

**BRITAIN'S GENIUS: A  
MASK COMPOSED ON  
OCCASION OF THE  
MARRIAGE OF VICTORIA**

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Britain's Genius: A Mask Composed on Occasion of the Marriage of Victoria by R. Kennedy

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**R. KENNEDY**

**BRITAIN'S GENIUS: A  
MASK COMPOSED ON  
OCCASION OF THE  
MARRIAGE OF VICTORIA**



**BRITAIN'S GENIUS:**

*A Mask.*

COMPOSED ON OCCASION OF THE

MARRIAGE OF VICTORIA,

*Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.*

TO

PRINCE ALBERT OF SAXE-COBURG.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE REIGN OF YOUTH,

*A Lyric Poem.*

BY THE REVEREND R. KENNEDY, A.M.,

FORMERLY OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

LONDON:

SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

—  
1840.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY BLATCH AND LAMPERT, GROVE PLACE, BROMPTON.

TO HER MAJESTY

Victoria,

QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

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MADAM,

I ASSUME to myself the high honour of dedicating the two following compositions to your Majesty; and I venture to do so, without soliciting your royal permission, because one of them, on the present occasion of your marriage, has, necessarily, an immediate reference to your own sacred person. I have only to hope that my presumption will be pardoned on this account, as also from internal evidence, which will, I trust, be found in the composition itself, (however it may fall below the dignity of the subject,) that I have been actuated by sentiments of the purest loyalty, and by the most sincere wishes for the happiness of your Majesty, and your Royal Consort.

I have the honour,

MADAM,

To be, with profound respect,

Your Majesty's loyal Subject,

and most humble Servant,

R. KENNEDY.







GENERAL NOTICE TO THE READER,  
RESPECTING THE TWO FOLLOWING COMPOSITIONS.

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“THE REIGN OF YOUTH,” (excepting only a few verbal alterations,) was composed many years ago. It was, however, but lately, that I engaged, and was about, to send it to the press, with some other pieces in verse, when I was told and became aware, that many persons would apply it to the marriage of our gracious Queen, and consider that I intended such an application to be made. I therefore resolved, somewhat suddenly, that, if I did publish it at all, especially now, I would write on purpose, and precede it with, something else which might in itself be more suitable—or which, as written by me, I should deem more suitable—for the present important occasion. I had written the first fifty lines of “BRITAIN’S GENIUS,” before I enlarged my plan, and adopted the form of composition called a Mask.

R. K.

*The Hollies, Yardley,*

*Worcestershire; Feb. 10, 1840.*



**BRITAIN'S GENIUS:**  
**A MASK,**  
**ON OCCASION OF**  
**THE MARRIAGE OF QUEEN VICTORIA**  
**TO**  
**PRINCE ALBERT OF SAXE-COBURG.**