

**TALES AND
HISTORIC
SCENES IN VERSE**

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Tales and historic scenes in verse by Felicia Hemans

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FELICIA HEMANS

**TALES AND
HISTORIC
SCENES IN VERSE**

From a Library

TALES,
AND
HISTORIC SCENES,
IN VERSE.



BY FELICIA HEMANS,
AUTHOR OF THE RESTORATION OF THE WORKS OF ART TO ITALY,
MODERN GREECE, &c. &c.



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THE
WIDOW OF CRESCENTIUS.

“L'orage peut briser en un moment les fleurs qui tiennent encore la tête levée.”

MAD. DE STAEL.



ADVERTISEMENT.

“ IN the reign of Otho III., Emperor of Germany, the Romans, excited by their Consul, Crescentius, who ardently desired to restore the ancient glory of the republic, made a bold attempt to shake off the Saxon yoke, and the authority of the Popes, whose vices rendered them objects of universal contempt. The Consul was besieged by Otho in the Mole of Hadrian, which, long afterwards, continued to be called the Tower of Crescentius. Otho, after many unavailing attacks upon this fortress, at last entered into negotiations; and pledging his imperial word to respect the life of Crescentius, and the rights of the Roman citizens, the unfortunate leader was betrayed into his power, and immediately beheaded with many

of his partisans. Stephania, his widow, concealing her affliction and her resentment for the insults to which she had been exposed, secretly resolved to revenge her husband and herself. On the return of Otho from a pilgrimage to Mount Gargano, which, perhaps, a feeling of remorse had induced him to undertake, she found means to be introduced to him, and to gain his confidence, and a poison administered by her was soon afterwards the cause of his painful death."—See *Sismondi, History of the Italian Republics*, vol. i.