MINNA VON BARNHELM ODER DAS SOLDATENGLÜCK: EIN LUSTSPIEL IN FÜNF AUFZÜGEN

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Minna Von Barnhelm oder das Soldatenglück: Ein Lustspiel in Fünf Aufzügen by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing & A. B. Nichols

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GOTTHOLD EPHRAIM LESSING & A. B. NICHOLS

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Minna von Barnhelm

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das Soldatenglück

Gin Buftfpiel in funf Aufjugen

Don

Botthold Ephraim Leffing

WITH REPRODUCTIONS OF TWELVE ETCHINGS BY CHODOWIECKI, AND A PORTRAIT OF LESSING

AND AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

A. B. NICHOLS Instructor in Harvard University



NEW YORK
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY
1898

Educt 1249. 805. 461

Portia. A quarrel, ho, already! what's the matter?
Gratiano. About a hoop of gold, a paltry ring
That she did give me, whose poesie was
For all the world like cutlers' poetry
Upon a knife, 'Love me and leave me not.'

Merchant of Venice, v. 1.

WARYARD COLLEGE LIBRARY FROM THE LIBRARY OF PROFESSOR HORATIO STEVENS WHITE JUNE 12, 1835

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PREFACE.

THE text of this edition of Lessing's Minna von Barnhelm is that of the second edition of 1770 as given in the Lachmann-Muncker edition of Lessing's The spelling has been conformed to the standard orthography, but Lessing's significant punctuation has been carefully retained, except where it would be misleading or ambiguous from the point of view of modern usage. The dash, which Lessing in common with most of his contemporaries used so freely, has been retrenched or replaced by alternative pointing. Inasmuch as the Minna is commonly read early in the student's course, it has seemed wise to present no needless difficulties such as Lessing's minor peculiarities of form would offer, however interesting to the more advanced student. Such changes though are comparatively few, and the more important instances are mentioned in the notes.

The editor has made conscientious use of the very considerable literature on the subject, and begs to express his indebtedness to the many commentators whose industry has made his task a light one. The notes and comment have been purposely made simple, though references have been supplied that will suggest further study. Special attention has been given to the idiomatic turning of the particles, which lend so much life to German dialogue but present to the beginner difficulties in which his lexicon can help him little.

The illustrations are reproductions of twelve etchings by Daniel Chodowiecki, the German Hogarth, a contemporary of Lessing (1726-1801). Aside from their artistic merits they are of interest as showing the costume of the time. They were originally published in the Genealogischer Kalender auf das Jahr 1770 (Berlin). The portrait of Lessing is after one in the National Gallery in Berlin ascribed to the elder Tischbein. It was probably painted about 1765, and shows Lessing at the age at which he wrote the Minna.

The editor is indebted to Professor Gruener of Yale University for many useful suggestions and for great kindness in reading the proof-sheets.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, October 1898.

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