

**HENRY IRVING: A
BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH**

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Henry Irving: A Biographical Sketch by Austin Brereton

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AUSTIN BRERETON

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A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH &

BY

AUSTIN BRERETON

Illustrated with Seventeen Full-page Portraits

FROM DRAWINGS BY

EDWIN LONG, R.A., J. A. McNEIL WHISTLER,
FRED. BARNARD, VAL. BROMLEY, ALF. P. TILT, J. FULLEYLOVE, AND
MRS. ALLINGHAM



LONDON

DAVID BOGUE, 3 ST. MARTIN'S PLACE
TRAFALGAR SQUARE

1883

P R E F A C E.

WHEN the announcement of Mr. Henry Irving's visit to the United States was first made public, it occurred to me that the playgoers of America might possibly like to be possessed of some more information concerning the career of our representative actor than had hitherto been published. The idea led to the compilation of a short biography of Mr. Irving. Then came suggestions that an authentic memoir of the actor would be welcome in England. For such a purpose more information was required, and that was eventually obtained from various sources, with the result that the first chapters of the work contain some particulars relating to the early life of the actor which will probably be new to most of my readers.

I have endeavoured to make this chronicle as accurate and as complete as possible, and I must here acknowledge my indebtedness to many friends for the generous manner in which they have given me their help. My special thanks are due to Mr. Clement Scott for the valuable collection of criticisms which he placed at my disposal. A word of thanks is also due to Mr. Samuel French, the theatrical bookseller, for his courtesy in lending me a number of old play-books, which I could not otherwise have readily obtained. Many books, pamphlets, and newspapers have been consulted in order to make this record as perfect as possible. Those which have

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been of most assistance to me are—Mr. William Winter's invaluable history of the Jeffersons; the "Biographia Dramatica;" Mr. Dutton Cook's "Nights at the Play;" Mr. Charles Eyre Pascoe's "Dramatic List;" the volumes of "The Theatre" Magazine; and the theatrical notes, by Mr. Moy Thomas, in "The Daily News." The Appendix contains those articles which were too lengthy to be inserted in the text, and the publisher has added a copious index—an indispensable feature in works of reference.

Some of the pictures have been specially drawn for this book, whilst others have been prepared from time to time by the various artists. The portrait of Hamlet, which forms the frontispiece, and that of Richard III., are taken from the paintings by Mr. Edwin Long, R.A., whilst the picture by Mr. J. A. M'Neil Whistler is the original of Philip ("Queen Mary"). Richelieu was drawn by Miss H. Paterson (Mrs. Allingham); Philip ("Philip") and Macbeth are by Mr. Val Bromley; Charles I. is by Mr. Alf. P. Tilt; and Duboscq by Mr. J. Fulleylove. Mr. P. Barnard is responsible for the portraits of Digby Grant, Eugene Aram, Louis XI., Shylock, Benedick, and Miss Ellen Terry as Portia. The portraits of Vanderdecken and Mr. Irving at home are engraved from photographs by, and by permission of, Mr. Van der Weyde, and Messrs. Lock & Whitfield, of Regent Street.

A. B.

LONDON, October 1883.

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