

Whitten 1849

## INTRODUCTION.

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Roderich Benedix, the author of "Die Lügnerin," was born in Leipzig in 1811. He studied at the *Fürstenschule* at Grimma and in the *Thomasschule* in Leipzig. In 1831 he entered the theatrical profession, and played in Dessau, Cöthen, Bernburg, Meiningen and Rudolstadt. After 1833 he was tenor in various theatres in Westphalia and elsewhere. It was when he was manager of the theatre in Wesel that his play, *Das bemooste Haupt* appeared (1841). It met with great success all over Germany and is still popular. Benedix then became manager of a democratic magazine, *Der Sprecher*, after which he moved to Cologne, was theatrical manager there and in Elberfeld, and in 1849 was professor in Hiller's Conservatory of Music. In 1855 he was manager of the theatre at Frankfurt-on-the-Main. He was again in Cologne in 1858, and went to Leipzig in 1861, where he died in 1873. He published many volumes of plays, many of which are short and well adapted for private or amateur theatricals. There is a special edition of such. In addition to the above-mentioned, there may be mentioned, *Dr. Wespe*, *Die zärtlichen Verwandten*, *Der Vetter*, *Die Hochzeitsreise*, *Der Störenfried*, *Die Lügnerin*, *Günstige Vorzeichen*, *Die Herrschaften*, *Die Dienstboten*. The characters belong generally to the better middle class, the action is well evolved and interesting and abounding in comical situations. The dialogue is generally sprightly, occasionally trivial, often abounding in serious passages of practical wisdom. The language is colloquial, simple and clear. In addition to his theatrical productions, Benedix also wrote a novel, in which his own experience is depicted, *Bilder aus dem Schauspielerleben*, and several works on the theory and art of elocution, *Der mündliche Vortrag* and *Katechismus der Redekunst*, as also a *Katechismus der Verskunst*. *Selbstbiographie* of him appeared in the magazine, *Gartenlaube*, 1871,