

**THE VICTIM. A TALE
OF THE "LAKE OF THE
FOUR CANTONS."**

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The victim. A tale of the "Lake of the four cantons." by William Henry Leatham

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WILLIAM HENRY LEATHAM

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THE VICTIM.



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A TALE

OF THE

“LAKE OF THE FOUR CANTONS.”

BY THE AUTHOR OF

“A TRAVELLER'S THOUGHTS.”

LONDON:

LONGMAN, ORME, BROWN, GREEN, & LONGMANS.

1838.

479.

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THE moral that the following TALE contains, will, it is hoped, compensate in some degree for its fictitious character.

No precise date is affixed to the poem, beyond being posterior to the great struggle for liberty, in which TELL gained his immortality, and SWITZERLAND her independence.

The unreserved confidence which "CONSTANCE" places in her lover, is in perfect accordance with the great purity and simplicity of manners which peculiarly characterize the Swiss, and on that ground she may fairly be acquitted of any breach of decorum.

THE VICTIM.

INTRODUCTION.

I.

AWAKE! thou ceaseless dreamer of the past!
Thou slumberer of the present hour, awake!
Or—grant me, Poesy! the dreams thou hast,
When Fancy's lulling whispers o'er thee break,
Oh! weave them in my dream, for pity's sake!
But let not Memory scare my tranced sleep,
Ah! then my heart shall cease to throb and ache,
In that sweet slumber, so profound and deep,
While Poesy shall dream, and Fancy vigils keep!

II

My vision be of purity and love—
If ever such have blessed this world of woe,
If love on earth as pure as that above,
Can burn as bright in woman's heart below ;
If streams which here in virtue's current flow,
As heavenly waters can as stainless be—
Say—where the land their image can bestow ?
Say—where the home of Love and Purity ?
If such may be on earth—HELVETIA—'tis with thee !

PART I.

I

DEEP in FLUELEN's shady bower,
20 There bloomed a lone and lovely flower,
Sole daughter of an aged sire,
Whose soul was touched with freedom's fire :
To him was nought to glad his hearth,
Save CONSTANCE, and a life of worth.
Here Virtue formed in Beauty's mould,
A second EVE, as once of old,
Sent like an angel from above,
To light an Eden with her love.