

**THE VEIL OF ISIS,
OR, THE MYSTERIES
OF THE DRUIDS**

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The Veil of Isis, or, The Mysteries of the Druids by W. Winwood Reade

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W. WINWOOD READE

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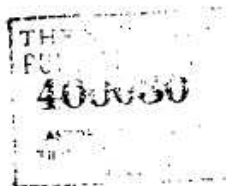
“ By the bright circle of the golden sun,
By the bright courses of the errant moon,
By the dread potency of every star,
In the mysterious Zodiac's burning girth,
By each, and all of these supernal signs,
We do adjure thee, with this trusty blade
To guard yon central oak, whose holy stem,
Involves the spirit of high Taranis :
Be this thy charge.”—MASON.

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DEDICATION.

TO EMILY * * *.

As those presents are always the most fashionable, and sometimes the most valued, which cannot be used, I give you this book, which you will not be able to read, but which, perhaps, you will kindly preserve in memory of its writer.

An author can pay no higher compliment to a friend than to dedicate to her a work upon which he has spent much labour and anxiety. This effort of a young man to redeem a mistake, perhaps a fault, in his literary life, deserves to be sealed with your name, for it is you who have repeatedly urged him to the task, and presided over it like a guardian angel, with kind and consoling words.

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BOOK THE FIRST.

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