TEN SPANISH FARCES OF THE 16TH, 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES

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Ten Spanish farces of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries by George Tyler Northup

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GEORGE TYLER NORTHUP

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SUPUESTO RETRATO DE CERVANTES
Atribuido a Juan de Jauregui y Aguilar

TEN SPANISH FARCES

OF THE
16th, 17th AND 18th CENTURIES

EDITED WITH NOTES AND VOCABULARY

BY

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PREFACE

Although the list of classic Spanish plays edited for the classroom is constantly becoming more extensive, the farce genre has been wholly neglected by our writers of textbooks. And yet the student cannot properly understand the comedia as a whole if his attention is directed exclusively to serious plays, to the neglect of those humorous trifles without the accompaniment of which the longer pieces were never acted. The present book is an attempt to supply this lack. It is intended for students of the older drama and, like any other book of the sort, should be used only by those grounded in modern Spanish.

The selections illustrate the development of the Spanish farce as it grows out of the paso into the entremes, out of the entremes into the sainete. It is believed that the injection of a little more humor into the Spanish Drama Course will increase the student's interest in this form of literature. The plays chosen, though possessing much of the sabor de la tierruca, have comic situations universal in their appeal. In view of the success with which several of Cervantes' farces have been acted in a number of our Universities, it is hoped and believed that most of the selections in this book will prove suitable for dramatic representation by Spanish Conversation Clubs.

Some teachers may wonder at the inclusion of such a piece as *El entremés de refranes*. This was chosen because it offers a convenient approach to the study of proverb lore. Proverbs run through nearly the whole of Spanish literature. An understanding of them is essential to the appreciation of almost any Spanish masterpiece. At some point in his course

the student's attention should be especially focused upon them.

The Vocabulary is the work of my wife, Emily C. Northup. I desire to thank the following gentlemen for the valuable advice they have given me on certain difficulties of detail: Professor Karl Pietsch, University of Chicago; Professor E. C. Hills, University of Indiana; Professor F. O. Reed, University of Wisconsin; Mr. Carlos Castillo, University of Chicago, and Dr. Alexander Green of D. C. Heath & Company.

G. T. N.

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