

INTRODUCTION

It is not within the scope of the present book to present a critical review of the events of Hugo's career. Having regard to the eminence of the subject, the available biographical material is surprisingly slender, and it can scarcely be said that an adequate life of the poet exists. A reading of the autobiography, "Victor Hugo raconté par un témoin de sa vie,"¹ should be supplemented by the life in five volumes by Edmond Biré,² in which we find certain inaccuracies and misleading statements of the former book subjected to a critical review of occasional excessive harshness. A more charitable and essentially a fairer account of Hugo's life is contributed by Mr. F. T. Marzials to the Great Writers Series, to which is appended a useful bibliography.

SUMMARY OF THE LIFE OF VICTOR HUGO

- Feb. 26, 1802 Victor-Marie Hugo born at Besançon
1802-1812 Elba, Corsica, Naples, Paris, Madrid
1812 Paris
1815-1818 A student in the boarding school of Cordier and Decotte
1817 Receives honorable mention from the Academy for a poem in a prize competition
1819 Gains prizes in the poetical competitions of *les Jeux Floraux* of Toulouse
Founds with his brothers a critical review, *Le conservateur littéraire* (1819-1821)

¹ Paris, 1863.

² "Victor Hugo avant 1830"; "Victor Hugo après 1830"; "Victor Hugo après 1852."