

**THE WITCH-WIFE: A TALE  
OF MALKIN TOWER. A  
DRAMA, IN FIVE ACTS**

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The witch-wife: a tale of Malkin Tower. A drama, in five acts by Henry Spicer

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**HENRY SPICER**

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THE

# WITCH-WIFE:

A TALE OF MALKIN TOWER.

A Drama,

IN FIVE ACTS.

*(As produced at the Theatre Royal, Marylebone, May 1849, under the  
direction of Mr. Ellis, Stage-manager.)*

BY

HENRY SPICER, Esq.,

AUTHOR OF "HONESTY," "JUDGE JEFFREYS," "LORDS OF  
ELLINGHAM," ETC.

*\* Chattox and all her fellow-witches agree that the Devil is cloven-footed; but  
Fancie had a very good face, and was a very proper woman."--SOUTHWELL.*

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1849.



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TO

ANNA CORA MOWATT,

A NAME FAMILIAR

TO THE ENGLISH PUBLIC AS THAT OF AN

ACCOMPLISHED AUTHORESS AND ACTRESS,

BUT TO WHICH A MORE SELECT CIRCLE ANNEX

THE BETTER TITLE OF

DEAR AND HONOURED FRIEND,

**This Piece is Dedicated**

WITH THE KINDEST WISHES OF

THE WRITER.





## PREFACE.

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THE "Witch-Wife," though including one or two characters of some notoriety, is based upon no circumstances of actual occurrence; neither was it suggested (as has been alleged) by my friend Mr. Ainsworth's "Lancashire Witches" — a work I had purposely denied myself the pleasure of perusing, lest the stirring scenes it could not fail to embody, should exercise an influence destructive, at least, of the originality, however beneficial to the dramatic interests, of the piece.

To any who desire a further acquaintance with the notorious Matthew Hopkins, or insight into the grotesque horrors practised at the period of the witch-persecutions, the State Trials and Somers' Tracts will afford abundant information, and at the same time prove that nothing in the following pages is unjustifiably farcical.

I have great pleasure in recording my obligation to Mr. Watts, for the liberality and gentlemanly courtesy he has displayed in relation to this piece ; as also to Mrs. Mowatt, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Ellis (the able stage-manager), and the whole *corps* of the pretty little Marylebone Theatre.

*24 Green Street, Grosvenor Square.*