

PREFACE

TO THE

FENIAN EPISODE.

"Men are never so easily betrayed as when they are plotting to betray others."

THE author has been cautious, before presenting this work to the hands of an intelligent and discerning world, in avoiding all exaggerated statements that would be found to prejudice the feelings of an enlightened people, which, in all probability, would throw a false impression on the character of the work. He has been most assiduous in his endeavours through 1866, 7 and 8, to find out all realities emanating from every source since the commencement of the Fenian conspiracy, and has not failed in making himself acquainted with the leading papers and periodicals published in Great Britain and America, particularly the latter, which it appears, supplied all the material for the Fenian conspirators. He has not overlooked the terrible storms which swept violently over that part of Europe during the same period—the beautiful description of which is truly astonishing, all written in elegant verse; and lastly, his powerful dialogue with a Fenian *Matron*, whom he met by chance, and one who sang the feelings of the rebel country in a mournful strain, she being a secret courier employed by the Fenian Headcentres of America and Ireland.

As it appears, a correspondence was carried on between the conspirators of the new and the old world; the vigilance of the police had stopped all communication