

**FAMOUS AMERICAN  
ACTORS OF  
TO-DAY, VOLUME I**

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Famous American actors of to-day, Volume I by Frederic Edward McKay & Charles E. L. Wingate

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**FREDERIC EDWARD MCKAY & CHARLES E. L. WINGATE**

**FAMOUS AMERICAN  
ACTORS OF  
TO-DAY, VOLUME I**





JOSEPH JEFFERSON AS RIP VAN WINKLE  
Copyright, 1894, by B. J. Falk, New York.

FAMOUS AMERICAN  
ACTORS OF TO-DAY

EDITED BY  
FREDERIC EDWARD McKAY  
AND  
CHARLES E. L. WINGATE

*Illustrated with Portraits*

VOLUME I



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## PREFACE.

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THIS volume is not designed for the use of theatrical people alone. Inasmuch as the various chapters are written by authors who are recognized as authorities upon the subjects coming under their pens, as well as writers experienced in pleasing the public, it is hoped that the book will fill a helpful corner in the biographical department of home libraries, while at the same time it acquaints general readers with the careers and methods of work of our American actors.

Although the theatre has existed in this country for a century and a half, and in these later days has flourished wonderfully, the literature of the stage is meagre. Of histories there are none that cover the entire period; of biographical works there are very few, and none that deal, after the manner of this volume, with any considerable number of contemporaneous actors. The central idea of "Famous American Actors of To-day" is to bring before the reader each noted player as he is viewed by a writer who either has known the actor personally, or has made an es-



pecial study of his professional work. In this way there is produced, with varied characteristic style, a series of reliable biographies and accurate criticisms out of the routine order.

The idea of the book was conceived by Mr. McKay, and the carrying out of the project was enthusiastically assisted by all the contributors. The time of "to-day" was limited (with one exception) to the decade just closing. The order of arrangement of the essays is purely artificial, and is not intended to indicate rank of any kind. First, the long-established stars are presented; then the younger stars, with the notable stock actors; then the special character comedians.

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