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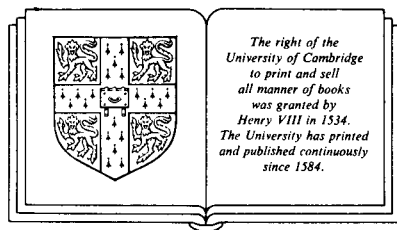
MY LIFE

Richard Wagner



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Andrew Gray

Edited by
Mary Whittall



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FOREWORD

The chronicle contained in these volumes has been taken down directly from my dictation over the course of various years by my friend and wife,¹ who wished me to tell her the story of my life. The desire arose in both of us to preserve this information regarding my life for our family as well as our trusted and true friends, and thus, to preserve the one copy of the manuscript against loss, we decided to have it reproduced in book form at our expense in a very limited number of copies. As the value of an autobiography put together this way depends upon its unvarnished truthfulness, which under the aforementioned circumstances had to be the sole justification for the undertaking and thus also necessitated my providing precise names and numbers, there could consequently be no question of its publication, assuming our descendants still evince interest in it, until some time after my death; and on this point I intend to leave directions for my heirs in my will. If we now nonetheless do not refuse a few reliable friends a look at this chronicle, it is done on the assumption that their interest in the subject is one of pure sympathy, and that they in particular would find it unthinkable to communicate anything further from its contents to anyone with respect to whom this presupposition would not be warranted.

Richard Wagner