

THE CASE OF AMERICAN DRAMA

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The Case of American Drama by Thomas H. Dickinson

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THOMAS H. DICKINSON

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BY

THOMAS H. DICKINSON

EDITOR OF

"CHIEF CONTEMPORARY DRAMATIST"



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CHAPTER I

THE NEW THEATRE IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY

It is difficult to do justice to our own times. Something over seven years ago the New Theatre was first announced to the nation. In due time it appeared and passed away. About it from the first was such a buzzing of comment and criticism, pointed and pointless, learned and literary, friendly and frankly malicious, that the institution itself has been lost in a cloud of words. The general impression strangely left was that the New Theatre had been a failure. This impression may be ascribed largely to the often recurring charge that the building was too large for its purpose. It was strengthened by the early closing of the experiment. I think the real reason for the impression of failure is that so far no one has told what the New Theatre really was.

Now in this study of the history and accomplishments of the New Theatre it will be desirable to omit any reference to the motives of the founders or the mistakes of the directors. Whether the former can be successfully impugned it is not necessary to ask; cer-