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GENTLEMAN AND COURTIER
BY
FLORENCE MARRYAT.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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“I had a friend that loved me;
I was his soul: he lived not but in me.
We were so closed within each other's breast,
The rivets were not found that join'd us first,
That do not reach us yet.”

DRYDEN.

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GENTLEMAN AND COURTIER.

A ROMANCE.

BY

FLORENCE MARRYAT,

AUTHOR OF "LOVE'S CONFLICT," "VÉRONIQUE," ETC.

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VOL. I.

LEIPZIG
BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1888.

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IF THERE SHOULD BE, IN ALL THIS WORLD,
ONE HEART
THAT LOVES ME FOR MYSELF
AND PREFERS MY WELFARE TO ITS OWN,
TO THAT HEART I DEDICATE THIS PICTURE OF A
WOMAN'S FRIENDSHIP.

“Thick waters show no images of things,
Friends are each other's mirrors, and should be
Clearer than crystal, or the mountain springs,
And free from cloud, design, or flattery.
For vulgar souls no part of friendship share;
Poets and Friends are born to what they are.”

PHILLIPS.

GENTLEMAN AND COURTIER.

CHAPTER I.

THE little room was filled with the sound of altercation, and Elsa crept round quietly to close the open window lest the angry voices should penetrate to the street below.

Louisa Addison, the elder sister, was, as usual, the most vehement of them all. She was the one of the family who possessed the emptiest head and the longest tongue, and she made good use of it on this occasion.

“It is utterly absurd,” she exclaimed; “it is worse than ridiculous for any of you to suppose that Alick and I can come forward to help in the matter—*we*, who have five children already to provide for.”

“And a sixth on the road,” interposed her husband with unnecessary candour.

“Well, and if there is, it’s not *our* fault,” returned Louisa sharply; “but any one with a grain of sense can