# AN ANALYSIS AND STUDY OF THE LEADING CHARACTERS OF HAMLET

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An analysis and study of the leading characters of Hamlet by Oxon

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OXON

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Trieste

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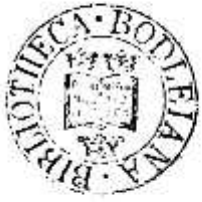
OF

# HAMLET.

BY

OXON,

*Author of "A History of the Reign of George III.," "A History of the Reign of George II.," and "An Analysis and Study of the Leading Characters of Macbeth," and "As You Like It."*

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# Dedication.

TO

HENRY IRVING,

OUR GREATEST LIVING ACTOR,

WHO HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR THE INTERPRETATION

OF SHAKESPEARE ON THE STAGE,

THIS VOLUME IS,

BY SPECIAL PERMISSION,

DEDICATED.

# PREFACE.

THE author has endeavoured in this work to make the leading points of Shakespeare's character plain. He has carefully given proofs in the shape of quotations for every statement made. While availing himself of Cowden Clarke, Hazlitt, Hudson, and all the leading authorities accessible to him, he has avoided all extreme or eccentric views of the characters. Should the three plays published, Hamlet, Macbeth, and As You Like It, be honoured with the public favour, the author proposes to complete his Study and Analysis of the twenty-two plays now remaining, in addition to six others yet unpublished; and so complete an exhaustive work on all the leading characters of all Shakespeare's plays. No author has as yet done this. The three chief works on the characters of the plays contain the following: Cowden Clarke, characters of twenty plays; Hudson, characters of twenty-five plays; Hazlitt, characters of all the thirty-one plays. Hazlitt however is very brief on many plays, and often omits some of the chief characters.

# ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERS OF HAMLET.


PAGE

HAMLET.

His Character generally . . . . . 1

I. His Nobility . . . . . 1–3

II. His Energy and Courage . . . . . 4

III. His Self-control . . . . . 4, 5

IV. His Uncomplaining Self-sacrifice . . . . 5, 6

V. His Intellect . . . . . 6–10

His Education—Powers of Reflection—Wit and Sarcasm—Common Sense—Eloquence.

Evidence in Favour of his Madness . . . . . 10–16

Eighteen Medical Arguments—Nine General Arguments.

Evidence in Favour of his Sanity . . . . . 17–19

Seventeen Arguments to prove Hamlet quite sane throughout.

The Difficulties of his Position . . . . . 19–21

His Loneliness—His Surroundings—The Duty imposed on him.

His Faults . . . . . 21–26

Indecision—Rashness—Pessimism—Treachery—Cruel and Cowardly Sarcasm—The Forged Letter.

Twenty Suggestions as to the Key to Hamlet . . . . 26–28

OPHELIA.

Her Character . . . . . 28–33

Her Obedience—Dignity—Sweet and Forgiving Nature—Purity—Madness—Slanders on her—Summary.

THE QUEEN.

Her Character . . . . . 33–36

Her Repentance—Sufferings—Good points, Tenderness, Sympathy, and Charity—Innocence of the King's Murder.