THE NEW HUDSON SHAKESPEARE. AS YOU LIKE IT

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The New Hudson Shakespeare. As You Like It by Henry Norman Hudson

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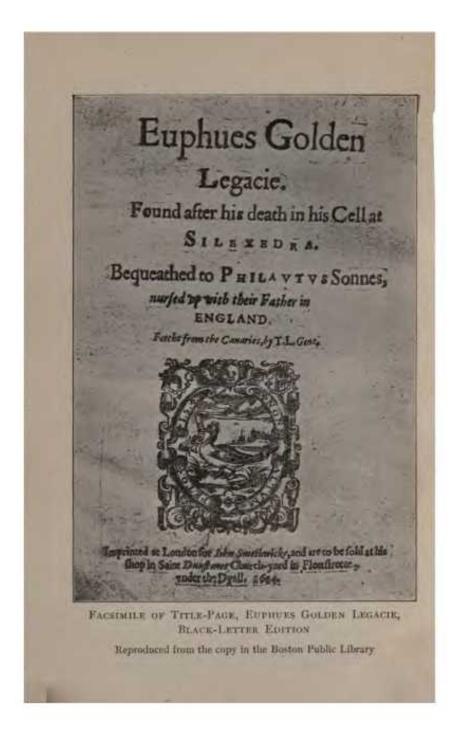
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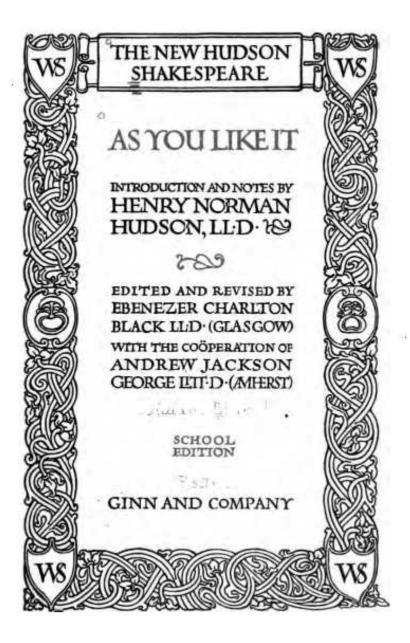
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HENRY NORMAN HUDSON

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Trieste





PREFACE

Exclusive of changes in spelling, punctuation, and stage directions, only seven variations from the text of the First Folio occur in the text of this edition of *As You Like It*. These variations are such corrections as were made either in the later seventeenth century Folios or in Rowe's octavo editions of 1709 and 1714. These corrections and variations, with the more important suggested emendations of later editors, 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.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1906

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INTRODUCTION

NOTR. In citations from Shakespeare's plays and nondramatic poems the numbering has reference to the Globe edition, except in the case of this play, where the reference is to this edition.

I. SOURCES

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The story-theme of a quarrel between brothers leading to strange and unexpected results is common to all literature. The story of Cain and Abel, with unending variations, is universal. An interesting modification of this theme when a jealous elder brother keeps a younger out of his inheritance, and the younger becomes prosperous in the teeth of all difficulties and obstacles—is in the ancient Egyptian *Tale of Two Brothers*¹ and in the *Genesis* narrative of Joseph and his brethren; it is, with significant changes, the framework of the parable of the Prodigal Son. *As You Like It* is a variant and a development of this world-old and universal story-theme, with elements and color that come from the soil and atmosphere of the England of Robin Hood ballads and Elizabethan pastoral.

THE MAIN STORY

1. The Tale of Gamelyn. The earliest form of the As You Like It story in English literature is The Tale of Gamelyn, a vigorous ballad-epic of nine hundred and two

¹ For similar stories in different literatures, see A. Lang's Myth, Ritual, and Religion.