

Cambridge Plain Texts

DUMAS
HISTOIRE DE
MES BÊTES

Cambridge University Press

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Frontmatter

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NOTE

THE hospitable heart of ALEXANDRE DUMAS (1802–1870) found room for animals as well as for men. The menagerie at Monte-Cristo, his “Renaissance *château* surrounded by an English park,” upon which he spent twelve thousand pounds, to sell it four years later for as many hundreds, included a vulture called Diogène, because it lived in a tub, a cat named Mysouff, two parrots, three monkeys, a golden pheasant, and five dogs, chief of which was the Scotch pointer, Pritchard. The following pages from *L’histoire de mes bêtes* relate to the history of this remarkable animal, who fully bore out the dictum of Mr W. H. Hudson, that the pointer is “the most accomplished thief in the entire canine gang.” So far, however, is Dumas from endorsing that distinguished naturalist’s general indictment of the dog, that he quotes with approval Michelet’s saying that “the dog is a candidate for humanity,” and he recounts the adventures of his canine friends with the same imaginative sympathy that he shews for the men and women of his novels.

A. TILLEY

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