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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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HELD IN BONDAGE

OR

GRANVILLE DE VIGNE.

A TALE OF THE DAY.

BY

OUIDA,

AUTHOR OF "PASCARÈL," "PUCK," "STRATHMORE," ETC.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. II.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1873.



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HELD IN BONDAGE.

CHAPTER I.

How the olden Delirium awoke like a Giant from his Slumbers.

THE Molyneux rooms in Lowndes Square were full, not crowded; the Viscountess knew too well the art of society to cram her apartments, as is the present habitude, till lords and ladies jostle and crush one another like so many Johns and Marys crowding before a fair—the rooms were full, and “brilliantly attended,” as the morning papers had it next day, for though they were of the fourth order of nobility, the Molyneux had as exclusive a set as any in town, and knew “everybody.” “Everybody!” Comprehensive yet exclusive phrase! meaning, in *their* lips, just the *crème de la crème*, and nothing whatever below it; meaning, in a Warden’s, all his Chapter; in a schoolgirl’s, all her school-fellows; in a leg’s, all the “ossy-men;” in an author’s, those who read him; in a painter’s, those who praise him; in a rector’s, those who testimonialize and saint him! In addition to the *haute volée* of fashion there was the *haute volée* of intellect at the Viscountess’s Reception, for Lady Molyneux dearly loved to have a lion (though whether a writer who honours the nations, or an Eastern prince in native ugliness and jewellery, was perhaps immaterial to her!); and many of our best authors and artists were not only acquaintances of hers, but intimate friends of Sabre-