THE SECRETARY: A PLAY IN FIVE ACTS

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The Secretary: A Play in Five Acts by James Sheridan Knowles

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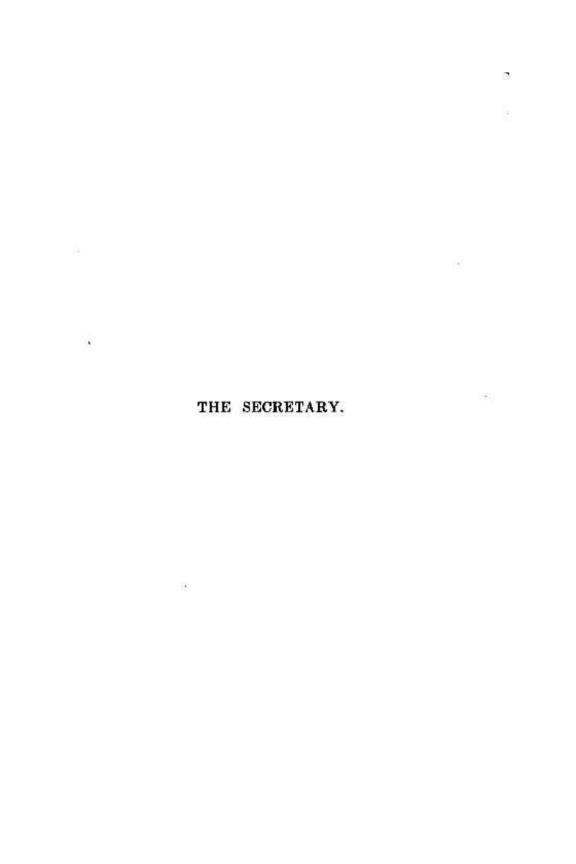
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JAMES SHERIDAN KNOWLES

THE SECRETARY: A PLAY IN FIVE ACTS





THE

SECRETARY.

M Play,

IN FIVE ACTS.

BY

JAMES SHERIDAN KNOWLES,

AUTHOR OF "THE HUNCHBACK," ETC.

LONDON:

EDWARD MOXON, DOVER STREET.

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TO

JOHN FORSTER, ESQUIRE,

317

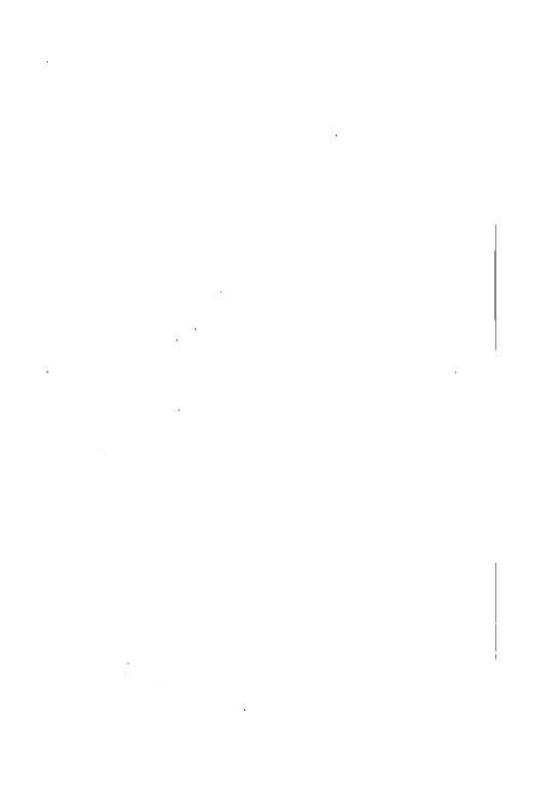
GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF MANY ACTS OF KINDNESS RENDERED TO THE AUTHOR,

12

THE COURSE OF RIS DRAMATIC CAREER,

Chis Blay

IS DEDICATED.



ADVERTISEMENT.

To Mr. James's able Novel of the "KING'S HIGHWAY,"

I am indebted for the Plot of this Drama, and I take this
opportunity of acknowledging my obligation in this particular
respect, and also of thanking the distinguished Author for many
an hour of sweet instructive beguilement, enjoyed in the perusal
of his productions.

For his careful revision of the MS, and for superintending the press, I return my hearty acknowledgments to my friend W. A. Dow, Esq., King's Bench Walk, Temple.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

The King		85	109	10	100	Ma. Rypen.
Duke of Gav	eston		10			Mr. G. BENNETT.
Lord Sherbro	oke	8	CO.		10	Mr. Hopson.
Lord Byerda	le	36			3	Mr. PRELPS.
Lord Sundur	у.	2€		8.4		MR. WALDRON.
Sir George 1	Barki	cy	16		90	MR. GRAEAM.
Sir Richard	Pent	vick	29	39	- 30	Mr. LYNNE.
Sir John Fri	end	•:			*	MR. MELLON.
Sir William	Park	yn.		29		Ma. Roberts.
Colonel Gree	ra .		3	127	- 0	MR. MACREADY.
Wilton .	. 27	100		- 100		Mr. ANDERSON.
Harrison	40	÷.		1		Mn. LAMBERT.
Charnock			3.0	6	*	MR. C. J. SMITH.
Armstrong	*3	363	90	*		Mr. Selsy.
Williams .		- 69	22.0	-14	181	MR. YARNOLD.
Page .	•	•8	•	10	*	MR. STARTON.
Lady Laura	Gave	ston	194	23		Miss HELEN FAUCIT.
Emmeline	*6		30	00	:00	MRS. WIGAN.

Conspirators, &c. &c.

THE SECRETARY.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Lord Byerdale's Study.—Wilton seated at a table in the act of writing.—Several folded letters before him, other letters lying open, papers, &c.

Wil.—That memory should feed itself! wax stronger In its impression, without agency Of that which wrought it; till the simulation-For e'en so much it is—grows palpable As the original—holds commune with Our ears and eyes, yet all's within ourself! At first her image was a dreamy thing That came and went, and might, for aught I deem'd, Have gone for ever-now 'tis ever with me! Substantial presence! steadfast constancy! I write, I read, I talk, and breaking off In listless absence, to myself return In company with her! She is my theme That supersedes all others! Why is this? What do I nourish? Hope in spite of hope! Madness of wishes—never to be bless'd! Her groom is not beneath her more than L. The secretary of a haughty lord! His clerk !—that in his counsels holds no share What better should I be, More than his pen! A man who claims no core of kith or kin In the wide world! I had a friend-a good And gracious one—who foster'd me, to play A higher part, Compell'd by urgent cause VOL. IV.