

**SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORY  
OF KING HENRY THE FIFTH.  
EDITED, WITH NOTES BY  
WILLIAM J. ROLFE**

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Shakespeare's History of King Henry the Fifth. Edited, with Notes by William J. Rolfe by  
William Shakespeare & William J. Rolfe

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**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM J. ROLFE**

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General ed. m.

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SHAKESPEARE'S  
HISTORY OF  
KING HENRY THE FIFTH

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HENRY V.  
W. P. I

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## PREFACE

My former edition of *King Henry V*, first published in 1877, is now substantially remade on the same general plan as the revised *Merchant of Venice* and other plays that have preceded it.

The notes on *textual variations* have been either omitted or abridged, as the text of the play is now virtually settled.

For most of the "Critical Comments" in the former edition I have substituted matter of my own, much of which is drawn from familiar lectures prepared for audiences of teachers and students.

Minor changes have been made throughout the Notes, and many new ones have been added, including a considerable number in place of those referring to my former editions of other plays. The book is now absolutely complete in itself.

I believe that teachers will prefer the new edition to the old one; but both can be used, without serious inconvenience, in the same class or club.



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HENRY V. AND COURTIER

[From Ancient MS.]



THE GLOBE THEATRE.

## INTRODUCTION TO KING HENRY THE FIFTH

### THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY

*Henry V.*, in the form in which we now have it, was first published in the folio of 1623, but a mutilated and incomplete quarto edition, probably compiled from shorthand notes taken at the theatre, was issued in 1600 and reprinted in 1602.

The date of the play is fixed by a passage in the chorus of the last act:—

“Were now the general of our gracious empress—  
As in good time he may— from Ireland coming,” etc.

This evidently refers to Lord Essex, who went to Ireland, April 15, 1599, and returned to London,