

**THE POETICAL
WORKS OF BARRY
CORNWALL. VOL. III**

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The poetical works of Barry Cornwall. Vol. III by Barry Cornwall

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BARRY CORNWALL

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CORNWALL. VOL. III**

THE
POETICAL WORKS

OF

BARRY CORNWALL.

VOL. III.

LONDON:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE story of 'Marcian Colonna' is fictitious ; but the catastrophe was suggested by a paper which appeared in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, entitled, 'An Extract from Gosschens's Diary.' My original intention was to paint the fluctuations of a fatalist's mind,—touched with insanity,—alternately raised by kindness and depressed by neglect or severity,—ameliorated by the contemplation of external nature, and generally influenced by the same causes which operate on more healthful temperaments. This intention has been in some measure departed from, and the story gradually took the form in

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which it now stands. The incidents were invented: yet, it may be as well to state that when the tale was near its completion, I read, in Forsyth's Travels, the account of a Princess Pignatelli, whose misfortunes closely resemble those of the heroine of Marcian Colonna.

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MARCIAN COLONNA.

PART THE FIRST.

*" Long years of outrage, calumny, and wrong ;
Imputed madness, prison'd solitude,
And the mind's canker, in its savage mood."*

LAMENT OF TASSO

I.

FOR ever and for ever shalt thou lie
Unto the lover and the poet dear,
Thou land of sunlit skies and fountains clear,
Of temples, and gray columns, and waving woods,
And mountains, from whose rifts the bursting floods
Rush in bright tumult to the Adrian sea :
O thou romantic land of Italy !
Mother of painting and sweet sounds !—tho' now
The laurels are all torn from off thy brow—
Yet, tho' the shape of Freedom now no more
May walk in beauty on thy piny shore,

Shall I, upon whose soul thy poets' lays,
And all thy songs and hundred stories fell
Like dim Arabian charms, break the soft spell
That bound me to thee in mine earlier days ?
Never, divinest Italy,—thou shalt be
For aye the watchword of the heart to me.

II.

Famous thou art, and shalt be through all time :
Not that because thine iron children hurled
Like arrows o'er the conquest-stricken world,
Their tyrannies,—but that, in a later day,
Great spirits, and gentle too, triumphing came ;
And, as the mighty day-star makes its way
From darkness into light, they toward their fame
Went, gathering splendor till they grew sublime.

Yet first of all thy sons were they who wove
Thy silken language into tales of love,