

**A FEW PLAIN FACTS BY  
JUSTICE CONCERNING  
THE PLAGIARISMS**

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A Few Plain Facts by Justice Concerning the Plagiarisms by Ermond Rostand

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**ERMOND ROSTAND**

**A FEW PLAIN FACTS BY  
JUSTICE CONCERNING  
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A FEW PLAIN FACTS

BY

JUSTICE

CONCERNING THE PLAGIARISMS

BY

EDMOND ROSTAND

OF FRANCE

*In the Play Cyrano de Bergerac, with a Reference to the  
Plagiarisms in L'Âiglon and Chantecler*

FROM

THE ORIGINAL DRAMA OF

The Merchant Prince of Cornville

BY

CAPTAIN SAMUEL EBERLY GROSS

OF AMERICA

1910



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1970

TO VINU  
ANBORLIAO

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### STATEMENT BY THE PUBLISHER

In the article by "Justice" there are brief references to the history of the author of "The Merchant Prince of Cornville," Captain Samuel Eberly Gross. It might be added that he entered the army of his country when a youth of seventeen years, served several years, was in many battles, underwent many hardships, and rose to the rank of Captain of Cavalry for meritorious services—being the youngest officer of that rank in the army.

He afterwards studied law, graduated and received his degree, was admitted and is a member of the legal profession, although not in active practice; became largely interested in enterprises for the development of real property but at all times he has been a retiring student of literature and an unassuming writer of both prose and verse—some published and more unpublished.

He is a member of the Press Club, Chicago Club, Grand Army, Colonial Wars, Sons of the American Revolution, Huguenot Society of America, Masonic, and many charitable and artistic societies. He has been President, Western Society of the Army of the Potomac; Commander, Military Order of Foreign Wars; Secretary-General, Vice-President General, and State President,

Sons of the American Revolution; Deputy Governor, Colonial Wars; Captain, Continental Guard; President, Charity Society; Active Member, Art Institute, Humane Society, etc.

He was nominated by the United Workingmen's Societies as their candidate for Mayor of Chicago. Among his ancestors were historic Huguenots, who, persecuted in France, came to America, and became prominent in its early history. His ancestor, Captain John Gross, served in the American Revolution

An epitome of the history of the composition of "The Merchant Prince of Cornville" and the many trials of the author are given; many others were disclosed by the evidence in the United States Court, and all the evidence and facts in the case would make many large volumes.

The taking of the manuscript play to the Porte St. Martin Theatre in Paris and the plagiarism by Rostand have many important personal incidents not disclosed, as the scope of the article only admitted of a synopsis of the suit, evidence, trial and final decree of plagiarism.

The perpetual injunction of the United States Court against the representation of "Cyrano de Bergerac" has been respected in England. The English copyright of the "Merchant Prince"

entitles it, by copyright treaty, to protection in France and the principal other foreign countries.

Brief reference is also made to the plagiarisms in *L'Aiglon* and *Chantecler*; what Tolstoi said about Rostand in "What is Art;" and the methods of plagiarism adopted by Rostand.

In publishing the concise statement by "Justice" it was thought by the publisher that a service might be rendered which would be appreciated by honest men and lovers of literature.

The rapacious plundering of an unassuming American author by a French author, before comparatively unknown and afterwards made world-famous therefrom, constitutes in its entirety the most reprehensible robbery in modern literature.

Such a crime cannot remain unrecognized and unrebuked by men of letters, however eminent, without detriment to themselves and a lowering of the ethics of literature. Debasing ethics will abase any profession. The lofty purpose of literature is to ennoble mankind and no one by silent assent or inadvertence, covert or overt, should become accessory to literary theft. Honor in literature is honor in the highest citadel of civilization and should be guarded.

THE PUBLISHER.