

# **WERNER: A TRAGEDY**

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Werner: a tragedy by George Gordon Byron Byron

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**GEORGE GORDON BYRON BYRON**

**WERNER:  
A TRAGEDY**



WERNER.

**W E R N E R,**

A TRAGEDY.

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BY LORD BYRON.

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LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE-STREET.

1823.

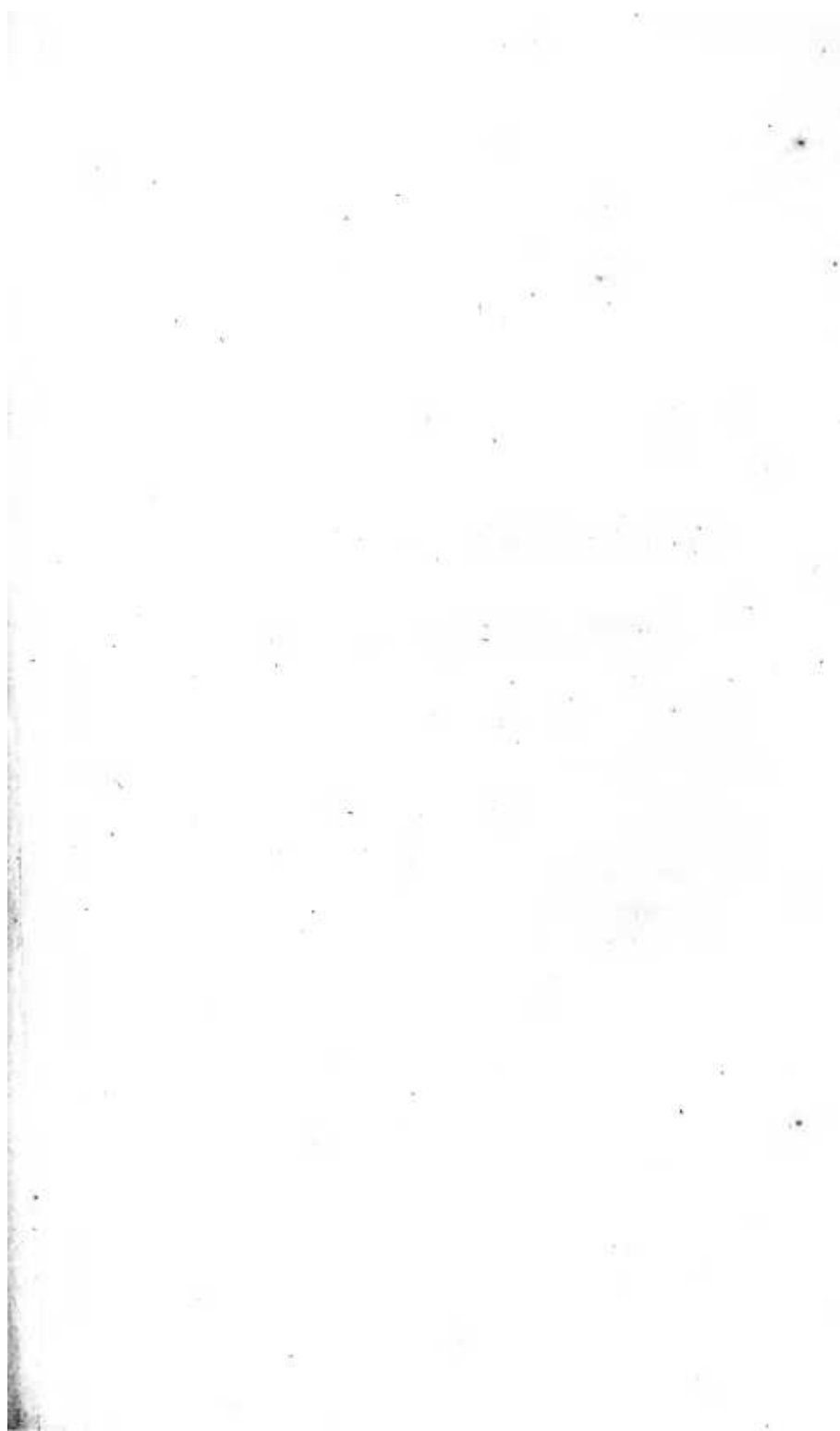
TO  
THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOËTHE,

BY ONE OF HIS HUMBLEST ADMIRERS,

THIS TRAGEDY

IS DEDICATED.

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## PREFACE.

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THE following drama is taken entirely from the "*German's Tale, Krutzner*," published many years ago in "*Lee's Canterbury Tales*;" written (I believe) by two sisters, of whom one furnished only this story and another, both of which are considered superior to the remainder of the collection. I have adopted the characters, plan, and even the language, of many parts of this story. Some of the characters are modified or altered, a few of the names changed, and one character (Ida of Stralenheim) added by myself: but in the rest the original is chiefly followed. When I was young (about fourteen, I think) I first read this tale, which made a deep impression upon me; and may, indeed, be said to contain the germ of much that I have since written. I am not sure that it ever was very popular; or, at any rate, its popularity has since been eclipsed by that of other great writers in the same department. But I have generally found that those who *had* read it, agreed with me in their estimate of the singular power of

mind and conception which it develops. I should also add *conception*, rather than execution; for the story might, perhaps, have been more developed with greater advantage. Amongst those whose opinions agreed with mine upon this story, I could mention some very high names; but it is not necessary, nor indeed of any use; for every one must judge according to their own feelings. I merely refer the reader to the original story, that he may see to what extent I have borrowed from it; and am not unwilling that he should find much greater pleasure in perusing it than the drama which is founded upon its contents.

I had begun a drama upon this tale so far back as 1815 (the first I ever attempted, except one at thirteen years old, called "*Ulric and Ilvina*," which I had sense enough to burn), and had nearly completed an act, when I was interrupted by circumstances. This is somewhere amongst my papers in England; but as it has not been found, I have re-written the first, and added the subsequent acts.

The whole is neither intended, nor in any shape adapted, for the stage.

Feb. 1822.

WERNER.

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