

**THE MANCHESTER STAGE,
1880-1900; CRITICISMS
REPRINTED FROM "THE
MANCHESTER GUARDIAN"**

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The Manchester stage, 1880-1900; criticisms reprinted from "The Manchester guardian" by Various

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VARIOUS

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THE MANCHESTER STAGE

1880-1900

The
Manchester Stage
1880-1900

CRITICISMS REPRINTED
FROM
"THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN"

POL. *My Lord, I will use them after their desert.*
HAM. *'Ods bodykins, man, much better.*

WESTMINSTER
ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & CO
2 WHITEHALL GARDENS

BUTLER & TANNER,
THE SELWOOD PRINTING WORKS
FROME, AND LONDON

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PREFACE

“ORGANIZE the theatre!” Thus, many years ago, wrote Matthew Arnold, vainly enough if we look to the practical results, not vainly if we look to the wisdom of the words. London has never organized the theatre; how then should a provincial city, even a city like Manchester, do so? The kind of organization present in the old stock companies is gone. It was imperfect, but there it was; and though the revivals of Mr. Benson are a step in the right path, being exhibitions of fine art guaranteed in some measure by local enthusiasm, yet they are not enough. They are not enough; they do not restore the regular stage. “We may prophesy,” wrote Theobald in 1726, “one Time or another, that the *Rust of Pantomimes* will be a *Salve* for the Recovery of *Dramatic Poetry*.” But this end is not yet. We are assured that our theatres cannot live without