

**A GOSSIP'S STORY, AND
A LEGENDARY TALE. IN
TWO VOLUMES. VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649222711

A gossip's story, and a legendary tale. In two volumes. Vol. II by Mrs. West

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MRS. WEST

**A GOSSIP'S STORY, AND
A LEGENDARY TALE. IN
TWO VOLUMES. VOL. II**

A
GOSSIP'S STORY,

AND

A LEGENDARY TALE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF
ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION.

" Nor Peace nor Ease the Heart can know,
" Which, like the Needle true,
" Turns at the touch of Joy and Woe,
" Yet, turning, trembles too."

GREVILLE'S ODE TO INDIFFERENCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. N. LONGMAN AND O. REES,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1854.

C O N T E N T S
 OF THE
 S E C O N D V O L U M E

CHAP.

- XIX. *An important incident, announced in pretty language.* - Page 1
- XX. *An example of polished benevolence furnishes a strong argument against melancholy discontent.* - - 11
- XXI. *A fair Platonist is compelled to marry, as a less hazardous expedient than refining the opinions of an illiberal age.* 22
- XXII. *The author's predilection for declamation, induces her to make no use of a fine opportunity for introducing elegant description.* - - 29

CHAP.

XXII. *The nuptial present of a father.*
Page 39

XXIV. *An attempt at local description. The author erects something like an enchanted castle, in which she immures a fair Arcadian.* - - 49

XXV. *Proving that the creative power of the imagination may be employed in producing pleasure, as well as pain.* 59

XXVI. *The dawn of connubial felicity, with a word or two on the pleasure of tormenting.* - - 67

XXVII. *A fête champêtre. Excessive tenderness is sometimes troublesome.* 76

XXVIII. *In wedlock, characters may be too similar to produce harmony. This axiom is proved by a well-fought battle between female weakness, and male folly.*
87

XXIX. *The*

CHAP.

- XXIX. *The consequences of a confidant's interference, when unrestrained by discretion.* - - Page 97
- XXX. *Human passions, like the sea, vary from tempests to sullen calms.* 104
- XXXI. *Very palatable to the Lords of the Creation, as it exhibits them in the possession of plenitude of power.* 112
- XXXII. *The author's opinion of the politics of Hymen seem to be in favour of a limited monarchy.* - - 125
- XXXIII. *The discerning reader may discover symptoms of approaching events, of the painful kind.* - 136
- XXXIV. *Mrs. Prudentia further develops a character of extreme malevolence, but without copying the likeness from her own sisterhood.* - 144

CHAP.

- XXXV. *Innocence and simplicity are insufficient guards against malignity and detraction, unless accompanied by discretion.* - - Page 156
- XXXVI. *Integrity and duty are the cordials of affliction.* - 170
- XXXVII. *An instance of the strong interest which dignified distress can excite.* 182
- XXXVIII. *A circumstance of awful solemnity prepares the way for a very desirable event.* - - 193
- XXXIX. *Includes a greater portion of time than all the preceding narrative.* 203
- XL. *The conclusion—Mrs. Prudentia ceremoniously takes leave of all her characters.* - - 215

A
GOSSIP'S STORY,
AND
A LEGENDARY TALE.

CHAPTER XIX.

An important incident announced in pretty language.

BUT while the fair Nymph thus continued to hang her virgin offerings on the shrine of friendship, Mr. Clermont acknowledged himself subdued by the irresistible force of a superior divinity. His heart was naturally susceptible of the power of beauty, and his youthful imagination, unrestrained by experience, and unsubdued by time, annexed to the lovely form of Marianne Dudley, every idea of 'perfect, fair and good;' all the images of excellence that

“ Fable ever feign'd,

“ Or youthful poets fancy when they love.”

He perceived through the clear transparency of her exquisite complexion, a mind unclouded by any shade of error, and radiated by all the splendor of grace and virtue: and in the swimming lustre of her azure eyes he not inaccurately read the soft emotions of a melting soul. Did ten thousand worlds present equal attractions to that of calling such an angel his? I am confident every lover under twenty will answer—no.

To accelerate the conquest of his heart, love was increased by difficulty. Her rejection of Mr. Pelham was a convincing proof that she was not easily won; and though the smile which beamed in her lovely face at his approach, might have told him he was a welcome guest, he had too high an idea of her perfections, to suppose they would be the reward of his vows. But should the goddess be propitious, might not parental authority inter-