

ARGUMENTS.

LA FAVORITA.

Alfonso XI, King of Spain, falls in love with Leonora Guzman, and induces her to leave her father's roof. He takes her to the island of Leon where he surrounds her with every luxury. While here she visits the monastery of St. James of Compostella, where she inspired a young novice, Fernando, with violent passion, which she herself reciprocates. Fernando being driven from the convent becomes Leonora's ardent suitor but she rejects him until he has made his way in the world. He leaves just at the moment of the King's return. The interview between the King and Leonora is one of reproach on her part for having been deceived into the position of the king's mistress. The King leaves to fight the Moors. Fernando becomes one of the foremost soldiers and saves the king's life in the battle. Asked how he shall be rewarded, he replies that he is in love with one of the ladies of the court and wishes for no other guerdon than her hand. The King asks her name, when Leonora appears, and he points to her as the object of his passion. Alphonso had heard that he was being betrayed, but dreamt not that it was by his *protege*. His vengeance is to unite them, and he orders the ceremony to be at once performed. Fernando is overjoyed, but Leonora's satisfaction is clouded by the thought that her lover is not aware of her position. She charges her attendant to reveal all, but the latter is detained a prisoner by the king's order, and cannot perform her mission. Leonora supposes Fernando to be informed of her antecedents, and to forgive them, when she is finally led to the altar by him. The ceremony is no sooner performed when Fernando is destined to be enlightened, but too late for aught but shame and insult. Fernando is overwhelmed at the discovery. He seeks the King, publicly hurls the bitterest reproaches at him, and finally breaks his sword. Fernando returns to the monastery, resolved on resuming his vows. Everything is ordered for the ceremony, when he is requested to attend to a young novice who has presented himself at the gates of the convent entreating for shelter and repose. *In this stranger he discovers Leonora, who has come to entreat his forgiveness and to explain her apparent deception. On finding she was no party to his infamy, his passion revives, and he urges her to fly with him. She, on the contrary, exhorts him to devote himself to heaven, the only safe asylum from the world's sorrows and disappointments, and while he is still uttering vows of devoted love, she succumbs to protracted suffering and conflicting emotions, and dies at his feet.*

The scene is laid in Spain, in the kingdom of Castile, in the year 1340.

CARMEN.

Carmen is a gipsy girl, employed in a cigarette factory at Seville, and is the accomplice of a band of smugglers. Having wounded