THE DICTATOR. IN THREE VOLUMES. VOL. II

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649562183

The Dictator. In Three Volumes. Vol. II by Justin McCarthy

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THE DICTATOR

BY

JUSTIN McCARTHY, M.P.

AUTHOR OF 'DEAR LADY DISDAIN' 'DONNA QUINOTE' ETC.



IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. II.

Foreborn
CHATTO & WINDUS, PICCADILLY
1893

PRINTED BY
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
LONDON

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

PR4964 M49D5 v.2

CONTENTS

١

OP

THE SECOND VOLUME

| CHAPTER | | | | | PAGE |
|----------------------------------|------|----|------|------|-------|
| X. A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE . | - 0 | | • | • | . 1 |
| XI. HELENA | ٠ | 80 | ٠ | 3 | . 25 |
| XII. DOLORES | | | ** | • | . 42 |
| XIII. DOLORES ON THE LOOK-OUT | 154 | * | * | • | . 75 |
| RIV. A SICILIAN ENIFE | | | | | |
| XV. 'IF I WEBE TO ASK YOU?' | | | ** | | . 158 |
| XVI. THE CHILDREN OF GRIEVANCE | 1 5 | į | •3 | * | . 174 |
| XVII. MISS PAULO'S OBSERVATION | • | ¥2 | 34 | | . 196 |
| XVIII. HELENA KNOWS HERSELF, BUT | r No | T | HE O | THER | . 227 |

1.9 14 88 - 12 0.73

THE DICTATOR

CHAPTER X

A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

CAPTAIN OISIN SARRASIN came one morning to see the Dictator by appointment.

Captain Oisin Sarrasin had described himself in his letter to the Dictator as a soldier of fortune. So he was indeed, but there are soldiers and soldiers of fortune. He was not the least in the world like the Orlando the Fearless, who is described in Lord Lytton's 'Rienzi,' and who cared only for his steed and his sword and his lady the peerless. Or, rather, he was like him in one respect—he did care for his lady the peerless. But other-

В

wise Captain Oisin Sarrasin resembled in no wise the traditional soldier of fortune, the Dugald Dalgetty, the Condottiere, the 'Heaven's Swiss' even. Captain Sarrasin was terribly in earnest, and would not lend the aid of his bright sword to any cause which he did not believe to be the righteous cause, and, owing to the nervous peculiarities of his organisation, it was generally the way of Captain Sarrasin to regard the weaker cause as the righteous cause. That was his ruling inclination. When he entered as a volunteer the Federal ranks in the great American war, he knew very well that he was entering on the side of the stronger. He was not blinded in the least, as so many Englishmen were, by the fact that in the first instance the Southerners won some battles. He knew the country from end to end, and he knew perfectly well what must be the outcome of such a struggle. But then he