

**THE EXCELLENT  
HISTORY OF THE  
MERCHANT OF VENICE**

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The Excellent History of the Merchant of Venice by W. Shakespeare

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**W. SHAKESPEARE**

**THE EXCELLENT  
HISTORY OF THE  
MERCHANT OF VENICE**



THE  
EXCELLENT  
History of the Mer-  
*chant of Venice.*

With the extreme cruelty of *Shylocke*  
the Iew towards the faide Merchant, in cut-  
*ting a iust pound of his flesh. And the obtaining*  
*of Portia, by the choise of*  
*three Caskets.*

Written by W. SHAKESPEARE.



Printed by *F. Roberts*, 1600.

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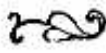
THE NEW HUDSON  
SHAKESPEARE

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THE MERCHANT  
OF VENICE

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY  
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## PREFACE

The text of this edition of *The Merchant of Venice* is based upon a collation of the Quartos of 1600 and the seventeenth century Folios. Exclusive of changes in spelling, punctuation, and stage directions, only five emendations by eighteenth century and nineteenth century editors have been incorporated into the text; and these, with every variation from the First Folio, are indicated in the textual notes. The only omissions are such passages as are out of place in a school edition.

The spelling and the punctuation of the text are modern, except in the case of verb terminations in *-ed*, which, when the *e* is silent, are printed with the apostrophe in its place. This is the general usage in the First Folio. Modern spelling has to a certain extent been followed in the text variants; but the original spelling has been retained wherever its peculiarities have been the basis for important textual criticism and emendation.

With regard to the general plan of this revision of Hudson's Shakespeare, Professor W. P. Trent, of Columbia University, has offered valuable suggestions and given important advice.

AUGUST 14, 1906



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