

**THE NEW HUDSON
SHAKESPEARE. KING
HENRY THE FIFTH**

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The New Hudson Shakespeare. King Henry the Fifth by William Shakespeare & Henry Norman Hudson

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & HENRY NORMAN HUDSON

**THE NEW HUDSON
SHAKESPEARE. KING
HENRY THE FIFTH**



THE
Chronicle History
of Henry the fift, with his
battell fought at *Agin Court* in
France. Together with an-
cient *Pitts*.

*As it hath bene sundry times playd by the Right Honon-
rable the Lord Chamberlaine his
Seruants.*



Printed for T. P. 1608.



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THE NEW HUDSON
SHAKESPEARE

WS

KING HENRY
THE FIFTH

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY
HENRY NORMAN
HUDSON, LL.D. 



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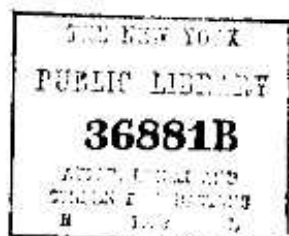
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INTRODUCTION

NOTE. In citations from Shakespeare's plays and nondramatic poems the numbering has reference to the Globe edition, except in the case of this play, where the reference is to this edition.

I. SOURCES

The serious Elizabethan drama began in patriotism and had a high political motive. The perils and difficulties of a nation rent asunder by bitterly opposing factions confronted Elizabeth at the beginning of her reign, and when Thomas Sackville and Thomas Norton wrote *Gorboduc*, the first regular English tragedy, their main object was to warn the English people of the danger in a kingdom divided against itself and to show the maiden queen the perils involved in uncertainty as to legitimate succession to a throne. The story was taken from British legendary history, and blank verse, destined to be the great national measure, was used for the first time in an original English play. With that steady growth of national spirit which characterized the reign of Elizabeth, developed the taste for chronicle plays dealing with the history of the nation in its formative period. The national drama grew up with the increasing pride of nation. In the defeat of the Armada this pride of nation reached full tide, and the enthusiasm found immortal expression in Shakespeare's ten history plays culminating in the drama of the hero-king who won the battle of Agincourt. The true