

**MARY TUDOR, AN
HISTORICAL DRAMA.
IN FIVE ACTS**

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Mary Tudor, an Historical Drama. In five acts by Primogene Duvard

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PRIMOGENE DUVARD

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HISTORICAL DRAMA.
IN FIVE ACTS**

MARY TUDOR;

AN

HISTORICAL DRAMA,

In Five Acts,

BY

PRIMOGENE DUVARD,

AUTHORESS OF A VOLUME OF "POEMS."

Price Two Shillings and Sixpence.



NORTHALLEERTON :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHORESS BY JAMES POPE,

1844.

P R E F A C E.



THE portion of history selected for the following drama, is so little known to the generality of readers ; and the former part of the reign of Henry VIII. so totally eclipsed by the striking events which attended its conclusion ; that a few prefatory remarks may not be unacceptable. All historians affirm that no prince ever ascended the British throne, with brighter prospects, both to himself and his subjects, than this monarch : having been (during the life of his brother Arthur) educated for the church ; his learning was superior to most of his contemporaries ; his athletic frame, and enterprising spirit, caused him to excel in the martial exercises of the age ; and his attachment and fidelity to the amiable Catherine, were no less conspicuous. Even Cardinal Pole, (his bitterest enemy) thus addresses him—" It must be allowed, that your Grace before the age of 40, was a far different person from what you now appear." And other writers concur, in dating the commencement of his crimes, from the period of his outrage to Queen Catherine : a lamentable instance of the *rapid* progress in a course of guilt, once entered upon ; and of the ease with which a mind, tainted

by the commission of one crime, passes on to the completion of others. The remaining characters of the drama, are, (it is presumed) sufficiently explained in the dialogue; aided by the accompanying notes.

As an apology for the violation of *dramatic unities*, must be offered—the imperfections incident to a first attempt; and the difficulty of compressing historical events, within the narrow limits prescribed: on which subject, Dr. Johnson, thus expresses his opinion—“The result of my inquiries, in which it would be ludicrous to boast of impartiality, is, that the unities of time and place, are not essential to a just drama; that, though they may sometimes conduce to pleasure, they are always to be sacrificed to the nobler beauties of variety and instruction; and that a play, written with nice observation of critical rules, is to be contemplated as an elaborate curiosity, as the product of superfluous and ostentatious art, by which is shown, rather what is possible, than what is necessary: since the greatest graces of a play, are to copy nature, and instruct life.”

The Authoress has now to tender her respectful acknowledgments to her friends and the public, for their patronage of her former work; and to request a continuance of their favors, should this historical sketch meet their approbation.

Northallerton, May 7th, 1844.

PROLOGUE.

Friends of the drama ! patrons of the stage !
 From the rich stores of history's vary'd page,
 A banquet is presented you this night,
 In humble hope you'll relish with delight,
 And by applause the Muse's toil requite. }
 To warm the breast with virtue's noble fire ;
 With lofty sentiments the soul inspire,
 Instruct the head ; and dignify the heart :
 Such is the purpose of dramatic art,
 When undisguised by errors devious maze,
 Genius and fancy, shed their cloudless rays.
 And if with these in unison combined,
 Historic truths are offered to the mind ;
 The drama justly may deserve applause,
 From all who honor wisdom's precious laws ;
 Who in the hours of recreative joy,
 As in the time when graver cares employ—
 Desire instruction ; food for after thought ;
 And lessons with a useful moral fraught.
 Who from the chronicles of former days,
 Derive examples worthy of their praise ;
 Or by the fate of others, timely learn,
 From paths of folly and of vice to turn.
 And if the picture here pourtrayed, shall tend,
 (However slightly) to promote this end ;
 If it but kindle in the list'ner's mind,
One generous feeling ; or *one* thought refined,
 The grateful muse her *full* reward shall meet,
 Her *hopes* accomplished, and her *wish complete*.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

- HENRY VIII.—*King of England*—aged 23.
 LOUIS XII.—*King of France*—aged 60.
 MAXIMILIEN—*Emperor of Germany*—aged 50.
 The DUC D'ANGOULEME—*afterwards Francis I.*
 —aged 22.
 CHARLES BRANDON—*Viscount de Lisle and Duke
 of Suffolk.*
 THOMAS WOLSEY*—*Almoner to King Henry,
 afterwards Bishop of Lincoln, and Tournay,
 and Archbishop of York*—aged 40.
 The DUC DE LONGUEVILLE—*A French General.*
 WILL SOMERS—*Jester to King Henry.*
 CATHERINE—*Queen of England*—aged 29.
 PRINCESS MARY—*Sister to King Henry*—aged 19.
 ANNE BOLEYN—*Attending the Princess Mary*—
 aged 8.

Courtiers, Ladies, Soldiers, Attendants, &c.

* Having accompanied the King as Almoner, in the French campaign of 1513, he was, on his return to England, appointed to the Bishopricks of Lincoln and Tournay; and in the autumn of 1514 he was advanced to the Archbishoprick of York; his predecessor, Cardinal Bambridge, having been poisoned by his servant at Rome.

MARY TUDOR,

AN

HISTORICAL DRAMA.

—♦♦♦—
ACT I.

SCENE I.—*An open country; in the distance the camp of the English; and the town of Terrouenne.*

Enter on one side King Henry, splendidly drest; attended by Brandon, Wolsey, and a guard of honor: On the other the Emperor Maximilien, in a plain black dress, followed by a few soldiers.

HENRY. Most noble Emperor! brave ally, and well-beloved brother; we greet you heartily, and bid you welcome to our camp.

MAX. * Renowned and valiant monarch! we come, a simple soldier, to place ourselves beneath thy banner, and to aid thy cause.

HENRY. Nay, nay, it were a *scandal* on our name, did we suffer the great Maximilien to be thus degraded: we would rather share equally with him the direction of our forces; and the glory of the enterprise.

MAX. We are not prepared for such an honor; nor do we desire aught so much, as to become a

* It is a fact that the Emperor, bringing with him 30 soldiers, entered Henry's service, and received pay as a common soldier.

soldier of the gallant Henry ; that prince, whose fame is heard in all the courts of Europe, and of whom the learn'd Erasmus* speaks in terms of *highest* commendation.

HENRY. To be approved by so profound a scholar, and so good a man, gives pride and satisfaction.

MAX. Nor less extended is the praise awarded to the lovely Catherine ; who is everywhere regarded as a pattern of all female virtue.

HENRY. And *justly, too* : she is, indeed, an honor to her sex, a blessing to her country and her consort : as is fully testified by the loving inquiries of our welfare, which she makes continually ; not only of ourselves, but also of Mr. Almoner Wolsey, as he himself can witness.† But, to return, we can in no wise accept the proffered assistance of our royal brother, save as equal with ourselves.

MAX. Then must we return to our dominions. Our late bereavement (occasioned by the death of a beloved Empress) and the small preparation we have made, unfitting us for so conspicuous a station.

HENRY. Well ! then, since thou art so resolute, rather than forego thine aid, we will engage thee for an hundred crowns per day. But, before entering on thy duties, we would request thy presence in the camp, to partake such entertainment as our situation offers : since the fast descending rain renders further conference in the open air far from desirable.‡

MAX. With thanks for your Highness' courtesy ;

* Erasmus was a great admirer of Henry, in early life, and always carried with him a Latin letter, written to him by Henry at the age of 9.

† In the former years of their union, it was a source of great delight to the King, to speak in praise of his excellent consort.

‡ At the conference of these sovereigns, the rain descended in torrents ; and completely soaked the gorgeous dresses of Henry and his suite.