

**DIARY OF A DALY DÉBUTANTE:
BEING PASSAGES FROM THE
JOURNAL OF A MEMBER OF
AUGUSTIN DALY'S FAMOUS
COMPANY OF PLAYERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649561872

Diary of a Daly Débutante: Being Passages from the Journal of a Member of Augustin Daly's
Famous Company of Players by Dora Knowlton Thompson Ranous

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DORA KNOWLTON THOMPSON RANOUS

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AUGUSTIN DALY

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DIARY OF A DALY DÉBUTANTE

BEING PASSAGES FROM THE JOURNAL OF A MEMBER
OF AUGUSTIN DALY'S FAMOUS COMPANY
OF PLAYERS

[Ransom, D. 1. 1. 7.]

ILLUSTRATED



NEW YORK
PUBLISHED
BY

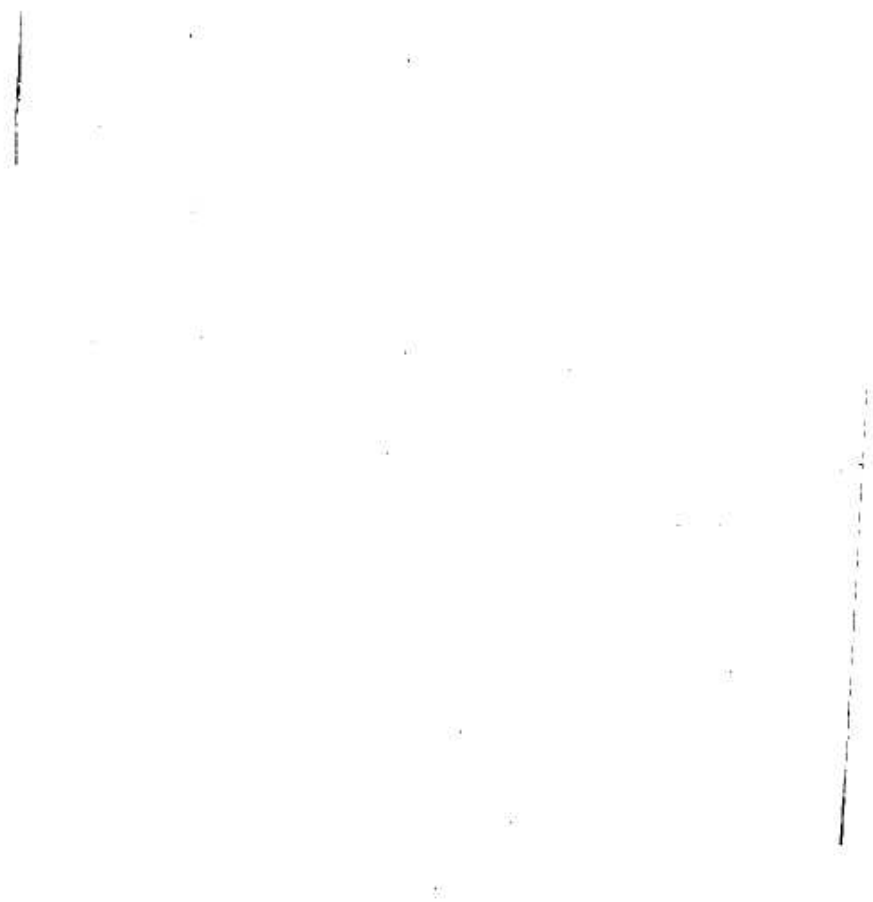
NEW YORK
DUFFIELD & COMPANY

1910

13

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

THIS Diary of a Daly Débutante in the early 'eighties is printed from a manuscript which, quite by chance, becomes available for publication some thirty years later. It is printed verbatim, with only such omissions as have seemed expedient for personal reasons, the writer having since become well known in another walk of life. The Diary as a whole, in a perfectly unconscious way, gives so true a picture of a vanished life and of other times behind the footlights that no apology is made for offering it to true lovers of the theatre.

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Diary of a Daly Débutante

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 4, 1879.—To-day I have had my first glimpse of life behind the scenes in a real theatre, the place where I expect to spend most of my waking hours for many months. I think it will be interesting and amusing to keep a record of my experiences in this new world, for it seems like that to me, everything is so different from any former experiences in my life.

Mamma has wished for some time that I should go on the stage, as she thinks I have dramatic ability; so, although I am only just out of school, she has been trying several months to find a place for me in a New York theatre. None of my family ever has been connected with the stage, and we had no acquaintance or influence with theatrical people; but I have taken a long course of instruction with Mr. Frederic C. P. Robinson, an English actor of high standing, formerly of the Union Square Theatre and later of Wallack's. We were told that he was the best dramatic teacher in New York. When I finished my course of lessons last June, Mr. Robinson brought about a meeting between Mr. Augustin Daly, the famous theatrical manager, my mother and myself. Mr. Daly was then engaging actors for a company with which he intended to open his new theatre at Broadway and Thirtieth Street early in the autumn. Mr. Robinson told us that he wished to engage several young girls of good family