

19. Warwick Crescent.

W.

Dec. 24 '84.

Dear Mr Barnett-Smith,

I am sure ~~that~~ my sister and myself, as well as my son who is here at my elbow while I write, reciprocate your kind wishes most cordially. As for the poem, you helped it greatly by your generous criticism and prompt notice; there can be no doubt of that: whether there be appointed "for many years yet," more books of mine to appeal to your goodnature; - or no more at all, - in each case your friendship will be equally valued by, dear Mr Barnett-Smith,

Yours Truly ever

Robert Browning.

Our best thanks, and all reasonable sympathy, to Mrs Barnett-Smith from all here, pray!



DRAMATIC

IDYLS,

SECOND

SERIES

ROBERT

CROWNING

AUTHOR

(PROOFS)



1880

ROBERT BROWNING, A. L. S., 24 December 1884, to  
GEORGE BARNETT-SMITH.

19. Warwick Crescent, W.  
Dec. 24. '84.

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Yours truly ever

Robert Browning

Our best thanks, and all seasonable sympathy, to Mrs. Barnett-Smith from all here, pray!

ALS, 1 page. Double sheet, 17.6 x 11.4 cm.

Blue-tinted wove paper, no watermark.

Provenance: Hayward sale, 20 Mar 1890; Arthur sale, Jul 1914.

Tipped in to bound copy of author-corrected proofsheets, *Dramatic Idyls*, second series, 1880.

Published by Lyle H. Kendall, Jr., "A New Browning Letter," *Notes and Queries*, CCVII (1962), 298–299.

Notes: 1. *Ferishtab's Fancies* was published on 21 November 1884. Since Barnett-Smith had long been Browning's favorite reviewer, and accustomed to receiving Browning proofsheets well in advance of publication, the *London Times* ran Barnett-Smith's appreciation three days prior to publication.

2. On 6 December *The Athenæum* printed a long and adverse review by Norman MacColl, who also received proofsheets. Hence Browning's *prompt notice* indicates his satisfaction with sales.

3. Here published by permission of John Murray, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W1.