

INTRODUCTION.

§ 1. **Classification as to Source.**—According to the General Index to Sachs' Works, preserved in the Town Archives of Zwickau, he wrote eighty-five Shrovetide Plays. These have been edited for the first time, in a complete and separate form by Edmund Goetze: *Sämmtliche Fastnachtspiele von Hans Sachs. Neudrucke deutscher Litteraturwerke des XVI. und XVII. Jahrhunderts*, Halle, 1880-1887, vols. 26/27, 31/32, 39/40, 42/43, 51/52, 60/61, 63/64. Of these eighty-five plays, four have been lost, viz., Nos. 29, 33, 48, 55; the remaining eighty-one may be classed in relation to their sources, as follows:

I. Those with ascertained sources.

II. Those in which the material has been otherwise handled by Sachs.

III. Those for which no sources, mediate or immediate have been found.

§ 2. **Contents of each Division.**—Under I. are comprehended, Nos. 16, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 31, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, 53, 56, 58, 61, 62, 64, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77, 81, 83, 84, 85.

Under II.—Nos. 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 25, 28, 30, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 52, 54, 59, 60, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 75, 76, 79, 80, 82.

Under III.—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 21, 40, 63, 78.

§ 3. **Further Classification of Section I.**—The plays in the first division may be still further classified, according to the sources from which they are drawn. In the following table and throughout the Dissertation the Shrovetide Plays will be cited by the numbers assigned to them, *Neudr.* 26/27, v, vi, vii, viii.