

LE CID

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Le Cid by Pierre Corneille & Colbert Searles

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PIERRE CORNEILLE & COLBERT SEARLES

LE CID



PIERRE CORNEILLE (1643)





LE CID

PAR

PIERRE CORNEILLE

EDITED

WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND VOCABULARY

BY

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PREFACE

An attempt has been made in this edition of "Le Cid" to comprise within the necessary limitations of space as much material as possible to assist the student in appreciating the work as a piece of literature and in forming a true idea of its great value as a historical and social document. The text follows the Marty-Laveaux edition (in the Hachette series of "Les Grands Écrivains de France") except that the modern *ai* has been substituted for the *oi* of the older orthography.

The text of the drama is followed by an account of the Quarrel of the Cid, related as far as possible in the language of the participants or of contemporaries, or of the earliest historians of the affair. Then comes the "Examen" which contains the poet's answer to his critics. In the notes to this "Examen" are contained the main objections of Scudéry and the Academy, which Corneille tries to answer. The Introduction contains a brief account of the poet's life; of the French drama before the "Cid"; of Guillen de Castro's Spanish original; and of the theatrical and social environment in which this tragedy was produced. The Vocabulary furnishes all the means for a faithful and intelligent translation of the text. The meaning of each word has been chosen with reference to the contexts in which it occurs; and the student should be made to select the most applicable meaning given. Care has also been taken to point out the difference between seventeenth-century and modern usage of words. The Notes are given up to syntactical and literary-historical comment, which, necessarily, has been limited to the bare essentials.

No student should begin the reading of the "Cid" until he has well in mind at least as many points as are treated in the Introduction, nor should he leave it till he has read the account of the Quarrel of the Cid and thought upon its significance for the future development of the French classic drama.

The student desiring to continue his studies on Corneille might begin with the following books: G. Lanson, "Pierre Corneille," Paris, 1905; Petit de Julleville, "Langue et littérature française," Paris, 1897, vol. IV, chaps. iv-vi; Guizot, "Corneille et son temps," Paris, 1852; Sainte-Beuve, "Portraits littéraires," vol. I, and "Nouveaux lundis," vol. VII; F. Bouquet, "Points obscurs et nouveaux de la vie de Pierre Corneille," Paris, 1888; Jules Levallois, "Corneille inconnu," Paris, 1876; Guillaume Huszár, "P. Corneille et le théâtre espagnol," Paris, 1903; Ernest Martinenche, "La comedia espagnole en France," Paris, 1900; J. B. Segall, "Corneille and the Spanish drama," New York, 1902; the above-mentioned edition of the "Grands Écrivains" series (with the "Lexique" for the study of the language, which forms the two last volumes of the edition); Godefroy, "Lexique comparé de la langue de Corneille et de la langue du xvii^e siècle en général," Paris, 1862; A. Haase, "Syntaxe française du xvii^e siècle," Paris, 1898; C. Ayer, "Grammaire comparée de la langue française," Paris, 1900. The following are indispensable for any thorough study of Corneille: Emile Picot, "Bibliographie Cornélienne," Paris, 1876; P. Le Verdier et E. Pelay, "Additions à la Bibliographie Cornélienne," Paris, 1908.

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