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YOUNG BROWN BY TROIS-ETOILES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

YOUNG BROWN

OR THE
LAW OF INHERITANCE

BY
TROIS-ETOILES,
AUTHOR OF "THE MEMBER FOR PARIS," ETC.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LEIPZIG
BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

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PREFACE.

On m'a dit que pendant mon absence il s'est établi dans Séville une espèce de liberté, et pourvu que je ne parle ni du roi ni de la cour, ni du clergé, ni d'Eglise, ni des grands, ni des gens en place, ni de quoi que ce soit qui ressemble à quelque chose, je puis tout écrire et imprimer librement, sauf l'approbation de trois ou quatre censeurs.

BEAUMARCHAIS: *Mariage de Figaro.*

WHILST the story of "Young Brown" was being published in the "Cornhill Magazine" it was praised with perhaps undue enthusiasm by some, and censured with a bitterness equally undeserved by others. Certain critics declared that the book was full of personalities; others, having misunderstood the leading incident, published that Madge was sister to the Duke of Courthope, and charged me with improbability, as well as with an offence more disagreeable to the present temper of the public mind.

Dealing first with the question of personality, I must ask what is the meaning of that rage which has fallen upon critics for descrying personalities whenever a Peer of fiction is sketched in other than conventional colours? From what I can gather of the works of the best modern novelists, it is allowable to describe a peer as a person of dull wits: Thackeray and Dickens have done it, so have Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Anthony Trollope. In the matter of baronets the licence allowed is greater: Mr. Wilkie Collins, to name but one