

**SELECTIONS  
FROM PIERRE LOTI**

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Selections from Pierre Loti by A. Guyot Cameron

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**A. GUYOT CAMERON**

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FROM  
PIERRE LOTI

*EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES,  
AND BIBLIOGRAPHY*

BY

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AUTHORIZED EDITION



NEW YORK  
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY  
1897

To  
William Augustus Merrill, Ph.D., L.M.D.,  
Of the University of California,  
Whose Mastery of Latin Lore  
And whose Love of Lucretius Will Find  
The Pantheism and the Poetry  
Of the Latter under New Guise in  
This Philosopher of Fiction,  
Lotti,  
This, in Admiration of the Scholar  
And a Link in a Friendship  
Which Distance does not Dim.

## PREFACE.

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To M. Loti, the kindness of whose sanction to gather illustrations of his writings has added another charm to the pleasure of studying them, my most grateful thanks are expressed.

“Every abridgment of a good book is a foolish abridgment,” says Montaigne. And only those who have attempted it, will recognize the difficulty in presenting in one volume a series of extracts to represent the phases of nineteen, or will understand the struggle of choice where every part is beautiful, yet one must be taken and the other left. Every such series of selections, too, is necessarily somewhat subjective. Yet space-limitations counteract this by compelling the gleaning of general examples rather than those of too personal predilections. In the case of M. Loti several arrangements were possible. The personal one, to include passages bearing more directly upon his thoughts and feelings; the topographical, dealing with various lands; the purely descriptive, whose objection is absence of romantic interest. It has seemed best to omit the passages of actual love-episodes, as too long, and to follow a more varied and chronological order. This will both represent the actual literary development of M. Loti, and—by the

inclusion of many of his chapters—also exactly follow his lack of plan, which, however, be it said, is one of the attractive qualities of his books.

The extracts have been taken in larger part from the earlier and most famous works. Some of the later ones duplicate in general the earlier, while the recent books of travel are too much descriptive voyaging or moral philosophizing to closely suit the purpose of the present series chosen.

Certain most mild liberties have been taken: the assimilation into continuity of a few detached passages upon the same theme; the rare substitution of a proper name for initial pronoun, to make clear the personality involved; the occasional suppression of some descriptive attributes, better excised for scholastic purposes. Some suggestions in the titles of selections are explained in the "Contents."

The annotations upon M. Loti are also necessarily somewhat non-systematic and varied in character. The text furnishes no historical nor literary allusions and few personages for explanations. The extraordinarily pure and simple style, and the predominance of description over dialogue, remove idiomatic analysis. Like the sea described by the author, there are long, quiet stretches of writing that require no comment, while the elementary grammar they involve is a presupposed acquisition of the student. On the other hand, few save the experienced can realize the time, the patience, the correspondence, and the difficulty,—utterly incommensurate with the results in seemingly simple statements,—involved in the notes upon the exotic expressions, the meanings of names, and



even the geographical definitions which will be found in the notes. If M. Loti had stopped at the phrase good-naturedly rallied by M. Brunetière and which includes the annotative terrors of *chola*, *zamacuéca*, and *diguhela*, well. But he did not. And so Japanese, Tahitian, and Yolloff, and still others, have made this editing of more than average difficulty. M. Loti himself, however, comes to the rescue at times. Wherever possible, his own words and brilliant descriptions have been incorporated into the notes which, apart from needed elucidations, can at least typify, if not develop more than in outline, the desirable possibilities of expansive teaching. These selections may perhaps reveal the marvellous power and beauty of their author's work, and may stimulate a fuller reading of it, and help to an idea of the fair flowers and tall trees in that intellectual paradise—French Literature.

A. G. C.

SHEFFIELD SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL  
OF YALE UNIVERSITY, *March*, 1897.



## CONTENTS.

(For uniformity and ease of reference, titles have been given to all of the selections. M. Loti's own designations or those made from the opening words of his chapters have been used where practicable, but the editor has been obliged to supply most of those in *MOX FRERE YVES*, *PECHEUR D'ISLANDE*, *MME. CHRYSANTHEME* and *AU MAMOC*, as in the original, the chapters were distinguished only by numbers. He has also added several of the headings in *LE MARIAGE DE LOTI* and *LE ROMAN D'UN SPAHI*, where his selections do not coincide with M. Loti's chapters.)

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