

**A STUDY OF  
SHAKESPEARE'S  
PORTRAITS, PP. 2-76**

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A Study of Shakespeare's Portraits, pp. 2-76 by William Page

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**WILLIAM PAGE**

**A STUDY OF  
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A STUDY OF



SHAKESPEARE'S

PORTRAITS,

BY WILLIAM PAGE, ARTIST,

Ex-President of the Academy of Design, New York.



LONDON,

PRINTED AT THE CHISWICK PRESS


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W.P.



## EXPLANATORY

TO THE INDIFFERENT READER.

 HIS LITTLE BOOK IS A REPRINT of an article in *Scribner's Magazine* for May, 1876, by Mr. WILLIAM PAGE, Artist, of New York, to illustrate his life-size bust, in bronze, of

SHAKESPEARE,

which, after several years study, he has accomplished, as a model for his portrait of the great Poet. The Portrait is now on the easel, and the Bust has been sent to London for inspection.

In this paper the Artist sets forth his authorities and his credentials, and respectfully invites the Public to examine the Bust and to favour him with their honest criticism.





1. THE DEATH-MASK ; FROM PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN  
BY WILLIAM PAGE.





2. THE DEATH-MASK ; FROM PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN  
BY WILLIAM PAGE.

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and how and why I sought to bring the mask to life, and made the portrait thus and so, I shall make the story longer, and enter into colloquial disquisitions on the basis of your why and wherefore.

I would rather paint a portrait than write one; though I am quite willing to tell, rather than write, anything that may be of use or interest in the matter. The casting this essay in an art mould must be left for another.

Eight years ago I received a commission for two pictures—"The Head of Christ" and "Shakespeare"—*because I believed in them.* For Shakespeare I felt not allowed to take an ideal type, because there are undoubted and generally received authorities for his likeness, and, in the public mind, a fixed impression in regard to his looks which must not be shocked, even in the matter of collar and baldness. Yet, as portraits in the best sense, these authorities are vague, and afford little help in settling securely the individual characteristics that