

**SALANDER AND THE
DRAGON: A ROMANCE
OF THE HARTZ PRISON**

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Salander and the Dragon: A Romance of the Hartz Prison by Frederick William Shelton

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FREDERICK WILLIAM SHELTON

**SALANDER AND THE
DRAGON: A ROMANCE
OF THE HARTZ PRISON**

Frederic S. Cogges
from his friend
the Author,
Feb. 11. 1852.



SALANDER
AND
THE DRAGON.



NEW-YORK:
JOHN S. TAYLOR, 143 NASSAU STREET.

1852.

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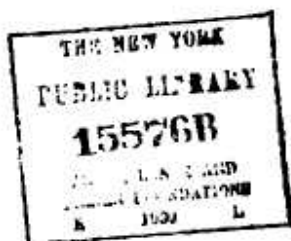
BY
FREDERIC WILLIAM SHELTON, M.A.,

Never any thing can come amiss,
When simplicity and duty tender it.
Midsummer Night's Dream.

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20



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PREFACE.

THE following little allegory is intended to illustrate the danger of uttering or of lending ear to the unkind word or insinuation, a sin which may justly be esteemed as a root of bitterness, and from which, in some shape or other, none but those who are nearly angels are exempt. The application being so general, although a few of the following pages may appear too light for the high moral design which we have desired to convey, it is hoped that this error, if it be one, may be pardoned, because the intention is good. Should this simple offering be the means of drawing attention to the detestable habit of detraction, and of presenting it in a just light, its object will be attained.

"ALAS! it is strange to consider the depravity of our nature—how we delight in other men's sins, and are secretly glad when their miscarriages give us an occasion to reproach or disgrace them. How many are big with such stuff, and go in pain till they have disburthened themselves into the ears of others! And some are such ill dissemblers of their joy, that they do it with open scorn and irrision. Others are more artfully malicious, and with a deep sigh, and downcast look, and whining voice, and an affected soberness, whisper to one, 'Alas! did you not hear of such a gross miscarriage by such a one?' And then whisper the same thing to another, and a third; and when they have made it as public as they can, hypocritically desire every one to keep it secret, for that they should be loth their neighbor should come to any disgrace or trouble about it. Believe it, sirs, this, though the matter you report be never so true, is nothing else but SLANDER."—OLD AUTHOR.