O. V. OPUSCULA, NO. 20: HOW DREAMS COME TRUE: A DRAMATIC SKETCH IN TWO SCENES

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O. V. Opuscula, No. 20: How Dreams Come True: A Dramatic Sketch in Two Scenes by John Todhunter

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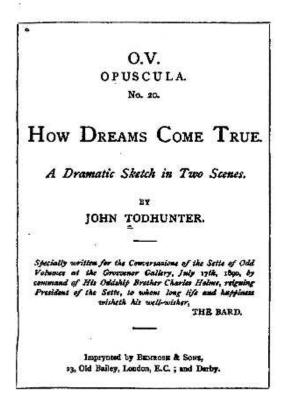
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JOHN TODHUNTER

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CHARACTERS.

ALDOBRAND	 Hans Schwars's Apprentice.
BERTHA	 Hans Schwars's Daughter.
GRETCHEN	 Bertha's Maid.
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HOW DREAMS COME TRUE.

THE scene represents an oak-panelled room in the house of Hans Schwarz, a Master-Printer of Nuremberg. At the back of the stage, deeply recessed in the wall, is a leaded glass window with roundels, through which an orchard with apple trees in full blossom is seen. Beneath the window is an oaken seat. On the back wall, R. of the window, is a hanging cupboard, with old books on a shelf and on the top a number of tankards, glasses and flagons. In the corner (L) hangs a crucifix, with brass receptacle for holy water; in front of it a pricdieu. The ceiling (rather low) is of wood, and is supported on great oaken beams. In the side-wall (R) near the back of the stage is a door. In the side-wall (L) nearer the front of the stage, a curtained opening leading to the printing room. An oaken table stands near the side wall (R), with cloth, plates, glasses, &c., not yet removed after a meal. An arm-chair with leathern cushions, and a footstool (L.C.)

Time-Early sixteenth century.

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Three years are supposed to elapse between the first and second scenes.

The story on which this little piece is founded occurs in *The Antiquary*, Chap. xi., where Jonathan Oldbuck narrates it as a passage in the life of one of his ancestors.



HOW DREAMS COME TRUE.

SCENE I.

ALDOBRAND discovered kneeling on the floor, packing a knapsack. BERTHA, passing the window, perps in through an open casement, and then enters (R.).

BERTHA.

(Beginning to clear the table.) So thou art going forth into the world, A dreamer, still a dreamer, Aldobrand ! But, tell me, art thou sad to say farewell To Nuremberg, my father's house, and me?

ALDOBRAND.

A man must see the world, sweet Mistress Bertha !

I am glad to see it. After the 'prentice years, The years of wandering—hey for liberty t

How Dreams Come True.

BERTHA.

So thou art glad to leave us? Man forsooth ! Call'st thou thyself a man, the gosling down Scarce yellow on thy chin? Ungrateful boy, Thou who hast shared our house, eaten our bread,

These seven long years-and now trudge forth and quit us

Without the heaving of one kindly sigh.

ALDOBRAND.

Nay, sweetheart, I am glad and sorry too; I love old Nuremberg, your father's house, And—all it holds. My 'prentice years, you know,

Were not all flowers, yet now they seem to me A cloistered Paradise, whereon I gaze

Through the fast-closing doors. But close they must,

And forth must I. I am glad and sorry too.

BERTHA.

My father's rule was something stern, I know.

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