

**IM ZWIELICHT. VOL. I. FIRST
READINGS IN GERMAN PROSE,
CONTAINING SELECTIONS FROM
RUDOLF BAUMBACH'S
"MÄRCHEN UND ERZÄHLUNGEN"**

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DR. WILHELM BERNHARDT & RUDOLF BAUMBACH

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„Märchen und Erzählungen.“

WITH

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P R E F A C E.

RUDOLF BAUMBACH is one of the most original and sympathetic poets of the present day; most of his sparkling literary productions are in verse, but his strong and graphic prose is not less fascinating.

The short stories of this volume are selected from his „Sommermärchen“ (Leipzig, 1881) and from his „Erzählungen und Märchen“ (Leipzig, 1885), the popularity of which is evident from the fact that the former has reached the twelfth and the latter the sixth edition.

These dainty sketches are simple and graceful in style, original in treatment, and enlivened by many touches of wit and satire. In them Baumbach shows himself a genuine child of Thuringia; a land rich in song and folklore, where, in the age

of romance, St. Elizabeth culled roses, and Tannhäuser gathered laurels, where Frau Venus inhabits the interior of the Hörselberg, and where, in the spring and autumn, the Wild-Huntsman leads nightly his spectral chase. In this land of legend and tradition Baumbach was born, Sept. 28, 1841. The roguish humor, the fresh conception of the beauties of nature, and the grave thoughtfulness, so characteristic of the Thuringian, are reflected everywhere in his narratives. He adds to his familiarity with every bird and flower a thorough knowledge of the world acquired during his pedestrian tours along the vine-covered banks of the Rhine, through the Hartz and Riesengebirge, along the shores of the German Sea, through the Alps and Italy into the rose-gardens of Byzantium and the classic valleys of Greece.

Baumbach combines, with remarkable dexterity and poetic genius, the realistic and the fanciful; a circumstance which induced me to present the stories contained in this volume under the title "Im Zwielicht."

The "Notes" are intended to assist the pupil in surmounting the difficulties of grammar, and to explain all allusions to German folklore and customs.

The forty pages of "Oral Exercises in German," and the "Vocabulary," make the book serviceable to teachers of the German language in American schools.

WILHELM BERNHARDT.

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *May*, 1888.

