

**THE "A.D.C.", BEING PERSONAL
REMINISCENCES OF
THE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR
DRAMATIC CLUB, CAMBRIDGE**

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The "A.D.C.", Being Personal Reminiscences of the University Amateur Dramatic Club,
Cambridge by F. C. Burnand

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F. C. BURNAND

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OF
THE "A. D. C." CAMB.

THE "A. D. C."

BEING

Personal Reminiscences

OF THE

UNIVERSITY AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB,
CAMBRIDGE.

WRITTEN BY

F. C. BURNAND, B.A.,

TRIN. COLL. CAMB.

"HEC OLIM MEMINISSE JUVABIT."

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1880



[BY PERMISSION.]

TO

His Royal Highness

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

TO

WHOSE MOST GOODNATURED ENCOURAGEMENT THE CLUB IS MAINLY

INDEBTED FOR ITS PRESENT RECOGNISED POSITION,

THIS BOOK OF

"A. D. C." REMINISCENCES

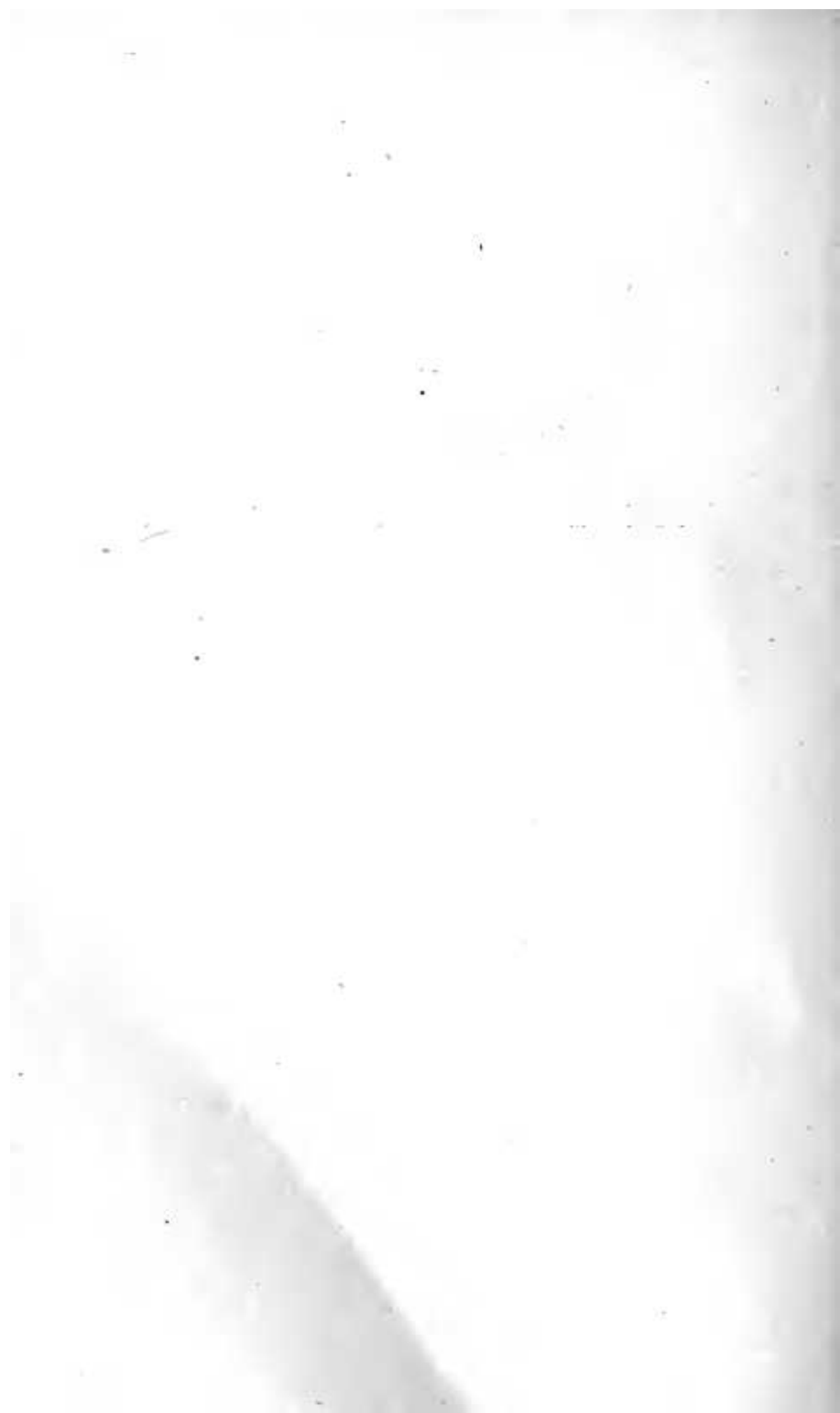
IS

GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

BY

ITS AUTHOR.

September, 1879.



PREFACE.

SEVERAL Dramatic Clubs have been started, from time to time, either by Town or Gown, in Cambridge, but no one of these has ever achieved the permanent success of the A. D. C., or Amateur Dramatic Club of the University, which it was my good fortune to have had the opportunity of founding in 1855, so that next year, 1886, it will have existed for a quarter of a century, a duration unexampled in the history of Cambridge Dramatic Clubs, whether Academic or Oppidanic.

The most celebrated non-academic University Dramatic Society in Cambridge, called the Cambridge Garrick Club, was started in 1835. Among its members it numbered very few University men, and these were graduates, professors, and fellows of Colleges, who were elected, not *quâ* University men, but as Residents in the town of Cambridge, who, having a taste for English Dramatic Literature, were willing to encourage a Club that could show on its list of honorary members, the names of Charles Kemble,

W. Macready, Sheridan Knowles, Liston, and Douglas Jerrold.

Whether any of these distinguished characters,—with the exception of Sheridan Knowles, whom the Club entertained at a banquet given in his honour, and Macready, to whom the Club presented a silver cup,—ever actively assisted at the meetings, or performances, of the Cambridge Garrick Club, I have been unable to ascertain. As, however, in the last published notice of their performances at the Barnewell Theatre, where Macready played Knowles's *Virginius*, the critic of *The Cambridge Chronicle*, Aug. 5, 1836, expresses a hope that the subscribers to the Club may “see Mr. Tilbury on the next Garrick performance in a character of more importance,” it is just probable that the Cambridge Garrick continued its representations for some little time after the Great Macready Star had disappeared in that one overpowering blaze of triumph, which must have been enough to ruin any ordinary Club; for who would pay their money to see the attempts of local talent, after witnessing the finished performance of a great Dramatic genius?

This Club may exist now in some shape, and twenty years ago there was a town Dramatic Club, but nobody of any note belonged to it, and its representations, which took place out of term time, as a rule, at the Barnewell Theatre, were given by Messrs. Quince the carpenter, Snug the joiner, Flute the