MARY STUART: A TRAGEDY, FROM THE GERMAN OF SCHILLER, A NEW TRANSLATION; ALSO, THE PLAIN OF DURA, FROM THE THIRD CHAP. OF DANIEL

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FRIEDRICH SCHILLER

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A TRAGEDY,

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FROM THE

THIRD CHAP. OF DANIEL.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, GREEN, AND
LONGMAN;
AND JOHN STANFIELD, WAKEFIELD.
1833.

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PREFACE.

My translation of the entire play of Schiller's Maria Stuart, undertaken for amusement, had been completed before I saw that by the Rev. H. Salvin, published, it appears, in 1824. *I afterwards met with M. Pierre Lebrun's French version, with a Preface, in which he seems to doubt whether he had retained too much or too little of Schiller's Tragedy. M. Lebrun's Drama appeared to me to possess no advantage, except its greater brevity; but, on the other hand, to have lost much by a different arrangement of the Scenes and Sentiments.*

Warned by this experiment, and yet aware of the tedium arising from the too great prolixity of the original—too great a propensity to those "longeurs"

as the French call them, which the German Authors so often indulge in,—it struck me that an Improvement might be best effected by compression, or the omission of those repetitions and redundancies, which, whilst they add nothing to the general interest, militate so much against the commendation of Horace.

"Semper ad eventum festinat."

And I accordingly determined upon that plan of curtailment.

As the omissions I have alluded to will be pointed out, as they occur, in short notes, I will only here premise that I have altogether suppressed the scene between Elizabeth and Mortimer, in which the Queen of England proposes to him (openly as to purpose, though somewhat covertly in words) to take off Mary by poison, it would seem. This appeared too atrocious and improbable, considering Mortimer had been totally unknown to her a short time previously; nor does it in any wise assist the plot. I have retained,

it is true, Burleigh's hint to Paulet to the same effect, but the Lord Treasurer is solely influenced by motives of State and solicitude for Elizabeth's safety, which sentiments Paulet fully participates in.

In all other particulars (except the omissions noticed) I have adhered faithfully to the original, even retaining the rhymes where they are introduced, and the lyrical measure at the commencement of the Third Act. To the general reader, I am induced to believe this more compact form of Schiller's Maria Stuart will not be unacceptable; and the Student of German Literature may, perhaps, find an amusement in comparing the translation of Mr. Salvin and the one now offered. An identity of expression in each will naturally have occurred in some places, but I trust too rarely, and of too little importance to require much apology.

THE AUTHOR.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF ENGLAND.
MARY STUART, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND—*A Prisoner in England.*
ROBERT DUDLEY, EARL OF LEICESTER.
GEORGE TALBOT, EARL OF SHREWSBURY.
WM. CECIL, BARON BURLEIGH—*High Treasurer.*
EARL OF KENT.
WILLIAM DAVISON, *Secretary of State.*
SIR AMYAS PAULET—*Mary's Keeper, or Gaoler.*
MORTIMER, *his Nephew.*
COUNT AUBESPINE, *French Ambassador.*
COUNT BELLIÈVRE, *Envoy Extraordinary of France.*
O'KELLY, *Mortimer's Friend.*
DRURY, *Paulet's Servant.*
MELVIL, *Mary's Major Duomo, or Steward.*
HANNAH KENNEDY, *her Nurse.*
MARGARET CURLE, *her Waiting Woman.*
SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY.
OFFICER OF THE BODY GUARD.
FRENCH AND ENGLISH GENTLEMEN.
GUARDS.
SERVANTS OF THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND.
MALE AND FEMALE SERVANTS OF THE QUEEN OF SCOTLAND.
PAGE.