AUSTRALIAN TALES BY THE LATE MARCUS CLARKE WITH A BIOGRAPHY

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Australian Tales by the Late Marcus Clarke with a Biography by Hamilton Mackinnon

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HAMILTON MACKINNON

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AUSTRALIAN TALES

BY THE LATE

MARCUS CLARKE

WITH A

BIOGRAPHY

BY

HAMILTON MACKINNON.

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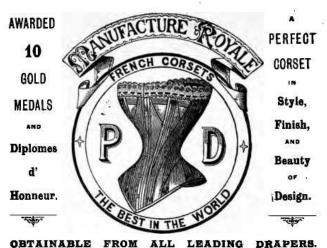
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LECTURE, MELBOURNE, OCT., 1895.

"I not only regret, but feel surprised that the 'Selected Works' of Australia's only literary genius—a genius such as you will not see again for many a long year—should be out of print. Through the courtesy of his widow I obtained a copy of the work after failing to buy one anywhere. And such a work, such reading, such power. It was just the sort of reading to banish from one's thoughts such pain as I have been suffering. The subjects so interesting, and their treatment so brilliant and fascinating. No works of such a man should be left unpublished. It is the daty of Australians to assist the widow of so great a writer in publishing his works. I may tell you that we think a deal more of Marcus Clarke in our country than I am sorry to think you do here." (Applause).



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PREFACE.

N placing this, the first volume of a cheap series. of the miscellaneous works of the late MARCUS CLARKE before the Public of Australia, I venture to think that I am not only fulfilling my duty as his Literary Executor, but am removing a reproach which attaches to that Public in the eyes of such literary lights as Lord Rosebery, Sir Charles. Dilke, "Mark Twain," the late Oliver Wendell Holmes and others who have spoken and written in no stinted phrases as to Marcus Clarke's position in the intellectual world, and expressed surprise at his works not being more popularly known among those on whom his genius has shed worldwide renown. To enable these works to come within the buying power of all classes, this seriesis being brought out at a price which no one should cavil about. It is therefore to be hoped that the people of these "new lands 'cross the seas" will give an emphatic denial to the old world saying-"a prophet hath no honour in his own country." In conclusion, grateful thanks are due to those who have rendered the publication of this book possible by assisting the author's widow in the very practical manner of advertising in it; and of these let it be said:

> " Cast thy bread upon the waters, for Thou shalt find it after many days."

> > HAMILTON MACKINNON.