

**LONDON ASSURANCE: A COMEDY
IN FIVE ACTS. ACTING VERSION OF
THE YALE UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC
ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED),
WITH AN INTRODUCTION**

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DION L. BOUCICAULT & WILLIAM LYON PHELPS

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION**



THE YALE UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION, 1909-1910.

LONDON ASSURANCE

A COMEDY IN FIVE ACTS

BY

DION ~~B~~ BOUCICAULT

ACTING VERSION OF

THE YALE UNIVERSITY
DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION

(INCORPORATED)

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

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THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO
HENRY ARTHUR JONES, ESQ.,
OF LONDON,
WITH ADMIRATION FOR THE DRAMATIST
AND AFFECTION FOR THE MAN

Clarendon Hotel

Sunday

My dear Sir -

Mr Taylor who
has my affairs in hand
has been laid up with
severe illness for seven
days - Thus all my business
suffers unavoidable delay

Yours truly
Dion Bouicault

INTRODUCTION.

THE YALE UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION.

The Association was founded by Henry D. Wescott, Esq., of the class of 1901, and its initial performance was given at the Hyperion Theatre, New Haven, on the twenty-third of May, in the last year of the last century. On that occasion, memorable in itself and in its subsequently fulfilled promise, the Association produced a dramatic version of Chaucer's *Pardoner's Tale*, prepared by Mr. Wescott, and a Mediæval Mystery, *Secunda Pastorum*. The object of this student organization was both dignified and scholarly; no cheap burlesques or so-called "musical comedies," devoid as they usually are, even on the professional stage, of both comedy and music, were to be allowed. This good policy has been generally followed. The Association has given, for the first time in English anywhere in the world, representations of Ibsen's *Pretenders* and of Gogol's *Revisor*: it has revived such plays as Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* (first performance in America), Goldsmith's *The Good-Natured Man*, and Sheridan's *Critic*. Since 1905 the Association has given annual performances outside of New Haven; and this year, for the first time, it will play in Washington, the trip being made during the Christmas vacation, to avoid interference with regular college work.

Nearly every year in the past decade has seen something new in the history of the Association. The year 1909 will

long be remembered as the period when an open air Commencement play was first undertaken. On the Saturday night preceding Commencement, under the Campus elms, was produced *Merry Wives of Windsor*, with Mr. Parry, '09, as Falstaff. No spectator will ever forget this performance. It was one of the most entertaining and at the same time one of the most impressive dramatic representations ever witnessed in this part of the world. Nor should we forget another great event in the year 1909, when, on the nineteenth of April, Miss Maude Adams brought her entire company from New York, and gave a splendid performance of J. M. Barrie's new play, *What Every Woman Knows*. Every item of expense connected with this production was borne by Miss Adams, and the large receipts were given by her to the Yale University Dramatic Association, to go toward the fund being raised for the proposed University Theatre. The writer has seldom witnessed a dramatic spectacle where there was so much emotion both on the stage and in the auditorium. At the conclusion of the performance, Mr. Parry presented Miss Adams with a suitable token, announcing at the same time that she had been chosen as an Honorary Member of the Association.

In 1907 the Association definitely adopted the policy of publishing their acting version of the play selected, a custom which has been followed by other universities. This gives a certain permanence to the work of the students, and is so well managed by them that no financial loss has as yet resulted. This year, for the Christmas trip and for the Saturday Promenade performances, the Association has decided on a revival of Boucicault's *London Assurance*, a comedy that no undergraduate has ever had an opportunity to witness, but which shines bright in the recollections of