THE LIE: A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

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The Lie: A Play in Four Acts by Henry Arthur Jones

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HENRY ARTHUR JONES

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Trieste



The Lie

A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

BY

HENRY ARTHUR JONES Author of "Mrs. Dane's Defence," "The Theatre of Ideas."

"The Divine Gift," etc.

New York George H. Doran Company

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DEDICATION to MISS MARGARET ILLINGTON

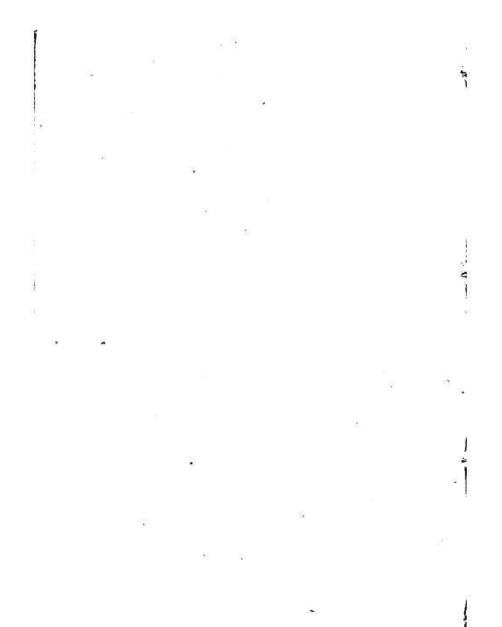
DEAR MARGARET ILLINGTON :

The highest and rarest gift an actor can possess is that power of sure and instant self-excitement which enables him suddenly to reach the great emotional scenes of drama by a daring spontaneous instinct, and to unite the whole audience with him in his frenzy of self-abandonment. It is told of our English Macready that before going on the stage to act any great passionate scene, he had to work himself into a fury at the wings, like the lion who could not roar till be had thoroughly lashed himself with his tail. But Edmund Kean's performances in Othello and Richard were said to be like reading Shakespeare by continuous flashes of lightning accompanied by rolls of thunder.

In asking you to accept the dedication of "The Lie," I abdicate my authorship for the moment, and become one of the audience whom you move every night to such tumultuous response to your splendidly sustained outbursts of emotion. And in printing the play I give those who witness your acting the chance of reading my words, and comparing them with your impassioned utterance. They will then be able to judge how deeply indebted I am to you for your rendering of Elinor Shale. In speaking of your performance I am justified in calling up memories of the great acting of the past. A New York paper, after seeing you in "The Lie," has called you "The American Sarah Bernhardt." Let me suggest that when these troublous times have gone by and France again resumes her sway in the drama-let me suggest that the rising French actress be called "The French Margaret Illington."

> Always faithfully and gratefully yours, Henry Arthur Jones.

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PERSONS REPRESENTED

SIR ROBERT SHALE, BART. of Shale Abbey NOLL DIBDIN GERALD FORSTER, of the Hall Waventry HAMP, Butler at the Abbey DICK ELINOR SHALE, Sir Robert's Granddaughter LUCY SHALE, her younger sister MISS PINSENT, a dressmaker GIBBARD MES. CALLARD

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