour of being thus unexpectedly ranked as a star among the “poets of France” was a magnificent and singular composition, *Le Centaure*, in which all the primitive powers of Nature were felt, expressed, and personified energetically, yet with taste and sobriety, and in which a master was all at once made manifest, — the “André Chénier of pantheism,” as a friend had already named him. Some fragments of letters, outpourings that revealed a tender and beautiful soul, formed, around this colossal piece of antique marble, a charming choir of half-veiled semi-confidences; and this glimpse caught in