

**IMILDA DE'
LAMBERTAZZI,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Imilda de' Lambertazzi, and Other Poems by Sophia Mary Bigsby

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SOPHIA MARY BIGSBY

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S.H. 1830

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BY

SOPHIA MARY BIGSBY.

**LONDON:
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PREFACE.

AMONG the many tragical and romantic events to which the factions of the Guelphs and Ghibelins have, at various periods, given rise, few have been more affecting, or, probably, more important in their consequences, than the one on which the following little poem is founded. The incident is recorded in "Sismondi's *Histoire des Republiques Italianne*;" also in Mr. Percival's recent work upon Italy, from which the following outline of the story is extracted.

"The noble families of the Gieremei, and Lambertazzi of Bologna (the chiefs of the Guelph and

Ghibelin factions of their city had long been opposed in deadly animosity, when Bonifazio Gieremei, and Imilda, the daughter of Orlando de' Lambertazzi, forgot the enmity of their houses in the indulgence of a mutual and ardent passion. In one of their secret interviews, the lovers were betrayed to the brothers of Imilda; she fled at their approach, but they rushed upon Bonifazio, immediately despatched him with their poisoned daggers, and dragged his body to a deserted court. The unhappy girl upon returning, discovered his cruel fate by the stains of blood, and traced the corpse to the spot where it had been thrown. It was yet warm, and, with mingled agony and hope, she endeavoured to suck the venom from its wounds. But she only imbibed the poison into her own veins, and the ill-fated pair were found stretched lifeless together."

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