MEMOIRS
OF
HIS OWN TIME;
INCLUDING
THE REVOLUTION, THE EMPIRE,
AND
THE RESTORATION.
BY
LIEUT.-GEN. COUNT MATHIEU DUMAS.
IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

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MEMOIRS

OF

LIEUT.-GEN. COUNT MATHIEU DUMAS.

TO MY SON.

My Dear Son:

The inaccuracy and want of truth in the multitude of private Memoirs, with which we have been inundated, and with which cotemporary history was in a manner overwhelmed, had inspired me with insurmountable disgust. It seemed to me that my testimony would be a useless and slender tribute, and would be lost in that chaos into which so many rash opinions, so many false statements, so many calumnies, dictated by the spirit of revenge, will perhaps never suffer the light of truth to penetrate. In fact the number of those Memoirs is but very inconsiderable of which my honorable friend, the count de Ségur, has given us so perfect a model. In venturing to imitate him, I yield to his counsels as well as to his warm solicitations.

The following pages, my dear Son, contain the faithful narrative of the events in which I had some share, according to the various situations in Vol. I.—2
which I was placed. The testimony of an eye-witness is not useless and uninteresting, who, relating the story of his life, is obliged to speak of himself, saying, like the Pigeon in Lafontaine,

"J'étais là : telle chose m'advint."