

# **MEPHISTOPHELES: A PROFANATION**

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Mephistopheles: A Profanation by John Kendrick Bangs

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**JOHN KENDRICK BANGS**

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MEPHISTOPHELES

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# MEPHISTOPHELES

A PROFANATION 99400

BY

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS



NEW YORK  
GILLISS BROTHERS & TURNURE, ART AGE PRESS  
1889

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To  
The Bones and Remains  
of  
Goethe



DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

- Mephistopheles* : Prince of Darkness, fonder of Sweetness than of Light. In love with Marguerite. In every way the Deuce of a fellow.
- Faust* : Principal of the Nuremburg Academy for Young Ladies and Gentlemen. About to enter upon his second childhood. Also in love with Marguerite.
- Marguerite* : The village belle. In love with no one, especially Mephistopheles.
- Martha* : A widow, Marguerite's mother, whom nobody loves.
- Valentine* : Marguerite's brother, Captain of the Nuremburg Company I.
- The Janitor of Hades* : Vice-President of the United Kingdom of Sin.
- Mephistopheles, Jr.* : The Son of his Father.  
Peasants, Imps, Devils and Soldiers.

ACT I.

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SCENE: Interior of Dr. Faust's Academy for Young Ladies and Gentlemen,  
at Nuremberg. Scholars stand about in groups.

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OPENING CHORUS.

*Scholars:*

We're a gladsome band of Teuton youth,  
All absorbed in the search for truth,  
'Neath Herr Faustus' fostering care,  
Pedagogue he beyond compare.  
Knowing all that's worth the knowing,  
Seeds of knowledge constantly sowing,  
Fruits of his work we are always showing,  
Whether it be Latin, mathematics, Greek or rowing.

*The Boys:*

Foot-ball, tennis, base-ball batting—

*The Girls:*

Cooking, sewing, millinery, tatting—

## MEPHISTOPHELES.

*The Boys:*

Angling, Volapük, smoking, betting—

*The Girls:*

Dancing, singing and coquetting—

*All:*

Faustus teaches us to perfection  
All that is necessary in this section.

So

We're a gladsome band of Teuton youth,  
All absorbed in the search for truth,  
'Neath Herr Faustus' fostering care,  
Pedagogue he beyond compare.

*[Lightning flash followed by loud peals of thunder. The scholars start back affrighted.]*

*First Girl: [Recit.]* Oh friends, what means this horrid noise?

Come, girls, let's get behind the boys.

*First Boy: [Recit.]* I cannot solve this dreadful mystery—

There's nothing like it in my history.  
To din like this I ne'er before have  
harkened.

*[Thunder.]*

And when I note the room is darkened,  
My heart beats fast, my poor head whirls,