

**A CATALOGUE OF THE BOOKS,  
MANUSCRIPTS, WORKS OF ART, ANTIQUITIES  
AND RELICS, ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE LIFE AND  
WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE, AND OF THE  
HISTORY OF STATFORD-UPON-AVON; WHICH  
ARE PRESERVED IN THE SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY  
AND MUSEUM IN HENLEY STREET**

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A Catalogue of the Books, Manuscripts, Works of Art, Antiquities and Relics, Illustrative of the Life and Works of Shakespeare, and of the History of Statford-Upon-Avon; Which are Preserved in the Shakespeare Library and Museum in Henley Street by Various

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# **VARIOUS**

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The Stratford Museum.

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LIFE AND WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE,

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HISTORY OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON;

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SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM .

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1868. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>  
gift of  
James Richard Halliwell  
of London.

## P R E F A C E.

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THE Shakespeare Fund was established in October, 1861, to accomplish the following objects,—1. The purchase of the Gardens of Shakespeare at New Place. 2. The purchase of the remainder of the Birth-place Estate. 3. The purchase of Anne Hathaway's Cottage, with an endowment for a custodian. 4. The purchase of Getley's Copyhold, Stratford-on-Avon. 5. The purchase of any other properties, at or near Stratford-on-Avon, that either formerly belonged to Shakespeare, or are intimately connected with the memories of his life. 6. The calendaring and preservation of those records at Stratford-on-Avon which illustrate the Poet's life, or the social life and history of Stratford-on-Avon in his time. And 7. The erection and endowment of a Public Library and Museum at Stratford-on-Avon.

The list of objects to be accomplished appeared to be so formidable, that the project was regarded in many quarters as chimerical. Nevertheless, in the few years which have elapsed since the establishment of the Fund, three of the most important of the above-named objects have been nearly completed, and, amongst them, the formation of the



valuable Library and Museum, the contents of which are inadequately described in the following pages.

The permanency of this important collection has been carefully secured. The Library and Museum have been conveyed to the Corporation of Stratford-on-Avon, upon trust to place their management under the control of a Board, consisting of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the High Steward of the Borough, the Mayor and Aldermen, the Vicar, the Master of the Grammar School, and others.

A satisfactory classification of a collection of miscellaneous Shakespeariana is impracticable. In the following Catalogue, which has been compiled by Mr. Clarence Hopper, the only arrangement attempted has reference to the names of the various donors.

Presents to the Museum, or subscriptions to the Fund, will be thankfully received by Mr. J. O. Halliwell, No. 11, Tregunter Road, London, S.W., and offers of books, &c., for purchase will also be acceptable.

FEBRUARY, 1868.

## MISS WHEELER.

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For upwards of half a century the late Mr. Wheeler diligently occupied himself in the completion of one of the most remarkable local antiquarian collections ever formed by a single individual. The following pages, being merely a brief hand-list of these treasures, convey a very inadequate idea of their importance and value; but as the construction of a more elaborate calendar would have required a considerable time, it was thought that a sketch of the contents of the collection would be an acceptable offering to the public, especially to the inhabitants of Stratford, who will not fail to appreciate the generosity of Miss Wheeler in presenting the Town with so important a gift, and the judgment which dictated the place of its locality. It would not only have been sad, and an injury to the local topographical literature, had these collections, formed by so much labour and anxiety, ever been dispersed; but they would have lost much of their interest and value had they been allowed to depart from Stratford.

The late Robert Bell Wheeler was born at Stratford on January 1st, 1785, in the house in Old Town in which he continued to reside during his life, and

where he died on July 15th, 1857, aged 72. His father, Mr. Robert Wheler, his predecessor in his profession of a solicitor, entered the office of Mr. Bradley, the Town-Clerk, and a solicitor of large practice, in January, 1757. He died in August, 1819, aged 77. His son, the object of this notice, was articled to him, but, unlike most articled clerks, he served no part of his time in London, merely going there for about a month at the time of his admission. His affection for Stratford, and love for Shakesperian pursuits, were so intense that he never seemed to be happy out of his native town; so that, in the whole course of his long life, he spent very little portion of his time indeed out of Stratford. In early life he was a member of the Stratford volunteer corps, and he afterwards became a commissioned officer, a lieutenant and quarter-master, in the third regiment of the Warwickshire local militia stationed at Stratford, in which capacity he was much esteemed by his brother officers and by Colonel Sheldon, then in command of the regiment.

Mr. Wheler's first work, and that by which he is chiefly known, is the admirably compiled "History and Antiquities of Stratford-upon-Avon," published in 1806. His next separate production was a "Guide to Stratford-upon-Avon," 1814, one which is well termed by a distinguished writer, "a very superior book to many which bear a similar title," *Hunter on Shakespeare*, i. 107. This was followed, in 1824, by his excellent sketch of the history of Shakespeare's Birth-place. Besides these works he was the writer of several articles of interest in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and other periodicals.

His published works, however, form but a small