

## Five Years of My Life

revision. Although I expected nothing from my demand, I still hesitated to withdraw it for I had no wish for pardon. I thirsted for justice. But, on the other hand, my brother told me that my health, already greatly shaken, left little hope that I should be able to resist much longer under the conditions in which I should be placed ; that my life would allow me more easily to prosecute the reparation of the atrocious judicial error of which I was still the victim, since it would give me time, to obtain which was the main reason of my appeal to the Military Tribunal of Revision. Mathieu added that the withdrawal of my demand was counselled and approved by the men who had been, in the Press and before the world, the chief defenders of my cause. Finally, I thought of the sufferings of my wife and family, of the children I had not yet seen, and of the thought of whom haunted me ever since my return to France. Accordingly I agreed to withdraw my appeal, but I did so without declaring very clearly my absolute and