

German Opera, "Faust."

Faust, a German student, after a life of meditation and laborious research, becomes disgusted with the nothingness of human knowledge, and his own inability to unravel the mystic arcana of nature.

He summons to his aid the Spirit of Evil, who appears to him under the form of Mephistopheles. Through the supernatural power of the latter, Faust is straightway restored to youth with all its passions and illusions, and is at the same time endowed with personal beauty and luxurious garb. Mephistopheles, as in a vision, reveals to him the beautiful village-maid Margaret, with whom the student falls instantaneously in love. He longs to become acquainted with her, and his wish is soon afterwards gratified. Margaret, equally noted for her loveliness and for her virtue, has been left by her soldier-brother, Valentine, under the care of Dame Martha, a worthy, but not very vigilant personage. The maiden at first rejects the stranger's advances, but Faust, aided by the demoniacal influence of Mephistopheles (who is anxious to destroy another human soul), urges his suit with such ardor that Margaret's resistance is