

The illustrated single-volume edition of *Hatteras* of July to November 1866 contained an illuminating 'Publisher's Announcement' (1–2):

The excellent books of M. Jules Verne are amongst the few that can be offered with confidence to the younger generations. Amongst contemporary creations there are none that respond better to the generous impulse of modern society, finally familiarizing it with the marvels of the universe where its destiny is unfolding. There are none who better justified the rapid success they encountered when they first came out.

If the public's fancy can be distracted for a while by showy and unwholesome volumes, in the longer term taste has only remained with what is fundamentally wholesome and good. What has especially helped the reaction to M. Jules Verne's charming books is that they have both the qualities of substantial nourishment and the savour of the tastiest dishes.

The most qualified critics have acclaimed M. Jules Verne as a writer of an exceptional nature, to whom it was only fair to assign a new place in French literature from his beginning. A storyteller full of imagination and fire, a pure and original writer, a sharp and lively mind, the equal of any in the art of building up and resolving astonishing dramas, which give such great interest to his bold conceptions, and, on top of that, profoundly learned, he has created a new genre. What is so often promised but so rarely delivered, education that entertains and entertainment that educates, is prodigally provided by M. Verne on every page of his exciting stories.

The Novels of M. Jules Verne arrive at just the right time. When one sees people rushing to public lectures at a thousand places in France, when one sees that beside art and theatre criticism, space in our newspapers has had to be devoted to the proceedings of the Academy of Sciences, people really need to tell themselves that in our age Art for Art's Sake is no longer enough, that the time has come for science to take its place in the realm of literature.

M. Jules Verne's merit is to have placed his foot on this new land first, as a master; it is to have deserved what one illustrious scientist could say, without flattery, of the books we publish: 'These novels, which will entertain you like Alexander Dumas's best, will instruct you like François Arago's works.'

Young and old, rich and poor, uneducated and learned—all will find pleasure and profit in making M. Verne's excellent books family friends and giving them pride of place on their bookshelves.

The edition illustrated by M. Riou which we offer today at an unusually low price and in a format of true luxury demonstrates the confidence we have in both the work's value, which we have the honour of popularizing, and the good taste of the public of every class and age, to whom we offer it.

After *The Adventures of Captain Hatteras*, composed of two parts, *The British at the North Pole* and *The Desert of Ice*, we shall publish successively *Journey to the Centre of the*

*Earth*—revised, with several new chapters composed by the author—*From the Earth to the Moon*, and *Five Weeks in a Balloon*.

M. Verne's new volumes will be successively added to this edition, which we shall take care to keep up to date. Both the works already published and those yet to appear will in this way follow the programme the author resolved upon, when he gave his collected works the subtitle of *Journeys in the Known and Unknown Worlds*. His aim is to sum up all the *geographic, geological, physical, and astronomical* knowledge accumulated by modern science, and hence to rewrite, in the attractive and picturesque form which is his speciality, the history of the universe.

J. Hetzel