

**SELECT TALES IN
PROSE AND VERSE;
PP. 193-376**

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Select tales in prose and verse; pp. 193-376 by Peter Parley

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PETER PARLEY

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IN

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BY PETER PARLEY.

(FROM THE MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL.)



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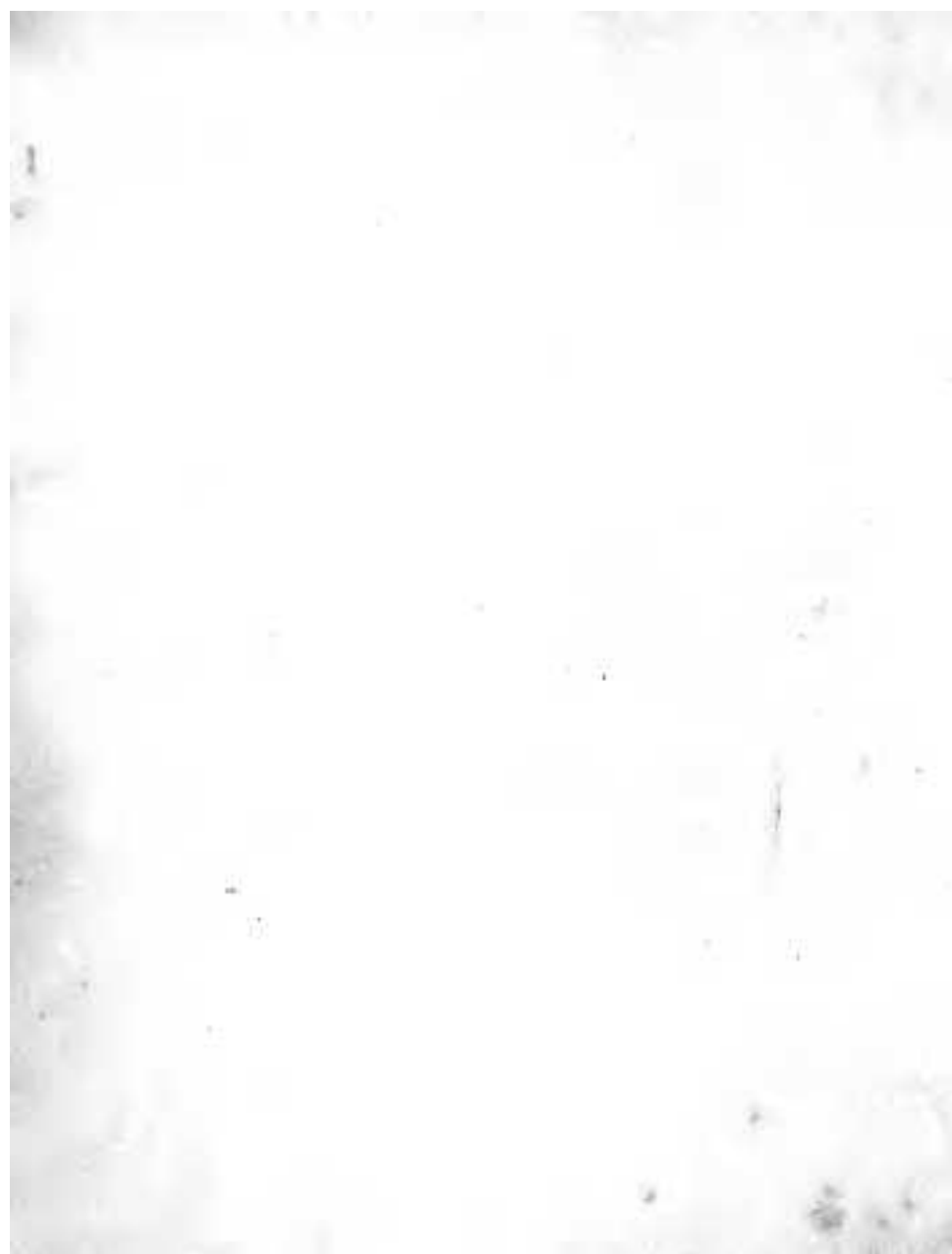
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P R E F A C E.

THE present Tales are taken from Peter Parley's Magazine and Annual, which possess nearly the largest circulation of any periodical work, yet price puts them out of the reach of a large number of readers, who would gladly possess them in the present shape.

Should the purchaser find that his young friend has the same Tales in the Annual, the proprietor feels assured that the bookseller would not hesitate for a moment to exchange the book for any other volume of the same value.



TALES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY



STORY OF QUEEN MARGARET.

THE Wars of the Roses, as they were called, were the most bloody that ever occurred in any country or at any time. The Yorkists and Lancasterians were infuriated against each other to a degree of frenzy; and the poor, good, but spiritless Henry VI., on one side, and Edward IV. and his brothers on the other, devastated England by their abominable and wicked quarrels.

Edward IV. was one of the vilest wretches that ever lived: this tyrant was hardened against any feelings of compassion. One Burdett, a tradesman of London, who kept a shop at the sign of the Crown, having said in a joke that he would make his son heir to the Crown, this pleasantry was interpreted by the tyrant, Edward, into a derision of his title, and the poor fellow was condemned and executed for the trumpety offence. Similar acts of tyranny were proper pre-^{ludes} to the events which ensued; and the scaffold as well as the field incessantly streamed with the richest blood of England.

The spirit of Margaret, Queen of Henry VI., was masculine and indomitable. She had collected an army in Yorkshire, sixty thousand strong, and the king and the Earl of Warwick hastened with forty thousand men to check her progress. In a skirmish for the passage of the river Ayre, the Yorkists were chased back with great slaughter. The Earl of Warwick, dreading the consequences of this disaster, at a time when a decisive action was every hour expected, immediately ordered his horse to be brought to him, which he stabbed before the whole army, and kissing the hilt of his sword, swore that he was determined to share the fate of the meanest soldier. And, to show the greater security, a proclamation was at that time issued, giving to every one full liberty to retire, but menacing the severest punishment to those who should discover any symptoms of cowardice in the ensuing battle.

At last the hostile armies met at Towton, and a fierce and bloody battle ensued, which ended in a total victory on the side of the Yorkists. Edward issued orders to give no quarter. The routed army was pursued to Tadcaster, with great bloodshed and confusion, and above thirty-six thousand men are computed to have fallen in the battle and the pursuit.