

**THE PRINCESS OF  
ALFRED TENNYSON.  
RE-CAST AS A DRAMA**

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The Princess of Alfred Tennyson. Re-cast as a Drama by Alfred Tennyson

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THE PRINCESS  
OF  
ALFRED TENNYSON

*RE-CAST AS A DRAMA*

"Our Age is largely trying the experiment of the Princess."  
TAINSH'S STUDY OF TENNYSON.

BOSTON  
LEE AND SHEPARD, PUBLISHERS  
NEW YORK  
CHARLES T. DILLINGHAM  
1881

**Dedicated**  
TO THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN  
WHO APPEARED  
IN A PRIVATE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE  
FOR WHICH  
**This Version of "The Princess"**  
WAS WRITTEN.

## PREFACE.

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"THE PRINCESS" is entitled "A Medley," being in form neither an epic nor a drama, though largely containing the elements of both. That its rich materials admit of more strictly dramatic treatment is suggested by the poet himself, in terms which might justify the attempt, if made in an appreciative spirit, with no purpose of disturbing the original, legitimate impression of the poem.

In this re-composition of the work, the aim has been to retain the language and style of Tennyson as far as possible, and only to take such liberties with the plot as have been experimentally found requisite in a private representation.

It is believed that a dramatic rendering of "The Princess," though it must necessarily sacrifice some of its literary beauties, can only enhance its charms as a wonderful creation of fancy, and may deepen its philosophical interest, as it bears upon many questions of modern social life and culture.

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

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GAMA, Father of the Princess.

ARAC,  
TWIN BROTHERS, } Sons of Gama.

THE KING, Father of the Prince.

THE PRINCE, Lover of the Princess.

FLORIAN,  
CYRIL, } Friends of the Prince.

IDA, the Princess, and head of the College of Maidens.

BLANCHE,  
PSYCHE, } Ladies of the Court and Tutors in the College.

MELISSA, Daughter of Lady Blanche.

GIRL-STUDENTS. COLLEGE PORTRESS. WOMAN-POST. WOMAN-  
GUARDS. HERALDS.



ACT I.

SCENE I. — *A Presence-room in the KING's Palace.*

SCENE II. — *Before GAMA's Palace.*

SCENE III. — *A College-hall in the Palace of the PRINCESS.*

I. *Interlude.* — "Sweet and low."

ACT II.

SCENE I. — *A Court of the PRINCESS's Palace.*

SCENE II. — *A Park adjoining the Palace.*

SCENE III. — *On a Terrace before the Palace.*

II. *Interlude.* — "The splendor falls on castle walls."

ACT III.

SCENE I. — *A Pavilion in the Park.*

SCENE II. — *On a Terrace before the Palace.*

SCENE III. — *A Council-Chamber in the Palace.*

III. *Interlude.* — "Thy voice is heard through rolling drums."

ACT IV.

SCENE I. — *A Camp of the KING's Army.*

SCENE II. — *Open Field between the Camps.*

IV. *Interlude.* — "Home they brought her warrior dead."

ACT V.

SCENE I. — *A Hall of State in the PRINCESS's Palace.*

*Finale.* — "Ask me no more."

## NOTE.

SOME of the longer passages, though well adapted for the closet, and even essential to the drama as read, may be omitted or curtailed in representation. — *See Butler's Note to "Richelieu."*

# THE PRINCESS.

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## ACT I.

### SCENE I.—A PRESENCE-ROOM IN THE KING'S PALACE.

*The KING seated, reading a letter, with an angry frown. A rich robe on the table before him. The PRINCE standing with CYRIL and FLORIAN.*

KING (*tearing up the letter*). An answer vague as wind !

He takes our gifts :

Sends this return (*holding up the robe*) : grants that there  
did a kind

Of compact pass, a show of baby troth,  
Betwixt his daughter and our son : he would  
It might be kept to ; but she has a will  
And maiden fancies ; loves to live alone  
Among her women ; certain, will not wed.  
Not wed ! I'll send a hundred thousand men  
And bring her in a whirlwind. (*Rends the robe in twain.*)

PRINCE.

Let me go,

My father : some gross error surely lies  
In this report, this answer of a king,  
Whom all men rate as kind and hospitable.

FLORIAN. I have a sister at the foreign court,  
Who moves about the Princess ; she, you know,  
Who wedded with a nobleman from thence ;  
He, dying lately, left her, as I hear,