

**REVENGE, OR WOMAN'S
LOVE. A MELODRAMA
IN FIVE ACTS**

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Revenge, or Woman's Love. A Melodrama in Five Acts by George Stephens

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GEORGE STEPHENS

**REVENGE, OR WOMAN'S
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IN FIVE ACTS**

REVENGE,
OR
WOMAN'S LOVE.

A MELODRAMA IN FIVE ACTS.

BY
GEORGE STEPHENS, ESQ.
*Professor of Old-English, and of the English Language and Literature, in
the University of Copenhagen.*

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1830

TO
SIR EDWARD LYTTON BULWER LYTTON, BAR^T.
WHO
TO HIS OTHER IMPERISHABLE LABORS
HAS ADDED
SUCH NOBLE EFFORTS
FOR THE REVIVAL AND REFORMATION
OF
THE MODERN BRITISH DRAMA,
THESE IMPERFECT SCENES
ARE
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

Copenhagen, March 1857.

FOREWORD.

The idea of this Play is taken from an old Ballad — THE COUNT OF ROME — found in various Teutonic dialects, and probably of High - German origin in the Middle Age. Some of the Songs &c. are translations, as detailed in the Afterwords. Everything else, Characters, Scenes and Treatment, are original, as are also the Airs to the Songs &c., with the exception of that to „Sing, Cuckoo!“ which is Old-English, those to „The Sweet Rescue“ and „Necken's Polska,“ which are Old-Swedish, and the Western Hymn-chant.

A few out of the precious hoard of our words vulgarly called „obsolete“ (thank Heaven, they are daily becoming less so!), and some references to Old-Northern (Old-Scandinavian and Old-English) Folk-lore and Customs, have been introduced, as necessary to give a shade and tone in harmony with events of the 10th Century. But they have been admitted as sparingly

as possible, and are all explain'd. For the rest, the Author has not a panic dread of them. He hopes that a theatrical or chamber audience of „the 19th Century“ is more able to master and appreciate such things, than our good grand-fathers and grand-mothers in the „golden“ days of powder'd perukes and hoopt petticoats!

Copenhagen, March 1857.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

EDGAR, an English Earl.
ODO, an English Ealdorman, his pretended friend.
OSWALD, an English Chief, Rowena's twin-brother.
SIBERT, a brave young English warrior, lover of Elfwin.
CÆDMON, Edgar's Castellan.
ERIC THE VICTORIOUS *), King of Sweden.
GUDMUND, a Wiking, Messenger of King Eric.
ROWENA, Edgar's Wife.
ELFWINA, Edgar's Sister, beloved by Sibert.
ETHELFELED, Rowena's Bower-maiden.
SIGNE, a young Swedish Shield-maid, related to Eric the Victorious.
THELDA, an English maiden, slave of Signe.
NURSE of Rowena.
A MINSTREL.
A WITCH.
Priests, Champions, Pages, Scalds or Bards, Robbers, Attendants, Soldiers, &c.

The Scene is partly in England and partly in the North of Sweden, during the reigns of Eric the Victorious and of the English King Athelstane, about the year 940.

*) His successor, Olof, was the first Christian king of Sweden. It must be borne in mind, that by far the greater part of the Missionaries who converted the Scandinavian countries were — Englishmen. Several of them died as martyrs.

