THE PLUTOCRAT: A DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS

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OTTO FREDERICK SCHUPPHAUS

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Trieste

THE PLUTOCRAT.

A DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS.

BY

OTTO FREDERICK SCHUPPHAUS.

NEW YORK:
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1892

PREFACE.

A DRAMA in blank verse may challenge criticism by suggesting a certain presumption on the part of the author; but the form having seemed fitting in the present case, the author saw no reason why he should defer to any literary superstition by choosing another. The book looks for an audience amid the thousands, aye, the millions, who watch with eager interest the greatest struggle waged in modern times—the struggle between the rich and the poor, between capital and labor. It appeals to all who like to hear the unfettered voice of the whole people, not of one class only. It has been the author's aim to be strictly impartial. How far he has succeeded is for the reader to judge.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

WEST, a rich manufacturer.

HENRY, his superintendent.

IDA FIELD, a widow.

ALICE, her daughter.

JACK,
PAUL,
GEORGE,
PATRICK, } workingmen.
PETER,
CHARLES,
FRED,

MARY, a servant.

Lawyer, porter, servants, and workingmen.

The many still must labor for the one!

BYRON, "The Corsair."

THE PLUTOCRAT.

ACT I.

SCENE I. *Room in Mrs. Field's House.*

Ida. Yes, Alice will be home to-day, I hear.
How long it seems since last I saw her! Ah!
If she but knew how great has been my grief,
How much it costs me to be far from her,
And let her grow up under strangers' eyes,
Then she might understand a mother's love!
But what will not an ardent mother do
To see her darling happy and content?
If sorrow is the price of happiness,
Then Heaven may grant that all shall yet be well!

Henry. Well, madam, you will proudly meet your child—
An image, closely copied, of yourself.