

**SYLVIA; OR, THE
MAY QUEEN. A
LYRICAL DRAMA**

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Sylvia; Or, the May Queen. A Lyrical Drama by George Darley

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GEORGE DARLEY

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A
LYRICAL DRAMA.

BY
GEORGE DARLEY.

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AND SON, PICCADILLY.

1827.
7-6

P R E F A C E.

THE present Work is founded, in some measure, on a trifling story—"Lilian of the Vale," which the Author published not many years since. That story being interspersed with lyrical pieces, he was solicited to adapt it for the stage; but considering its deficiency in human interest, he thought its success would be on that account, if on no other, more than usually uncertain. However, containing a few incidents of the dramatic kind, it suggested the idea of building upon them an Opera, which might not be unacceptable. Accordingly one or two scenes of the following piece were written with that design; but, disheartened by the almost universal failure of modern dramatists, by the prospect of suspense

and servility which lay before him in his undertaking, as also by a mistrust of his own powers in this the most difficult walk of poetry, the Author gave up his resolution of writing for the stage. Passionately imbued with a love for theatrical composition, it then only remained for him to modify the scenes already sketched, and to continue his work on the plan of a *dramatic poem*, which he has attempted in the following pages.

By the above change of object, the Author likewise proposed to himself the benefit of a perfectly unrestricted design, so as to afford him the best chance of succeeding, when his faculties, such as they are, had no obstacles to contend with beyond their own imperfection. On the same principle of writing at the greatest possible mechanical advantage, he has, throughout the whole course of his work, indulged his vein, whatever it happened to be,—serious or humorous, didactic or descriptive; he has written verse or prose, song or dialogue; followed the heroic

or the lyric measure; been "every thing by starts, and nothing long," according to the impulse of the moment. Under all these favourable circumstances, if he has not succeeded in producing entertainment, he will regret it most unfeignedly for the reader's sake, and scarcely less for his own.

ERRATA.

Page 35, line 20, *for drank, read drunk.*
159, line 7, *for suspicions, read suspicious.*

CHARACTERS.

ROMANZO.

ANDREA. *His Servant.*

GERONYMO.

SYLVIA.

AGATHA. *Her Mother.*

STEPHANIA.

ROSELLE. } *Peasant Girls.*

JACINTHA. }

Peasants, &c.

SPIRITS.

MORGANA. *Queen of the Fairies.*

NEPHON.

OSME.

FLORETTA.

Fairies.

ARARACH. *King of the Fiends.*

GRUMIEL.

MOMIEL.

Demons.

The Scene lies in Italy amongst the Apennines.

