

WALLENSTEIN'S CAMP

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Wallenstein's Camp by Friedrich von Schiller

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FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER

**WALLENSTEIN'S
CAMP**

Wallenstein's Lager

von

Friedrich von Schiller.

In das Englische überfetzt

von

Theodor Birgman, LL. B.

Trinity College Cambridge,

Chirch-Picutenant à la Suite in Königl. Großbrit. Diensten,
vormals Oberleut. in K. K. Deherr. Diensten.

London: 1871,

David Nutt, 270, Strand.

*To, Ernest Oswald Cole Esq.
from his affectionate Cousin
The Translator.*

WALLENSTEIN'S CAMP

BY

FREDERICK VON SCHILLER.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE

BY

THEODORE WIRGMAN, LL. B.

TRINITY-COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
LIEUT. COLONEL ON H. P., LATE 8th INNISKILLING DRAGOONS,
FORMERLY OF THE IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN SERVICE.

LONDON: 1871,

DAVID NUTT, 270, STRAND.



Entered at Stationers Hall.

PREFACE.

Two translations of Wallenstein's Camp having already appeared — one by the late Earl of Ellesmere, the other by Mr. James Churchill in "Bohn's Standard Library" — this maiden-attempt is with great diffidence offered to the public. A lenient judgment is then expected; especially as it was undertaken to while away the dull hours of a monsoon, which in 1866 broke so heavily over the cantonments of Mhow, East Indies, as to cause a cessation of all, but ordinary, military duties, and to render leisure irksome without some appointed task.

Wallenstein's Camp is a prelude to Schiller's "Piccolomini" and "Wallenstein's Death" and displays, as T. S. Coleridge — the successful translator of those renowned Dramas — says, "a lively picture of laxity of discipline and the mutinous dispositions of Wallenstein's soldiery". He considers that a translation of it "into prose or

into any other metre than that of the original would have given a false idea of its style and purport"; a translation "into the same metre would have been incompatible with a faithful adherence to the sense of the German from the comparative poverty of our language in rhymes and it would have been unadvisable, from the incongruity of those lax verses with the present taste of the English public". (*See Preface to Piccolomini.*)

Notwithstanding this opinion it appears that the original is susceptible of a nearly literal translation into English verse without losing much of its spirit and vigour. But to accomplish this, it is requisite to have a thorough knowledge of both languages and also to have an insight into the military customs of the Imperial Austrian Army, which did, till lately, bear marked traces of its descent from the Wallensteiners of the Thirty Years' War.

A ten years' service in the Austrian Cavalry and Staff Corps has given the Translator the opportunity of acquiring both these requisites, which, he trusts, have not been in vain employed.

As few deviations from the original, as possible, have been made; but some were permitted to convey to the Reader in an English form the puns and play upon words, that in German flow so glibly from the tongue of the Capuchin Friar. His humorous address cannot be rendered quite literally; yet it is hoped that the wit, humour, and spirit of the original have not suffered much by having assumed an English garb. Some English slang phrases have here and there been admitted to render the conversations of the soldiery more forcible and adapt them to the tone prevailing in the barrackyard. This offence, however, against refined taste will, no doubt, be pardoned, when it is considered that Schiller represented soldiers such as they were and not such as they ought to be.

The German text is placed opposite to the English to enable the Reader to compare one with the other, and thus to judge more readily of the faithfulness of the Translation.

In conclusion, the Author begs the public to take into consideration that this translation was made in a place, where no assistance could be

procured, and at a time, when he was ignorant of any previous attempt; for all faults he, therefore, claims especial indulgence.

United Service Club,
London, February 1871.

T. W.