

THROUGH THE FOURTH WALL

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Through the fourth wall by W. A. Darlington

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W. A. DARLINGTON

**THROUGH THE
FOURTH WALL**

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NOVELS BY THE SAME AUTHOR
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THROUGH THE FOURTH WALL

BY
W. A. DARLINGTON

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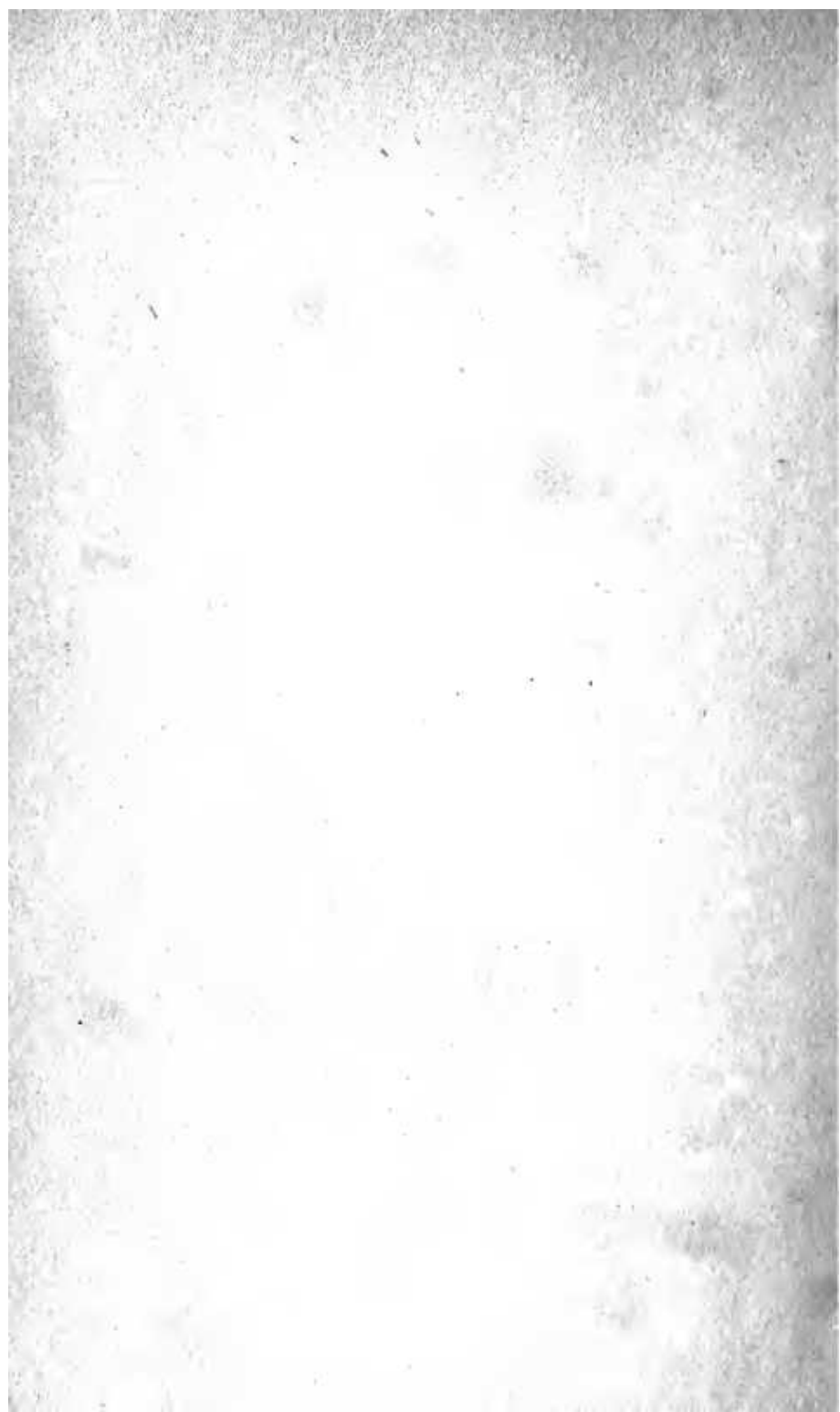
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To
ARCHIBALD HURD



INTRODUCTION

ALL these essays—if so ambitious a word may be applied to writings so slight—were contributed in the first instance to the *Daily Telegraph*. They are printed here without any alterations except such as seemed inevitable in transferring them from the files of a newspaper to the more permanent form of a bound volume.

Writings about the theatre are in their nature ephemeral. Plays pass and are gone; players make triumphs, disappear, and are too often forgotten. These writings of mine cover two years of dramatic criticism; and even in that short space there has been time to forget. When I began to read over the proofs of this book, I was amazed to find how faint had grown my memories of emotions which at their inception had been strong enough to make me want to record them. But as I read, the defaced impressions in my brain grew clearer, the colours brightened, and I recaptured for a moment the forgotten feelings of pleasure or disappointment, delight or distaste, which had been mine while the ink was still wet on the paper. It is in the hope that some other lovers of the theatre may find in these pages something of the same experience that I publish them now.

When I came to consider the question of the order