

**THE POEMS OF SCHILLER EXPLAINED:
WITH A GLOSSARY, ELUCIDATING
THE DIFFICULTIES OF LANGUAGE,
CONSTRUCTION, AND HISTORICAL
AND OTHER ALLUSIONS**

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The Poems of Schiller Explained: With a Glossary, Elucidating the Difficulties of Language, Construction, and Historical and Other Allusions by Edmund Bach

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EDMUND BACH

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BY

EDMUND BACH,

OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

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PREFACE.

AMONG the writers whose genius has shed a lustre over the literature of their country, no name stands forth more conspicuously than that of Schiller. His Poems are familiar to every German who has the least pretension to a knowledge of the literature of his country; they are a daily companion in his hours of relaxation, the cheerful friend of his rambles or solitary musings. No poet, perhaps, has ever produced a more extensive and beneficial influence on the minds and hearts of his countrymen than Schiller; the tendency of all his writings is, to exalt, to refine and quicken the feelings, and the nicest test of their value in a moral sense is, that every time we peruse them, our admiration of the poet is ever accompanied by sympathy and (if I may be allowed the expression) a feeling of friendship for the man.

Schiller's Poems are usually an early book in the hands of the German student in this country; they, however, require an acquaintance with so many subjects of study — they carry us over so wide a field of classical, historical, and mythological lore — that to a large class of readers an

explanation, in the form of a running commentary or of notes, is absolutely necessary. A conviction of this necessity, and of the advantages to be derived from a key to the difficulties above mentioned, has led to the compilation of this little work. Should it come into the hands of those whose previous education has rendered unnecessary the information its pages are intended to convey, the author claims their indulgence — for them it was not intended. In venturing to comment upon the Poems of Schiller, the author has endeavoured to explain or to illustrate the general character of each poem, and to sketch briefly the historical or other allusions each may contain. In the vocabulary he has selected those words which are not generally to be found in dictionaries, or which are used in a peculiar sense, and endeavoured to remove the difficulties which occur in the construction. If he has succeeded in smoothing the path to the learner — of leading him to discover beauties — of encouraging him in the study, and increasing in him a love, of the literature of Germany and the works of one of her brightest ornaments — the author's task will be accomplished, and he will enjoy an abundant requital for the labour it has cost him.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX.

	Page
Abchied vom Leser.....	141
Amalia.....	1
An die Freude.....	22
An die Freunde.....	50
An die Proselytenmacher.....	132
An einen Moralisten.....	19
An Emma.....	43
An Goethe.....	139
An Minna.....	16
Archimedes und sein Schüler.....	130
Berglied.....	48
Breite und Tiefe.....	129
Buchhändleranzeige.....	133
Das eigene Ideal.....	132
Das Eleusische Fest.....	57
Das Geheimniß.....	43
Das Geheimniß der Reminiscenz.....	6
Das Glück.....	125
Das Glück und die Weisheit.....	19
Das Ideal und das Leben.....	89
Das Lied von der Glocke.....	98
Das Mädchen aus der Fremde.....	88
Das Mädchen von Orleans.....	123
Das Siegesfest.....	52
Das Spiel des Lebens.....	138
Das verschleierte Bild zu Saïs.....	87
Dem Erbprinzen von Weimar.....	140
Der Abend.....	44
Der Antritt des neuen Jahrhunderts.....	140
Der Alpenjäger.....	48
Der Flüchtling.....	15
Der Frühling.....	15

	Page
Der Gang nach dem Eisenhammer	78
Der Genius	127
Der Graf von Habsburg	80
Der Handschuh	85
Der Jüngling am Bache	47
Der Kampf	27
Der Kampf mit dem Drachen.....	73
Der Kaufmann	116
Der Kunstgriff.....	133
Der moralische Dichter	133
Der Pilgrim.....	45
Der philosophische Geist.....	127
Der Ring des Polykrates	59
Der Sämann	116
Der Spaziergang	93
Der Tanz	125
Der Taucher.....	69
Der Triumph der Liebe.....	16
Des Mädchens Klage	47
Deutsche Treue.....	118
Die Antike an den nordischen Wanderer	121
Die Antiken zu Paris.....	122
Die Begegnung	43
Die berühmte Frau	40
Die Blumen	15
Die Bürgschaft.....	67
Die Danaiden	133
Die deutsche Muse.....	115
Die Entzückung an Laura	6
Die Erwartung	44
Die Flüsse	134
Die Freundschaft	13
Die Führer des Lebens	129
Die Götter Griechenlands.....	29
Die Größe der Welt.....	10
Die Gunst des Augenblicks	47

	Page
Die Gunst der Mufen	132
Die Hoffnung	115
Die Homeriden	133
Die Ideale	45
Die Johanniter	118
Die Kindesmörderin	9
Die Kraniche des Ibycus	61
Die Künstler	34
Die Macht des Gefanges	112
Die Metaphysiker	135
Die Philosophen	133
Die Sanger der Vorwelt	122
Die Schlacht	11
Die Theilung der Erde	88
Die unerwindliche Flotte	26
Die vier Weltalter	49
Die Weltweisen	136
Die Worte des Glaubens	127
Die Worte des Wahns	128
Die zwei Tugendwege	131
Dithyrambe	49
Eine Leichenfantasie	2
Einem jungen Freunde	138
Einer jungen Freundin ins Stammbuch	42
Elegie auf den Tod eines Junglings	10
Glysum	14
Fantasie an Laura	3
Graf Eberhard der Greierk von Warttemberg	20
Gruppe aus dem Tartarus	14
Hectors Abschied	1
Hero und Leander	62
Jeremiade	133
Vias	121
Karthago	117
Kassandra	65
Klaae der Ceres	56