

**PLAYS, PLAYERS AND
PLAYHOUSES AT HOME
AND ABROAD, VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649171569

Plays, Players and Playhouses at Home and Abroad, Vol. II by William Pitt Lennox

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM PITT LENNOX

**PLAYS, PLAYERS AND
PLAYHOUSES AT HOME
AND ABROAD, VOL. II**

PLAYS, PLAYERS, AND PLAYHOUSES

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

VOL. II.

CHAPTER XI.

- The French Stage—Jodelle—La Harpe—His Chequered Career—His Tragedies—"The Earl of Warwick"—"Melanio"—"Barnecides"—"Jean of Naples"—"Menzikoff" 159

CHAPTER XII.

- The perfection of Tragedy described by Aristotle—La Harpe's Criticisms—Cornille—Voltaire—Pensions granted by Louis XIV. to men of Science and Literature—M. Capelle's remarks on Shakespeare and Addison—Akenside on the genius of Shakespeare 165

CHAPTER XIII.

- French Comedy—Molière—Le Sage—Quirault—Brucy—Regnard—Dancourt—Saint Foix—Diderot—Scdaine—Destouches—Boissy—Fabre D'Eglantine 180

CHAPTER XIV.

- Duels of Actors—George Garrick, brother to David Garrick, and Baddaley—J. P. Kemble and Aikin—Roselle and Ribou—Fleury and Dugazon—Larive and Florence—Talma and Naudet—Actresses equally Pugnacious—Mesdemoiselles Beaupré and Catherine des Ursis—Mesdemoiselles Théodore and Beaumesnil—Mademoiselle Manpin's rencontre with M. Dumesnil—Inebriety—Mademoiselle Laguerre—Iphigénie en "Champagne," pas en Aulide—Other bibacious Artists—Puffing Advertisements—Realistic Stage effects 198

CHAPTER XV.

- French Dramatists unsuccessful when Attempting to Delineate English manners—English Actors at the Porte St. Martin—Talma—Le Kair—Mademoiselle Mars—Dramatic Censor—Hector Malet—Criticism on the English Drama and English Artists 209

CHAPTER XVI.

- "The Rambler's" opinion of Miss Smithson—Berlioz—His Devotion to the Beautiful Artist—An ill-fated Marriage—"Hands, not hearts" 230

CHAPTER XVII.

- Talma in "Britannicus"—Mademoiselle Georges as the Empress Agrippina—French Patriotism—Marshal Ney—Pièces de Circonstance—Fulsome Compliments . . . 242

CHAPTER XVIII.

- Celebrities I have known—Mademoiselles Bourgein, Duchesnois, and Déjazet—Leontine Voluy—Leontine Fay, her nom de Théâtre—Romance of real life 249

CHAPTER XIX.

- French Managers adopt the system of English Strolling Managers of changing the titles of Plays—Technologie Théâtrale, or Green-room Phraseology 257

PLAYS, PLAYERS, AND PLAYHOUSES.

CHAPTER I.

ANECDOTES OF ELLISTON—A ROYAL VISIT TO DRURY LANE THEATRE—LORD GRAHAM AND THE LESSEE—A CHALLENGE—“ALL’S WELL THAT ENDS WELL”—CRUSADE AGAINST THE MINOR THEATRES—HEAVY PENALTIES—ARTFUL DODGE TO AVOID THE LAW.

I never in my life
Did hear a challenge urg'd more modestly.
SHAKESPEARE.

GEORGE RAYMOND, in his memoirs of Elliston, has recorded an adventure in which I played a considerable part; the facts of which I communicated to him. My friend, however,—for a kinder friend never existed—has em-

broidered the tale so much that, however amusing he has made it, I must repeat it as it really happened,

The 2nd of May, 18—, was fixed for the royal visit to the theatre, and the monarch of Drury Lane was prepared to give a fraternal welcome to George the Fourth. The King had held a drawing-room at Buckingham Palace on the morning of the day, and a few untoward events, added to the fatigue consequent on the ceremony, found His Majesty not in the most serene temper of mind on his return to Carlton House. But "the best-bred gentleman in the land" was not likely to betray any unseemly feelings of this description to those around him, and the coarse behaviour of the London mob which had followed the royal cortége from the Palace to Pall Mall a few hours before, seemed now altogether to have passed from the memory of the Sovereign. By the King's desire, however, I, as the captain of the escort, was strictly enjoined to ride as close to the carriage-window as possible, never for a moment to leave it. An arrangement wisely preconcerted; for

on the morning, as the august party were entering the courtyard, a missile was projected at the King's person, which struck me a pretty palpable hit; the entrance, too, was so narrow that, had it not been for my jack-boot, which was torn to pieces, my leg must have been broken.

So fearful were the authorities that the King would be molested in the Strand that, just before leaving Carlton House for Drury Lane, I was told we were to take a circuitous route by St. Martin's Church and Long Acre.

The doors of the theatre had been beset from an early hour in the afternoon; for the King's visit, on this occasion, appeared to excite more than an ordinary sensation. The rush into the theatre was tremendous. Considerable uproar, from various parts of the house, ensued on disputed seats and packed benches, which, as the King entered the box, increased to such a degree that His Majesty felt impressed with the idea it was directed towards his own person. The Vice-Chamberlain, Lord Graham, in the absence of the Lord Chamberlain, at once

perceived the King's feeling, and hastened to address the manager, who was in the waiting-room at the back of the box, that the uproar might be appeased by explanation.

"Mr. Elliston," said his lordship, "this is disgraceful. Why is the theatre so inconsiderately overcrowded? You should have prevented this excess, sir. The King is, naturally, highly vexed, and will never again come to Drury Lane."

This speech, addressed as it was with considerable acrimony to Elliston, surrounded by those attached to the Court, very sensibly nettled him. He replied with equal warmth, but ten times greater dignity,

"My friend will wait upon your lordship;" bowed, and retired to his room.

Quiet having been restored both in the royal box and in the house, I was resting in the ante-room, rather fatigued with my day's work and excitement, when a message was brought to me from Mr. Elliston, requesting that I would at once join him in his private room.

This private room, the temple of Mars, Bac-