

**THE CARPENTER OF
ROUEN; OR, THE SECRET
ORDER OF THE CONFREIE.
A DRAMATIC TALE**

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The Carpenter of Rouen; Or, the Secret Order of the ConfreIe. A Dramatic Tale by J. S. Jones

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J. S. JONES

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THE
CARPENTER OF ROUEN;

OR,

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A DRAMATIC TALE

Joseph Stevens
BY J. S. JONES, M. D.

"The knows our purpose and our plot;
The matter being afoot, keep your instruction,
And hold you ever to our special drift;
Though sometimes you do blanch from this to that,
As cases doth minister."

BOSTON:
PHILLIPS, SAMPSON, AND COMPANY.

1849.

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1866, Nov 12

By Esch. of depl.
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of Cambridge

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PREFACE.

SOME years since, two dramas were produced by the author, under the titles of "CARPENTER OF ROUEN," and "SURGEON OF PARIS." The history of the persecutions of the Huguenots, in the sixteenth century, furnished the suggestive material for these two plays, both of which have been popular upon the stage.

For the purposes of the theatre, the historical allusions were sufficiently clear. The combined effects of scenery and machinery, with appropriate costumes, aiding the reproduction of events so chronicled, give an acted story a reality and power, appreciable by an auditor, which no conventional description in words can approach.

Still the author prefers to publish these episodes of the reign of Catherine de Medicis and her family as DRAMATIC TALES, rather than from the original prompter's copies, as used in the theatre.

It may be thought, by some persons, that the spirit of the story is not in accordance with the taste of the present times. To such persons, the author would speak his own views, in the words of an able writer upon the subject, who says,—

"It may be curious to compare the manners of our own age with those of the past. The actions of men in the sixteenth century should not be judged according to our ideas of the nineteenth; that which is a crime in a state of perfect civilization is only a piece of hardihood at a less advanced period, and in an age of barbarism may be considered praiseworthy."

Those who are acquainted with the history of the Huguenots, will not, it is believed, discover any material departure from the sanguinary records of the time involved in their persecution, in that part of either work which is the invention of the author.

Those who are interested in that division of literature devoted to secret associations, may find the prototype of the "Confrérie of St. Bartholomew" under many names, although its origin and chief designs are still veiled in that mystery which must ever cover the objects of association, for good or ill, guarded by such rites as attended the doings of the confrères of St. Bartholomew.

The author, in conclusion, would remark, that the unpretending volume to which this preface is to be attached, may contain errors of style and faults of construction, some of which are so only in appearance; the Surgeon of Paris, when referred to, will render clear those passages and events which in the Carpenter of Rouen may appear obscure — the incidents and action of the one having connection with the other.

J. S. J.

MAY, 1849.

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THE CARPENTER OF ROUEN.

PART I.

THE SQUARE OF THE MARTYRS.

CHAPTER I.

THE COURIER.

IN a thick forest on the road from Tours, a courier from Paris lay wounded; around him were letters and despatches; their seals broken; some torn in fragments, others carelessly thrown by, and stained with the blood of the faithful messenger, who had fought manfully in the defence of the trust reposed in him, and was fatally injured in the performance of his duty. He had been attacked on the highway, disabled, and dragged into the wood, where the contents of his travelling-bag had been rifled, and he left to die or live, as chance should determine.

He had been some hours in this condition, — part of the time delirious, — when his faint cries for water reached the ears of a woodcutter, who had come earlier than usual to cut fuel for marketing in the city.

He followed the sounds of distress, and was at the