

FAMOUS FIRST REPRESENTATIONS

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Famous first representations by H. Sutherland Edwards

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H. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS

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REPRESENTATIONS**

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BY
H. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS



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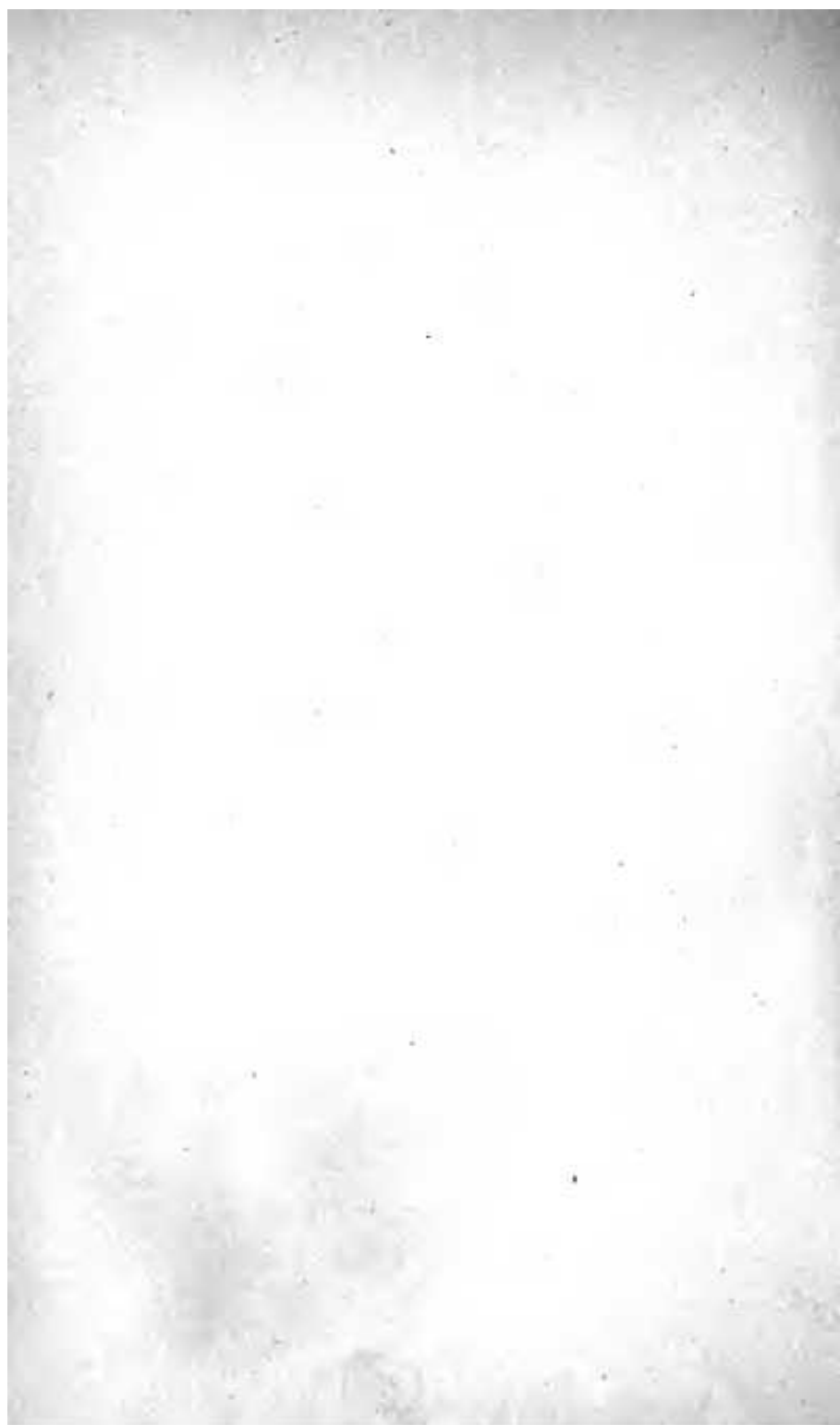
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FAMOUS FIRST REPRESENTATIONS.

CHAPTER I.

"THE ENGLISH MONSIEUR."

THE *English Monsieur* is not a very well-known work in the present day, but its first representation derives interest from the fact of its having served to introduce Nell Gwyn to the stage. The young orange-girl was already known to habitual playgoers, and there is probably no more familiar passage in Pepys's Diary than the one in which he speaks of his first interview with "pretty, witty Nell," as he calls her. The early life of this earliest of popular actresses does not bear examination. The death of her mother, "Mrs. Eleanor Gwyn the elder," in a horse-pond was made the subject of a ribald poem, which may be read in a collection of pamphlets and broad sheets preserved at the British