

[Pg iii]

**THE  
WORLD'S GREATEST BO  
OKS**

JOINT EDITORS

ARTHUR MEE

Editor and Founder of the Book of Knowledge

J. A. HAMMERTON

Editor of Harmsworth's Universal Encyclopaedia

VOL. XVII

POETRY AND DRAMA

## *Table of Contents*

Portrait of Molière	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	<i>e</i>
Goethe ( <i>Continued</i> )	PAGE
Goetz von Berlichingen	<a href="#"><u>1</u></a>
Iphigenia in Tauris	<a href="#"><u>18</u></a>
Gogol, Nicolai	
Inspector-General	<a href="#"><u>30</u></a>
Goldsmith, Oliver	
She Stoops to Conquer	<a href="#"><u>39</u></a>
Heine, Heinrich	
Atta Troll	<a href="#"><u>50</u></a>
Homer	
Iliad	<a href="#"><u>66</u></a>
Odyssey	<a href="#"><u>78</u></a>
Horace	
Poems	<a href="#"><u>91</u></a>
Hugo, Victor	
Hernani	<a href="#"><u>110</u></a>
Marion de Lorme	<a href="#"><u>123</u></a>
Ruy Blas	<a href="#"><u>134</u></a>

The King Amuses Himself	<a href="#">146</a>
The Legend of the Alps	<a href="#">159</a>
Ibsen, Henrik	
Master Builder	<a href="#">171</a>
Pillars of Society	<a href="#">186</a>
	[Pg vi]
Jonson, Ben	
Every Man in His Humour	<a href="#">195</a>
Juvenal	
Satires	<a href="#">207</a>
Klopstock, Friedrich Gottlieb	
Messiah	<a href="#">217</a>
Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim	
Nathan the Wise	<a href="#">226</a>
Longfellow	
Evangeline	<a href="#">241</a>
Hiawatha	<a href="#">250</a>
Lucretius	
On the Nature of Things	<a href="#">261</a>
Macpherson, James	
Ossian	<a href="#">272</a>
Marlowe, Christopher	
Dr. Faustus	<a href="#">282</a>
Martial	
Epigrams, Epitaphs, and Poems	<a href="#">295</a>
Massinger, Philip	

New Way to Pay Old Debts	<a href="#">305</a>
Milton	
Paradise Lost	<a href="#">319</a>
Paradise Regained	<a href="#">342</a>
Samson Agonistes	<a href="#">349</a>
Molière	
The Doctor in Spite of Himself	<a href="#">362</a>
(Molière: <i>Continued in Vol. XVIII</i> )	

A Complete Index of The World's Greatest Books will be found at the end  
of Volume XX.

[Pg 1]

## *Poetry and Drama*

# GOETHE

*(Continued)*

# Goetz von Berlichingen<sup>[A]</sup>

## *Persons in the Drama*

The Emperor      The Bishop of Bamberg  
Maximilian

Goetz von Berlichingen      Franz Lerse

Adelbert      von      Elizabeth, *wife to Goetz*  
Weislingen

Franz von Sickingen      Marie, *his sister*

Hans von Selbitz      Adelheid von Walldorf

Franz,      *page*      to      Imperial Councillor  
*Weislingen*

George, *page to Goetz*      Usher

Faud

Max Stumpf, Sievers, Metzler, Link,  
Kohl, *Leaders of the rebel peasants*

## **Act I**

Scene I.—*Forest; a poor hut in the background. Goetz and George.*

Goetz: Where can my men be? Up and down I have to walk, lest sleep should overcome me. Five days and nights already in

ambush. But when I get thee, Weislingen, I shall make up for it!  
You priests may send

[Pg 2]

round your obliging Weislingen to decry me—I am awake. You escaped me, bishop! So your dear Weislingen may pay the piper. George! George! (*Enter George.*) Tell Hans to get ready. My scouts may be back any moment. And give me some more wine!

George: Hark! I hear some horses galloping—two —it must be your men!

Goetz: My horse, quick! Tell Hans to arm!

*[Enter Faud, who reports to Goetz that Weislingen is approaching. Exit Goetz and his men.]*

George: Oh, St. George! Make me strong and brave! And give me spear, armour, and horse!

*[Exit.]*

Scene II.—*Hall at Jaxthausen.* Elizabeth and Marie.

Marie: If I had a husband who always exposed himself to danger, I should die the first year.

Elizabeth: Thank God, I am made of harder stuff! God grant that my boy may take after his father, and not become a treacherous hypocrite, like Weislingen.

Marie: You are very bitter against him. Yet report speaks well of him. Your own husband loved him, when they were pages together to the margrave.

*[The gay tune of a wind-instrument is heard.]*

Elizabeth: There he returns with his spoil! I must get the meal ready. Here, take the cellar keys and let them have of the best wine! They have deserved it.

[*Exeunt. Enter Goetz, Weislingen, and men-at-arms.*

[Pg 3]

Goetz (*taking off his helmet and sword*): Unstrap my cuirass and give me my doublet! Weislingen, you've given us hard work! Be of good cheer. Where are your clothes? I could lend you some of mine—a neat, clean suit, which I wore at the wedding of my gracious lord the Count Palatine, when your bishop got so vexed with me, because I made him shake hands with me, unknown, after having taken two of his ships a fortnight before on the Main.

Weislingen: I beg you to leave me alone.

Goetz: Why? Pray, be cheerful. You are in my power, and I shall not abuse it. You know my knight's duty is sacred to me. And now I must go to see my wife.

[*Exit.*

Weislingen: Oh, that it were all a dream! In Berlichingen's power—and he, the old true-hearted Goetz! Back again in the hall, where we played as boys, where I loved him with all my heart! How strangely past and present seem to intermingle here.

[*Enter Goetz, and a man with jug and goblet.*

Goetz: Let us drink, until the meal is ready. Come, you are at home. It is a long time since we last shared a bottle. (*Raising his goblet*) A gay heart!

Weislingen: Those times are past.

Goetz: Heaven forbid! Though merrier days we may not find. If you had only followed me to Brabant, instead of taking to that

miserable life at court! Are you not as free and nobly born as anyone in Germany? Independent, subject only to the emperor? And you submit to vassals, who poison the emperor's ear against me! They want to get rid of me. And you, Weislingen, are their tool!

Weislingen: Berlichingen!

Goetz: No more of it! I hate explanations. They only lead to deceiving one or the other, or both.

*[They stand apart, their backs turned to each other.  
Enter Marie.*

[Pg 4]

Marie (*to Weislingen*): I come to greet and to invite you in my sister's name. What is it? Why are you silent both? You are host and guest. Be guided by a woman's voice.

Goetz: You remind me of my duty.

Weislingen: Who could resist so heavenly a hint?

Marie: Draw near each other, be reconciled! (*The men shake hands.*) The union of brave men is the most ardent wish of all good women.

## Act II

Scene I.—*A room at ` . Marie and Weislingen.*

Marie: You say you love me. I willingly believe it, and hope to be happy with you and to make you happy.

Weislingen: Blessed be your brother and the day he rode out to capture me!

*[Enter Goetz.*



Goetz: Your page is back. Whatever his news, Adelbert, you are free! All I ask is your word that you will not aid and abet my enemies.

Weislingen: I take your hand. And may I at the same time take the hand of this noblest of all women?

Goetz: May I say "yes" for you, Marie? You need not blush—your eyes have answered clearly. Well, then, Weislingen, take her hand, and I say Amen, friend and brother! I must call my wife. Elizabeth! (*Enter Elizabeth.*) Join your hand in theirs and say "God bless you!" They are a pair. Adelbert is going back to Bamberg to detach himself openly from the bishop, and then to his estates to settle his affairs. And now we'll leave him undisturbed to hear his boy's report.

*[Exit with Marie and Elizabeth.]*

Weislingen: Such bliss for one so unworthy!

*[Enter Franz.]*

Franz: God save you, noble sir! I bring you greetings

[Pg 5]

from everybody in Bamberg—from the bishop down to the jester. How they are distressed at your mishap! I am to tell you to be patient—they will think the more impatiently of your deliverance; for they cannot spare you.

Weislingen: They will have to. I'll return, but not to stay long.

Franz: Not to stay? My lord, if you but knew what I know! If you had but seen her—the angel in the shape of woman, who makes Bamberg a forecourt of heaven— Adelheid von Walldorf!

Weislingen: I have heard much of her beauty. Is her husband at

court?

Franz: She has been widowed for four months, and is at Bamberg for amusement. If she looks upon you, it is as though you were basking in spring sunshine.

Weislingen: Her charms would be lost on me. I am betrothed. Marie will be the happiness of my life. And now pack up. First to Bamberg, and then to my castle.

[*Exeunt.*]

Scene II.—*A forest. Some Nuremberg merchants, who, attacked on their way to the Frankfurt Fair by Goetz and his men, have escaped, leaving their goods in the hands of the knights. The page George has, however, recaptured two of the merchants as Goetz and his men enter.*

Goetz: Search the forest! Let none escape!

George (*stepping forward*): I've done some preparatory work. Here they are.

Goetz: Welcome, good lad! Keep them well guarded! (*Exit his men with the merchants.*) And now, what news of Weislingen?

George: Bad news! He looked confused when I said to him, "A few words from your Berlichingen." He tried to put me off with empty words, but when I pressed him he said he was under no obligation to you,

[Pg 6]

and would have nothing to do with you.

Goetz: Enough! I shall not forget this infamous treachery. Whoever gets into my power shall feel it. (*Exit George.*) I'll revel

in their agony, deride their fear. And how, Goetz, are you thus changed? Should other people's faults and vices make you renounce your chivalry, and abandon yourself to vulgar cruelty? I'll drag him back in chains, if I can't get him any other way. And there's an end of it, Goetz; think of your duty!

[*Enter George with a casket.*]

George: Now let your joke be ended, they are frightened enough. One of them, a handsome young man, gave me this casket, and said, "Take this as ransom! The jewels I meant to take to my betrothed. Take them, and let me escape."

Goetz (*examining the jewels*): This time, Marie, I shall not be tempted to bring it to you as a birthday gift. Even in your misfortune you would rejoice in the happiness of others. Take it, George. Give it back to the lad. Let him take it to his bride, with greeting from Goetz! And let all the prisoners free at sunset.

### Act III

Scene I.—*Pleasure-garden at Augsburg. The Emperor, the Bishop of Bamberg, Weislingen, the Lady Adelheid, Courtiers.*

Emperor: I am tired of these merchants with their eternal complaints! Every shopkeeper wants help, and no one will stir against the common enemy of the empire and of Christianity.

Weislingen: Who would be active abroad while he is threatened at home?

Bishop: If we could only remove that proud Sickingen and Berlichingen, the others would soon fall asunder.

Emperor: Brave, noble men at heart, who must be spared and used against the Turks.

Weislingen: The consequences may be dangerous.

[Pg 7]

Better to capture them and leave them quietly upon their knightly parole in their castles.

Emperor: If they then abide by the law, they might again be honourably and usefully employed. I shall open the session of the Diet to-morrow with this proposal.

Weislingen: A clamour of joyful assent will spare your majesty the end of the speech.

[*Exit* Emperor, Bishop, *and* Courtiers.]

Weislingen: And so you mean to go—to leave the festive scenes for which you longed with all your heart, to leave a friend to whom you are indispensable, to delay our union?

Adelheid: The gayer, the freer shall I return to you.

Weislingen: Will you be content if we proceed against Berlichingen?

Adelheid: You deserve a kiss! My uncle, Von Wanzenu, must be captain!

Weislingen: Impossible! An incompetent old dreamer!

Adelheid: Let the fiery Werdenhagen, his sister's stepson, go with him.

Weislingen: He is thoughtless and foolhardy, and will not improve matters.

Adelheid: We have to think of our relatives. For love of me, you must do it! And I want some exemptions for the convent of St. Emmeraru; you can work the chancellor. Then the cup-bearer's

post is vacant at the Hessian Court, and the high stewardship of the Palatinate. I want them for our friends Braimau and Mirsing.

Weislingen: How shall I remember it all?

Adelheid: I shall train a starling to repeat the names to you, and to add, "Please, please." (*Exit Weislingen. To Franz, whom she stops as he crosses to follow his master*): Franz, could you get me a starling, or would you yourself be my starling? You would learn more rapidly.

[Pg 8]

Franz: If you would teach me. Try. Take me with you.

Adelheid: No, you must serve me here. Have you a good memory?

Franz: For your words. I remember every syllable you spoke to me that first day at Bamberg.

Adelheid: Now, listen, Franz. I shall tell you the names which I want you to repeat to your master, always adding, "Please, please."

Franz (*seizing her hand passionately*): Please, please!

Adelheid (*stepping back*): Hands are not wanted. You must lose such bad manners. But you must not be so upset at a little rebuke. One punishes the children one loves.

Franz: You love me, then?

Adelheid: I might love you as a child, but you are getting too tall and violent.

[*Exeunt.*]

Scene II.—*Hall at Jaxthausen. Sickingen and Goetz.*

Goetz: So you want to marry a jilted woman?

Sickingen: To be deceived by him is an honour for you both. I want a mistress for my castles and gardens. In the field, at court, I want to stand alone.

[*Enter Selbitz.*

Selbitz: Bad news! The emperor has put you under the ban, and has sent troops to seize you.

Goetz: Sickingen, you hear. Take back your offer, and leave me!

Sickingen: I shall not turn from you in trouble. No better wooing than in time of war and danger.

Goetz: On one condition. You must publicly detach yourself from me. The emperor loves and esteems you, and your intercession may save me in the hour of need.

Sickingen: But I can secretly send you twenty horsemen.

Goetz: That offer I accept.

[*Exeunt.*

[Pg 9]

Scene III.—*A hill with a view over a fertile country. George and Goetz's men cross the stage, chasing the imperial troops. Then Selbitz is carried on, wounded, accompanied by Faud.*

Selbitz: Let me rest here!—and back to your master; back to Goetz!

Faud: Let me stay with you. I am no good below; they have hammered my old bones till I can scarcely move. (*Exit soldiers.*)

Here from the wall I can watch the fight.

Selbitz: What do you see?

Faud: Your horsemen are turning tail. I can see Goetz's three black feathers in the midst of the turmoil. Woe, he has fallen! And George's blue plume has disappeared! Sickingen's horsemen in flight! Ha! I see Goetz again! And George! Victory! Victory! They are routed! Goetz is after them—he has seized their flag! The fugitives are coming here! Oh! what will they do with you?

Selbitz: Come down and draw! My sword is ready. I'll make it hot for them, even sitting or lying down!

*[Enter imperial troops. Selbitz and Faud defend themselves until Lerse comes to their rescue, attacking the soldiers furiously, killing some and putting the rest to flight. Enter Goetz, George, a troop of armed men.]*

Selbitz: Good luck, Goetz! Victory! Victory! How did you fare?

Goetz: To George and Lerse I owe my life; I was off my horse when they came to the rescue. I have their flag and a few prisoners.

Selbitz: Lerse saved me, too. See what work he has done here!

Goetz: Good luck, Lerse! And God bless my George's first brave deed! Now back to the castle, and let us gather our scattered men.

[Pg 10]

## Act IV

Scene I.—*Jaxthausen. A small room. Marie and Sickingen.*

Sickingen: You may smile, but I felt the desire to possess you when you first looked upon me with your blue eyes, when you

were with your mother at the Diet of Speier. I have long been separated from you; but that wish remained, with the memory of that glance.

[*Enter Goetz.*]

Sickingen: Good luck!

Marie: Welcome, a thousand times!

Goetz: Now quickly to the chapel! I've thought it all out, and time presses.

Scene II.—*Large hall; in the background a door, leading to the chapel. Lerse and men-at-arms. Enter Goetz from chapel.*

Goetz: How now, Lerse? The men had better be distributed over the walls. Let them take any breastplates, helmets, and arms they may want. Are the gates well manned?

Lerse: Yes, sir.

Goetz: Sickingen will leave us at once. You will lead him through the lower gate, along the water, and across the ford. Then look around you, and come back.

[*Enter Sickingen, Marie, Elizabeth, from chapel. Drums in distance announce the enemy's approach.*]

Goetz: May God bless you and send you merry, happy days!

Elizabeth: And may He let your children be like you!

Sickingen: I thank you, and I thank you, Marie, who will lead me to happiness.

Goetz: A pleasant journey! Lerse will show you the way.



Marie: That is not what we meant. We shall not leave you.

Goetz: You must, sister! (*To Sickingen*) You understand? Talk to Marie; she is your wife. Take her to safety, and then think of me.

*[Exeunt Lerse, Sickingen and Marie. Enter George.]*

George: They approach from all sides. I saw their pikes glitter from the tower.

Goetz: Have the gate barricaded with beams and stones.

*[Exit George. A trumpeter is dimly heard from the distance, requesting Goetz to surrender unconditionally.]*

*Goetz refuses angrily, and slams the window. Enter Lerse.*

Lerse: There is plenty of powder, but bullets are scarce.

Goetz: Look round for lead! Meanwhile, we must make the crossbows do.

*[Distant shooting is heard at intervals. Exit Goetz with crossbow.]*

Lerse (*breaking a window and detaching the lead from the glass*): This lead has rested long enough; now it may fly for a change.

*[Enter Goetz.]*

Goetz: They have ceased firing, and offer a truce with all sorts of signs and white rags. They will probably ask me to surrender on knightly parole.

Lerse: I'll go and see. 'Tis best to know their mind.

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

