

duction of Mrs Margaret Maitland is a book which may be safely placed in any hands ; and, seeing that novels must and will exist, and must and will exercise prodigious influence, whether the religious world give its consent or no, we think the good people should by all means try whether they cannot conscientiously patronize the good ones.—*January 12, 1856.*

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### EUGENE SUE.

IT is not from the formal histories of a country, as history has hitherto been written, that the manners and morals of its people may best be learnt. Its works of fiction, if they have been produced by the hand of a master, and have dealt with the aspects of contemporary society, are vastly more true to the lineaments of its internal life than its works of sober fact. Smollett's "History of the Reign of George II." is a dull record, that bears on its weary series of numbered paragraphs no distinguishable impress of the character of the age ; whereas Smollett's "Humphrey Clinker" is one of the most admirable pictures of English society during that reign which anywhere exists. The severe history, with all its accuracy of names and dates, wants truth ; the amusing novel, that seems but to play with ideal characters, is, in all its multitudinous lights and shadows, a true portraiture of the time. And the rule seems general. Does the student wish to acquaint himself with the aspect of English society in the days of our great grandfathers ?—he will gain wonderfully little by poring over heavy sections in the "Annual Registers" of Dodsley, but a very great deal in the study of the graphic sketches of Richardson and Fielding. The "Waverley" of Scott is truer beyond comparison to the real merits of the