

**ADA
REHAN, A STUDY**

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Ada Rehan, a study by William Winter

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WILLIAM WINTER

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ADA REHAN



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A STUDY

BY
WILLIAM WINTER

"'Thou foole!' said Love, 'know'st thou not this—
In everything that's sweet she is!
In yond carnation goe and seek,
There shalt thou find her lip and cheek;
In that enamel'd pansie by,
There thou shalt have her curious eye;
In bloom of peach and rose's bud,
There waves the streamer of her blood.'
' 'Tis true,' said I, and thereupon
I went to pluck them, one by one." —*Herrick.*

NEW EDITION REVISED AND ENLARGED

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1891—1898

LONDON

NEW YORK

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TO THE
LIBRARY OF
CALIFORNIA

TO
AUGUSTIN DALY
WHOSE DISCERNMENT EARLY RECOGNIZED IN
ADA REHAN
THE PROMISE OF A GREAT CAREER
AND WHOSE JUDGMENT AND SKILL
AS A THEATRICAL MANAGER
WERE WISBLY AND GENEROUSLY EXERTED
TO GUIDE HER PROGRESS
AND
TO PROMOTE HER FORTUNES
I DEDICATE THIS COMMEMORATIVE RECORD
OF HER PROFESSIONAL LIFE

By friendship prompted, gentle and sincere,
Kindness inspires the Tribute written here.
Detraction might some trivial fault disclose,
Exultant o'er a blemish in the rose;
Mine be the joy her beauties to proclaim,
And give to distant years her noble fame;
And since so long thy zeal has serv'd her cause,
And arm'd her will to win the world's applause,
Be it my proud prerogative to twine,
Old friend and true, her honor'd name with thine.

WILLIAM WINTER.

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PREFACE.

This book contains a reprint, revised and augmented, of my study of ADA REHAN and her acting, printed in 1891, and circulated under the title of A Daughter of Comedy. In its first form that work is out of print, but the demand for it continues to exist, and therefore an edition comprising all that is essential of the original narrative, and bringing the story of Miss Rehan's achievements and successes down to the present hour, may, perhaps, be received with favor. Within the years since 1891 this versatile, brilliant, and sympathetic actress has added to her extensive repertory the Shakespearean characters of Viola, Beatrice, Julia, The Princess of France, and Miranda, with other important characters in old English comedy and in diversified plays of modern origin; and, while continuing earlier triumphs, she has enhanced the authority of her professional position and increased the lustre of her fame. No dramatic artist of our time is more popular, and few performers of any period have served the dramatic art with such resolute zeal and such self-sacrificing devo-