

THÉOPHILE: A MIRACLE PLAY

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Théophile: A Miracle Play by Henry Copley Greene

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HENRY COPLEY GREENE

**THÉOPHILE: A
MIRACLE PLAY**

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A MIRACLE PLAY
BY
HENRY COPLEY GREENE



BOSTON
SMALL, MAYNARD & COMPANY
MDCCCXCVIII

TO RICHARD C. CABOT,
whose strong insight and sympathy gave
Théophile an hour of tragic life.

PREFACE.

The legend of Thiophile's rebellion and repentance being common property, I have quarried in it without scruple, and have added from other legends the essential idea of this play, Thiophile's fidelity to the Virgin. Certain metaphors in her honor I have borrowed from the Rosa Mystica. A few other phrases, including the sorcerer's "Hebrew," I have taken from the Miracle de Thiophile of Ruteboeuf. This quaint thirteenth-century play may be conveniently read in the version edited by Remy de Gourmont and published in Paris by the Mercure de France.

H. C. G.

CHARACTERS.

IN THE PROLOGUE.

A MONK *Thomas Wentworth Higginson.*
A HERALD *Katrine Coolidge.*

IN THE PLAY PROPER.

THE VIRGIN MARY *Eugenia Brooks Frothingham.*
THÉOPHILE *Richard C. Cabot.*
SATAN *T. Russell Sullivan.*
SALATIN *Raphael Pumpelly.*
THE ABBOT EUSÈBE *Thomas Wentworth Higginson.*
AN ACOLYTE *Katrine Coolidge.*

*The play was first performed, through the
kindness of Mr. Joseph Lindon Smith, at the
Teatro Bambino,
in
Dublin, New Hampshire,
the 18th of July,
1898.*

THÉOPHILE.

THE PROLOGUE.

Into a garden like the garden of an abbey there enter a MONK and a HERALD. And to those assembled to behold the play

THE HERALD calls :

Silence ; be silent, friends, and hark how we
shall play
A wonder wrought by Her to whom the
angels pray.

THE MONK.

Brethren, entreat for us Our Blessed Lady's
grace,
That we may set forth worthily before Her
face
The trial of Her steadfast servant Théophile.
And bear ye patiently the ills we must re-
veal,—
The secret sinful wiles of brother Mathurin,
The snares and mighty sorcery of Salatin,
Eusèbe the Abbot's wrath, and Satan's burn-
ing rage,

And brother Théophile's impassioned will to
wage
War against God ;— bear all with faith in
Heaven above,
And ye shall know a wonder of Our Lady's
love.
Enough ; but rest ye silent, though my words
are done,
For now with song our Miracle shall be be-
gun.

[They go out.]