

**ADA GREVILLE; OR,
WOMAN'S
CONSTANCY, IN
THREE VOLUMES, VOL. III**

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Ada Greville; Or, Woman's Constancy, in Three Volumes, Vol. III by Peter Leicester

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PETER LEICESTER

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ADA GREVILLE.

—
VOL. III.

ADA GREVILLE;

OR,

WOMAN'S CONSTANCY



BY PETER LEICESTER, ESQ.,

AUTHOR OF

"ARTHUR OF BRITTANY," "BOSWORTH FIELD," &c.

—Her love once given,
Woman gives life, gives hope, gives heaven.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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ADA GREVILLE;
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CHAPTER I.

He look'd upon the wave—so calm, so fair
It seem'd—no tempest rage was surely there,
Nor peril near—oh, false security!
His hopes to trust upon a treach'rous sea.
The storm burst forth, the wind swept by,
And with it bore that doom'd one's dying cry.

It will be necessary for the prosecution of our story, to give a brief outline of the political state of the Afghan capital, at the time of which we are writing.

The country itself is one to which great interest attaches in a variety of ways. The widely-believed tradition of its containing the veritable garden of Eden, where our first parents

brought blight and death into a world, till then perfect in beauty and blessedness: the almost certainty of its having been inhabited by the ancient patriarchs, more than one of whose tombs are still shown: the alleged tradition, too, of its having furnished the first King of Israel, in the person of Saul, the son of Kiah, who is claimed to have been a native of Affghanistan; and truly, although the claim may not be fully conceded, there is evidence enough of former connection between the nations, in the strong Jewish cast of the Affghan countenance, as also in some of the traits of character which still maintain.

Here, too, did the great Macedonian conqueror bring his arms; when, stayed by the river Indus, he vainly boasted that he had conquered the world, and placing his trophy there,—the beautiful and classic column above Cabool, where it still remains, in its green old age, to test the truth, he marched back dispirited.

Here, too, in far later times, was one of the largest empires established the world has seen, under the famous Sultan Mahmoud, who, plant-

ing his capital at Candahar, ruled an extent of country extending from the Tigris to the Euphrates, only to crumble from its ephemeral greatness to decay, when the forming hand was cold.

Here, too, was found, through the gorges in the impassable barriers by which it is on three sides surrounded, a ready way—the only path, indeed, from Persia and its neighbouring kingdoms on the west, and from the Tartan hordes to the north, by which their many invasions on Hindostan were for centuries made; and which attached to its geographical position an importance, which neither its teeming valleys, nor the scarcely yet tested riches of its mountains could have given it.

Broken up into a variety of small governments, each chief almost independent of his sovereign, and too often ready to assert his supremacy; with a wild, uneducated, lawless people, strong in their resentments, and unrestrained in their wills, save by the stronger despotism that professed to rule them; changes of dynasty, and the superadded evils of irregular succession, had

kept the whole land in a state of disorganization, which, offering little or no security for life or property, had made the law of the land that of force, each individual the judge and avenger of individual wrong.

On the death of the former King Zemaun, who, after a short and turbulent reign, had been cruelly murdered, his brother, the Shah Sujah, assumed to be his rightful successor, and took upon himself the regal power; his actual dominion, however, was only the government of Mulk, for his half-brother, Mahmoud, opposed him at Cabool, as did also the hereditary Vizier, Futteh Khan; and they succeeded in establishing there a joint government, to his utter seclusion.

Mahmoud, however, becoming jealous of the superior influence of his co-regnant, had speedily procured his assassination, vainly hoping thereby to secure to himself the individual rule.

The Vizier, however, had many brothers, all appointed to various governments, bold and active men; no sooner did they learn their brother's fate, than they rose against the usurper,