# SHAKESPEARE'S THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

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Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare & William J. Rolfe

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#### WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM J. ROLFE

# SHAKESPEARE'S THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



### SHAKESPEARE'S

## THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

EDITED, WITH NOTES

BY

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ILLUSTRATED

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THE COMEDY OF ERRORS.

W. P. I

### PREFATORY NOTE

This play, which I first edited in 1881, has now been very thoroughly revised on the same general plan as the earlier volumes in the series. The Notes have been materially enlarged.

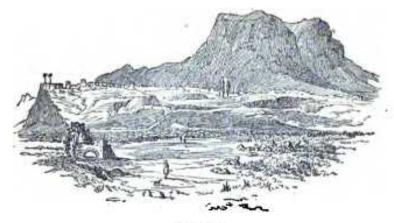


## CONTENTS

			1								PAGE
INTRODUCT	TON TO	Тнв	Co	MEDY	o <b>r</b>	ERRO	DRS	6€	134		9
The History of the Play .									5.4		9
The Source of the Plot .							95	52	85		14
General Comments on the Pi					ay	*		( <u>)</u>			15
THE COM	DY OF	ERRO	RS	\$	<b>*</b>						25
Act I	114	20					1				27
Act II			•								38
Act II	1 .										53
Act I	٧.	• 2	•				3.0				68
Act V	1.03	10	<b>.</b>	•	*					٠	89
Notes .	•	188	<b>.</b>	*6	٠				8.5	22	109
APPENDIX											
Meres's Mention of the Play						8		:00	19		181
Plautus and Shakespeare								29			182
The Period of the Action					000	38	**	9.	156		187
The Characters of the Twins				36	136			14		190	
The Duration of the Action				*	94	36	82	93		195	
List of Characters in the Play						$\approx$	32	100	35	•	195
INDEX OF	WORD	S AND	P	IRASES	EX	PLAIN	TED:	84	314		197



SYRACUSE,



CORINTH

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

#### THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY

The precise order of the early comedies cannot be definitely settled, but The Comedy of Errors probably followed The Two Gentlemen of Verona, though some critics believe that it preceded that play. All agree that it was one of the earliest of the plays, though first printed in the folio of 1623. It is quite certainly the "Comedy of Errors, like to Plautus his Menechmus," which, according to the Gesta Grayorum, was played at Gray's Inn, in December, 1594. The pun in iii. 2. 121 on France "making war against her heir" would seem to show that the play was written between August, 1589, when the civil war about the succession of Henry IV.