

THE DRAMA: ADDRESSES

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The Drama: Addresses by Henry Irving

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HENRY IRVING

**THE DRAMA:
ADDRESSES**

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BY HENRY IRVING



THE
D R A M A
ADDRESSES

BY

HENRY IRVING, *Esq.*

LONDON
WILLIAM HEINEMANN
1893

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THE STAGE AS IT IS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



YOU will not be surprised that, on this interesting occasion, I have selected as the subject of the few remarks I propose to offer you, 'The Stage as it is.' The stage—because to my profession I owe it that I am here, and every dictate of taste and of fidelity impels me to honour it; the stage as it is—because it is very cheap and empty honour that is paid to the drama in the abstract, and withheld from the theatre as a working institution in our midst. Fortunately there is less of this than there used to be. It arose partly from intellectual superciliousness, partly from timidity as to moral contamination. To boast of being able to appreciate Shakespeare more in read-