

**PLIGHTED TROTH; OR, A
WOMAN HER OWN
RIVAL. A DRAMATIC
TALE IN FIVE ACTS**

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Plighted Troth; Or, A Woman Her Own Rival. A Dramatic Tale in Five Acts by Charles F. Darley

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CHARLES F. DARLEY

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RIVAL. A DRAMATIC
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PLIGHTED TROTH;

OR,

A WOMAN HER OWN RIVAL.

A DRAMATIC TALE.

IN FIVE ACTS.

LONDON:
SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

1842.

1036.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY HULLER AND CO. 15, POLAND STREET.

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P R E F A C E.

It was in this form—a Dramatic Tale—that these pages were originally cast. The Work had been commenced without any view to the Stage, or any object beyond that of evolving what appeared to be a story of some interest, in whatever mode might suggest itself as the most adequate. As the composition however proceeded, the essential element of Dramatic Action now came to be more scrupulously employed, than it previously had been, and the foregoing portions of the Piece having been revised on this principle, it seemed at length to have assumed a shape, which, with considerable curtailment, and some alteration in the frame-work, might not eventually prove unsusceptible of Theatrical Representation. Upon this chance it was submitted, on its completion, to Mr. Maccreechy. His judgment corroborated my hopes. He candidly and explicitly declared his sense of the difficulties of the enterprize; but warmly testifying, meanwhile, to what he conceived to be valuable in the Work, and to the earnest which, on the whole it seemed to offer of success, moreover anxious, even at a personal risk, to respond to the demand of the Public for new plays, he finally undertook the experiment of putting it upon the Boards. Accordingly the Piece being cut down into the dimensions, and recast, as we hoped, in the mould adapted for representation, was produced at Drury Lane.—Its fate is well known.

PREFACE.

Against the verdict pronounced on the 20th of April last, upon the Play of *PLIGHTED TROTH*, it is very far from my intention to appeal, however I may recoil from the manner in which, in some quarters, it was subsequently recorded. These pages are now published not with the weak design of endeavouring to reverse that sentence; but simply through the natural desire of an Author under such circumstances, to show, that there are perhaps some redeeming merits in this Dramatic Tale to, at the least, plead—if I may carry on the figure—in mitigation of damages. Possibly I may by this proceeding only make my Dramatic incapacity, as also Mr. Macready's error in abetting it, the more apparent; possibly, however, on the other hand—and I trust I am not presumptuous in indulging in the expectation—I may hereby in some degree retrieve both myself and him. It is left for the Public to judge.

I shall not here enter into any discussion, with respect to the animadversions which have been passed upon various portions of this Play. The book must speak for itself. The evidence it furnishes will either confirm those charges, or will quash them; and therefore anything I might now advance with a view to my justification, would, in either event, be needless. The instinct, however, will I am sure be pardoned, which prompts me, whilst dismissing the subject, to say thus much: that under all circumstances, and for whatever literary sins I may be proved responsible by the result of this Trial, I yet hold by the conviction, and abide in the self-reliance which assures me, that no graver trespass will be found to harbour in these pages.

PERSONS.

SIR GABRIEL GRIMWOOD.

WORMALL, *Steward to Grimwood.*

WILLOUGHBY, *Grimwood's Ward.*

JOYBEL, *A Peer, and Friend to Willoughby.*

FOLIO, *A Scholar.*

SIFTWELL, } *Lawyers.*
PROBIT, }

MAURICE, *One of Grimwood's Retainers.*

GILBURN, *A Bravo.*

CRABTREE.

A PRIEST.

AN OFFICER OF JUSTICE.

Gentlemen, Constables, Bravos, Pages, Attendants, &c.

MADDALENE, *At first a Dependant in Grimwood's Household, and afterwards* COUNTESS ST. AURIOL.

LADY BARBARA VALAMOUR, *Friend to the Countess.*

WINIFRED, *At first a Servant in Grimwood's Retinue, and afterwards in that of the Countess.*

NIBBLE, *Lady Barbara's Waiting Woman.*
Ladies, Attendants, &c.

SCENE—*during Act I. Grimwood's Castle in the remote parts of Cumberland.*

TIME 1684.

PLIGHTED TROTH;

OR,

A WOMAN HER OWN RIVAL.

ACT I.

SCENE I.

An apartment of antique structure furnished correspondingly. A table in the centre with flasks and tankards, &c. scattered on it. GRIMWOOD sits at one side, and appears absorbed and excited. WORMALL stands at some distance from the other side as if watching GRIMWOOD's movements.

Wormall (apart). THE wine works well, and his fierce spirit's in flames!—

And now amid' the unwary turmoil of
The burning tenement to filch therefrom
This the last clause of his councils, which like all
Forerunning it he fain would treasure up
Within himself, but yet whereof I look
To be—as I already am of those—
The joint depository and co-partner.
More's meant than meets the ear in this device
Of banishing the youth.—

Grimwood (apart and struggling with himself.) Down,
fury down—

Or ye will rend me asunder, and lay bare
The very heart of my purpose, marring thus
The boldest game that e'er was played for Fortune!

Wormall (still apart). We're little skilled in Divination, or
The orphan Maddalene's the more especial