Contents

Acknowledgments		ix
Introduction	xiii	

- 1. Cradled in the Profession 1
- 2. Marking the Progress of Civilization 29
- 3. Behind the Cart of Thespis 54
- 4. An Actor Prepares 85
- 5. Echoing the Public Voice 107
- 6. Triumphs in Comedy and Melodrama 134
- 7. Nibbling at Stardom 163
- 8. A Mighty Nimrod of Theatrical Touring 184
- 9. Mr. Jefferson and Rip Van Winkle 213
- 10. Bringing the "Sleepy Piece" Home 241
- 11. A Fellow of Infinite Jest, of Most Excellent Fancy 269

viii Contents

12. Are We So Soon Forgot? 305

Epilogue: A Shy Thing Is Comedy 350

Notes 357

Index 423