

**THE VICISSITUDES OF
FATE, TRANSLATED
FROM THE GERMAN OF
SCHILLER BY F. B. H.**

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The vicissitudes of fate, translated from the German of Schiller by F. B. H. by Friedrich von Schiller

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FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER

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VICISSITUDES OF FATE.

TRANSLATED

From the German of Schiller.

BY

F. B. H.

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CHARLES SIMMS AND CO.
1852.

PREFACE.

WHILE reading the following story in its original language, I was forcibly reminded of the strange vicissitudes of human life; and I trust the translation of the same will afford a little amusement to my English friends.

F. B. H.

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THE
VICISSITUDES OF FATE.

A FRAGMENT FROM A TRUE HISTORY.

ALOYSIUS of G——, was the son of a civilian, in the service of N——, and the embryo of his great genius was early developed by a liberal education. He entered, while young, the service of his Prince, who looked upon him as a young man of great abilities, and did not allow him to remain long in a state of obscurity. G——, as well as the Prince, were in the fire of youth; he was quick and enterprising, and the Prince loved such characters. G—— knew how to animate his conversation by a rich fund of wit and knowledge, to interest every circle, in

which he mixed with urbanity; and, above all, to diffuse mirth and gaiety among those with whom he associated. The Prince could estimate virtue, which he possessed himself to a high degree. Every thing he undertook had a dignified appearance. He was not afraid of impediments, and no disappointment could conquer his perseverance. A commanding appearance exalted the value of these qualifications; the perfect picture of blooming health and herculean strength, animated by an active mind; an innate natural majesty in appearance, gait, and character, alleviated by noble modesty. The Prince was not only enchanted by the spirit of his young companion, but his sensitive faculties were irresistibly carried away by G——'s deluding exterior. Equality of age, harmony of disposition and character, formed in a short time a relation between them, which possessed all the strength of friendship, combined with the fire and vehemence of passionate love. G—— quickly rose to the highest rank; but these exterior marks mis-

led the Prince as to the real merits of his character. Being his ardent friend and admirer, he rapidly rose in the Prince's favor, and had attained, at the age of twenty-two, that eminence which often closes the career of the most fortunate. But his active mind could not long remain unemployed in the lap of idle vanity, nor be satisfied with the glittering retinue of a greatness of which he knew the value. While the Prince spent his time in pleasures, the young favorite buried himself amongst books and documents, and devoted himself to state affairs with uninterrupted diligence, which he at last mastered with so much skill and perfection, that all cases of any importance were obliged to pass through his hands. From a partner of his pleasures he soon became first councillor and minister, and at last the ruler of his Prince. Soon there was no way of access to the latter but through the minister. He conferred all offices and places of honor; all state rewards were received from his hands.