

**THE BRIDAL OF
MELCHA: A
DRAMATIC SKETCH**

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The Bridal of Melcha: A Dramatic Sketch by Mary L. Boyle

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MARY L. BOYLE

**THE BRIDAL OF
MELCHA: A
DRAMATIC SKETCH**

THE

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

BRIDAL OF MELCHA;

A DRAMATIC SKETCH.

BY MARY L. BOYLE.

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LONDON:

HENRY COLBURN, PUBLISHER,

GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET.

1844.

TO
GEORGE P. R. JAMES, ESQ.,

THESE PAGES ARE

INSCRIBED,

BY HIS GRATEFUL FRIEND,

MARY LOUISA BOYLE.

MILLARD'S HILL, FROME,
March, 1844.

810310

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the hands of a Poet competent to the task, the historical event on which this little work is founded, would form a magnificent theme for an acting play. To such high views the Drama now before us does not aspire: it is intended simply for perusal, and is at best but a feeble attempt to illustrate a favourite subject.

With the exception of two friends, no one has yet seen or passed sentence on the "Bridal of Melcha;" the author's first essay in dramatic composition. Neither is the name which adorns the Dedication invoked as a guarantee for value, or a shield for imperfection, but is placed there, as a slight testimony of admiration, and gratitude.

THE BRIDAL OF MELCHA;

A PAGE FROM THE EARLY HISTORY OF IRELAND.

Dramatis Personæ.

IRISH.

CUTHULLIN (*otherwise MALACHI*), *Titular King of Ireland.*

FEARGUS, *a young Warrior, adopted by Cuthullin.*

RANDAL, *his Friend, and Comrade.*

DONAGH, PHELM, and MURTOUGH, *and others.*
Courtiers, Soldiers, and Attendants.

MELCHA, *the King's only Child.*

MORA, *Sister to Feargus, betrothed to Randal.*

Maidens attendant on the Princess.

The first three acts are laid in, or near the Palace of Cuthullin.

DANES.

THORGILL (*otherwise TERGESIUS*), *the Danish Conqueror, self-styled Colleague of Cuthullin, but in fact swaying with cruel and despotic rule, the whole Island.*

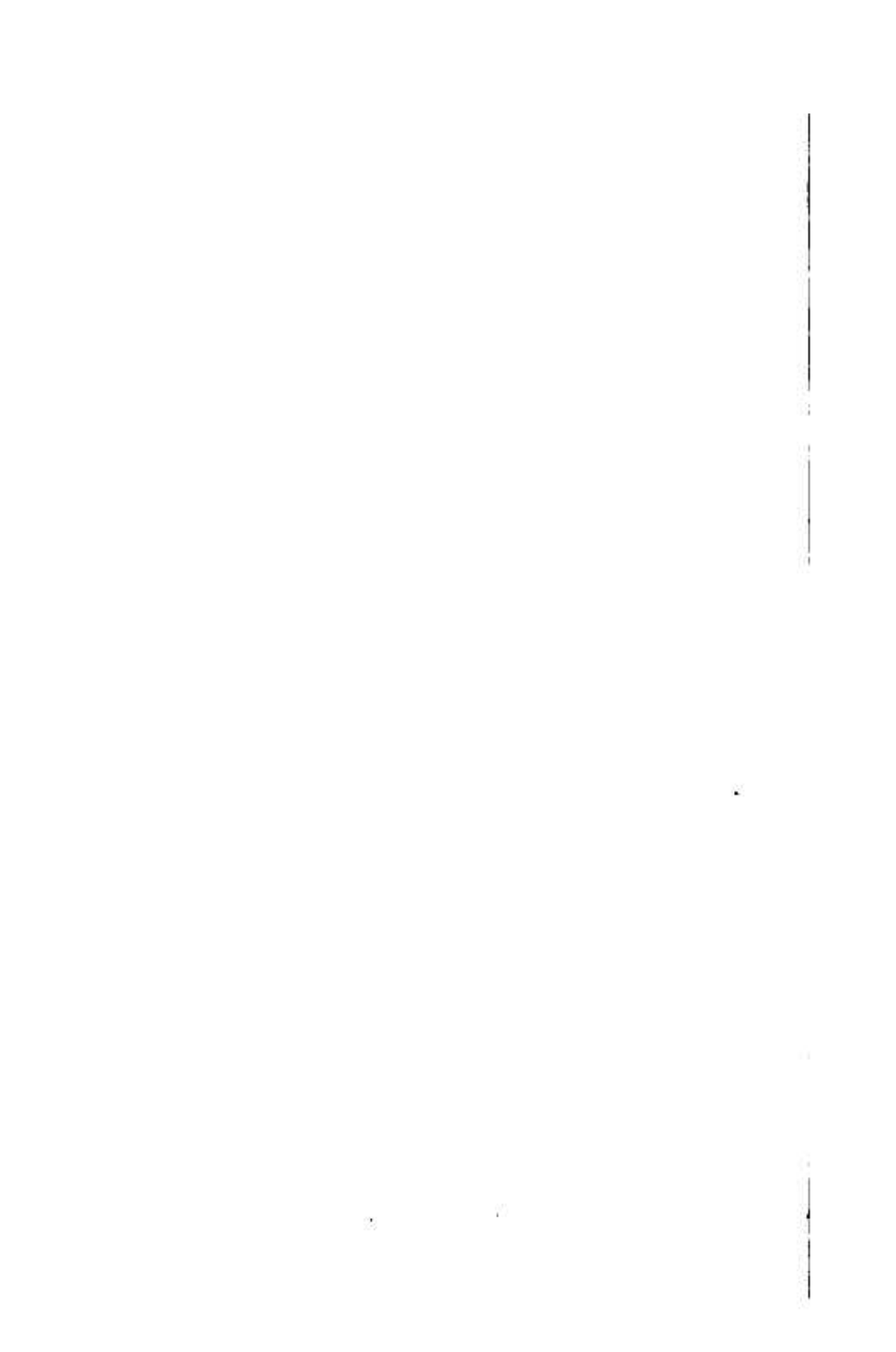
SWENO, *an aged Bard.*

HAROLD, STARNO, ALPIN, ERIC, *and many other Courtiers, Attendants, and Guards.*

The last act is laid in, and before the Castle of Thorgill.

Epoch, the Ninth Century.

The time occupied by the Drama, is supposed to be one month.



THE
BRIDAL OF MELCHA.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—*Room in the King's Palace.*

Enter FEARGUS and his Sister.

FEARGUS. And trust me so far, sister, in my place
You'd feel as I do—act as I have done.
The heart, whose beats are measured in your breast,
Would flutter, stop, and then begin to knock
Against its prison walls, and cry so loud
'Twould drown the feebler accents of your lips,
Did they essay to speak, 'mid such a din.
The will that would surmount all obstacles—
The mind that would o'errule the destiny—
Ay, that same eagerness which dances now
In thy dark eye, and plays around thy lip—
Believe me, Mora, all would be subdued,
Deadened, and overpowered by such a presence.