

PREFACE

ix

Road, and invariably " became preoccupied with endeavouring to render the shot tower available " in his next melodrama. But I wondered whether many were now intimate enough with Albert Smith and his world to take pleasure in such records. It is a long time since I read him myself, and I confess I shall never read him again ; therefore you will find I have said little about him. I have omitted other associations for the same reason. Indeed, it is probable that I have omitted a great deal ; some things knowingly, for lack of space ; some because I forgot them until too late ; and some, of course, from sheer ignorance. But for all my sins of omission I offer no excuse, except a frank acknowledgment that, even though I may know as much as anyone else, I do not know all about anything, certainly not about London, and let only him who does cast the first stone !

A. ST. J. A.