CONSCIENCE: OR, THE BRIDAL NIGHT: A TRAGEDY, IN FIVE ACTS

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JAMES HAYNES

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JAMES HAYNES, ESQ.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HURST, ROBINSON, AND CO. CHEAPSIDE;

AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE AND CO. EDINBURGE.

1821.

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LONDON:
PRINTED BY J. MOYES, OREVILLE STREET.

JAMES PERRY, ESQ.

PROPRIETOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE,

\$c. \$c. \$c.

MY DEAR SIR,

DEDICATIONS are so often used as matters of ceremony, or vehicles of adulation, that I am apprehensive the world may not give me credit for the motive by which I am influenced in dedicating the following Tragedy to my best friend. But, whatever the world may think, I am sure that your own candid mind will do me justice. It is neither on account of your acknowledged talents, nor your undeviating consistency as a public man, (to which some of the greatest characters of the day have borne such honourable testimony,) that I approach you with this humble, yet

sincere tribute of my respect. Those are topics for higher praise than mine; and they call for a more dignified occasion than such a work can furnish. The qualities that fall more properly within the sphere of my notice, are those by which I am bound to you in lasting ties of gratitude; and which have been manifested towards me in so many instances of kindness, urbanity, and friendship, as I never can hope to repay. I promise myself, however, that even the imperfections of this Tragedy, for the introduction of which to the world I am indebted to you alone, will not diminish your satisfaction at receiving, from a member of your own literary establishment, the only acknowledgment which he has it in his power to make.

I am, my dear Sir,

With the strongest sentiments of respect and gratitude,

Your very obedient and faithful Servant,

JAMES HAYNES.

PREFACE.

As my only object in writing a Preface, is to return thanks to the different Performers concerned in the representation of this Tragedy, I shall say nothing of the Tragedy itself. Mrs. WEST'S conception of ELMIRA was so perfect, and her feeling so powerful, that I am only prevented from expressing my admiration of her exertions in detail, by the fear that it might seem to insinuate a compliment to the character itself, as I had drawn it. Mr. WALLACK'S picture of LOBENZO was strongly imagined and vigorously executed; and as in a new piece no support can be derived from the imitation of established models, it furnishes a test by which the original powers of the mind may be tried; for without such powers the performance cannot be rendered effective. Mr. Coopen, though not accustomed to appear in aged characters, kindly undertook that of ARSENIO: but I feel that I am scarcely bound to offer an apology for having been instrumental in exciting him to an effort which proved that he could depart from his line with safety to his reputation.

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BROWLEY, in ALFERO, surpassed my expectations. ALFERO is an unfinished sketch,—he gave it the importance of a principal character. The parts assigned to Mr. Foote and Mr. Barnard could do nothing for them, they did every thing for the parts; and all the other gentlemen were as conspicuous in exertion, as their respective opportunities would permit. I should not conclude this notice without introducing the name of Mr. Russell, the Stage Manager, who favoured me with many useful suggestions, and obliged me by a strict attention to the progress of the rehearsals.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

DUKE or VENICEMr.	Powell.
ARSENIO	Cooper.
LORENZOMr.	Wallack
⊈ ULIOMr.	
RODOLPHOMr.	
ALFEROMr.	Bromley
ELMIRA Mrs	West.

Freebooters, Officers, Attendants, &c.

SCENE - Venice and its neighbourhood.