



Presented to
Allan Wilkie Esq., G. B. G.
from
HIS AUSTRALIAN ADMIRERS
24TH. FEBRUARY 1927.



ALLAN WILKIE ESQ CBE

On behalf of your many friends throughout Australia, we desire to tender to you the warmest welcome and sincerest good wishes on your return amongst us to resume the production of Shakespearean drama.

During the past your work has earned for you the admiration, esteem and affection of the playgoers of Australia. You were not merely an actor-manager of great skill and industry, but an artist-missionary who had set before himself an immense task. You realised, and helped us to realise, that to read a Shakespearean play is indeed to enjoy a great work of art, but in a cold, lifeless fashion; while to see it performed is to hear and behold a living breathing entity, appealing to the senses as well as to the intellect. It was your ambitious hope to perform for us the great service of presenting on our stage the whole of Shakespeare's plays.

You pursued your aim in the face of great difficulties, but with unflagging zeal. Of you, it might well be said that "beneath the bludgeonings of chance, your head was bloody but unbowed," and when you were overtaken by disaster, and it seemed almost impossible that you could again take up your self-imposed burden, you met the situation in the spirit which welcomes "each rebuff that turns earth's smoothness rough."



The loss which you sustained was so severe that your many friends in Australia felt that they could, without offence, express their feelings toward you, your talented wife and the brilliant company of actors which you had gathered together, in a tangible form. **We** now ask your acceptance of the sum which has been subscribed by friends and admirers of your work and yourself in every **S**tate in the **C**ommonwealth, partly to assist you in the fulfilment of your ambition, but mainly as an earnest of our good will towards your **C**ompany and yourself.

On the eve of your re-appearance in **M**elbourne, we take the opportunity to convey to you our deep sense of gratification at the resumption of your work, our fervent hopes for its success and our assurance of active aid in the accomplishment of your noble aims.

On behalf of the **S**ubscribers,

J. Moore

*Lord Mayor of Melbourne.
Chairman & Hon. Treasurer.*

W. A. West

A. S. Wallace

Walter Kingsmill

Edward Stevens

J. A. Keating

Basel B. Murphy

W. A. Osborne

Imcheish

Jas. Martin

Hon. Secretary.

For Auld Lang Syne