

**THE ARMENIAN; OR, THE
GHOST SEER.
A HISTORY FOUNDED ON
FACT, VOL. I**

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The Armenian; Or, the Ghost Seer. A History Founded on Fact, Vol. I by F. Schiller & W. Render

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F. SCHILLER & W. RENDER

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ARMENIAN;

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John Charles Smith
TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF

F. SCHILLER,

AUTHOR OF THE ROBBERS, DON CARLOS, &c.

BY

THE REV. W. RENDER.

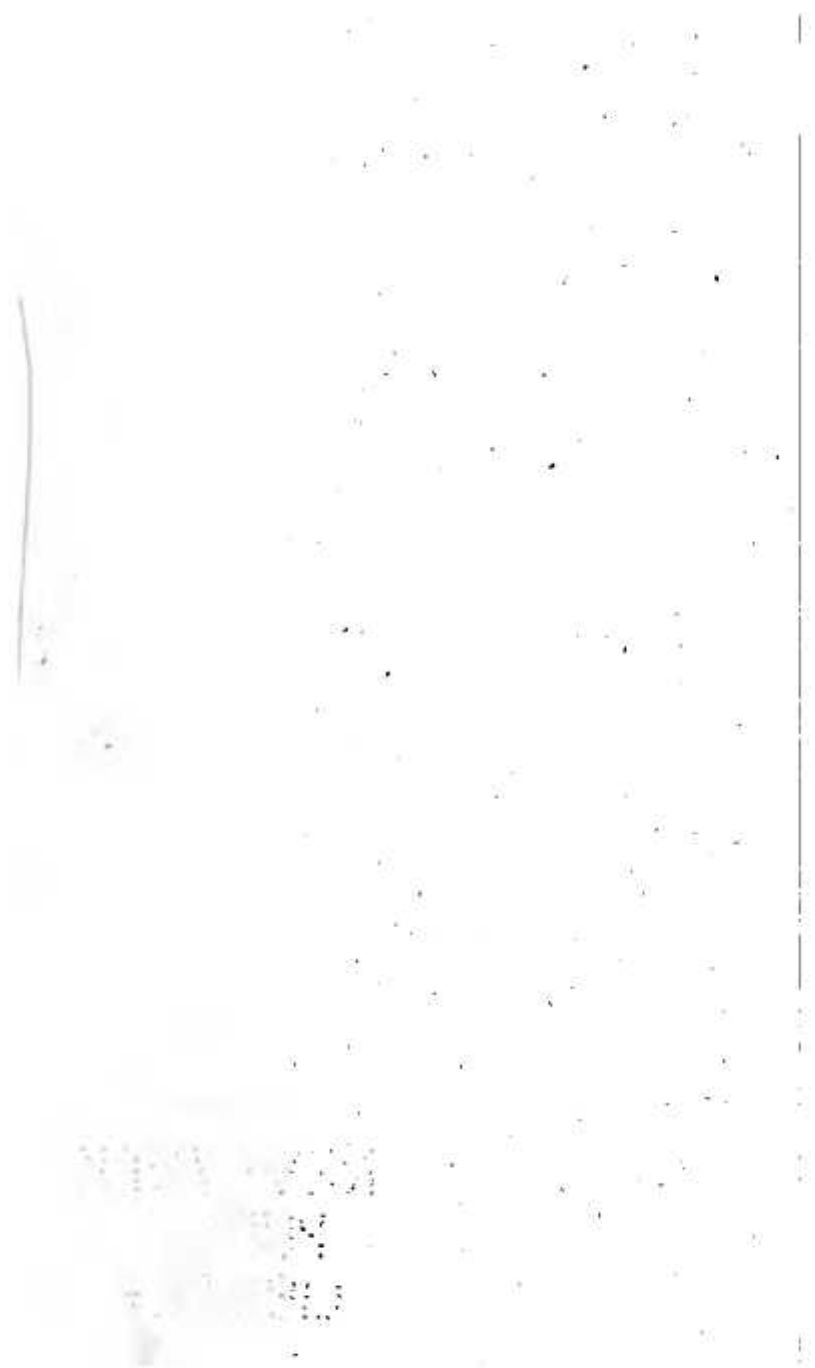
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ADVERTISEMENT.

*THE Work now presented to the Public originally appeared in a German periodical publication entitled, THALIA, under the name of The Ghost Seer, a True History, found among the Papers of Count O** ; and was continued from time to time. It has been supposed, and it is not improbable, that it was intended to expose the impostures of the sect of the Illuminati, which was then beginning to extend itself in Germany.*

Germany. A translation of the first volume was published about five years ago, with a very imperfect and unsatisfactory account of the conclusion of the *History*. It was presumed, that a faithful translation of the whole *Work* would be highly acceptable to those who have read that volume, and to all the admirers of the genius of *Schiller*.

THE
GHOST SEER.

I SHALL relate an event, which to many will appear incredible, but of the greatest part of which I myself was an eye witness. The few, who are acquainted with a certain political occurrence, will (if these leaves should find them alive) have a perfect key to the publication; but without this Key it will be looked upon as an addition to the history of deceit and artifice so often imposed upon mankind. The boldness of the undertaking, which malice was able to conjecture and to pur-

ful, must excite astonishment, and also the methods which they were able to invent, to secure themselves in their projects. Genuine, bold truth, will conduct my pen ; for when these leaves go into the world, I shall probably be no more, and shall never experience the credit with which they are received.

It was on my return to Courland, in the year 17—, about the time of the Carnival, that I paid a visit to the Prince of W.... in Venice. We had known each other in the P.... military service, and renewed here an acquaintance which peace had interrupted. As I wished to see the remarkable city of Venice, the Prince easily persuaded me to bear him company, and to delay my departure from hence until his remittances, which were expected every day, arrived. We agreed to live together as long as our stay at
Venice

Venice should last, and the Prince was so kind as to offer to share his habitation with me at the Moor Hotel. He lived in disguise, because he wished to enjoy himself, and his little income did not permit him to maintain the dignity of his rank. Two cavaliers, upon whose secrecy he could entirely rely, composed (besides some trusty servants) his whole household. He shunned expences more from temperance than œconomy. He fled from diversions of all kinds ; and at the age of thirty-five years, it may be said, that he had resisted all the charms of that voluptuous city. The fair sex was not regarded by him : gravity, and an almost profound melancholy, overshadowed his mind. His passions were still, but obstinate to excess ; his choice slow and fearful ; his attachment warm and lasting. Locked up in his own visionary ideas, he often was a stranger to the world about him ; and, con-