

**Cambridge Plain Texts**

A. DE MUSSET  
CARMOSINE

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-68571-0 - A. De Musset: Carmosine  
Frontmatter  
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## NOTE

ALFRED DE MUSSET'S comedies have a singular history. After the failure of his first attempt, *La Nuit Vénitienne*, he ceased to write for the stage, and published them in the *Revue des deux mondes* (1833–1836). In 1847 the actress Mme Allan, then at Petrograd, was much taken with a little Russian piece which she saw at a small theatre. It was found on inquiry to be a translation of Musset's *Un Caprice*. After playing in it with success at Petrograd, she produced it at the Comédie-Française to the surprise and delight of the dramatic critics. Several of Musset's other plays soon followed, and after his death (1857) *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*, *Fantasio*, and *Lorenzaccio*—perhaps his three greatest. *Carmosine*, which he published in *Le Constitutionnel* in 1850, was another post-humous production (1865). Founded on a story of Boccaccio (x. vii.), it has great charm and beauty. "There were two beings," said Mme Allan, "in Alfred de Musset, one good, gentle, tender, enthusiastic, the other possessed by a sort of demon." It was the first who wrote *Carmosine*.

A. TILLEY

May 1920