EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES

The "Reminiscences" are comprised of 240 leaves (including material not in Dyce’s hand) and an engraved portrait of Mrs. Siddons. Since the MS is not likely to be re-edited soon, I have chosen to err on the side of completeness in transcribing it. Dyce left the work unfinished and for the most part unrevised at his death; in fact, much of it is in the form of hasty scribbling on leaves varying in size and condition. Its present state also manifests considerable shuffling, though many of the articles are in alphabetical order. I have therefore put the MS into what I consider a logical form, while retaining the current enumeration of the leaves. The numbering was apparently done after the MS was disarranged and before it was received by the Museum. I indicate foliation at the head of each article, having found it burdensome and unnecessary always to signify within the text the beginning of a new leaf or a new side. I have further simplified matters by generally omitting recto and verso in stating the order of the leaves. Thus the notation "ff. 188–205" at the head of "Mrs. Siddons" should be understood to include all versos that contain writing (not all do). Except where stated otherwise, the leaves of an individual article are printed in their present order, and Dyce’s footnotes appear on the same leaves as the text.

Dyce had the habit of writing an alternative word or phrase in or
above the line. Where there are two readings, I have silently chosen the better, usually the afterthought. His placing of quotation marks was erratic, and so I have adopted American usage. Many abbreviations like "D" are also modernized. Elsewhere his punctuation (which is sometimes difficult to decipher) is retained, along with occasional silent corrections consistent with his style. I have let stand his form for quoting long passages, using it also when printing letters that he did not transcribe. Spelling errors have been corrected without comment, both in Dyce's text and in other material included as part of the MS (e.g., the Mitford letters). I have generally made the spelling of proper names conform to that in the Dictionary of National Biography. Only in more important contexts, or when I had simply to guess, do I indicate difficult readings.

I have corrected the liberties Dyce took with the text of quotations only when they resulted in egregious errors. Usually he altered just capitalization, spelling, and punctuation, often for the better. He had the habit of his time of not always using ellipsis marks when an omission did not violate the sense; I generally ignored such "errors." For greater accuracy, I have adjusted some of his bibliographical references and have expanded others. This procedure also will aid those who wish to consult the Dyce Collection's Catalogue, which indicates the unpublished MS notes he placed in many of the volumes he referred to.

I have excluded insignificant marks and marginalia. Among these are the frequent "collated" next to a transcript; queries about a fact within an article; and such directions to the printer as the signal that ff. 66 and 67 are to be transposed. I have not indicated where Dyce intended a note but gave none, and I have omitted incomplete cross-references ("See p."). His deletions go without comment except when they occupy space not otherwise accounted for.

Lacunae are indicated thus: [ . . . ]. Now and then I have ventured a guess as to Dyce's intention; hence most insertions in the text are not gratuitous but represent the filling in of a space left blank. Additions to the text and its notes are in brackets. Dyce's own brackets are preceded by an asterisk (*)—I have far more than he. The titles of the articles are Dyce's, but the headings and subheadings of the chapters are mine. To prevent excessive bracketing, I have not inserted first
names or, for obscure literary works, the name of the author, unless clarity demanded it. The index provides all such information. On the other hand, to spare a footnote I have in a few places inserted such brief factual information as dates.

Biographical data seldom appeared necessary for persons of small stature. Pertinent remarks on the more important figures are to be found in my biography of Dyce and in the prefaces to each chapter. Nearly all the dramatis personae are in the *DNB*, and, unless otherwise indicated, all biographical material in the prefaces and notes is from that source.