

**THE MAID OF THE
GREEK ISLE;
LYRICS, &C.**

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The Maid of the Greek Isle; Lyrics, &c. by G. W.

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G. W.

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LYRICS, &C.**



J. H. 1828

✓ THE MAID
OF
THE GREEK ISLE;
LYRICS, &c.



by G. W.

" *Mediocribus esse poetis
Non homines, non Di, non concessere columnas.*"

HORACE.

" Oh! I
Must stretch the utmost reaching of my soul!
'Tis climb'd betwixt."

SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR KNIGHT AND LACEY,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

M DCCC XXV.

266

CONTENTS.

	Page
PREFACE	v
THE MAID OF THE GREEK ISLE	1
Note to <i>Lyrles</i>	35
Song—"Oh! shrink not, my girl, at the past that has perish'd"	39
Song—"Yes! many a time we've seen day's beam"	41
To Mary M——er—"Oh, hinder me not! let me weep, let me weep"	44
Song—"As yonder path of moonlight glows"	48
Serenade—"When moonlight o'er fair Venice smiles".	49
Song—"When the day-beam of pleasure in sorrow had set"	52
Song—" 'Tis the first 'rose of summer'"	54
To my Brother—"It was when the foam of the wine-cup ran o'er"	56

	Page
To C. R—m—y—"Come, pardon me, love"	58
Song—"As brightness still hangs in the evening sky"	59
Duetto—"Hearest thou the robin singing"	60
To Juliet C—l—n—"Nay, look not, my love, to yon starry sky"	63
Lines written at Midnight	64
Song—"The summer has faded"	66
Note	69
To Mary M—t—er—"Mary, I've seen thy form decay"	71
Notes	79

PREFACE.

LIKE other authors, I have an excuse to plead for the defects of my present production: not, however, that it was written in a vacant hour; not that it was published at the request of friends; not that it will be the last I shall obtrude on public notice;—but that most of it was composed in “Days o’ Lang Syne,”* and that it is all the produc-

* See page 35.

tion of one yet in his nonage. I trust the critic will believe, that though I enter not into a more lengthened acknowledgment of defects, it is not that I am less aware of them, or less desirous of pre-engaging his favour; but that by lamenting my inferiority in formally measured sentences, and by multiplying excuses for it, I should be directly classing myself with those who seek for undue indulgence, by the hackneyed and contemptible course of self-abasement. And though I am aware, that if I make my way to the temple of Fame through the scumlike crowd by which it is surrounded, it must be by far more strenuous exertions than the present; though un-

known and friendless as I now am in the literary world; still, I would rather be compared with excellence and condemned, than with inferiority, and commended. But *whatever* be the fate of this boyish production, I shall at least have the animating recollections that "Moore" will be remembered, when "Little" is forgotten; that the "Hours of Idleness" are but poor specimens of the genius of "Byron;" and that had "Kirke White" lived, we might have expected something superior to "Clifton Grove."

My friends have pointed out instances in the following poem, where I had neglected the euphony of the line; those particular pas-