

"Oh, no ; I believe he likes it. I am sure he does when a really bright, clever fellow comes along and engages his attention. Though he does not say so, and, perhaps, has not thought about it, he is doing good every time he has a real earnest talk to a reporter about the stage and its mission. No actor ever set people thinking so much in England, and he is proving himself quite an art missionary on this side of the Atlantic."

"That's true," said the dramatic editor ; "but for my purpose I only want him to be simply entertaining, —a bit of personal history, *apropos* of Christmas."

"Play the *rôle* of an interviewer, and write the stories yourself," I suggested.

"I will," said Fiske. "Your plan has this advantage,—I shall get the copy in proper time for the printer."

II.

And this Christmas chat is the result of the dramatic editor's decision.

"It was a gloomy, rainy, miserable day. The in the journals was that they were not all genuine. Fiske suggested this fact as discounting a "Christmas chat;" but I undertook to endorse his work by annexing his "interview" to these pages ; and I have to thank him for his bright contribution.