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RUSSELL BY G. P. R. JAMES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

**VOL. I.**

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# RUSSELL:

A TALE

OF

THE REIGN OF CHARLES II.

BY

G. P. R. JAMES.

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**VOL. I.**



L E I P Z I G

BERNH. TAUCHNITZ JUN.

1847.



# R U S S E L L.

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## CHAPTER I.

"To the blue-eyed maid of the cottage!" said one.

"To the blue-eyed maid of the cottage!" said another, and so said a third and a fourth.

These words were pronounced in a large room lined with richly carved, dark oak panelling. One side presented three windows, with narrow-paned lattices in lead and iron frames. In the centre was a sort of oriel, the glass-work of which ended about four feet, or rather more, above the general level of the floor; but an ascent of two steps conducted any one, who was inclined either to gaze out upon the surrounding scene, or to sit, and meditate or read upon the bench which ran round the recess, to a higher flooring, above which the window was raised not quite three feet.

In the centre of the room was a large square table, covered with plate and glass, rich viands, and choice wines; and at each side of that table was seated a gentleman in the costume of Charles the Second's reign, flaunting and glittering in silks and gold. Each had a page beside him, if possible, more gaily dressed than his