

INTRODUCTION*

[*Le Curé de Village* was originally published in three fragments in *La Presse*. The first, "Le Curé de Village," in seven chapters, appeared from January 1 to 7, 1839. It covered the portion dealing with Tascheron's trial and execution. The second, entitled "Véronique," appeared from June 30 to July 13 of the same year—its four chapters corresponding with the beginning of the novel as we have it. The third, entitled "Véronique au Tombeau," appeared from July 30 to August 1—its three chapters corresponding with the conclusion of the novel. In 1841 the work was issued in two volumes, much augmented and rearranged. It now contained twenty-nine chapters, of which those from XVI. to XXV. were new, corresponding with those pages of the present version that describe Mme. Graslin's labors to improve her estates. In 1846, with chapter divisions reduced to five, the novel entered the "Scènes de la Vie de Campagne" of the "Comedy." Changes had again been made, but by no means so extensive as those of the first edition, which Lovenjoul does not even attempt to indicate. Few of the characters are used in other books. The Granville that appears is the son of the Granville of "Une Double Famille" and other stories. We get only two other glimpses of Rastignac's brother, the young abbé so soon made a bishop. Bianchon's rôle is now a familiar one.

Albert Savarus was first printed in *Le Siècle*, May 29-June 11, 1842, being divided into sixty chapters. The same year it entered the "Scènes de la Vie Privée" of the "Comedy,"

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