

**STRATHMORE: A  
TRAGIC PLAY  
IN FIVE ACTS**

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Strathmore: A Tragic Play in Five Acts by J. Westland Marston

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**J. WESTLAND MARSTON**

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**STRATHMORE.**

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# STRATHMORE.

A Tragic Play in Five Acts.

(AS REPRESENTED AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, Haymarket.)

BY

J. WESTLAND MARSTON,

AUTHOR OF "THE PATRICIAN'S DAUGHTER," ETC., ETC.



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TO

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN, R. A.

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY.

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MY DEAR SIR WILLIAM,

To you, who evinced so kind an interest in this play at its commencement, I offer my completed labour.

A story which deals with one of the most eventful periods of Scottish history cannot be more appropriately inscribed than to the genius which has illustrated and adorned it.

And, will you let me record here my deep sense of the personal kindness which I have received from you and my friends in Edinburgh?—However imperfectly these pages describe the noble struggle of Scotland for religious freedom, they will at least express the happy and grateful associations which connect me with that country.

I remain,

My dear Sir William,

Your very faithful and obliged

J. WESTLAND MARSTON.

## PREFACE.

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THE struggle which this Tragedy involves, was suggested by the position of *Henry Morton* in Sir Walter Scott's novel of "Old Mortality." The compulsory march of *Strathmore* on the home of his betrothed is also analagous to a striking incident in that magnificent fiction.

Except, however, in their common sense of justice, there is little resemblance of character between *Strathmore* and the *Morton* of the romance. As to *John Balfour of Burley* (an agent too important to be omitted, but one whom the design of the play does not permit to be prominent,) my highest hope is that I have not contradicted the wonderful portrait of the novelist.

In all other respects it will be seen that the present writer is responsible for the persons and incidents of his drama.

It is now my pleasing duty to tender my warm acknowledgments to the personators of my characters. All who may witness the performance of MR. and MRS. CHARLES KEAN in the principal ones, will know how much I owe to the power, pathos, and truthfulness of their interpretation. I could extend this passing allusion to their presentment into a notice of many exquisite and striking features in its detail; but I am writing at a time when the issue of the play, so far as relates to its author, is yet uncertain.

But the public will not know, except by my statement, the judicious counsel and untiring zeal by which these accomplished artists have so much contributed to the completeness of the work.

I am happy to find the character of *Isabel Lorn* in the hands of MISS REYNOLDS. It will give me sincere pleasure, should the part afford her any scope for that refined animation and true feeling which are daily gaining a wider recognition.

To those favourites of the public, MR. BUCKSTONE and MRS. FITZWILLIAM—who have cheerfully undertaken parts which, but for their valuable aid, would become necessarily subordinate to the serious interest—I have special obligations to record.

The characters of *Sir Rupert Lorn*, *Brycefield*, and the *Covenanting Leaders* are rendered with an earnest-