



JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

Faust

Translated by Bayard Taylor



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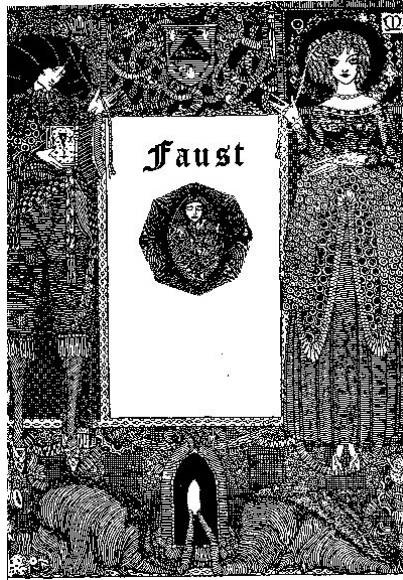
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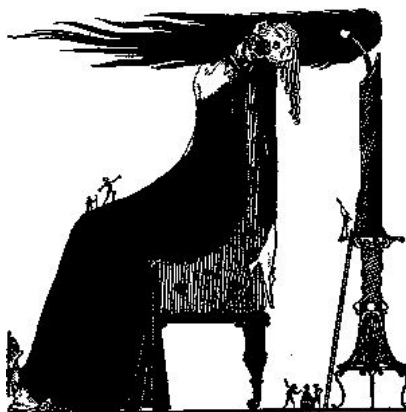
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FAUST

by

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY

Harry Clarke

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, IN THE ORIGINAL METRES, BY

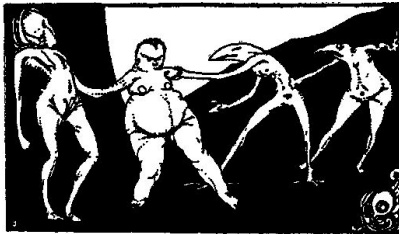
Bayard Taylor

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CONTENTS

PREFACE

AN GOETHE

DEDICATION

PRELUDE AT THE THEATRE

PROLOGUE IN HEAVEN

FAUST

SCENE I. NIGHT (*Faust's Monologue*).

II. BEFORE THE CITY-GATE

III. THE STUDY (*The Exorcism*)

IV. THE STUDY (*The Compact*).

V. AUERBACH'S CELLAR

VI. WITCHES' KITCHEN

VII. A STREET

VIII. EVENING

IX. PROMENADE

X. THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE

XI. STREET

XII. GARDEN

XIII. A GARDEN-ARBOR

XIV. FOREST AND CAVERN

XV. MARGARET'S ROOM

XVI. MARTHA'S GARDEN

XVII. AT THE FOUNTAIN

XVIII. DONJON (*Margaret's Prayer*)

XIX. NIGHT (*Valentine's Death*)

XX. CATHEDRAL

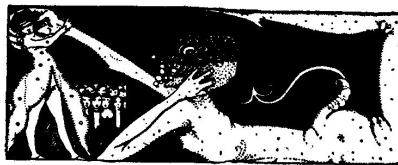
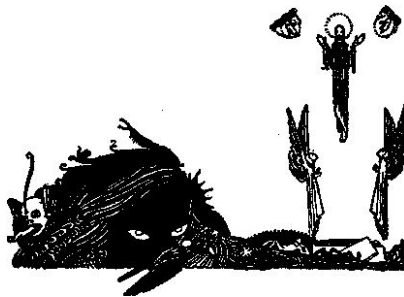
XXI. WALPURGIS-NIGHT

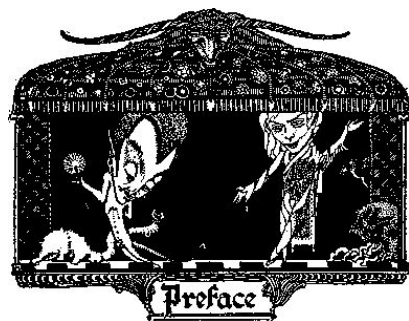
XXII. OBERON AND TITANIA'S GOLDEN WEDDING

XXIII. DREARY DAY

XXIV. NIGHT

XXV. DUNGEON





Preface

It is twenty years since I first determined to attempt the translation of *Faust*, in the original metres. At that time, although more than a score of English translations of the First Part, and three or four of the Second Part, were in existence, the experiment had not yet been made. The prose version of Hayward seemed to have been accepted as the standard, in default of anything more satisfactory: the English critics, generally sustaining the translator in his views concerning the secondary importance of form in Poetry, practically discouraged any further attempt; and no one, familiar with rhythmical expression through the needs of his own nature, had devoted the necessary love and patience to an adequate reproduction of the great work of Goethe's life.

Mr. Brooks was the first to undertake the task, and the publication of his translation of the First Part (in 1856) induced me, for a time, to give up my own design. No previous English version exhibited such abnegation of the translator's own tastes and habits of thought, such reverent desire to present the original in its purest form. The care and conscience with which the work had been performed were so apparent, that I now state with reluctance what then seemed to me to be its only deficiencies,—a lack of the lyrical fire and fluency of the original in some passages, and an occasional lowering of the tone through the use of words which are literal, but not equivalent. The plan of translation adopted by Mr. Brooks was so entirely my own, that when further residence in Germany and a more careful study of both parts of *Faust* had satisfied me that the field was still open,—that the means furnished by the poetical