

**BERNARD ALVERS AND  
THE WAR WITCH:  
A POETICAL ROMANCE IN  
FOUR CANTOS**

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Bernard Alvers and the War Witch: A Poetical Romance in Four Cantos by Joseph Longland

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**JOSEPH LONGLAND**

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BERNARD ALVERS

AND

**The War Witch:**

A POETICAL ROMANCE IN FOUR CANTOS.

*NEW AND REVISED EDITION;*

TO WHICH ARE NOW ADDED

SONGS ON THE LATE WAR WITH RUSSIA.

BY

JOSEPH LONGLAND,

*Author of "Trophely," an Epic Poem, in Five Books; "King Charles the Second," an Historical Drama, in Five Acts; "Her Living Shame," a Domestic Drama, in Three Acts; "The Rose and the Arrow," an Historical Drama, in Three Acts; "Othello's Incurance;" and Miscellaneous Poems.*

London:

PROVOST & Co., 36, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1871.

NOTICE.

It is the intention of the Author to revise and re-issue the whole of his Works ; which will be duly announced as they become ready for publication.

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1871

## PREFACE AND DEDICATION.

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THE Romance of "Bernard Alvers and the War Witch" was first published in the year 1850.

Two of the "Songs on the late War with Russia" appeared in a Southampton newspaper at the time of the hostilities. The other "Songs" were written during the Crimean Campaign, but have never appeared in print until now.

The whole of the above have been revised by me during the past year, and are now respectfully dedicated to the public.

JOSEPH LONGLAND.

LONDON, *January*, 1871.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. This includes both traditional manual methods and modern digital technologies, highlighting the benefits of each approach.

3. The third part focuses on the challenges faced in data management and analysis, such as data quality, security, and integration. It provides strategies to overcome these challenges and ensure the reliability of the information used for decision-making.

4. The fourth part discusses the role of data in strategic planning and performance evaluation. It explains how data-driven insights can help identify trends, opportunities, and areas for improvement, leading to more effective business strategies.

5. The fifth part addresses the ethical considerations surrounding data collection and use. It stresses the need for transparency, informed consent, and data protection to build trust and maintain the integrity of the organization.

6. The sixth part concludes by summarizing the key findings and recommendations. It reiterates the importance of a data-driven approach and provides actionable steps for implementing the discussed strategies.





BERNARD ALVERS

AND

THE WAR WITCH.



CANTO I.

"Farewell my home—my home no longer now.  
Witness of many a calm and happy day."—*Southey*.

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**L**IFE—made, sustained, and closed in mystery,  
Revolves on views that mark the daily course  
Of time that grasps us ; within whose parent  
range

We fly for breath the moment we are born.  
With all our frailties fastened to the hours—  
That make the days and years up that convey  
The only means of knowing what we know—  
We yield, yet hold ; and tremble at the touch  
Of that which, if withdrawn, unships us.

Such were the musings of Bernard Alvers as he wended his way along the country roads of Old England, in the autumn of the year 1810, intending to visit his aged parents, in order to take what, in all probability, would be a final farewell. Bernard had then served several years in the British Army, and obtained at last his long-cherished hope—a furlough; for since he had become a soldier he had not seen any of his relations. With stick in hand and knapsack on back, with nature on every side filling him with a buoyancy that made him feel thankful for his existence, his reflections were at first cheerful; but those that more strongly forced themselves upon him were connected with the circumstance of his present undertaking. He thought upon his childhood, and the last parting he had with the friends he was now going to see. He pictured to himself the joy that would fill the house on his arrival; but then the fear that this interview might be the last on earth, gave to his ruminations a dejected termination. The old couple could not survive his future absence—no, they were already silver-grown with age; and he thought that, in the event of his being ordered to foreign parts, and doomed to tread the deadly battle-field, though his life should chance to escape, yet might he return only to weep over the green swards that would then cover his parents' ashes.

The travelling soldier became fatigued, for the day was very hot. At length a running spring beneath a drooping willow caught his gaze; so he stopped to

drink at the bar of God's public-house, where no charge is asked—no poison vended. Here he refreshed himself with pure water, and sat down within the shade of the willow to rest himself and wipe the sweat from his brow. Being weary, he fell asleep, and dreaming, he fancied himself to be in the same spot where he had sat down, and had merely closed his eyes upon the beauties of the surrounding landscape without losing the view, which was still presented to his mind, but with increased charms. His attention was soon attracted by the appearance in the vision of a being who seemed more than earthly, and who, gliding with the softest ease down the slopes of the distant hills, was evidently making her way towards him. Her feet (for the figure assumed that bewitching sex which makes the human form angelic\*) seemed not to touch the earth; not a limb moved, but the whole of the perfect model came onward, sweeping over the tops of the waving corn, and bounding with extreme lightness over every hedge and rivulet that lay in her course, until she arrived at the spot where Bernard reclined. This was the War Witch.

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\* "For spirits when they please,  
Can either sex assume, or both; so soft  
And uncompounded is their essence pure;  
Not tied or manacled with joint or limb,  
Not founded on the brittle strength of bones,  
Like cumbrous flesh; but in what shape they choose,  
Dilated or condensed, bright or obscure,  
Can execute their æry purposes,  
And works of love or enmity fulfil."

*Milton's Paradise Lost.*