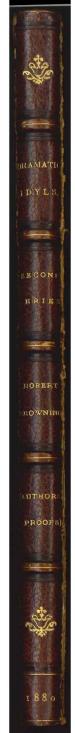
19. Warwick Crescent.

W. Ucc. 24:84.

Dear Mr Barnet Smith,

I am June that my sister and muyel, is well as my son who is here at my elbon while I with reciprocate your kind wishes not Cordrally - as for the Porm, you helped it qually by your generous criticism and prompt notice there can be no doubt of That I whether there he appointed for many years get "more books of nime to appeal to your goodnature, or no more at all, in each case your friend hip will be equally valued by, Dear Mr Barnets - mitte, your Truly war

arbert knowning. our west thanks, and all seusonable sympathy,



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

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 works of mine to appeal to your good nature—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 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. Ferishtah'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.