

HENRY IRVING

GEORGE BELL & SONS

LONDON: YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN
NEW YORK: 66, FIFTH AVENUE, AND
BOMBAY: 53, ESPLANADE ROAD
CAMBRIDGE: DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.



Swan Electric Engraving Co.

Sir Henry Irving.

After the painting by Sir J. E. Millais, Bart., P.R.A.

HENRY IRVING

A RECORD AND REVIEW

BY

CHARLES HIATT

AUTHOR OF "ELLEN TERRY AND HER IMPERSONATIONS," ETC.



LONDON

GEORGE BELL AND SONS

1899

1900 * 4132

P R E F A C E

I N the following pages I have tried to give a straightforward account of Sir Henry Irving's theatrical career, from the time of his first appearance at Sunderland in 1856 to the recent production of *Robespierre*. Although I avow myself a warm admirer of the actor, I have not hesitated to quote unfavourable as well as laudatory criticisms of his impersonations. It has been my endeavour faithfully to represent the attitude which critics of the most diverse schools have taken up in regard to his work. The opinions of Mr. Clement Scott and Mr. William Archer, of Mr. Joseph Knight and Mr. A. B. Walkley, will accordingly be found side by side. I have purposely dealt at greater length with the earlier part of Sir Henry's life than with its more recent incidents, which are within the knowledge of all play-goers. To the studies of Irving by Mr. Austin Brereton, Mr. Joseph Hatton, Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, and Mr. "Frederick Daly," I have made frequent reference. It is hoped that the reprint of the play-bills of the chief