

**THE ARTIST'S MARRIED
LIFE; BEING THAT OF
ALBERT DÜRER**

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The Artist's Married Life; Being That of Albert Dürer by Mrs. J. R. Stodart & Leopold Schefer

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MRS. J. R. STODART & LEOPOLD SCHEFER

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THE
Artist's Married Life;

BEING THAT OF

Albert Dürer.

Translated from the German of

Alc
Reupold Schefer,

BY

MRS. J. R. STODART.

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE NOVELS of SCHEFER are not much known in this country, nor have any of them, so far as I know, been translated into English. The following, after the manner of Sir Walter Scott's "Tales of my Landlord," purports to be an old manuscript intrusted by Albert Dürer on his deathbed to his friend Pirkheimer, with instructions that it should be given to the world when all those to whom its contents might cause pain, were no more. The idea may have been suggested to the author by the words of Dürer himself; for he concludes an account of the

death of his father by saying—"As I have described at length in another book." Of this book, only one torn leaf was found, marked page 19. It is written in very old German, and contains a short account of the death of his father and mother; of a remarkable event which happened in the year 1503, and which he designates as "the greatest miracle I ever saw in all my life," when suddenly the figure of the cross was seen on the persons of many individuals at the same time, especially on children; that on account of its singularity he had made a drawing of one which appeared on his own maid-servant Susanna, and which so terrified her that she wept and lamented, thinking it would be the cause of her death; of having seen a comet

in the heavens; and also how he had been enabled to pay all his debts contracted in Venice, besides purchasing many articles of furniture, new dresses, and various domestic utensils, with a large sum of money he had received for one of his works;—all quite in accordance with the events narrated in the following pages.

This fragment, together with a journal of his travels in the Netherlands with his wife and Susanna, letters to Pirkheimer and other friends, and various interesting details, is given in a small volume published in 1828 by Dr. Friedrich Campe, a citizen of Nürnberg, entitled "Relics of Albert Dürer." By it I find that the leading facts in the life of the great painter are closely adhered to by the novelist.

The history of the little Agnes, however, must be imaginary; unless indeed Schefer is indeed correct in saying, that from her early death, and having been scarcely known among men, the memory of her had passed away. I should also mention that Campe gives some poetic effusions from the pen of Dürer;—but truth obliges me to say, that though a master in the art of painting, he seems to have been but a journeyman in the sister art of poetry.

In the journal, he tells of the manner in which he and his wife and Susanna were entertained at Antwerp by the painters and their wives; of the silver service and the extravagantly fine dinner, and how they were conducted home late at night by all the

company carrying torches ; also at Bruges how he was entertained with like magnificence, an account of which he concludes by saying that more than sixty persons accompanied him home with many torches. He mentions having been present at a banquet given by the Emperor Charles V. to the King of Denmark (his brother-in-law), and also at one given by the King to the Emperor and Margaret (Governess of the Netherlands) in return. In reference to the latter, his words are—"He invited me, and I ate with them there." Honours were heaped on him wherever he went, also costly presents of wine and other articles of luxury. He tells of the storm he encountered on the coast, after having left his wife at Antwerp, and of the numerous pictures