

FLAVIA

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Flavia by Adair Welcker

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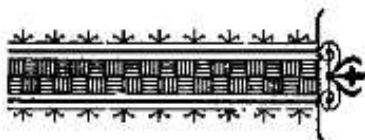
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ADAIR WELCKER

FLAVIA

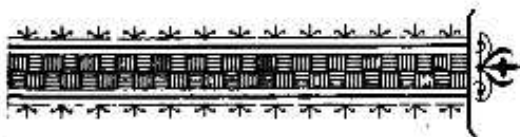
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FLAVIA

BY

ADAIR WELCKER



Of the works of this author the following criticisms have been expressed:—

The Philadelphia Call: "His style resembles Shakespeare's, yet he evidently is no copyist."

The Boston Commonwealth: "Patterning after the immortal Bard, Mr. Welcker has produced some exceptionally strong works, pure and elevating in tone, and showing the highest development of the poetic and dramatic genius."

Mid-Continent: "There is great power evinced in these dramas. The arrangement of the plots shows constructive skill, and the imagination of the author is cultured and poetic. The dramas, from a literary standpoint, are superior, and we predict a great success for their author."

Chicago Inter-Ocean: "The author, while open to the charge of being an imitator, nevertheless possesses good dramatic talent, and a genius which makes him much more than an imitator."

The Washington Public Opinion: "These dramas remind us very much of Shakespeare. There is real merit in them: so much so that they incline us to believe in the transmigration of souls."

The Stratford-Upon-Avon Herald, on February 23, 1887, said: "This gentleman read his drama, *Louis XVI*, in town hall, on Saturday evening last. The mayor, (Sir Arthur Hodgson, K. C. M. G.,) presided, and among those present were Mr. C. E. Flower, by whose munificence the Shakespeare memorial was erected, the head master of the Grammar School, Mrs. Laffan, (Mrs. Leith Adams, the novelist, and other Shakespearian scholars. The drama consists of five acts, four of which bear unmistakable evidence of being

skillfully constructed, and contain considerable dramatic art. Some of the characters are drawn with great power and effect, and many of the passages contain very fine poetry and genuine feeling. Louis XVI is a picturesque drama, and Mr. Welcker certainly possesses talent of no ordinary kind."

The renowned scholar and critic, John Stuart Blackie, who presided at the reading given by the author, in Edinburgh, Scotland, wrote:—

"UNIVERSITY EDINBURGH, }
"March 4, [1887] }

"I had the pleasure last Wednesday of being present at the public reading by Mr. Adair Welcker, of his drama Louis XVI. I was very favorably impressed with the great knowledge and skill with which he had brought some of the most striking scenes of the French Revolution into a form well suited for dramatic representation, and not less with the freedom, grace, point, and directness of his English style. I hope that the time is not far distant when compositions of such pregnant historical significance and such vivacity and vigor of expression shall become more common than they have been latterly in the repertory of the English stage.

"JOHN S. BLACKIE."

The author will not himself hereafter make copies of this play or the play Louis XVI for sale. Those wishing them will have either to make copies themselves, or hire

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others to do it.
Adair Telleker

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* The author will make and sell autograph manuscript copies for one thousand dollars a copy. People not caring to pay that sum can either make manuscript copies themselves, or hire other people to make them, and have their copies bound to suit their tastes at any bookbinder's.

The terms of this announcement apply also to the play Louis XVI, referred to in the press notices before given.

The author has himself made fifty-four manuscript copies of the play Louis XVI. Of these, copies have been presented to the institutions named below. As the play Louis XVI will not be published in the U. S. during the existence of his common law rights and copyright, except in the shape of manuscript copies, and not otherwise abroad, if foreign laws will protect him, those wishing copies of that play will have to make them, or hire others to do it in manuscript form, from the copies which the author has made. Copies have been presented to: The Century Club, New York,



Authors' Club, New York; Players' Club, New York; Winter Memorial, New York; Savage Club, London; Henry Irving's private library, London; Lamb's Club, New York; Edinburgh University, Scotland; Harvard, Yale, Bowdoin, University of North Carolina; *New York World*, *Sun*, *Boston Herald*, *Kate Field's Washington*, *Chicago News*, *Philadelphia Ledger*, *Review of Reviews*, London, and *London Times* (for review), Emerson College of Oratory, Boston; New York Press Club; *Saturday Review*, London (for review); Press Club, Washington; Sorosis, New York; Press Club, Chicago; Press Club, Boston; London Athenæum (for review); Press Club, Philadelphia; Press Club, St. Paul; Press Club, Toledo; Press Club, Brooklyn; Mercantile Club, St. Louis; Press Club, Baltimore; Press Club, Pittsburgh; University of Chicago, Princeton; Press Club, Indianapolis; Elk's Club, St. Louis, Wellesley College, University of Cincinnati, Andover Theological Seminary.

FLAVIA.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—Night in Rome. The time is in the reign of the Emperor Nero. A room, through a window in which (L. E.) the Coliseum is seen, with the moonlight falling upon it.

FLAVIA—BASILIUS, DISCOVERED BY THE WINDOW.

Flav. How calm and peaceful seems this hour of night!

See how the moon's soft rays come gently downward,
As if the watchful angels up in heaven
Had sent these cooler rays down from the sky
To rest so softly where the hot sun blazed,
That then the tumults of the angry day
Are soothed to silence. The cries of pain are hushed.
The soldier's tread, the rattling car of war
Break not the silence of the peaceful night.
The loud discordant jarrings of the day
Seem ever present where there is injustice.

But all the healing elements of the night
In silence, work unseen.

Bas. 'Tis but a respite;
To-morrow surely comes and, like a nightmare,
Takes on itself the dreary shape and visage
Of what was yesterday. And so each day
Has in it pictured forth scenes of oppression;
The hideous inequality of rights;
The self-same picture of a tyrant's power;
The merciless greed peculiar to mankind,
And I to-morrow am driven to th' arena,
To fight with beasts, and murder other men.
I one time thought this world of ours was human;
But, by the mass of wrong I see around me,
The cruel cowardice by which the strong o'ercome the
weak,

I see that each man has within h's nature
The passions of all beasts upon the earth.
I've seen the serpent coiled within his eye,
The fox, the tiger, and the murderous shark:—
I've seen them all in men.
Such is humanity, with this exception,—
There's something seldom used that's Godlike,
To curb this world within him.