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| RENAN, Joseph Ernest (28 February 1823 - 2 October 1892) |
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| Ernest Renan was a French rationalist philosopher, orientalist, and historian of religion. He was professor of Semitics at the Collège de France. Renan is best known for his influential *Vie de Jésus* (1863), a biography of Jesus written in the tradition of David Strauß’s *Das Leben Jesu* (1835-1836). Against his Roman Catholic upbringing, Renan disputed the compatibility of history and theology, questioned the divine inspiration of the Bible, precluded the possibility of miracles, and rejected Jesus’s divinity (and Jewishness). |
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| Further reading:  (Girard and Moncel) |