FRENCH LITERATURE OF TO-DAY: A STUDY OF THE PRINCIPAL ROMANCERS AND ESSAYISTS

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French literature of to-day: a study of the principal romancers and essayists by Yetta Blaze de Bury

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YETTA BLAZE DE BURY

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BY

YETTA BLAZE DE BURY

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To

M. FERDINAND BRUNETIÈRE

OF THE ACADÉMIE FRANÇAISE
THIS BOOK IS INSCRIRED

AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION

PREFACE

To run a connecting thread through the sketches contained in this little book were a futile task. The thread would be broken at once; for could Zola be tied to Brunctière, or Anatole France to Vogüé? Reëdited papers, gathered into one volume, are very much like a miscellaneous company of steamboat passengers, each of whom has gone on board independently of the rest. When circumstances thus bring together the censured and the censor, silence among the passengers answers for peace.

In a book like this the reader comes upon the literary portraits that are presented to him, only one by one, as the captain of the boat visits cabin after cabin. Diverse in their tastes, in their tendencies, in their surroundings, the French authors here brought before the American reader will receive, it is hoped, at least a little of the favor which we give in France to the masters of American literature. The aim of the writer of these sketches has been above all to win for her compatriots, from the reading public in the United States, some slight return of the esteem we cherish

for Emerson, Hawthorne, Poe, Longfellow. She has sought to make the essence of the French literary genius felt by the readers of a foreign country which she admires sincerely, and which, throughout all its history, has ever been sympathetic toward us politically and industrially.

If the American people shall grant to these portraits a little of the cordiality of reception which they have given so generously to some of the originals, the author's efforts will be fully recompensed.

Parts, 2 March, 1898.

CONTENTS

								PAGE
Pierre Loti		*1				•		1
GUY DE MAUPASSANT .								
Zola as an Evolctionist								37
EDMOND DE GONCOURT .					¥ ()	1 9 3		53
JEAN MARTIN CHARGOT		*	*	٠		٠	,	86
PAUL BOURGET								107
EUGÈNE MELCHIOR DE VO								133
FERDINAND BRUNETIÈRE	į.			. 63	200	6 3 3		156
Jules Lemaître .								183
ANATOLE FRANCE	2.0				5		ě	211
MADAME BLANC BENTZON	AS .	A R	AKC	NCE	WRE	rer	٠,	239
PAUL VERHAINE	20			245	245	450		263

