

taken in Beza's play by two 'demic troupes' of shepherds. The scenes in which Abraham, Sara and Isaac are characters previous to the departure for the Mount of Vision are very much shortened, and those in which Isaac and the shepherds play games and engage in a singing match are replaced by a short scene in which a staid conversation precedes the songs of the shepherds, here divested of their pastoral character. Abraham's soliloquy of 158 lines after the departure of the angel, and the succeeding pastoral scene are also omitted. Another soliloquy of Abraham's (134 lines) and the scene of some 200 lines already referred to in which Abraham and Isaac give expression to many subtle unnatural considerations have left no trace in Beza's play. Moreover the latter concludes with the announcement of the angel in which the promise is given to Abraham; in all the older versions Abraham sacrifices the lamb, and returns with Isaac to the shepherds who cannot understand their long delay; the whole party then sets out for home, and finally the story is related to Sara.

The additions which Beza has made to the older play are not less notable. In the first place there is a prologue in which it is explained that the audience are not in Lausanne, but in the land of the Philistines, where they will see Abraham, Isaac and Sara. Let each one keep silence and listen attentively. Abraham and Sara each in a soliloquy praise God's goodness, and then sing together a 'cantiqve' of praise in which they review their lives. The next character to be introduced is Satan in the habit of a monk. In a long soliloquy he compares his kingdom to God's, rejoices in the effectiveness of his froek as a disguise, and announces his intention of undermining the goodness of Abraham. Then follows, as in the older versions, the command of the angel to Abraham that he sacrifice Isaac. Abraham submits at once though he is horrified. A company of shepherds comes forth, and Isaac asks that they take him with them. His extreme youth is here emphasized by the insistence of the shepherds that he first get his parents' permission, and their assurance that he will be allowed to go when "vous serez grand." It is unnecessary to