

# **THE CONSTANT PRINCE**

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The Constant Prince by C. R. Coleridge

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**C. R. COLERIDGE**

**THE CONSTANT  
PRINCE**



# THE CONSTANT PRINCE.

BY

C. R. COLERIDGE.

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"They also serve who only stand and wait,"

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LONDON:  
MOZLEY AND SMITH,  
6, PATERNOSTER ROW.  
1879.

251. c. 805

## PREFACE.

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It is commonly supposed that the writer of an historical tale idealises the characters therein represented, heightens the romance of the situation, and at any rate brings the fairer tints of the scene into undue prominence. I wish to make it clearly understood that I have not done so in this instance. The high cultivation, the mutual affection, the deep piety, all the peculiar characteristics of the Princes of Avis, are matters of history, and I have only found it impossible to do justice to them. The personal appearance of the three eldest, and the special line taken by all of them with regard to the cession of Ceuta, indeed the whole tragical story, I found ready to hand, the only imaginary incidents being the meeting of Enrique and Fernando at Arzella, and the presence of the two boy princes at the siege of Ceuta.

There is a *Life of the Constant Prince* which was written by the priest to whom I have given the name of Father José, which I regret much not having been

able to obtain, though the outline of the story of his imprisonment is, I believe, taken from it.

The details of the Treaty of Tangier are very obscure; but it appears that the Moorish king of Granada considered his African brethren as guilty of a breach of faith in detaining Fernando.

The English characters are of course wholly fictitious.

Lastly, Calderon in his play, "*Il Principe Costante*," and Archbishop Trench, in his beautiful poem of the "*Steadfast Prince*," represent Fernando as refusing to be ransomed by the cession of Ceuta. This refusal he had neither the power nor the right to make. His real nobleness lay in his willing acceptance of the suffering brought on him by the decision of others.

C. R. COLERIDGE.

HANWELL RECTORY,

*December 2, 1878.*

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