

BRONTË
CHARLOTTE

RICHARD
COEUR DE LION
AND BLONDEL

Charlotte Brontë
Richard Coeur de
Lion and Blondel

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Richard Coeur de Lion and Blondel:

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Richard Coeur de Lion and Blondel

Richard Cœur de Lion and Blondel

The blush, the light, the gorgeous glow of Eve
Waned from the radiant chambers of the west;
Now, twilight's robe, dim, orient shadows weave:
One star, gleams faintly lustrous, in the east;
Far down it shines, on the blue Danube's breast,
As calmly, wavelessly its waters glide
On to th' appointed regions of their rest,
The Sea, profound and hoary, waste and wide;
Whose black'ning billows swell in ever restless pride.

High o'er the river rose a rocky hill,
With barren sides, precipitous, and steep:
There, 'gainst the sunset heav'ns, serene, and still
Frown'd the dark turrets of a feudal Keep.
Its folded flag, hung in the air asleep;
The breathless beauty of the Summer night
Gave not that Austrian standard, to the sweep
Of fresh'ning Zephyr, or wild Storm-blast's might;

But motionless, it drooped, in eve's soft, dying light

In that Stern Fortress, there were arch, and tow'r,
And Iron-wrought lattice, narrow, deep-embay'd;
Where the gloom gather'd thick as night's mid hour
And round about it, hung a chilling shade,
Which told of dungeons, where the light ne'er play'd,
Of prison-walls, of fetter-bolt and chain;
Of Captives, 'neath a Tyrant's durance laid;
Never, to view the sun's bright face again;
Never to breathe the air, of free, wild hill and plain.

The moon had risen, a host of stars among,
When, to th' embattled castle walls, drew nigh
A wand'ring minstrel, from his shoulders hung
A harp, sweet instrument of melody.
He paus'd awhile, beneath the turret high,
Then took his harp, and all the sweet chords swept,
Till a sound swell'd beneath the silent sky,
And holiest music, on the charmed air crept,
Waked from the magic strings, Where till that hour they slept.

O! how that wild strain o'er the river swelled,
And mingled with its gentle murmuring,
From the true fount of Song divine, it welled;

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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