

**THE STORY OF CERVANTES: WHO  
WAS A SCHOLAR, A POET, A  
SOLDIER, A SLAVE AMONG THE  
MOORS, AND THE AUTHOR OF  
"DON QUIXOTE"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649713417

The Story of Cervantes: Who Was a Scholar, a Poet, a Soldier, a Slave among the Moors, and the Author of "Don Quixote" by Amelia B. Edwards

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

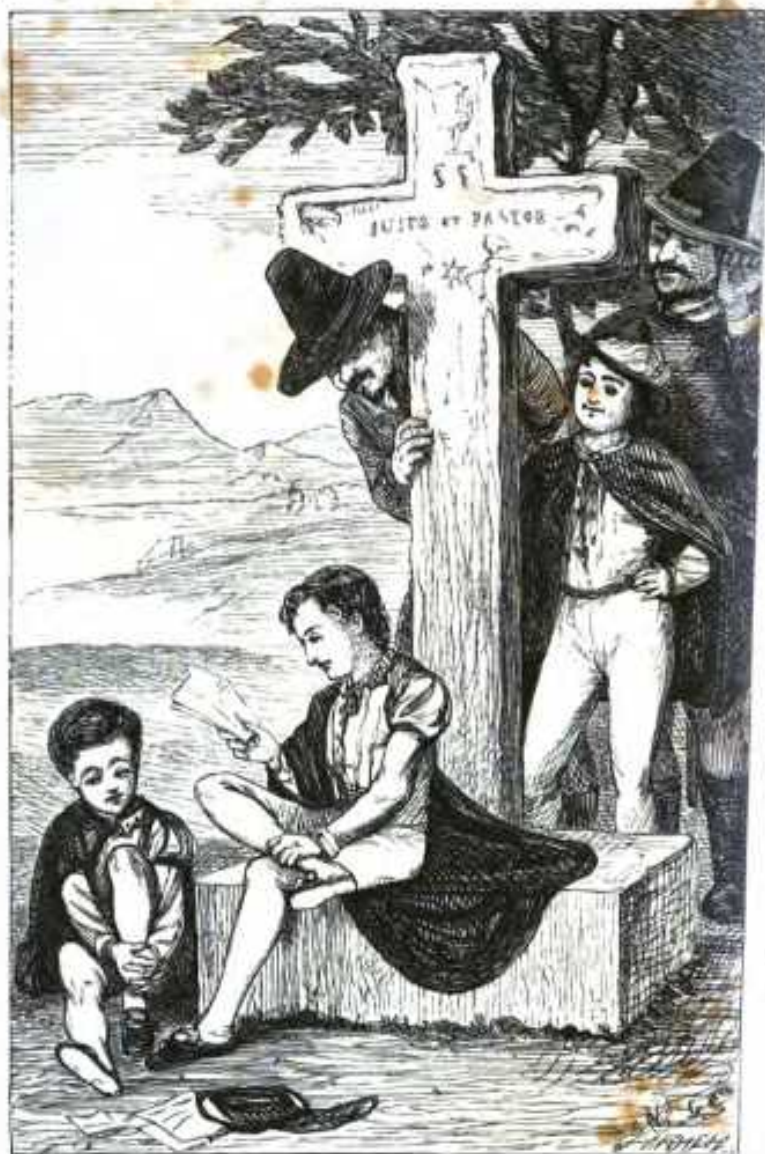
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this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

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**AMELIA B. EDWARDS**

**THE STORY OF CERVANTES: WHO  
WAS A SCHOLAR, A POET, A  
SOLDIER, A SLAVE AMONG THE  
MOORS, AND THE  
AUTHOR OF "DON QUIXOTE"**





Cervantes reading his first Romance.

THE  
STORY OF CERVANTES;

WHO WAS

A SCHOLAR, A POET, A SOLDIER, A SLAVE AMONG THE MOORS,  
AND THE AUTHOR OF "DON QUIXOTE."

BY

AMELIA B. EDWARDS,

AUTHOR OF "MY BROTHER'S WIFE," "THE LADDER OF LIFE," ETC.

WITH SIX ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:  
ROUTLEDGE, WARNE, & ROUTLEDGE,  
FARRINGTON STREET;  
NEW YORK: 59, WALKER STREET.  
1863.

TO  
MY FRIEND AND COUSIN,  
**M. BETHAM - EDWARDS:**

WHOSE ADMIRABLE VOLUMES FOR THE YOUNG  
DELIGHT READERS OF ALL AGES,  
THIS LITTLE BOOK  
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

A. B. E.

IN SIXPENNY NUMBERS.

**Every Boy's Magazine,**

AN

**Illustrated Monthly Periodical,**

CONTAINING

CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE MOST POPULAR  
AUTHORS OF THE DAY.

*Each Number comprises Sixty-four well-printed Pages  
and Twelve Illustrations.*



## PREFACE.

---

TRAVELLING home from Rome, some years ago, we chanced to pass the Easter Sunday in a certain town of the Italian Tyrol. Long before church-time, every road and mountain-path in the neighbourhood swarmed with peasantry, old and young, on foot and on horseback; and, as midday approached, not only the church but the church-yard, and a good acre or two of meadow slope beyond, were densely crowded. At twelve, the bells ceased ringing, and a profound silence fell upon the congregation. This silence was presently interrupted by a prolonged flourish of trumpets. The flourish of trumpets was followed by a popular overture of Rossini's, very creditably performed by a provincial band. Then came another flourish of trumpets; then marched in eighteen gorgeous beadies, two and two, with cocked hats and halberts, and crimson silk shoulder-scarves, embroidered with gold; and then . . . . . a very little boy in a soiled surplice, several inches too long for him, who looked terribly frightened, and

lit the candles ! We had expected to see a bishop at the very least.

The word PREFACE, at the top of this page, put us in mind, somehow, of that Easter Sunday. Our story of Cervantes is a volume of slender bulk and few pretensions. The little which we have to say about it may be told in a few words—might, perhaps, be left altogether unsaid, without loss to the reader—and scarcely deserves mention in this place at all. In short, we have serious misgivings lest our Preface may come to be regarded as a wasteful and ridiculous expenditure of trumpets and beads, with a mere small boy to follow.

Briefly, then, truth of historical fact and truth of local colour are the only merits to which this little story lays claim. For the former we have chiefly relied on Mr. Roscoe's "Life of Cervantes," a work which may justly be regarded as an authentic epitome of all hitherto ascertained information upon the subject. That the bulk of this information should not, after all, be more copious is matter for regret ; but the lives of great poets have, for the most part, come down to us in fragments ; and these fragments, of which Miguel Cervantes is the hero, are doubtless more than usually ample and satisfactory. He lived in stirring times ; he took part

in stirring deeds; he fought his way to fame, sword in hand, and was known to his contemporaries for his valour, his virtues, and his misfortunes, long years before his plays filled the theatres of Madrid, or his "Don Quixote" charmed the melancholy of Philip of Spain. Hence we find record of him in many directions; read his praise in military despatches; are enabled to follow him in his campaigns; hear of him in Algiers, through the memoirs of his fellow captives; and trace the slow progress of his release and after career by means of all kinds of mouldering petitions, official letters, and half-forgotten parchments, which have from time to time been sought out and deciphered by successive generations of biographers. We should deem ourselves rich in precious knowledge if we possessed but half as many particulars of the life of our own Shakespeare. Of these details, then, dry and somewhat monotonous as they frequently are, we have availed ourselves as fully as the limits of this little tale would permit. We have taken them for the basis of every important incident, adhered to them conscientiously throughout, and, however we may have ventured to embellish them by the aid of fiction, have in no case distorted or falsified them to suit the purposes of the story.