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"The Rivals"

Question: - Discuss the background of the play The Rivals.

Answer: - The setting on the totality of surroundings, physical and social environment, political and social conditions and the like, represented by the gay life of the rich people of Bath grew out of Sheridan's personal experience of his day-to-day life in that city where he lived with his father who kept a school of oratory in 1770. The play is full of references to places of importance in that pleasure resort. This shows that Sheridan was ~~the~~ thoroughly acquainted with the topography of the place. The play is a valuable social document in that it presents a picture of eighteenth century life in the City of Bath.

The particular and specific references to places of importance in the City of Bath give a realistic touch to the play. It constitutes a source

of strength to the human document, presenting a picture of the life of intrigue, duelling, elopement and escapades. Shridan has acted virtually as an historian of fashionable folly in capturing for all time the life and manners of a bygone age. The fact that he has specifically mentioned important places in the town also shows his knowledge of the topography of the places.

The end.

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