

**CONTARINI FLEMING. A
PSYCHOLOGICAL
AUTO-BIOGRAPHY.
IN FOUR VOLUMES; IV**

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Contarini Fleming. A psychological auto-biography. In four volumes; IV by Benjamin Disraeli

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BENJAMIN DISRAELI

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IV.

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EUROPE and AFRIC! I have wandered amid the tombs of Troy, and stood by the altar of Medea, yet the poetry of the Hellespont, and the splendour of the Symplegades must yield to the majesty of the Streights of Calpe.

Like some lone Titan, lurid and sublime, his throne the mountains, and the clouds his crown, the melancholy Mauritania sits apart, and gazes on the mistress he has lost.

And lo! from out the waves, that kiss her feet, and bow before her beauty, she

softly rises with a wanton smile. Would she call back her dark-eyed lover, and does the memory of that bright embrace yet dwell within the hallowed sanctuary of her heart?

It was a glorious union. When were maidens fairer and more faithful—when were men more gentle and more brave? When did all that can adorn humanity more brightly flourish, and more sweetly bloom? Alas! for their fair cities, and fine gardens, and fresh fountains! Alas! for their delicate palaces, and glowing bowers of perfumed shade!

Will you fly with me from the dull toil of vulgar life? Will you wander for a moment amid the plains of Granada? Around us are those snowy and purple mountains, which a Caliph wept to quit.