

**THE REVOLUTIONARY
EPICK, AND
OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649150533

The revolutionary epick, and other poems by Benjamin Disraeli

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

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

**THE REVOLUTIONARY
EPICK, AND
OTHER POEMS**

THE REVOLUTIONARY EPICK
AND OTHER POEMS

THE
REVOLUTIONARY EPICK
And Other Poems

BY
BENJAMIN DISRAELI
(Earl of Beaconsfield)

Reprinted from the Original Edition, and Edited by
W. DAVENPORT ADAMS

LONDON
HURST AND BLACKETT, LIMITED
182, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

1904

All rights reserved

115-140
8/6/11

CONTENTS.



	PAGE
THE REVOLUTIONARY EPICK :—	
BOOK I.	I
BOOKS II. AND III.	51
THE TRAGEDY OF COUNT ALARCOS	125
THE STAR CHAMBER	211
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS	224

The
Revolutionary Epick

THE WORK OF
DISRAELI THE YOUNGER
AUTHOR OF
"THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ROMANCE"

LONDON:
EDWARD MOXON, DOVER STREET

—
MDCCCXXXIV

PREFACE.

It was on the plains of Troy that I first conceived the idea of this work. Wandering over that illustrious scene, surrounded by the tombs of heroes and by the confluence of poetic streams, my musing thoughts clustered round the memory of that immortal song, to which all creeds and countries alike respond, which has vanquished Chance, and defies Time. Deeming myself, perchance too rashly, in that excited hour, a Poet, I cursed the destiny that had placed me in an age that boasted of being anti-poetical. And while my Fancy thus struggled with my Reason, it flashed across my mind, like the lightning which was then playing over Ida, that in those great poems which rise, the pyramids of poetic art, amid the falling and the fading splendor of less creations, the Poet hath ever embodied the spirit of his Time. Thus, the most heroic incident of an heroic age produced in the *Iliad* an Heroic Epick; thus, the consolidation of the most superb of Empires, produced in the *Æneid* a Political Epick; the revival of Learning, and the birth of vernacular Genius, presented us in the *Divine Comedy* with a National Epick; and the Reformation and its consequences called from the rapt lyre of Milton a Religious Epick.

And the spirit of my Time, shall it alone be uncelebrated?
Standing upon Asia, and gazing upon Europe, with the

broad Hellespont alone between us, and the shadow of Night descending on the mountains, these mighty continents appeared to me as it were the Rival Principles of Government, that at present contend for the mastery of the world. "What!" I exclaimed, "is the Revolution of France a less important event than the siege of Troy? Is Napoleon a less interesting character than Achilles? For me remains the Revolutionary Epick."

Full of these thoughts, I descended to the shore, and again embarking, a favoring breeze filled our languid sails, and as the morning broke over the waters of the Propontic Sea, I beheld the glittering minarets and the cypress groves of the last city of the Cæsars.

In that delightful metropolis, more than once my thoughts recurred to my Dardanian reverie; but the distraction of far travel, and the composition of two works long meditated—one devoted to the delineation of the Poetic Character, the other to the celebration of a gorgeous incident in the annals of that sacred and romantic people from whom I derive my blood and name*,—finally expelled from my thoughts a conception which, in truth, I deemed too bold.

My return to the strife of civilisation recalled old musings, and the work, first conceived amid the sunny isles of the Egean, I have lived to mature, and in great part compose, on the shores of a colder sea, but not less famous land. Yet I have ventured to submit to the public

* Both these works have been since published: The first is "THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ROMANCE," published under the bibliopolic baptism of "CONTARINI FLEMING," which means nothing: the second is "THE WONDROUS TALE OF ALROY." With respect to the title of the present poem, let me remind hypercritics that *Epick* is a good substantive, and as such is admitted into the classical dictionary of our language.

but a small portion of my creation, and even that, with unaffected distrust and sincere humility. Whatever may be their decision, I shall bow to it without a murmur; for I am not one who find consolation for the neglect of my contemporaries in the imaginary plaudits of a more sympathetic Posterity. The public will, then, decide whether this work is to be continued and completed; and if it pass in the negative, I shall, without a pang, hurl my lyre to Limbo.

The two first books of this Revolutionary Epick comprise the pleadings of the rival Genii. The action of the fable commences with the third book. This work, if it be permitted to proceed, will, I hope, evolve a moral, which governors and the governed may alike peruse with profit; and which may teach wisdom both to monarchs and to multitudes.

Bradenham House, Bucks, March 16th, 1834.