

**THE DRAMATIC YEAR 1887-88:
BRIEF CRITICISMS OF
IMPORTANT THEATRICAL
EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES**

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The Dramatic Year 1887-88: Brief Criticisms of Important Theatrical Events in the United States
by William Archer & Edward Fuller

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WILLIAM ARCHER & EDWARD FULLER

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*BRIEF CRITICISMS OF IMPORTANT THEATRICAL
EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES*

WITH A SKETCH OF THE SEASON IN LONDON

BY WILLIAM ARCHER

EDITED BY
EDWARD FULLER.



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1889

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NOTE.

THE present volume is an attempt to present in a compact and attractive form a critical review of the dramatic season just ended. It is not in any sense complete or chronological, nor is it a continuous account of the history of the American stage within the period mentioned; it is rather a presentation and consideration of the luminous (or non-luminous) points in that history. Such a method has rather obvious merits as well as defects, the former of which, in the opinion of the editor, outweigh the latter. No one can be more fully conscious than he, however, that the execution of his plan, at least so far as his individual work is concerned, falls far below the conception. For those who have kindly aided him by their contributions, he is well aware that he needs to make no such excuse. Without them the book would have been an impossibility, and to them one and all he now and here offers the most cordial

thanks. To Mr. William Archer, whose admirably comprehensive view of the London season just ended will add much to the value of the volume, and to Mr. H. M. Ticknor and Mr. G. E. Montgomery, whose co-operation deserves the heartiest acknowledgment, the editor must especially express his gratitude, although his debt is hardly less in degree to Mr. Towse (who has generously given him permission to use two articles of his), Mr. Weeks and Mr. Copeland, the last of whom he has to thank for much assistance which does not appear in the table of contents. It should be said, too, that a portion of the articles included have appeared, though for the most part in a different form, in the *Boston Post*, and two of them in the *New York Evening Post*. But the majority of the contributions have been written exclusively for publication here. The only wish which the editor desires to express in this connection is that "The Dramatic Year" may prove as useful in its way to the stage and to those interested in the drama everywhere, as the excellent *Mirror Annual* has already proved to the same class of readers. It is hardly necessary to add that between the present volume of critical essays and that indispensable chronological record there can be no unfriendly rivalry, since each is independent of, although at the same time supplementary to, the

other. Whether or not "The Dramatic Year" shall be an annual publication depends, of course, largely upon the degree of public favour with which this experiment is received. Had performances of light operas and burlesques been included in the editor's plan, the wider scope thus gained might, perhaps, have made this contingency more certain; but that could not have been adequately done without enlarging the book beyond the limits proposed. That there is room for a critical review of such performances, as well as of musical attractions of a higher class, will hardly be disputed.

The editor will count it as a great favour if, during the dramatic season which is now opening, managers will send him complete casts of new productions and dates of opening performances.

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15, Milk Street, Boston.

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