

his father had done before him. Not finding things satisfactory in Kiel, he went to Berlin the year following. There he was able to continue his studies more effectively, and had, moreover, opportunities for seeing good theatrical performances. However, he returned to Kiel next year, where he formed a close friendship with the brothers Theodor¹ and Tycho Mommsen, who exercised a marked influence on his literary talent. The three published conjointly a *Liederbuch*. It was here that he first became acquainted with the work of the Swabian poet, Eduard Mörike.

After finishing his legal studies at the University of Kiel, Storm settled in Husum and began to practice law. In 1847 he married Constanza Esmarch, and the marriage proved to be a happy one till her death in 1865. Many of his poems are addressed to her. Although he carried on a very successful legal practice, he nevertheless found time to devote to poetry. Among other literary productions he wrote at this time *Immensee* for *Biernazi's Volksbuch*, and *Ein grünes Blatt*. Storm's genius was markedly lyrical, yet, though he confesses he never had any desire to produce dramatic works, he probably did try his prentice hand at this kind of composition also. The lyrical element is noticeable in his prose works generally. It predominates in the short and pretty tale, *Immensee*.

It is this little work which really ushers in Storm's literary career. But, like the other earlier productions, it is faint in outline and vague in expression. More perfect works are to come, however. Storm lacked as yet the necessary experience of life, and the tragical passion which it brings. He acquired this in due course and more especially by the experiences through which he passed during the political upheavals of Schleswig and Holstein.

¹ Theodor Mommsen (1817-1903) became celebrated afterwards as the historian of ancient Rome.