

**THE CARIB CHIEF: A
TRAGEDY IN
FIVE ACTS**

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The Carib Chief: A Tragedy in Five Acts by Horace Twiss

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HORACE TWISS

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TRAGEDY IN
FIVE ACTS**

• THE
CARIB CHIEF:

A TRAGEDY

IN FIVE ACTS.

BY

HORACE TWISS, Esq.

Second Edition.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND
BROWN, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1819.

Price Three Shillings.

W. Pople, Printer, 67, Chancery Lane.

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1819

TO THE

EARL OF CLARENDON.

My Lord,

If that high reputation for literary taste, which Your Lordship has sought in vain to conceal among the shades of Your retreat, had been the only argument for presenting this drama to Your notice, I might have yielded to a dangerous vanity, in soliciting the attention of so accomplished a judge. But it has been my good fortune to know how kindly Your Lordship ever grants, to the deficiencies of others, that indulgence, of which You can so little need the return; and with

DEDICATION.

such an encouragement, I am unable to resist the proud gratification of thus recording, that among the many other proofs of regard, with which I have been honoured by Your Lordship, I have now been thought worthy of the permission to subscribe myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obliged

and obedient servant,

HORACE TWISS.

London, May 15, 1819.

PROLOGUE,

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE TRAGEDY:

SPOKEN BY

Mr. H. KEMBLE.

[The lines marked by inverted commas are omitted in the recitation.]

WHEN the rude Masters of the early time
Pursu'd young nature in her yielding prime,
" Threw up her maiden veil, and with blest arms
" Rifi'd the wild abundance of her charms,"
Then was each brightest, most expressive grace,
And loftiest feature of her varying face,
Painted from life, in many a breathing line,
Warm as herself, and like herself, divine.

" The bards that follow'd, found their choice forestall'd,
" And dealt out copies, classically bald,
" Till, at third hand, poor nature was become
" A flat, evap'rate *caput mortuum*.
" Then, mad for novelty, inventors drew
" Things novel, both in art and nature too ;
" Persons not human, passions that might seem
" The over-wrought convulsions of a dream ;
" Left-handed plots, that mov'd but by the start,
" And griefs, that reach'd, but to revolt the heart."

Those days are past. If now the means remain
To wake the Drama into life again,
Where shall we seek them? Not in monstrous woes,
The ultra tragedy of spasms and throes ;
Nor in faint copies from our father's drafts,

[*The Author cannot allow this Play to be hurried through the press, without offering his tribute of admiration to those splendid exertions of Mr. KEAN, by which its unprecedented success has been achieved. The interest has been much assisted by the tenderness and delicacy of Mrs. West; and while Miss Boyce, Mr. H. Kemble, Mr. D. Fisher, Mr. Holland, Mr. Bengough, and Mr. Hamblin, in the other principal characters, have so materially contributed their valuable aid, the Performers at large have, by their diligence and propriety, completed the general effect of the representation.*]

THE
CARIB CHIEF.

ACT I.

SCENE I.

A Subterraneous Cavern.

TREFUSIS rises from a rude seat, and comes forward.

Tre. **D**AYS, months, and seasons creep away—
and still

A dungeon cave in Dominica thus
Shuts me from light, and love!—And thou,
Claudina,

Dost thou still mourn thy lost, thy vanquish'd
soldier?

Or art thou, in this lapse of hopeless years,
Wearied at last of thinking upon him

Who cannot cease to think and doat on thee!

TREFUSIS turns up the stage. CARBAL enters through a wicket gate, which he unlocks.

Carb. What ho! Trefusis!