

## BIOGRAPHY

Adam—My Literary Life. By Mme. Edmond  
Adam. Appleton. \$2.50.

With all of literary Paris as friends or acquaintances for the last fifty years, Mme

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Adam's memoirs can hardly fail to contain much that is interesting even to the un-literary across the water. Such people as Meyerbeer, who protested, on first seeing her, that he was afraid of her because "She will make me forget my Séleka " Georges Sand, Daniel Stern (Mme. d'Agoult), Berlioz, Mérimée, and hosts of others flit through her lively pages. She herself first gained literary recognition through rushing to the defence of Georges Sand and Daniel Stern in a book entitled "Idées Anti-Proudhoniennes," a reply to Proudhon's attack on the two ladies; other books and the foundation of the *Nouvelle Revue* followed. But though possessed of a masculine intellect Mme. Adam is eminently feminine in other ways. She confesses that she had the greatest joy of her life when her daughter was born, and naïvely tells of her timidity in going out in the streets of Paris on her first visit there, because the only thing that distinguished her from other people was the attractiveness of her youthful presence. She modestly admits the acquaintance of Mme. Récamier's little chimney-sweeps, but we doubt if the chimney-sweeps ever saw the portrait that represents her in the frontispiece, but are willing to accept her assurance that she received "too many compliments about my arms." It is delightful to learn all these personal details of so very literary a lady, and sympathize with what her feelings were doubtless when Hetzel wrote, declining to publish her book: "Either your book is very poor, or else you use checked handkerchiefs, and probably take snuff. I do not think that a woman, doubtless ugly and very old," etc. The book was a success, and Hetzel recanted.