

**TRAGEDY OF
ROMEO
AND JULIET**

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Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare & William J. Rolfe

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & WILLIAM J. ROLFE

**TRAGEDY OF
ROMEO
AND JULIET**



SHAKESPEARE'S
TRAGEDY OF
ROMEO AND JULIET.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,

BY

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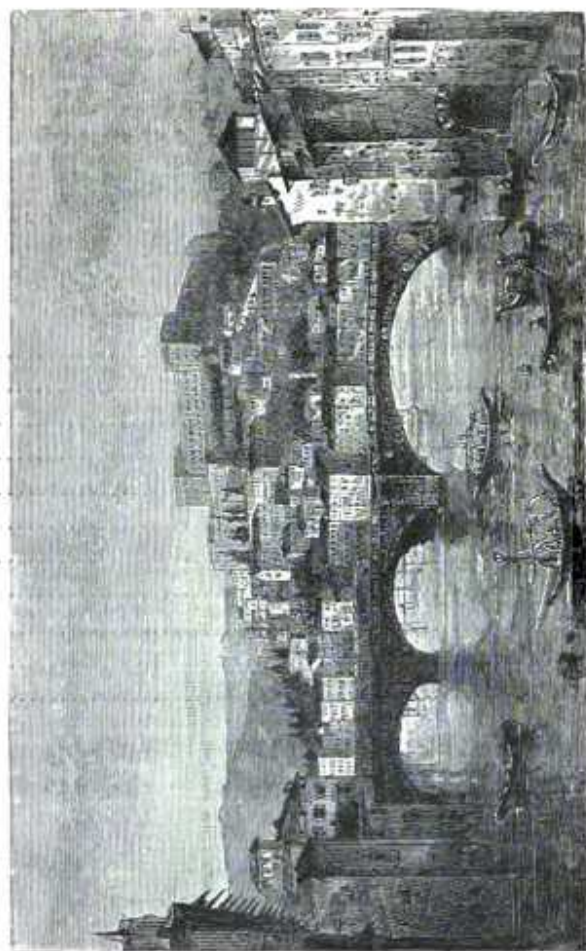
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION TO ROMEO AND JULIET.....	9
I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.....	9
II. THE SOURCES OF THE PLOT.....	13
III. CRITICAL COMMENTS ON THE PLAY.....	16
ROMEO AND JULIET.....	35
ACT I.....	37
" II.....	61
" III.....	82
" IV.....	108
" V.....	122
NOTES.....	137



VIEW FROM PONTE NUOVO, VERONA.



CAPULET'S GARDEN.

INTRODUCTION
TO
ROMEO AND JULIET.

I. THE HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

THE earliest edition of *Romeo and Juliet* was a quarto published in 1597 with the following title-page:

AN EXCELLENT conceited Tragedie OF Romeo and Juliet. | As it hath been often (with great applause) | plaid publicquely, by the right Honourable the Lord of Hunsdon |

his Seruants.* | LONDON, | Printed by Iohn Danter. | 1597.

This was followed in 1599 by a second quarto edition, the title-page of which is as follows :

THE | MOST EX- | cellent and lamentable | Tragedie, of
Romeo | and *Iuliet*. | *Newly corrected, augmented, and | amend-
ed*: | As it hath bene sundry times publiquely acted, by the |
right Honourable the Lord Chamberlaine | his Seruants |
LONDON | Printed by Thomas Creede, for Cuthbert Burby,
and are to | be sold at his shop neare the Exchange. | 1599.

A third quarto appeared in 1609 with the following title-page :

THE | MOST EX- | CELLENT AND | Lamentable Tragedie,
of | *Romeo and Iuliet*. | As it hath beene sundrie times
publiquely Acted, | by the KINGS Maiesties Seruants | at
the Globe. | Newly corrected, augmented, and amended: |
LONDON | Printed for IOHN SMETHVVICK, and are to be
sold | at his Shop in Saint *Dunstanes* Church-yard, | in
Fleetestreete vnder the Dyall | 1609.

A fourth quarto has no date, and there is some doubt whether it was a reprint of the one of 1609, or that a reprint of this. The Camb. editors consider that "internal evidence conclusively proves" the former; Halliwell thinks "it is very difficult to say which is the earlier," but inclines to the opinion that the undated copy was published in 1608. The text is more correct than that of the quarto of 1609. The earlier of the two, whichever it may have been, was undoubtedly a reprint of the second quarto with some corrections, and the later was a reprint of the earlier.

The undated quarto is the first that bears the name of the author. On the title-page, which in other respects is

* Here follows a vignette, with the motto *AVT NVNC AVT NVN-
QUAM*.

This quarto is reprinted in full in Furness's "New Variorum" ed. of the play, and also in the Camb. ed.