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CLASSICS

G. P. R. James

Collected Works



Series Fourteen

*The Collected Works of*

**G. P. R. JAMES**

(1799-1860)



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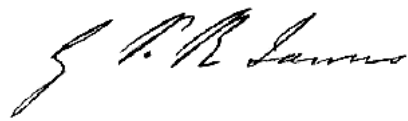
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*The Delphi Classics Catalogue*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. R. James', is centered on the page.

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Version 1

*The Collected Works of*

**G. P. R. JAMES**



*By Delphi Classics, 2024*

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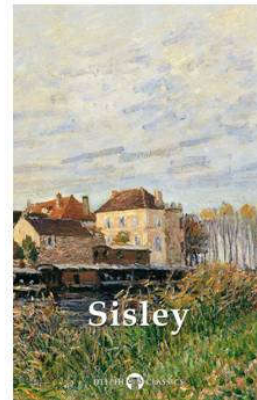
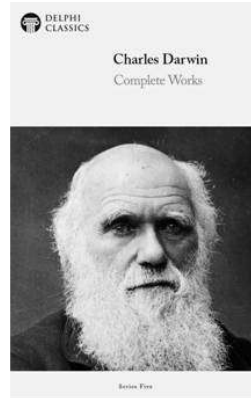
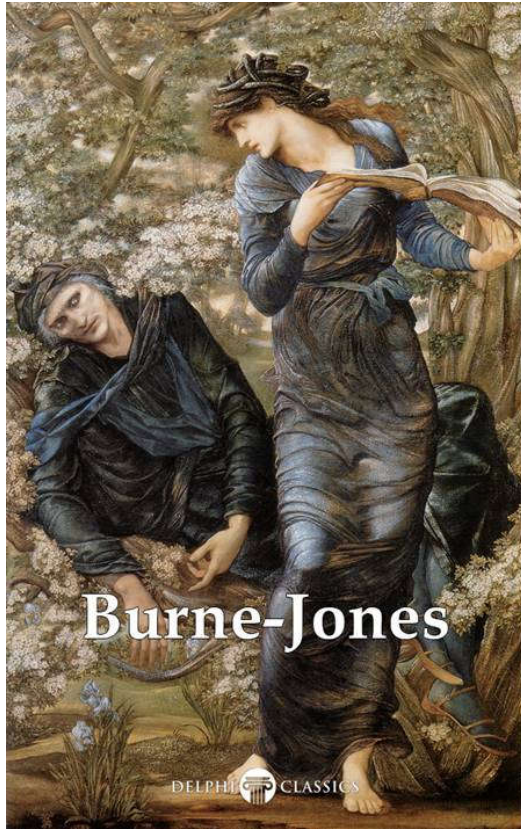
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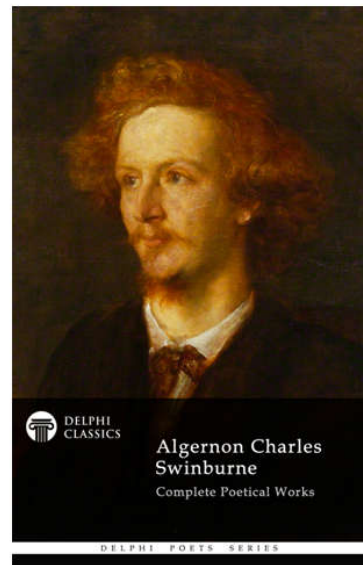
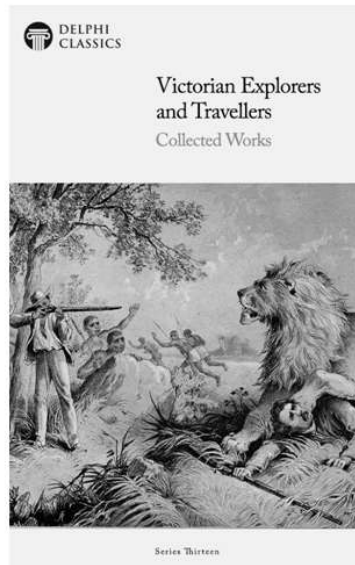
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# THE VICTORIANS

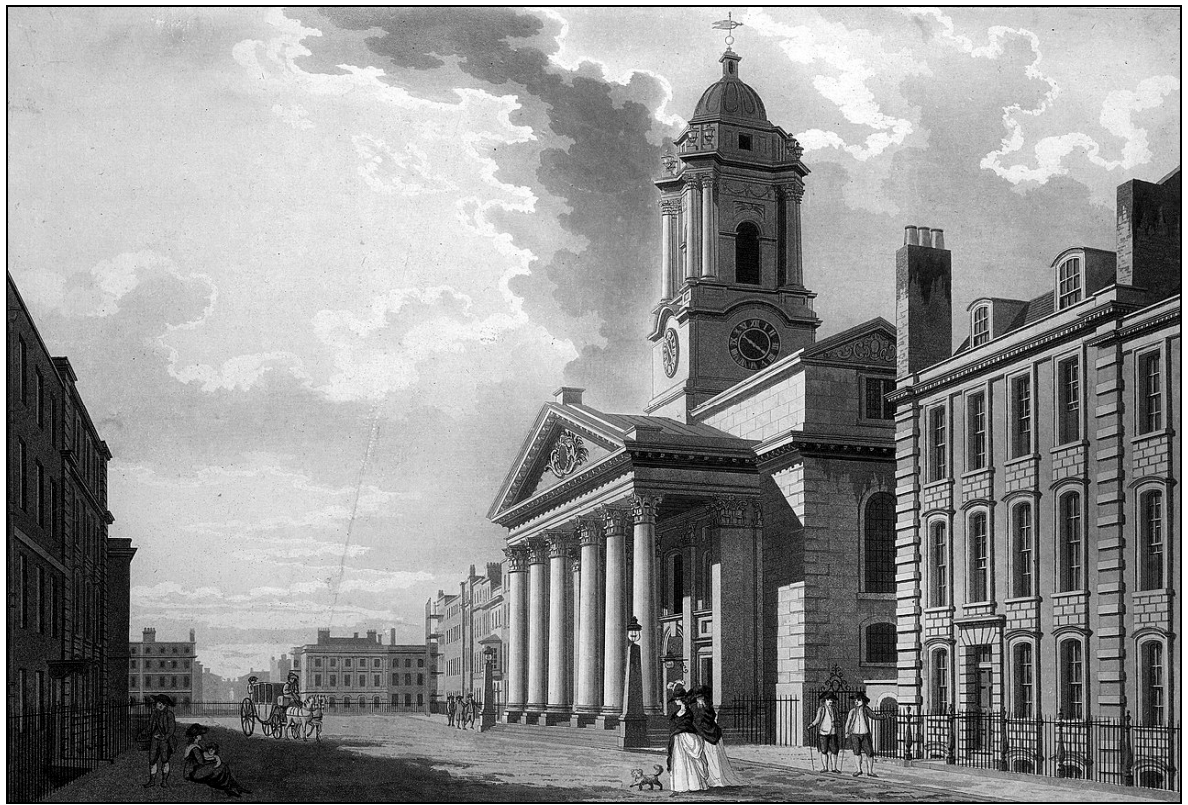


## The Novels



*Hanover Square, London, c. 1820 — G. P. R. James was born in St. George Street, Hanover Square in 1799.*





*St. George Street, Hanover Square, 1787*



## Richelieu (1829)



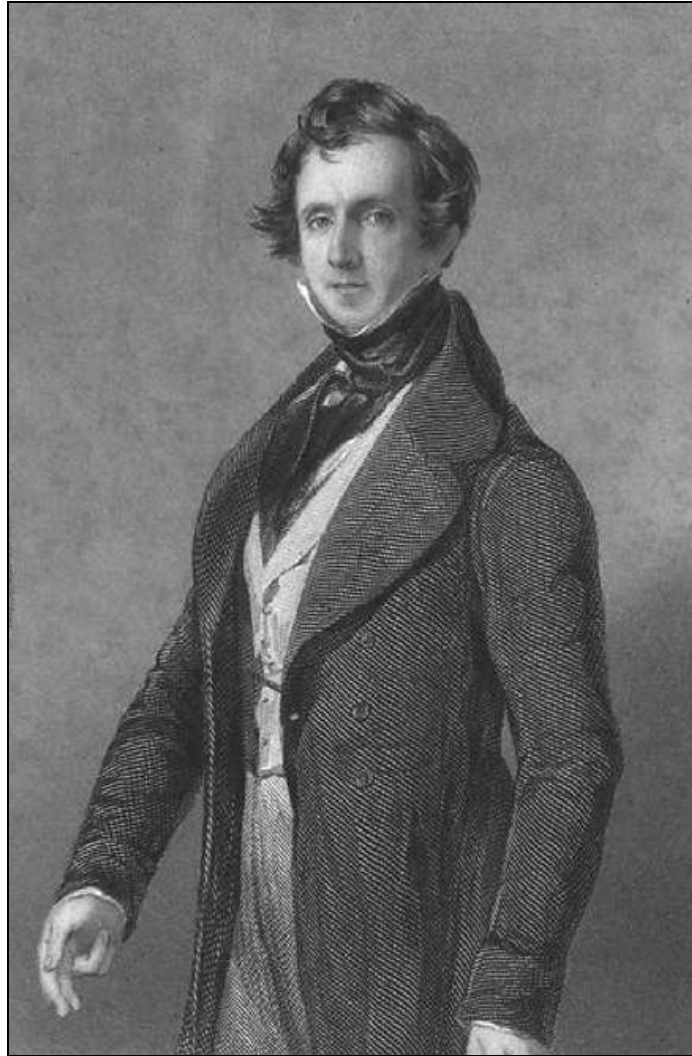
### A TALE OF FRANCE

George Payne Rainsford James was born in London in 1799. His father was a physician that had served in the navy and was stationed in America during the Revolutionary War. James attended the school of the Reverend William Carmalt in Putney, where he developed a love of languages, including Greek, Latin, Persian and Arabic. He also studied medicine as a young man, but his inclinations eventually led him to the study of literature. Initially, he had wanted to go into the navy, but his father was against it, due to his wartime experiences, though he finally permitted his son to join the army. James served for a short time as a lieutenant during the Hundred Days and was wounded in a small action following The Battle of Waterloo. Before turning his attentions to writing, he travelled extensively, visiting France and Spain, soon after the abdication of Napoleon.

*Richelieu: A Tale of France* was first published in 1829 by Henry Colburn in London, England. It was one of James' earliest novels in a long and prolific career as an author. He wrote at a prodigious speed and produced at least one, though often two or even three, new books every year for thirty years. Considering most of his novels were three-volumes, he was remarkably consistent and industrious in his output, perhaps to the detriment of his literary reputation, as his works were rarely received with much acclaim from critics. James was inspired to write by his admiration for Walter Scott and he was deeply flattered when the Scottish author, having read *Richelieu*, encouraged him to pursue a career as a novelist. The novel would prove to be James' most popular and enduring book.

A historical novel set during the latter years of Louis XIII's reign of France in the seventeenth century, it focuses on the powerful and influential Cardinal Richelieu, the chief minister to the King for nearly twenty years. A clever and ambitious man, Richelieu worked hard to establish his place in Louis XIII's court and to exert his vision for France's prominence in Europe. His primary foreign policy objective was weakening the dominance of the Spanish-Hapsburg dynasty and preventing it from encroaching on France's land or sphere of influence. And his major domestic ambition was diminishing the independent political power of the nobility and centralising control of the country in the hands of the King.

The plot revolves around the life of Cardinal Richelieu, presented as a powerful statesman and advisor to King Louis XIII. It depicts the political intrigue and power struggles of the time, as Richelieu navigates his way through court politics and battles against his enemies, both foreign and domestic. The narrative also explores Richelieu's personal life, including his relationships with women and his struggle with illness. With vivid descriptions of battles, courtly intrigues and the sumptuous lifestyle of the French aristocracy, *Richelieu: A Tale of France* is a captivating tale that offers a glimpse into one of the most fascinating periods of French history.



*James as a young man, drawn by F. Cruikshank and engraved by J. C. Armytage*

RICHELIEU,  
A TALE OF FRANCE.

---

I advise you that you read  
The Cardinal's malice and his potency  
Together: to consider further, that  
What his high hatred would effect, wants not  
A minister in his power.

SHAKSPEARE.

---

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:  
HENRY COLBURN, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.  
1829.

*The first edition's title page*

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*Cardinal de Richelieu by Philippe de Champaigne, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Strasbourg, 1642*

**VOLUME I.**





## DEDICATION.



TO MY DEAR SIR,

YOUR NAME is too great a one to be trifled with, and therefore, I do not put it at the head of this page. Should your anticipations in favour of this work be realized, and its success be equal to my utmost hopes, I dedicate it to you in testimony both of my gratitude for your kindness, and my admiration for your genius; but should the hand of criticism cut it short hereafter, or the frost of neglect wither it in the bud, I take a humbler tone, and beg you only to accept my thanks for your good wishes and kind encouragement. If it should succeed, you will, I am sure, receive the work with some pleasure on my account; — if it fail, you will still accept it as the only means I have of expressing my feeling of obligation towards you; and, at all events, you will understand my motive for not prefixing your name to the Dedication of a book, the fate of which is yet doubtful.

The Author.

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*End of Sample*