

§ 4. **Plan of Dissertation.**—The plan at first embraced sections I. and II.; but it soon became evident that the limits of an ordinary dissertation precluded such discussion, and it was therefore necessary to omit all but the Boccaccian plays, viz., (I. a.) the first thirteen. It is my intention to lay each of these plays in turn side by side with its source, and point out the agreements, divergencies and omissions, both in fact and expression. The more important verbal correspondences will be arranged in parallel columns. Previous handlings of the same material will be considered, as forming an intermediate step between the Decameron and Sachs; and attention will be called to any particular, however small, which may tend to elucidate Sachs' dramaturgical methods. By so doing, it is hoped to throw light upon the workings of the typical German mind of the Sixteenth Century and offer a small contribution to the history of German dramaturgy. The text and notes of Goetze's edition referred to (§ 1) have formed the basis for my work, and in treating the plays I shall adhere to the chronological arrangement which he has followed. The plays are taken up in the order indicated in § 3 (a), and reference is always made by the numbers of that table. In general, the source is mentioned first and the date: then follows a synopsis of the source, an epitome of the plot for the purposes of comparison, and the additions and omissions with the probable reasons for such changes. The plan varies with each play. When a special point has been fully dealt with in an earlier play, it receives less notice in the later dramas. The writer hopes thereby to avoid monotony, to secure proper emphasis and to present the entire series somewhat as an artistic whole.

I.

§ 5. **Correction of Goetze.**—No. 16. *Der Schwanger pauer*: Dated Nov. 25th, 1544. Goetze, by some oversight, omits to state its source. He merely mentions the reprint by Keller, 9, 23-24 (*Bibl. Lit. Verein*) and the Schwank on the same subject Keller 5, 126-128. But in a note to the latter Keller refers to the following passage in von der Hagen's *Gesammtabenteuern* ii. *Einkl.* x.: "*Hans Sachs hat diesen Stoff als Schwank und 1544 als Fastnachtspiel glücklich und treu nach Boccaccio bearbeitet.*" The source is also stated in the note as Dec. ix. 3.