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Clbronn Contin

For more than two hours he spread before me deeds. pedigrees, settlements.

(The Member for Arcis, page 217)

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יים וכלים אל אפאף ביים וכלים וכל The Member for Ariss pr 21

### Library Edition

# THE MEMBER FOR ARCIS THE SEAMY SIDE OF HISTORY AND OTHER STORIES

BY

HONORÉ DE BALZAC

With Introductions by

GEORGE SAINTSBURY



THE THOMPSON PUBLISHING COMPANY SAINT LOUIS AND PHILADELPHIA

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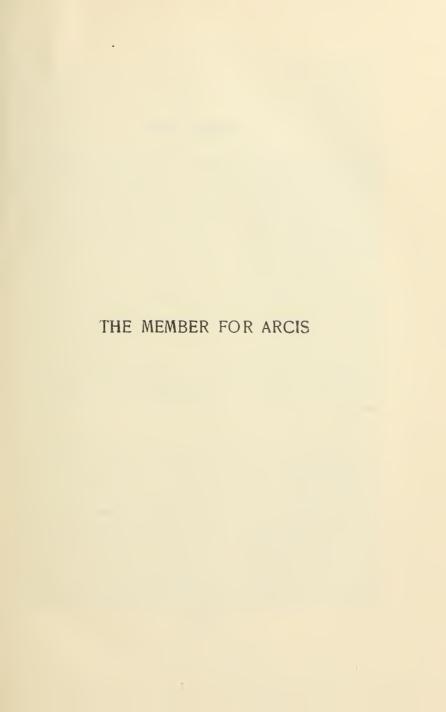
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#### INTRODUCTION

Le Député d'Arcis, like the still less generally known Les Petits Bourgeois, stands on a rather different footing from the rest of Balzac's work. Both were posthumous, and both, having been left unfinished, were completed by the author's friend, Charles Rabou. Rabou is not much known nowadays as a man of letters; he must not be confused with the writer Hippolyte Babou, the friend of Baudelaire, the reputed inventor of the title Fleurs du Mal, and the author of some very acute articles in the great collection of Crepet's Poètes Français. But he figures pretty frequently in association of one kind or another with Balzac, and would appear to have been thoroughly imbued with the scheme and spirit of the Comédie. At the same time, it does not appear that even the indefatigable and most competent M. de Lovenjoul is perfeetly certain where Balzac's labors end and those of Rabou begin.

It would seem, however (and certainly internal evidence has nothing to say on the other side), that the severance, or rather the junction, must have taken place somewhere about the point where, after the introduction of Maxime de Trailles, the interest suddenly shifts altogether from the folk of Arcis and the conduct of their election to the hitherto unknown Comte de Sallenauve. It would, no doubt, be possible, and even easy, to discover in Balzac's undoubted work—for instance, in Le Curé de Village and Illusions Perdues—instances of shiftings of interest nearly as abrupt and of

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