



THE CONFESSIONS OF DUDLEY MONTROSE, HIGHWAYMAN.



1 Once, when business was dull on the road, I went to London and, just for amusement, went to the house of a certain poor playwright-actor and nearly frightened him to death.



2 Ha! An Idea! "Since I can't go about in safety, dressed as I am," said I to myself, "why I'll just disguise myself like this fellow." This I did, after first locking the poor dub in his bed room.



3 Then, to keep up the character I had assumed, I turned my attention to play writing. In the two weeks that followed, I dashed off quite a number, including Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, King Lear, Julius Caesar, Much Ado About Nothing,



and a few others. And in my spare time I superintended the staging of a number of these. I even acted the leading part in one, viz., Hamlet.

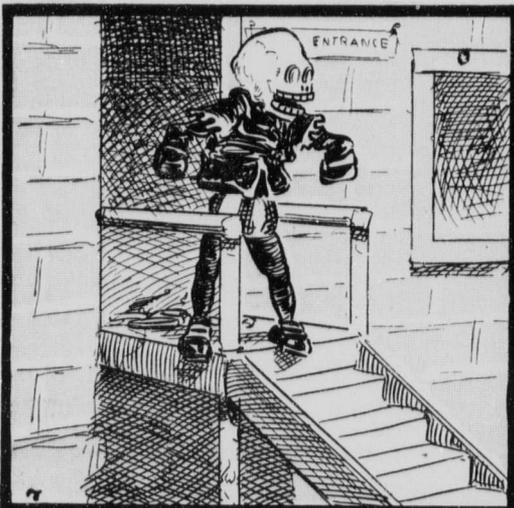
One afternoon my audience became so over-



come by my masterful acting that they gave me many touching proofs of their strong feeling. Overcome by the expressions of approval, and not wishing to see my tears of joy, after a sweeping bow, I made a graceful exit.



Having a severe headache, I decided not to play any more that day. But, as I started down the stairs back of the theatre, I saw Shakespeare, (the howling idiot had escaped from the bedroom) and Roland Farnsworth (none other), the detective, had a warrant for my arrest.



7 I was unarmed! What should I do? Ha! The skull of Yorick! Quick as lightning I made of myself a frightful spectre. The dramatist and the detective had not yet seen me. Just as they started up the stairway I rushed down



8 upon them, shouting, "Whoop! There's something rotten in the state of Denmark!" At the same time some merry jesters threw a volley of elderly eggs, some of which hit me, but most of them met the dramatist and the detective



9 face to face. No wonder they ran. As for me, I got my clothes and my faithful horse, Starlight, and quitted London, in disgust. I understand some of my plays are getting quite famous.