

**THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
EXPURGATED**

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The Life of William Shakespeare Expurgated by William Leavitt Stoddard

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WILLIAM LEAVITT STODDARD

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SHAKESPEARE
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THE ORIGINAL MONUMENT AT STRATFORD

(From Sir Wm. Dugdale's "History of the Antiquities of Warwickshire")

THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
EXPURGATED

BY

WILLIAM LEAVITT STODDARD
(M.A., HARVARD)

"Non canimus surdis."

BOSTON
W. A. BUTTERFIELD
59 BROMFIELD STREET
1910

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2894

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By WILLIAM LEAVITT STODDARD

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PROLOGUE

"It seems a kind of respect due to the memory of excellent men, especially of those whom their wit and learning have made famous, to deliver some account of themselves, as well as of their works, to posterity. For this reason, how fond do we see some people of the great men of antiquity; their families, the common accidents of their lives, and even their shape, make, and features have been the subject of critical enquiries. How trifling soever this curiosity may seem to be, it is certainly very natural; and we are hardly satisfied with an account of any remarkable person till we have heard him described to the very clothes he wears. As for what relates to men of letters, the knowledge of an author may sometimes conduce to the better understanding of his book, and though the works of Mr. Shakespeare may seem to many not to want a comment, yet I fancy some little account of the man himself may not be thought improper."—From Nicholas Rowe's Account of the Life of Shakespeare, 1709.

"I have not sought, (I say) nor do I seek either to force or ensnare men's judgments, but I lead them to things themselves and the concordances of things, that they may see for themselves what they have, what they can dispute, what they can add and contribute to the common stock. And for myself, if in anything I have been either too

credulous or too little awake and attentive, or if I have fallen off by the way and left the inquiry incomplete, nevertheless I so present these things naked and open, that my errors can be marked and set aside before the mass of knowledge be further infected by them."—From Francis Bacon's Preface to the Great Instauration (Spedding's translation).

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