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**Le comte de Paris**

**Majendie Constance**

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**Title: Le comte de Paris**

**Author: Majendie Constance**

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LE COMTE DE PARIS.







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1886

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LE  
COMTE DE PARIS

LONDON:  
W. H. ALLEN & CO., 13, WATERLOO PLACE, S.W.  
1889





LE  
COMTE DE PARIS

BY  
LE MARQUIS DE FLERS

TRANSLATED BY  
CONSTANCE MAJENDIE

*WITH PORTRAITS AND AUTOGRAPH*

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## P R E F A C E.



YEARS roll by, and each year finds France fallen from the rank to which she is entitled in Europe, and hurrying to her destruction. When will she stop on the downward path which leads to her ruin? We have confidence in her speedy deliverance, and are convinced that her future is bound up in the person of Mgr. le comte de Paris. The following pages are the result of this double conviction.

Up to the present time a few pamphlets have been published, but no book has been written which attempts to unite the various documents necessary to the thorough comprehension of so varied a life as that of Mgr. le comte de Paris. It is not sufficiently known how the whole conduct of the prince, whether in exile, or in the days—only too few—which he spent in France, has been actuated by the truest patriotism. Careless as our country is on this subject, it has, perhaps, not noticed the penetration, the clearness, the precision of the prince's intellect, the strength of his will, or the uprightness of his character, which (as has been well said) "is often more clever than cleverness itself."

We thought, therefore, that it might be well to tell the story of his life at the Tuileries, in England, in

America, at Eu and in Paris, to show how always, under all circumstances, he pursued the one great idea—France! The present time appeared to us most propitious for publishing these pages. Failing any other merits, this book will have that of rigorous exactness. We have confined ourselves entirely to *true* documents, and our conscience tells us that we have faithfully performed our task. Some gloomy critics, whose minds have been prejudiced, or who are ill-informed, may perhaps accuse us of being influenced by our respect and attachment. We shall certainly not attempt to defend ourselves, for such a criticism would fail to touch us, convinced as we are that we are well within the limits of truth and justice; for the rest we appeal to the judgment of all those who have the honour of knowing the prince. Belonging as we do to a family devoted from the last century to the house of Orléans, and admitted to the honour of frequent personal intercourse with Mgr. le comte de Paris, it is only natural that we should be deeply sensible of the great and solid qualities which distinguish him who will one day be Philip VII.

We do not mean to impose our ideas on the reader, but we hope to make him share them by the true narrative of incontestable facts, from which he will be able to draw his own conclusions. In former days the people cried "Ah, if only the king could know it!" now we say "Ah, if only the people knew him!"

But the eyes of the people will soon be opened. They will recall those kings, whose history for nine centuries is the history of the people, always bound up with them in good and evil fortune; they will