

is further to be noted that his own ideas are much emphasized in this novel and its pendant—for example, the stress laid on forest culture, reminds us of the fact that the novelist desired to have trees cut in the Ukraine and transported to Paris, regardless of the fact that the cost of transportation made the scheme utterly impracticable. In conclusion we may afford to smile at our author's low opinion of the America of his day, and may take leave of his story with the remark that once more he has confuted those critics who insist that he takes greater delight in dealing with bad characters than with good ones. There is not a vicious character in this book over which Abbé Bonnet has spread the mantle of his exquisite piety.

"Albert Savarus" is practically or completely ignored in Balzac's correspondence, yet he must have taken much interest in it so fully does he attribute to Savarus his own ideas and even his peculiarities. The advocate of Besançon has journalistic and political aspirations. He, too, is laboring hard in order to amass wealth which he wishes to spend on a woman whose hand he expects after her aged husband has died. Perhaps Balzac thought that in some way Savarus' lot might be his—that Mme. Hanska would be lost to him through some trick of fate. However this may be, it is impossible not to regard the novelette as being more autobiographical than any other of Balzac's stories.

Whether it is a thorough success may be doubted. The hero is a little too much the great and impeccable personage with whom the old romancers used to deal, and his thickening woes and final retreat from the world are worthy of the "*Œuvres de Jeunesse*," although, of course, far better managed than they would have been in 1825.* On the other hand, some of the characters are remarkably well drawn.

* It may be noted that the relations of Mme. and Mlle. de Watteville remind one of similar relations in "*Wann-Chlore*."

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