

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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Autobiographical sketch by Mrs. John Drew & Douglas Taylor

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MRS. JOHN DREW & DOUGLAS TAYLOR

**AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH**



AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF MRS. JOHN DREW WITH
AN INTRODUCTION BY HER
SON JOHN DREW WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES
BY DOUGLAS TAYLOR
ILLUSTRATED

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Introduction

THE following retrospect of a life well spent in the pursuit of the most exacting of professions was written down for the immediate delectation and edification of the children and grandchildren of the gifted woman who penned it.

I think, however, that when such an example may teach so much; where the life of an actress has been so full of incident and accident, and

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all resulting—through force of character and absolute intrinsic worth—in ultimate personal and professional regard and reverence, I think that the record of such a life, reaching over seventy years of the dramatic history of our country, cannot be without interest to all who have at heart the development of art at its best.

It would ill become me, here, to more than touch upon the domestic side of her character, but I may be permitted to say that when to artistic perfection she added discipline tempered with gentleness and loving-kindness as a mother, and when to her other attributes and excellences was joined the organiz-

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ing ability and perfect control of a theatrical stock company for many years, surely it is no assumption to say of her to-day, as was said of Maria Theresa, "*sexua femina ingenio vir.*" Such a character and personality must be salient in any time or age, and cannot but serve as an exemplar. And perhaps the fact of four generations of this same family having engaged in the profession of acting—with credit to their calling, and honor to themselves—may still further emphasize the real worth of that calling, both to the individuals engaged therein and the world at large.

And now, without further proem, I beg the public's acceptance of

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these present recollections of a woman pre-eminent in the profession she so long adorned.

JOHN DREW.

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