

**BELFAGOR,
A TALE**

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Belfagor, a tale by Niccolò Machiavelli

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NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI

**BELFAGOR,
A TALE**

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A Tale.



Machiavelli

————— "Wherein a Wife
" Worried a Devil himself out of his life."

Proem. v. 89-90.

—————
LONDON:

HENRY STARIE, 23 TICHBORNE STREET.

M.DCCC.XL.

610.

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DEDICATION.

TO

THE LADIES OF ENGLAND :

Who are equally above the blandishments of flattery and the shafts of satire ; contemning alike the fulsome panegyric and the severe tirade ; as pre-eminent in all the graces that everywhere ornament the Sex—as free from the foibles to which it is subject in less favoured Countries ; not less remarkable for mental powers than personal charms, while entirely unconscious of the possession of either ; as eminently fitted for both conditions, who ever adorn the celibatarian state—and in wedlock uniformly make the happiness of their Lords :

THIS

STORY OF AN UNFORTUNATE HUSBAND

IS,

WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT,

Dedicated,

BY THEIR SINCERE ADMIRER

AND MOST DEVOTED

AND VERY OBEДИENT HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.



P R E F A C E.

THE following Tale is versified from the prose of Machiavelli, in whose works it appears under the title of a *Novella*. Our Translation is closely faithful as to the incidents, and generally so even in the language: Nothing has been omitted; neither has any thing whatever been added, save an occasional expansion of the thought, and such a filling up of the ellipses as seemed absolutely necessary to the continuity of the narrative, which in the Original is often singularly abrupt and ill connected: Indeed the Italian's charming story, tho' a diamond, is one that still retains much of its native roughness; and we have deviated from it only where we hoped to give it a little more of the necessary polish.

Since doing our own we have met with a rhymed Version of this Story* entitled "Belphegor, or The Marriage of

* There is a french Translation of it, but very free—and certainly not improved by the variations, in a short light style, by La Fontaine. It is generally placed at the end of his Fables.

This again has been translated into english in a similar style, but also