

**RICHELIEU; OR, THE CONSPIRACY:
A PLAY. TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
HISTORICAL ODES ON THE LAST
DAYS OF ELIZABETH; CROMWELL'S
DREAM; THE DEATH OF NELSON**

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Richelieu; Or, the Conspiracy: A Play. To Which Are Added, Historical Odes on the Last Days of Elizabeth; Cromwell's Dream; The Death of Nelson by Edward Lytton Bulwer

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EDWARD LYTTON BULWER

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RICHELIEU;
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OR,

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IN FIVE ACTS.

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ON

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CROMWELL'S DREAM;

THE DEATH OF NELSON.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE "LADY OF LYONS,"

"EUGENE ARAM," &c.

EIGHTH EDITION.

LONDON:

SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

1839.

657.

"Le Comte de Scesous, et le Duc de Bouillon, avoient une bonne armée, et ils savaient la conduire; et pour plus grande sûreté, tandis que cette armée devoit s'avancer, on devoit assassiner le Cardinal et faire soulever Paris Les Conjurés faisoient un traité avec l'Espagne pour introduire des troupes en France, et pour y mettre tout en confusion dans une Régence qu'on croyoit prochaine, et dont chacun esperoit profiter Richelieu avoit perdu toute sa faveur, et ne conservoit que l'avantage d'être nécessaire. Le bonheur du Cardinal voulut encore que le complot fut découvert, et qu'une copie du traité fut tombée entre les mains."—*Voltaire, Hist. Gen.*



TO THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, K.G.,

fr. fr.

THIS DRAMA AND THE ACCOMPANYING ODES

ARE INSCRIBED, IN TRIBUTE

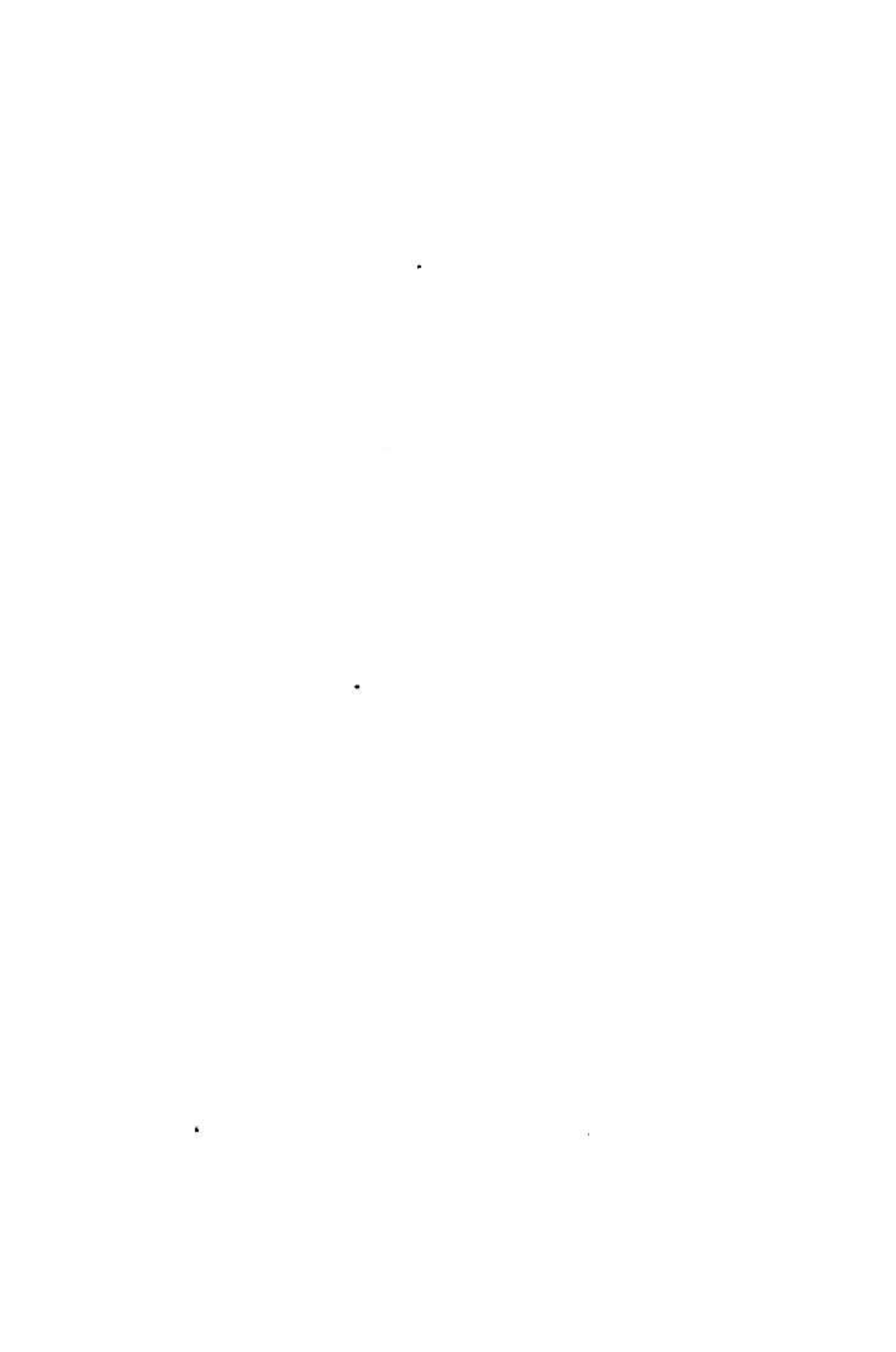
TO THE TALENTS WHICH COMMAND,

AND

THE QUALITIES WHICH ENDEAR,

RESPECT.

London, March 5, 1839.



PREFACE TO RICHELIEU.

THE administration of Cardinal Richelieu, whom (despite all his darker qualities) Voltaire and History justly consider the true architect of the French monarchy, and the great parent of French civilization, is characterised by features alike tragic and comic. A weak king—an ambitious favourite; a despicable conspiracy against the minister, nearly always associated with a dangerous treason against the State—These, with little variety of names and dates, constitute the eventful cycle through which, with a dazzling ease, and an arrogant confidence, the great luminary fulfilled its destinies. Blent together, in startling contrast, we see the grandest achievements and the pettiest agents;—the spy—the mistress—the capuchin;—the destruction of feudalism;—the humiliation of Austria;—the dismemberment of Spain.

Richelieu himself is still what he was in his