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JÊN KUEI'S RETURN

A PLAY.

[FROM THE CHINESE.]

BY

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CHINESE LYRICS, CHINESE LEGENDS,
"FANNING THE GRAVE," &c., &c.

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DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

WANG CHAN,.....*A Taoist Priest.*
JEN KUEI,.....*A Soldier of Fortune.*
TING SHAN,*Son of Jên Kuei.*
LIU YING FANG,*Wife of Jên Kuei.*
TIGER,

Time of Representation,.....*One hour.*

Chinese costume of the Tang dynasty.

JÊN KUEI'S RETURN,

A PLAY.

(*From the Chinese.*)

SCENE I.

Mountain Scenery. Enter an old man from ravine at the back. Old man supporting himself with a staff advances to front of stage and recites :

INTRODUCTION.

The ground's bedecked with opening yellow flowers;
And fairies issue forth from grotts and bowers.

Within these mountain fastnesses I've stayed
Since boyhood's earliest hours, and ever made
The skilful arts my study and delight,
My task by day, my very dreams at night.
All that my Mentor knew of magic lore,
His own lips taught me—still I longed for more;
My leisure hours within my cave I passed,
Weaving new spells—each subtler than the last,
And daily—hourly, in the classics pored,
Till each I knew by rote, ay, word for word;
Compounding potions—mixing fairy pills,
A panacea for all earthly ills.