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TRAGEDY,

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AT

THE THEATRE-ROYAL, DRURY-LANE:

EY HENRY JAMES PYE, POET LAUREAT.



CELEERARE DOMESTICA FACTA .--- HOR.

LONDON: FRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY, 1800.

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PREFACE.

konkané mojelo novjeji pinjogani napisno ine sonikuliovo sile n

as ind forwar of marriing her to John, indeal of

THE Author having been faid both to have adhered too clofely and deviated too widely from hiftoric truth in this Tragedy, the following extracts from Lord Littleton's Hiftory of Henry II. are given to fhew how far either of these opinions may be just.

"From Gervafe of Canterbury we learn, that Philip demanded back his fifter, who, having been many years accorded to Richard, was not yet married to him, but was kept like a captive, under frict cuftody, by King Henry in England.

" If Henry (as fome modern hiftorians have fuppofed) was afraid of contracting another alliance with the French royal family, from the experience he had of the bad effects of that which his eldeft fon had made, he fhould not have form to let this be accomplifhed, but fhould have reftored the Princefs to her brother, whether he did, or did not, admit the pretenfions of that King to Gifors. For, he could have no right to detain her in his cuftody one fingle day, after he had refolved to break the match, on account of which fhe had been, fo many years before, entrufted to his care. The defire he

he had fhewn of marrying her to John, inftead of Richard, had been dropt in the year eleven hundred and eighty-five, and could not now be refumed confiftently with the oath taken by him in the year eleven hundred and eighty-fix. Nor is it faid by any one contemporary writer, that he made mention of it in the conferences now held with the King of France on this fubject. It was, therefore, extremely difficult to juftify or excufe his not doing one of these two things, either marrying Adelais, without delay, to Richard, or fending her back to her brother. When wife men act unwifely, the caufe must be usually fought for in their passions. I therefore cannot doubt, that the real motive of his otherwife unaccountable conduct was a paffionate love for this Princefs. It has been mentioned before what reafon there is to believe, that he had fought a divorce from Eleanor his wife, by the authority of Pope Alexander the Third, which would, if obtained, have enabled him to wed Adelais himfelf: but, even when this had been refufed, he might flatter himfelf, that fome of Alexander's fucceffors would be more complaifant; or that Eleanor, who was old, might die before him, and leave him free to make this lady his queen. Love too eafily hopes what it ardently wifnes; and the fuppofing him under the tyranny of that paffion, which is commonly attended with a greater degree of dotage in elderly men than in young, unravels the whole myftery of his prefent and fubfequent proceedings. For it was natural, if he loved Adelais, that he should rather incline to risk a war (however dangerous it might be) than to think of parting with her, and delivering her to her brother, who might prefently marry her to another Prince." LYTTLETON, p. 345.

To

PREFACE.

Y

To this paffage there is a note in the Appendix, vindicating Henry from the charge of having feduced Adelais.

"A contemporary writer fays, that Philip in this conference, reconciled Richard with Henry; but could not reconcile John, who was then making war, in another part of France against his father. And almost all the hiftorians of that age agree, that, after the taking of Mans, John did join in the league which Henry's enemies had concluded. This defertion must have been the fudden effect of fome offers, made to him by his brother, in which he thought he fhould better find his account than in any benefits which his father, who was not likely to live long, could effectually beftow. And I think it more probable, that intelligence fent to Henry of his having taken arms against him in Normandy informed that King of his treafon, than that he learnt it, (as Hoveden fays he did), by Philip's communicating to him a lift of an affociation against him, at the head of which was Prince John. In whatever manner he knew it, the knowledge proved fatal. The agitation of his mind had lately been too great for a body grown infirm. He was now in the fifty-feventh year of his age. Those paffions which have naturally the most hurtful effects on the human conflitution, anger and grief, tore his heart. In his quarrel with Richard he had not been wholly blamelefs; and a fenfe of this made the evils it had brought upon him more painful. But the enormous ingratitude, and horrible perfidy of his moft beloved fon. whofe exaltation he was eagerly, and dangeroufly for himfelf, endeavouring to procure, gave him a much A deeper

deeper wound, the anguith of which, concurring with the fhame of receiving terms of peace, imposed by his ene-. mies, and mortifying to him, though not very grievous, threw him into a fever. The day after the last conference he was carried on a litter to the caffle of Chinon, and there took to his bed. His fon, the Chancellor, had obtained his leave to be abfent, when the treaty was figned, that he might not be a witnefs to his humiliation ; but, being informed of his illnefs, he haftened to Chinon, and finding him to oppreft with the violence of the fever, that he could not fit up in his bed, he raifed his head by fupporting it upon his own bofom. Henry fetched a deep figh, and turning his languid eyes upon him faid, " My " deareft fon, as you have, in all changes of fortune, " behaved yourfelf most dutifully and affectionately to " me, doing all that the beft of fons could do, fo will I, "if the mercy of God fhall permit me to recover from " this ficknefs, make fuch returns to you, as the beft of " fathers can make, and place you among the greatest " and most powerful fubjects in all my dominions. But " if death thall prevent me fulfilling this intention, may "God, to whom the recompence of all goodnefs be-"longs, reward you for me." "I have no with (re-" plied his fon) but that you may recover and may be " happy :" after which words he role up, and, unable to reftrain his gufhing tears, left the room. Yet, hearing foon that no hopes of life remained, he returned to perform the laft duties to his father, who, roufed from a kind of trance by the lamentations he uttered, opened his eyes, which had been for fome time closed, and, knowing his fon, made an effort, with a faint and almost extinguished voice, to express a defire, that he should obtain the bishoprick of Winchester, or rather

rather the archbishoprick of York. Then taking from his finger a ring of great value, which he before had intended to prefent to his fon-in-law, the King of Caftile, he gave it to this Lord with his laft bleffing, and commanded that another, which was kept in his treafury as his most precious jewel, should be also delivered to him. After this he funk down, and in a fhort time expired." LYTTLETON, B. v. p. 262, 263.

The Chancellor mentioned here was Geoffry, fon to the King by Rofamond, and brother to Longfword, Earl of Salifbury. As a fighting prelate would not be in character in these days, the author has reprefented him under his mother's name, Clifford, as a young warrior, who devotes himfelf to the church in confequence of grief for the death of his father.

Henry was fo fenfible of his filial piety, that on a former occasion he faid that his other fons, by their conduct, had proved themselves bastards, but this alone had theren himself to be really his true and legitimate fon.

Chierris with a sweet, all las wer Educity the mind : Giarnation of violent tables an if affing thannes in faits & reast Same quite of Vinter, Same in Product and a start

BOOK iv. p. 195.

Lot on Gulli veinwing elech sittange diops speam mi A 2 PROLOGUE

PROLOGUE.

ADDRESS TO THE TRAGIC MUSE, WRITTEN BY

WILLIAM SOTHEBY, Esc. And Spoken by Mr. C. KEMBLE.

H Thou! around whofe throne, in awful flate, By Fear and Pity rang'd, the paffions wait: At whole commanding call, from every age, Hofts fwept by death from Nature's changeful ftage; Chiefs, and stern patriots, and the scepter'd train, Rife from the tomb, and glow with life again ! Before thy lifted eye, th' Hiftoric Mufe Prefents the pageant of her paffing views ; And, on the column of recording time, Points sculptur'd groups of Virtue, Woe, and Crime. Tamer of Man! beneath thy boundless reign Wild Fancy shapes her visionary train, Embodies airy beings all her own, And rules, with wizard wand, the world unknown; Leagues the weird Sifters where the night-florm raves, Drags howling spectres from reluctant graves; Bids fear, with icy dew-drops, freeze the frame, When horror broods o'er " deeds without a name;" From realms of tortur'd spirits lifts the veil, And half reveals th' unutterable tale.

Yet, fov'reign of the foul ! thy fway refin'd, Charms while it awes, afflicts, yet foothes the mind: Guardian of moral fenfe, and feeling fhame, Firm guide of Virtue, mafk'd in Pleafure's name: Lo ! on Guilt's glowing cheek, ftrange drops appear, Where burns, like molten lead, the new-born tear:

Lull'd

PROLOGUE.

Lull'd by thy voice, the painful ftruggles ceafe, Mild Melancholy breathes returning peace; Repentance forms a wifh to be forgiv'n, And Angels waft a pray'r half-breath'd to Heav'n.

Oh! while thy forceful ftrokes at will controul, Or tender touches humanize the foul! Send Terror forth, the vengeful goddefs guide, Tame the mad infolence of earthly pride; Each dire vicifitude of life reveal, Till trembling tyrants fear what wretches feel; Send Pity forth, and while her fuafive pow'r Allures to woe the fadly-pleafing hour; To cold Profperity's ftrange gaze expofe The painful image of unnotic'd woes; Nurfe the foft fenfe that man to man endears, And foothes the fufferer in the vale of tears.

Fix'd on this bafe, our Poet refts his claim, And wooes, in your applaule, the voice of fame ; On English annals builds historic rhymes, And calls the spirit forth of feudal times ; Such, as of old, to Syria's fhouting coaft Led lion-hearted Richard's Chriftian hoft : When England's King the red-crofs flag unfurl'd, And darken'd in its shade the Pagan world. Such, as of late, in Heav'n's appointed hour, Gaul's vaunted Idol drove from Acre's tow'r : When Crofs and Crefcent in just league combin'd, Smote, in his pride, the murderer of mankind : While Albion's naval Hero foremost trod, Scatter'd the Hoft that fcorn'd the living God; And Afia, refcu'd from th' Oppreffor's might, Hail'd Allah's name, and crown'd the " Christian Knight. at us here with entry

EPILOGUE

EPILOGUE. WRITTEN BY J. TAYLOR, Esq.

the start where the de la

And Spoken by MISS MELLON.

HAT an odd creature was this Gallic maid, To feek a cloifter's melancholy fhade, Whilft a young ardent lover, high in arms, Submiffive bow'd before her conqu'ring charms! Grant thee the father would fupplant the fon, The double vict'ry by her graces won, Should but have fir'd the nymph to take the field, In the proud hope a thoufand more might yield : Beauty fhould gain new laurels every day, And nobly aim at univerfal fway. Befides, to give fome glory to the thing, Her venerable victim was a King; And then how vaft the triumph, to enfnare The fam'd gallant of Rofamond the fair ! Unhappy Rofamond, whole pitcous fate, Love, with a figh, for ever shall relate !

But to our play—The heroine's cafe was hard, So oft to wedlock near, fo oft debarr'd; And then that meddling prieft to intefere When youthful paffions urged their fond career, Bid the poor fwain to Paleftine depart, That he might lofe his head as well as heart. Why, if the man had known his place aright, He would not fep'rate lovers, but unite; His duty was to join love's gentle elves, And as to parting—leave it to themfelves:

EPILOGUE.

Or if there needs another's help, at leaft, 'Tis bus'nefs for the lawyer, not the prieft, Nay, had this legate paus'd a week, or fo, The fpoufe might then have been content to go, And rather rufh amid the martial ftrife, Than wage clofe warfare with a wrangling wife. Well! women muft be ftrangely chang'd, I vow, No girls from lovers fly to convents now; None here will hide in difmal dens from man, But range the world, and conquer all they can. Now to our bard—The man pretends to fay, There's more of truth than fiction in his play; If fo, from him avert all hoftile aim, And e'en let goffip Hiftory bear the blame.

PERSONS OF THE DRAMA.

Abbience parts a work on fry de mich then says 's en content to poes and and the mars id lasts.

Or if dore red another help, of leaft,

King Henry	. MR. AICKIN.
Prince Richard	
Prince John	. MR. BARRYMORE.
Clifford, a fon of King Henry by Rofamond	MR. C. KEMBLE.
Legate	
Officer	MR. MADDOCKS.
Adelaide, fifter to Philip King of France	Mrs. Siddons.
Emma	
Abbefs	MRS. COATES.
Soldiers and Attendants	

SCENE, Chinon in France.

Well voit of the sector of the

HENCE fprings this new delay ?- For fix long years

Such turbid in its ITDA doubted in the Palace. The peace of human in the Palace. An Apartment in the Palace. In Funce John and CLIFFORD.

Has Adelaide been Richard's defin'd bride, Hoftage of Peace between the rival nations. Yet fome vain fubterfuge, fome weak excufe, Ever defers the nuptials.

Richard's temper Accords but ill with this protracting policy ! I dread the event.

CLIFFORD. The fad reverfe of fortune That mark'd his laft revolt, when, join'd in arras With faithlefs Philip, his victorious fword Scatter'd our force, might teach our aged monarch Not wantonly to roufe again his fury. Now too, when circled by unnumber'd foes Far from the coafts of England—Our thin fquadrons.

To Richard all attach'd, and only waiting His fignal to revolt.

PRINCE

10

May ruin fize

PRINCE JOHN.

Well you know Th

The jeadous fpirit of my father's counfels, Ever fufpicious of his fons. I fear Some bufy tongue has whifper'd to his mind, Too apt to liften to fuch idle rumours, Doubts of my brother's faith.

-CLIFFORD.

May ruin fcize

Such turbid fpirits, who with doubts diffract The peace of human kind !—Difunion now Is fraught with fure defiruction—All our provinces In France will fnatch the first pretence to fhake Our tottering power.

PRINCE JOHN.

My father builds his hopes On other grounds—The church's interference. Philip and Richard, fir'd by youthful ardor, Have vow'd to lead their powers on Afia's plains Againfi the impious Saracen ;—and now A holy Legate, from the Court of Rome, Is every hour expected to demand Their inftant aid. Victorious Saladin O'erpowers the Chriftian force—wins back their conquefts—

And threatens to difplay his filver crefcent O'er Salem's hallow'd altars.

CLIFFORD.

Henry never

Can be fo rafh, fo loft to every fenfe Of honor or of prudence, now to fuffer His interference to prevail.

PRINCE JOHN.

Not fuffer

度力的 · 元星

The full accomplithment of fchemes he plannel? Fruftrate his own defigns? I'm much deceiv'd, Or

A TRAGEDY.

Or he has us'd his influence to engage their in the The Legate to perfift in his demand.

CLIFFORD.

If this be true, ah ! what can be the event But fhame and ruin ? Tho' the youthful princes Are prompt enough with ardent zcal to follow This meteor of renown, which oft has led Europe's bold ions to diftant war, they never At fuch a moment, when the mingled claims Of glory and of love demand their flay, Will blindly follow Rome's imperious mandate. Some deep myfterious caufe muft furely urge him To fuch a rafh attempt.

PRINCE JOHN.

That caufe to me

Is not fo deep a myftery.—The paffions Of Henry are no fecret—ever ready To catch at beauty's flame. Not jealoufy Of Philip's arts, or Richard's rafh ambition, Is the true caule of thefe fulpended nuptials; There is another jealouty—fair Adelaide !

CLIFFORD. TOTOLE DEB CONT

Bafe and injurious flander !----not within Loofe probability's extremeft verge ! If Henry's firmer years have felt the power Of beauty's charms too ftrongly, is it likely, Worn as he is by time, and fad misfortune's Still ruder fhocks, which with apparent effort Have min'd the powers of life, be now fhould throw One thought that way ? No ! Other cares than love,

Ill fuited to his years, now rack his bofom.

PRINCE JOHN.

That I can hardly eredit—I, who know . How oft his breat has burn'd with lawless paffion. The lingering embers of habitual vice

Will

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Will faintly glow amid the froft of age. How oft his confort, toyal Eleanor, Has wept his wandering fancy; while her fons, The generous offspring of a legal bed, Have feen their father's favor bafely lavith'd Upon a fpurious brood 1

bal and CLIFFORD. On the post of

This, fir, to me, nor mattheat are blod abgound

Is barely flort of infult ! Happy were it For Henry's peace, if all his legal fons Had learn'd the pious claims of filial duty From those whom you have centur'd.

PRINCE JOHN, Charles and of

You are warm !

CLIFFORD.

Yes, I avow the charge !- I boaft, with pride, A lineage forung from one of gentle manners, As well as graceful form and noble birth. Nor can I envy, while my fond remembrance Recalls my mother, haplefs Rofamond, The turbulent fucceffors of a queen Fierce and ungovernable, whofe ftern paffions Sow'd thorns of forrow in her hufband's bed, And train'd her fons to treafon and rebellion !---Your infults I defpife-yet my breaft glows With indignation, to behold a fon, + At fuch a time, when danger lowers around us, Try to excite confusion by a tale, The most improbable that hell-born malice Could e'er fuggeft !--- I go to crofs your fchemes, To counteract fuch arts-as far at leaft As my weak power avails. I go to keep The few, but valiant, troops that I command, Free from your wiles, and firm in their allegiance 1 Exit.

The set

PRINCE

A TRAGEDY.

PRINCE JOHN, alone. Go and exult in your illustrious birth, And honest folly--Thefe uncertain hints, Or I am much deceiv'd, will find from Richard A better welcome. His unguarded passions Will catch at once the probable fuspicion, And kindle into rage. My mother's arts Have fet afide the infant Arthur's claim, And well I hop'd this frantic hero Richard Would leave his bones in Palestine; while I Stood fair for England's throne. This purpos'd marriage

May bar my expectations—'Tis not Rome Will check his courfe, while love for Adelaide Inflames his bofom—I muft move his fancy To doubt her faith—My father !

Enter KING HENRY.

KING HENRY.

I am much

Perplex'd—your doubts alarm me—yet I dread Impetuous Richard's violence, fhould this marriage Be once again pofipon'd. Added to this— Is not my faith to royal Philip pledg'd ? By folemn treaty pledg'd ?

PRINCE JOHN.

That folemn treaty

Deprives you of your crown—For know, the moment

The altar feals the nuptial vows of Adelaide, Falfe Philip join'd with my unnatural brother In impious league, will feize upon your perfon, And place the crown of England on the brow Of Richard.

KING HENRY, Monfirous perfidy ! If this Be true—

PRINCE JOHN.

Has ever yet my faith to you Been tainted by the breath of foul furpicion ?

KING HENRY.

Never, my duteous fon—yet thefe dire tidings, So fatal to my peace, this cruel treachery, Have pierc'd my foul with anguifh.—But, does Philip

So poorly deem of England's potent monarch ? Is Henry's name in arms to little known, That he can for a moment think I'll yield, Nor firike a blow for freedom and for empire ? Roufe all my gallant warriors ! We will meet His coward perfidy with manly vengeance.

PRINCE JOHN.

Where are those gallant warriors! Diftant far From England's happy thores and faithful fwains, True to their Prince of Egbert's royal line— Guarded by doubtful Normans—All your hope Is to delay these nuptials.

KING HENRY.

How delay them ?---

PRINCE JOHN.

The Legate.

KING HENRY.

What of him ? woll-some new long states (

PRINCE JOHN.

He is, I know,

Employ'd by Rome to haften the departure Of Philip and my brother for the plains Of holy Paleftine. And yet, perhaps, Even Rome's commands may not be proof againft The arts of their ambition. He may barter The church's intereft for the gold of France— Then counteract their fchemes—in private fecond,

By

A TRAGEDY.

By fplendid gifts and ample promifes, The Legate's perfeverance.

KING HENRY.

With reluctance

I yield to fuch a meafure—dire neceffity Alone compels me.—O my fon, beware How you permit your bofom e'er to harbor The demons of ambition.—Did you know The fcorpion thoughts that fling a monarch's heart, When bafe ingratitude, with envious eye Surveys his pureft actions, and imputes His beft defigns to tyranny and pride, You would avoid the fplendid load of empire As the worft burthen Heaven can lay on man.

Exit.

PRINCE JOHN.

Such is the language of a fickly mind Sated with power. My free, undaunted fpirit Looks up with eager transport to this burthen, This fplendid weight of royalty; nor fears To meet the glorious toil that empire brings. My brother here ?—'tis well—now art affift me.

Enter PRINCE RICHARD.

O give my paffions way—my tortur'd bofom Is torn, is agitated, ev'n to madnefs !

PRINCE JOHN.

What has enrag'd you thus?

PRINCE RICHARD.

Have you not heard ?---

Henry has found another mean pretence """ To crofs my promis'd nuptials, tho' confirm'd, By folemn oath, between the rival monarchs.

PRINCE JOHN.

Say on what ground ?

9 PRINCE

gi the ta

PRINCE RICHARD.

PRINCE JOHN.

But you are bound

By holy tics—you have affum'd the crofs; Till you are freed from those by Rome's decree, You cannot wed.

PRINCE BICHARD.

Let the proud Roman pontiff Beware how he offends me—I am fiill, A few fhort months firft to my love devoted, Ready to lead our gallant Englifh troops To check the furious Saracen. If thus He dare infult the champion of the crofs, Will Richard draw a fword in fuch a caufe ? Confusion !—Do my fufferings move your mirth ?

PRINCE JOHN.

Indeed they do not. Yet I finile to fee You turn your anger on the Roman pontiff, When nearer much, perhaps, the real caufe Of this delay may lie.

PRINCE RICHARD.

I'm loft in wonder-

Ten thousand wild conjectures cloud at once My troubled fenses. Tell me—inftant tell me, Where your sufpicions point.

PRINCE JOHN.

Enquire no more-

Perhaps 'tis mere conjecture, and my thoughts Would but diftract you.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Brother, is this well ?---

Is this a friendly part? Your cooler temper Feels not the whirlwind of tempeftuous paffion That tears my firuggling bolom.

PRINCE JOHN.

My furmifes,

Devoid perhaps of truth, might raife that paffion To giddy violence—let me be filent— I have faid too much already.

PRINCE RICHARD.

If you know

Aught that concerns my peace, at once unfold it. To play thus with my paffions, nor becomes A brother nor a friend. Those names are cancell'd If longer you refuse to clear the mystery That hangs on all your words.

PRINCE JOHN.

When thus adjur'd,

Tho' heaven knows how unwillingly, I give The fecret councils of my bofom. Know Your Adelaide has charms in other eyes.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Amazement! It can never be.—Who dares Even caft a look toward her—form even a thought That tends that way ?

PRINCE JOHN.

O there are daring fpirits, Who, feeling love's ftrong influence, will attempt Whate'er *that* love fuggefts.

PRINCE RICHARD.

But let that hero, That daring fpirit, guard his bofom well Againft my juft refentment. By the powers, The awful powers of vengeance, fafer might he C Snatch

Snatch from the famifh'd pard his prey, than crofs My love for Adelaide !

PRINCE JOHN.

And yet-

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PRINCE RICHARD.

Yet what ?

PRINCE JOHN.

Perhaps I am deceived ; perhaps my fancy Too freely confirues what my eye obferves.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Your eye observes ?—Curfe on your hefitation, Speak out at once, and give me infiant eafe; Even torture is a blifs to what I feel !

PRINCE JOHN.

Collect yourfelf-be calm-and I will fpeak.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Well, I am calm; proceed.

PRINCE JOHN.

Then-I fufpect Your father is your rival.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Ha! my father!

PRINCE JOHN.

Does that excite your wonder ? Is his heart Dead to the power of beauty ? He has eyes— And Adelaide has charms.

FRINCE RICHARD.

Henry my rival ?--

It cannot be. Slave as he is to paffion, It's wildeft firetch of fury ne'er could drive him To fuch a monftrous thought—to fink within him All fenfe of fhame—I never can believe it.

PRINCE JOHN.

You must be right—I'm glad you take it thus— 'Twas only my sufpicion, first excited

Бу

By too officious friendship. Henry's care For your eternal welfare, folely moves him To wait the purpose of the Roman See. We know his pious zeal, his warm attachment To Rome's dominion.

PRINCE RICHARD.

I am undeceiv'd— Your words have flath'd conviction on my foul.— And is it thus? Is this the kind return Of love parental for my faithful fervice? Was it for this, in many a bloody field My daring arm pierc'd thro' Ierne's fquadrons, And crown'd his brows with conqueft? While thefe limbs

Brav'd in his caufe the adverfe elements— A father recklefs of his fon, and breaking Vows form'd in the face of Heav'n, violating The faceed laws of hofpitality, My deareft rights invaded. It is too much, my agonizing foul Burfts at the thought.

PRINCE JOHN.

Yet, hear me for a moment.

PRINCE RICHARD.

O! you have rais'd a tempeft in my foul,

And every calmer thought is driv'n before it-

Yes, I will have revenge-my fword thall right me-

The duty of a fon, a fubject's faith,

B y this foul deed are void. Had I no friend,

No brother, no companion fworn in arms,

Who would with generous force oppofe fuch tyranny,

And fhield my plighted bride ?-- O torture ! torture!

Perhaps

Perhaps the fickle fair one yielded up Her eafy faith at once—Perfidious Adelaide !

PRINCE JOHN.

Refirain yourfelf—give not the rein to fury— Sufpend your violence 'till clearer proof Confirm this tale of guilt.

PRINCE RICHARD.

What clearer proof

Can there be of her falfehood ? Had the not Liften'd with pleafure to my father's vows, I thould have thar'd her grief—The horrid tale Conceal'd from me, proclaims her infamy.

PRINCE JOHN.

Perhaps her timid caution threw a veil Over his bafe defigns, left indignation Should drive you to fome fatal act.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Such caution

Was treafon to my love. But here I vow To leave her and thefe guilty walls for ever— The vile abode of outrage. Triumph, Philip ! I come once more to combat on your fide. Yet, ere I go, perfidious, cruel maid, I will again behold you, will upbraid you With this unheard-of bafenefs.

PRINCE JOHN,

If you prize

Your just revenge, your honor, fhun, O fhun The dangerous interview—Her fyren tears Will fhake your firmnefs.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Than

What are tears to me ! When I have proof of her inconftancy Engraven on my heart, in characters No circumftance can alter. Were fhe fairer

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Than love itfelf could fancy-Ah ! what fancy Can image beauties fairer than her own-She fhould not dupe the injur'd foul of Richard-No-I will fcorn her wiles, and proudly tell her I laugh at ties her perjur'd heart has broken.

> END OF THE FIRST ACT. -----

ACT II.

Scene, another Apartment in the Palace.

Enter ADELAIDE and EMMA.

MADAM, forgive the fond folicitude That on your penfive folitude prefumes Thus rashly to intrude. Those plaintive fighs, That look of forrow, when your deareft withes Seem plac'd within your reach, awake my wonder.

ADELAIDE.

Alas! my Emma, tho' the fmiles of peace Have fmooth'd the rugged front of war, and Richard,

My bofom's lord, will foon receive my hand, Given with a father's and a brother's fanction. I feel a load of forrow on my foul; And my prophetic fears, in fpite of reafon, Subdue my wearied fpirits.

EMMA.

Thus it happens,

That wayward fancy will imagine ills

To wound the breaft of peace; and when the fubfrance

Of real evil is o'ercome, the mind Conjures up thadows of ideal woe.

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Why turn unthankful from the prefent good, To fix your eye on vilionary forms Of fancied grief.

ADELAIDE.

Alas! the trembling heart That long has felt the oppreffive hand of forrow, Diftrufts each transitory gleam of joy, And doubts the finiles of fortune. O my Emma, Unnumber'd dreadful images of horror Diftract my thoughts. Henry's ambitious mind, My brother's refiles fpirit, and the fire That animates my Richard's ardent temper, Speak to my fhuddering breaft a thoufand dangers, Awake a thoufand fears.

EMMA.

Brave tho' he is,

And truly noble, yet I own the warmth Of Richard's paffions flames with fuch impatience, As mocks the guard of reafon.

ADELAIDE.

O! his foul,

However fierce, when roufed by fenfe of intu't, To me is gentler than the mildeft breeze That fans the bloom of Spring. He is all kindnefs. To thee, my Richard, is my bofom drawn By a relifilefs force. Thy fame, thy virtues, Even thy defects, are dearer in my eyes Than all the world united.

EMMA.

Yet his paffions

Are quick and eager; and when once excited, As uncontroulable as winds and waves, When roars the wintry tempeft—Even his love Is mingled with a fervor that alarms me, When I reflect how much your gentle bofom May fuffer from it's violence.

A TRAGEDY.

ADELAIDE.

Sometimes I own the fame reflections wake my fears— Yet, when I fee his noblenefs of foul, A heart incapable even of a thought That borders on difhonor, and whofe feelings The eye at once can read, his faults are loft In the bright radiance of furrounding virtues. Then he redeems his errors with fuch kindnefs, Such warm excefs of tendernefs and love— I fee you finile, my Emina, at my weaknefs.

EMMA.

Madam-the Prince-

ADELAIDE. Leave me, my gentle friend.

[Exit EMMA.

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Enter PRINCE RICHARD.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Am I permitted ere I go for ever, And take a hated object from your fight, To fpeak a few fhort words ?

ADELAIDE.

What mean those accents, Faltering and wild, those looks of indignation? What has diffurb'd you thus ?—

PRINCE RICHARD.

Perhaps you thought, Becaufe my bofom is not prone to doubt, And where I gave my heart, I alfo gave My warmeft confidence, it was impoffible, (Almoft indeed it was) that glaring falfehood Could alter my opinion'; and you wonder To find your arts could ever be unravell'd, Or I could fee when you defired to blind me.

ADELAIDE.

Is this reproach to me ?-Have I deferv'd

This

This mean fulpicion ?—On what bold pretence Do you arraign my faith ?—Some envious tongue Has blafted my fair fame !—But let the traitor—

PRINCE RICHARD.

Madam, beware—For know, the indignation That on the brow of flander'd innocence Shews lovely, and is thron'd in dignity, Speaks in the frown of guilt a harden'd mind, That braves the fenfe of fhame.

ADELAIDE.

Sir, could I bear

This taunt of infamy with brow unruffled, I fhould by acquiefcence give a colour To this unmanly firoke of coward malice. But, by the voice of confeious truth acquitted, I fcorn its efforts, and I court the conflict. To the fevereft teft, let malice bring My every action—Point one guilty flain To blot my fpotlefs fame, my blamelefs faith To vows, once breath'd to you, ere frantic paffion Thus taught diftemper'd jealoufy to flart At felf-created phantoms.

PRINCE RICHARD.

This is all

Your fex's art, fereening your own inconflancy Beneath a lover's weaknefs, and excufing Your own mean falfehood by the florm of jealoufy Excited by that falfehood. Think again— Search well your inmost foul, and answer truly, If I am not betray'd.

ADELAIDE.

No—on my honor— Not even in thought by me.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Falfe maid, beware-

Honor's a facred name, by which adjur'd

Even

A TRAGEDY.

Even open guilt, that is not funk by meannefs, Debas'd, as well as profligate-will paufe.-

ADELAIDE.

This is too much ! Have I deferv'd this ufage ? Knighthood (hould blufh, bafely to injure one Without a friend to right her; left an hoftage Here among ftrangers-yet I have a brother-Ah no ! rafh Philip is a rude affociate Of your defigns. I am alone-deferted-The mock of fortune.

PRINCE RICHARD.

You the mock of fortune ? Is England's monarch then, is potent Henry Become fo low as not to have the power To vindicate his miftrefs? Does that wound you? I fee the confcious guilt glow in your face-Your blufhes fpeak your falfehood.

ADELAIDE.

Yes-the blood.

Rous'd by the fenfe of virtuous indignation, Mounts to my cheek, to hear the bafe afperfion By cruel malice fram'd. My Lord! My Lord! There needed not this fubtle veil of flauder To hide your wavering heart. O you were free To follow your own will-you might have left me, Have gone where proud ambition's gilded trophies, Or newer charms, had lur'd you, and not form'd This wretched fcheme, improbable as falfe, To fiain my virgin fame. I was deceiv'd-I thought that bofom, tho' the flave of pailion, Was more the flave of virtue, and could never Harbour a thought that honor difavow'd. How has my heart been frozen oft by terror, When I have pictur'd to myfelf the dangers That might await your rafhnefs, and have feen you In fancy's eye, borne from the fatal combat D

A bleeding

A bleeding corfe. What are my fufferings now ? To view the idol of my adoration, The image of all glory, all perfection, Form'd by my partial love, defac'd, and mangled By this injurious ftroke of mean fufpicion-O! 'tis too much-it rives my tortur'd foul. Supports herfelf against the Scene.

PRINCE RICHARD.

What have I done ? My rafh impetuous frenzy O'erpowers her gentle frame-I cannot leave her In this diffrefs-humanity forbids it. Look up, my Adelaide !

ADELAIDE.

That well known voice

Recalls my wandering fenfes-But, alas ! Where are the gentle kindnefs, and affection, That once attun'd each accent of that tongue ? You now are anxious to suppose me guilty, And liften to the most unlikely tale That monftrous calumny could e'er invent, With credulous prejudice.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Howe'er my foul

Started with horror at the direful thought Of your inconftancy, you cannot doubt My carneft with to find you innocent.

ADELAIDE.

What can my innocence avail, if thus Each groundlefs doubt enflames your jealoufy ; And every tale, that bufy feandal frames, Condemns me in your eye, while accufation Alone is proof of crimes that trembling nature Sickens to think of.

PRINCE RICHARD.

O! my Adelaide,

Wound

Wound not my bofom farther—deign to clear This myfiery of fate !—My ear fhall drink Each word with dumb attention; and my love Shall turn the fcale of juffice on your fide With partial fondnefs.

ADELÀIDE.

Such partial fondnefs

I once had claim'd, and gloried in it's caufe.— I now fhould only afk for rigid juffice, Could I defcend to low as to defend My flander'd innocence—But know, my heart Difdains the thought !—If you fuppofe me guilty, Is it not worth my flighteft care to fhew The injurious falfehood ?—I forfwear your prefence !—

Enjoy your frantic vifions !---yet, when time Shall vindicate my pure, my fpotlefs fame, My faith to you un(haken, then, perhaps, You may, too late, repent the hafty paffion That wrong'd me by fufpicion !

PRINCE RICHARD.

O! you wound

My heart with piercing anguish !---Will you leave me ?

Leave me for ever? Not one parting look To chear my dark defpair ?—Am I your fcorn ?

ADELAIDE.

No! though we part for ever—falfe and faithlefs As your mifguiding frenzy deems me, yet I'll not conceal my thoughts. Heaven is my witnefs.

My vows to you have ever been inviolate As veftal purity ;—and rafh, and cruel, As you have been, the weaknefs of my bofom (O ! that I now muft call by fuch a name A paffion that was once it's fondeft pride)

Is

Is ftill to you devoted ; nor can ever Another image fill the aching void.

PRINCE RICHARD.

O, agony of grief! what angel foftnefs My cruel doubts have injur'd.—Adelaide! You cannot leave me thus,

ADELAIDE.

What ! can you afk me Again to come a voluntary victim To your unjuft fufpicions ? Not alone The feelings of my heart—my fame, my honor Demand the facrifice ! But time, nor change, Shall ever win me to another's arms.— Let that fuffice—'tis all that I can promife.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Behold me at your feet !—My faltering voice Can fearcely breathe the prayer my foul fuggefis— The imperfect accents die upon my tongue. Turn not away your eyes ; nor, cruel, hide The fweet effufion of repentant mercy That fwells their moiften'd lids. For pity's fake Tear not my bofom thus ! Let not a few, A few unguarded words by madnefs utter'd, Plunge me in endlefs mifery.—If ever You really lov'd !

ADELAIDE.

Alas! that I have lov'd.

PRINCE RICHARD. Have lov'd ! diffracting retrofpect of blifs Which my mifguided violence has blafted.— And is it paft ? Atn I belov'd no more ? Can you pronounce that cruel doom ?

ADELAIDE.

I'cannot-

Yes—Spite of all the injuries I fuffer, The fatal weaknets lingers in my breaft.

PRINCE

A TRAGEDY.

O call not mercy by fo harfh a name ! And will you quit me then ?

ADELAIDE.

Ought I to ftay ?

PRINCE RICHARD. Compel me not thus to condemn myfelf.

ADELAIDE.

Say what wild fart of frenzy could induce you To charge me with a crime of fuch a dye?— To think that I could liften to the vows Of one, if he were base enough to breathe them, Whom folemn ties of fanctimonious awe Precluded from the thought—of Richard's father.

PRINCE RICHARD.

A love like mine—flaming almost to madness, So often cross'd by danger and delay, Shrunk at the shade of fear.—My father too— The fury of his passions, his rash power Eager to violence.—

ADELAIDE.

What was his power, His paffion, Sir, to me ?—If he could harbour So dire a thought—Say what had I to fear ? Was I expos'd to danger ?—England's monarch Is not an Afian defpot, nor the fifter Of royal Philip, tho' the pledge of peace Between two hoffile realms, an eaftern flave.— Whote dark fufpicion could fuggeft the thought ?

PRINCE RICHARD.

My brother.-

ADELAIDE.

O beware his artful wiles.— I would not hartfuly fpeak of one who thares

Your

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Your confidence, or entertain fufpicion But on the ftrongeft grounds—Yet I muft own There is a lowering gloom hangs o'er his brow, A fullennefs of afpect, that repels All generous intercourfe.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Yet recollect

That Henry fill has fought each vain pretence How to clude thefe nuptials—that he only Has yielded to the dread of Philip's power; That even now he is employing arts To bring the Roman Legate to defer Our long expected union.—Weighing this, And knowing how much intereft and ambition Should prompt him even to urge our fpeedy nuptials, Were he not fway'd by fome more powerful motive; My long experience of his headftrong paffions Which age has yet not weaken'd—never check'd By aught in it's purfuit—all thefe combin'd Confirm my brother's doubts.

ADELAIDE.

Awful heaven !

If this be fo—if those by thee entrusted To guard the rights of others, are the first To violate the nearest ties of nature— Ah! where shall perfecuted innocence Be shielded from oppression?

PRINCE RICHARD.

Can you pardon

The frantic ravings of outrageous paffion, That with blafpheming voice prefum'd to fully Your fpotlefs innocence ?

ADELAIDE.

Of that no more-

For we have other cares—Alas! my Richard, Your fidings have alarm'd me.—If your father

Can

Can entertain the purpofe you have hinted, Which yet I hardly think, one only way Can fhield me from his power—the cloifter's thelter.

PRINCE RICHARD.

And are the hopes you gave me funk already?-Have I but dream'd of blifs? Condemn'd to wake To cruel certainty of lafting woe?-

ADELAIDE.

I do not mean feclution from the world By vows irrevocable—Ah, I feel My foften'd heart too much to you devoted For heaven to claim it folely—I will take Protection of the altar for a time, Till kinder flars, and happier hours awaits us.— Oppofe me not in this—

PRINCE RICHARD.

Your faintlike virtue

Is form'd to foften my too flubborn temper-You muft-you fhall bemine-the guardian powers Who watch propitious o'er my country's welfare Will fanctify the union, and my people, When England's throne is to my care entrufied, Shall blefs the milder charities that foothe My fiery fpirit, and with grateful prayers Purfue the gentler virtues of their Queen.

ADELAIDE.

Farewell, my Richard—and remember, Adelaide, True to your love, and conflant to her vows, Will neither act, or fuffer aught unworthy Of Philip's fifter, and your defin'd bride.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Farewell my foul's beft treafure, and may angels, Bright as your form, and fpotlefs as your virtue, Watch o'er your fleps. [Exit ADELAIDE.

Enter

Enter PRINCE JOHN.

PRINCE JOHN. The prelate fent from Rome Is just arriv'd.

PRINCE RICHARD. Well, then—We now fhall fee If Rome will obfinately fiill infift On my rafh vow, or be content awhile To wait, 'till firft my nuptials are fulfill'd.

PRINCE JOHN.

The court of Rome will hardly be perfuaded Even to postpone this promis'd expedition. When all the Christian world, elate in arms, Are eager to protect the holy towers From Syria's conquering host.

PRINCE RICHARD.

She must postpone it,

Or elfe the war will want the aid of England,

PRINCE JOHN.

How will that found in the aftonifh'd ear Of all affembled Europe, when around Her, panting warriors croud, and martial rage Beams from each eye, and glows in every breaft; While every tongue fhall alk, but afk in vain For English Riehard ?-- He, whofe radiant arms Still glitter'd in the dreadful front of battle, And, like a flaming meteor, led his fquadrons To victory and fame ?

PRINCE RICHARD.

Spare that reproach-

I am not now to learn a foldier's duty, Or eatch the flame of martial emulation From bofoms cold as thine. My ardor yet Has ne'er been faint, when glory bade it blaze. The unwarlike mind, to cafe and floth a flave, My May in the filken lap of luxury Slumber away it's honor-but the heart Fir'd by the generous flame of virtuous love Acquires new courage from the godlike paffion, And beauty leads to glory, and to conquest. Yes, Adelaide ! from thee my kindling foul Shall catch congenial virtue. Loving thee, I love the abstract of all truth and goodness; And to deferve thee, I must learn to merit True fame's unblemish'd wreath .- Not the extreme Even of punctilious honor, e'er can cenfure The few thort hours I fnatch from war and tumult. To feal my nuptial vows. Then, from thy arms, The pureft temple of connubial faith, Forth to the field of danger will I rufh, A truer champion in the caufe of heaven, And proud by deeds of manly hardihood, To prove myfelf thy knight.

PRINCE JOHN.

I did not mean

To hint fufpicion of your well-tried courage, But fiill the braveft are not fafe from flander, Whofe poifonous breath will blaft the faireft fame, Even on the flighteft ground.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Then let the coward Who wears the femblance of a worth he has not, Shrink at her touch.—For he whofe fame is built On vain opinion only, and but reads His claim to honor in the million's praife, Falls with the bafelefs pedefial that rais'd him— But he whofe pride is founded on the bafis Of confcious worth and felf-approving virtue, Defpifes all the empty fneers of fcorn, If by the voice of inborn worth acquitted.

E

Come

Come then, my brother, let us feek this prelate, And try if Rome has infolence to place Her haughty foot on his afpiring head, Who vows to lead her holy force to conqueft.

END OF THE SECOND ACT.

ACT III.

Scene an Abbey.

Enter ADELAIDE and EMMA.

ADELAIDE.

E cloifter'd walls, whofe folemn gloom excludes

The bufy tumults of a refilefs world, Well could I bury in your deep retreat The cares and duties of a court for ever, And give my days to folitude and peace.

EMMA.

The gloom that hangs around this folemn manfion Obfcures your better reafon.—Surely, madam, You cannot entertain fo fad a purpofe, You, who enjoy each gift of rank and fortune, With beauty to enflame a rival world, And a heart open to the warmeft feelings Of foft humanity ; not form'd to follow The felfift call of lonely meditation, But active in the nobler exercise Of mild benevolence, and focial virtue.

ADELAIDE.

Ah! what can this avail, even if the picture Which thy too partial fancy draws were true? Do paffions lead to happinefs? The bofom, To each fenfation tremblingly alive,

Feels

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Feels but the force of aggravated woe. Why was I born to greatnefs ?—O! my friend, The lowlieft village maid, whom humbler fortune Has kindly placed within the happy circle Of joy domefic, feels a thoufand comforts That I muft never know—fhe has a mother To foothe her in diffrefs; a father's counfel To guide her fteps; a brother's arm to right her.— Have I a brother ? No!—for I was torn From every dear connection, and furrender'd A trembling hoftage to a foreign court.

EMMA.

Yet there were hours when royal Adelaide, Tho' bred in England's hoftile court, bewail'd not An abfent father, and a diftant country.

ADELAIDE:

Ah ! why recall those days of fleeting joy, That never must return ? 'Tis true, my Emma, There have been hours when your unhappy friend Thought herfelf truly bleft—when royal Henry, By every gentle blandifhment, affuag'd My rifing grief, and, with paternal fondnes, Left me no cause to weep a father's absence; Nor could I in my Richard's father fee Aught but a parent fonder than my own. But, ah ! those facenes are past; and their remembrance

Adds only forrow to my prefent fate.— That once rever'd, once honour'd parent, now Becomes the fatal object of my fears; While dark fufpicion fheds a gloom of doubt O'er all his actions, and each mark of fondness Seems fraught with fhame and ruin.

EMMA.

Madam ! fee, The King approaches.

[Gentlemen, Soldier's.

Enter

Enter KING HENRY.

ADELAIDE.

Royal fir, this honor

I did not here expect—I thought these cloifters Secure from interruption.

KING HENRY.

Why does Adelaide

Court folitude and filence ? Why prefer The lonely horrors of this facred manfion To fcenes of brighter afpect?

ADELAIDE.

Ah ! the fcenes

Of gay feftivity are little form'd To drefs in fmiles the penfive brow, or foothe A bofom loaded with oppreffive forrow.

KING HENRY. What forrow wrings your breaft ?

ADELAIDE.

Sir ! can you afk ? Am I not here detained a fplendid captive— Kept from a brother's arms ?

KING HENRY.

A tie, I hope,

Dearer than that of brother, foon will bind you To think yourfelf our daughter, and our court The centre of your joy.

ADELAIDE.

It will not ftain

The modeft check of virgin purity To own my bofom entertains that with : But I coniefs the various firange pretences, By which you fill elude the folemn treaty With Philip ratified, and yet refufe To yield me to my brother, move my wonder ;— And till that myftery is clear'd, I truft You

You will not deem me wayward, or capricious, If I feelude my perfon from your court, And fhun your prefence.

Execut ADELAIDE and EMMA.

KING HENRY, alone.

What can this portend ?— Her words betray miftruft and difcontent ! She plainly thinks I form fome deep defign Againft her peace and honor.—Each precaution I take againft her brother's hot ambition, And Richard's treachery, feems in her eye An outrage to her fafety.—Ha ! my fon !

Enter PRINCE JOHN.

PRINCE JOHN.

I but precede the Legate.—He has enter'd The abbey gates—he comes to feek you here— My brother too.

KING HENRY. What ! Richard with the Legate ?

PRINCE JOHN.

Yes—He has urged him ftrongly to impart The purport of his miffion. This refufed, His anxious expectation leads him hither To hear what is refolv'd.

KING HENRY.

His heady violence

Diftracts my inmoft foul.—O! that his breaft Poffefs'd that fleady calm, that filial reverence, That marks your words and actions.

PRINCE JOHN.

Royal fir, It is my pride, my happinefs, to fhew My duty to your orders—Would to heaven My life could buy your peace !—Alas ! I fear My brother. YetKING HENRY. Why that mysterious pause ?

PRINCE JOHN. How can I fpeak ? I do not with to raife Sufpicion in your mind—and yet your fafety—

KING HENRY. I charge you by the duty of a fon, Which you have ever kept inviolate, Difclofe your thoughts.

PRINCE JOHN.

Your wifhes, fir, to me

Are abfolute commands—all other cares Yield to the fironger claims of filial duty.— Know, then, impetuous Richard is determin'd, Should Rome refuie to free him from his vow, To quit thefe walls, and, join'd in arms with Philip, Again renew the war.

KING HENRY.

Accurs'd effect

Of lawlefs luft of power !—Alas ! my life Has been a fcene of trouble—perfecuted By jealoufy of an imperious wife, And her rebellious fons ;—yet thou art true, Thy faithful breaft alone receiv'd no fpark Of thy ftern mother's violence.

PRINCE JOHN.

My lord, Behold, the Legate comes.

Enter the LEGATE attended, PRINCE RICHARD, and CLIFFORD.

KING HENRY.

Holy father,

With reverence that becomes the delegate Of Rome's imperial pontiff, I receive Your facred miffion, and with due obedience

Await

Await his awful mandate.—Does he fuffer There long protracted nuptials to proceed ?

LEGATE.

Your fon to other duties is devoted— The caufe of heaven demands him. He is bound By ties fuperior to all worldly claims— The church expects him now to head her legions.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Behold me ready to obey her fummons !---I only afk a transitory respite, To folemnize my plighted faith to Adelaide.

LEGATE.

Altho' the church approves connubial rites— Nay, fanctifies their forms, they muft not clafh With her immediate interefts.

PRINCE RICHARD.

I am not

The flave of fenfual appetite—thefe nuptials Are on no private intereft urged.—I own The powerful charms of Adelaide—her beauty— And yet fuperior virtues fire my foul. I own myfelf her flave—yet fond affection Is not the only or the ftrongeft motive.— Two rival nations look with anxious eyes To fee a union which, in common welfare, Shall blend their jarring interefts.

LEGATE.

What's the welfare,

The temporal interefts of united Europe To injur'd heaven ?—Behold the facred fields By deluges of martyrs' bood ennobled, Now defolate and wafte, o'er-run by infidels, Who fpoil the temples and pollute the altars Rear'd to a prefent Deity !—Behold The outfiretch'd arm of vengeance now prepar'd To To firike the blow vindictive !—Shall thy hand Arreft the awful bolt ?—My fon, my fon, Let not delufive dreams of patriot zeal Deceive your fancy; nor beneath the fhew Of public virtue hide the felfifh paffions Enflam'd by female art !

PRINCE RICHARD.

Infulting prieft,

I tell thee the pure flame that fires my breaft, By virtue fann'd, is what thy groffer fenfe Feels not even in idea ! [70 KING HENRY] Sir,

can you

Permit this fanction'd hypocrite to flander The virtues of a Princes' you are bound By duty and by honor to protect ?

KING HENRY.

You go too far by fuch injurious words To ftain the reverend delegate of heaven. Such infults unaton'd may draw upon us, And on our guiltlefs fubjects, the difpleafure Of Rome's thrice holy fee.

PRINCE RICHARD.

'Twere well for Europe

Had the never fuffer'd Rome's prefumptuous priefts To interfere, or guide her various interefts, While on our easy faith the builds her greatnefs, And rears her empire on the neck of kings.— But, fir, I with the holy pontiff joy Of his new convert.—For the time has been You were not quite fo zealous in his fervice; And when you found the growing power of Rome Crofs'd your defigns, you mark'd your indignation Even by her fervant's blood—and Becket's murder

Stands in the facred legends of the church A witnefs of your violence.—But when

The

The reverend fquadrons combat on your fide, Tho' in a caufe—

LEGATE.

Rafh youth, forbear—nor thus Arraign the pious councils of the church, On love and mercy founded, nor prefume To execrate a crime that the has pardon'd.— Tho' dreadful was the deed, the guiltlefs blood Of martyr'd Becket has been expiated By folemn rites of penitence and prayer.

PRINCE RICHARD.

By gold and by corruption, rather fay; For which you not alone function the crimes Of facrilege and murder; but your voice, With profituted breath, abets the caufe Of future violence, and fanctifies Inceft and perfidy 1

LEGATE.

I'll hear no more

Of this rude profanation !-But, young man, Mark what I fay, and tremble.-In the name Of Rome's high fovereign pontiff, whofe decrees The Chriftian world obeys-I will pronounce Your nuptials void, if you prefume to celebrate The interdicted rite, before your vow To heaven is fatisfied.

PRINCE RICHARD. Thou dar'ft not do it !

LEGATE.

Not dare ! Proud Prince, that will be inftant feen. Within these walls I reign supreme. If once I give the order, here shall Adelaide Remain the altar's votary—from thy fight And hopes, cut off for ever.

PRINCE

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PRINCE RICHARD.

Prefumptuous flave ! First this avenging arm Shall free mankind from your infulting tyranny. [Draws his fword, but is difarmed.

EING HENRY. Difarm his headftrong rage !

CLIFFORD.

My lord, confider

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The confequence of this your rafh attempt— Forbear—what honor can your vengeance gain Againft a prieft unarm'd ?

LEGATE.

O let his rage

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Spend all it's idle force.—By fanctity Fenc'd and protected, I defy his threats.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Thank not your vaunted fanctity, but thofe Whote friendly force my lifted arm prevented, And gave me time to think.—But 'tis enough— I ne'er was recreant in the lifts of glory, Nor have I when my honor flood engaged, Much more my folemn faith, fhrunk from the conflict:

But ere my fword fhall thus be proudly fore'd To wage a war from which my injur'd heart Now turns with indignation, I will throw it For ever from my grafp. [To the KING] Sir, you may glory

In this your proud ally—The time may come When you fhall feel his infolence, and mourn The rath refolve that tempted you to raife The ufurpation of a foreign power To lord it o'er your own, your people's rights.— For me, I bend not to his iron yoke, But fly indignant your difhonor'd court.—

And

And, haughty prelate, know the hour approaches, When thou, and thy proud mafter, fhall repent The exercise of this officious zeal. [*Exit.*]

KING HENRY.

He's firangely agitated.—Much I fear Some dread event from his ungovern'd rage. Follow, my fon, and try to calm his paffions.

[PRINCE JOHN goes out after his brother, and the reft on the opposite fide of the flage.

Scene the outfide of the Abbey.

Re-enter PRINCE RICHARD and PRINCE JOHN.

PRINCE RICHARD. Why do you follow me?

PRINCE JOHN,

I come to foothe

Your ardent grief, to mitigate your woes, By friendthip's lenient balm.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Not all the powers

Of friendfhip, or of love, can foothe a mind Tortur'd like mine—flung by repeated infult. My only hope is vengeance ! That alone, Tempts me to bear this hated load of life.— Ungrateful Henry !—When I led your armies, I led them on to certain victory— They have beheld me in the hoftile front Of adverfe fquadrons—they have felt my arm, And fhrunk beneath the firoke.—Once more I'll

bear

My courage, and my fortunes to your foe-Again my arms thall thine with dreadful radiance In the bright van of Gallia's rival hoft.--Philip will not refufe to own my wrongs, But crown my fervice with its deareft hope, And give his lovely fifter to my withes.

F 2

PRINCS

PRINCE JOHN.

What will avail you aught the gift of Philip, While Adelaide remains in Henry's power?

PRINCE RICHARD.

True, but her heart is mine—nor dare he force Her prefent fanctuary—now too guarded With greater reverence by the Legate's prefence.

PRINCE JOHN.

The Legate may be biafs'd.—We have feen How intereft and ambition fway his influence. He may be brought to fanction violence As well as perfidy—and for the heart Of Adelaide—

PRINCE RICHARD.

'Twere facrilege to doubt it— She is all truth, all conflancy, all virtue.

PRINCE JOHN.

It may be fo, perhaps—But thro' the medium Of fond affection's partial eye, her merits May fhine with heighten'd luftre.—My opinion Of female virtue is not quite fo fanguine— Nor do I know the contiancy fo rooted, As not to yield before the immediate profpect Of wealth and power.

PRINCE RICHARD.

O banish from your heart

The demon of fufpicion, whole foul breath Poifons each generous thought; your vain furmifes Had nearly blatted all my hopes, and led me To doubt the kindeft, and the pureft love That ever warm'd the breaft of truth and beauty. He who believes no virtue can refift Self-intercft and ambition, fhews himfelf A flave to both.

PRINCE JOHN.

That undeferv'd reproach Wounds not my confcious truth—Be this the teft. If you are really lov'd—if her whole heart Is to your wifh devoted—if the paffion That Henry entertains is hateful to her, And that the dazzling charms of proffer'd greatnefs Sway not her refolutions, fhe muft know The abbey's walls yield but a weak defence. Paint all her dangers to her, and perfuade her To join your flight, and feek her brother's court, As the fole means of fafety and protection. If fhe refufe this proof—if here the flay, Trufting to Henry's power, whatever reafons Her fophiftry may urge, his fuit is not So dreadful to her feelings as fhe feigns.

PRINCE RICHARD.

I fee the horrors of her fituation, And doubt not her compliance.—Ah! too well I know the fervor of my father's paffions, When rous'd by love or intereft. Adelaide, You fhall partake my fortunes—I will place Your prefent danger in fo ftrong a light, That you muft be perfuaded, muft forfake Thefe fatal cloifters for your brother's court, And the protection of a lover's arms. Say, will you fhare my hazards ?

PRINCE JOHN.

In your enterprife

With ardor I embark—Yet let me paufe— Perhaps 'twere prudent not to join you now. Here I may do you better fervice—Clifford, That baftard feyon from my father's flock, Is to his caufe firongly attach'd—His courage And courteous manners make him popular, And the few Englifh troops he here commands

Are

Are all at his devotion. I will try To lure them from their chief, and win them over To your defigns. When this I have effected, I will avow myfelf, and boldly ftand The warm avenger of my brother's wrongs.

END OF THE THIRD ACT.

ACT IV.

Scene a Court before the Palace.

PRINCE JOHN alone.

PRINCE JOHN.

HUS far my fchemes have profper'd: Adelaide I know will never be induc'd to join The hafty flight of Richard—that refuſal Renews his jealouſy, and turns his love To deadly hatred.—Soft—is that fo certain ? The earneſt fuit of Richard, and thoſe doubts Of Henry's purpoſe which my art ſuggeſted, May work upon her fears. She muſt be ſtopp'd, And ſee where Clifford comes—his honeſt zeal Shall be the engine of my purpoſe.

Enter CLIFFORD.

Clifford!

In happy hour you come; your friendly counfel And generous aid are wanted.—O I grieve To fee the promis'd harveft of our hopes Blafted to foon.—The demon of differition Now ftalks again at large.

CLIFFORD.

The legate's pride,

And Henry's blind compliance with his wifhes, Have rais'd a tempefi that will pour its fury On our difiracted country.

PRINCE JOHN.

Yes, my friend, I am bewilder'd in the maze of dangers That lie on every fide : but moft I fear My brother's violence—I know he meditates A new revolt.

CLIFFORD. Cannot your words prevent him ? You have his confidence.

PRINCE JOHN.

You might as well

Counfel the waves to filence when the tempeft Sweeps o'er the boiling ocean, as perfuade His bofom to be calm when the fierce guft Of fudden paffion heaves it.—Much I fear He will not quit alone his father's court. He means to bear the lovely Adelaide To Philip's camp, companion of his flight. But this muft be prevented.—She an hoftage, We may make terms with her impetuous brother, Who elfe, by Richard aided, threatens ruin To our o'er-number'd force.—Be it your care To watch the abbey walls that fhe efcapes not.

Exit.

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CLIFFORD.

Yes, artful Prince—and I will watch thee too; For much I doubt that thy infidious wiles Have caus'd this fatal change. The breaft of Richard.

You fay, is torn by paffion !--but whofe breath, By falfe infinuation, rais'd the tempeft, And blew it into madnefs ? O'er our heads Defiruction hangs; and thofe whofe timely care Might flay the impending form, fway'd by intereft

Or blind revenge; precipitate its fall.

One

One only chance remains.—I'll try at leaft To undeceive the King, whofe eafy breaft Perfidious John has poifon'd.—If his fix'd, His partial fondnefs for him, makes him form My honeft counfel, I difcharge my duty – To my mifguided Prince and injur'd country.

Scene the Abbey.

A D E L A I D E alone. Each ray of hope is loft—I find the Legate Refufes to releafe my gallant Richard From his rafh vow.—Our nuptials are poftpon'd— Perhaps for ever!—The events of battle Who can forefee!—Befides, imperious Henry May force me from the cloifters.—No—there is One path that leads to fafety—If I fee Aught that appears like violence, the altar Shall be my refuge—I'll devote myfelf By vows irrevocable, and affume The holy veil.—O heavens, the prince !

Enter PRINCE RICHARD.

PRINCE RICHARD.

My life, my lovely Adelaide ! We are undone, inevitably ruin'd.— My father has prevailed—Corrupted Rome Abets his fchemes—it is refolv'd to part us.

ADELAIDE.

Alas! I am not to learn the fatal tidings, I am inform'd of all.

PRINCE RICHARD. And muft we part ?

ADELAIDE.

The thought is death-yet what alternative?

PRINCE RICHARD.

To fly.

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ADELAIDE.

Exit.

ADELAIDE.

Impoffible !

PRINCE RICHARD.

What ! fhall I fit

The pointed mark for injury and infult To fhoot their arrows at ?—tamely behold The beft, the deareft rights of human nature By facrilegious infolence invaded,

And, with the patient meekness of a hermit, Bow to the firoke, and kiss the hand that wrongs me?

Not fuch my temper.—No—I have refolv'd Inftant to fly from thefe ungrateful walls, And join your brother's arms—he will receive The injur'd friend that Henry has abandon'd, Efpoufe my cruel wrongs, and give me vengeance; And from his hand I fhall receive thofe charms My father's fhamelefs perfidy denies me.— Why droops my love ?

ADELAIDE.

Your rafh refolve alarms me— Have you confider'd well, maturely weighed Each confequence of this wild enterprife?

PRINCE RICHARD.

I have.—The Norman troops are all to me Firmly devoted; and the English warriors, In numbers weak, and more than half, my friends. Fear not, my love, this arm even from the shadow Of danger shall protect you.

ADELAIDE:

Ah, my Richard !

Your fanguine hopes deceive you-there are dangers

From which no force, no numbers can protect us.

G

PRINCE

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PRINCE RICHARD. Thefe are the coinage of your timid fancy— Phantoms of fear.

ADELAIDE.

Phantoms of fear ! O Richard, Are all the facred duties of our life, The charities of love, the claims of virtue, But merely phantoms? Say, are all the precepts With care imprinted on our infant bofoms, Which mark alone, or which fhould mark alone, The pride of birth, the dignity of flation, Are thefe delufions all—the mere inventions Of human art, of prejudice and error ? Is there no fear but what endangers life ?— Is to preferve a miferable being, Debas'd by fervile infamy, degraded By felf-condemning confeience, all our care ?

PRINCE RICHARD.

What action of my life has given you caufe To deem my heart could entertain a thought Of fuch unworthy meannels?

ADELAIDE.

No-my foul

Acquits you of the charge.—I know your heart Is truly noble, and when clear reflection Difpels the mifts that cloud your better reafon, Will fill purfue the fhining track of virtue. Look to the fields of glory, where your arm Has turn'd the feale of many a bloody day, And afk if conqueft came without a conflict. Who gains a trophy from a foe unarm'd? Nor lie in camps alone the lifts of honor. O there are combats harder than the field's, Where the infidious foe betrays within ; And he whole coward virtue only triumphs When not affail'd by trial and temptation,

Is

Is not true honor's fervant. While from the fhadow of difgrace you fly, You run to meet the fubflance.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Meet I not

The fubftance here—does not her horrid form Glare in my flarting eyes where'er I turn ?— Here is her dire abode, and to avoid The baleful object, I muft fly thefe walls.

ADELAIDE.

Let not the enfuriate demons of revenge Impofe upon your fenfes, and affune The fpecious form of honor.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Just revenge Is fanctified by honor, which without it Becomes a lifeles mass.

ADELAIDE.

But who fhall judge When our revenge is juft ?—Not the fwoll'n bofom Inflam'd by recent injury.—Revenge Alone is juft when in impartial hands; But there are fituations which difarm Even juffice of her fword—No private wrong Should cancel duties that we owe our country; No infult arm a fon againft a father.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Such injuries as mine, nature revolts at. And feels in fuch a firife her laws fufpended— My country will efpoufe my caufe.

ADELAIDE.

For which, In friendly gratitude, you'll rafhly plunge her In all the miferies of civil war. But for a moment place the dreadful fcene Before your eyes.—Think only—

G 2

PRINCE

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PRINCE RICHARD.

I can think

Of nothing but of thee, and the dread horrors To which I leave thee—That thall never be ! The thought is madnefs—Let us fly together.

ADELAIDE.

No—if my prayers, my reafoning are too weak, To turn you from your purpofe, lead you back To the deferted paths of fame and duty, I will be true to what I owe myfelf.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Heavens! do I hear you right?—Do you refufe To fhare my finking fortune?—Were your vows Of endlefs faith, unfhaken conftancy, Breath'd to the winds?

ADELAIDE.

O do not wrong me thus— The powers of earth and heaven can witnefs for me, There's no extreme of wretchednefs and want, I would not fhare with you—On the bare earth, Expos'd to all the warring elements, Sure of your love, and proud of confeious innocence, I were fupremely bleft—

But ah ! to feel myfelf the vile affociate Of infamy and vice—nay, more, the caufe— It is a price too great to purchafe all This world can give—to purchafe even your love.

PRINCE RICHARD.

And add, my happinefs, my life.—Alas ! What do I fay? they are no longer dear To Adelaide—I am beloy'd no more.

ADELAIDE.

Belov'd no more!—And do my weeping eyes, My agitated bofom, fpcak indifference ? But, ah ! what love can laft that is not founded On virtue and effecm?—Your own cool judgment, The raging florm of paffion once fubfided, Would

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Would even defpife me, curfe the hated caufe, That, like a wandering meteor, led your fteps From honor's path,

And hate the partner of your infamy.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Hate thee !--By heaven, tho' now my laboring fancy

Forms fuch dire images as almoft lead me To doubts of horror, you engrofs my foul— Thought cannot paint the ardor of my paffion— I love you even to torture.—Can it be— Can fuch a perfect form inherit falfehood ?

ADELAIDE.

That mean infinuation would offend me, Did not my foul partake the bitter anguish That wrings your boson.

PRINCE RICHARD.

And you pity me .---

Ah! what, alas! is unavailing pity To a diftracted wretch you will not fave !— You talk of love and fondnefs, yet you fee me 'Whelm'd in a deep abyfs of mifery, And will not firetch a friendly arm to fave me.

ADELAIDE.

Yes, I would fave you-fave your peace, your honor.

PRINCE RICHARD.

What! by the ruin of my fondeft hopes, The fhipwreck of my love ?—For, in my abfence, Henry perhaps—

ADELAIDE.

Am I fo mean an object, So funk in men's opinions, that he dare To offer violence to Philip's fifter ?

PRINCE

PRINCE RICHARD.

By paffion urg'd, and fure of prefent power, The feeble image of a diftant danger Will vanifh from his thought—What fhall defend Your innocence from violence ?—

ADELAIDE.

Myfelf-

My own determin'd will.

PRINCE RICHARD.

We eafily

Defpife a danger which we do not fear. I fee my folly now, that firove to wake A fenfe of terror in a faithlefs woman Of what fhe wifhes, and who now defpifes The wretched object of her former love, When plac'd in competition with a crown.

ADELAIDE.

Eternal powers ! have I deferv'd this ufage-This cruel imputation ?

PRINCE RICHARD.

Your own heart

Muft answer, yes—Even now your looks betray The fecret of your heart.—Perfidious maid Tho' now to quit you rends my tortur'd heart ftrings—

Degenerate weaknefs down, nor let a tear Bedew my burning check—I tear myfelf For ever from your prefence—but, beware My unexpected vengeance does not come To interrupt your joys.

Exit.

Enter EMMA.

I met the Prince In cruel agitation.—Dearcft Madam, What dire event ?—Alas! you feem diforder'd.

ADELAIDE.

ADELAIDE.

Emma, I am undone, for ever wretched, Beyond imagination wretched !---doom'd To mifery and woe.--This dreadful firuggle Is too fevere, I feel myfelf unequal To bear the dreadful conflict.

EMMA.

Let me fhare Your grief, and lighten, by the voice of friendship, This weighty load of forrow.

ADELAIDE.

While my tongue

Pleaded the caufe of duty, that idea Aroufed my firmnefs—now 'tis paft, and nought Appears around me but a night of horror, Scorn'd and deferted by the man I love— O! Richard, muft I never fee thee more ? Is there no hope, no profpect ?—Where's the Legate ?—

EMMA.

Alas! your hopes from him, I fear, are groundlefs.—He is with the king, Who, as Prince John inform'd me, now folicits A difpenfation from the rites that bound him To Eleanor his confort, with intent To marry you himfelf.

ADELAIDE.

O! monstrous effort

Of paffion unreftrain'd !-- Then all the hopes With which I fondly propp'd my drooping mind Are vanifh'd to the winds-- my dreams of happinefs

In this vain world are over, and I fall

A facrifice

A facrifice to virtue.—Heaven, who knows The purenefs of my heart, accept my vows! For to the fad protection of the altar I fly, from Henry's power—I fly !—alas ! That fuch a flight muft be—from love and Richard. For to my bofom, to my beating bofom, In fpite of all his rafh injurious doubts, His dear idea clings and makes this ftruggle Worfe than the ftroke of death !—I will not think ! Richard ! I now devote me to the altar, Rather a victim of thy groundlefs jealoufy Than fear of Henry !—Come, my gentle Emma, And hear me breathe the irrevocable vow !

Exeunt.

Scene, Apartment in the Palace.

KING HENRY alone.

I have been ill advis'd—once more, I fear The fatal flames of difcord will be kindled. I feel the hand of time, by trouble ftrengthen'd, Bear hard upon me—I have not the powers That firmer years, and brighter fcenes, once gave me,

To crush the pride of a rebellious fon, And an unsteady people.

Enter PRINCE JOHN.

PRINCE JOHN.

Sir, I grieve

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To wound your ear with the unhappy tale— But my intemperate brother———

KING HENRY.

What new ftroke Of fate awaits me ?—fpeak !

PRINCE JOHN.

To madnefs ftung By the decifion of the Legate, Richard Has left this city, and is fled towards Paris.

KING

A TRAGEDY:

KING HENRY.

Where were my troops ?-What I did they idle ftand,

And let the traitor pais?

PRINCE JOHN.

I grieve to fay

That you have been betray'd !--The Norman horfe Revolted with him ;--all the reft hung down Their heads in fullen filence, nor would act Against a hero who fo oft had led them.

KING HENRY.

Bale and degenerate cowards !—But my vengeance Shall overtake your treachery.—Bid my band, My faithful band of England's gallant knights, Arm and to horfe !—Myfelf will lead them on To fcourge thefe renegades —It will not be— Alas ! my fainting fpirits fink beneath The weight of grief and age ; my feeble arm Shrinks from it's purpofe—O ! my fon, my fon, Lend me thy aid.

PRINCE JOHN.

Have courage, fir, revive,

Entrust to me your vengeance; let me lead Your warriors to the field.

KING HENRY.

It fhall be fo.— Go to my faithful English, rouse their rage Against these recreant traitors.

PRINCE JOHN.

Sir, perhaps

They may difpute my orders.

KING HENRY.

Take this fignet,

They will obey that token .- Hafte, my fon,

H

Lead

19 love after have

Lead them to the purfuit, and bring in chains These base deferters of their Prince and country. Exit PRINCE JOHN.

KING HENRY, alone.

I feel the heavy load of fate prefs on me, And bend me to the earth .- These starts of passion O'erpower my waining ftrength-my failing years Are to my will unequal.-Where are now My friends, my children, who with lenient care Should foothe the lapfe of age !-- O, Richard ! Richard !

Haft thou forgot the tears of penitence

That flow'd from Henry's eyes, what time he warn'd thee,

With dying accents warn'd thee, to avoid The crime of filial difodebience, which His lateft hours embitter'd .- John alone. Of all the iffue of proud Eleanor, Retains his duty .- But here comes my Clifford. The blooming offspring of a gentler race, Sprung from my lov'd, my murder'd Rofamond ! Whofe tried fidelity and gentle manners, Endear him to my heart.

Enter CLIFFORD.

KING HENRY.

O! come, my Clifford, And let me pour the forrows of my foul Into your gentle bofom !- You, perhaps, You too will join with Richard, and forfake me .-Ingratitude's the age's vice !

CLIFFORD.

O! fir,

Endear'd to me by every hallow'd tie-My king, my mafter-Shall my voice prefume

To

KING HENRY.

My Clifford, fay no more, I cannot doubt thy truth—The gentle candor, The ingenuous foftnefs of thy beauteous mother, Beam in thine eyes.—Forgive my wayward fancy, For, Clifford, I am prefs'd by many cares,

And need thy friendly counfel.

CLIFFORD.

Will your ear Endure the honeft voice of ferious truth ?

KING HENRY.

O freely fpeak the dictates of thy heart, I now can bear advice—can bear even cenfure— The days of pride and infolence are gone, Fled with my youth and my profperity— My lofty fpirit vails it's towering pride Beneath the iron hand of hard affliction.

CLIFFORD.

I will not cloath my free opinion, fir, In terms of infolence, nor harfhly urge Memory of errors paft—But, might my counfel Be heard with favor, Richard fhould be fought With gentle words and terms of reconcilement.

KING HENRY.

What !---bow myfelf to my rebellious fon !---

CLIFFORD.

I do not wifh to cloath my thoughts with aught That founds even like upbraiding—Yet, forgive me, When I request you but to ask yourfelf If he has not been injur'd.

KING

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ADELAIDE: A

KING HENRY.

O! you probe

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My bofom to the quick—I hardly dare Even afk myfelf that queftion.—Yet, what's that To his high crimes ?—Say I have been to blame— Is that a caufe for treafon and rebellion ?— I muft, I will have vengeance.

CLIFFORD.

Ah! how can you? I to be and L how ID a

The troops that fled with Richard, when united With Philip's numerous hoft, and bearing with them The fame in arms of their brave leader, leave you No profpect of fuccefs. Remember, fir, You are not now on England's fea-girt fhore, Fenc'd from all danger by the guardian Ocean, O'er which the reigns fupreme. Nought but a weak,

And ill-defended frontier, here protects you From the fierce inroad of a faithless people, And an indignant monarch.

KING HENRY.

You're deceiv'd-

Long ere my rebel fon can join with Philip, He'll learn to fear my vengeance.—Warlike John, Now leads my Englifh horfe in clofe purfuit: He will o'ertake the treacherous fugitives, And bring them back in triumph.

CLIFFORD.

Have you given

Prince John the power to lead the valiant troop Of English knights that I commanded ?

KING HENRY.

Yes-

He has my fignet to enforce obedience.

CLIFFORD.

CLIFFORD.

O! fir, recall that truft-

TO DO KING HENRY. OT OCH IN. 100

It is too late-

They are already on the march-You look With forrow and amazement.

doot dasc cliffond. , Ald and was M.

Royal fir, and the set that Press the set of the If I have ftill been faithful-if this arm Has ever done you true and loyal fervice, If now you prize your honor and your fafety, A Let me this inftant follow him, and try What mild and lenient measures will effect, Ere it be yet too late. My troubled mind Forebodes fome fatal iffue.

KING HENRY.

Why this quick This ftrange alarm ?-John is of cooler temper,

Not rafh and hafty, like his fiery brother.

CLIFFORD.

100,00 0001 Afk me not what I fear, or what I know-I would not wifh to plant another thorn Within a breaft already too much wounded-But truft me once, and let me fly, if poffible, To clofe this dreadful breach. As Law Creek

KING HENRY.

What can you do?

What terms propofe, that fhall not fhake at once My honor and my power ?---

CLIFFORD.

By all that's facred

On earth and heaven, let me conjure you, quit Your ill-plac'd jealoufy-Perfuade the Legate To let the holy rites proceed, and give Fair Adelaide to Richard's eager withes.

KING

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All in the

KING HENRY.

You are not yet aware of half the dangers That wait those nuptials—My revolted fon With Philip leagued—

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CLIFFORD.

O! fir, you have a foc Nearer than Philip, who with ferpent tooth Preys on the parent breaft that fofters him. Detain me not a moment—On my knees Let me entreat your confidence—truft me now, And let me fave you, tho' I perifh.

KING HENRY.

There is a myftery in all you fay— Explain yourfelf more clearly.

CLIFFORD.

All, in time Will fully be explain'd—the prefent moment Admits not of delay.

KING HENRY.

Then go, my Clifford— To your diferentian and fidelity I truft the event.

CLIFFORD.

And may I profper only As I am true to you. My lord, farewell; And may I meet you foon with happier profpects.

END OF THE FOURTH ACT.

ACT V.

Scene the Abbey. ADELAIDE, in a religious habit.

ADELAIDE.

MY vows are feal'd to heaven—eternal oaths, Breath'd with religious zeal, have fhut me

For ever from the world, and 'tis in vain To throw one look behind me—Yet, my Richard, My lingering heart fiill breathes a figh for thee— It muft not be—I will fubdue the force Of it's rebellious feelings, and devote My thoughts alone to heaven.

Enter EMMA.

Come, my Emma, Thy prefence fhall affift my weak refolves. The bofom ftill will cling to fome lov'd object, And friendfhip may, without offence, furvive The cloifter's filent tomb.

EMMA.

I hope to gild Your grief with brighter profpects—You may yet Be free, be happy.

ADELAIDE.

Never—I am now Securely fhelter'd from the gufts of fortune In this ftill harbor.—Shall I venture forth To try again the various florms that wait To wreck the votaries of a troubled world ?— Befides—my folemn vows are now recorded In the irrevocable doom of heaven; Nor can I, if I would, evade their force63

Or could they be revok'd, the injurious wrongs Of Richard's doubts and Henry's lawlefs paffion-

EMMA.

You have been much deceiv'd-both been deceiv'd-

The wiles of John-

ADELAIDE.

ADECAIDE, SI CT

Ah! my prophetic fears

Were then too juft.—My heart ever miftrufted His dark referve—Proceed my friend.

EMMA.

His arts,

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Beneath the mark of friendly care, infiill'd A mutual jealoufy between the King And his too hafty fon-This, Clifford now Has to my ears imparted-He is gone, By Henry's fpecial order, to bring back Mifguided Richard.

ADELAIDE.

That is now too late!-

Why did my rafh precipitation drive me To breathe the fatal vow which has cut off My hope of joy for ever—Yet, why mourn The only flep that could enfure my peace ?— O I were weak indeed again to truft My future happinefs to the wild paffions Of one, who thus, by caufelefs doubt alarm'd, Threw me with feorn, an outcaft from his bofom.

Enter KING HENRY.

Start not, my Adelaide, nor think I come A bold intruder here; for in my heart, My wounded heart, I feel, alas! too firongly A fenfe of former injuries to thee And my revolted fon.—You turn away Your eyes indignant.

ADELAIDE.

ADELAIDE.

Sir, the ftormy paffions Of fcorn, and of refentment, ill become A mind devoted to the meek profeffion Of peace and refignation.

KING HENRY.

That reflection Redoubles all my forrows.—'Twas the frenzy Of my rafh jealoufy, that drove your innocence To this retreat ; but you may yet be happy, My fon may ftill be your's, and those mild eyes Beam peace and fastery on discordant nations, And heal the wounds this fatal day has given To my distracted house.

ADELAIDE.

It cannot bc.

Were I, tho' that's impoffible, fet free From thefe my facred vows, your fon, alas! Could never be my choice.—The injurious treat-

ment-

KING HENRY.

My Adelaide, you are too good, too juft, To let my errors fall on haplefs Richard. They rous'd his jealoufy.

ADELAIDE.

That is paft, Irrevocably paft—it matters little From whom my mifery arofo—my vows Are now beyond recall.

KING HENRY.

Think not fo, They may be cancell'd—Rome has ample power, As well as will, to ferve me.—Where's the Legate ? I did expect him here.

ATTENDANT.

The Legate now Is in the abbey, fir, and waits your pleafure.

1

KING

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KING HENRY.

O bid him quickly enter.—Lovely Adelaide Retire awhile.—I hope this interview Will feal your peace.

ADELAIDE.

I fhall await the event.—Tho' of the hope For other peace, than folitude and prayer Can give within thefe walls, I feel no prefage. [Execut ADELAIDE and EMMA.

Enter the LEGATE.

LEGATE.

My lord, I come to roufe your tardy zeal.— Where are the troops, the warlike preparations, That Richard is to head againft the infidels ?— All Europe now is warm in expectation, England alone excepted.

KING HENRY.

Holy father,

I fear our hopes are blighted in the bud. The youthful warrior who fhould lead my troops To Philip is revolted, and with him, Threatens our fafety.—I have now no force For diftant war, happy if I can guard -My own dominions from their arms.

LEGATE.

Fear not,

I will protect them. For if royal Philip Prefume to join in Richard's rafh rebellion, Or form defigns againft a realm, whofe arms Are now devoted to our common caufe, I will denounce the church's vengeance on him. And, fhould he pertinacioufly perfift, Turn the collected force that's now affembled, On him and his adherents.

KING HENRY.

Yct, perhaps,

A TRAGEDY.

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There is a milder way to calm this tempeft, And give the nation peace.

LEGATE.

Name it, my lord.

O Heaven forefend, we c'er fhould have recourfe To violence, when gentler means are offer'd, Or fpeak in terror, when the feraph voice Of mercy may be heard.

KING HENRY.

Then thus, my lord.

Abfolve the royal virgin from her vows, Breath'd in rafh hafte, and for a time difpente With Richard's fervice, 'till his promis'd nuptials With Adelaide are over.

LEGATE.

Think not of it-It cannot be.

KING HENRY.

Yet hear me. Suffer not Intemperate zeal, with over weening hafte To hurt the facred caufe it would fupport. You now can have but a divided force. Confent but to thefe nuptials, and defer For a fhort fpace the war—that time elaps'd, England and France united, 'neath the banners Of my victorious fon, fhall to it's bafis Shake the proud throne of Saladin.

LEGATE.

Your purpose

Is ftrangely alter'd fince we last convers'd. But tho' thefe fickle wav'rings of the mind, May fuit, perhaps, with temporal concerns, The will of heaven is permanent, and bends not To the weak changes of capricious man.

ADELAIDE:

LEGATE.

Never-it cannot be-nay, urge me not.

KING HENRY.

Curfe on my crooked policy, that firft Invok'd your aid, and made myfelf your flave. O Adelaide! O Richard! O my children! My cruel perfeverance has undone you, For I have arm'd a ruthlefs power againft you, And try in vain to fhield you from it's fury. But know, infulting prieft! I will not fuffer Myfelf, my injur'd children, and my people, To reap the bitter fruits my hand has fown. I will appeal to England's laws, which oft Have check'd the encroachments of your haughty pontiff:

They fhall annihilate there impious vows, And join the hands of Adelaide and Richard.

LEGATE.

I fmile with foorn at fuch unmeaning threats. You and your frantic iflanders will dare To break thefe vows ?—Attempt it, and that mo-

ment

I publifh Rome's anathema againft you, And your rebellious people. Farther—fhould you With facrilegious infolence prefume To folemnize thefe nuptials, and unite Your fon with a reclufe—your bleeding realms, While a foul brand lies on their fpurious race For ages, fhall lament the dire effects Of a contefled, and unfix'd furceflion. And now, my lord, farewell, to your own counfels, And your obedient fons, I leave the event. [Exit.

KING HENRY.

This is, alas ! the fatal confequence Of my appeal to Rome. The dreadful weapon Is turn'd againft myfelf—Thus is it ever With those who would accomplish rash defigns

Bv

68

By evil means—O never let the mind Of manly firmness feek to gain it's purpose By means that honor turns from—nor a monarch Basely submit his own, his people's rights, To the decisions of a foreign power.

Enter CLIFFORD.

Clifford !- Return'd alone ?- Have you fucceeded ? Do you bring peace ?- Your brow, alas ! portends Some dreadful tidings-fpeak-Where are my fons ?

Say, did you come in time to check the fury Of John's attack ?

CLIFFORD.

There was no caufe—the princes Met without violence.

KING HENRY.

'Twas as I thought-

Did I not augur right ?-Did I not fay

The prudence of my younger fon would jufiify

The charge I trufted to him-O! I knew

lence !

Where are my fons ?- Do they approach ?

CLIFFORD.

They do.

KING HENRY.

Quick let me meet them, fly to their embrace; And in the firength of my united house, Laugh at the haughty menace of the Legate.

CLIFFORD.

O! flay my royal lord—for if you go, You go to ruin and captivity.

KING HENRY.

Your words amaze me! Solve these contradictions. Did

ADELAIDE:

Did you not fay my fons were reconcil'd ? That John

CLIFFORD.

Is a perfidious traitor !

KING HENRY.

Rafh young man,

70

Do not provoke my rage. I know his faith, Approv'd, unfhaken; nor will hear a doubt, That envious hate, or jealoufy may breathe Against his firm attachment to his father.

CLIFFORD.

Envious of him ? Jealous of his attachment To you, my lord ?—I were, indeed, the worft, The most abandon'd traitor, if I could But even in thought, betray the trust you gave, As he has done.

KING HENRY.

Away 1 no more of this

CLIFFORD.

O! fir, if my defruction were alone The fatal confequence of your perfitting Still in this pleafing error, I would never Offend you with the truth, but calmly yield To that worft ill, your undeferv'd difpleafure; Lie under the fufpicion of employing The envious arts of fecret defamation, To injure him you love. But, fir, your fafety, Your liberty demand that I thould fpeak The atrocious deed. Fly from the walls this infant:

You have not here a moment's fafety ! Know The princes, with united powers approach, First to depose, and then imprison you.

KING HENRY.

Ha !-- both the princes faid you ?--

CLIFFORD;

CLIFFORD.

Yes, fir, both .--

As with arm'd heels I urg'd my fiery courfer In the purfuit of John, I met his force Returning with the rebel troops of Richard, In friendly folds their mingled banners waving, But hoffile each to you.—I then deliver'd The terms of general peace and pardon to them; Terms, which imperious Richard only anfwer'd By fcorn and indignation, which were blown To tenfold violence by the fuggeftions, And dark infidious hints.

KING HENRY.

Falls into the arms of his Attendants.

CLIFFORD.

Sir, look up-Be comforted ;---refume your refolution !

KING HENRY.

CLIFFORD.

Wafte not a thought on me .--

[Trumpet at a diffance,] Heard

sant nov fra

Heard you that warlike found ?- Sir, they approach-

O! for your own, and for your people's fake, Confult your fafety.—Urge with fpeed your flight— The danger preffes.—I will face the florm With the few faithful troops I can affemble, While you efcape.—Ruin furrounds you here— But could you reach the flores of England—

KING HENRY.

No!

Death is my choice, and I can perifh here. I feel the languor of declining life O'erwhelm my fainting frame.—My woes, alas ! Will be of fhort duration.—Happy ifland ! Seat of my former glory, ne'er again Shall thy white cliffs rife to my longing eyes In pleafing profpect—never more thefe lungs Inhale the balmy fragrance of thy air.— France muft receive my afhes—yet, my Clifford, Let not my deftiny involve thee—fly ! Preferve thyfelf, and leave me to my fate.

CLIFFORD.

Now you indeed are cruel—your fufpicions Do hurt me now.—Leave you ? and can you deem So bafely of me ?—No, fir, I will ftay And facrifice my lateft breath to ferve you.

KING HENRY.

O ! my dear fon, thy filial virtue comes Like the faint radiance of the fetting ray That gilds the evening florm, to cheer the clofe Of my tempefuous days. They foothe my anguifn,

And almost teach me not to hate mankind— My only thought towards life is, how to recompense

Such exemplary goodnefs ; -- but I feel

It

72

A TRAGEDY.

It cannot be—I die !—and leave my power To thole who have deftroy'd me—in whole eyes Fidelity to me will be a crime.— Oh ! I am fick to death ;—lead—lead me in. [Exit, led by CLIFFORD.

Scene before the Abbey.

Enter PRINCE RICHARD, and PRINCE JOHN, with Englifh and Norman Soldiers.

PRINCE RICHARD.

My brave companions, profperous fortune fmiles Upon our waving enfigns; all who meet us, Meet us as friends, and fwell our growing ranks With their encreafing numbers !—But thefe walls, Thefe fatal walls, ftrike terror thro' my foul !— My breaft is chill'd with fear—perhaps my Adelaide

Is now devoted to my father's arms !— Summon the inmates of this dreary manfion !

ABBESS, at the grate.

What voice profane, fo loudly dares diffurb The peaceful fabbath of this holy dome ?

PRINCE RICHARD.

Richard of England; who comes here the champio

Of innocence, and beauty.—When the walls Devoted to religion yield a refuge To perfecuted virtue, they are facred From worldly interruption; every fpear Should bow it's fteely point in holy reverence— But when they once become the guilty feat Of violence and outrage, every claim Of fanctity is loft; each gloomy cloifter Is by the hand fevere of equal juffice, Mark'd for deftruction.—Therefore, on the inftant K Bring Bring forth my Adelaide, or by my honor, A foldier's injur'd honor, I will raze This fabric to the earth.

Enter ADELAIDE from the Abbey.

ADELAIDE.

Forber, rash man,

Your guilty violence—nor after breaking The facred laws of duty, and of honor, Revolting from your king, your fire, your country, Wage impious war with heaven.

PRINCE RICHARD.

My Adelaide,

Are your vows pass'd ?- Then I am truly wretched.

ADELAIDE.

'Tis fo indeed, my lord. But yet remember Whofe groundlefs jealoufy, whofe words injurious, Whofe harfh reproofs, difclaiming even the fhadow Of tendernefs and love, have driven me hither. I had no other proof, alas ! to give, That my rejected heart was true to you, Tho' it refus'd to fhare your crimes—That virtue, And not a pageant fceptre, was the idol That I preferr'd even to your love.

PRINCE RICHARD.

O cruel

And fatal proof, that has for ever doom'd me To mifery and woe !-- To fee you torn For ever from me thus-- to find you innocent, Yet know you never can be mine.-Diffraction !

ADELAIDE.

Going.

Farewell.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Ah! do not leave me, Adelaide---Give me one tender word, one parting look.

ADELAIDE. onong oot formal

Yes-I will fpeak once more-nay, will confes, That fpite of all the holy vows I breath'd, it over Nor time, nor prayer, nor penitence, I fear, Will ever blot you from my wounded bofom, Till in the dark oblivion of the grave Your image and my life are funk together. I feel I've faid too much-My lord, farewell!bc.A Where e'er you go, may prosperous fortune wait you, And angels fhield you in the hour of danger With love as zealous, and as pure as mine : And when fome fairer and fome happier virgin (You cannot meet a truer) fhall receive With more aufpicious ftars your nuptial vows, If e'er the fervid temper of your mind Lead you to doubt her faith, O let one thought Of your unhappy Adelaide come o'er' - ! boot Your ruffled foul, and tell you, innocence May be unjusty flandered.-Take my fad, My last adieu-for we must meet no more. [Exit.

PRINCE RICHARD:

Stay, flay, my only hope !—Leave me not thus A prey to deep remorfe and woe—She is gone— For ever gone—and am I left alone, Amid a world that gives no joy without her,— Curfe on my blind credulity, that mov'd me To wound her tried fidelity.

PRINCE JOHN. BER JOH AD AN CO

Why blame With fuch afperity the glaring proofs On which your foorn was founded ? Be not ever Dup'd by the falfe pretence of female artifice.

PRINCE RICHARD.

To letuisanIT.

Enough of this—I have, alas ! too much Liftened to your fuggeftions.—That dark mind, K 2

LANCE

75

Is much too prone, I fear, to judge of others By what it reads within—Your dangerous counfels Have ruin'd me.—The only confolation That now remains is vengeance—Yes, those walls Shall feel my fury—and, unnatural father,

[Pointing to the town. You fhall partake my ruin—Calls of duty, And impulse of affection, I disclaim you— Ye fhall not check my rage—Affist me foldiers.

Enter CLIFFORD from the Abbey.

CLIFFORD.

Stay thy ungovern'd violence, rafh man, Nor further tempt thy fate.

PRINCE RICHARD.

Clifford !— Away ! Stop not the torrent of my just revenge, Left it o'erwhelm thee.

CLIFFORD.

And is Clifford then

So little known to Richard, that he thinks His threatenings will appal him? Are the towers of Mans forgot, where this true breaft, undaunted, Oppos'd itfelf a bulwark to your numbers, In our dear father's caufe, while your fell fword Hunted his facred life. Alas! this hour Demands not manly courage—'tis not now That fpears and fwords muft triumph--Here's a fight To freeze your impious ardor, rivet down With gorgon look your fiffen'd limbs to earth. [King Henry's body brought in.

Unnatural offspring of a murder'd king, Slain by your harfh unkindnefs !—Parricides ! Look on that corfe, and if the feeds of nature Yet live within your breafts—weep tears of blood.

PRINCE RICHARD.

[Dropping his favord. O fight of woe-My father ! O my father ! PRINCE JOHN.

Ah, lamentable day !--

CLIFFORD.

And doft thou weep,

Perfidious hypocrite, whofe cruel treachery Firft broke his noble heart—That was the fhaft That brought him to the duft. With manly firmnefs He bore his fon's revolt, his faithlefs troops; Yes, blufh ye fhame to Englifh loyalty; [To the Englifh foldiers.

The Legate's infolence, who refus'd to break The vows of Adelaide; for know, and mourn Thy hafte—mifguided prince, he was employing Each means to heal thy fufferings, while the breath Of that malignant traitor, which first rais'd Your mutual jealoufy, was then corrupting Thy faith by new fuspicions.

PRINCE JOHN.

'Tis as falfe As hell and thee.—

CLIFFORD.

Did not yon awful ruin

Of murder'd majefty, o'ercharge with forrow My better fpirits, this vindictive arm Should force thy recreant accents to confefs The truth of what I fay—that now is paft— This hand fhall never grafp a fword again. For when I have perform'd the folemn rites To martyr'd Henry's fhade, I vow to give The remnant of my life to holy duties. Whene'er you call upon me, I will prove To you, and all mankind, this dreadful charge, Not by the doubtful arm of violence, But by true facts, and clear unbiafs'd witnefs.

PRINCE

PRINCE RICHARD:

If he does prove this charge-and much I fear It will be fo-I fhall for ever hold thee An alien to my blood-unfit to taint The light of day, and focial haunts of man-"Till then we hold thee prifoner-Injur'd corfe, I tremble to approach thee, left thy blood Burfting it's fwelling channels, rufh upon me, And mark me as thy murderer .--- Clifford, fee The obfequies with reverend care perform'd ;--For I will fly thefe climes, and you, my friends, Companions of my guilt-but by that guilt, Alas! feduc'd-together let us go, And, on the ftern oppreffors of our faith, Expiate our crimes.-And thou, much injur'd faint, In these lone walls secluded, in thy orifons, When thou pour'ft forth thy fervent foul in pray'r, O breathe one figh for a repentant wretch, Whom the wild frenzy of ungovern'd paffion Has torn from thee, and happinefs, for ever.

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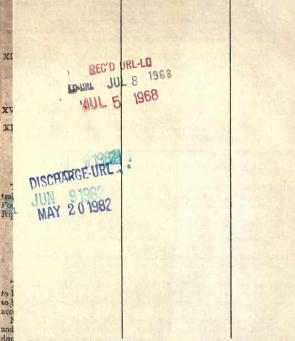
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