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SARCHEDON BY G. J. WHYTE MELVILLE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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SARCHEDON

A

LEGEND OF THE GREAT QUEEN.

BY

G. J. WHYTE MELVILLE,

AUTHOR OF "THE GLADIATORS," "HOLMBY HOUSE," ETC.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

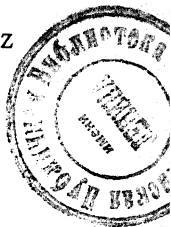
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LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1871.

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CONTENTS

O F V O L U M E II.

ASHTAROTH, QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

(Continued.)

	Page
CHAPTER IX. The City of Refuge	7
— X. Loth	18
— XI. Willing	27
— XII. Bread and Salt	37
— XIII. Parted	47
— XIV. Forlorn	57
— XV. The Lion's Cub	66
— XVI. The Power of the Dog	76
— XVII. The Wings of a Dove	84
— XVIII. Bond and Free	95
— XIX. In the Gate	107
— XX. Unveiled	115

NISROCH THE AVENGER.

CHAPTER I. A Serpent on a Rock	125
— II. Before the Altar	135
— III. The Snare of the Fowler	145
— IV. The Veiled Queen	156

	Page
CHAPTER V. Aryas the Beautiful	165
— VI. A Wind from the South	175
— VII. The Fenced City	184
— VIII. Sons of the Sword	197
— IX. Faithful unto Death	206
— X. A Fool in his Folly	213
— XI. Bow and Spear	223
— XII. Lost and Won	233
— XIII. Sharing the Spoil	242
— XIV. Counting the Cost	252
— XV. The Voice of the Charmer	261
— XVI. Requited	271
— XVII. Betrayed	279
— XVIII. Who is on my Side?	287
— XIX. Forgiven	297
— XX. Lost in the Dark	306

SARCHEDON.

ASHTAROTH, QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

(CONTINUED.)

CHAPTER IX.

The City of Refuge.

THE fugitives pressed on apace, Sarchedon's horse, though wavering and exhausted, vindicating nobly the purity of its lineage, a race of which none ever failed to answer the rider's hand and voice, ask what he would; but when they stopped, they fell stone dead. Nevertheless, the foremost Egyptians gained ground too surely, and ere the Assyrians came under the protection of a friendly city, the swiftest of their pursuers had already halted to bend their bows.

A volley of arrows whistled round Sarchedon's head, who arrived last within the welcome shelter of the walls, bristling with bowmen, prepared to defend it against a host. As the great gate closed behind him, he heard the war-cry of Ashur swelling to a shout of triumph; while the baffled Egyptians, making the circuit of the place at a gallop, wheeled round and withdrew into the desert, as though content to abandon their prey.

"I never wish to look on Pharaoh's face again,"