

**VIVIA PERPETUA: A  
DRAMATIC POEM  
IN FIVE ACTS**

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Vivia Perpetua: A Dramatic Poem in Five Acts by Sarah Flower Adams

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**SARAH FLOWER ADAMS**

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VIVIA PERPETUA:

A Dramatic Poem.

IN FIVE ACTS.



BY

SARAH FLOWER ADAMS.

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LONDON:

CHARLES FOX, PATERNOSTER ROW.

M. DCCC. XLI.

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AN account of the martyrdom of VIVIA PERPETUA,  
and those who suffered with her, is to be found in most of  
the histories that relate to the early Christian Church.

The main facts, in which they all concur, have been  
implicitly followed in this Poem. In the minor incidents,  
selected or imagined, and in the development of character  
and motive, dramatic effect has invariably been held a  
subordinate object.



### Characters.

HILARIANUS, *Præfect of Carthage (administering the office of Proconsul).*

VIVIUS, *a noble Roman of Carthage.*

ATTILIUS, *son to VIVIUS.*

STATIUS.

CÆCILIUS, *a youth, ward of STATIUS.*

LENTULUS,  
NASO,  
SERVILIUS, } *Guests of HILARIANUS.*  
STELLIO,

CAMUS, *a Priest of Jupiter Olympus.*

BARAC, *a Jew.*

VARRO.

PUDENS, *a Gaoler.*

SATURUS,  
TERTIUS,  
POMFONIUS,  
SECUNDULUS,  
SATURNINUS,  
REVOCATUS, *a Slave,*  
TESTUS, *a Miner,* } *Christians.*

VIVIA PERPETUA, *daughter to VIVIUS.*

NOLA, *daughter to STATIUS.*

FRICITAS, *a Slave.*

*Tribune, Guests, Lictors, Citizens, Servants, Soldiers.*

Scene — CARTHAGE, A.D. 204.

TO MY SISTER :

Were it not so, I dared not give to thee  
These pages ; for I know full well they ne'er  
Can reach the need of thy mind's sovereignty,  
Robed in that dress of thought all poets wear.  
But thy dear love doth smile me on, past fear,  
Unto thy very heart these leaves to lay,  
Which richer grow the while they come thee near,—  
For thou dost brighten all upon thy way.  
And thus, perchance, dowered with thy love and light,  
They may thy nice requirement satisfy ;  
In thy content, I win a wreath more bright  
Than Earth's wide garden ever could supply.  
Ah me ! I think me still how poor a strain,  
And fly for refuge to thy love again !

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