

**THE VEILS; OR, THE  
TRIUMPH OF  
CONSTANCY. A  
POEM, IN SIX BOOKS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649728626

The Veils; Or, The Triumph of Constancy. A Poem, in Six Books by Miss Franklin Porden

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Cover @ 2017

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**MISS FRANKLIN PORDEN**

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TRIUMPH OF  
CONSTANCY. A  
POEM, IN SIX BOOKS**



*Fanny A. Walling*

THE

# VEILS;

OR THE

## TRIUMPH OF CONSTANCY.

A Poem, in Six Books.

BY

MISS PORDEN.

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Wife of Sir John Franklin*

Of Earth and Air I sing, of Sea and Fire,  
And various wonders that to each belong,  
And while to stubborn themes I tune the lyre,  
"Fierce wars and faithful loves shall moralize my song."

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR JOHN MURRAY, 50, ALBEMARLE-STREET.

1815.



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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LAVINIA,

COUNTESS SPENCER,

THIS POEM

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HER LADYSHIP'S OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

858209

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A YOUNG lady, one of the members of a small society which meets periodically for literary amusement, lost her Veil (by a gust of wind) as she was gathering shells on the coast of Norfolk. This incident gave rise to the following Poem, which was originally written in short cantos, and afterwards extended and modelled into the form in which it is now respectfully submitted to the public. The author, who considers herself a pupil of the Royal Institution, being at that time attending the Lectures given in Albemarle-Street, on Chemistry, Geology, Natural History, and Botany, by Sir Humphry Davy, Mr. Brand, Dr. Roget, Sir James Edward Smith, and other eminent men, she was induced to combine these subjects with her story; and though her knowledge of them was in a great measure orally acquired, and therefore cannot pretend to be extensive or profound, yet, as it was derived from the best teachers, she hopes it will seldom be found incorrect.

The machinery is founded on the Rosicrucian doctrine, which peoples each of the four elements with a peculiar class of spirits, a system introduced into poetry by Pope, and since used by Darwin, in the *Botanic Garden*; but the author believes that the ideal beings of these two distinguished writers will not be found to differ more from each



other, than from those called into action in the ensuing Poem. She has there endeavoured to shew them as representing the different energies of nature, exerted in producing the various changes that take place in the physical world; but the plan of her Poem did not permit her to exhibit them to any considerable extent. On the Rosicrucian mythology, a system of poetical machinery might be constructed of the highest character; but the person who directs its operations should possess the scientific knowledge of Sir Humphry Davy, and the energy and imagination of Lord Byron and Mr. Scott.

In personifying the metals and minerals, and the agency of fire, the author has generally taken her names from the Greek language; but as it was impossible to avoid the nomenclature of modern chemistry, she requests, on the plea of necessity, the indulgence of her readers for what she fears will be felt as a barbarous mixture.

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#### ERRATUM.

In the Title to Book II. for "*The Battle*," read *The Earth*.

**THE VEILS.**

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BOOK THE FIRST.

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**THE CASTLE.**

