

**ADELAIDE  
PHILLIPPS:  
A RECORD**

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Adelaide Phillipps: A Record by Mrs. R. C. Waterston

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**MRS. R. C. WATERSTON**

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# ADELAIDE PHILLIPPS

*A RECORD*

BY

MRS. R. C. WATERSTON

"THE echo of her voice enwrought  
A human sweetness with her thought."

BOSTON

A. WILLIAMS AND COMPANY

Old Corner Bookstore

1883

to

**Matilda and Abigail Phillips.**





## ADELAIDE PHILLIPPS.

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### CHAPTER I.

THE current of Adelaide Phillipps' professional life was bending towards a new channel when I first saw her. That moment is vividly before me now. She was standing beside Madame Arnoult's piano, having just finished her singing-lesson. Madame Arnoult presented her to me, saying: "Miss Phillipps is studying with me the songs in Cinderella; she is to appear in that part at her benefit." She was then about seventeen years of age, and seemed to me the brightest, healthiest, happiest young woman I had ever seen. I remember her showing me with girlish pleasure the play-bill, printed on

white satin, for her benefit, and won my interest by her cheerful simplicity.

Madame Arnoult, a woman of fine musical qualities and education, was then the best instructress in vocal culture in Boston. Her husband, Dr. Arnoult, is still remembered as a man of fine presence and refined manners, whose instructions in the French language were very much sought and appreciated. They were both persons of good position in France, and made many friends in America. Madame Arnoult knew the world, and especially the musical world, and when she recognized the very remarkable gift Miss Phillipps possessed, in a grand contralto voice, she advised her to study for the Italian Opera. Thus the lively and talented young actress became a prima donna of the lyric stage, a change not quite so great as that of Cinderella, but something like it.

Madame Arnoult took a truly mater-

nal interest in her young pupil, who became the companion and friend of the charming Claire Arnoult, the daughter of the house. At that time Madame Arnoult resided near us, and we often attended her musical evenings. She was surrounded by a rare company of talented young people, some of them her pupils: Adelaide and Claire, Theron Dale, Edward Sumner, Harrison Millard, and others. Sometimes these musical meetings were held at our house, and thus began my interest in Adelaide, which grew into an unchanging affection. Miss Phillipps had become well known and a great favorite in Boston from the time when, a mere child, she appeared on the stage of the Museum; and when the change in her career was proposed many were ready to assist her in pursuing studies for a different branch of her profession. At that time Jenny Lind was in Boston, — Jenny Lind, who seems as remote to the present