

**PAPERS ON PLAY-
MAKING II.
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
A PLAY**

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Papers on Play-Making II. The Autobiography of a Play by Bronson Howard

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The Autobiography of a Play

PUBLICATIONS
of the
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IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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PAPERS ON PLAY-MAKING

II

The Autobiography of a Play

BY

BRONSON HOWARD

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

AUGUSTUS THOMAS

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in the City of New York

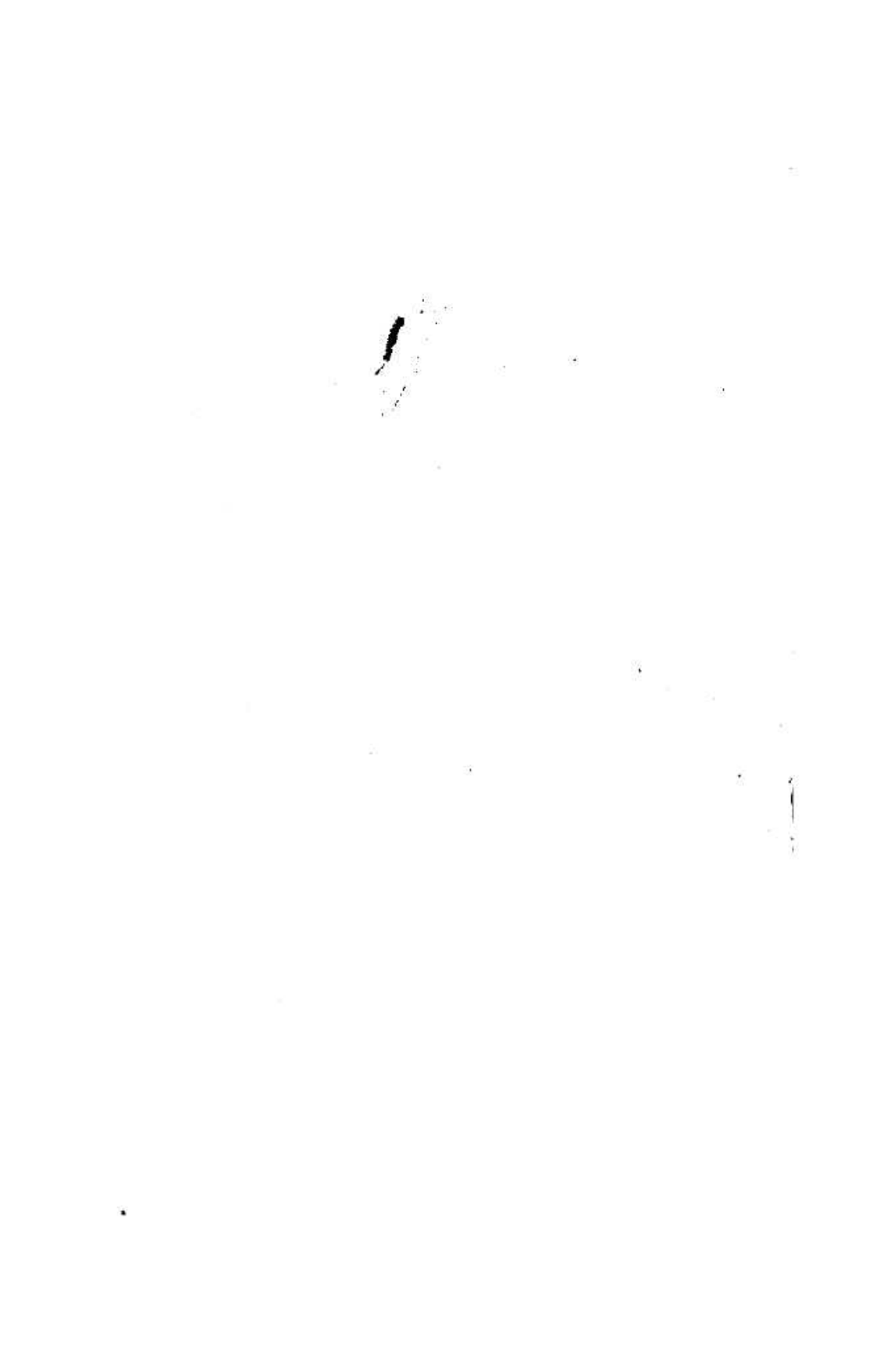
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HARV 31 DEC '38



I N T R O D U C T I O N

THE qualities that made Bronson Howard a dramatist, and then made him the first American dramatist of his day, were his human sympathy, his perception, his sense of proportion, and his construction. With his perception, his proportion, and his construction, respectively, he could have succeeded as a detective, as an artist, or as a general. It was his human sympathy, his wish and his ability to put himself in the other man's place, that made play-writing definitely attractive to him. As a soldier he would have shown the courage of the dogged defender in the trench or the calmly supervising general at headquarters, rather than the mad bravery that carried the flag at the front of a forlorn hope. His gifts were intellectual. His writing was more disciplined than inspired. If we shall claim for him genius, it must be preferably the genius of infinite pains.

He saw intimately and clearly. His proportion made him write with discretion and