

**ESSAYS ON  
MODERN  
DRAMATISTS**

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Essays on Modern Dramatists by William Lyon Phelps

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**WILLIAM LYON PHELPS**

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**ESSAYS ON  
MODERN DRAMATISTS**

**BY**

**WILLIAM LYON PHELPS**

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at Yale**

**New York**

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**1921**

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1921

## PREFACE

I have not selected these dramatists because I believe them to be exclusively the best, but because I chose to write about them. Their work interests me, and they are modern. Four of them are alive, and the other two ought to be.

The last thirty years will probably be regarded by future historians as a great creative period in the drama. Perhaps contemporary criticism gains in intimacy what it loses in authority. If some of the Elizabethans had only written less about Seneca, and more about Shakespeare!

W. L. P.

Yale University  
Tuesday, 4 January 1921



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