Academy Notice of C. E. Raimond's identity.

17 December 1898.

See scrapbook notices on **The Open Question**, where *Daily Chronicle* releases information and ER's letter of reply is printed.

http://www.jsu.edu/robinsweb/openq/opqaddre.html

The NYU collection of the Elizabeth Robins Papers contains ER's annotations on letters from Stella Campbell (Mrs. Patrick Campbell) that she was the likely source for the disclosure. The *Daily Chronicle* annotates ER's published letter, stating that the information they printed had been previously published in at least one American and one British Journal.

Portrait of Elizabeth Robins is likely in the role of Claire in Henry James's *The American*, from 1891.

Digitized by Google from University of Chicago copy. *Hathi Trust* provides access.

property. As the original price of the volumes was 12s. 6d. each, it will be seen, on calculation, that the new owner paid a greatly enhanced price.

The literary temperament is a delicate affair, and to the editor of a literary paper can fall more than his due share of life's little difficulties. For example, not so long ago a poet whom it was our ill-fortune to review replied on a postcard with a directness and force in which his published work was entirely lacking :

You are a beast ! But I will be even with you yet. Fortunately, however, this is not the only kind of missive that the reviewed indulge in. We have just received, in connexion with a recent article, a letter, from which this is an extract :

It is extremely gratifying to have one's work so warmly appreciated, and if the writer of the review could but know how much his words cheered the poor author in an hour of peculiarly disheartening pain, he would, I'm sure, be pleased. Critics have a lot of mud thrown at them by authors; but there is one poor scribe, at least, who would honestly try to write a good book, if only to please the reviewers and not a copy were to be printed for sale.

The two communications that we have quoted illustrate the extremes between which our critics rove, and will, perhaps, make it clear why it is that the ACADEMY never frets.

LAST week, in reviewing Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne's Adventures of Captain Kettle, we implied that the story of "The Raiding of Donna Clotilde" was an improbable one. Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne writes to say that if the reviewer will consult the files of the daily papers for the years 1891-2-3 he will see that the story is copied almost directly from happenings in real life. Our reviewer positively refuses to read through three years' back numbers of the world's press, and takes Mr. Hyne's word. But facts, he contends, are often very improbable indeed; it is the business of the story-teller to make them seem probable. Now Mr. Hyne tells us that nearly everybody complains that this story is incredible, which seems to prove that in this one instance, at least, the author has missed his mark.

POETS who may be proposing to call a volume Lore Triumphant are warned that they are too late. Two books of verse bearing that title reached us last week: Love Triumphant: a Song of Hope, by William Bedford; and Love Triumphant, and Other New Poems, by Annie Matheson.

It is now known beyond contradiction that "C. E. Raimond," the author of *The Open Question, George Mandeville's Husband*, and other works of brilliant fiction, and Miss Elizabeth Robins, the actress whose impersonation of *roles* in Ibsen's plays was so remarkable, are one and the same. Miss Robins, whose portrait we give, has not thrown herself into the interpretation of the Scandinavian dramatist and remained uninfluenced. There is



THE AUTHOR OF "THE OPEN QUESTION," MISS ELIZABETH ROBINS ("C. E. BAIMOND"). From a Photograph by Elliott & Fry.

much "Ibsenism" at the back of *The Open Question*, but —and this fact cannot be too greatly insisted upon—much humour too, such as is prominent in life, but such as one may search for in vain in the Master's writings upon life.

Thirst clinging to life encles darling fassion that it has been elevated into a Xtian instere by the followers of this who regarded his life not at all' the langhed bitterly. Mains and aberlicity of discuss this again but one for all it and aberlicity ofer question whicher cife is a block of a good. M when been is a emergeracy to enade the fact of good the fitting the salue of existence. We have all been in the a secret before has any been so make the pointe the non cinfe the mor the grantic houry lie & with his last breac FACSIMILE OF PORTION OF THE MS, OF "THE OPEN QUESTION,"

462