

**THE LIFE OF ROBERT COATES:  
BETTER KNOWN AS 'ROMEO'  
AND 'DIAMOND' COATES, THE  
CELEBRATED 'AMATEUR OF  
FASHION'**

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The Life of Robert Coates: Better Known as 'Romeo' and 'Diamond' Coates, the Celebrated 'Amateur of Fashion' by John R. Robinson & Hunter H. Robinson

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**JOHN R. ROBINSON & HUNTER H. ROBINSON**

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ROBERT COATES.

*(Frontispiece.)*

THE  
LIFE OF ROBERT COATES

BETTER KNOWN AS

'ROMEO' AND 'DIAMOND' COATES

THE CELEBRATED 'AMATEUR OF FASHION'

BY  
JOHN R. AND HUNTER H. ROBINSON



CRUST OF ROBERT COATES

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## PREFACE.

APOLOGIES are so frequently used in Prefaces to biographies that in this case we do not propose to offer any, believing that a plain and impartial narrative of the career of the late Robert Coates may give entertainment to some and instruction to many. No man endured the ordeal of severe public criticism more stoically; the frequent misrepresentation of his purposes would have been resented to the utmost by many; in only one instance did he fail to ignore it.

No complete history of the English stage can be compiled without including some notice of the dramatic representations of Robert Coates. In one or two biographical and other works, some reference is made to this once famous



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amateur actor : these records give but scanty details, and are in error in one particular—the place of his marriage.

The portrait of Robert Coates in this volume is taken from an engraving by T. Blood, after a miniature by Newton : and that of Mrs. Coates from a plate by W. T. Fry, after a painting by F. Meyer. Both are considered faithful representations.

The authors of the present Memoir have compiled the work both from public and private sources, with exhaustive research, and, as they believe, with fulness and accuracy.

LONDON, *Aug.* 1891.

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