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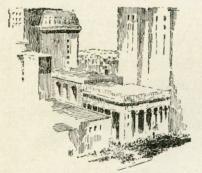
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Don Ruy Gomez de Silva (Grandee of Spain)—Bass
Ernani (A bandit chief)—Tenor - - - - - Neal H. Begley
Don Ricardo (An esquire of the King)—Tenor - - William Thelen
Jago (An esquire of Don Silva)—Bass - - - - Paul Davies
Elvira (Niece and bethrothed to Don Silva)—Soprano - - - Mae O'Neill Feldman

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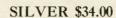
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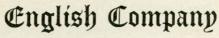
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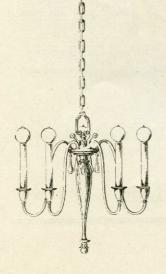
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Elvira, a noble Spanish lady, is about to marry the aged Don Gomez de Silva, when Ernani appears and requests the aid of the mountaineers and banditti to carry off Elvira, to whom he is fondly attached, and who returns his love. While Elvira is receiving the presents and congratulations of her friends upon her marriage, Don Carlos, King of Spain, enters her apartment, declares his passion for her and tries to force her from

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the castle. She calls for help, and Ernani, entering from a secret door, protects her, and defies the King. Silva, coming to visit his bride, finds his two rivals, and declares he will avenge the insult with his sword. The arrival of Don Ricardo, the royal armour-bearer, reveals to Silva that it is the King he has challenged, and, kneeling to him, he begs for pardon, which is granted.

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for hospitality, when, thinking that Elvira is false to him, he throws off his disguse, declares his followers are dispersed, and demands to be given up to the King. This Silva refuses to do, as it is against the honour of a noble to betray a guest; but afterwards, finding that Ernani and Elvira are still faithful to each other, he plans vengeance. The King arrives, and demands that either Ernani or Silva shall be placed under arrest. Elvira pleads for mercy, and the King carries her off as hostage of the faith of Silva. On the departure of Elvira, Silva challenges Ernani,

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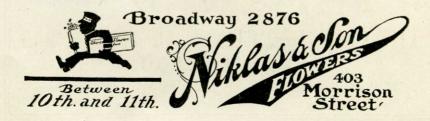
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who refuses to fight with one who has saved his life, but declares he is ready to die and only begs to see Elvira once more. On being told that she has been taken as hostage for Silva, Ernani tells him that the King is also a rival. Ernani promises, if he may share in Silva's vengeance, that he will give up his life when called on, and presented Silva with a horn to sound when the promise is to be kept. In Act III the King is concealed in the Catacombs, knowing that a meeting of conspirators is to take place there. The right of killing the King falls on Ernani. At

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that moment Don Carlos appears, and announcing himself as the Emperor, Charles, the Fifth, condemns the plebians to prison, and the nobles to the block. Ernani demands to be sent with the nobles, as he is himself a Duke proscribed by the King of Castile. Charles, wishing to reign by love, pardons all and unites Elvira and Ernani. Act VI opens with their marriage but Silva enters, masked, blows the horn, and Ernani stabs himself.

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