

**THE BRIDAL OF THE ISLES,  
A MASK, AND OTHER  
POEMS. THE BLIGHTED  
HOPE, A MONODY**

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The bridal of the Isles, a mask, and other poems. The blighted hope, a monody by Charles Knight

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**CHARLES KNIGHT**

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A MASK, AND OTHER  
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HOPE, A MONODY**



THE  
BRIDAL OF THE ISLES :

*A MASK.*

THE SECOND EDITION.

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**The Blighted Hope :**

*A MONODY.*

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BY CHARLES KNIGHT.

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Her high birth, and her graces sweet,  
Quickly found a Lover meet :  
The virgin quire, for her, request  
The god that sits at marriage feast ;  
He at their invoking came,  
But with a scarce-well-lighted flame ;  
And in his garland, as he stood,  
Ye might discern a cypress bud.

MILTON.

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AND KNIGHT AND SON, WINDSOR.

1817.

## PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.



THE most touching impressions of sorrow are those which are derived from contrast—they are at the same time the most instructive. Upon this principle, the author of the following little poem determined to re-publish it, at a period when the British people are bewailing the termination of that domestic happiness which *'The Bridal of the Isles'* attempted to describe, and the loss of that public virtue which it aspired to stimulate. The marriage of the presumptive Heiress of the British Crown was a subject full of sparkling delicacies and patriot hopes—they accorded with the best feelings of our nature,

and were consequently capable of metrical embellishment. That event was once a refreshing stream of passing delight—it may be pleasing to review the anticipations of a nation's confidence. It is now 'a wildness and a dream'—it may be instructive to refer to the warmth of our hopes; to recollect their brief completion; to lament their sudden fall.

The marriage of the Princess Charlotte, and the principles upon which her choice was directed, were equally gratifying to the wishes, and congenial with the feelings, of the British people. She was not a being that would permit her affections to be sacrificed at the altar of political calculation. She well knew that domestic happiness is the best foundation for public virtue. She felt that in the tranquillity of connubial enjoyment, the heart has no repining cares to interrupt the search for truth—no restless anticipations or regrets to turn the thoughts away from active duty, or contemplative preparation. She wisely asserted her own right to choose for herself in

the most important action of her life. The nation hailed and revered her motives. She married, and was blessed. The Prince of her choice brought neither extent of territory nor continental influence : but he brought an unsophisticated mind ; an active, firm, inquiring, and amiable temper ; a meek and affectionate heart. Their tastes were alike, their happiness was alike. In a dignified retirement they lived calmly and unobtrusively, in that enviable tranquillity which is so consonant with the British character. Their amusements were elegant and simple ; their exercises of duty were habitual and uniform. In the pursuit of health and of knowledge their days glided away in that serenity which devotion and benevolence stimulated and confirmed. A glorious prospect was open to them, of passing the summer of life in the discipline of domestic virtue, and the autumn in a far more extended exercise of the same principles. These hopes are for ever perished ! Edward VI. the young, the wise, the good, was thus removed from the blessings of an admiring people. The Princess Charlotte was



the inheritor of his talents and his virtues; she will inherit with him that deathless reputation with which history delights to inshrine her favourites—a fame more lasting than that of the laurelled conqueror, because a tribute to a life more innocent and more useful.

C. K.

December 9th, 1817.

## INTRODUCTORY SONNET.

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### TO DOMESTIC HAPPINESS.

I was a lonely wanderer in the meads,  
Where childhood lapp'd me in its pleasant spells;  
And, though all soothing tales that Quiet tells,  
And smiling thoughts that budding Fancy heeds,  
And sometimes sweet dews of Castalian wells,  
Dropt on my path;—yet neither pastoral reeds,  
Nor cheerly tinklings where the sheep-flock feeds,  
Nor flickering eve-tide sound of village bells,  
Nor pipe of morning lark, might fill my soul.—  
I was alone.—But when a love-fraught eye  
Lighted my way, the mists of thought pass'd by,  
And gleams of sober joy upon my rapt heart stole.—  
Dear wedded Bliss! accept a votary's lay,  
From one glad traveller in thy flowery way.

*SPEAKERS IN THE MASK.*

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**GENIUS OF MARRIAGE.**

**LOVE.**

**HUMILITY,  
FIDELITY,  
SOLITUDE,  
TEMPERANCE,** } Guardians of Domestic Life.

**POETRY,  
MUSIC,** } Muses.

**GENIUS OF ENGLAND.**

..... **SCOTLAND.**

..... **IRELAND.**

**PEACE,  
LIBERTY,  
TRUE-GLORY,** } Guardians of Public Life.

**ALFRED,  
ELIZA,** } Shades.