

TRAGEDY OF CYMBELINE

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Tragedy of Cymbeline by William Shakespeare & William J. Rolfe

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM J. ROLFE

**TRAGEDY OF
CYMBELINE**



SHAKESPEARE'S
TRAGEDY OF
CYMBELINE.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,
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WITH ENGRAVINGS.



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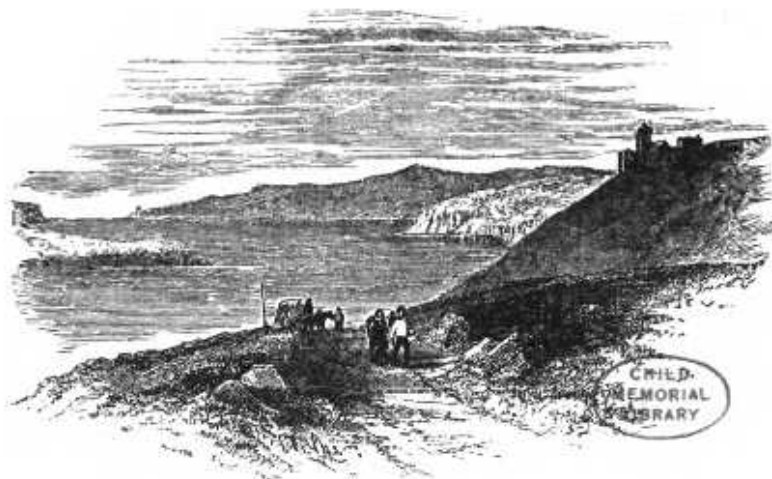
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VIEW NEAR MILFORD.

INTRODUCTION
TO
CYMBELINE.

I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

Cymbeline was first printed in the folio of 1623, where it is the last play in the volume, occupying pages 369-399 (misprinted 993) in the division of "Tragedies." The earliest allusion to it that has been discovered is in Dr. Simon Forman's MS. Diary (see *Richard II.* p. 13, *M. N. D.* p. 10, and *W. T.* p. 10), which belongs to the years 1610 and 1611. His sketch of the plot (not dated) is as follows:*

* As given in the *New Shaks. Soc. Transactions* for 1875-6, p. 417.

"Remember also the storri of Cymbalin king of England, in Lucius tyme, howe Lucius Cam from Octaus Cesar for Tribut, and being denied, after sent Lucius *wit* a greate Arme of Souldiars who landed at milford hauen, and Affter wer vanquished by Cimbalin, and Lucius taken prisoner, and all by means of 3 outlawes, of the *which* 2 of them were the sonns of Cimbalin, stolen from him when they but 2 yers old by an old man whom Cymbalin banished, and he kept them as his own sonns 20 yers *wit* him in A caue. And howe [one] of them slewe Clotan, that was the quens sonn, goinge To milford hauen to sek the loue of Innogen the kinges daughter, whom he had banished also for louinge his daughter. and howe the Italiaⁿ that cam from her loue conueied him selfe into A Chest, and said yt was a chest of plate sent from her loue & others, to be *pr*esented to the kinge. And in the depest of the night, she being aslepe, he opened the chest & cam forth of yt, And vewed her in her bed, and the markes of her body, & toke a-wai her braslet, & after Accused her of adultery to her loue, &c. And in thend howe he came *wit* the Romain into England & was taken prisoner, and after Reueled to Innogen who had turned her self into mans apparrell & fled to mete her loue at milford hauen, & chanced to fall on the Caue in the wodes wher her 2 brothers were, & howe by eating a sleping Dram they thought she had bin deed, & laid her in the wodes, & the body of cloten by her in her loues apparrell that he left behind him, & howe she was found by lucius, &c."

The play was probably a new one when Forman saw it in 1610 or 1611. Drake dates it in 1605, Chalmers in 1606, Malone in 1609 (after having at first assigned it to 1605), Fleay (*Introd. to Shakespearian Study*) "circa 1609," White "1609 or 1610," Delius, Furnivall, and Stokes in 1610, Dowden and Ward at about the time when Forman saw it. The internal evidence of style and metre indicates that it was one of the latest of the plays.