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NEW HISTORICAL WORK BY MISS PARDOE.

In 3 vols. 8vo., with Portraits and other Illustrations.

THE LIFE OF MARIE DE MEDICIS, QUEEN OF FRANCE,

CONSORT OF HENRY IV., AND REGENT OF THE KINGDOM UNDER
LOUIS XIII.

BY MISS PARDOE.

Author of "LOUIS XIV. AND THE COURT OF FRANCE IN THE 17TH CENTURY,"
"THE CITY OF THE SULTAN," &c.

The life of the illustrious daughter of the Medici, and the no less famous Queen-Regent of France, which forms the subject-matter of these volumes, was one of such extraordinary vicissitude that it is probable no other page of historical biography affords a similar example of the instability of human greatness. Born a Princess, reared "under the purple," married in the bloom of her proud beauty to one of the most powerful monarchs in Europe, wielding during her maturity the sceptre of a mighty state, and ultimately wandering through foreign lands in her decline a forsaken exile—forsaken alike by her children, and by the haughty subject whom she had herself raised from obscurity, and invested with almost sovereign authority—to perish at last of disease and want in the obscure street of an obscure city: such was the fate of Marie de Medicis; while around the principal personage of the work is grouped a galaxy of those undying names from which France derives much of her past glory, and many of her most interesting traditions. In these pages the reader will be made acquainted, not only with the public measures of these great men, which have become matter of history, but also obtain an insight into their private thoughts, feelings, and principles of action. Henry IV., Sully, Biron, Richelieu, Condé, Epemon, Bassompierre, Luynes, Rohan, Gaston d'Orleans, Louis XIII., Soissons, the Guises, Montmorency, Marillac, Rubens, and many other distinguished warriors and statesmen are here shown "in their habits as they lived;" while the array of female celebrities is scarcely less brilliant, combining as it does, the names of Marguerite de Valois, Anne of Austria, "La Belle Gabrielle," the Marquise de Verneuil, Anne of Clèves Duchesse de Guise, the Princesses of Condé and Conti, the Duchesses of Nemours and Aiguillon, the beautiful and unfortunate Countess du Fargis, and the martyred foster-sister of the Queen-Regent, the still more unhappy Maréchale d'Ancre. This work, for which a wide canvass was essential from the vast amount of material which it involved, and which combines the records of two reigns and a regency, will be found to contain not only all the leading events of the period of which it treats, but also those more minute details which tend to throw a light upon many public measures, of which the motives, without such a revelation, would occasionally appear obscure, and even contradictory. The varied career of Marie de Medicis, considered under its several phases, is assuredly one of the most striking romances of real life; and in the composition of the present volumes the greatest care has been taken not to sacrifice to the fascinations of fiction the stern truths of history.