

DRAMATIC WORKS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649118281

Dramatic works by Felicia Hemans

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FELICIA HEMANS

**DRAMATIC
WORKS**

2E
H487d

DRAMATIC WORKS

BY

FELICIA HEMANS

11-11-1850
2

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON

1850

2011

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE VESPERE OF PALERMO,	1
THE SIEGE OF VALENCIA,	103
SEBASTIAN OF PORTUGAL,	139
DE CHATILLON,	231

THE VESPERS OF PALERMO

A DRAMATIC TRAGEDY

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

COUNT DI PROCIDA,		<i>A Noble of Conradin's party.</i>
RAIMOND DI PROCIDA,		<i>His Son.</i>
ERIBERT, - - - - -		<i>Viceroy of Sicily.</i>
DE COURT,		<i>A French Noble.</i>
MONTALPA, }	}	<i>Sicilian Nobles.</i>
GUIDO,		
ALBERTI,		
ANSELMO,		<i>A Monk.</i>
VITTORIA, -		<i>The betrothed of Conradin.</i>
CONSTANCE,		<i>Sister to Eribert.</i>

Nobles, Soldiers, Messengers, Vassals, Peasants, &c.

SCENE—Palermo.

THE VESPERS OF PALERMO

ACT I.

SCENE I. — *A Valley, with vineyards and cottages. Groups of peasants. PROCIDA, disguised as a pilgrim, among them.*

1ST PEASANT. — Ay, this was wont to be a festal time
In days gone by! I can remember well
The old familiar melodies that rose
At break of morn from all our purple hills,
To welcome in the vintage. Never since
Hath music seemed so sweet. But the light hearts
Which to those measures beat so joyously,
Are tamed to stillness now. There is no voice
Of joy through all the land.

2D PEASANT. — Yes! there are sounds
Of revelry within the palaces,
And the fair castles of our ancient lords,
Where now the stranger banquets. Ye may hear
From thence the peals of song and laughter rise
At midnight's deepest hour.

3D PEASANT. — Alas ! we sat,
 In happier days, so peacefully beneath
 The olives and the vines our fathers reared,
 Encircled by our children, whose quick steps
 Flew by us in the dance ! The time hath been
 When peace was in the hamlet, wheresoe'er
 The storm might gather. But this yoke of France
 Falls on the peasant's neck as heavily
 As on the crested chieftain's. We are bowed
 Even to the earth.

PEASANT'S CHILD. — My father, tell me when
 Shall the gay dance and song again resound
 Amidst our chestnut-woods, as in those days
 Of which thou'rt wont to tell the joyous tale !

1ST PEASANT. — When there are light and reckless hearts
 once more
 In Sicily's green vales. Alas, my boy !
 Men meet not now to quaff the flowing bowl,
 To hear the mirthful song, and cast aside
 The weight of work-day care : they meet to speak
 Of wrongs and sorrows, and to whisper thoughts
 They dare not breathe aloud.

PROCIDA (*from the background.*) — Ay, it is well
 So to relieve the o'erburthened heart, which pants
 Beneath its weight of wrongs ; but better far
 In silence to avenge them.

AN OLD PEASANT. — What deep voice
 Came with that startling tone ?

1ST PEASANT. — It was our guest's,
 The stranger pilgrim who hath sojourned here
 Since yester-morn. Good neighbours, mark him well :
 He hath a stately bearing, and an eye
 Whose glance looks thro' the heart. His mien accords