

CONTENTS

PREFACE	vii
ABBREVIATIONS	ix
INTRODUCTION	xi
CHAPTER 1 FROM THE GHETTO TO LE GRATIN: A DOUBLE HERITAGE	1
<i>Old Faith and New Homeland</i>	2
<i>Music and Elitism</i>	4
<i>Literature and Philosophy</i>	17
<i>Liberal Politics and Social Expertise</i>	25
CHAPTER 2 INSTITUTE AND BOULEVARD: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAYWRIGHT	45
<i>The Disappointments of Youth</i>	46
<i>Offenbach and the Opéra Bouffe</i>	48
<i>Enter Henri Meilhac</i>	52
CHAPTER 3 STREET AND SALON: THE CHRONICLER AND HIS ACTIVITIES	75
<i>Venting a Limitless Curiosity</i>	76
<i>Friendships and Diversions</i>	87
<i>Snobbishness, Melancholy, and Uncertainty</i>	95

CHAPTER 4 LAMENTATIONS I: THE EXPRESSIONS OF PESSIMISM	113
<i>National Decline and Its Causes</i>	114
<i>Life Imitating Art: The Plague of Militarism</i>	131
<i>The Middling World of M. Cardinal</i>	137
CHAPTER 5 LAMENTATIONS II: THE FRUSTRATIONS OF POLITICS	155
<i>The View from Within</i>	156
<i>Conservatism versus Popular Government</i>	163
<i>Unmasking the Second Empire</i>	169
<i>Republican Follies</i>	181
<i>Enthroning Anarchy: Revolution in Theory and Practice</i>	189
CHAPTER 6 HOPE: TO THE SUPPORT OF SELF AND THE RESCUE OF MANKIND	211
<i>Consolation Examined and Rejected</i>	212
<i>Salvific Art, Absorbing Labor</i>	213
<i>Second Thoughts, Fears, and Contradictions</i>	215
<i>In Celebration of Humanity</i>	221
<i>Optimism and the Serious Life</i>	232
CONCLUSION	245
BIBLIOGRAPHY	251
INDEX	265